

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

This summary includes selected research articles relating to abuse indexed by the National Library of Medicine July 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). For an archive of past summaries, see <http://abuseresearch.info>

Child Abuse

Leventhal JM, Krugman RD.

"The battered-child syndrome" 50 years later: much accomplished, much left to do.

JAMA. 2012 Jul 4;308(1):35-6. PMID: 22760286

On the 50th anniversary of the first substantive article on child abuse by John Kempe in 1962, reflecting on what we have learned: (1) many children and families are affected; (2) the consequences can be lifelong and intergenerational; and (3) treatment and prevention can work but need to be expanded.

Preer G, Sorrentino D, Newton AW.

Child abuse pediatrics: prevention, evaluation, and treatment.

Curr Opin Pediatr. 2012 Apr;24(2):266-73. PMID: 22426158

Review of the past year's research on child abuse.

Mueller SC, Hardin MG, Korelitz K, Daniele T, Bemis J, Dozier M, Peloso E, Maheu FS, Pine DS, Ernst M.

Incentive effect on inhibitory control in adolescents with early-life stress: an antisaccade study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Mar;36(3):217-25. PMID: 22425696

Research from the National Institute of Mental Health showed that a control group of children was much better able to modulate eye movements in response to a financial incentive than 17 children with a documented history of neglect. This and other described studies "suggest that trauma during development may lead to specific changes in reward processes. Such changes in reward sensitivity may herald risk for later psychopathology including substance use problems or anxiety disorders."

Spann MN, Mayes LC, Kalmar JH, Guiney J, Womer FY, Pittman B, Mazure CM, Sinha R, Blumberg HP.

Childhood abuse and neglect and cognitive flexibility in adolescents.

Child Neuropsychol. 2012 Mar;18(2):182-9. PMID: 21942637

In this small study of 30 adolescents without psychiatric disorders, a history of childhood maltreatment was associated with decreased cognitive flexibility, an important executive function relating to the ability to change behavior in different circumstances.

Saxbe DE, Margolin G, Spies Shapiro LA, Baucom BR.

Does dampened physiological reactivity protect youth in aggressive family environments?

Child Dev. 2012 May-Jun;83(3):821-30. PMID: 22548351

For 54 multi-ethnic teens, those with a history of a higher total amount of past family aggression had a low-normative cortisol (stress hormone) response to a stressful discussion with parents. Teens from aggressive homes who were more reactive (had higher cortisol levels) to the discussion also self-reported higher PTSD symptoms and antisocial behaviors. "These results suggest that attenuated [cortisol] reactivity may protect youth from the negative consequences associated with aggressive family environments." [Thought-provoking concept that what might be labeled as an "abnormal" physiological response may actually be adaptive.]

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Spitzer C, Bouchain M, Winkler LY, Wingenfeld K, Gold SM, Grabe HJ, Barnow S, Otte C, Heesen C.

Childhood trauma in multiple sclerosis: a case-control study.

Psychosom Med. 2012 Apr;74(3):312-8. PMID: 22408134

In this German study of 234 MS patients and 885 controls, and adjusting for sociodemographic factors and current depression, MS was more likely with a history of childhood emotional neglect (2.0 times higher risk), or emotional abuse (3.4 times higher risk). Childhood physical and/or sexual abuse was associated with significantly higher MS relapse rates.

Bradford K, Shih W, Videlock EJ, Presson AP, Naliboff BD, Mayer EA, Chang L.

Association between early adverse life events and irritable bowel syndrome.

Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2012 Apr;10(4):385-90.e1-3. PMID: 22178460

From UCLA Center for Neurobiology of Stress, “compared with controls, 294 IBS patients reported a higher prevalence of [childhood] general trauma (78.5% vs. 62.3%), physical punishment (60.6% vs. 49.2%), emotional abuse (54.9% vs. 27.0%), and sexual events (31.2% vs. 17.9%). These significant differences were observed mainly in women.”

Gould F, Clarke J, Heim C, Harvey PD, Majer M, Nemeroff CB.

