

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

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine January 2013. 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. Prior issues can be found at <http://abuseresearch.info>.

Child Abuse

Enlow MB, Egeland B, Blood EA, Wright RO, Wright RJ.

Interpersonal trauma exposure and cognitive development in children to age 8 years: a longitudinal study.

J Epidemiol Community Health. 2012 Nov;66(11):1005-10. PMID: 22493459

For 206 low income US children followed over time, approx. 1/3 had a history of being maltreated or seeing their mother maltreated. Interpersonal trauma exposure, especially prior to age 2, and controlling for factors such as maternal IQ, birth complications, and cognitive stimulation in the home, was associated with an average decrease in IQ of 1/2 of a standard deviation (7 points). Effects persisted to age 8 at end of the study.

Leventhal JM, Gaither JR.

Incidence of serious injuries due to physical abuse in the United States: 1997 to 2009.

Pediatrics. 2012 Nov;130(5):e847-52. PMID: 23027163

From US child protective services data, although overall child physical abuse decreased 55% from 1992 to 2009, cases of serious physical abuse rose slightly and increased 10.9% in those less than one year of age.

Rhine T, Wade SL, Makoroff KL, Cassedy A, Michaud LJ.

Clinical predictors of outcome following inflicted traumatic brain injury in children.

J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2012 Oct;73(4 Suppl 3):S248-53. PMID: 23026962

In a retrospective review of 35 surviving children with inflicted traumatic brain injury, after controlling for several variables, initial brain scans after injury showing swelling, and stay in the ICU more than 10 days, were each associated with poor prognosis at follow-up.

Laslett AM, Room R, Dietze P, Ferris J.

Alcohol's involvement in recurrent child abuse and neglect cases.

Addiction. 2012 Oct;107(10):1786-93. PMID: 22507640

In this Australian study of 29,455 children involved with CPS, caregiver alcohol or substance abuse was significantly associated with children experiencing multiple reporting incidents.

O'Donnell M, Nassar N, Leonard H, Jacoby P, Mathews R, Patterson Y, Stanley F.

Rates and types of hospitalisations for children who have subsequent contact with the child protection system.

J Epidemiol Community Health. 2010 Sep;64(9):784-8. PMID: 19778908

Using an Australian database and compared to controls, children with alleged or substantiated child abuse had markedly higher rates of general hospital admissions and admissions for injuries, infections, and mental and behavioral disorders. Authors suggest electronic medical records can help identify children at risk for abuse by assessing rates and types of admissions.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Fuller-Thomson E, Bejan R, Hunter JT, Grundland T, Brennenstuhl S.

The link between childhood sexual abuse and myocardial infarction in a population-based study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Sep;36(9):656-65. PMID: 22943837

Using data from a Canadian national survey of almost 13,000 adults, and after adjustment for 15 risk factors such as age, obesity, smoking, diabetes, and mental health, a history of childhood sexual abuse was associated with a 3 times increased risk of heart attack for males but not for females.

Wilson RS, Boyle PA, Levine SR, Yu L, Anagnos SE, Buchman AS, Schneider JA, Bennett DA.

Emotional neglect in childhood and cerebral infarction in older age.

Neurology. 2012 Oct 9;79(15):1534-9. PMID: 22993291

As part of an ongoing memory and aging project, 192 patients underwent brain autopsies after death. Even after controlling for multiple traditional risk factors for stroke, and for anxiety and degree of arteriosclerosis, the likelihood of brain chronic stroke findings was nearly 3 times higher in patients with a history of moderate childhood emotional neglect.

Bublitz MH, Stroud LR.

Childhood sexual abuse is associated with cortisol awakening response over pregnancy: preliminary findings.

Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2012 Sep;37(9):1425-30. PMID: 22341730

Cortisol (stress hormone) levels were evaluated at 1-3 time points during the second and third trimesters in a group of 135 pregnant women. A history of childhood sexual abuse was associated with elevated cortisol awakening levels compared to controls. [Cortisol crosses the placenta and affects fetal brain development.]

