

DECEMBER 2009 ABUSE MEDICAL SUMMARY for Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council <http://dvc.sccgov.org>

This summary includes selected articles indexed by the National Library of Medicine Oct 2009. 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

Dowdell EB, Cavanaugh DJ, Burgess AW, Prentky RA.

Girls in foster care: a vulnerable and high-risk group.

MCN Am J Matern Child Nurs. 2009 May-Jun;34(3):172-8. PMID: 19550260

In a review of 155 female children and adolescents (age 4-17) who exhibited sexually abusive and aggressive behaviors in foster care, 84% had been physically abused, 81% sexually abused, and 95% neglected. These behavioral problems lead to 40% of them experiencing the instability of more than 4 foster care placements that sometimes lasted less than a month.

Ross AH, Abel SM, Radisch D.

Pattern of injury in child fatalities resulting from child abuse.

Forensic Sci Int. 2009 Jul 1;188(1-3):99-102. PMID: 19386452

In an analysis of 162 cases of child fatalities from maltreatment, the peak ages were 0-3 months (25%) and 2-6 years (19%), and the most frequent body injury was craniofacial.

Newton AW, Vandeven AM.

Update on child maltreatment.

Curr Opin Pediatr. 2009 Apr;21(2):252-61. PMID: 19300263

Review of new child maltreatment research during the past year.

Becker-Weidman A.

Effects of early maltreatment on development: a descriptive study using the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales-II.

Child Welfare. 2009;88(2):137-61. PMID: 19777796

Adopted and foster children who had experienced severe chronic early maltreatment had delays in communication, daily living skills, and socialization. Average developmental age was 4.4 years, while average chronological age was 9.9 years.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Hirakata P.

Narratives of dissociation: insights into the treatment of dissociation in individuals who were sexually abused as children.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2009;10(3):297-314. PMID: 19585338

In depth analysis of seven adult patients with a history of childhood sexual abuse, their experience of dissociative symptoms, and specific tools and techniques they found helpful in managing dissociative symptoms.

Reichmann-Decker A, DePrince AP, McIntosh DN.

Affective responsiveness, betrayal, and childhood abuse.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2009;10(3):276-96. PMID: 19585337

Using facial muscle response analysis, women who experienced high-betrayal (such as a parent) childhood sexual or physical abuse showed alterations in automatic emotional processing – decreased facial expression and decreased startle response to pictures depicting men threatening women. Hypothesis presented that inhibiting negative emotional responses or expressions might have had a protective effect during abusive childhood.

Greenfield EA, Marks NF.

Profiles of physical and psychological violence in childhood as a risk factor for poorer adult health: evidence from the 1995-2005 National Survey of Midlife in the United States.

J Aging Health. 2009 Oct;21(7):943-66. PMID: 19773595

NIH results from the National Survey of Midlife 1995-2005 showed a significant decrease in quality of health, functionality, and increased chronic health conditions for people who had experienced frequent physical and psychological violence in childhood. In addition, all parameters declined more severely over the 10 year study period for this group, compared to a non-abused group.

Brown DW, Anda RF, Tiemeier H, Felitti VJ, Edwards VJ, Croft JB, Giles WH.

Adverse childhood experiences and the risk of premature mortality.

Am J Prev Med. 2009 Nov;37(5):389-96. PMID: 19840693

CDC analysis of a database of over 17,000 adults showed that having experienced six or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs - physical abuse, psychological abuse, seeing a parent abused, etc.) died nearly 20 years earlier than those without ACEs.

Mehta MA, Golembo NI, Nosarti C, Colvert E, Mota A, Williams SC, Rutter M, Sonuga-Barke EJ.

Amygdala, hippocampal and corpus callosum size following severe early institutional deprivation: the English and Romanian Adoptees study pilot.

J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2009 Aug;50(8):943-51. PMID: 19457047

In adopted Romanian children who had experienced severe institutional neglect, brain scans as adolescents showed significantly decreased size of the amygdala, with the longer the neglect, the smaller the size. The amygdala processes memories and emotional reactions.