The effects of child abuse and neglect on cognitive functioning in adulthood.

J Psychiatr Res. 2012 Apr;46(4):500-6. PMID: 22336639

In this controlled study of 93 subjects, authors found significant associations between early life trauma and negative impact on adult memory and executive and emotional functioning.

Staples J, Rellini AH, Roberts SP.

Avoiding experiences: sexual dysfunction in women with a history of sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence.

Arch Sex Behav. 2012 Apr;41(2):341-50. PMID: 21667232

For 22 women with a history of sexual abuse prior to age 16, and compared to a control group, using avoidance as a coping strategy (decreased interpersonal closeness and emotional involvement) was associated with decreased sexual functioning.

Lacelle C, Hébert M, Lavoie F, Vitaro F, Tremblay RE.

Sexual health in women reporting a history of child sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Mar;36(3):247-59. PMID: 22425695

31% of 889 Canadian young adult women reported childhood sexual abuse, which was associated with an increased risk of sexual problems and engaging in more high-risk sexual behaviors as adults.

Smith PN, Gamble SA, Cort NA, Ward EA, He H, Talbot NL.

Attachment and alliance in the treatment of depressed, sexually abused women.

Depress Anxiety. 2012 Feb;29(2):123-30. PMID: 22065593

Authors suggest that one reason adults with a history of childhood sexual abuse have poorer treatment outcomes for depression is that they are less able to form and maintain secure relationships, which may impede the development of a positive therapeutic alliance during therapy.

Palgi Y, Shrir A, Ben-Ezra M, Shiovitz-Ezra S, Ayalon L.

Self- and other-oriented potential lifetime traumatic events as predictors of loneliness in the second half of life.

Aging Ment Health. 2012;16(4):423-30. PMID: 22296337

Using a retirement survey from 7446 Israeli respondents, the number of early lifetime traumatic events was significantly associated with perceived loneliness in the second half of life.

Bailey HN, DeOliveira CA, Wolfe VV, Evans EM, Hartwick C.

The impact of childhood maltreatment history on parenting: a comparison of maltreatment types and assessment methods.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Mar;36(3):236-46. PMID: 22444714

In this study looking at parenting challenges of 94 Canadian low-income mothers, a personal history of observing DV as a child or experiencing emotional maltreatment or neglect, were significantly associated with mothers' observed hostility toward their children; childhood sexual abuse history was associated with self-reported concerns regarding parenting competence.

Widom CS, Czaja SJ, Bentley T, Johnson MS.

A prospective investigation of physical health outcomes in abused and neglected children: new findings from a 30-year follow-up.

Am J Public Health. 2012 Jun;102(6):1135-44. PMID: 22515854

Using a database of almost 1,000 abused/neglected Midwestern children followed for 30 years, childhood maltreatment was associated with an increased risk in adulthood of diabetes, lung disease, malnutrition and vision problems.

Sachs-Ericsson N, Keel PK, Holland L, Selby EA, Verona E, Cogle JR, Palmer E.

Parental disorders, childhood abuse, and binge eating in a large community sample.

Int J Eat Disord. 2012 Apr;45(3):316-25. PMID: 21608009

Using a national database with almost 3000 participants, adults with binge eating disorder were twice as likely to have experienced childhood physical and/or sexual abuse than those without a history of bingeing.

Adolescents

Edwards KM, Murphy MJ, Tansill EC, Myrick C, Probst DR, Corsa R, Gidycz CA.

A qualitative analysis of college women's leaving processes in abusive relationships.

J Am Coll Health. 2012;60(3):204-10. PMID: 22420697

123 college women describe the process of leaving an abusive dating relationship, with data underscoring attitudes of minimization and normalization of abuse.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Yonas MA, Lange NE, Celedón JC.

Psychosocial stress and asthma morbidity.

Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol. 2012 Apr;12(2):202-10. PMID: 22266773

Review article discussing how various stressors, including prenatal stress and maternal IPV, may cause physiological changes leading to increased risk for asthma and asthma severity in offspring during childhood and across the lifespan.

