

## **MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL MAY 2012**

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine March 2012. To obtain a copy of the abstracts, go to [pubmed.gov](http://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](mailto:harise@stanford.edu)

### **Child Abuse**

Kemp AM.

#### **Abusive head trauma: recognition and the essential investigation.**

Arch Dis Child Educ Pract Ed. 2011 Dec;96(6):202-8. PMID: 21954224

Review article on the history, clinical findings, and neuro-radiological features of abusive head trauma.

van Rijn RR, Spevak MR.

#### **Imaging of neonatal child abuse with an emphasis on abusive head trauma.**

Magn Reson Imaging Clin N Am. 2011 Nov;19(4):791-812; viii. PMID: 22082738

Review of the radiological workup in cases of suspected child abuse, including the advantage and disadvantage of each modality, and a discussion of the radiology report as a legal document.

Oluigbo CO, Wilkinson CC, Stence NV, Fenton LZ, McNatt SA, Handler MH.

#### **Comparison of outcomes following decompressive craniectomy in children with accidental and nonaccidental blunt cranial trauma.**

J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2012 Feb;9(2):125-32. PMID: 22295915

Children with abusive head trauma requiring surgery to relieve increased brain pressure were 12 times more likely to die and 3 times more likely to have a poor outcome than if the trauma was accidental.

Choudhary AK, Bradford RK, Dias MS, Moore GJ, Boal DK.

#### **Spinal subdural hemorrhage in abusive head trauma: a retrospective study.**

Radiology. 2012 Jan;262(1):216-23. PMID: 22069156

Bleeding around the spine was also found in a significant number of 252 children with abusive head trauma vs. rarely found in 70 controls with well-documented accidental trauma.

Hammerschlag MR.

#### **Sexual assault and abuse of children.**

Clin Infect Dis. 2011 Dec;53 Suppl 3:S103-9. PMID: 22080264

Summary of current recommendations for diagnostic testing of sexually transmitted infections in children.

Oral R, Koc F, Smith J, Sato Y.

#### **Abusive suffocation presenting as new-onset seizure.**

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2011 Nov;27(11):1072-4. PMID: 22068072

This article discusses the difficulties in diagnosing child abuse by partial suffocation, which often leaves no external physical marks and presents with vague, nonspecific symptoms.

Natsuaki MN, Leve LD, Mendle J.

#### **Going through the rites of passage: timing and transition of menarche, childhood sexual abuse, and anxiety symptoms in girls.**

J Youth Adolesc. 2011 Oct;40(10):1357-70. PMID: 21184260

Of 93 maltreated girls living in foster care and followed for two years, those with a history of childhood sexual abuse (vs. other types of maltreatment) were significantly more anxious during the onset of menses.

Altshuler SJ, Cleverly-Thomas A.

#### **What do we know about drug-endangered children when they are first placed into care?**

Child Welfare. 2011;90(3):45-68. PMID: 22403900

Children living in meth homes are endangered both by the chemicals involved and by parental abuse and/or neglect.

## **Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse**

Miller GE, Chen E, Parker KJ.

### **Psychological stress in childhood and susceptibility to the chronic diseases of aging: moving toward a model of behavioral and biological mechanisms.**

Psychol Bull. 2011 Nov;137(6):959-97. PMID: 21787044

The author combines multiple lines of evidence to show how childhood maltreatment leads to adult chronic illness: physiology tending toward inflammation, hormonal dysregulation, and behavioral manifestations of abuse including poor social relationships and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

Clark L, Beesley H, Holcombe C, Salmon P.

### **The influence of childhood abuse and adult attachment style on clinical relationships in breast cancer care.**

Gen Hosp Psychiatry. 2011 Nov-Dec;33(6):579-86. PMID: 21908053

“The damaging effects of childhood abuse on adult relationships extend to relationships with surgeons in cancer care,” with childhood abuse survivors experiencing breast cancer seven times less likely to feel supported by their surgeons, and surgeons reporting greater difficulty in relationships with these patients.

