

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

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine October 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

Adamsbaum C, Grabar S, Mejean N, Rey-Salmon C.

Abusive head trauma: judicial admissions highlight violent and repetitive shaking.

Pediatrics. 2010 Sep;126(3):546-55. PMID: 20696720

In analyzing a group of 112 children with abusive head trauma, there was no difference in findings or outcomes of those cases in which there was a confession, and where there was not. In those cases where there was a confession, "Shaking was described as extremely violent (100%) and was repeated (55%) from 2 to 30 times (mean: 10) because it stopped the infant's crying (62.5%)."

Knutson JF, Taber SM, Murray AJ, Valles NL, Koeppl G.

The role of care neglect and supervisory neglect in childhood obesity in a disadvantaged sample.

J Pediatr Psychol. 2010 Jun;35(5):523-32. PMID: 19996153

In an ethnically diverse sample of 571 young disadvantaged children from two Midwestern states, 15% were overweight and 16.3% were obese. Care neglect for younger children, and supervisory neglect for older children, significantly correlated with child BMI (body mass index).

De Bellis MD, Hooper SR, Woolley DP, Shenk CE.

Demographic, maltreatment, and neurobiological correlates of PTSD symptoms in children and adolescents.

J Pediatr Psychol. 2010 Jun;35(5):570-7. PMID: 20008084

In a study of 216 children, those with a history of child maltreatment and PTSD scored significantly worse on performance of Visual Memory [important for learning].

Carrión VG, Haas BW, Garrett A, Song S, Reiss AL.

Reduced hippocampal activity in youth with posttraumatic stress symptoms: an FMRI study.

J Pediatr Psychol. 2010 Jun;35(5):559-69. PMID: 19995868

In a small study of young adolescents with a history of interpersonal trauma and PTSD, compared to controls without a trauma history, the traumatized youth showed decreased activation of the hippocampus [important for memory and spatial orientation].

Vanderwert RE, Marshall PJ, Nelson CA 3rd, Zeanah CH, Fox NA.

Timing of intervention affects brain electrical activity in children exposed to severe psychosocial neglect.

PLoS One. 2010 Jul 1;5(7):e11415. PMID: 20617175

Children who experience early psychosocial deprivation in institutional care develop significant changes in EEG readings (brain wave types and strength). In this study, children from institutions who were placed into foster care and reassessed at age 8 showed improvement of brain wave patterns, but mainly if they were placed before 24 months of age.

Miskovic V, Schmidt LA, Georgiades K, Boyle M, Macmillan HL.

Adolescent females exposed to child maltreatment exhibit atypical EEG coherence and psychiatric impairment: linking early adversity, the brain, and psychopathology.

Dev Psychopathol. 2010 May;22(2):419-32. PMID: 20423551

Controlling for puberty and socioeconomic factors, 24 female adolescents age 14 with a history of child maltreatment, vs. a similar control group without maltreatment, showed significant defects in EEG coherence [connections and organization between brain neurons in different parts of the brain].

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Irish L, Kobayashi I, Delahanty DL.

Long-term physical health consequences of childhood sexual abuse: a meta-analytic review.

J Pediatr Psychol. 2010 Jun;35(5):450-61. PMID: 20022919

In a review of medical research articles, a history of child sexual abuse was associated with worse health outcomes for general health, gynecologic health, pain, heart symptoms, and obesity.

Noll JG, Shenk CE, Yeh MT, Ji J, Putnam FW, Trickett PK.

Receptive language and educational attainment for sexually abused females.

Pediatrics. 2010 Sep;126(3):e615-22. PMID: 20696731

Females with substantiated childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and a control group were followed for 18 years. The CSA group was found to have significant delay and reduced final levels of receptive language abilities.

“Exposure to childhood sexual abuse may be a significant risk factor for cognitive performance and achievement deficits for victims. These findings have particular public health relevance given the high prevalence of sexual abuse and that poor cognitive functioning and low levels of educational attainment can contribute to continued adversity throughout the life course.”