Hung KJ, Scott J, Ricciotti HA, Johnson TR, Tsai AC.

Community-level and individual-level influences of intimate partner violence on birth spacing in sub-Saharan Africa.

Obstet Gynecol. 2012 May;119(5):975-82. PMID: 22525908

Looking at a sample of 46,697 women from 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, both personal history of IPV and community prevalence of IPV had independent and statistically significant associations with shorter interbirth intervals.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Hess KL, Javanbakht M, Brown JM, Weiss RE, Hsu P, Gorbach PM.

Intimate partner violence and sexually transmitted infections among young adult women.

Sex Transm Dis. 2012 May;39(5):366-71. PMID: 22504601

Using a national database of 3548 young adult women, IPV victims were 2.1 times more likely to be diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection.

Kalokhe AS, Paranjape A, Bell CE, Cardenas GA, Kuper T, Metsch LR, del Rio C.

Intimate partner violence among HIV-infected crack cocaine users.

AIDS Patient Care STDS. 2012 Apr;26(4):234-40. PMID: 22364209

Surveying 343 participants from an HIV-crack cocaine clinic, there were high rates of a history of IPV - highest in women (68%) and GBT men (71%). IPV was associated with increased risk of both unsafe sex practices and decreased medical therapy compliance.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

La Flair LN, Bradshaw CP, Storr CL, Green KM, Alvanzo AA, Crum RM.

Intimate partner violence and patterns of alcohol abuse and dependence criteria among women: a latent class analysis.

J Stud Alcohol Drugs. 2012 May;73(3):351-60. PMID: 22456240

From a national database of 11,782 current female drinkers, those with a severe drinking pattern were 5.70 times more likely to have experienced recent IPV, and moderate drinkers were 1.92 times more likely.

Cultural Issues

Enriquez M, Kelly PJ, Cheng AL, Hunter J, Mendez E.

An intervention to address interpersonal violence among low-income midwestern Hispanic-American teens.

J Immigr Minor Health. 2012 Apr;14(2):292-9. PMID: 21573749

An intervention with one high school focusing on enhancement of ethnic and cultural pride as a protective factor against violence led to a decrease in physical fighting and dating violence behaviors over the academic school year.

Wilsnack SC, Kristjanson AF, Hughes TL, Benson PW.

Characteristics of childhood sexual abuse in lesbians and heterosexual women.

Child Abuse Negl. 2012 Mar;36(3):260-5. PMID: 22425697

Comparing 2001 databases of over 1,000 heterosexual vs. self-described lesbian women, lesbian women were 3.07 times more likely to have experienced childhood sexual abuse, and also to have experienced more severe abuse.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

McDonald L, Beaulieu M, Harbison J, Hirst S, Lowenstein A, Podnieks E, Wahl J.

Institutional abuse of older adults: what we know, what we need to know.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2012 Apr;24(2):138-60. PMID: 22471513

Medical literature review plus interviews with experts identify gaps in knowledge and processes in the study of institutional abuse in Canada.

Perpetrators

Miner EJ, Shackelford TK, Block CR, Starratt VG, Weekes-Shackelford VA.

Risk of death or life-threatening injury for women with children not sired by the abuser.

Hum Nat. 2012 Mar;23(1):89-97. PMID: 22388771

Data from a Chicago Women's Health Risk Study showed that the risk of serious injury and especially homicide for women experiencing IPV were significantly greater if there was at least one child in the home who was not sired by the perpetrator.

Shorey RC, Elmquist J, Ninnemann A, Brasfield H, Febres J, Rothman EF, Schonbrun YC, Temple JR, Stuart GL.

The association between intimate partner violence perpetration, victimization, and mental health among women arrested for domestic violence.

