

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2012

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine September 2012. 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. PTSD = Post Traumatic Stress Disorder IPV = Intimate Partner Violence

For questions or comments about this summary, or to be placed on an email list to receive this monthly summary, please contact Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Scott S.

Parenting quality and children's mental health: biological mechanisms and psychological interventions.

Curr Opin Psychiatry. 2012 Jul;25(4):301-6. PMID: 22634522

Review of the profound biological effects of the quality of parenting on children's development and mental health, including effects on physiology and genetics.

Sieswerda-Hoogendoorn T, Boos S, Spivack B, Bilo RA, van Rijn RR.

Educational paper: Abusive Head Trauma part I. Clinical aspects.

Eur J Pediatr. 2012 Mar;171(3):415-23. PMID: 22033697

In this review of childhood abusive head trauma, 15-23% die within hours or days after the incident. Of survivors, 1/3 are severely disabled, 1/3 moderately disabled, and 1/3 have no or minimal symptoms. Some research suggests that neurological problems can occur after a symptom-free interval and that 1/2 of these children eventually have IQs below the 10th percentile.

Amon S, Putkonen H, Weizmann-Henelius G, et al.

Potential predictors in neonaticide: the impact of the circumstances of pregnancy.

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2012 Jun;15(3):167-74. PMID: 22426944

In a review of 28 cases of maternal neonaticide from Austria and Finland, only 5 women had admitted their pregnancy to others, and only 3 partners had knowledge of the pregnancy. The main motive for killing the baby was fear of abandonment/negative response from others. Of those women who had had other children, half had lost custody of them.

Smith A.

The prepubertal hymen.

Aust Fam Physician. 2011 Nov;40(11):873-5. PMID: 22059215

Article describes normal variations in hymeneal anatomy to dispel myths and misperceptions surrounding genital examination findings in suspected child sexual abuse.

Zafar M, Kashikar-Zuck SM, Slater SK, et al.

Childhood abuse in pediatric patients with chronic daily headache.

Clin Pediatr (Phila). 2012 Jun;51(6):590-3. PMID: 21593054

From Cincinnati Children's Hospital, of 122 patients 10-17 years old who were seen in a specialty headache center with a diagnosis of chronic daily headache, 6.5% reported physical and/or sexual abuse. Those with an abuse history had somewhat higher headache frequency and intensity, lower quality of life, and were more than twice as likely to have depressive symptoms.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Cankaya B, Talbot NL, Ward EA, Duberstein PR.

Parental sexual abuse and suicidal behaviour among women with major depressive disorder.

Can J Psychiatry. 2012 Jan;57(1):45-51. PMID: 22296967

For 106 women with childhood sexual abuse histories and adult major depression, the odds of having multiple suicide attempts increased by 12.27 times if the sexual perpetrator had been a parent or parent figure, compared with a nonparent.

Labonté B, Suderman M, Maussion G, et al.

Genome-wide epigenetic regulation by early-life trauma.

Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2012 Jul;69(7):722-31. PMID: 22752237

Methylation of DNA is a process that changes the genetic expression and cellular function of an individual. In this Canadian study of 25 French-Canadian men with a history of severe childhood abuse vs. 16 controls, those with an abuse history had very significant changes in the pattern of genetic methylation, especially in cellular function relating to brain cell growth and development.

Hansen NB, Brown LJ, Tsatkin E, Zelgowski B, Nightingale V.

Dissociative experiences during sexual behavior among a sample of adults living with HIV infection and a history of childhood sexual abuse.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2012 May;13(3):345-60. PMID: 22545567

For 57 HIV infected adults with a history of childhood sexual abuse, factors of PTSD, rape by an intimate partner, and duration of/number of perpetrators of childhood sexual abuse, were each associated with increased dissociation during sexual behavior. "Dissociation during sex likely increased vulnerability to sexual revictimization and risky sexual behavior", which could have contributed to contracting HIV.

Bohnert AS, Roeder KM, Ilgen MA.