Black DW, Shaw MC, McCormick BA, Allen J.

Marital status, childhood maltreatment, and family dysfunction: a controlled study of pathological gambling.

J Clin Psychiatry. 2012 Oct;73(10):1293-7. PMID: 23140646

95 pathological gamblers, compared to controls, were more likely to have had more than 1 divorce, live alone, have greater family dysfunction, and were 4 times more likely to have experienced childhood maltreatment.

Sansone RA, Leung JS, Wiederman MW.

Five forms of childhood trauma: relationships with employment in adulthood.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Sep;36(9):676-9. PMID: 22954641

For 328 adults surveyed in an internal medicine clinic, a history of childhood sexual abuse was associated with increased number of full time jobs; and childhood sexual abuse histories as well as witnessing violence at home were associated with a history of being fired.

Adolescents

Hyucksun Shin S.

A longitudinal examination of the relationships between childhood maltreatment and patterns of adolescent substance use among high-risk adolescents.

Am J Addict. 2012 Sep-Oct;21(5):453-61. PMID: 22882396

For 937 high risk adolescents, increasing experiences of childhood maltreatment were associated with increasing heavy polysubstance use in adolescence.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Miranda AE, Pinto VM, Szwarcwald CL, Golub ET.

Prevalence and correlates of preterm labor among young parturient women attending public hospitals in Brazil.

Rev Panam Salud Publica. 2012 Nov;32(5):330-4. PMID: 23338689

In a study of over 2,000 Brazilian pregnant women admitted for labor, preterm labor occurred in 21.7%. Women experiencing domestic violence were 2.27 times more likely to have preterm labor.

Miller LE, Howell KH, Graham-Bermann SA.

Potential mediators of adjustment for preschool children exposed to intimate partner violence.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Sep;36(9):671-5. PMID: 22954640

Roughly 15.5 million children witnessed IPV at home in the past year, and preschool children are exposed more than older children. In this study of 120 preschool children from Michigan and Canada whose mothers had experienced IPV in the past year, children's behavioral and psychological problems were significantly related to their degree of PTSD from observing IPV.

Tomoda A, Polcari A, Anderson CM, Teicher MH.

Reduced Visual Cortex Gray Matter Volume and Thickness in Young Adults Who Witnessed Domestic Violence during Childhood.

PLoS One. 2012;7(12):e52528. PMID: 23300699

Brain scans of 22 young adults who had visually witnessed episodes of domestic violence as children, compared to 52 controls, showed a significant reduction in size of brain areas relating to visual processing. These brain changes were maximally sensitive to witnessing DV between ages 11 and 13.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Furlow B.

Computed tomography imaging of traumatic brain injury.

Radiol Technol. 2013 Jan;84(3):273CT-94CT. PMID: 23322873

General review of the epidemiology, brain anatomy, diagnosis and assessment of traumatic brain injuries (TBI).
“TBI is increasingly recognized as an important indicator of domestic violence victimization.”

Flegar SJ, Fouche JP, Jordaan E, Marais S, Spottiswoode B, Stein DJ, Vythilingum B.

The neural correlates of intimate partner violence in women.

Afr J Psychiatry (Johannesbg). 2011 Sep;14(4):310-4. PMID: 22038430

Comparing brain scans of 19 South African women exposed to IPV with 21 controls, and controlling for age, smoking, substance use and psychiatric diagnoses, those with a history of IPV showed reduced density of the corpus callosum. This structure connects communication between the left and right sides of the brain.

Vijayaraghavan M, Tochtermann A, Hsu E, Johnson K, Marcus S, Caton CL.

Health, access to health care, and health care use among homeless women with a history of intimate partner violence.

J Community Health. 2012 Oct;37(5):1032-9. PMID: 22187095

Of 329 homeless New York women, 44.7% reported IPV. Although those reporting IPV were more likely to report medical and mental health conditions, they were only half as likely to use primary care or mental health services as those without IPV, instead relying on emergency services.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Illangasekare S, Tello M, Hutton H, Moore R, Anderson J, Baron J, Chander G.

