

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2013

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

Boynton-Jarrett R, Harville EW.

A prospective study of childhood social hardships and age at menarche.

Ann Epidemiol. 2012 Oct;22(10):731-7. PMID: 22959664

In this National Child Development Study with 4524 female participants, childhood sexual abuse was associated with earlier menarche (onset of menstruation), whereas other childhood adversities, such as neglect, physical punishment and witnessing abuse, were associated with later menarche.

McEachern AG.

Sexual abuse of individuals with disabilities: prevention strategies for clinical practice.

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(4):386-98. PMID: 22809045

Review of known information about sexual abuse of children with disabilities, with a focus on clinical prevention strategies.

Evans SZ, Simons LG, Simons RL.

The effect of corporal punishment and verbal abuse on delinquency: mediating mechanisms.

J Youth Adolesc. 2012 Aug;41(8):1095-110. PMID: 22460730

For 704 African American children ages 10-12 followed for 2.5 years, verbal abuse was a more important predictor of conduct problems than corporal punishment.

Singh R, Squires J, Fromkin JB, Berger RP.

Assessing the use of follow-up skeletal surveys in children with suspected physical abuse.

J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2012 Oct;73(4):972-6. PMID: 22902733

In a retrospective review of 1470 children (mean age 5.8 months) at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh who underwent an initial skeletal survey (SS) for evaluation of suspected physical abuse, 11% received a follow-up SS 10-21 days later. In 14% of those followed-up, previously unrecognized fractures were found. Authors believe that since there is high morbidity and mortality in unrecognized child physical abuse in this age group that a follow-up SS should be routine.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Herrenkohl TI, Klika JB, Herrenkohl RC, Russo MJ, Dee T.

A prospective investigation of the relationship between child maltreatment and indicators of adult psychological well-being.

Violence Vict. 2012;27(5):764-76. PMID: 23155725

For almost 400 adults from Eastern Pennsylvania who had been followed for over 30 years, those with documented early childhood maltreatment had higher adult levels of anger, and less self-esteem, purpose in life, happiness and satisfaction.

Hovens JG, Giltay EJ, Wiersma JE, Spinoven P, Penninx BW, Zitman FG.

Impact of childhood life events and trauma on the course of depressive and anxiety disorders.

Acta Psychiatr Scand. 2012 Sep;126(3):198-207. PMID: 22268708

For 1209 Dutch adults, a history of childhood emotional neglect and psychological abuse were associated with increased risk of chronicity of depression and anxiety disorders.

Cadman L, Waller J, Ashdown-Barr L, Szarewski A.

Barriers to cervical screening in women who have experienced sexual abuse: an exploratory study.

J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care. 2012 Oct;38(4):214-20. PMID: 23027982

In a British online survey of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, less than half had received cervical cancer screening in the past five years, compared to 78.6% of the general female population. Women discussed barriers and made suggestions for improving the experience, focusing on communication, safety, trust and sharing control.

Benedetti F, Poletti S, Radaelli D, Pozzi E, Giacosa C, Ruffini C, Falini A, Smeraldi E.

Caudate gray matter volume in obsessive-compulsive disorder is influenced by adverse childhood experiences and ongoing drug treatment.

J Clin Psychopharmacol. 2012 Aug;32(4):544-7. PMID: 22722505

For 40 adult patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), a history of adverse childhood experiences significantly enlarged the brain area responsible for OCD compared to those with OCD and without an abuse history. Medication decreased the size of this area.

Varese F, Smeets F, Drukker M, Lieverse R, Lataster T, Viechtbauer W, Read J, van Os J, Bentall RP.

Childhood adversities increase the risk of psychosis: a meta-analysis of patient-control, prospective- and cross-sectional cohort studies.

Schizophr Bull. 2012 Jun;38(4):661-71. PMID: 22461484

In a review of research papers from 1980 to 2011, all types of study design showed a strong association (about 3 times increased risk) between childhood adversity and risk of psychosis (loss of contact with reality, such as hallucinations and delusions).

Adolescents

Pepler D.

The development of dating violence: what doesn't develop, what does develop, how does it develop, and what can we do about it?

Prev Sci. 2012 Aug;13(4):402-9. PMID: 22760685

Summary of a series of articles in this journal edition relating to factors involved with adolescent dating violence.

Tharp AT.

Dating matters™: the next generation of teen dating violence prevention.

Prev Sci. 2012 Aug;13(4):398-401. PMID: 22644504

Summary of National Center for Disease Control initiated prevention program "Dating Matters" for 11-14 year olds, that includes a parent component, and will be pilot managed and evaluated by local public health departments in Baltimore, Ft. Lauderdale, Oakland and Chicago.

