

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

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine February 2011. 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

Child Abuse

Duffy SO, Squires J, Fromkin JB, Berger RP.

Use of skeletal surveys to evaluate for physical abuse: analysis of 703 consecutive skeletal surveys.

Pediatrics. 2011 Jan;127(1):e47-52. PMID: 21149429

In a study of over 700 skeletal xray surveys done on children with suspected child abuse, 10.8% showed a previously unsuspected fracture. In 79% there was more than one healing fracture. The highest yield groups were age less than 6 months, a life-threatening event or seizure, and suspected abusive head trauma.

Mills R, Alati R, O'Callaghan M, Najman JM, Williams GM, Bor W, Strathearn L.

Child abuse and neglect and cognitive function at 14 years of age: findings from a birth cohort.

Pediatrics. 2011 Jan;127(1):4-10. PMID: 21135010

In a group of 7223 children who had been followed since birth, at age 14 follow up of half of the original group showed that, even controlling for many variables, both child abuse and child neglect were independently associated with lower reading ability and perceptual reasoning.

Kellogg ND.

Sexual behaviors in children: evaluation and management.

Am Fam Physician. 2010 Nov 15;82(10):1233-8. PMID: 21121534

This article discusses age appropriate sexual behaviors in children, which usually decrease by age 5.

Inappropriate or intrusive sexual behaviors may be associated with child sexual abuse, especially when abuse occurs at a younger age, by a family member, or when penetration is involved.

Christian CW, Schwarz DF.

Child maltreatment and the transition to adult-based medical and mental health care.

Pediatrics. 2011 Jan;127(1):139-45. PMID: 21149424

Maltreated children as children and adults have significant physical and mental health problems. However, especially for foster children, "they infrequently have a medical home, their complex health care needs are poorly understood by the child welfare system that is responsible for them, and they lack the family supports that most young adults require for success."

Kim J, Cicchetti D.

Longitudinal pathways linking child maltreatment, emotion regulation, peer relations, and psychopathology.

J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2010 Jun;51(6):706-16. PMID: 20050965

During evaluation of over 400 inner city children at a summer camp, those with a history of childhood maltreatment showed more emotional regulation problems (disruptive and aggressive behaviors), which in turn led to peer rejection. Authors discuss this peer rejection as a possible pathway to increased emotional regulation difficulties and mental health issues.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

van Harmelen AL, van Tol MJ, van der Wee NJ, Veltman DJ, Aleman A, Spinthonen P, van Buchem MA, Zitman FG, Penninx BW, Elzinga BM.

Reduced medial prefrontal cortex volume in adults reporting childhood emotional maltreatment.

Biol Psychiatry. 2010 Nov 1;68(9):832-8. PMID: 20692648

Brain scans of both male and female Dutch adults who experienced childhood emotional maltreatment (CEM), in the absence of childhood physical or sexual abuse, and compared to healthy controls as well as unmedicated adults with a depression or anxiety disorder, showed "profound reductions of medial prefrontal cortex volume". Since this brain area has to do with emotional regulation, "our finding might provide an important link in understanding the increased emotional sensitivity in individuals reporting CEM".

Heim C, Shugart M, Craighead WE, Nemeroff CB.

Neurobiological and psychiatric consequences of child abuse and neglect.

Dev Psychobiol. 2010 Nov;52(7):671-90. PMID: 20882586

Review article on the neurobiological consequences, moderating factors, treatment outcomes, and management guidelines for adult survivors of early life trauma.

Cutajar MC, Mullen PE, Ogleff JR, Thomas SD, Wells DL, Spataro J.

Psychopathology in a large cohort of sexually abused children followed up to 43 years.

Child Abuse Negl. 2010 Nov;34(11):813-22. PMID: 20888636

In this Australian study in which 2,759 sexually abused children were followed up 12-42 years later, these children as adults were 3.65 times more likely to have required mental health services than a control group.

Thomaes K, Dorrepaal E, Draijer N, de Ruiter MB, van Balkom AJ, Smit JH, Veltman DJ.

Reduced anterior cingulate and orbitofrontal volumes in child abuse-related complex PTSD.

