

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY FOR SCC DVC

April 2010

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

Pierce MC, Kaczor K, Aldridge S, O'Flynn J, Lorenz DJ.

Bruising characteristics discriminating physical child abuse from accidental trauma.

Pediatrics. 2010 Jan;125(1):67-74. PMID: 19969620

95 children admitted to a pediatric ICU had injuries and bruising analyzed. Findings predictive of abuse (versus accidental injury) were bruising on the torso, ear or neck for a child < or = 4 years of age, and any bruising of an infant < 4 months of age.

Ravichandiran N, Schuh S, Bejuk M, Al-Harthy N, Shouldice M, Au H, Boutis K.

Delayed identification of pediatric abuse-related fractures.

Pediatrics. 2010 Jan;125(1):60-6. PMID: 19948569

In a 15 year retrospective review of abusive fractures in children under age 3 presenting to an academic children's hospital, one fifth of abusive fractures were initially missed by a physician - in particular boys who presented to a primary care setting with an extremity fracture.

Walsh WA, Dawson J, Mattingly MJ.

How are we measuring resilience following childhood maltreatment? Is the research adequate and consistent? What is the impact on research, practice, and policy?

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2010 Jan;11(1):27-41. PMID: 20093249

This review article on resilience following childhood maltreatment describes how different ways of measuring outcomes, and research done at different developmental stages, can change research findings and policy recommendations.

Martin CA, Care M, Rangel EL, Brown RL, Garcia VF, Falcone RA Jr.

Severity of head computed tomography scan findings fail to explain racial differences in mortality following child abuse.

Am J Surg. 2010 Feb;199(2):210-5. PMID: 19892316

In a review of head CT scans of 164 abused children at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, despite the same type of head injuries, and the same CT scan severity scores, African-American children had a significantly higher mortality rate (32% vs. 11% for white children).

Bundy-Fazioli K, Winokur M, DeLong-Hamilton T.

Placement outcomes for children removed for neglect.

Child Welfare. 2009;88(3):85-102. PMID: 20084819

In analyzing a database of over 1,000 children removed from a home for either abuse or neglect, those removed for neglect experienced more days in out-of-home care and were less likely to be reunified.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Gillespie CF, Phifer J, Bradley B, Ressler KJ.

Risk and resilience: genetic and environmental influences on development of the stress response.

Depress Anxiety. 2009;26(11):984-92. PMID: 19750552

Review article combining research knowledge of effects of childhood abuse on the stress hormone system and different stress genes, to predict adult mood disorder and PTSD risk. Certain inherited genes can make someone more or less vulnerable to the effects of abuse.

Jovanovic T, Blanding NQ, Norrholm SD, Duncan E, Bradley B, Ressler KJ.

Childhood abuse is associated with increased startle reactivity in adulthood.

Depress Anxiety. 2009;26(11):1018-26. PMID: 19691032

Even after controlling for age, sex, PTSD and depression, 60 adults showed an increased startle response if they had had a history of childhood physical or sexual abuse, but not emotional abuse alone. This startle response may be a biomarker of sensitivity to stress, which shows prolonged consequences of early trauma exposure.

Enoch MA, Hodgkinson CA, Yuan Q, Shen PH, Goldman D, Roy A.

The influence of GABRA2, childhood trauma, and their interaction on alcohol, heroin, and cocaine dependence.
Biol Psychiatry. 2010 Jan 1;67(1):20-7. PMID: 19833324

This research study looked at 557 African-American drug dependent men vs. a control group of AA men without substance abuse. Exposure to childhood trauma was highly associated with drug abuse, especially cocaine. The GABRA2 gene [that codes for the brain chemical GABA] was analyzed for each participant and different versions found. [Studies in rodents have shown that besides genetics, early life stress can change this gene.] Among other findings, one version of the gene that was unique to African-American men was associated with heroin addiction.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Williams GB, Brackley MH.

Intimate partner violence, pregnancy and the decision for abortion.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2009 Apr;30(4):272-8. PMID: 19363732

In in-depth interviews with 8 abused women seeking pregnancy termination, 6 of whom had left their abusive partners, one of the major reasons for seeking termination was the fear that the abusive partner “would be back” if the pregnancy continued.