Clinical and mental health correlates and risk factors for intimate partner violence among HIV-positive women in an inner-city HIV clinic.

Womens Health Issues. 2012 Nov-Dec;22(6):e563-9. PMID: 22939089

Of 196 women visiting an inner-city HIV clinic, 26.5% reported experiencing IPV in the past year. Depressed women were 3.4-5.5 times more likely and women missing gynecologic visits were 1.9 times more likely to have experienced recent IPV.

Lucea MB, Francis L, Sabri B, Campbell JC, Campbell DW.

Disordered eating among African American and African Caribbean women: the influence of intimate partner violence, depression, and PTSD.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2012 Aug;33(8):513-21. PMID: 22849778

In a case controlled study of 790 women of African American and African Caribbean descent from the Virgin Islands and Baltimore, IPV, depression and PTSD were independent risk factors for disordered eating.

Cultural Issues

Adelman M, Haldane H, Wies JR.

Mobilizing culture as an asset: a transdisciplinary effort to rethink gender violence.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Jun;18(6):691-700. PMID: 22843247

Authors analyze how culture has been used to defend, explain, or excuse gender violence, and ways that it can be turned from a barrier to a resource.

McLaughlin KA, Hatzenbuehler ML, Xuan Z, Conron KJ.

Disproportionate exposure to early-life adversity and sexual orientation disparities in psychiatric morbidity.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Sep;36(9):645-55. PMID: 22964371

Lesbian/gay and bisexual adults from a national ongoing survey starting as adolescents reported higher rates of depression, suicidality and substance abuse compared to heterosexuals, which was partly explained by their higher rates of childhood abuse, housing adversity, and, for bisexuals, IPV.

Potter SJ, Fountain K, Stapleton JG.

Addressing sexual and relationship violence in the LGBT community using a bystander framework.

Harv Rev Psychiatry. 2012 Jul-Aug;20(4):201-8. PMID: 22894729

Article discusses college programs that encourage bystanders to identify and safely intervene in sexual or relationship violence situations, and how these programs could be modified to address the LGBT community.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Dong X.

Advancing the field of elder abuse: future directions and policy implications.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2012 Nov;60(11):2151-6. PMID: 23110488

In the US 1 in 10 older adults experiences some form of elder abuse, but only 1 in 25 cases are reported. Elder abuse is associated with significant morbidity and premature mortality. This article highlights major future research directions and new federal legislation such as the Elder Justice Act, part of the Affordable Healthcare Act, which for the first time (if fully funded) authorizes federal response to elder abuse through training, services, and programs such as the establishment of elder abuse forensic centers.

Dong X, Simon M, Evans D.

Decline in physical function and risk of elder abuse reported to social services in a community-dwelling population of older adults.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2012 Oct;60(10):1922-8. PMID: 23002901

For 143 Chicagoan elder abuse victims, a decline in physical ability was associated with an increased risk of abuse – the group with the poorest physical performance testing was almost 5 times more likely to be abused.

von Heydrich L, Schiamberg LB, Chee G.

Social-relational risk factors for predicting elder physical abuse: an ecological bi-focal model.

Int J Aging Hum Dev. 2012;75(1):71-94. PMID: 23115914

This article analyzes the characteristics of elders abused by their adult child caregivers.

Perpetrators

Shorey RC, Febres J, Brasfield H, Stuart GL.

The Prevalence of Mental Health Problems in Men Arrested for Domestic Violence.

J Fam Violence. 2012 Nov 1;27(8):741-748. PMID: 23284227

308 multi-ethnic men enrolled in a Rhode Island batterer intervention program were found to have significantly higher mental health problems than the general population: depression (19.9% vs. 6.7%), PTSD (26.2% vs. 3.5%), general anxiety disorder (19.5% vs. 3.1%), panic disorder (15.2% vs. 2.7%), social phobia (27.6% vs. 6.8%), alcohol abuse (39.1% vs. 12%), and drug abuse (21.5% vs. 8%).

Dobash RP, Dobash RE.