J Clin Psychiatry. 2010 Dec;71(12):1636-44. PMID: 20673548

In brain study of complex PTSD from severe child abuse, brain changes were more pronounced than with classic PTSD. Certain traits such as impulsivity and anger were also correlated with specific brain changes.

Senn TE, Carey MP.

Child maltreatment and women's adult sexual risk behavior: childhood sexual abuse as a unique risk factor.

Child Maltreat. 2010 Nov;15(4):324-35. PMID: 20930181

In an analysis of 414 women at a sexually transmitted disease clinic, controlling for many types of child abuse and neglect, only childhood sexual abuse (CSA) best predicted adult sexual risk behaviors of unprotected sex and increased number of lifetime partners. Authors recommend specific risk reduction interventions for women with CSA history.

Leeners B, Stiller R, Block E, Görres G, Rath W.

Pregnancy complications in women with childhood sexual abuse experiences.

J Psychosom Res. 2010 Nov;69(5):503-10. PMID: 20955870

In this small study from Germany, and controlling for many factors, pregnant women with a history of childhood sexual abuse were more likely to be hospitalized during the pregnancy, have more complications, and deliver prematurely.

Conus P, Cotton S, Schimmelmann BG, McGorry PD, Lambert M.

Pretreatment and outcome correlates of sexual and physical trauma in an epidemiological cohort of first-episode psychosis patients.

Schizophr Bull. 2010 Nov;36(6):1105-14. PMID: 19386579

Of 658 Canadian young adults presenting with a first episode of psychosis (loss of touch with reality), 34% had experienced prior sexual and/or physical abuse. Those with an abuse history were more likely to have had other psychiatric disorders, substance abuse issues, suicide attempts in the past, and suicide attempts during present treatment.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Klostermann K, Kelley ML.

Alcoholism and intimate partner violence: effects on children's psychosocial adjustment.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2009 Dec;6(12):3156-68. PMID: 20049253

Article discussed the singular and cumulative effects on children of alcoholism and IPV in the home.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Williams C, Larsen U, McCloskey LA.

The impact of childhood sexual abuse and intimate partner violence on sexually transmitted infections.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(6):787-98. PMID: 21287967

In this group of 309 women, those who had ever been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection were 2.8 times more likely to have experienced childhood sexual abuse (CSA), 2.2 times more likely to have experienced IPV, and 4.0 times more likely to have experienced both CSA and IPV.

Vives-Cases C, Ruiz-Cantero MT, Escribà-Agüir V, Miralles JJ.

The effect of intimate partner violence and other forms of violence against women on health.

J Public Health (Oxf). 2011 Mar;33(1):15-21. PMID: 21196478.

In a Spanish National Health Survey of over 13,000 women, those who reported IPV were 5.28 times more likely to also report coronary heart disease, chronic neck pain (2.01 times more likely) and chronic back pain (2.34 times more likely).

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Silverman ME, Loudon H.

Antenatal reports of pre-pregnancy abuse is associated with symptoms of depression in the postpartum period.
Arch Womens Ment Health. 2010 Oct;13(5):411-5. PMID: 20386940.

For 884 pregnant women in the New York area, post partum depression was significantly predicted by a pre-pregnancy history of physical or sexual abuse (2.43 times more likely), a history of psychiatric problems (3.96 times more likely), or psychiatric diagnosis at the first prenatal visit (2.61 times more likely).

Mburia-Mwalili A, Clements-Nolle K, Lee W, Shadley M, Wei Yang.

Intimate partner violence and depression in a population-based sample of women: can social support help?
J Interpers Violence. 2010 Dec;25(12):2258-78. PMID: 20051589

In a 2006 Nevada survey of 472 women, 27% reported a lifetime history of IPV. Of those women, 24% were currently depressed. Abused women with low social support were 4.95 times more likely to be depressed.

Ahmed AT, McCaw BR.

Mental health services utilization among women experiencing intimate partner violence.
Am J Manag Care. 2010 Oct;16(10):731-8. PMID: 20964469

In a large Kaiser study of 6870 women referred to mental health services after first IPV identification, 37% utilized this service within 60 days. Odds were higher of seeking care if there had been an electronic referral, especially by an older provider, the patient had prior PTSD, or was depressed. Odds were lower for utilization if the patient was African-American, Latina, or had been referred from the emergency department.

