

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL APRIL 2012

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

Rogosch FA, Dackis MN, Cicchetti D.

Child maltreatment and allostatic load: consequences for physical and mental health in children from low-income families.

Dev Psychopathol. 2011 Nov;23(4):1107-24. PMID: 22018084

Measuring different biochemical markers from 247 low income children at a summer camp showed that both “allostatic load” of high environmental stress and child abuse/neglect both independently predicted poorer health and greater behavior problems.

Kemp AM, Jaspan T, Griffiths J, Stoodley N, Mann MK, Tempest V, Maguire SA.

Neuroimaging: what neuroradiological features distinguish abusive from non-abusive head trauma? A systematic review.

Arch Dis Child. 2011 Dec;96(12):1103-12. PMID: 21965812

After reviewing thirty years of medical literature, certain findings on brain imaging were associated with abusive head trauma, such as subdural hemorrhage (8.2 times more likely abusive than accidental).

Berkowitz CD.

Healing of genital injuries.

J Child Sex Abus. 2011 Sep;20(5):537-47. PMID: 21970645

Article reviews and compares the healing patterns of child genital injuries from sexual assault, surgical procedures, or accidental trauma.

Bennett BL, Mahabee-Gittens M, Chua MS, Hirsch R.

Elevated cardiac troponin I level in cases of thoracic nonaccidental trauma.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2011 Oct;27(10):941-4. PMID: 21960096

Authors from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital document elevated levels of a blood test that measures damage to the heart in children who suffered abusive chest injury, such as broken ribs or chest bruising.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

De Bellis MD, Spratt EG, Hooper SR.

Neurodevelopmental biology associated with childhood sexual abuse.

J Child Sex Abus. 2011 Sep;20(5):548-87. PMID: 21970646

“Child maltreatment appears to be the single most preventable cause of mental illness and behavioral dysfunction in the United States...There are multiple mechanisms through which sexual abuse can cause post-traumatic stress disorder, activate biological stress response systems, and contribute to adverse brain development.”

Smith AK, Conneely KN, Kilaru V, Mercer KB, Weiss TE, Bradley B, Tang Y, Gillespie CF, Cubells JF, Ressler KJ.

Differential immune system DNA methylation and cytokine regulation in post-traumatic stress disorder.

Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet. 2011 Sep;156B(6):700-8. PMID: 21714072

“Methylation” of DNA involves adding chemical groups to genes to alter gene expression. In this study looking at a history of childhood abuse, PTSD and total life stress, all three factors were associated with increased methylation, especially PTSD. The genes affected mainly involved increased inflammation.

Becker DF, Grilo CM.

Childhood maltreatment in women with binge-eating disorder: associations with psychiatric comorbidity, psychological functioning, and eating pathology.

Eat Weight Disord. 2011 Jun;16(2):e113-20. PMID: 21989095

A group of 137 women with binge eating disorder had much higher rates of childhood abuse than the general population - emotional abuse 52% , physical abuse 28%, sexual abuse 31%, emotional neglect 66%, and physical neglect 48%.

Fuller-Thomson E, Bottoms J, Brennenstuhl S, Hurd M.

Is childhood physical abuse associated with peptic ulcer disease? Findings from a population-based study.

J Interpers Violence. 2011 Nov;26(16):3225-47. PMID: 21282122

Using a Canadian database of over 13,000 adults, those reporting a history of childhood physical abuse had over 2 times the prevalence of a diagnosis of peptic ulcer disease.

Cheng HG, Anthony JC, Huang Y, Lee S, Liu Z, He Y.

Childhood physical punishment and the onset of drinking problems: evidence from metropolitan China.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2011 Oct 1;118(1):31-9. PMID: 21474254

From a World Mental Health Survey of metropolitan China, and after controlling for other childhood adversities and parental drinking problems, childhood physical abuse was significantly associated with younger onset of drinking and rapid transition from first drink to a drinking problem.

Kranzler HR, Feinn R, Nelson EC, Covault J, Anton RF, Farrer L, Gelernter J.