Queen J, Nurse A, Brackley MH, Williams GB.

Being emotionally abused: a phenomenological study of adult women's experiences of emotionally abusive intimate partner relationships.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2009 Apr;30(4):237-45. PMID: 19363728

One aspect of IPV revealed in in-depth interviews with 15 adult emotionally abused women was that the absence of caring and respectful partner behaviors was just as powerful as openly abusive behaviors.

Beeble ML, Bybee D, Sullivan CM, Adams AE.

Main, mediating, and moderating effects of social support on the well-being of survivors of intimate partner violence across 2 years.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2009 Aug;77(4):718-29. PMID: 19634964

Interviews with 160 IPV survivors over a two year period showed that social support improved quality of life, and decreased depression.

Cultural Issues

Klevens J.

An overview of intimate partner violence among Latinos.

Violence Against Women. 2007 Feb;13(2):111-22. PMID: 17251500

A detailed analysis of the existing research literature on IPV among Latinos.

Ingram EM.

A comparison of help seeking between Latino and non-Latino victims of intimate partner violence.

Violence Against Women. 2007 Feb;13(2):159-71. PMID: 17251503

In this large CDC telephone study of over 12,000 households, various IPV statistics were generated, including that abused Latinos were less like to seek access to shelters.

Klevens J, Shelley G, Clavel-Arcas C, Barney DD, Tobar C, Duran ES, Barajas-Mazaheri R, Esparza J.

Latinos' perspectives and experiences with intimate partner violence.

Violence Against Women. 2007 Feb;13(2):141-58. PMID: 17251502

In this Oklahoma study, the Latino community recognized IPV as a problem with many negative consequences. However, in general family and neighbors preferred to not get involved, although family was expected to provide tangible support to the victims.

Ocampo BW, Shelley GA, Jaycox LH.

Latino teens talk about help seeking and help giving in relation to dating violence.

Violence Against Women. 2007 Feb;13(2):172-89. PMID: 17251504

In a study on dating violence among Latino 9th graders in southern CA, teens were more likely to seek help from other teens than health professionals or adults in their social network. They were also reluctant to intervene in dating violence situations.

Champion JD, Collins JL, Reyes S, Rivera RL.

Attitudes and beliefs concerning sexual relationships among minority adolescent women.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2009 Jul;30(7):436-42. PMID: 19544127

Article analyzes attitudes toward sexual decision making in African or Mexican-American adolescents who had experienced IPV.

Bowman K, Rew L, Murphey C.

Childhood maltreatment among community dwelling adult Latinas.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2009 Jul;30(7):443-50. PMID: 19544128

In a group of 62 self-described Latina women aged 18-45, predominantly married, employed, high school graduates, 79% reported at least one form of childhood maltreatment: emotional abuse (38.7%), physical abuse (46.8%), sexual abuse (46.8%), emotional neglect (43.5%), and physical neglect (37.1%). Women were recruited from classes and clinics in the Southwest US and place of birth not recorded.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Acierno R, Hernandez MA, Amstadter AB, Resnick HS, Steve K, Muzzy W, Kilpatrick DG.

Prevalence and correlates of emotional, physical, sexual, and financial abuse and potential neglect in the United States: the National Elder Mistreatment Study.

Am J Public Health. 2010 Feb;100(2):292-7. PMID: 20019303

In a random representative national telephone survey of 5777 adults over age 60, one in 10 reported mistreatment or neglect in the past year: 4.6% emotional abuse, 1.6% physical abuse, 0.6% sexual abuse, 5.1% neglect, and 5.2% current financial abuse by a family member.

Perpetrators

Dienye PO, Jebbin NJ, Gbeneol PK.

Penile fracture following husband abuse: a case report.

Am J Mens Health. 2009 Dec;3(4):330-2. PMID: 19477737

Case report from Nigeria, of a 35 year old fisherman who “had tried to coerce his wife to a sexual intercourse when she forcefully bent his penis”. He was initially treated with cold application and splinting, but ended up with severe erectile dysfunction. [Notice title “husband abuse” – vs. self defense?]

Price BJ, Rosenbaum A.

Batterer intervention programs: a report from the field.

