

JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS

The purpose of "Journal Highlights" is to alert readers to current literature and research on child maltreatment. Selected articles from journals representing APSAC's multidisciplinary membership are presented in the form of an annotated bibliography. Readers are encouraged to send copies of current articles they believe would benefit Advisor readers, accompanied by a two-to three-sentence summary of the article. Mail your contributions to Thomas F. Curran, MSW, JD, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Center, 4000 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

PHYSICAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Hibbard, R.A., Ingersol, G.G. and Orr, D.P. (1990). Behavioral risk, emotional risk and child abuse among adolescents in a nonclinical setting. *Pediatrics*, 86 (6), 696-699.

This replication study of nearly 4,000 adolescents in a nonclinical setting examines the prevalence of repeated problem behaviors, emotions, and abuse, plus the impact of abuse on multivariate emotional and behavioral risk. The results clearly indicate that while some behavior problems are common among adolescents (e.g., alcohol abuse), other behaviors were strongly associated with a history of abuse (e.g., attempting suicide, running away). Higher emotional and behavioral risk scores among the abused students were also confirmed. (TFC)

Kolko, D.J., Moser, J.T. and Weldy, S.R. (1990). Medical/health histories and physical evaluation of physically and sexually abused child psychiatric patients: A controlled study. *Journal of Family Violence*, 5 (4), 249-267.

This study examines parent-reported developmental and medical characteristics of 105 outpatient and 105 inpatient children who were classified on the basis of their history of physical and sexual abuse. The overall pattern of findings in this study indicated that physically abused children showed more developmental problems and histories of multiple physical injuries, whereas the sexually abused children evidenced more sexually acting out behaviors and involvement in drug use. (TFC)

Mehl, A.L., Coble, L. and Johnson, S. (1990). Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: A family affair. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 14 (4), 577-585.

An unusual case of Polle syndrome (Munchausen syndrome by proxy present when a parent also has Munchausen syndrome) is presented along with detailed medical histories in this informative article. The discussions of Polle syndrome and Munchausen syndrome by proxy are thorough and contain important information for health care professionals and child abuse investigators. (TFC)

Sugan, M. (1990). Abuse and neglect in schools. *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, 44 (4), 484-498

This article provides a very interesting review of the maltreatment of school children by their teachers. Various approaches for addressing this type of abuse and neglect are presented. The author's problem analysis and management recommendations merit the attention of education and child abuse professionals. (TFC)

SEXUAL ABUSE

Anechiarico, B. (1990). Understanding and treating sex offenders from a self-psychological perspective: The missing piece. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 18 (3), 281-292.

By contrasting the view of sex and aggression from the perspective of classical psychoanalytic drive theory (Freud) with self-psychological theory (Kohut), this article provides an interesting view of the treatment of sex offenders. The author advocates treating offenders from a self-view or self-psychological perspective and describes its successful application at one treatment center for sex offenders. (TFC)

Boat, B.W., Everson, M.D. and Holland, J. (1990). Maternal perceptions of nonabused young children's behaviors after the children's exposure to anatomical dolls. *Child Welfare*, 69 (5), 389-400

The purpose of this important study was two-fold: to determine whether non-abused young children found exposure to anatomical dolls to be a negative experience; and to describe types of post-doll interview behaviors that mothers believed were caused by or related to their children's exposure to the dolls. Although nearly half of the mothers of the three-year olds and three-fourths of the mothers of the four-year olds believed that exposure to the dolls contributed to more sexually focused behaviors in their children, these behaviors were described by the parents as relatively benign and centering on heightened awareness of sexual body parts. None of the five-year olds exhibited increased sexualized behaviors after using the dolls. Also, not a single mother expressed concern about their child's behavior or comments after their exposure to the dolls. This study supports the claim that non-abused young children are not "traumatized" by exposure to anatomical dolls or by direct questions about sexual body parts, and that the dolls are not suggestive of sexual behaviors. (TFC)

Coleman, H. and Collins, D. (1990). Treatment trilogy of father-daughter incest. *Child and Adolescent Social Work*, 7 (4), 339-355.