A CRHR1 haplotype moderates the effect of adverse childhood experiences on lifetime risk of major depressive episode in African-American women.

Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet. 2011 Dec;156B(8):960-8. PMID: 21998007

African-American women with a certain type of gene relating to stress hormone regulation had less depression associated with adverse childhood experiences.

Tanaka M, Wekerle C, Schmuck ML, Paglia-Boak A; MAP Research Team.

The linkages among childhood maltreatment, adolescent mental health, and self-compassion in child welfare adolescents.

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;35(10):887-98. PMID: 22018519

Following a group of older Canadian adolescents over time who had received child protection services, "Higher childhood emotional abuse, emotional neglect, and physical abuse were associated with lower self-compassion. Youths with low self-compassion were more likely to have psychological distress, problem alcohol use, and report a serious suicide attempt, as compared with those with high self-compassion."

Teen Relationship Abuse

Miller E, Breslau J, Chung WJ, Green JG, McLaughlin KA, Kessler RC.

Adverse childhood experiences and risk of physical violence in adolescent dating relationships.

J Epidemiol Community Health. 2011 Nov;65(11):1006-13. PMID: 21321063

Using data on 5130 adults from a nationally representative survey, many childhood adversities were significantly associated with physical dating violence in adolescence, with the highest risk factors being childhood sexual abuse, interparental violence, and parent mental illness.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Weir S, Posner HE, Jones WC, Willis G, Baxter JD, Clark RE.

Disparities in routine breast cancer screening for medicaid managed care members with a work-limiting disability.

Medicare Medicaid Res Rev. 2011 Nov 4;1(4). PMID: 22340778

Using a Massachusetts database, women categorized as disabled had significantly fewer screening mammograms than non-disabled women, with domestic violence a significant factor in reducing the odds of being tested. Other studies have shown that women with disabilities are more likely to be initially diagnosed with late stage breast cancer , and therefore IPV may be a factor.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Langhinrichsen-Rohling J, Snarr JD, Slep AM, Heyman RE, Foran HM.

Risk for suicidal ideation in the U.S. Air Force: an ecological perspective.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2011 Oct;79(5):600-12. PMID: 21787046.

In a survey of 52,780 active-duty US Air Force members, there was a 4% 1 year rate of suicidal ideation. Risk factors included depressive symptoms, alcohol problems, relationship satisfaction, IPV, hours worked, and level of social support.

Wilson JS, West JF, Messing JT, Brown S, Patchell B, Campbell JC.

Factors related to posttraumatic stress symptoms in women experiencing police-involved intimate partner violence.

ANS Adv Nurs Sci. 2011 Jul-Sep;34(3):E14-28. PMID: 21822067.

Women with police contact due to IPV were more likely to have symptoms of PTSD if they had a Danger Assessment score, poor overall health, abuse leading to pain, victim expectations of future injury victimization, feeling unsafe, and shame.

Cultural Issues

.Nicolaidis C, Perez M, Mejia A, Alvarado A, Celaya-Alston R, Galian H, Hilde A.

"Guardarse las cosas adentro" (keeping things inside): Latina violence survivors' perceptions of depression.

J Gen Intern Med. 2011 Oct;26(10):1131-7. PMID: 21626052

In focus groups of 31 Latinas who experienced both IPV and depression, women felt that depression and certain physical illness was due to "keeping things inside". Their inability to talk was related to stigma, fear, isolation, cultural norms, or simply "not having the words".

Ali TS, Krantz G, Gul R, Asad N, Johansson E, Mogren I.

Gender roles and their influence on life prospects for women in urban Karachi, Pakistan: a qualitative study.

Glob Health Action. 2011;4:7448. PMID: 22065609

Focus groups of women in Pakistan revealed two themes: that traditional gender roles with men holding power as well as the role of the extended family interacted to suppress women, and that agents of change were education for women as well as the role of mass media.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Conrad KJ, Iris M, Ridings JW, Fairman KP, Rosen A, Wilber KH.

