

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENC COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2010

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine September 2010. To obtain a copy of the abstracts, go to pubmed.gov, and place the Pubmed ID numbers (PMID) in the search box, separated by commas.

Child Abuse

Levin AV, Christian CW; Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, Section on Ophthalmology.

The eye examination in the evaluation of child abuse.

Pediatrics. 2010 Aug;126(2):376-80. PMID: 20660545

Review from the American Academy of Pediatrics on eye findings in child abuse.

Lee CK, Lathrop SL.

Child abuse-related homicides in New Mexico: a 6-year retrospective review.

J Forensic Sci. 2010 Jan;55(1):100-3. PMID: 20412157

Forty-five child homicides were identified in New Mexico during a 6 year period. Analysis showed that: victims were predominantly male (68.9%); Hispanic White (53.3%); all were younger than 5 with a median age of 1 year; head injuries were the most common cause of death (44.4%); alleged perpetrators were relatives (80%) with the father most often implicated (36.1%); and 88.9% occurred in the family's residence.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Greenfield EA.

Child abuse as a life-course social determinant of adult health.

Maturitas. 2010 May;66(1):51-5. PMID: 20207088

Review of long-term health consequences of child abuse, including theoretical contributing processes, and "conceptualizing child abuse as a life-course social determinant of adult health for both clinical and public health purposes".

Nicolson NA, Davis MC, Kruszewski D, Zautra AJ.

Childhood maltreatment and diurnal cortisol patterns in women with chronic pain.

Psychosom Med. 2010 Jun;72(5):471-80. PMID: 20467005

Controlling for depression, PTSD and daily experiences, adult women with a history of child maltreatment had similar high stress hormone level patterns across two different pain conditions.

O'Leary P, Coohy C, Easton SD.

The effect of severe child sexual abuse and disclosure on mental health during adulthood.

J Child Sex Abus. 2010 May;19(3):275-89. PMID: 20509077

In a sample of 172 adult child sexual abuse survivors, those who had more than one abuser, who were injured by their abuser, who were abused by a biological relative, and who did not discuss their abuse in depth within one year of the abuse, had a greater number of mental health symptoms.

Roy A, Gorodetsky E, Yuan Q, Goldman D, Enoch MA.

Interaction of FKBP5, a stress-related gene, with childhood trauma increases the risk for attempting suicide.

Neuropsychopharmacology. 2010 Jul;35(8):1674-83. PMID: 20090668

In an analysis of over 400 adult high risk participants, high levels of childhood trauma were associated with suicide attempts. Of those adults who had attempted suicide, 51% had two copies of certain variations of a stress gene, 36% had one copy, and 20% had no copies. This study continues to explore the effects of genetics vs. life experiences on behavior and health, helping to explain why some people may be more resilient.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Tufts KA, Clements PT, Wessell J.

When intimate partner violence against women and HIV collide: challenges for healthcare assessment and intervention.

J Forensic Nurs. 2010 Summer;6(2):66-73. PMID: 20507419

Discussion of the inter-relationship between intimate partner violence (IPV) and HIV, and need for IPV screening and intervention in HIV programs.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Pratchett LC, Pelcovitz MR, Yehuda R.

Trauma and violence: are women the weaker sex?

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2010 Jun;33(2):465-74. PMID: 20385347

Analysis of gender differences of risk and resilience to posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Rodríguez MA, Valentine J, Ahmed SR, Eisenman DP, Sumner LA, Heilemann MV, Liu H.

Intimate partner violence and maternal depression during the perinatal period: a longitudinal investigation of Latinas.

Violence Against Women. 2010 May;16(5):543-59. PMID: 20388930

In a study from UCLA looking at Latina depression in pregnancy and post delivery, at each time point of analysis, those experiencing intimate partner violence had significantly higher rates of depression.

Ludermir AB, Lewis G, Valongueiro SA, de Araújo TV, Araya R.

Violence against women by their intimate partner during pregnancy and postnatal depression: a prospective cohort study.

Lancet. 2010 Sep 11;376(9744):903-10. PMID: 20822809

In a study of over 1000 Brazilian pregnant women, psychological abuse during pregnancy was strongly associated with postnatal depression, independent of physical or sexual violence.

Cultural Issues

Cardoso JB, Gomez RJ, Padilla YC.

What happens when family resources are across international boundaries? An exploratory study on kinship placement in Mexican immigrant families.

Child Welfare. 2009;88(6):65-80. PMID: 20695292

Article looks at barriers to Child Protective Services placement of Latino children into international kinship care.

Hassan G, Rousseau C.

North African and Latin American parents' and adolescents' perceptions of physical discipline and physical abuse: when dysnormativity begets exclusion.