This article provides thought-provoking examination of three different perspectives on father-daughter incest: Child advocacy, family systems, and reconstructive. The etiology, relationship with the criminal justice system, treatment approaches and research evidence presented for each perspective offer strong support for more research on the problem of father-daughter incest. (TFC)

Elvik, S.I., Berkowitz, D.C., Nicolas, E., Lipman, J.L. and Inkelis, S.G. (1990). Sexual abuse in the developmentally disabled: Dilemmas of diagnosis. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 14 (4), 497-502.

Although this article describes the team examination of 35 mentally retarded females, most of whom were adults, it contains important intervention suggestions for professionals who investigate abuse allegations of developmentally disabled children and youth. Some of the more significant yet unanticipated dilemmas encountered by the authors are especially worthy of consideration by all professionals, including what significance, if any, healed genital or anal lesions in developmentally disabled abuse populations have without other findings, forensic material or a history of abuse. (TFC)

Gordon, M. (1990). Males and females as victims of childhood sexual abuse: An examination of the gender effect. *Journal of Family Violence*, 5 (4), 321-332.

A 585 respondent sub-sample of the *Los Angeles Times* 1985 nationwide poll to determine the prevalence of child sexual abuse was used to examine gender differences in the nature and context of sexual abuse. Several gender related differences were discovered; most notably male and female child sexual abuse victim profiles appeared fundamentally related to their relationship with the offender. Many of the well-documented difference between male and female victims appeared to gain or lose significance when relationship to the offender was held constant. This article explores the complex relationship between sexual abuse and gender and clearly points out the need for additional research on this topic. (TFC)

Greenward, E., Leitenberg, H., Cado, S. and Tarran, M. (1990). Childhood sexual abuse: Long-term effects on psychological and sexual functioning in a nonclinical and nonstudent sample of adult women. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 14 (4), 503-513.

This study examined how child sexual abuse is related to long-term psychological and sexual functioning in a sample of adult women abused as children and a matched control group of non-abused women. Study findings strongly suggest that childhood sexual abuse adversely affects long-term adult psychological adjustment. (TFC)

Wurtele, S.K. (1990). Teaching personal safety skills to four year old children: A behavioral approach. *Behavior Therapy*, 21, 25-32.

This controlled study examined the effectiveness of a behavioral sexual abuse prevention program for a small sample of middle-class preschool children. Contrary to concerns about negative effects and the capacity of this age-group to understand abuse prevention material, study subjects demonstrated increased self-reported knowledge, discrimination of appropriate vs. inappropriate contact and safety skills, while evidencing no negative effects relative to controls. (MC)

CHILDREN'S MEMORY

Price, D.W. and Goodman, G.S. (1990). Visiting the wizard: Children's memory for a recurring event. *Child Development*, 61 (3), 664-680,

The development of pre-school aged children's scripts for a novel recurring event (a trip to the "wizard's room") was examined in this study. Among the more significant results was the finding that children's abilities to mentally organize and control script content varies according to the external cues and verbal demands utilized. Professionals required to interview pre-school aged children would benefit from a careful reading of this study. (TFC)

CHILD ABUSE AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Besharov, D.J. (1990). Combating child abuse: Guidelines for cooperation between law enforcement and child protective agencies. *Family Law Quarterly*, 24 (3), 209-245

Guidelines for improved cooperation and collaboration between law enforcement and child protective services agencies in handling child abuse cases are outlined in this article. The recommendations presented deserve careful consideration by all child abuse professionals, not just mandated and criminal investigators. (TFC)

Bischoff, K.S. (1990). The voice of a child: Independent legal representation of children in private custody disputes when sexual abuse is alleged. *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, 138 (5), 1383-1409.

A thorough examination of children's right to independent legal representation when sexual abuse is alleged during a custody dispute is presented in this article. The author's discussion of precisely what role a child's representative should play in such proceeding is particularly good. Attorneys who routinely handle such cases and child abuse professionals with no legal training will find this article helpful in understanding the legal dilemmas faced by judges and children's attorneys in custody cases when child sexual abuse is alleged. (TFC)

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