Partner Abuse. 2012 Jan 1;3(1):3-21. PMID: 22792418

88 women arrested for IPV and ordered into batterer intervention programs had significantly higher mental health problems than the general population: depression (40.9%), PTSD (46.6%), anxiety (44.3%), panic disorder (35.2%), social phobia (36.4%), alcohol disorder (31.8%), drug disorder (23.9%), bipolar disorder (29.5%), and antisocial personality disorder (39.8%).

Brasfield H, Febres J, Shorey R, et al.

Male batterers' alcohol use and gambling behavior.

J Gambli Stud. 2012 Mar;28(1):77-88. PMID: 21516369

From an anonymous survey of 341 males attending batterer intervention programs, 19% were problem and 9% pathological gamblers. Gambling behavior was associated with hazardous drinking and increased physical and sexual aggression.

Connors AD, Mills JF, Gray AL.

An evaluation of intimate partner violence intervention with incarcerated offenders.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Apr;27(6):1176-96. PMID: 22203614

Description of a successful Canadian program for incarcerated men led to "positive change in attitudes, a reduction in feelings of jealousy, anger, and dependency, an increase in their acceptance of responsibility, an improvement in their ability to dispute their cognitive distortions regarding their violence, and an improvement in their ability to engage in perspective taking and dealing with conflict."

Police and Court System

Durfee A.

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

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

Using data from a national incident-based reporting system, article analyzes arrest outcomes from mandatory arrest policies in "situationally ambiguous" cases, where both partners are identified as both a victim and an offender.

Providers

Marriott S.

Trauma: memories of childhood sexual abuse.

Pract Midwife. 2012 Feb;15(2):22-4. PMID: 22720446

Article on how to avoid re-traumatizing survivors of childhood sexual abuse during childbearing.

Hines L, Brown R.

Child abuse awareness and reporting in schools.

NASN Sch Nurse. 2012 May;27(3):122-4. PMID: 22712111

Brief review article for school nurses on this topic.

Choo EK, Nicolaidis C, Newgard CD, Hall MK, Lowe RA, McConnell MK, McConnell KJ.

Association between emergency department resources and diagnosis of intimate partner violence.

Eur J Emerg Med. 2012 Apr;19(2):83-8. PMID: 22391615

Using data from 21 Oregon emergency departments 2001-2005, IPV was diagnosed only 1929 times out of 754,597 visits. Standardized intervention checklists led to more diagnosis, but public displays regarding IPV were negatively associated with IPV diagnosis.

Smith S, Buttigieg M, Ladbury B, Morris-Thompson T, Marks-Maran D.

Preparing leaders for safeguarding children.

Nurs Times. 2012 May 22-28;108(21):20-2. PMID: 22774365

Description of a British leadership training program for “designated safeguarding children clinicians”.

Bail KM, Foster J, Dalmida SG, Kelly U, Howett M, Ferranti EP, Wold J.

The Impact of Invisibility on the Health of Migrant Farmworkers in the Southeastern United States: A Case Study from Georgia.

Nurs Res Pract. 2012;2012:760418. PMID: 22830007

Article discusses how the “invisibility of farmworkers within institutions, such as health care, the educational system, social services, domestic violence shelters, and churches contribute to illness among farmworkers.”

Bowland S, Edmond T, Fallot RD.

Evaluation of a spiritually focused intervention with older trauma survivors.

Soc Work. 2012 Jan;57(1):73-82. PMID: 22768630

An 11 week spiritually-focused group for older survivors of interpersonal trauma led to decreased symptoms of depression, PTSD, anxiety and physical symptoms, which were maintained at 3 month follow-up.

DePrince AP, Labus J, Belknap J, Buckingham S, Gover A.

The impact of community-based outreach on psychological distress and victim safety in women exposed to intimate partner abuse.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2012 Apr;80(2):211-21. PMID: 22329822

For 236 women with police-reported IPV who were randomized into a usual care group vs. outreach from a victim advocate, women who received outreach reported decreased symptoms of PTSD and depression and greater readiness to leave abuser.

Researchers

Self-Brown S, Whitaker D, Berliner L, Kolko D.