Who died? The murder of collaterals related to intimate partner conflict.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Jun;18(6):662-71. PMID: 22831847

In a Murder in Britain Study analyzing collateral murders during IPV homicides, collateral groups included children, family/friends/neighbors, and new partners. The childhood and adult backgrounds of perpetrators of IPV + collateral homicides were similar to IPV homicides alone except for those who murdered children. Those perpetrators had a significantly more problematic personal history.

Muftić LR, Baumann ML.

Female versus male perpetrated femicide: an exploratory analysis of whether offender gender matters.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Sep;27(14):2824-44. PMID: 22491217

One striking difference in reviewing 17 years of homicides in Dallas, Texas, comparing female vs. male perpetrated femicide, was that there were no cases of female perpetrated femicide followed by suicide.

Brown S, Harkins L, Beech AR.

General and victim-specific empathy: associations with actuarial risk, treatment outcome, and sexual recidivism.

Sex Abuse. 2012 Oct;24(5):411-30. PMID: 22179773

For 105 British adult male sex offenders receiving treatment and followed for 10 years, victim-specific empathy scores (but not generalized empathy) that increased from pre- to post-treatment related to positive treatment change. A group whose victim-specific empathy scores decreased during treatment had higher sexual recidivism.

Police and Court System

Morrison F, Wasoff F.

Child contact centers and domestic abuse: victim safety and the challenge to neutrality.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Jun;18(6):711-20. PMID: 22855127

Scottish author reviews the purpose, types, and pros and cons of “neutral” contact centers where children can meet with a non-residential parent.

Belfrage H, Strand S.

Measuring the outcome of structured spousal violence risk assessments using the B-SAFER: risk in relation to recidivism and intervention.

Behav Sci Law. 2012 Jul-Aug;30(4):420-30. PMID: 22782915

In a follow-up of 216 DV risk assessments conducted by Swedish law enforcement, recidivism rates were high in all groups except the highest risk group. However, police did little or nothing except in cases assessed as highest risk. Authors point out that evaluations of risk assessment instruments also need analysis of actions taken before drawing conclusions about the prediction validity of the instrument.

Kothari CL, Rhodes KV, Wiley JA, Fink J, Overholt S, Dichter ME, Marcus SC, Cerulli C.

Protection orders protect against assault and injury: a longitudinal study of police-involved women victims of intimate partner violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Sep;27(14):2845-68. PMID: 22491224

In a study of 993 female Michigan residents experiencing IPV over a four year period, those with protective orders (POs) had previously experienced twice the number of police incidents compared to the group without POs. However this rate dropped in half during and after the time the POs were issued.

Desmarais SL.

Examining report content and social categorization to understand consistency effects on credibility.

Law Hum Behav. 2009 Dec;33(6):470-80. PMID: 19224350

Community volunteers consistently rated adults who described a common, mundane event more favorably and as being more credible than adults who described an event of IPV.

Providers

Thompson R, Tabone JK, Cook JM.

Predictors of engagement with mental health services among mothers of children at risk of maltreatment.

Psychiatr Serv. 2012 Sep 1;63(9):913-9. PMID: 22751950

For 909 mothers at high risk of maltreating their 6 year old children, 76% did not use mental health services. This article evaluates engagement factors such as social networks, prior experiences with services, and trauma exposure to help increase service use.

Anderson KM, Renner LM, Danis FS.

Recovery: resilience and growth in the aftermath of domestic violence.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Nov;18(11):1279-99. PMID: 23334815

Analysis of how social and spiritual support was instrumental in recovery, growth, and resilience of 37 survivors of IPV.

Horswell BB, Istfan S.

Child maltreatment.

Oral Maxillofac Surg Clin North Am. 2012 Aug;24(3):511-7. PMID: 22658425

Review of child abuse for oral and maxillofacial surgeons.

Welsh J.

Safeguarding people who are at risk of abuse.

Emerg Nurse. 2012 Sep;20(5):14-7. PMID: 23256349

Description of a British hospital secure intranet "Safeguarding Log" accessible only to senior clinical staff identifying patients at risk of abuse.