Aguilera M, Arias B, Wichers M, Barrantes-Vidal N, Moya J, Villa H, van Os J, Ibáñez MI, Ruipérez MA, Ortet G, Fañanás L.

Early adversity and 5-HTT/BDNF genes: new evidence of gene-environment interactions on depressive symptoms in a general population.

Psychol Med. 2009 Sep;39(9):1425-32. PMID:19215635

In this sample of over 500 patients, childhood emotional abuse or neglect, and childhood sexual abuse were significantly associated with adult depression. However, certain individual variations in the 5-HTT gene (transports serotonin) modified the depression risk.

Tomoda A, Suzuki H, Rabi K, Sheu YS, Polcari A, Teicher MH.

Reduced prefrontal cortical gray matter volume in young adults exposed to harsh corporal punishment.

Neuroimage. 2009 Aug;47 Suppl 2:T66-71. PMID: 19285558

On brain scans of 23 young adults, the experience of harsh corporal punishment during childhood was associated with decreased brain volume of grey matter (processes information from the senses and muscles).

O'Connor RC, Rasmussen S, Hawton K.

Predicting deliberate self-harm in adolescents: a six month prospective study.

Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2009 Aug;39(4):364-75. PMID: 19792978

While several factors were associated with repeated acts of self-harm in 31 adolescents, history of sexual abuse was the only factor predictive of first time self harm.

Wise LA, Palmer JR, Rothman EF, Rosenberg L.

Childhood abuse and early menarche: findings from the black women's health study.

Am J Public Health. 2009 Oct;99 Suppl 2:S460-6. PMID: 19443822

Analysis of over 35,000 participants in the Black Women's Health Study showed that childhood sexual abuse was positively associated with early onset of menses, and the risk of early menses increased with increasing frequency of sexual abuse incidents. Early menses is a risk factor for breast and uterine cancer, as well as heart disease.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Carlson BE, McNutt LA, Choi DY.

Childhood and adult abuse among women in primary health care: effects on mental health.

J Interpers Violence. 2003 Aug;18(8):924-41. PMID: 19768893

In mental health screening of over 500 women in a primary care medical clinic, recent IPV and high-severity child abuse increased risk for depression, and both recent and past IPV as well as child abuse increased risk for anxiety. Higher levels of cumulative abuse increased risk for depression and anxiety over the life span.

Conron KJ, Beardslee W, Koenen KC, Buka SL, Gortmaker SL.

A longitudinal study of maternal depression and child maltreatment in a national sample of families investigated by child protective services.

Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2009 Oct;163(10):922-30. PMID: 19805711

Women who became depressed during follow up after regaining custody of children after maltreatment investigation, were significantly more likely to become psychologically but not physically aggressive toward the children.

Brown AL, Testa M, Messman-Moore TL.

Psychological consequences of sexual victimization resulting from force, incapacitation, or verbal coercion.

Violence Against Women. 2009 Aug;15(8):898-919. PMID: 19502576

Article discusses the emotional impact and different long term psychological consequences of rape as resulting from force, incapacitation, or verbal coercion.

Cultural Issues

Ahmad F, Driver N, McNally MJ, Stewart DE.

"Why doesn't she seek help for partner abuse?" An exploratory study with South Asian immigrant women.

Soc Sci Med. 2009 Aug;69(4):613-22. PMID: 19576669

In detailed interviews with South Asian immigrant women, the main reasons for delayed help-seeking were social stigma, rigid gender roles, marriage obligations, expected silence, loss of social support after migration, limited knowledge about available resources, and myths about partner abuse

Pan A, Daley S, Rivera LM, Williams K, Lingle D, Reznik V.

Understanding the role of culture in domestic violence: the Ahimsa Project for Safe Families.

J Immigr Minor Health. 2006 Jan;8(1):35-43. PMID: 19834998

"This San Diego project was designed to increase awareness of domestic violence among Latino, Somali, and Vietnamese communities and to develop and implement culturally specific programs aimed at each community. Here the authors describe the Project's needs assessment and community dialogues that guided the development of specific interventions; present the lessons learned; and describe replicable, culturally specific prevention strategies utilized."

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Baker MW, LaCroix AZ, Wu C, Cochrane BB, Wallace R, Woods NF.