Suicide attempts and overdoses among adults entering addictions treatment.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2011 Dec 1;119(1-2):106-12. PMID: 21715108

From a national study of 5,892 adults entering treatment for substance abuse, a history of childhood physical or sexual abuse was associated with suicide attempt but not overdose, whereas a history of violent perpetration was associated with both.

Nayak MB, Lown EA, Bond JC, Greenfield TK.

Lifetime victimization and past year alcohol use in a U.S. population sample of men and women drinkers.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2012 Jun 1;123(1-3):213-9. PMID: 22177898

In a US National Alcohol Survey with 4256 participants, lifetime physical or sexual victimization was associated with increased risk for a variety of alcohol use problems for both men and women.

Yates TM, Gregor MA, Haviland MG.

Child maltreatment, alexithymia, and problematic internet use in young adulthood.

Cyberpsychol Behav Soc Netw. 2012 Apr;15(4):219-25. PMID: 22313343

In a study of 1470 college students, a history of childhood maltreatment was associated with increased problematic internet use, partly explained by increased alexithymia (inability to distinguish and appreciate emotions in the self and in others).

Fagundes CP, Glaser R, Johnson SL, et al.

Basal cell carcinoma: stressful life events and the tumor environment.

Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2012 Jun;69(6):618-26. PMID: 22664550

Looking at measures of immune markers in 91 patients with skin basal cell cancer, those with a history of childhood emotional abuse from their mother or father (more so from mother), and who also experienced a severe life event within the past year, had poorer immune response to the tumor.

Vogel M, Dürsteler-Macfarland KM, Walter M, Strasser J, Fehr S, Prieto L, Wiesbeck GA.

Prolonged use of benzodiazepines is associated with childhood trauma in opioid-maintained patients.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2011 Dec 1;119(1-2):93-8. PMID: 21715105

In a cross-sectional survey of 193 adults being treated in a Swiss clinic for opioid (heroin) dependence, 67% reported at least one aspect of moderate-severe childhood trauma. Emotional abuse and emotional/physical neglect were all associated with prolonged use of tranquilizers, known to be related to poorer treatment success.

O'Dougherty Wright M, Fopma-Loy J, Oberle K.

In their own words: the experience of mothering as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

Dev Psychopathol. 2012 May;24(2):537-52. PMID: 22559129

Using narrative responses/in-depth interviews with 79 adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, mothers talked about their challenges and coping strategies while mothering, in light of memories of abuse and attempts to heal.

Adolescents

Taliaferro LA, Muehlenkamp JJ, Borowsky IW, McMorris BJ, Kugler KC.

Factors distinguishing youth who report self-injurious behavior: a population-based sample.

Acad Pediatr. 2012 May;12(3):205-13. PMID: 22424698

In a national survey of 61,330 students in grades 9 and 12, physical and/or sexual abuse were among the factors associated with non-suicidal self-injury and/or suicidality. The major factor associated with progression of self-injury to suicidality was hopelessness.

Marcus RF.

Patterns of intimate partner violence in young adult couples: nonviolent, unilaterally violent, and mutually violent couples.

Violence Vict. 2012;27(3):299-314. PMID: 22852433

For 1294 young adults participating in a National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health and their partners, 41% reported any IPV; of those abusive relationships, 25% were mutually violent and 75% unilaterally violent.

Homma Y, Wang N, Saewyc E, Kishor N.

The relationship between sexual abuse and risky sexual behavior among adolescent boys: a meta-analysis.

J Adolesc Health. 2012 Jul;51(1):18-24. PMID: 22727072

Combining research studies on the subject, adolescent boys who had themselves experienced sexual abuse were 1.91 times more likely to engage in unprotected intercourse, 2.91 times more likely to have multiple sexual partners, and 4.81 times more likely to be involved in a pregnancy.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Woods SB, McWey LM.

A biopsychosocial approach to asthma in adolescents encountering child protective services.