Conceptual model and map of financial exploitation of older adults.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;23(4):304-25. PMID: 21978290

Using a literature review and a national panel of experts, elder financial abuse was grouped into six clusters: theft and scams, financial victimization, financial entitlement, coercion, signs of possible financial exploitation, and money management difficulties.

Perpetrators

Asla N, de Paúl J, Pérez-Albéniz A.

Emotion recognition in fathers and mothers at high-risk for child physical abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Sep;35(9):712-21. PMID: 21940046

In this Spanish study of parents at high and low risk of physically abusing their children, parents at high risk showed deficits in emotion recognition.

Wolfe DA, McIsaac C.

Distinguishing between poor/dysfunctional parenting and child emotional maltreatment.

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;35(10):802-13. PMID: 22015202

This article discusses the distinguishing factors between poor parenting and child emotional abuse.

Police and Court System

Trocmé N, Fallon B, Maclaurin B, Chamberland C, Chabot M, Esposito T.

Shifting definitions of emotional maltreatment: an analysis child welfare investigation laws and practices in Canada.

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;35(10):831-40. PMID: 22015207

Authors investigate the role of emotional maltreatment in the Canadian legislative framework as well as child welfare services response.

Bennett Cattaneo L, Cho S, Botuck S.

Describing intimate partner stalking over time: an effort to inform victim-centered service provision.

J Interpers Violence. 2011 Nov;26(17):3428-54. PMID: 21810796

Of a group of 82 New York women who experienced intimate partner stalking and were followed over 7 months, stalking activities only marginally decreased. Neither help from court sources nor victim services was associated with stalking decrease. Protection orders were felt to be helpful at some points and not others.

Poole DA, Dickinson JJ.

Evidence supporting restrictions on uses of body diagrams in forensic interviews.

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Sep;35(9):659-69. PMID: 21940047

In an experimental study of what 4-9 year old children remembered months later about being touched during a science demonstration, use of a body diagram during the interview led to answers that were more inaccurate.

Providers

Kulkarni S, Bell H, Wylie L.

Why don't they follow through? Intimate partner survivors' challenges in accessing health and social services.

Fam Community Health. 2010 Apr-Jun;33(2):94-105. PMID: 20216352

Focus groups of battered women discuss barriers and suggestions for managing interactions with healthcare, advocates and law enforcement.

Ford-Gilboe M, Merritt-Gray M, Varcoe C, Wuest J.

A theory-based primary health care intervention for women who have left abusive partners.

ANS Adv Nurs Sci. 2011 Jul-Sep;34(3):198-214. PMID: 21654310

Article describes a pilot program run by a nurse and a DV advocate, for women who have left abusive relationships. The 6 components are discussed - safeguarding, managing basics, managing symptoms, cautious connecting, renewing self, and regenerating family.

Repede E.

Participatory dreaming: a unitary appreciative inquiry into healing with women abused as children.

ANS Adv Nurs Sci. 2011 Jul-Sep;34(3):174-97. PMID: 21677559

Author describes the use of imagery, journaling and participatory dreaming to promote change, transformation and healing with women abused as children.

Ammerman RT, Putnam FW, Stevens J, Bosse NR, Short JA, Bodley AL, Van Ginkel JB.

An open trial of in-home CBT for depressed mothers in home visitation.

Matern Child Health J. 2011 Nov;15(8):1333-41. PMID: 20936338

Positive results of decreased diagnosis of major depression, lower reported stress, increased coping and social support, and increase positive views of motherhood were obtained by a small study using a home delivered cognitive behavioral therapy program geared to low income mothers participating in home visitation.

Lange B.

Cocreating a communicative space to develop a mindfulness meditation manual for women in recovery from substance abuse disorders.

ANS Adv Nurs Sci. 2011 Jul-Sep;34(3):E1-E13. PMID: 21822066

In this guided inquiry with 45 women with PTSD at 3 treatment centers, as these women engaged in mindfulness activities, they shared opinions on how to develop a manual for mindfulness treatment suitable to their experiences.

