Child Abuse

Hornor G.

**Emotional maltreatment.**


Discussion of emotional maltreatment, which may be difficult to identify and define, for which good epidemiological data are not available, and for which sequelae may be as severe as physical and/or sexual abuse.

Perzow SE, Petrenko CL, Garrido EF, et. al.

**Dissociative symptoms and academic functioning in maltreated children: a preliminary study.**


Controlling for IQ, age, gender, and school and caregiver transitions, in 149 maltreated children with a history of out-of-home care, symptoms of dissociation were associated with poorer academic functioning.

Jha P, Stein-Wexler R, Coulter K, et. al.

**Optimizing bone surveys performed for suspected non-accidental trauma with attention to maximizing diagnostic yield while minimizing radiation exposure: utility of pelvic and lateral radiographs.**


Authors question the utility of routine lateral spinal and pelvic views in the skeletal survey for non-accidental trauma since review of 530 cases did not reveal fractures solely identified by these views.

Wherry JN, Baldwin S, Junco K, Floyd B.

**Suicidal thoughts/behaviors in sexually abused children.**


Of 430 sexually abused youth aged 3 to 17, 45.3% had experienced suicidal ideation or behavior. Suicidal youth were more depressed, anxious, and angry; suicidal children reported more PTSD symptoms.

Calello DP, Henretig FM.

**Pediatric toxicology: specialized approach to the poisoned child.**


Child abuse by poisoning should be considered when the patient is outside the usual exploratory poisoning age range of 1-5, when multiple substances are involved, with recurrent episodes, and when the history is inconsistent with the clinical picture.

**Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse**

Brown MJ, Thacker LR, Cohen SA.

**Association between adverse childhood experiences and diagnosis of cancer.**


From a nationally representative telephone health survey with 4230 adult participants, certain adverse childhood experiences, especially sexual abuse, were associated with 1.21 times increased risk of adult cancer.

Post RM, Altshuler LL, Leverich GS, et. al.

**Role of childhood adversity in the development of medical co-morbidities associated with bipolar disorder.**

J Affect Disord. 2013 May;147(1-3):288-94. PMID: 23337654

Of 900 bipolar outpatients at average age 41, child adversity scores were significantly related to total number of medical conditions, especially asthma, arthritis, allergies, hypertension, irritable bowel syndrome, and migraines.

Comijs HC, van Exel E, van der Mast RC, et. al.

**Childhood abuse in late-life depression.**

J Affect Disord. 2013 May;147(1-3):241-6. PMID: 23196199

For over 500 Dutch depressed and non-depressed adults over age 60, 53% of those depressed but only 16% of those non-depressed reported childhood abuse. Childhood abuse was 13.73 times more likely to be associated with depression onset at early life, 5.35 times at mid-onset and 4.74 at late-onset, suggesting that psychological wellbeing can be affected by childhood abuse even in later life.
Child sexual abuse and the pathophysiology of suicide in adolescents and adults.
Childhood sexual abuse is related to impulsivity, drug abuse, and mood and personality disorders, all of which may contribute directly and indirectly to well-established increased risk of suicidal behavior.

Middleton W.
Ongoing incestuous abuse during adulthood.
J Trauma Dissociation. 2013;14(3):251-72. PMID: 23627476
In an analysis of 10 cases of ongoing incest into adulthood, women were typically sexually abused from a very early age (before age 3), and describe feeling that they did not own their body and were “fused” to their father. These women had very high rates of self-harm and suicidality. Fathers were in general stable, employed, financially comfortable, and had half close church involvement.

Adolescents

Soler L, Segura A, Kirchner T, Forns M.
Polyvictimization and risk for suicidal phenomena in a community sample of Spanish adolescents.
For 923 Spanish adolescents, suicidality was significantly higher in girls, and was significantly associated with polyvictimization trauma. For girls suicidality was present in 49.4% of polyvictims, 15.4% of victims, and 7.5% of non-victims.

Roberts AL, Rosario M, Slopen N, Calzo JP, Austin SB.
Childhood gender nonconformity, bullying victimization, and depressive symptoms across adolescence and early adulthood: an 11-year longitudinal study.
“Gender nonconformity was a strong predictor of depressive symptoms beginning in adolescence, particularly among males and heterosexuals. Physical and emotional bullying and abuse, both inside and outside the home, accounted for much of this increased risk.”

Gospodarevskaya E.
Post-traumatic stress disorder and quality of life in sexually abused Australian children.
From an Australian survey of 993 adolescents, 8.3% experienced childhood sexual abuse of which 40.2% were diagnosed with PTSD. Average time between PTSD onset and remission was 11.4 years.

Sartor CE, Waldron M, Duncan AE, et. al.
Addiction. 2013 May;108(5):993-1000. PMID: 23316725
Using 3761 young adult female twins as a model to control for familial influences, childhood sexual abuse was a significant risk factor for use of cigarettes and cannabis, and a very strong predictor of early age at first drink.