Cultural Issues

Han AD, Kim EJ, Tyson SY.

Partner violence against Korean immigrant women.
J Transcult Nurs. 2010 Oct;21(4):370-6. PMID: 20592059.

Discussion of stressful factors Korean immigrant women face, including Korean culture, the immigration experience, family role transitions in a new country, and characteristics of Korean male batterers.

Wright CV, Perez S, Johnson DM.

The Mediating Role of Empowerment for African American Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence.
Psychol Trauma. 2010 Dec;2(4):266-272. PMID: 21331291

Although African American women statistically experience more IPV, they also experience less PTSD and depression. This study demonstrated that African American women may be more resilient due to having more of the quality of personal empowerment.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Beach SR, Schulz R, Castle NG, Rosen J.

Financial exploitation and psychological mistreatment among older adults: differences between African Americans and non-African Americans in a population-based survey.

Gerontologist. 2010 Dec;50(6):744-57. PMID: 20650947

In a telephone study of 903 Pennsylvanian adults aged 60 and older, prevalence rates of financial exploitation were 23.0% for African Americans vs. 8.4% for non-African Americans, and psychological mistreatment 24.4% for AA and 13.2% for non-AA.

Perpetrators

Roberts AL, Gilman SE, Fitzmaurice G, Decker MR, Koenen KC.

Witness of intimate partner violence in childhood and perpetration of intimate partner violence in adulthood.
Epidemiology. 2010 Nov;21(6):809-18. PMID:20811285

Using data from almost 15,000 men over age 20 in a national epidemiological survey, 4% of men reported violent behavior toward an intimate partner in the past year. These men were significantly more likely to have witnessed home IPV as a child.

Welland C, Ribner N.

Culturally specific treatment for partner-abusive Latino men: a qualitative study to identify and implement program components.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(6):799-813. PMID: 21287968

A Spanish language batterer treatment program designed to be culturally appropriate for immigrant Latino men was developed over 4 years with input from participants. Specific topics emphasized by participants were: effective parenting skills for men; gender roles; discussion of discrimination towards immigrants and women; immigration and changing gender roles; marital sexual abuse; and spirituality as related to violence prevention.”

Mumm SS, Cupach WR.

Turning points in the progression of obsessive relational intrusion and stalking.

Violence Vict. 2010;25(6):707-27. PMID: 21287962

This article provides an in-depth analysis of the experiences of 42 victims of stalking. Although a variety of turning points were identified, overall patterns did not necessarily progress linearly and continuously.

Police and Court System

Messing JT, Cimino A, Campbell JC, Brown S, Patchell B, Wilson JS.

Collaborating With Police Departments: Recruitment in the Oklahoma Lethality Assessment (OK-LA) Study.

Violence Against Women. 2011 Feb;17(2):163-76. PMID: 21307027

Article evaluates a combined police and social service intervention, including strategies for researchers to collaborate with and enhance engagement of police departments.

Providers

Waite R, Gerrity P, Arango R.

Assessment for and response to adverse childhood experiences.

J Psychosoc Nurs Ment Health Serv. 2010 Dec;48(12):51-61. PubMed PMID: 21053787

A mental health nurse discusses impact of childhood abuse on mental health, and suggests how to assess and ask in a sensitive manner.

Drossman DA.

Abuse, trauma, and GI illness: is there a link?

Am J Gastroenterol. 2011 Jan;106(1):14-25. PMID: 21139573

Author discusses the physiological links between brain, gut, and abuse history, including what to look for and how to ask patients about abuse.

Gehrman PR, Harb GC.

Treatment of nightmares in the context of posttraumatic stress disorder.

J Clin Psychol. 2010 Nov;66(11):1185-94. PMID: 20865767

Review of recent successful treatments for PTSD nightmares, including medication and imagery rehearsals.

Hornor G.

Child sexual abuse: consequences and implications.

J Pediatr Health Care. 2010 Nov-Dec;24(6):358-64. PMID: 20971410.

Review of short and long term consequences of childhood sexual abuse for the pediatric nurse practitioner, to aid in anticipating physical and mental health needs. “Sexual abuse typically does not occur in isolation.”

Hewitt LN, Bhavsar P, Phelan HA.

