

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2011

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine December 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. [IPV = intimate partner violence, PTSD = post traumatic stress disorder]

Child Abuse and Neglect

Scribano PV, Hornor G, Rhoda D, Curran S, Stevens J.

Multi-informant assessment of anxiety regarding ano-genital examinations for suspected child sexual abuse (CSA).

Child Abuse Negl. 2010 Aug;34(8):602-9. PMID: 20605630

In an assessment of anxiety in 175 children undergoing genital examinations for suspected child sexual abuse, assessed by the children, a parent, and the examiner, 17.1% of children pre examination and 15.4% post examination experienced significantly levels of anxiety – less than expected.

Holmberg LI, Hellberg D.

Sexually abused children. Characterization of these girls when adolescents.

Int J Adolesc Med Health. 2010 Apr-Jun;22(2):291-300 PMID: 21061931

In a Swedish in depth survey of all female adolescents age 13-18 in a medium sized town, 8.3% reported sexual abuse. Those who had been sexually abused scored worse on a variety of parameters, such as “felt overweight” (47% vs. 31%), felt depressed (60% vs. 37%), were on psychiatric medication (10% vs. 2%), and felt lonely (23% vs. 13%). Sexually abused adolescents were also more likely to smoke, use alcohol, and exhibit delinquent behaviors.

George ED, Bordner KA, Elwafi HM, Simen AA.

Maternal separation with early weaning: a novel mouse model of early life neglect.

BMC Neurosci. 2010 Sep 29;11:123. PMID: 20920223

Using two different strains of mice, early maternal separation and weaning resulted in offspring who were anxious, hyperactive, and showed behavior despair.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse and Neglect

Eide J, Hovengen R, Nordhagen R.

Childhood abuse and later worries about the baby's health in pregnancy.

Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand. 2010 Dec;89(12):1523-31. PMID: 20958251

In a prospective Norwegian study of almost 60,000 pregnancies and controlled for multiple variables, a history of childhood physical abuse made it 1.6 times, childhood sexual abuse 1.7 times, and both types of abuse 2.0 times more likely that the mother during pregnancy was strongly worried about the baby's health.

NIMH Multisite HIV/STD Prevention Trial for African American Couples Group.

Prevalence of child and adult sexual abuse and risk taking practices among HIV serodiscordant African-American couples.

AIDS Behav. 2010 Oct;14(5):1032-44. PMID: 20499150

As part of a National Institute of Mental Health multi-center study of HIV risk factors in African American couples where one partner was HIV positive, overall 72% of couples reported that one or both had a history of childhood sexual abuse. This factor may contribute to couple dynamics and risk-taking practices.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Scott-Storey K, Wuest J, Ford-Gilboe M.

Intimate partner violence and cardiovascular risk: is there a link?

J Adv Nurs. 2009 Oct;65(10):2186-97. PMID: 20568323

Of 309 women from a community sample who had recently separated from an abusive partner: 44.1% were smokers, 53.2% had body mass indices classified as overweight or obese, 54.7% had blood pressures above normal range, and 50.8% reported cardiovascular symptoms.

Becker-Dreps S, Morgan D, Peña R, Cortes L, Martin CF, Valladares E.

Association between intimate partner violence and irritable bowel syndrome: a population-based study in Nicaragua.

Violence Against Women. 2010 Jul;16(7):832-45. PMID: 20558772

An association between IPV and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) has been established for Caucasian women.

This study concluded that for Nicaraguan women, those who had experienced physical IPV were 2.0 times, and sexual IPV were 2.85 times more likely to have a diagnosis of IBS.

Chiriano J, Killeen JD, Molkara AM, Bianchi C, Abou-Zamzam AM Jr.

Rupture of an abdominal aortic aneurysm following nonaccidental blunt abdominal trauma

Vascular. 2010 Sep-Oct;18(5):303-6. PMID: 20822729

Case report of a 78 year old woman with an initial history of head trauma from a ground-level fall; deterioration after head surgery led to findings of a partially ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm and further history of assault by her husband as cause of initial presentation.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Fonzo GA, Simmons AN, Thorp SR, Norman SB, Paulus MP, Stein MB.

Exaggerated and disconnected insular-amygdalar blood oxygenation level-dependent response to threat-related emotional faces in women with intimate-partner violence posttraumatic stress disorder.

Biol Psychiatry. 2010 Sep 1;68(5):433-41. PMID: 20573339

In this small brain scan study of 12 women with IPV and PTSD, vs. a control group of 12 without IPV or PTSD, traumatized women showed hyperarousal and dysregulation of emotional and memory processing areas of the brain when shown pictures of fearful vs. happy faces, angry vs. happy faces, and male gender faces.

Cultural Issues

Balsam KF, Lehavot K, Beadnell B, Circo E.

Childhood abuse and mental health indicators among ethnically diverse lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2010 Aug;78(4):459-68. PMID: 20658803

In an online study of 669 LGB adults, childhood emotional abuse was the strongest predictor of adult mental health problems. However, relative to White participants, childhood emotional abuse showed a stronger relationship with symptoms for African Americans, and childhood physical abuse a stronger relationship with symptoms for Latina/o participants.