Stewart TC, Polgar D, Gilliland J, Tanner DA, Girotti MJ, Parry N, Fraser DD.

Shaken baby syndrome and a triple-dose strategy for its prevention.

J Trauma. 2011 Dec;71(6):1801-7. PMID: 22182892

This British prevention program against shaken baby syndrome consisted of : in hospital education about crying patterns, coping strategies, and the dangers of shaking; public health home visits; and a media campaign.

Beck JJ, Bekker MD, van Driel MF, Roshani H, Putter H, Pelger RC, Elzevier HW.

Prevalence of sexual abuse among patients seeking general urological care.

J Sex Med. 2011 Oct;8(10):2733-8. PMID: 21810180

Of 1,016 adult patients attending a urological outpatient clinic in the Netherlands, 2.1% of men and 13.0% of women self-reported a history of sexual abuse to researchers. 90% of the sexual abuse took place before adulthood (56.2% childhood and 31.2% adolescence). Only 15% had disclosed to their urologist.

Christian CW.

Timing of the medical examination.

J Child Sex Abus. 2011 Sep;20(5):505-20. PMID: 21970643

For an examination of possible childhood sexual abuse, "the timing of the examination needs to balance physical and emotional issues with the availability of qualified examiners."

Adams JA.

Medical evaluation of suspected child sexual abuse: 2011 update.

J Child Sex Abus. 2011 Sep;20(5):588-605. PMID: 21970647

This article reviews for providers the most current research applicable to the evaluation of suspected childhood sexual abuse, including research on findings in non-abused children, healing of injuries, and diagnosis of sexually transmitted disease in children.

Finkel MA, Alexander RA.

Conducting the medical history.

J Child Sex Abus. 2011 Sep;20(5):486-504. PMID: 21970642

Discussion of conducting a comprehensive and sensitive medical history for child sexual abuse, including addressing the child's and parent's concerns.

Offiah A, Hume J, Bamsey I, Jenkinson H, Lings B.

ELECTRICA: ELectronic knowledge base for Clinical care, Teaching and Research In Child Abuse.

Pediatr Radiol. 2011 Nov;41(11):1433-9. PMID: 21912969.

Description of an internationally available electronic knowledge base with clinical information and radiographic findings in children younger than 3 years of age presenting with injury (accidental or suspected abuse) to form a unique resource.

Researchers

Tonmyr L, Draca J, Crain J, Macmillan HL.

Measurement of emotional/psychological child maltreatment: a review.

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;35(10):767-82. PMID: 22018520

Review article analyzing the reliability and validity of multiple measures of emotional/psychological child maltreatment.

Jordan CE.

Building academic research centers to advance research on violence against women: an empirical foundation.

Violence Against Women. 2011 Sep;17(9):1123-36. PMID: 21987232

“Research on violence against women is a highly complex field of study undertaken by multiple disciplines. ... Interdisciplinary approaches, particularly those advanced through interdisciplinary research centers, may provide the first practical structure that will advance the study of violence against women”.

[This journal then has several articles describing these kinds of research centers...]

University of Kentucky Center for Research on Violence Against Women PMID: 21873304

University of Illinois at Chicago's Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Violence PMID: 21914681

The University of Texas at Austin's Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault PMID: 21914682

The Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse PMID: 21873303

The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children PMID: 21890531

Dixon L, Graham-Kevan N.

Understanding the nature and etiology of intimate partner violence and implications for practice and policy.

Clin Psychol Rev. 2011 Nov;31(7):1145-55. PMID: 21851805

Using a detailed research analysis to conceptualize IPV, “implications for multidisciplinary work, prevention, assessment, treatment, and policy related to intimate partner violence are discussed.”

Kelly UA.

Theories of intimate partner violence: from blaming the victim to acting against injustice: intersectionality as an analytic framework.