Affi TO, McMillan KA, Asmundson GJ, Pietrzak RH, Sareen J.

### **An examination of the relation between conduct disorder, childhood and adulthood traumatic events, and posttraumatic stress disorder in a nationally representative sample.**

J Psychiatr Res. 2011 Dec;45(12):1564-72. PMID: 21903224

In a US study with over 35,000 participants, those adults with a history of childhood maltreatment were 2.4-4.7 times more likely to have had long-term behavioral problems (impulsive behavior, drug use, criminal activity).

Nikulina V, Widom CS, Czaja S.

### **The role of childhood neglect and childhood poverty in predicting mental health, academic achievement and crime in adulthood.**

Am J Community Psychol. 2011 Dec;48(3-4):309-21. PMID: 21116706

In this study of 507 children with documented histories of neglect and matched controls, interviewed at mean age 29, childhood neglect, childhood family poverty, and childhood neighborhood poverty each contributed to poor outcomes later in life - including depression, poor academic achievement, and crime.

Daruy-Filho L, Brietzke E, Lafer B, Grassi-Oliveira R.

### **Childhood maltreatment and clinical outcomes of bipolar disorder.**

Acta Psychiatr Scand. 2011 Dec;124(6):427-34. PMID: 21848703

In a review of research articles, childhood maltreatment was associated with a worsening clinical course of bipolar disorder, including early onset, suicidality and substance abuse.

Shevlin M, Murphy J, Read J, Mallett J, Adamson G, Houston JE.

### **Childhood adversity and hallucinations: a community-based study using the National Comorbidity Survey Replication.**

Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 2011Dec;46(12):1203-10. PMID: 20931325

From a large US national survey, adults who had experienced childhood abuse, especially rape, were over three times more likely to experience visual or auditory hallucinations than those without a childhood physical or sexual abuse history.

Blalock JA, Nayak N, Wetter DW, Schreindorfer L, Minnix JA, Canul J, Cinciripini PM.

### **The relationship of childhood trauma to nicotine dependence in pregnant smokers.**

Psychol Addict Behav. 2011 Dec;25(4):652-63. PMID: 21928869

A history of childhood maltreatment appeared to be a significant risk factor in pregnant women not being able to give up smoking during pregnancy.

## **Domestic Violence – Effects on Children**

Wood SL, Sommers MS.

### **Consequences of intimate partner violence on child witnesses: a systematic review of the literature.**

J Child Adolesc Psychiatr Nurs. 2011 Nov;24(4):223-36. PMID: 22044570

This review article looks at the short and long term consequences of children witnessing domestic violence, showing among other things a clear dose-response effect on future abusive partner relationships.

## **Domestic Violence – Physical Health**

Perlstein WM, Larson MJ.

### **Psychophysiology and brain imaging of cognition and affect following traumatic brain injury: an overview of the special issue.**

Int J Psychophysiol. 2011 Oct;82(1):1-3. PMID: 21820016

This entire journal issue is devoted to effects of traumatic brain injury. “Trauma to the brain can change the core of a person's being—their thinking, memory, personality, and behavior.”

O'Donovan A, Neylan TC, Metzler T, Cohen BE.

### **Lifetime exposure to traumatic psychological stress is associated with elevated inflammation in the Heart and Soul Study.**

Brain Behav Immun. 2012 May;26(4):642-9. PMID: 22366689

In a 5 year study of over 1,000 heart disease patients, and controlling for PTSD, depression and anxiety, high levels of lifetime exposure to traumatic stress was associated with elevated markers of inflammation, which are associated with worse heart disease outcomes.

Out D, Hall RJ, Granger DA, Page GG, Woods SJ.

### **Assessing salivary C-reactive protein: Longitudinal associations with systemic inflammation and cardiovascular disease risk in women exposed to intimate partner violence.**

Brain Behav Immun. 2012 May;26(4):543-51. PMID: 22326517

37-49% of a relatively young group of 157 women seen at three Midwestern domestic violence crisis shelters had elevated levels of C-reactive protein, a marker of inflammation associated with heart disease.