Child Welfare. 2009;88(6):5-22. PMID: 20695289

Small interview study of teens and parents from North African Arab and Latin American countries living in Canada, on differing norms of physical discipline.

Perpetrators

Colton M, Roberts S, Vanstone M.

Sexual abuse by men who work with children.

J Child Sex Abus. 2010 May;19(3):345-64. PMID: 20509081

Eight Norwegian adult male teachers/volunteers who were in prison for abusing children were interviewed as to “their strategies, how victims were selected, how trust was secured, and how victims' silence was ensured.”

Police and Court System

Scott S, Gilcrist B, Thurston N, Huss MT.

Risk communication in sexually violent predator hearings.

Behav Sci Law. 2010 May;28(3):322-36. PMID: 19908210

Summary of a few small studies looking at juror response to selected variables in sexually violent predator trials.

Beck CJ, Walsh ME, Mechanic MB, Taylor CS.

Mediator assessment, documentation, and disposition of child custody cases involving intimate partner abuse: a naturalistic evaluation of one county's practices.

Law Hum Behav. 2010 Jun;34(3):227-40. PMID: 19412662

Discussion of the use of mediation and details of the mediation process in child custody cases that involve intimate partner violence (IPV).

Cattaneo LB.

The role of socioeconomic status in interactions with police among a national sample of women experiencing intimate partner violence.

Am J Community Psychol. 2010 Jun;45(3-4):247-58. PMID: 20232246

Using a national dataset of 820 women with IPV police calls, women with the variable of higher education, not variables of income, employment, or race, had less positive interactions with the police. The study also showed the positive impact of advocates at the scene.

Providers

Price B.

Receiving a forensic medical exam without participating in the criminal justice process: what will it mean?

J Forensic Nurs. 2010 Summer;6(2):74-87. PMID: 20507420

“As a result of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization of 2005, state governments must develop processes by which victims of sexual assault can receive a forensic medical exam without being required to cooperate with law enforcement, or participate in the criminal justice system. The benefits and barriers of five different models are reviewed: nonreport evidence collection, anonymous report, confidential mandated reporting, victimless prosecution or nonparticipation approach, and the military model of restricted and unrestricted reporting.”

Klaus P.

The impact of childhood sexual abuse on childbearing and breastfeeding: the role of maternity caregivers.

Breastfeed Med. 2010 Aug;5:141-5. PMID: 20491591

Article discusses feelings and behaviors of childhood sexual abuse survivors during pregnancy, at delivery and after delivery, with recommendations for caregivers.

McGregor K, Jülich S, Glover M, Gautam J.

Health professionals' responses to disclosure of child sexual abuse history: female child sexual abuse survivors' experiences.

J Child Sex Abus. 2010 May;19(3):239-54. PMID: 20509075

For 64% of 61 New Zealand childhood sexual abuse (CSA) adult survivors, abuse-related fear of common medical examination procedures stopped them from coming in for health exams. “CSA not only impacts survivors’ biopsychosocial and physical health, but it also influences their interactions with health practitioners...Over half of the participants reported that HPs had not at any time helped them understand or deal with the effects of CSA...The current study suggests the development of guidelines for dealing with possible child sexual abuse survivors would be useful for health professionals.”

Other of Interest

Krizsan A, Popa R.

Europeanization in Making Policies against Domestic Violence in Central and Eastern Europe.

Soc Polit. 2010;17(3):379-406. PMID: 20821902

Very dense article analyzing several Central and Eastern European countries’ desire to join the EU in the context that the EU requires members to adopt special and specific laws on domestic violence.

Robinson-Whelen S, Hughes RB, Powers LE, Oschwald M, Renker P, Swank PR, Curry MA.

Efficacy of a computerized abuse and safety assessment intervention for women with disabilities: a randomized controlled trial.

Rehabil Psychol. 2010 May;55(2):97-107. PMID: 20496965

Use of a computerized abuse screening tool for disabled women led to improved abuse awareness and safety behaviors.

Melander LA.

College students' perceptions of intimate partner cyber harassment.

Cyberpsychol Behav Soc Netw. 2010 Jun;13(3):263-8. PMID: 20557245

Using open-ended discussion with five college student focus groups, online partner abuse was explored. Students gave many examples, such as: a controlling partner always looking at the other partner’s phone and deleting text messages or phone numbers of people unknown; innocent messages from others leading to “big fights”; or abusive partner going online, having mail redirected to him, and accessing her online banking by using her passwords, etc. The two different aspects of online vs. offline abuse are discussed – pervasiveness of contact, leaving an abused person feeling more vulnerable, and decreased privacy of abuse with examples such as threats on facebook or forwarding of email messages.