Disseminating child maltreatment interventions: research on implementing evidence-based programs.

Child Maltreat. 2012 Feb;17(1):5-10. PMID: 22353672

Article discusses strategies and challenges in implementing intervention programs. [This edition of the journal also contains several articles detailing promising evidence-based interventions.]

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

Review of research, policy and programs in Australia, Canada and the US on the child welfare response to children's exposure to DV. Authors suggest increased collaboration between child welfare agencies and other disciplines involved with DV, and to “seek resources to support training and programming, consider methods that avoid stigmatizing parents, and build in a program evaluation component to increase knowledge about effective practice.”

Mayda J, Magnus B, Duggan J, Taylor-Butts A.

Feasibility study for a survey measuring abuse and neglect of older adults.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2012 Apr;24(2):161-78. PMID: 22471514

This feasibility study prepared by Statistics Canada investigated issues associated with conducting surveys of abuse and neglect of older adults, including options for a sampling frame, collection approaches, estimated costs, and an activity schedule.

Stolee P, Hiller LM, Etkin M, McLeod J.

"Flying by the seat of our pants": current processes to share best practices to deal with elder abuse.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2012 Apr;24(2):179-94. PMID: 22471515

Authors suggest two research strategies for elder abuse assessment: "build capacity for research and program evaluation to advance knowledge of effective practices, and build capacity for knowledge exchange to enhance professionals' efforts."

Clark JJ, Walker R.

Research ethics in victimization studies: widening the lens.

Violence Against Women. 2011 Dec;17(12):1489-508. PMID: 22410765

Detailed discussion of research ethics beyond IRB regulations, delineating ways that victimized women as a class may be harmed or exploited. [This journal issue contains several related articles furthering the discussion.]

Frías SM, Angel RJ.

Beyond borders: comparative quantitative research on partner violence in the United States and Mexico.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Jan;18(1):5-29. PMID: 22411296

While using two different surveys to evaluate IPV in both the US and Mexico, authors argue that "survey data must be interpreted cautiously and with an understanding of the cultural, economic, and political context in which the information is collected as well as methodological differences between the surveys."

Nelson S, Baldwin N, Taylor J.

Mental health problems and medically unexplained physical symptoms in adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse: an integrative literature review.

J Psychiatr Ment Health Nurs. 2012 Apr;19(3):211-20. PMID: 22070785

In this review article on adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, "Friction and frustration, with high, unproductive healthcare costs, can often develop between these patients and health-care professionals". Authors suggest research strategies to develop helpful interventions and improve relationships.

Other of Interest

Rollins C, Glass NE, Perrin NA, Billhardt KA, Clough A, Barnes J, Hanson GC, Bloom TL.

Housing instability is as strong a predictor of poor health outcomes as level of danger in an abusive relationship: findings from the SHARE Study.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Mar;27(4):623-43. PMID: 21987519

For 278 female IPV survivors, housing instability was significantly associated with PTSD, depression, work absence, and increased hospital/emergency department use. "Housing instability is an important and understudied social determinant of health for IPV survivors."

Ponic P, Varcoe C, Davies L, Ford-Gilboe M, Wuest J, Hammerton J.

Leaving ≠ moving: housing patterns of women who have left an abusive partner.

Violence Against Women. 2011 Dec;17(12):1576-600. PMID: 22410772

In this Canadian study, "Overall, moving patterns were associated with housing type and suitability, economic circumstances, and severity of violence. This study calls into question the tendency to equate leaving with moving, draws attention to the different housing patterns after leaving, and highlights the need to tailor housing supports to diverse women."

Logan TK, Walker R, Hoyt W.

The economic costs of partner violence and the cost-benefit of civil protective orders.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Apr;27(6):1137-54. PMID: 22203629

Looking at in-depth financial analysis of 213 individual women in abusive relationships before and after granting of a restraining order, and extrapolating to the state of Kentucky, restraining orders were felt to have saved \$85 million dollars over a one-year period.