Garbin CA, Guimarães E Queiroz AP, Rovida TA, Garbin AJ.

### **Occurrence of traumatic dental injury in cases of domestic violence.**

Braz Dent J. 2012;23(1):72-6. PMID: 22460319

In a Brazilian study of DV victims who incurred dental injury, the most common injury was fracture, and most frequently injured teeth were the incisors.

## **Domestic Violence – Mental Health**

Wu Q, Chen HL, Xu XJ.

### **Violence as a risk factor for postpartum depression in mothers: a meta-analysis.**

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2012 Apr;15(2):107-14. PMID: 22382278

This analysis of many studies confirmed an association between partner violence and post-partum depression.

Woolhouse H, Gartland D, Hegarty K, Donath S, Brown SJ.

### **Depressive symptoms and intimate partner violence in the 12 months after childbirth: a prospective pregnancy cohort study.**

BJOG. 2012 Feb;119(3):315-23. PMID: 22145631

In a group of 1305 Australian pregnant women followed during their pregnancy and for one year afterwards, 17.8% experienced post-partum depression. Emotional abuse was associated with 2.72 times increased risk for depression, and physical abuse 3.94 times increased risk.

Molina KM, Kiely M.

### **Understanding depressive symptoms among high-risk, pregnant, African-American women.**

Womens Health Issues. 2011 Jul-Aug;21(4):293-303. PMID: 21565525

Of 1044 African-American pregnant women in the District of Columbia, 44% were moderately to severely depressed. Risk factors for depression included IPV, alcohol/drug use during pregnancy, and poor reproductive history.

## **Cultural Issues**

Flicker SM, Cerulli C, Zhao X, Tang W, Watts A, Xia Y, Talbot NL.

### **Concomitant forms of abuse and help-seeking behavior among white, African American, and Latina women who experience intimate partner violence.**

Violence Against Women. 2011 Aug;17(8):1067-85. PMID: 21821618

Of 1756 ethnically diverse women physically abused by an intimate partner, those who also experienced sexual abuse were less likely to seek help and those who also experienced stalking were more likely to seek help. Various ethnic differences were found.

Dakil SR, Cox M, Lin H, Flores G.

**Racial and ethnic disparities in physical abuse reporting and child protective services interventions in the United States.**

J Natl Med Assoc. 2011 Sep-Oct;103(9-10):926-31. PMID: 22364062

From the 2006 National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, differing minorities have a higher prevalence of substantiated physical abuse, death from physical abuse, and lower odds of receiving support services.

Bonilla ZE, Morrison SD, Norsigian J, Rosero E.

**Reaching latinas with our bodies, ourselves and the guía de capacitación para promotoras de salud: health education for social change.**

J Midwifery Womens Health. 2012 Mar;57(2):178-83. PMID: 22432491

Article describes a Spanish-language translation and cultural adaptation into 11 modules/workshops of the classic women's health book Our Bodies, Ourselves – including a module on DV.

Basow SA, Thompson J.

**Service providers' reactions to intimate partner violence as a function of victim sexual orientation and type of abuse.**

J Interpers Violence. 2012 May;27(7):1225-41. PMID: 22080580

In an online vignette study using a national sample of 282 domestic violence shelter service providers, a woman in a lesbian relationship was less likely to be perceived as a victim.

Porter JL, Williams LM.

**Auditory status and experiences of abuse among college students.**

Violence Vict. 2011;26(6):788-98. PMID: 22288096

College students at an institute for the deaf experienced significantly more psychological and physical abuse from a partner compared to the hearing students on campus.

Behnke AO, Ames N, Hancock TU.

**What would they do? Latino church leaders and domestic violence.**

J Interpers Violence. 2012 May;27(7):1259-75. PMID: 22080575

In-depth interviews regarding DV with 28 Latino church leaders (lay clergy and pastors at a conservative Baptist divinity school) revealed constructive support, but also some concerning beliefs: 40% felt that women could avoid being beaten if they changed their behavior, most respondents felt that DV was caused by alcohol or other drugs, and 32% did not know that DV had a substantial impact on children in the home.

**Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse**

Jackson SL, Hafemeister TL.

**Risk factors associated with elder abuse: the importance of differentiating by type of elder maltreatment.**

Violence Vict. 2011;26(6):738-57. PMID: 22288093

In interviews with 55 elder abuse victims, 77 APS workers, and a state database, elders responded differently to APS interventions depending on type of abuse (financial, physical, neglect, etc.). Victims of physical abuse were more likely to refuse services.

Dong XQ, Simon MA, Beck TT, Farran C, McCann JJ, Mendes de Leon CF, Laumann E, Evans DA.

**Elder abuse and mortality: the role of psychological and social wellbeing.**

Gerontology. 2011;57(6):549-58. PMID: 21124009

In a Chicago study following 113 abused elders for over 7 years, there was an increased death rate in those with the highest levels of depression and also with the lowest levels of social interaction.

**Police and Court Systems**

Geraerts E.

**Cognitive underpinnings of recovered memories of childhood abuse.**

Nebr Symp Motiv. 2012;58:175-91. PMID: 22303767

In this summary of the recovered memory debate, the author discusses two types of recovered memory experiences: “those that are gradually recovered within the context of suggestive therapy and those that are spontaneously recovered, without extensive prompting or explicit attempts to reconstruct the past.” People who recover memories through suggestive therapy are more prone to forming false memories, and people who report spontaneously recovered memories are more prone to having forgotten prior instances of remembering.”

Maceachern AD, Jindal-Snape D, Jackson S.

**Child abuse investigation: police officers and secondary traumatic stress.**

Int J Occup Saf Ergon. 2011;17(4):329-39. PMID: 22152500

This article discusses the concept of police officer secondary traumatic stress when dealing with child abuse investigations, with suggestions for safe working environments and appropriate counseling.

Cooper SW.

**The medical analysis of child sexual abuse images.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2011 Nov;20(6):631-42. PMID: 22126107

Child sexual abuse images are a digital crime scene and analysis requires a careful approach to evaluate age, aid in identification, and provide a structured verbal description for legal proceedings.

Durfee A.

**Situational ambiguity and gendered patterns of arrest for intimate partner violence.**

Violence Against Women. 2012 Jan;18(1):64-84. PMID: 22411299

This article analyzes the impact of mandatory arrest policies in ambiguous cases, where both the female and male partners are both victim and offender.

**Providers**

Corbin TJ, Rich JA, Bloom SL, Delgado D, Rich LJ, Wilson AS.

**Developing a trauma-informed, emergency department-based intervention for victims of urban violence.**

J Trauma Dissociation. 2011;12(5):510-25. PMID: 21967178

“Often, individuals who have been violently injured have reported that while in the emergency department, their thoughts are to either change their way of life or to retaliate. Most often these youth return, without any supports, to the hostile environment in which they were injured. Healing Hurt People uses a trauma-informed approach to capitalize on this potentially life-changing moment and address the needs of these youth by providing connection to resources.”

Hawley DA, Hawley Barker AC.

**Survivors of intimate partner violence: implications for nursing care.**

Crit Care Nurs Clin North Am. 2012 Mar;24(1):27-39. PMID: 22405710

Nursing review article on identification and support of patients in abusive relationships.

Perez S, Johnson DM, Wright CV.

**The attenuating effect of empowerment on IPV-related PTSD symptoms in battered women living in domestic violence shelters.**

Violence Against Women. 2012 Jan;18(1):102-17. PMID: 22411301

In this study of battered women, a feeling of empowerment had greater relative importance on decreasing the severity of PTSD from IPV than obtaining resources.

Kulkarni SJ, Bell H, Rhodes DM.

**Back to basics: essential qualities of services for survivors of intimate partner violence.**

Violence Against Women. 2012 Jan;18(1):85-101. PMID: 22411300

A survivor focus group detailed their perspectives on community DV services, including issues with inadequate organizational resources, staff burnout, lack of training, and poor integration with other community resources.