Herrinaga RJ, Birn RM, Ruttle PL, et. al.
Childhood maltreatment is associated with altered fear circuitry and increased internalizing symptoms by late adolescence.
In 64 adolescents, a history of childhood maltreatment was associated with brain changes in “fear circuitry” in the hippocampus and amygdala, and especially for girls was also associated with increased internalizing symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Holger-Ambrose B, Langmade C, Edinburgh LD, Saewyc E.
The illusions and juxtapositions of commercial sexual exploitation among youth: identifying effective street-outreach strategies.
From interviews with 13 sexually exploited females ages 14-22, participants related first exploitation by age 13 plus substance use and recurrent homelessness. Nearly all had a pimp and all used the internet as a venue for clients. Participants wanted outreach workers to use “soft words”, provide resources, be non judgmental, listen and care.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Gilbert AL, Bauer NS, Carroll AE, Downs SM.
Child exposure to parental violence and psychological distress associated with delayed milestones.
From a database with 16,595 children, children of parents reporting either or both IPV and parental psychological distress were significantly more likely to fail at least 1 developmental milestone in the domains of language, personal-social and gross motor skills.
Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Ogbonnaya IN, Macy RJ, Kupper LL, et. al.
Intimate partner violence and depressive symptoms before pregnancy, during pregnancy, and after infant delivery: an exploratory study.
Women experiencing physical IPV during pregnancy, compared to a non-IPV pregnant group, had significantly higher levels of depressive symptoms in the year before pregnancy, in each trimester, and at 3 time points postpartum, highlighting the need for “safety interventions that are coordinated with interventions targeting symptoms of depression.”

Renner LM, Habib L, Stromquist AM, Peek-Asa C.
The association of intimate partner violence and depressive symptoms in a cohort of rural couples.
548 rural couples reported a significant degree of mutual physical and emotional violence, which was also associated with up to three times increased rates of depression in both males and females.

Intimate partner stalking victimization and posttraumatic stress symptoms in post-abuse women.
Violence Against Women. 2012 Dec;18(12):1368-89. PMID: 23419275
For 192 divorced mid-life women, and controlling for prior partner abuse, stalking victimization was positively correlated with PTD symptom severity.

Martinson AA, Sigmon ST, Craner J, et. al.
Processing of intimacy-related stimuli in survivors of sexual trauma: the role of PTSD.
Of 101 male and female college undergrads, those with a history of sexual trauma and PTSD showed significant delay in mentally processing words of intimacy as well as words of trauma, whereas those with a history of sexual trauma but no PTSD performed the same as controls. This may be a factor in future sexual intimacy issues for those with PTSD.

Cultural Issues

Haboush KL, Alyan H.
"Who can you tell?" Features of Arab culture that influence conceptualization and treatment of childhood sexual abuse.
Discussion of cultural competency with regards to Arab-American populations. Familial obligations, cultural values pertaining to shame and honor as well as stigma attached to mental health problems may influence disclosure of childhood sexual abuse as well as response to abuse.

Reina AS, Maldonado MM, Lohman BJ.
Undocumented latina networks and responses to domestic violence in a new immigrant gateway: toward a place-specific analysis.
Violence Against Women. 2013 Dec;19(12):1472-97. PMID: 24379218
“The incorporation of Latinas into new gateways entails a reconfiguration of social ties and an increased level of isolation that renders immigrant women particularly vulnerable and ill-equipped to respond to domestic violence situations.”

Mitran VB, McCabe BE, Gonzalez-Guarda RM, et. al.
Participation in SEPA, a sexual and relational health intervention for Hispanic women.
Description of barriers and facilitators of engagement for Hispanic women in a group health educational intervention that included information on IPV. Higher education, IPV (the opposite of what was hypothesized) and acculturation predicted engagement.
In a nationally representative sample of 953 women, “heterosexual women reported significantly less childhood abuse and neglect that did women who identified as mostly heterosexual, bisexual, mostly lesbian, or lesbian...with considerable variability across sexual minority subgroups...highlighting the need for research that distinguishes among these groups.”

Newly arrived immigrant and refugee women to Australia ranked priorities for information. Top priorities were employment pathways and mental health concerns. Women also wanted information on family violence and alcohol-related issues incorporated into general information sessions to de-stigmatize attendance. They preferred interactive talks with written support materials, but thought web-based materials useful.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Discussion of the concept of elder abuse and mistreatment with regards to the components of age, vulnerability, trust, and power balance in relationships.

The framing of elder abuse as either a social or a health problem impacts the understanding of abuse, interventions, and prevention measures.

Of 96 Spanish women with visual or physical disabilities, 47.9% experienced lifetime IPV, with 12.5% experiencing IPV in the past year.