Kaslow NJ, Leiner AS, Reviere S, Jackson E, Bethea K, Bhaju J, Rhodes M, Gantt MJ, Senter H, Thompson MP.

Suicidal, abused African American women's response to a culturally informed intervention.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2010 Aug;78(4):449-58. PMID: 20658802.

In a randomized controlled trial, 208 African American women with a recent history of IPV and suicide attempt experienced more rapid reduction in depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation, results of which persisted at 12 month follow-up, when treated with a manualized, culturally informed, empowerment-focused psychoeducational group intervention, as opposed to treatment as usual.

Dalla RL, Marchetti AM, Sechrest EB, White JL.

"All the men here have the Peter Pan syndrome--they don't want to grow up": Navajo adolescent mothers' intimate partner relationships--a 15-year perspective.

Violence Against Women. 2010 Jul;16(7):743-63. PMID: 20558768

In a 15 year follow-up interview of adolescent Navajo mothers, four themes emerged: limited support, substance abuse, infidelity, and intimate partner violence.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Giles L, Brewer ET, Mosqueda L, Huba GJ, Melchior LA.

Vision for 2020.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2010 Jul;22(3-4):375-86. PMID: 20711922

Summary of 20 projects from the Archstone foundation, identifying five key areas for advancing the field of elder abuse knowledge and response: (a) increased public awareness and shifting public attitudes, (b) improved identification and triage of cases, (c) increased integrated service models, (d) improved justice system response, and (e) leveraging and utilizing emerging and untapped resources.

Malks BF, Strobel DM, Leung Y, Court MW, Morris JR, May G, Reeves S, Davies M, Cartan H, Philyaw ML.
Changing systems to address elder abuse: examples from aging services, the courts, the long-term care ombudsman, and the faith community.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2010 Jul;22(3-4):306-27. PMID: 20711917

A multidimensional systems change program for elder abuse is described from the County of Santa Clara Dept. of Aging and Adult Services.

Reeves S, Wysong J.

Strategies to address financial abuse.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2010 Jul;22(3-4):328-34. PMID: 20711918

Article from the Council on Aging Silicon Valley on major strategies for addressing elder financial abuse, including legal interventions and multidisciplinary teams.

Schneider DC, Mosqueda L, Falk E, Huba GJ.

Elder abuse forensic centers.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2010 Jul;22(3-4):255-74. PMID: 20711913

The challenges and successes of the four California elder abuse forensic center teams are discussed.

Chen EA, Twomey MS, Mosqueda L.

The center of excellence on elder abuse and neglect at the University of California, Irvine.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2010 Jul;22(3-4):247-54. PMID: 20711912

This article describes the history of the center, and explains the domains of: local projects, research, training and education, technical assistance, and policy and advocacy.

Cooper C, Blanchard M, Selwood A, Walker Z, Livingston G.

Family carers' distress and abusive behaviour: longitudinal study.

Br J Psychiatry. 2010 Jun;196(6):480-5. PMID: 20513860

In a prospective study from Great Britain, of 131 family/friend dementia care-givers, despite having access to specialist services, 48.1% reported any abusive behavior at baseline, compared with 61.8% one year later. An increase in abuse scores was predicted by an increase in caregiver anxiety and depressive symptoms.

Yoshida KK, Odette F, Hardie S, Willis H, Bunch M.

Women living with disabilities and their experiences and issues related to the context and complexities of leaving abusive situations.

Disabil Rehabil. 2009;31(22):1843-52. PMID: 19479561

In this small Canadian research study utilizing online chat rooms, disabled women discuss their experiences of abuse, barriers to seeking help, and recommendations for change. "I didn't have it in me to navigate the system . . . It is such a struggle to get through daily life, everywhere you go there are barriers for me (whether they are buildings and/or attitudes, financial etc.) this is brutal for my self esteem. If my boyfriend is verbally, emotionally and or physically abusive I don't have it in me to fight that too."

Perpetrators

Lykins AD, Cantor JM, Kuban ME, Blak T, Dickey R, Klassen PE, Blanchard R.

Sexual arousal to female children in gynephilic men.

Sex Abuse. 2010 Sep;22(3):279-89. PMID: 20562410

Using phallometric arousal assessments of child sexual molesters, the authors suggest that 50% of these offenders are sexually attracted to children, and 50% are attracted to adult women, but use children as a more easily obtained "surrogate".

Busch-Armendariz NB, DiNitto DM, Bell H, Bohman T.

Sexual assault perpetrators' alcohol and drug use: the likelihood of concurrent violence and post-sexual assault outcomes for women victims.

J Psychoactive Drugs. 2010 Sep;42(3):393-9. PMID: 21053762

In a random telephone survey, women who reported sexual assault at some time in their lives also reported higher incidence of concurrent physical violence, threats or use of a weapon, and greater time lost from work, school or home duties, when the perpetrator had been using drugs or alcohol at the time of the assault.

Police and Court System

Lehrmann DH.