Violence Vict. 2009;24(6):757-70. PMID: 20055213

An anonymous web-based survey of 276 batterer intervention programs in 45 states collected philosophy, structure, leadership, curricula and support systems of BIPs.

Heide KM, Frei A.

Matricide: a critique of the literature.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2010 Jan;11(1):3-17. PMID: 19875385

Review article on the difficulties of assessing research on matricide, killing of a mother by a child, especially since this is so uncommon and data are often combined when both parents are killed. Per one researcher, there are three types of (usually adult) children who kill one or both parents: those who have been severely abused, are severely mentally ill, or are dangerously antisocial.

Police and Court System

Gittler J.

Governmental efforts to improve quality of care for nursing home residents and to protect them from mistreatment: a survey of federal and state laws.

Res Gerontol Nurs. 2008 Oct;1(4):264-84. PMID: 20078001

Review of multiple aspects of federal and states law that apply to protection of nursing home residents, and the difficulty with implementation of these laws.

Providers

Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. Policy statement--Child abuse, confidentiality, and the health insurance portability and accountability act.

Pediatrics. 2010 Jan;125(1):197-201. PMID: 20026490

Policy statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics on medical record security and privacy when child abuse or neglect is suspected.

Kiely M, El-Mohandes AA, El-Khorazaty MN, Gantz MG.

An integrated intervention to reduce intimate partner violence in pregnancy: a randomized controlled trial.

Obstet Gynecol. 2010 Feb;115(2 Pt 1):273-83. PMID: 20093899

Over 1,000 pregnant women who screened positive for risks, including depression and IPV, underwent a brief series of counseling sessions immediately before or after prenatal visits (usually 4 sessions). Women in the intervention group had significantly fewer very preterm babies (1.5% vs. 6.6% usual care), and those with a history of current IPV experienced significantly fewer IPV incidents.

Knutson JF, Lawrence E, Taber SM, Bank L, DeGarmo DS.

Assessing children's exposure to intimate partner violence.

Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev. 2009 Jun;12(2):157-73. PMID: 19437117

Review article assesses the difficulty of evaluating children's exposure to IPV, examining the lack of agreement on definition, and the discord between what parents and children separately report.

Ringstad R.

CPS: client violence and client victims.

Child Welfare. 2009;88(3):127-44. PMID: 20084821

In a study of 68 CPS workers and clients from Cal State Stanislaus, 70% of CPS workers reported having been the victim of client violence, and 22% reported that they had perpetrated a violent act toward a client.

Johnson DM, Zlotnick C.

HOPE for battered women with PTSD in domestic violence shelters.

Prof Psychol Res Pr. 2009;40(3):234-241. PMID: 20179780

Article describes a structured counseling program found successful in helping abused women in shelters address PTSD issues. Full text free online.

Other of Interest

Runyan DK, Dunne MP, Zolotor AJ.

Introduction to the development of the ISPCAN child abuse screening tools.

Child Abuse Negl. 2009 Nov;33(11):842-5. PMID: 19857896

On request from the United Nations, an international panel of experts in child abuse created a process to help standardize cross-national definitions and screening instruments for child abuse, creating: ICAST-P for parents, ICAST-R for young adults, and ICAST-CI/ICAST-CH for children age 11 and up asking about experiences at institutions or at home. Go to <http://www.ispcan.org> and search ICAST

DiLillo D, Peugh J, Walsh K, Panuzio J, Trask E, Evans S.

Child maltreatment history among newlywed couples: a longitudinal study of marital outcomes and mediating pathways.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2009 Aug;77(4):680-92. PMID: 19634961

202 newlywed couples filled out surveys on child maltreatment experiences, and their marriages were assessed at three time points over a two-year period. Marital dissatisfaction at the first point of evaluation was significantly associated with childhood maltreatment, and tended to remain the same over the other time points. Authors suggest that therapists seeing couples consider the impact of childhood maltreatment in contributing to difficulties with marital trust and psychological aggression.

Btoush R, Campbell JC.

Ethical conduct in intimate partner violence research: challenges and strategies.

Nurs Outlook. 2009 Jul-Aug;57(4):210-6. PMID: 19631063

Article reviews updated concepts of IPV research ethics concerning recruitment and retention, safety, privacy, confidentiality, assessment of benefits and risks, and training of the research team.