

JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS

—edited by Thomas Curran

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. All APSAC members 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, to Thomas F. Curran, LCSW, JD, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Center, 4000 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

PHYSICAL ABUSE, EMOTIONAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Claussen, A.H. and Crittenden, P.M. (1991). Physical and psychological maltreatment: Relations among types of maltreatment. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 15(1/2), 5-18.

This study investigated the hypothesis that psychological maltreatment would be present in almost all cases of physical maltreatment and that it would be more related to detrimental outcomes for children than would severity of injury. Using data collected from two samples of families, one including 175 families referred for CPS investigations in Dade County, FL and the other 215 volunteer normative and disturbed families from the community who were not under investigation for child abuse, both hypotheses were supported. Some important child abuse policy and intervention considerations are discussed, including the apparent need to focus more attention and services on the psychological maltreatment of children, regardless of the presence of physical abuse. (TFC)

Famularo, R., Kinscherff, R., Fenton, T. and Bolduc, S. (1990). Child maltreatment histories among runaway and delinquent children. *Clinical Pediatrics*, 29(12), 713-718.

This study examined the records of 378 children involved in a juvenile court system for histories of child abuse. The results indicate that physical and sexual child maltreatment appear to contribute very significantly to delinquent behavior. Juvenile court attorneys, judges and clinicians are among the professionals who should carefully examine the findings presented. (TFC)

Graziano, A. M. and Namaste, K.A. (1990). Parental use of physical force in child discipline: A survey of 679 college students. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5(4), 449-463.

This article describes a survey of 679 college freshman about their personal beliefs and experiences with parental force used to discipline them as children. Over 93% of the respondents indicated that they were spanked as children. Perhaps even more important was the high level of acceptance for parental spanking by the respondents who were spanked as children. Important policy and value considerations are discussed.

Kaufman, J. (1991). Depressive disorders in maltreated children. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 30(2), 257-265.

This study examined the prevalence of depressive disorders in a sample of fifty-six 7 to 12 year old maltreated children (29 girls and 27 boys) and their mothers. As predicted, a disproportionate number of the maltreated children met the diagnostic criteria for one of the major affective disorders, with many of these children also meeting the diagnostic criteria for dysthymia. A thorough analysis of the study's findings explores important policy, clinical and research considerations. (TFC)

Myers, J.E.B. (1990). Intervention: The best of bad options. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5(4), 532-535.

This brief article presents a refreshingly well-reasoned and balanced analysis of the role that state intervention should play in cases of maternal drug use during pregnancy. Legal, moral and medical reasons justifying limited state intervention in such cases are outlined. (TFC)

Schellenbach, C.J., Monroe, L.D. and Merluzzi, T.V. (1991). The impact of stress on cognitive components of child abuse potential. *Journal of Family Violence*, 6(1), 61-80.

This article describes research conducted to assess the effects of situational stress on the expectations, interpretations and responses of a group of (16) abusive mothers. Four hypotheses were tested: 1) That parental expectations of child behavior would be more rigid as the potential for abuse increased; 2) That interpretations of child behavior would be more negative as child abuse potential increased; 3) That parental responses would be more controlling, punishing and negative as abuse potential increased; and 4) That stress would affect parents differentially such that expectations, interpretations and responses would become negative as abuse potential increased. While all four hypotheses were supported by the data, the findings from this study did not support a relationship between parental affect and abuse potential. (TFC)

Wesch, D. and Lutzker, J.R. (1991). A comprehensive 5-year evaluation of Project 12 - Ways: An ecobehavioral program for treating and preventing child abuse and neglect. *Journal of Family Violence*, 6(1), 17-35.

This article examines the impact of Project 12 - Ways on treating abusive families, compared to a sample of families served conventionally by the state child protection agency. While data from both samples revealed equivalent rates of child abuse after intervention, in the Project 12 - Ways sample the severity of child abuse had decreased more significantly and families prioritized child abuse as a concern more frequently than did the conventionally treated families. The findings suggest that ecobehavioral services can be successful in reducing child maltreatment. (TFC)

Wodarski, J.S., Kurtz, P.D., Gaudin, J.M. and Howing, P.T. (1990) Maltreatment and the school-aged child: Major academic, socioemotional, and adaptive outcomes. *Social Work*, 35(6), 506-513.

This study reports differences among 22 physically abused, 47 neglected, and 70 comparison school aged children on child behavior problems, school performance, self-esteem, and independent behavior. Results indicate that the abused children displayed academic and socioemotional problems and neglected children displayed academic delays. (SJK)

SEXUAL ABUSE

Faller, K.C. (1991). Possible explanations for child sexual allegations in divorce. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 61(1), 86-91.

This article proposes four possible explanations for child sexual abuse allegations in divorce cases. The classifications are based on a clinical sample of 136 cases. While the author acknowledges the limitations of this particular sample, the proposed categories should provide practical and useful assistance to all professionals who encounter such cases. (TFC)

Snow, B. and Sorensen, T. (1990). Ritualistic abuse in a neighborhood setting. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5(4), 474-487. This study describes the characteristics of 5 cases of ritualistic abuse that occurred in 5 neighborhood settings involving 39 children. Characteristics shared by all victims included forced sexual activity, threats, and sexual abuse by multiple perpetrators. Seventy-four percent of the children reported Satanic aspects to the abuse. (SJK)

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF ABUSE

American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (1991). Guidelines for the evaluation of sexual abuse of children. *Pediatrics*, 87(2), 254-260.