Macy RJ, Goodbourn M.

Promoting successful collaborations between domestic violence and substance abuse treatment service sectors: a review of the literature.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2012 Oct;13(4):234-51. PMID: 22899704

Since women experiencing IPV may also have substance abuse problems, this article suggests collaboration strategies and recommended service models to foster relationships between domestic violence and substance abuse treatment service providers.

Researchers

Kirst M, Zhang YJ, Young A, Marshall A, O'Campo P, Ahmad F.

Referral to health and social services for intimate partner violence in health care settings.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2012 Oct;13(4):198-208. PMID: 22899703

This article reviews what is currently known about research on IPV identification and referral in healthcare settings and suggests future research directions.

Marie-Mitchell A, O'Connor TG.

Adverse childhood experiences: translating knowledge into identification of children at risk for poor outcomes.

Acad Pediatr. 2013 Jan;13(1):14-9. PMID: 23312855

Suggested use of a seven item Child ACE (adverse childhood experiences) tool that preliminarily has correlated with behavior problems, developmental delays, and injuries. Items include suspected maltreatment, domestic violence, substance use, mental illness, criminal behavior, single parent and maternal education.

Acosta J, Barnes-Proby D, Harris R, Francois T, Hickman LJ, Jaycox LH, Schultz D.

An examination of measures related to children's exposure to violence for use by both practitioners and researchers.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2012 Oct;13(4):187-97. PMID: 22899702

Analysis of tools available to measure children's exposure to violence.

Other of Interest

Pandey S, Lin Y, Collier-Tenison S, Bodden J.

Social factors determining the experience of blindness among pregnant women in developing countries: the case of India.

Health Soc Work. 2012 Aug;37(3):157-69. PMID: 23193731

Using a database of over 35,000 recent new mothers in India, approximately 12% experienced night blindness (due to nutritional deficiency). Night blindness is associated with accidents/injury/death and higher risk of infant illness, poor growth and mortality. Despite some women receiving prenatal nutritional advice and supplements, partner controlling behaviors, humiliation and physical abuse were associated with significantly higher risk of maternal night blindness.

Salihu HM, August EM, Salemi JL, Weldeselasse H, Sarro YS, Alio AP.

The association between female genital mutilation and intimate partner violence.

BJOG. 2012 Dec;119(13):1597-605. PMID: 22925207

Nearly 85% of Malian woman have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). Over 25% are married before age 14, with 40% in polygamous marriages. In this study, the odds of experiencing IPV increased with degree of FGM, with the most severe form of FGM associated with 9 times increased risk of IPV.

Stanley N, Fell B, Miller P, Thomson G, Watson J. Men's Talk:

Men's Understandings of Violence Against Women and Motivations for Change.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Nov;18(11):1300-18. PMID: 23334816

84 British men from local communities participated in focus groups to inform a social marketing campaign targeting men's violence toward women. Participants resisted depictions of men as wholly responsible for domestic violence, and the most powerful change incentive that emerged was the potential loss of relationship with children and the damage to children's perceptions of their father after violent behavior.

Ortiz-Barreda G, Vives-Cases C.

[Violence against women: the role of the health sector in international legislation].

Gac Sanit. 2012 Sep-Oct;26(5):483-9. Article in Spanish. PMID: 22265648

Using international legal databases, of 115 countries analyzed, 55 have laws on violence against women that include the participation of the health sector. While most laws focus on reporting cases and providing healthcare to women referred by the police, multi-level prevention interventions are found in laws of Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, El Salvador, Spain and the Philippines.

Suderman M, McGowan PO, Sasaki A, Huang TC, Hallett MT, Meaney MJ, Turecki G, Szyf M.

Conserved epigenetic sensitivity to early life experience in the rat and human hippocampus.

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2012 Oct 16;109 Suppl 2:17266-72. PMID: 23045659

There were surprising similarities in genetic changes in the hippocampus area of the brains of humans and rats that experienced maternal abuse/neglect, showing a cross-species response to early life experience.