O'Leary KD, Slep AM.

Prevention of partner violence by focusing on behaviors of both young males and females.

Prev Sci. 2012 Aug;13(4):329-39. PMID: 21779924

Review summarizing teen IPV prevention programs, including who to target and when to target.

Annerbäck EM, Sahlqvist L, Svedin CG, Wingren G, Gustafsson PA.

Child physical abuse and concurrence of other types of child abuse in Sweden-Associations with health and risk behaviors.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Jul-Aug;36(7-8):585-95. PMID: 22854707

In a Swedish study of 7262 high school students, childhood physical abuse, experiencing parental IPV, bullying, and sexual abuse were associated with poor health and risk-taking behaviors in a graded and cumulative fashion.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Lamers-Winkelmann F, De Schipper JC, Oosterman M.

Children's physical health complaints after exposure to intimate partner violence.

Br J Health Psychol. 2012 Nov;17(4):771-84. PMID: 22490127

For 275 Dutch child witnesses of IPV referred to child welfare agencies, compared to a control sample, child witnesses experienced more eating, sleeping and pain problems, and more self-harm.

Leone JM, Lane SD, Koumans EH, DeMott K, Wojtowycz MA, Jensen J, Aubry RH.

Effects of intimate partner violence on pregnancy trauma and placental abruption.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2010 Aug;19(8):1501-9. PMID: 20575710

In a chart review of 2873 US women who gave birth, 3.7% reported IPV during pregnancy. After controlling for sociodemographic variables, tobacco, alcohol and drug use, preeclampsia and gestational diabetes, those with a history of IPV were 32.08 times more likely to experience pregnancy trauma and 5.17 times more likely to experience abruption (where part of the placenta separates from the uterus while still pregnant, leading to possibly life threatening complications for baby and mother).

Manzolini P, Nunes MA, Schmidt MI, Ferri CP.

Abuse against women, depression, and infant morbidity: a primary care cohort study in Brazil.

Am J Prev Med. 2012 Aug;43(2):188-95. PMID: 22813684

For 375 pregnant Brazilian women followed for 5 months after birth, IPV during pregnancy or afterwards, but not depression, was associated with 2.20 times increased risk of infant diarrheal illness and 1.68 times increased risk of infant respiratory infection.

Salazar M, Högberg U, Valladares E, Persson LÅ.

Intimate partner violence and early child growth: a community-based cohort study in Nicaragua.

BMC Pediatr. 2012 Jun 22;12:82. PMID: 22726225

Of 375 Nicaraguan children followed up to 4 years of age, 63% of their mothers were exposed to IPV. Controlling behaviors, but not emotional, physical or sexual IPV during pregnancy, was related to a 0.29 lower mean height for female but not male children.

Stewart DE, Gagnon AJ, Merry LA, Dennis CL.

Risk factors and health profiles of recent migrant women who experienced violence associated with pregnancy.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2012 Oct;21(10):1100-6. PMID: 22900928

The 7.6% of 774 pregnant immigrant women in Canada who reported violence during pregnancy were less likely to have up-to-date vaccinations, take folic acid before pregnancy, or receive prenatal care before 3 months. They also reported more history of miscarriages and more present symptoms of depression, anxiety, and PTSD.

Ehrensaft MK, Cohen P.

Contribution of family violence to the intergenerational transmission of externalizing behavior.

Prev Sci. 2012 Aug;13(4):370-83. PMID: 21720783

For 678 parents and their children, followed over 25 years and three generations, IPV independently increased the risk for offspring to have "externalizing" problems (such as aggression, delinquency, hyperactivity).

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Tomenson B, McBeth J, Chew-Graham CA, MacFarlane G, Davies I, Jackson J, Littlewood A, Creed FH.

Somatization and health anxiety as predictors of health care use.

Psychosom Med. 2012 Jul-Aug;74(6):656-64. PMID: 22753632

For 609 British patients, physical abuse was associated with over 2 times increased rate of women seeing a primary care doctor, but physically abused men had less than half the visit rate.

Wuest J, Ford-Gilboe M, Merritt-Gray M, Wilk P, Campbell JC, Lent B, Varcoe C, Smye V.

Pathways of chronic pain in survivors of intimate partner violence.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2010 Sep;19(9):1665-74. PMID: 20718626

For 309 female survivors of IPV, significant risk factors for chronic pain severity were psychological IPV, abuse-related IPV injury, child abuse severity, and extent of symptoms of depression and PTSD.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Miszkurka M, Zunzunegui MV, Goulet L.