Although these guidelines were prepared for use by primary care pediatricians who do not "specialize" in child sexual abuse examinations, they offer general procedural information which should be helpful to all health care professionals. (TFC)

De Jong, A.D. and Finkel, M. (1990). Sexual abuse of children. *Current Problems in Pediatrics*, 20(9), 495-567.

This issue of *Current Problems in Pediatrics* provides comprehensive information for health care providers who treat sexually abused children. Detailed information is provided on conducting the medical exam, obtaining and interpreting forensic evidence, and diagnosing sexually transmitted diseases. (SJK)

Elnor, S.G., Elnor, V.M., Arnall, M. and Albert, D.M. (1990). Ocular and associated systemic findings in suspected child abuse. *Archives of Ophthalmology*, 108, 1094-1101.

This article reviews autopsy findings of 10 children who died of head trauma in which child abuse was the suspected etiology. The authors describe ocular pathology formed in 7 of the 10 cases. All 10 children had evidence of blunt head trauma noted at autopsy, although not all had obvious signs of such trauma during physical examinations before death. (CJ)

Meadow, R. (1990). Suffocation, recurrent apnea and sudden infant death. *Journal of Pediatrics*, 117(3), 351-357.

Twenty-seven cases of young children suffocated by their mothers are reviewed in this article. Nine of the children died. Twenty-four of the 27 had previous episodes of apnea, cyanosis or seizures that were either invented or caused by their mothers. The 27 children in this sample had a total of 18 siblings who died suddenly and unexpectedly early in life. After discovery, 8 of the mothers threatened to kill themselves, and 2 of the fathers committed suicide. (CJ)

LEGAL ISSUES IN CHILD ABUSE

Romer, S. (1990). Child sexual abuse in custody and visitation disputes: Problems, progress, and prospects. *Golden Gate University Law Review*, 20(3), 647-680.

This "Comment" presents a general but useful analysis of child sexual abuse allegations arising out of custody or divorce proceedings. Analyzing and contrasting California and New York case law, statutes, and procedures throughout, the section on validation methodology in child sexual abuse cases provides a very good review of how courts in these states have treated the admissibility of expert testimony, children's testimony, the Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome and anatomical dolls. Attorneys with minimal experience handling child sexual abuse cases will find this "Comment" most useful. (TFC)

OTHER ISSUES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

Crittenden, P.M. and Craig, S.E. (1990). Developmental trends in the nature of child homicide. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5(2), 202-216.

Neonatal, early and middle childhood homicides in a sample of 171 cases were analyzed in this important study. Age of the child victims was the most significant factor affecting homicide risk. Child age was directly related to the rate of homicide, reason for the death, means of death, relation of victim to perpetrator and legal consequences. Of the infant and young children's homicides examined in this study, 40% had physical evidence of previous abuse at the time of their deaths. (TFC)

Dhooper, S.S., Royse, D.D. and Wolfe, L.C. (1991). A statewide study of the public attitudes toward child abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 15(1/2), 37-44.

A telephone survey of 742 randomly selected adults in Kentucky examined the respondents' knowledge of child abuse, their reporting duty, characteristics of abused children, and characteristics of perpetrators. Although survey results indicated that the respondents were correctly informed about many aspects of child abuse and neglect, only 31% of those (20% of the total sample) who admitted having had reasonable suspicion of child abuse in the past two years actually reported it to the authorities. Important policy issues regarding the public dissemination of child abuse information are discussed. (TFC)

Urquiza, A.J. (1991). Retrospective methodology in family violence research: Our duty to report past abuse. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 6(1), 119-126.

Conflicts between the use of retrospective designs in child abuse research and current child abuse reporting laws are discussed in this brief article. While researchers are not specifically identified as mandated reporters, it is argued that they nonetheless have a legal and ethical duty to report any "reasonable suspicion" of child abuse or neglect derived from their research. Among the recommendations made for child abuse researchers using a retrospective design is that sufficient information be obtained from study subjects to make a determination of their current safety and the safety of others. (TFC)

Contributors for this issue were Carole Jenny, MD, Director of Child Advocacy and Protection Team and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital, Denver, CO, Susan J. Kelley, RN, PhD, Associate Professor, Boston College School of Nursing, Chestnut Hill, MA, and Thomas F. Curran, MSW, JD, Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center in Philadelphia, PA.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

The 8th National Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse invites the submission of papers and posters on all relevant topics, to be presented in Huntsville, Alabama, February 19-22, 1992. Submission of original research papers is strongly encouraged.

Research papers which are accepted will be considered for a special issue of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Submissions will be reviewed by APSAC. Send a one-page abstract to Ben Saunders, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina, Crime Vic-

tims Research and Treatment Center, 171 Ashley Av., Charleston SC 29425-0742. **Deadline for submission is October 1, 1991.** Presentations will be chosen by November 15, 1991.