J Pediatr Psychol. 2012 May;37(4):404-13. PMID: 22167124

As part of a longitudinal study of children involved with CPS, 101 adolescents aged 11-15 with a diagnosis of asthma were assessed with their caregivers. “Hostility, criticism, yelling, and the infliction of psychological harm within the family, as well as exposure to adult violence in the home, negatively affected these adolescents’ mental health... and their physical health quality.” Authors strongly suggest that asthma treatment includes a biopsychosocial approach with appropriate interventions for all family members.

Simpson JA, Griskevicius V, Kuo SI, Sung S, Collins WA.

Evolution, stress, and sensitive periods: the influence of unpredictability in early versus late childhood on sex and risky behavior.

Dev Psychol. 2012 May;48(3):674-86. PMID: 22329381

For a group of over 200 23-year-olds followed since birth, and assessing the impact of “environmental harshness” vs. “unpredictability” (unstable parental figures, housing, parent jobs, etc.) during ages 0-5 and 6-16, an unpredictable environment during age 0-5 was significantly associated both with increased sexual risk factors and criminality at age 23.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Gerber MR, Fried LE, Pineles SL, Shipherd JC, Bernstein CA.

Posttraumatic stress disorder and intimate partner violence in a women's headache center.

Women Health. 2012 Jul;52(5):454-71. PMID: 22747183

Of 92 women recruited from a women’s headache center, 9.8% reported recent and 36.9% lifetime IPV. 28.3% of all participants screened positive for PTSD, which was strongly associated with headache severity.

See patient handout “Abuse and Maltreatment: Their Effect on Headache” at

http://www.americanheadachesociety.org/assets/1/7/Abuse_and_Maltreatment_Nov-Dec_2011.pdf

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Sullivan TP, Ashare RL, Jaquier V, Tennen H.

Risk factors for alcohol-related problems among victims of partner violence.

Subst Use Misuse. 2012 May;47(6):673-85. PMID: 22360665

For 143 substance-using, IPV-exposed women, physical IPV severity was related to alcohol dependence, and PTSD symptom severity was associated with increasing hazardous, harmful and dependent drinking.

Cultural Issues

Lindley LL, Friedman DB, Struble C.

Becoming visible: assessing the availability of online sexual health information for lesbians.

Health Promot Pract. 2012 Jul;13(4):472-80. PMID: 21677116

In a review of websites providing sexual health resources for the lesbian population, only 16% discussed IPV.

DeLiema M, Gassoumis ZD, Homeier DC, Wilber KH.

Determining prevalence and correlates of elder abuse using promotores: low-income immigrant Latinos report high rates of abuse and neglect.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2012 Jul;60(7):1333-9. PMID: 22697790

With the factors of limited English proficiency, neighborhood seclusion, a tradition of resolving conflicts within the family, and mistrust of authorities possibly impeding survey research, “promotores”, local Spanish-speaking Latinos, were recruited and trained to interview a sample of Latino elders in low income communities in LA. 40.4% of these elders stated they had experienced some form of abuse or neglect, much higher findings than in prior community research.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Hawes C, Moudouni DM, Edwards RB, Phillips CD.

Nursing homes and the affordable care act: a cease fire in the ongoing struggle over quality reform.

J Aging Soc Policy. 2012;24(2):206-20. PMID: 22497359

Article describes failed policy change attempts in congress to reform nursing homes, such as strengthening oversight, enforcement of penalties, and expanding staff training. These issues have recently passed as part of the Affordable Care Act, however there are now implementation challenges.

Jenkins R.

Using advocacy to safeguard older people with learning disabilities.

Nurs Older People. 2012 Jul;24(6):31-6. PMID: 22900394

Article from UK summarizing a 2008 report “Death by Indifference”, on the “widespread institutional discrimination” against elders with learning disabilities that led to premature deaths, with the author’s suggestions for nursing advocacy for this group of patients.

Mitra M, Manning SE, Lu E.

Physical abuse around the time of pregnancy among women with disabilities.