The secrets women keep: intimate partner violence screening in the female trauma patient.

J Trauma. 2011 Feb;70(2):320-3. PMID: 21307728

From Parkland Hospital in Dallas, admitted female trauma patients were screened for IPV by the RN on admission, and then in a pilot study screened again before discharge by a trained counselor in conjunction with a standardized alcohol abuse screen administered to all trauma patients. Of 125 consecutive patients, 11.2% total screened positive for IPV – 64.2% of whom were presently being battered but who were not admitted for an IPV related injury. The initial screening only took place in 82% of patients and picked up 3 positive screens, but the second screening revealed 10; and of the patients whose first screen was not performed as per protocol, there were 2 battered women.

Other of Interest

Witte TH, Kendra R.

Risk recognition and intimate partner violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 Dec;25(12):2199-216. PMID: 20040714

Compared to non-victims of IPV, women with a history of IPV were less able to detect danger in a video showing a psychologically and physically aggressive encounter between heterosexual dating partners.

Alhusen JL, Lucea MB, Glass N.

Perceptions of and Experience With System Responses to Female Same-Sex Intimate Partner Violence.

Partner Abuse. 2010 Jan;10(1):443-462. PMID: 21278817

In-depth interviews with 47 female same-sex teens and women who had experienced IPV revealed need for increased awareness, understanding, and service provisions from DV services, criminal justice systems, and health care services.

Wuest J, Malcolm J, Merritt-Gray M.

Daughters' obligation to care in the context of past abuse.

Health Care Women Int. 2010 Dec;31(12):1047-67. PMID: 21058090

In-depth interviews with 16 women currently caring for parents who had abused them as children showed a focus on duty to other and duty to self, as well as opportunity for reconciliation.

Bridges AJ, Wosnitza R, Scharrer E, Sun C, Liberman R.

Aggression and sexual behavior in best-selling pornography videos: a content analysis update.

Violence Against Women. 2010 Oct;16(10):1065-85. PMID: 20980228

In an analysis of best-selling pornographic videos, 88.2% contained physical aggression and 48.7% verbal aggression. Targets of aggression were usually female, who showed pleasure or remained neutral to the aggression.

McLaren S, Garad R, Thoms A, Serin S, Joyce A, McCormick J.

Hairdressers as a resource in addressing family violence.

Health Promot J Austr. 2010 Dec;21(3):236-8. PMID: 21118072.

An Australian workshop intervention increased knowledge and confidence in hairdressers in responding to and referring clients with mental health including family violence issues.

Van Winkle EP, Safer MA.

Killing versus witnessing in combat trauma and reports of PTSD symptoms and domestic violence.

J Trauma Stress. 2011 Feb;24(1):107-10. PMID: 21351168

Using archival data from Vietnam era veterans, soldiers who killed or wounded an enemy combatant, vs. observing war trauma, were more likely to have increased symptoms of PTSD and to have perpetrated IPV on their partner when they returned home.

Out D, Pieper S, Bakermans-Kranenburg MJ, Zeskind PS, van IJzendoorn MH.

Intended sensitive and harsh caregiving responses to infant crying: the role of cry pitch and perceived urgency in an adult twin sample.

Child Abuse Negl. 2010 Nov;34(11):863-73. PMID: 20889206

In this Dutch study of adult twin pairs and their response to recorded infant crying, about 38% of response to cry was explained by genetics, and 31% due to shared and 69% unique environmental influences. Certain abnormal factors of cry acoustics, such as extreme increases in pitch, were responded to with more harsh parenting, placing these infants at risk.

Kettrey HH, Emery BC.

Teen magazines as educational texts on dating violence: the \$2.99 approach.

Violence Against Women. 2010 Nov;16(11):1270-94. PMID: 21097963.

In this article analyzing portrayal of teen dating abuse in teen magazines, which emphasize romance, and to which many teens turn to for advice, stories about abuse often emphasized the victim as an individual situation and put larger cultural contexts in the background or not at all. "An individual frame utilized in isolation from the cultural frame may leave readers with only the characteristics of individual victims when trying to understand dating violence. This incomplete picture poses a risk of highlighting the victim while relegating the role of society to the background. As a consequence, teen readers may be left feeling that they must battle a large and pervasive cultural problem in isolation."