Maniglio R.

Child sexual abuse in the etiology of depression: A systematic review of reviews.

Depress Anxiety. 2010 Jul;27(7):631-42. PMID: 20336807

In a review of the medical literature and final analysis of over 60,000 patients, authors conclude that child sexual abuse is a significant risk factor for depression. They recommend that depressed adults should be asked about early abuse.

Watson B, Halford WK.

Classes of childhood sexual abuse and women's adult couple relationships.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(4):518-35. PMID: 20712149

This study of 1335 Australian women revealed that childhood sexual abuse (CSA) by a family member was significantly associated with the highest risk for adult relationship problems, while CSA by a friend or stranger showed weaker effects on adult relationships.

Majer M, Nater UM, Lin JM, Capuron L, Reeves WC.

Association of childhood trauma with cognitive function in healthy adults: a pilot study.

BMC Neurol. 2010 Jul 14;10:61. PMID: 20630071

In this small study of 47 healthy adults as part of a larger study, history of childhood emotional abuse was associated with impaired spatial working memory performance, and history of childhood physical neglect correlated with impaired spatial as well as pattern recognition working memory.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Tough SC, Siever JE, Benzies K, Leew S, Johnston DW.

Maternal well-being and its association to risk of developmental problems in children at school entry.

BMC Pediatr. 2010 Mar 25;10:19. PMID: 20338052

In a Canadian study of almost 800 mothers (62% return) who had been followed since early pregnancy, children who screened positive for risk of developmental problems at school entry were 2.4 times more likely to have had mothers who experienced abuse during pregnancy.

Shah PS, Shah J.

Maternal Exposure to Domestic Violence and Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2010 Nov;19(11):2017-2031. PMID: 20919921

In a review of multiple studies looking at DV and pregnancy, there was a significant relationship between abuse and both low birth weight babies and preterm birth, with a hypothesis of significant underreporting.

Graham-Bermann SA, Perkins S.

Effects of early exposure and lifetime exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) on child adjustment.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(4):427-39. PMID: 20712143

For 190 children ages 6 to 12 who had been exposed to intimate partner violence, both age of first exposure but more so cumulative exposure (number of years) were associated with children's behavior problems.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Kelly U.

Intimate partner violence, physical health, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and quality of life in latinas.

West J Emerg Med. 2010 Aug;11(3):247-51. PMID: 20882144

The two most common complaints (found in 80%) of 33 Latinas seeking help at a DV shelter were sleeping difficulties and chronic pain (neck or back pain 54.5%, severe/frequent headaches 54.5%, and pelvic pain 21.2%). These symptoms were also strongly correlated with PTSD and depression.

Leclerc B, Bergeron S, Binik YM, Khalifé S.

History of sexual and physical abuse in women with dyspareunia: association with pain, psychosocial adjustment, and sexual functioning.

J Sex Med. 2010 Feb;7(2 Pt 2):971-80. PMID: 19912492

In a study of 150 women with painful intercourse, those with a history of prior sexual abuse experienced more psychological distress and sexual impairment.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Beydoun HA, Al-Sahab B, Beydoun MA, Tamim H.

Intimate partner violence as a risk factor for postpartum depression among Canadian women in the Maternity Experience Survey.

Ann Epidemiol. 2010 Aug;20(8):575-83. PMID: 20609336

In a Canadian study of over 6400 women over age 15 who delivered singleton live births, the prevalence of postpartum depression was 7.5%, and was 1.61 times more likely in women who had experienced partner violence in the past two years.

Fischer S, Stojek M, Hartzell E.

Effects of multiple forms of childhood abuse and adult sexual assault on current eating disorder symptoms.

Eat Behav. 2010 Aug;11(3):190-2. PMID: 20434068

In a survey of 489 undergraduate women, 30% had experienced unwanted sexual experiences in the prior 3 months. Eating disorder symptoms were increased in those with a history of childhood emotional abuse and those with recent sexual assault.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Mouton CP, Rodabough RJ, Rovi SL, Brzyski RG, Katerndahl DA.