Advancing children's rights to be heard and protected: The model representation of children in abuse, neglect, and custody proceedings act.

Behav Sci Law. 2010 Jul-Aug;28(4):463-79. PMID: 20698012

This article discusses the strengths and limitations of various professional organization practice standards regarding how children's interests can best be protected in court, and the differing obligations placed upon attorneys.

Zeoli AM, Norris A, Brenner H.

A Summary and Analysis of Warrantless Arrest Statutes for Domestic Violence in the United States.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 Dec 13. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 21156696

This article lists the domestic violence warrantless arrest laws for each state, and "discusses them in terms of five common elements: the phrasing of the arrest authority; whether additional factors to domestic violence are required to trigger the arrest authority; qualifications to the arrest authority; time limits for warrantless arrest to occur; and whether police officers are required to report why they made a dual or no arrest."

Gauthier S.

The perceptions of judicial and psychosocial interveners of the consequences of dropped charges in domestic violence cases.

Violence Against Women. 2010 Dec;16(12):1375-95. PMID: 21164215

Twenty-two Canadian judicial and psychosocial professionals discuss the consequences of the legal decision to dismiss DV charges - "on victims, perpetrators, justice system professionals, and society as a whole."

Providers

Crespo M, Arinero M.

Assessment of the efficacy of a psychological treatment for women victims of violence by their intimate male partner.

Span J Psychol. 2010 Nov;13(2):849-63. PMID: 20977033

Description of components of an 8 week class for IPV survivors which led to significantly decreased symptoms of anxiety, depression and PTSD.

Nelson A, Lewy R, Ricardo F, Dovydaitis T, Hunter A, Mitchell A, Loe C, Kugel C.

Eliciting behavior change in a US sexual violence and intimate partner violence prevention program through utilization of Freire and discussion facilitation.

Health Promot Int. 2010 Sep;25(3):299-308. PMID: 20427371

Description of the Men United Against Family Violence Project, using facilitated discussion groups to encourage self-reflection and self-initiated behavior change.

Eckerle Curwood S, Degeer I, Hymmen P, Lehmann P.

Using Strength-Based Approaches to Explore Pretreatment Change in Men Who Abuse Their Partners.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 Dec 13. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 21156680

Description of a batterers' intervention program that included "assessment of each man's strengths, their goals, and their perceptions of the changes they felt they had already made prior to attending group treatment."

Alexander PC, Morris E, Tracy A, Frye A.

Stages of change and the group treatment of batterers: a randomized clinical trial.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(5):571-87. PMID: 21061865

Comparing two approaches for 528 male batterers in group interventions, those who were initially less ready to change benefited more from a stages-of-change motivational interviewing treatment approach, while those who were more ready to change benefited more from a cognitive behavioral therapy gender reeducation approach.

Other of Interest

Hossain M, Zimmerman C, Abas M, Light M, Watts C.

The relationship of trauma to mental disorders among trafficked and sexually exploited girls and women.

Am J Public Health. 2010 Dec;100(12):2442-9. PMID: 20966379

In an analysis of 204 girls and women from 7 posttrafficking service settings, more time in trafficking was associated with 2.0 times higher risk of depression and anxiety, and the experience of sexual violence was associated with 5.6 times higher risk of PTSD.

Pollack KM, McKay T, Cumminskey C, et al

Employee assistance program services for intimate partner violence and client satisfaction with these services.

J Occup Environ Med. 2010 Aug;52(8):819-26. PMID: 20657305.

This article analyzes 28 Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), the services offered to employees experiencing IPV, the challenges in identifying these employees, the confidentiality concerns of the employees, and recommendations for future efforts.

Fishman PA, Bonomi AE, Anderson ML, Reid RJ, Rivara FP.

Changes in health care costs over time following the cessation of intimate partner violence.

J Gen Intern Med. 2010 Sep;25(9):920-5. PMID: 2041473

During a ten year study period of a large managed care health program in the Northwest, women with an IPV history sustained significantly higher healthcare costs during IPV exposure, and healthcare costs remained at elevated levels for three years after leaving the relationship.

Schumacher JA, Coffey SF, Norris FH, Tracy M, Clements K, Galea S.

Intimate partner violence and Hurricane Katrina: predictors and associated mental health outcomes.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(5):588-603. PMID: 21061866

In looking at IPV victimization in the 6 months before and after Hurricane Katrina from 445 Mississippians, for women psychological abuse increased 33.6% to 45.2%, and physical abuse 4.2% to 8.3%. "IPV may be an important but often overlooked public health concern following disasters."

Shields LB, Corey TS, Weakley-Jones B, Stewart D.

Living victims of strangulation: a 10-year review of cases in a metropolitan community.

Am J Forensic Med Pathol. 2010 Dec;31(4):320-5. PMID: 21171201

In this review of 102 Kentucky living victims of strangulation: 79% were strangled by an intimate partner, manual strangulation was the most common method at 83%, 38% lost consciousness, 13% were also sexually assaulted during the attack, and 9% were pregnant at the time of the attack. The majority of victims also experienced myriad forms of blunt force trauma.