

MEDICAL RESEARCH SUMMARY ON ABUSE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL JULY 2010

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

Kearney CA, Wechsler A, Kaur H, Lemos-Miller A.

Posttraumatic stress disorder in maltreated youth: a review of contemporary research and thought.

Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev. 2010 Mar;13(1):46-76. PMID: 20012361

A review of the numbers, symptoms, outcomes, risk factors, treatment and possible adult challenges of children who have PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) from maltreatment.

Dissanaike S, Wishnew J, Rahimi M, Zhang Y, Hester C, Griswold J.

Burns as child abuse: risk factors and legal issues in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

J Burn Care Res. 2010 Jan-Feb;31(1):176-83. PMID: 20061853

In a review of almost 500 children seen for burns, those felt to be due to abuse were younger (mean age 1.75 years), female, and with torso injuries significantly more common than burns due to accident.

Mimasaka S, Ohtani M, Kuroda N, Tsunenari S.

Spectrophotometric evaluation of the age of bruises in children: measuring changes in bruise color as an indicator of child physical abuse.

Tohoku J Exp Med. 2010;220(2):171-5. PMID:20139669.

Prior research has substantiated that appearance of a bruise can be misleading as to assessing age. In this research study from Japan, a spectrophotometer was used to evaluate known accidental bruises in children for 7-10 days. Analysis revealed specific patterns that could approximate age of bruises, and distinguish between old and new ones.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Tyrka AR, Price LH, Kao HT, Porton B, Marsella SA, Carpenter LL.

Childhood maltreatment and telomere shortening: preliminary support for an effect of early stress on cellular aging.

Biol Psychiatry. 2010 Mar 15;67(6):531-4. PMID: 19828140

“Telomeres, DNA repeats that cap the ends of chromosomes and promote stability, shorten progressively with each cell division; their length is a marker of biological aging.” In this small study, adults with a history of childhood maltreatment had significantly shorter telomeres than those without a history of maltreatment. This was especially true for physical neglect and emotional neglect. This research “suggests that childhood maltreatment could influence cellular aging.”

Koskenvuo K, Hublin C, Partinen M, Paunio T, Koskenvuo M.

Childhood adversities and quality of sleep in adulthood: A population-based study of 26,000 Finns.

Sleep Med. 2010 Jan;11(1):17-22. PMID: 19962937

In a very large Finnish study, after adjusting for many factors, there was a graded association between number of childhood adversities and poor quality of sleep in adulthood. The most strongly associated childhood adversities and poor adult sleep were frequent fear of a family member and serious conflicts in the family.

Kia-Keating M, Sorsoli L, Grossman FK.

Relational challenges and recovery processes in male survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 Apr;25(4):666-83. PMID: 19465573

Qualitative experiences of 16 adult male survivors of childhood sexual abuse, who often “face challenges resolving sexual victimization experiences with the ideals of masculinity, often experiencing intimacy problems, emotional discomfort, alienation, and anger.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Chu SY, Goodwin MM, D'Angelo DV.

Physical violence against U.S. women around the time of pregnancy, 2004-2007.

Am J Prev Med. 2010 Mar;38(3):317-22. PMID: 20171534

In an evaluation of multi-state almost 135,000 women who delivered a full-term singleton infant, estimated IPV rates from either a former or current partner was 5.3% just before and 3.6% during pregnancy. Abuse rates were higher by a former partner than by a current partner. The three most common risk factors for abuse were: partner not wanting the pregnancy, recent divorce or separation, and being close to someone with a drug or alcohol problem.

Gilkey DP, Keefe TJ, Peel JL, Kassab OM, Kennedy CA.

Risk factors associated with back pain: a cross-sectional study of 963 college students.

J Manipulative Physiol Ther. 2010 Feb;33(2):88-95. PMID: 20170773

38% of 963 Colorado college students reported back pain in the previous year. On analysis of many factors, the only two factors that remained statistically significant as being associated with back pain were feeling fatigued, and being in an emotionally abusive relationship.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Wilcox HC, Arria AM, Caldeira KM, Vincent KB, Pinchevsky GM, O'Grady KE.

Prevalence and predictors of persistent suicide ideation, plans, and attempts during college.

J Affect Disord. 2010 May 13. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20471691

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students in the US. In this study of 1253 first year college students who were followed for four years, 12% experienced suicidal ideation at some point, and 25% of those had persistent ideation. Statistical risk factors for these students were: low social support, childhood exposure to domestic violence, maternal depression, and personal depressive symptoms.

Cultural Issues

Fowler DN, Rountree MA.

Exploring the meaning and role of spirituality for women survivors of intimate partner abuse.