Psychosocial effects of physical and verbal abuse in postmenopausal women.

Ann Fam Med. 2010 May-Jun;8(3):206-13. PMID: 20458103

Even after adjusting for sociodemographic variables, data from over 95,000 women in the Women's Health Initiative aged 50 to 79 showed that verbal and or physical abuse were significantly correlated with depressive symptoms and poorer mental health scores than women with no abuse exposure.

Cultural Issues

Zanzana H.

Domestic Violence and Social Responsibility in Contemporary Spanish Cinema: A Portfolio View of Behavioral Dynamics.

Hispania. 2010;93(3):380-98. PMID: 20939139

Author discusses the role of 4 Spanish films in "indicating that contemporary Spanish cinema may play a role in perpetuating gender-based violence".

Ardabily HE, Moghadam ZB, Salsali M, Ramezanzadeh F, Nedjat S.

Prevalence and risk factors for domestic violence against infertile women in an Iranian setting.

Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2010 Oct 18. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20961542

In this study of 247 women being seen in an infertility clinic in Iran, 61.8% reported having experienced domestic violence because of their infertility (psychological abuse 33.8%, physical 14%, sexual 8%).

BigFoot DS, Schmidt SR.

Honoring children, mending the circle: cultural adaptation of trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy for American Indian and Alaska native children.

J Clin Psychol. 2010 Aug;66(8):847-56. PMID: 20549679

Very interesting article on utilizing the Native American cultural concepts of extended family, practices about respect, beliefs regarding the Circle, and the interconnectedness between spirituality and healing, with such tools as storytelling and ceremony, adapted to trauma focused therapy methods for children.

Perpetrators

Slep AM, Foran HM, Heyman RE, Snarr JD.

Unique risk and protective factors for partner aggression in a large scale air force survey.

J Community Health. 2010 Aug;35(4):375-83. PMID: 20373136

In an Air Force-wide anonymous online survey across 82 bases with over 52,000 participants, unique predictors of partner physical aggression perpetration (for men and women) were: less relationship satisfaction, alcohol problems, financial stress, and less number of years in the military.

Police and Court System

Logan TK, Walker R.

Toward a deeper understanding of the harms caused by partner stalking.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(4):440-55. PMID: 20712144

In this study of 210 women with civil protective orders (PO) who were stalked by their partners or ex-partners, these women experienced significantly more distress and harm than women who experienced PO violations but not stalking. Victim service and criminal justice professionals “did not seem to understand the extent or gravity of the harms caused by partner stalking” and gave conflicting recommendations.

Winick BJ, Wiener R, Castro A, Emmert A, Skovran LC.

Dealing with mentally ill domestic violence perpetrators: A therapeutic jurisprudence judicial model.

Int J Law Psychiatry. 2010 Oct 15. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20952067.

This paper discusses two year preliminary data on a pioneering model “Domestic Violence Mental Health Court”, for perpetrators who are too mentally ill for typical diversion programs.

Zosky DL.

Accountability in teenage dating violence: a comparative examination of adult domestic violence and juvenile justice systems policies.

Soc Work. 2010 Oct;55(4):359-68. PMID: 20977059

Author compares the history, philosophy and policy trajectory of treatment of domestic violence offenders in adult vs. juvenile courts, and wonders if “The implication of policy disparity between the adult criminal justice system and the juvenile justice system may be one contributing reason why teenage dating violence has received a different societal response than adult domestic violence.”

Stanley N, Miller P, Foster HR, Thomson G.

Children's Experiences of Domestic Violence: Developing an Integrated Response From Police and Child Protection Services.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 Oct 1. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20889537.

Article analyzes UK communication and co-ordination issues between police and child protective services, identifying helpful approaches.

McCartan LM, Gunnison E.