Matern Child Health J. 2012 May;16(4):802-6. PMID: 21556697

From a Massachusetts pregnancy database, 4.9% of pregnant women were disabled. Women with disabilities were 4.3 times more likely to report physical abuse before pregnancy, and 2.8 times more likely during pregnancy, than women without disabilities.

Perpetrators

Farrer TJ, Frost RB, Hedges DW.

Prevalence of traumatic brain injury in intimate partner violence offenders compared to the general population

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2012 Apr;13(2):77-82. PMID: 22467643

In a review of research articles on this subject and combining data, authors conclude that 53% of IPV perpetrators in the reported studies had a history of traumatic brain injury, significantly higher than the general population, and known to be associated with aggression and violence.

Blagov PS, Patrick CJ, Lilienfeld SO, et al.

Personality constellations in incarcerated psychopathic men.

Personal Disord. 2011 Oct;2(4):293-315. PMID: 22448803

Analysis of 91 incarcerated men with high levels of psychopathology revealed two subtypes – narcissistic and hostile/dysregulated.

Hamdi NR, Knight RA.

The relationships of perpetrator and victim substance use to the sexual aggression of rapists and child molesters.

Sex Abuse. 2012 Aug;24(4):307-27. PMID: 21890810

Using a database of over 500 sexual offenders, perpetrator drug use was associated with increased aggression among child molesters, whereas adult victim substance use was related to increased aggression among rapists.

Bourget D, Gagné P.

Women who kill their mates.

Behav Sci Law. 2012 Sep;30(5):598-614. PMID: 23015414

In a review of partner homicide over 10 years in Quebec, 42 out of 276 homicides were perpetrated by women, of whom 28% had been previously abused by their partner.

Police and Court Systems

Belfrage H, Strand S, Storey JE, Gibas AL, Kropp PR, Hart SD.

Assessment and management of risk for intimate partner violence by police officers using the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide.

Law Hum Behav. 2012 Feb;36(1):60-7. PMID: 22471386

This 20 item assessment tool for Swedish Police on DV calls includes questions about criminal history, psychosocial adjustment, spousal assault history, and index offense factors, as well as an attached menu of 14 suggested management strategies. Higher score on the tool influenced increased use of police management strategies as well as predicted recidivism of perpetrators.

Allen B, Tussey C.

Can projective drawings detect if a child experienced sexual or physical abuse?

A systematic review of the controlled research. Trauma Violence Abuse. 2012 Apr;13(2):97-111. PMID: 22467642

Authors review research on the use and interpretation of children's drawings in relation to possible sexual abuse, and conclude that the various scoring systems do not have enough evidence or reliability to support their use in court.

Providers

Hornor G.

Medical evaluation for child physical abuse: what the PNP needs to know.

J Pediatr Health Care. 2012 May-Jun;26(3):163-70; quiz 171-3. PMID: 22525996

Review of childhood abuse for pediatric nurse practitioners.

Koetting C, Fitzpatrick JJ, Lewin L, Kilanowski J.

Nurse practitioner knowledge of child sexual abuse in children with cognitive disabilities.

J Forensic Nurs. 2012 Jun;8(2):72-80. PMID: 22621665

In a survey of 43 nurse practitioners, there were significant deficits in knowledge of abuse in children with cognitive disabilities, and lack of knowledge of their nurse practitioner responsibilities to check for sexual abuse as a duty determined by the position statements of their various professional organizations.

Morse DS, Lafleur R, Fogarty CT, Mittal M, Cerulli C.

"They told me to leave": how health care providers address intimate partner violence.

J Am Board Fam Med. 2012 May-Jun;25(3):333-42. PMID: 22570397

For 142 females who experienced IPV, drawn from family court, primary care practice and a psychiatric practice, 51% of patients reported that their health care provider knew about their IPV. 71% believed their provider advocated leaving the relationship, but only 31% received safety information.

Scholer SJ, Hudnut-Beumler J, Dietrich MS.

Why parents value a brief required primary care intervention that teaches discipline strategies.

Clin Pediatr (Phila). 2012 Jun;51(6):538-45. PMID: 22496174

128 out of 129 parents of 1-5 year old children who viewed a brief (5-10 min) instructional video on discipline strategies reported that it was a valuable component of the well child visit.