ANS Adv Nurs Sci. 2011 Jul-Sep;34(3):E29-51. PMID: 21822068

“This article provides an overview of the historical roots of IPV, as well as a description and critique of historical and contemporary theories of IPV causes and women's responses to IPV. This is followed by a discussion of the most current theoretical developments and application of critical theories to the problem.”

Daly JM, Merchant ML, Jogerst GJ.

Elder abuse research: a systematic review.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;23(4):348-65. PMID: 21978292

Almost 7,000 elder abuse research articles were analyzed and graded for quality of evidence.

Baker AJ, Brassard MR, Schneiderman MS, Donnelly LJ, Bahl A.

How well do evidence-based universal parenting programs teach parents about psychological maltreatment?

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;35(10):855-65. PMID: 22015204

This study analyzed common evidence-based, manualized universal parenting programs as to whether the content contained what not to do with regards to 18 psychologically maltreating behaviors, as well as teaching what to do instead. These content areas were not well represented.

Decker SE, Naugle AE, Carter-Visscher R, Bell K, Seifert A.

Ethical issues in research on sensitive topics: participants' experiences of distress and benefit.

J Empir Res Hum Res Ethics. 2011 Sep;6(3):55-64. PMID: 21931238

Undergraduate women were surveyed on sensitive topics and then asked about their experience of the survey. Those with a history of childhood abuse were more likely to report distress due to remembering, but also more likely to report that participation was helpful.

Other of Interest

Kruse M, Sørensen J, Brønnum-Hansen H, Helweg-Larsen K.

The health care costs of violence against women.

J Interpers Violence. 2011 Nov;26(17):3494-508. PMID: 21527448

In this Danish study looking at only physical and mental health costs of women who experienced IPV, costs were approximately 1,800 euros higher per year than controls without IPV.

Moynihan MM, Banyard VL, Arnold JS, Eckstein RP, Stapleton JG.

Sisterhood may be powerful for reducing sexual and intimate partner violence: an evaluation of the Bringing in the Bystander in-person program with sorority members.

Violence Against Women. 2011 Jun;17(6):703-19. PMID: 21628337

This program for sorority members showed "increased bystander efficacy, likelihood to help, and responsibility for ending violence without unintended 'backlash' effects."

McGee H, O'Higgins M, Garavan R, Conroy R.

Rape and child sexual abuse: what beliefs persist about motives, perpetrators, and survivors?

J Interpers Violence. 2011 Nov;26(17):3580-93. PMID: 21859758

An Irish national sample telephone survey with over 3,000 participants examined beliefs in rape myths. A few of the statements that men were significantly more likely than women to believe were: "A person being raped could stop the rapist if they really wanted to"; "Rape victims are usually young and attractive"; "Child abuse is mostly committed by strangers"; and "The reason most rapists commit rape is overwhelming sexual desire".

Strathearn L.

Maternal neglect: oxytocin, dopamine and the neurobiology of attachment.

J Neuroendocrinol. 2011 Nov;23(11):1054-65. PMID: 21951160

Review article of the state of knowledge of the neurobiology of maternal infant attachment. Author is currently testing whether administration of intranasal oxytocin (a brain chemical related to maternal bonding) to a mother may be a viable intervention for maternal neglect.

Foran HM, Slep AM, Heyman RE;

United States Air Force Family Advocacy Research Program. Prevalences of intimate partner violence in a representative U.S. Air Force sample.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2011 Jun;79(3):391-7. PMID: 21480693

In an anonymous survey across 82 bases with 42,744 participants (45% response rate), prevalence of IPV perpetration was 12.90% for men and 15.14% for women.

Hart SN, Glaser D.

Psychological maltreatment: maltreatment of the mind: a catalyst for advancing child protection toward proactive primary prevention and promotion of personal well-being.

Child Abuse Negl. 2011 Oct;35(10):758-66. PMID: 22015203

The authors discuss a shift in perspective from child protection as a "narrow corrective intervention" to a concept "toward primary prevention capable of securing and promoting the rights, safety, well-being, health and development of children", made concrete by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, including the right to freedom from all forms of violence.