J Pastoral Care Counsel. 2009 Fall-Winter;63(3-4):3-1-13. PMID: 20306932

Twenty-two survivors of IPV living in a Texas shelter discuss the role of spirituality in coping with their situation.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Wiglesworth A, Mosqueda L, Mulnard R, Liao S, Gibbs L, Fitzgerald W.

Screening for abuse and neglect of people with dementia.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2010 Mar;58(3):493-500. PMID: 20398118

129 pairs of care recipients with dementia and their care givers were evaluated. Mistreatment was found in 47.3%. Risk factors for mistreatment included care recipients' psychological and physical aggression, and care givers' anxiety, depression and decreased social contacts.

Simmons B, Baxter JS.

Intimate partner violence in older women: what home healthcare clinicians should know.

Home Healthc Nurse. 2010 Feb;28(2):82-9; quiz 89-91. PMID: 20147801

Review article helping home healthcare workers to understand the dynamics of and to identify elderly women victims of IPV.

Perpetrators

Fowler KA, Westen D.

Subtyping Male Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 May 24. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:20498380

Article describes a procedure to assess personality pathology. Three abusive personality constellations are discussed in detail – psychopathic, hostile/controlling, and borderline/dependent.

Police and Court System

Thornberry TP, Henry KL, Ireland TO, Smith CA.

The causal impact of childhood-limited maltreatment and adolescent maltreatment on early adult adjustment.

J Adolesc Health. 2010 Apr;46(4):359-65. PMID: 20307825

In a study of over 900 youth followed from age 14 to age 31, including CPS records, abuse during childhood alone was more associated with internalizing problems, such as drug use, depression, and suicidality. Abuse during adolescence was associated with more pervasive effects, including arrest or incarceration, criminal offending, and violent crime.

Nalavany BA, Ryan SD, Hinterlong J.

Externalizing behavior among adopted boys with preadoptive histories of child sexual abuse.

J Child Sex Abus. 2009 Sep;18(5):553-73. PMID: 20183417

In a study of 1136 adopted boys aged 6 to 18 in Florida, those with a history of childhood sexual abuse were at significantly higher risk of externalizing behaviors (aggression, delinquency and hyperactivity) than boys with physical abuse, neglect, or no abuse. Authors suggest more long term post adoption support services for these boys.

Haselschwerdt ML, Hardesty JL, Hans JD.

Custody Evaluators' Beliefs About Domestic Violence Allegations During Divorce: Feminist and Family Violence Perspectives.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 May 21. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20495100

Article discusses how custody evaluators' perspectives on DV could modify the relevance of DV allegations in custody decisions.

Providers

Thackeray JD, Hibbard R, Dowd MD; Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect; Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention.

Intimate partner violence: the role of the pediatrician.

Pediatrics. 2010 May;125(5):1094-100. PMID: 20421260

Position statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Identifying IPV may be one of the most effective means of preventing child abuse, and identifying caregivers and children who may be in need of treatment and/or therapy. Pediatricians should be aware of the profound effects of exposure to IPV on children."

Riger S, Staggs SL.

A Nationwide Survey of State-Mandated Evaluation Practices for Domestic Violence Agencies.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 May 4. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20442450

National review of strategies different states use to evaluate DV service agencies, including process, outcome, or performance measurement.

Nurius PS, Macy RJ, Nwabuzor I, Holt VL.

Intimate Partner Survivors' Help-Seeking and Protection Efforts: A Person-Oriented Analysis.

J Interpers Violence. 2010 May 6. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 20448232

In this study of 448 IPV survivors, 5 subgroups were identified (Multiple Resources, Struggling-Depression, Vulnerable-Supported, Vulnerable-Depressed, Severe Functioning Impairment) as differing significantly in help-seeking and protective actions, requiring more tailored services.

Kotrla K.

Domestic minor sex trafficking in the United States.

Soc Work. 2010 Apr;55(2):181-7. PMID: 20408359

"...youths constitute the most vulnerable group in the United States for becoming victims of sex trafficking and that most women in prostitution actually entered as minors. Some experts are now referring to the sex trafficking of U.S. children and youths as "domestic minor sex trafficking," or DMST. This article seeks to acquaint readers with what is currently known regarding the extent of DMST, who is at risk for becoming a victim, and implications for the social work profession in addressing this tragedy."

Other of Interest

Fallon B, Trocmé N, Fluke J, MacLaurin B, Tonmyr L, Yuan YY.

Methodological challenges in measuring child maltreatment.

Child Abuse Negl. 2010 Jan;34(1):70-9. PMID: 20053453

Comparison of the definitions and details of the surveillances systems for child abuse in the United States and Canada.