Mortality risk associated with physical and verbal abuse in women aged 50 to 79.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2009 Oct;57(10):1799-809. PMID: 19682130

Using data from over 68,000 women aged 50-79 from the Women's Health Initiative, 11.3% reported prior year abuse. Even after controlling for multiple demographic and health-related factors, abused women had a significantly higher risk of dying during the study period.

Perpetrators

Peter T.

Exploring taboos: comparing male- and female-perpetrated child sexual abuse.

J Interpers Violence. 2009 Jul;24(7):1111-28. PMID: 18701747

In a Canadian review of child molesters, 10% were female. These women tended to abuse girls more than boys, abuse younger children, and abuse children from more middle socioeconomic class than male molesters.

Ernst AA, Weiss SJ, Hall J, Clark R, Coffman B, Goldstein L, Hopley K, Dettmer T, Lehrman C, Merhege M, Corum B, Rihani T, Valdez M.

Adult intimate partner violence perpetrators are significantly more likely to have witnessed intimate partner violence as a child than nonperpetrators.

Am J Emerg Med. 2009 Jul;27(6):641-50. PMID: 19751620

In a random study of over 200 male and female patients seen in an ED, 19% identified themselves as IPV perpetrators. Perpetrators were significantly more like than non-perpetrators (55% vs. 27%) to have witnessed DV as a child. Another perpetrator identifier was having a spouse with a substance abuse problem.

Police and Court System

Stover CS, Poole G, Marans S.

The domestic violence home-visit intervention: impact on police-reported incidents of repeat violence over 12 months.

Violence Vict. 2009;24(5):591-606. PMID: 19852401

Abused women were more likely to utilize services and call the police for subsequent incidents when they had been visited by a police-advocate team within 72 hours of the domestic incident. The team provided language specific support regarding safety, psycho education, mental health, legal services, and additional available police services.

Providers

Postmus JL, Severson M, Berry M, Yoo JA.

Women's experiences of violence and seeking help.

Violence Against Women. 2009 Jul;15(7):852-68. PMID: 19458091

The top 10 services reported as being most helpful to a group of over 400 abused women were: subsidized day care, religious or spiritual counseling, subsidized housing, welfare benefits, educational services, food banks, job training, unemployment benefits, rape crisis or sexual assault services, and domestic violence shelters.

Todahl JL, Linville D, Bustin A, Wheeler J, Gau J.

Sexual assault support services and community systems: understanding critical issues and needs in the LGBTQ community.

Violence Against Women. 2009 Aug;15(8):952-76. PMID: 19491287

Surveys and focus group interviews with LGBTQ individuals explored "low community awareness and support for sexual violence", and recommended strategies to answer these needs.

Mikton C, Butchart A.

Child maltreatment prevention: a systematic review of reviews.

Bull World Health Organ. 2009 May;87(5):353-61. PMID:19551253

World Health Organization review of programs to prevent child maltreatment showed positive evidence for home visitation, parent education, abusive head trauma prevention, and multi-component interventions.

Kimberg LS.

Addressing intimate partner violence with male patients: a review and introduction of pilot guidelines.

J Gen Intern Med. 2008 Dec;23(12):2071-8. PMID: 18830771

Excellent review article on addressing IPV in male patients, whether as victim or perpetrator.

Slattery SM, Goodman LA.

Secondary traumatic stress among domestic violence advocates: workplace risk and protective factors.

Violence Against Women. 2009 Nov;15(11):1358-79. PMID: 19809098

In an analysis of workplace factors of 148 domestic violence advocates, improved advocate emotional well-being was associated with coworker support, quality clinical supervision, and a shared power structure rather than a traditional hierarchical organization model.

Walker SL, Smith DJ Jr.

"Children at risk": development, implementation, and effectiveness of a school-based violence intervention and prevention program.

J Prev Interv Community. 2009;37(4):316-25. PMID: 19830626

After 15,000 faculty and staff of the Dallas school system were educated in the identification, intervention, and prevention of exposure to violence, referrals relating to abuse increased 70%, while the city of Dallas experienced a drop in the number of DV and child abuse offenses.