Kolb KH.

**Victim advocates' perceptions of legal work.**

Violence Against Women. 2011 Dec;17(12):1559-75. PMID: 22410771

Discussion of victim advocates' perception that “outsiders respect legal work more than their care work with clients.”

Javdani S, Allen NE.

**Councils as empowering contexts: mobilizing the front line to foster systems change in the response to intimate partner violence.**

Am J Community Psychol. 2011 Dec;48(3-4):208-21. PMID: 21104433

Authors examine the role of DV councils as empowering to their members.

Rees CA.

**All they need is love? Helping children to recover from neglect and abuse.**

Arch Dis Child. 2011 Oct;96(10):969-76. PMID: 20861406

“Difficulties relating to abuse and neglect are multifactorial in cause, manifestation, consequences and management. They are fundamentally problems of relationships; recovery is principally achieved through relationships...Supporting recovery from abuse and neglect is a long-term multi-professional task...”

Fisher MA.

**Ethics for the pediatrician: caring for abused children.**

Pediatr Rev. 2011 Jul;32(7):e73-8. PMID: 21724900

Article discusses various ethical issues facing the pediatrician regarding child abuse situations, such as severe incapacitation, brain death and organ donation, factitious disorder by proxy, and foster care placement.

**Researchers**

Haggerty LA, Hawkins JW, Fontenot H, Lewis-O'Connor A.

**Tools for screening for interpersonal violence: state of the science.**

Violence Vict. 2011;26(6):725-37. PMID: 22288092

“This article presents tools used to screen women, older persons, and persons with disabilities as well as data on the reliability and validity of these instruments.”

Lewin L, Graham G.

**Interpersonal violence: secondary analysis of the keep your children/yourself safe and secure (KySS) data.**

J Pediatr Health Care. 2012 Mar;26(2):102-8. PMID: 22360929

Analysis of 563 parent/child dyads on 15 attitude/knowledge and worry items related to IPV showed significant lack of agreement on sexual abuse, incidence of physical abuse and outcome of strict parenting. Single mother/son dyads and 10-12 year olds had less agreement than other dyad combinations and ages.

**Other of Interest**

Gilbert R, Fluke J, O'Donnell M, Gonzalez-Izquierdo A, Brownell M, Gulliver P, Janson S, Sidebotham P.

**Child maltreatment: variation in trends and policies in six developed countries.**

Lancet. 2012 Feb 25;379(9817):758-72. PMID: 22169108

“We recorded no consistent evidence for a decrease or increase in all types of indicators of child maltreatment across the six countries or states (Sweden, England, New Zealand, Western Australia, Manitoba [Canada], and the USA) despite several policy initiatives designed to achieve a reduction.” The US had the highest child homicide rate of the group.

Fullerton CS, McCarroll JE, Feerick M, McKibben J, Cozza S, Ursano RJ; Child Neglect Workgroup.

**Child neglect in Army families: a public health perspective.**

Mil Med. 2011 Dec;176(12):1432-9. PMID: 22338361

With 40% of service members having at least one child, and rates of child neglect in this population having increased in recent years, this article examines the military definition of child neglect, and risk and protective factors in the military family.

Cross TP, Mathews B, Tonmyr L, Scott D, Ouimet C.

**Child welfare policy and practice on children's exposure to domestic violence.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Mar;36(3):210-6. PMID: 22425164

Article compares the child welfare policy and response to children's exposure to DV in Australia, Canada and the US, where it is a mandated report in 3 out of 8 jurisdictions in Australia, 8 out of 13 in Canada, and in 3 US states/districts (Montana, West Virginia, and District of Columbia).

Shetty BS, Rao PP, Shetty AS.

**Legal terrorism in domestic violence – an Indian outlook.**

Med Leg J. 2012;80(Pt 1):33-8. PMID: 22403123

Although the practice of demanding dowries was made illegal in India over 50 years ago, it is estimated that there is a dowry-related homicide in India every 4 hours.