Individual and relationship factors that differentiate female offenders with and without a sexual abuse history.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 Aug;25(8):1449-69. PMID: 20040707

A consistent finding is prior sexual abuse in female offenders. In this study of 131 female offenders, those with a history of prior sexual abuse “were more deeply involved in the criminal justice system, had more difficulty staying employed, and were more likely to be involved in an abusive relationship. Implications of the results are discussed.”

Providers

Jenkins SR, Mitchell JL, Baird S, Whitfield SR, Meyer HL.

The Counselor's Trauma as Counseling Motivation: Vulnerability or Stress Inoculation?

J Interpers Violence. 2010 Oct 18. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20956440

101 sexual assault and domestic violence counselors recall their motivation for trauma work, their reported subjective personal changes as they work with clients, and their secondary and vicarious trauma symptoms and burnout.

Macy RJ, Giattina MC, Montijo NJ, Ermentrout DM.

Domestic violence and sexual assault agency directors' perspectives on services that help survivors.

Violence Against Women. 2010 Oct;16(10):1138-61. PMID: 20980232.

In-depth interviews with 14 agency directors were synthesized into what services the directors felt were critical services for survivors, essential services, ideal services, and areas of service uncertain due to a lack of best practices.

Fowler DN, Rountree MA.

Exploring the meaning and role of spirituality for women survivors of intimate partner abuse.

J Pastoral Care Counsel. 2010 Summer;64(2):3.1-13. PMID: 20828072

Focus groups of Texas shelter residents discuss the role of spirituality, including providing strength, influencing outcomes, and assisting in the regulation of behavior in a positive manner.

Shay-Zapfen G, Bullock L.

Impact of intimate partner violence on maternal child health.

MCN Am J Matern Child Nurs. 2010 Jul-Aug;35(4):206-12. PMID: 20585210

Article for maternity RNs on the impact on mother and child of intimate partner violence, and the importance of screening and support.

Brackley MH, Williams GB, Wei CC.

Substance abuse interface with intimate partner violence: what treatment programs need to know.

Nurs Clin North Am. 2010 Dec;45(4):581-9, vi. PMID: 20971338

Review article for counselors/healthcare providers in substance abuse programs on the importance of screening for IPV and how to provide support and referral.

Flaherty EG, Stirling J Jr; American Academy of Pediatrics. Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Clinical report—the pediatrician’s role in child maltreatment prevention.

Pediatrics. 2010 Oct;126(4):833-41. PMID: 20945525

Statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics “the report describes how pediatricians can identify family strengths, recognize risk factors, provide helpful guidance, and refer families to programs and other resources with the goal of strengthening families, preventing child maltreatment, and enhancing child development.”

Hammerschlag MR, Guillén CD.

Medical and legal implications of testing for sexually transmitted infections in children.

Clin Microbiol Rev. 2010 Jul;23(3):493-506. PMID: 20610820

Review article on a variety of sexually transmitted diseases including how they are spread, how to test, and implications when testing children.

Other of Interest

Katerndahl D, Ferrer R, Burge S, Becho J, Wood R.

Recurrent patterns of daily intimate partner violence and environment.

Nonlinear Dynamics Psychol Life Sci. 2010 Oct;14(4):511-24. PMID: 20887692

In this small study, adult women involved in abusive relationships completed a daily telephone survey for two months to evaluate patterns of abuse. Only a limited set of patterns were observed. “Although violence led to more violence, verbal abuse did not necessarily lead to physical aggression.”

Runyan DK, Shankar V, Hassan F, Hunter WM, Jain D, et al.

International variations in harsh child discipline.

Pediatrics. 2010 Sep;126(3):e701-11. PMID: 20679301

In surveys of parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines, and the United States, nearly all parents used nonviolent discipline and verbal or psychological punishment., while 55% used physical punishment. Spanking rates (with open hand on buttocks) ranged from a low of 15% in an educated community in India to a high of 76% in a Philippine community. Greater than 20% of parents in 9 communities admitted shaking children younger than 2 years. A median of 16% of children experienced harsh or potentially abusive physical discipline in the previous year.