Perpetrators

Reavis JA, Looman J, Franco KA, Rojas B. Adverse childhood experiences and adult criminality: how long must we live before we possess our own lives? Perm J. 2013 Spring;17(2):44-8. PMID: 23704843
The ACE (adverse childhood experiences) scores of 151 offenders (nonsexual child abusers, DV offenders, sexual offenders and stalkers) were nearly four times higher than adult male normative samples, adding criminal behavior to other negative outcomes associated with ACE scores.

Of a group of 211 stalkers, those who stalked strangers and acquaintances (compared to ex-partners), were 2.6 times more likely to have mental health diagnoses such as depression and anxiety and 4.4 times more likely to have psychosis. Psychosis was significantly associated with increased duration of stalking.

Approximately 10% of all women become victims of post-separation stalking or assault. In this Swedish study, controlling behaviors were a significant risk factor in post-separation stalking.

For 110 male veterans, 31% had engaged in physical IPV perpetration in the past year. Risk factors included pre-deployment IPV perpetration and poor emotional intimacy in combination with PTSD.
Thornberry TP, Henry KL. 
**Intergenerational continuity in maltreatment.** 
J Abnorm Child Psychol. 2013 May;41(4):555-69. PMID: 23192742

In an ongoing study begun with 1000 seventh and eighth graders in New York in 1988, a history of maltreatment in adolescence or beginning in childhood and extending into adolescence was significantly associated with maltreatment perpetration in adulthood.

[Graph of age of maltreatment perpetration grouped by type of maltreatment victimization – none, as a child, as a teen]

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**Police and Court Systems**

Vittes KA, Webster DW, Frattaroli S, Claire BE, Wintemute GJ. 
**Removing guns from batterers: findings from a pilot survey of domestic violence restraining order recipients in California.** 

In a pilot program from Butte and San Mateo counties, where police developed a system for better enforcing the firearm surrender requirement after a restraining order, involved women felt safer as a result of firearm removal.

Riger S, Bennett LW, Sigurvinsdottir R. 
**Barriers to addressing substance abuse in domestic violence court.** 

In a study of a DV court in a large Midwestern metropolitan area, substance abuse typically was not identified among perpetrators or survivors unless it was mentioned in a police report, overlooking the possibility of addressing these issues that commonly co-occur with DV.

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**Providers**

Lee A, Coles J, Lee SJ, Kulkarni J. 
**Women survivors of child abuse - don't ask, don't tell.** 

Of 108 adult Australian female childhood abuse survivors, only 5% disclosed their abuse history to their GP and only 19% were asked. Of those who were asked, none reported feeling offended, and 58% who discussed this reported feeling hopeful or relieved.

Sprague S, Swinton M, Madden K, et. al. 
**Barriers to and facilitators for screening women for intimate partner violence in surgical fracture clinics: a qualitative descriptive approach.** 
BMC Musculoskelet Disord. 2013 Apr 5;14:122. PMID: 23560744

Using interviews with Australian orthopedic surgeons and trainees, facilitators of clinic IPV screening included availability of a crisis team, having a screening form, and having established policy/government support for IPV screening.

Taft CT. 
**Working together to address domestic violence among veterans.** 

Discussion of management and support of veterans at risk for IPV and their partners, including issues such as mistrust, low self-esteem, survival-mode thinking at home, and power-control conflicts.

Wolf MR, Nochajski TH. 
**Child sexual abuse survivors with dissociative amnesia: what’s the difference?** 

Discussion of the difference in risk factors and treatment issues for survivors of childhood sexual abuse with dissociative amnesia vs. those with continuous memory of their abuse.

Davis DW, Pressley-McGruder G, Jones VF, et. al. 
**Evaluation of an innovative tool for child sexual abuse education.** 

Review for helping professionals who are not consistently aware of or who do not probe for possibilities of online sexual victimization as part of case investigation, assessment, and treatment of child sexual abuse. Authors discuss how to identify and provide treatment for these children.

Discussion of ethical issues, patient confidentiality and reporting requirements when DNA analysis of a person reveals consanguinity (blood kinship) and the probability of incest.

Prevention


Review of the effectiveness of specific home visitation programs with regard to child development, health care usage, reduction in child maltreatment and more favorable birth outcomes.


In a “snapshot” systematic review, authors conclude that “Screening women for intimate partner violence appears beneficial, accurate, and safe; however, the optimal screening setting, instrument, or intervention have not been established.”


Results of a global online survey from organizations around the world about efforts to engage men in violence prevention.

Researchers


Description of VAW research, strategies, challenges and future directions of the National Institute of Justice.


Using data-mining techniques including a self-organizing map to find non-linear clustering, and inputting information from 8,000 individuals with 600 different variables, suicidality was associated with four main factors – mental health disorders, alcoholism, impulsivity, and childhood abuse. This method can be applied to other clinical problems with heterogeneous risk factors.

Other of Interest


In comparing social networks of women with and without IPV relationships, women experiencing IPV had smaller networks but were more efficient in their ability to reach their members, their networks contained fewer in-laws, and the women provided more support than they received.