Immigrant status, antenatal depressive symptoms, and frequency and source of violence: what's the relationship?

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2012 Oct;15(5):387-96. PMID: 22847826

For 5,162 pregnant Canadian women, IPV during pregnancy was associated with 5.81 times increased risk of depression, whether citizens or immigrants.

Creech S, Davis K, Howard M, Pearlstein T, Zlotnick C.

Psychological/verbal abuse and utilization of mental health care in perinatal women seeking treatment for depression.

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2012 Oct;15(5):361-5. PMID: 22767033

In a retrospective chart review of 299 pregnant women being treated for depression, 23% of those experiencing current IPV dropped out without notice during treatment compared to 10% of women without IPV.

Flicker SM, Cerulli C, Swogger MT, Talbot NL.

Depressive and posttraumatic symptoms among women seeking protection orders against intimate partners: relations to coping strategies and perceived responses to abuse disclosure.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Apr;18(4):420-36. PMID: 22735315

Of 131 women seeking protection orders for IPV, those who “coped” by using disengagement, denial and self-blaming experienced more symptoms of depression and PTSD.

Cultural Issues

Cuevas CA, Sabina C, Millosi R.

Interpersonal victimization among a national sample of Latino women.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Apr;18(4):377-403. PMID: 22761170

Of a national sample of 2,000 foreign or US born Latino women living in the US with an average age of 47.7, stalking, threat victimization, and witnessed violence were reported at similar rates to those for physical or sexual violence. The scope of Latino women’s victimization experiences include poly-victimization and re-victimization. 66.2% reported more than one lifetime victimization experience.

Cho H.

Use of mental health services among Asian and Latino victims of intimate partner violence.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Apr;18(4):404-19. PMID: 22700680

Using a national study database, Asian victims of IPV used mental health services less than Latino victims (5.3% vs. 14.6%). Women were 2.5 times more likely to use mental health services than men.

Lawson SL, Laughon K, Gonzalez-Guarda RM.

Predictors of Health Care Use Among a Predominantly Hispanic, Urban Sample of Individuals Seeking IPV Services.

Hisp Health Care Int. 2012 Mar 1;10(1):28-35. PMID: 23268315

Using data from a social service agency over a 6 month period, victims reporting physical abuse were 8 times more likely to seek medical attention; however despite type of abuse or severity of abuse, Hispanic victims were less than half as likely to seek medical care than non-Hispanic Whites.

Gonzalez-Guarda RM, Diaz EG, Cummings AM.

A Community Forum to Assess the Needs and Preferences for Domestic Violence Prevention Targeting Hispanics.

Hisp Health Care Int. 2012 Mar 1;10(1):18-27. PMID: 23268109

Researchers conducted a community forum re: prevention of IPV among Hispanics in Florida. Participants agreed that the highest priority was a program targeting youth, and that specific cultural variables should be incorporated to make the program most effective. Article provides recommendations re: the use of community forums and IPV prevention targeting Hispanics.

Mendenhall E, Fernandez A, Adler N, Jacobs EA.

Susto, coraje, and abuse: depression and beliefs about diabetes.

Cult Med Psychiatry. 2012 Sep;36(3):480-92. PMID: 22539060

This article analyzes cultural beliefs from first and second generation Mexican immigrants that susto (fright), coraje (anger) and/or interpersonal abuse causes diabetes.

Walling SM, Suvak MK, Howard JM, Taft CT, Murphy CM.

Race/ethnicity as a predictor of change in working alliance during cognitive behavioral therapy for intimate partner violence perpetrators.

Psychotherapy (Chic). 2012 Jun;49(2):180-9. PMID: 22181028

For 107 male IPV perpetrators enrolled in a 16 week treatment program, Caucasian enrollees increased “working alliance” scores with therapist over time, but minority members did not. Degree of working alliance was a significant predictor of treatment outcome at 6 month follow-up.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Manthorpe J, Samsi K, Rapaport J.

Responding to the financial abuse of people with dementia: a qualitative study of safeguarding experiences in England.

Int Psychogeriatr. 2012 Sep;24(9):1454-64. PMID: 22464777

British review of elder financial abuse complicated by dementia, with warning signs and preventive measures.

Switzer JA, Michienzi AE.

Elder abuse: an update on prevalence, identification, and reporting for the orthopaedic surgeon.

J Am Acad Orthop Surg. 2012 Dec;20(12):788-94. PMID: 23203938

Review of elder abuse for the orthopedic surgeon, including signs of multiple fractures, inconsistent histories, bruising, dehydration and malnutrition.