Crowell K, Levi BH.

Mandated reporting thresholds for community professionals.

Child Welfare. 2012;91(1):35-53. PMID: 22894014

From a survey of 1233 community professionals by Penn State Children's Hospital, there was wide variation in an identified threshold of "reasonable suspicion" of child abuse.

McMahon S, Armstrong DY.

Intimate partner violence during pregnancy: best practices for social workers.

Health Soc Work. 2012 Feb;37(1):9-17. PMID: 22908477

Review of the effects of IPV during pregnancy, with suggestions for social workers specific for pregnancy-related intervention and prevention.

Bourassa D.

Examining self-protection measures guarding Adult Protective Services social workers against compassion fatigue.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Jun;27(9):1699-715. PMID: 22203624

Nine experienced APS workers discuss how they protect against compassion fatigue, including actively setting boundaries between work and home, and co-worker support.

Researchers

Aarons GA, Sommerfeld DH.

Leadership, innovation climate, and attitudes toward evidence-based practice during a statewide implementation.

J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2012 Apr;51(4):423-31. PMID: 22449648

Discussion of the influence of transformative leadership style during a push to increase statewide implementation of an evidence-based practice to reduce child neglect.

Lindenbach JM, Larocque S, Lavoie AM, Garceau ML.

Older adult mistreatment risk screening: contribution to the validation of a screening tool in a domestic setting.

Can J Aging. 2012 Jun;31(2):235-52. PMID: 22647665

Description of validation of an English "Mistreatment of Older Adult Risk Factors" tool, for screening in the home setting.

Lehmann P, Simmons CA, Pillai VK.

The Validation of the Checklist of Controlling Behaviors (CCB): Assessing Coercive Control in Abusive Relationships.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Aug;18(8):913-33. PMID: 23008428

Description of validation of an 84-item Checklist of Controlling Behaviors, to assess multiple levels of violence and coercive control.

Other of Interest

Tackling abuse in animals and people.

Vet Rec. 2012 May 12;170(19):482. PMID: 22589030

An organization in Scotland has launched the Domestic Abuse Veterinary Initiative, recognizing that besides being abused, animals may be used in DV situations for punishment and control. More information and materials can be found at:

http://www.bva.co.uk/activity_and_advice/RecognisingAbuseinAnimalsandHumans.aspx, including a poster with the title "Are you and your pet sharing a secret?"

Josephson WL, Pepler D.

Bullying: a stepping stone to dating aggression?

Int J Adolesc Med Health. 2011 Nov 29;24(1):37-47. PMID: 22909910

Stating the definition of bullying as "the use of power and aggression to control and distress another", authors discuss the commonalities between bullying and dating abuse, and the individual and community contexts that could lead from one to the other.

Gupta J, Falb K, Kpebo D, Annan J.

Abuse from in-laws and associations with attempts to control reproductive decisions among rural women in Côte d'Ivoire: a cross-sectional study.

BJOG. 2012 Aug;119(9):1058-66. PMID: 22676807

Of 981 Ivory Coast women aged 18 years and older, 27% reported in-law abuse. In-law abuse was associated with 6.9 times increased risk of in-law-perpetrated reproductive control.

Zayed AA, Ali AA.

Abusing female children by circumcision is continued in Egypt.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2012 May;19(4):196-200. PMID: 22520370

In a 2010 questionnaire of 244 female Egyptian volunteers, 63.9% had experienced female circumcision, usually at age 10. 94.9% experienced emotional trauma, 33.3% hemorrhage, and 72.7% subsequent sexual problems.

Allen NE, Javdani S, Lehrner AL, Walden AL.

"Changing the text": modeling council capacity to produce institutionalized change.

Am J Community Psychol. 2012 Jun;49(3-4):317-31. PMID: 21842302

Domestic violence councils are more likely to accomplish institutional change if there is perceived member empowerment, generation of social capital, and supportive community context.