Stark S.

Elder abuse: screening, intervention, and prevention.

Nursing. 2012 Oct;42(10):24-9. PMID: 22955256

General review article on elder abuse for nurses.

Fulmer T, Strauss S, Russell SL, Singh G, Blankenship J, Vemula R, Caceres B, Valenti M, Sutin D.

Screening for elder mistreatment in dental and medical clinics.

Gerodontology. 2012 Jun;29(2):96-105. PMID: 22225431

In this pilot feasibility study of elder abuse screening in dental and medical clinics, elders with a minimum score of 18 on a mini-mental status exam were willing to answer very sensitive questions relating to elder mistreatment and were also willing to use computer technology for interviewing.

Perpetrators

Wolff N, Shi J.

Childhood and adult trauma experiences of incarcerated persons and their relationship to adult behavioral health problems and treatment.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2012 May;9(5):1908-26. PMID: 22754481

For 4,000 male prison inmates, childhood trauma rates were high and correlated with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Dudeck M, Drenkhahn K, Spitzer C, Barnow S, Freyberger HJ, Grabe HJ.

[Is there an association between intra-familial sexual abuse and sexual offences in later life?].

Psychiatr Prax. 2012 Jul;39(5):217-21. German. PMID: 22744149

As part of a study on the human rights of long-term imprisonment, looking at 1,055 prisoners from 11 countries in Europe, prisoners who reported a history of their own prior sexual abuse within the family had a fourfold increase in committing sexual offences later in life.

Terry KJ, Freilich JD.

Understanding child sexual abuse by Catholic priests from a situational perspective.

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(4):437-55. PMID: 22809048

In this analysis of data on child sexual abuse by Catholic priests, situational factors played an important role in victim choice. Prevention policies are discussed.

Forsman M, Långström N.

Child maltreatment and adult violent offending: population-based twin study addressing the 'cycle of violence' hypothesis.

Psychol Med. 2012 Sep;42(9):1977-83. PMID: 22236772

For 18,0083 Swedish twins, a history of child abuse alone was only minimally associated with adult violent offending; instead there seemed to be a significant genetic or family environment factor associated with adult crime.

Adams PJ.

Interventions with men who are violent to their partners: strategies for early engagement.

J Marital Fam Ther. 2012 Jul;38(3):458-70. PMID: 22804465

Australian author examines common ways of speaking that men will employ to justify their violence, and practical ways practitioners can identify and neutralize these messages.

Police and Court System

Stein ML, Miller AK.

Distress resulting from perceivers' own intimate partner violence experiences predicts culpability attributions toward a battered woman on trial for killing her abuser: a path model.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Sep;27(13):2527-44. PMID: 22328653

For 154 undergraduate women who read a vignette of a battered woman who had killed her abuser, those students who reported greater psychological distress resulting from a personal history of IPV victimization empathized with the defendant to a greater extent and attributed less legal culpability to her.

Providers

Dubowitz H, Lane WG, Semiatin JN, Magder LS.

The SEEK model of pediatric primary care: can child maltreatment be prevented in a low-risk population?

Acad Pediatr. 2012 Jul-Aug;12(4):259-68. PMID: 22658954

Promising initial results are reported for the SEEK (Safe Environment for Every Kid) model of enhanced pediatric primary care, with practical child abuse prevention training for providers, and social work support to address common risk factors such as maternal depression, IPV, and harsh parenting styles.

Herrmann B, Navratil N.

Sexual abuse in prepubertal children and adolescents.

Endocr Dev. 2012;22:112-37. PMID: 22846525

Discussion of examination for child abuse including review of normal anatomic variations. Authors feel there is a primary therapeutic aspect to the exam - "The majority of abused children have an altered and distorted body image. It is of paramount importance to reassure the child that its body is normal, physically undamaged, intact or that it will heal."

Whiting JB, Oka M, Fife ST.

Appraisal distortions and intimate partner violence: gender, power, and interaction.

J Marital Fam Ther. 2012 Jun;38 Suppl 1:133-49. PMID: 22765330

Study analyzes the cognitive distortions, such as denial and minimization, used by both IPV perpetrators and victims.

Bowland S, Edmond T, Fallot RD.

Evaluation of a spiritually focused intervention with older trauma survivors.

Soc Work. 2012 Jan;57(1):73-82. PMID: 22768630

In a spiritually-focused treatment group for survivors of interpersonal trauma, discussing spiritual struggles and spiritual coping resources lead to a decrease in symptoms of depression, anxiety, PTSD and physical ailments.

Perez S, Johnson DM, Johnson N, Walter KH.

The role of PTSD and length of shelter stay in battered women's severity of re-abuse after leaving shelter.

J Aggress Maltreat Trauma. 2012;21(7):776-791. PMID: 23230379

103 IPV victims were followed over 6 months after leaving the shelter. The length of shelter stay was inversely related to re-abuse severity after leaving, and more severe PTSD symptoms at exit (especially emotional numbing) were also associated with greater re-abuse.

Liebschutz JM, Rothman EF.

Intimate-partner violence--what physicians can do.

N Engl J Med. 2012 Nov 29;367(22):2071-3. PMID: 23190220

Brief summary article with resource links for health care providers.

Candib LM, Savageau JA, Weinreb L, Reed G.

Inquiring into our past: when the doctor is a survivor of abuse.

Fam Med. 2012 Jun;44(6):416-24. PMID: 22733419

Of 297 Massachusetts family physicians (response rate 36%), 42.4% of women and 24.3% of men reported some kind of lifetime personal abuse, including witnessing violence between parents. Physicians with a past history of trauma were more likely to feel confident in screening and less likely to perceive a time barrier.

Researchers

Mitchell S, Cockcroft A, Andersson N.

Population weighted raster maps can communicate findings of social audits: examples from three continents.

BMC Health Serv Res. 2011 Dec 21;11 Suppl 2:S14. PMID: 22376316

Article describes the use of maps to highlight strategies to reduce violence against women, i.e. time series maps showing clustering of indicators that change after interventions.

Leppäkoski T, Paavilainen E.

Triangulation as a method to create a preliminary model to identify and intervene in intimate partner violence.

Appl Nurs Res. 2012 Aug;25(3):171-80. PMID: 21741210

Description of a very detailed mixed methods research study on both ED patient and provider attitudes and experiences regarding IPV.

Rheingold AA, Zajac K, Patton M.

Feasibility and acceptability of a child sexual abuse prevention program for childcare professionals: comparison of a web-based and in-person training.

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(4):422-36. PMID: 22809047

In a randomized controlled trial with 188 child care professionals, both in-person and online training for child sexual abuse prevention programs were considered feasible and acceptable.

Aarons GA, Green AE, Palinkas LA, Self-Brown S, Whitaker DJ, Lutzker JR, Silovsky JF, Hecht DB, Chaffin MJ.

Dynamic adaptation process to implement an evidence-based child maltreatment intervention.

Implement Sci. 2012 Apr 18;7:32. PMID: 22512914

Description of a formalized process to implement and assess evidence-based interventions.

Other of Interest

Langhinrichsen-Rohling J, Capaldi DM.

Clearly we've only just begun: developing effective prevention programs for intimate partner violence.

Prev Sci. 2012 Aug;13(4):410-4. PMID: 22752380

Review article introducing a special journal edition, emphasizing the necessity of a new vision for IPV prevention, including evidence that IPV is predominantly mutual rather than one sided, is interactive in nature, and that at-risk populations can respond favorably to prevention programs.

Mejia P, Cheyne A, Dorfman L.

News coverage of child sexual abuse and prevention, 2007-2009.

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(4):470-87. PMID: 22809050

In an analysis of news coverage of child sexual abuse 2007-2009, focus was on criminal justice details rather than information about causes of and solutions to child sexual abuse, and only rarely was prevention addressed. This article offers suggestions for strategies that advocates can use to help reporters improve news coverage and links to prevention policies.

Schober DJ, Fawcett SB, Bernier J.

The Enough Abuse Campaign: building the movement to prevent child sexual abuse in Massachusetts.

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(4):456-69. PMID: 22809049

Description of a Massachusetts statewide effort to prevent child sexual abuse, including state-level infrastructure, addressing public opinion, local infrastructure and implementation of training programs, and inviting residents to join an advocacy-based movement.

Kenny MC, Wurtele SK, Alonso L.

Evaluation of a personal safety program with Latino preschoolers.

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(4):368-85. PMID: 22809044

After a personal safety education program, 78 Latino preschoolers, compared to controls, demonstrated enhanced ability to recognize inappropriate touches, even when made by "good" people, and demonstrated higher levels of personal safety skills – skills maintained at 3 month follow-up.

Hess CA, Gray JM, Nunez NL.

The effect of social dominance orientation on perceptions of corporal punishment.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Sep;27(13):2728-39. PMID: 22328652

For 206 mid-western undergrads, level of social dominance orientation (measure of an individual's preference for rigid social hierarchy) was associated with each person's perception of the line between corporal punishment and child abuse.