

—edited by
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The purpose of Journal Highlights is to alert readers to recent 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 invited to send copies of current articles they believe would benefit Advisor readers, along with a two to three-sentence summary of the article to: Thomas F. Curran, 1405 72nd Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19126-1645.

PHYSICAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Brayden, R.M., Altemeier, W.A., Tucker, D.D., Dietrich, M.S. and Vietze, P. (1992). Antecedents of child neglect in the first two years of life. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 120 (3), 426-429.

Data from this prospective study of child maltreatment were analyzed to identify parental and childhood variables preceding, and therefore predictive of risk for, child neglect. Mothers determined to be at high risk prenatally for maltreatment were more likely to be identified as neglectful within two years of completing the Maternal History Interview. A striking inverse relationship was found between the years of formal education completed and reports of child neglect. (RMB)

Jones, E.D. and McCurdy, K. (1992). The links between types of maltreatment and demographic characteristics of children. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 16 (2), 201-215.

The relative impact of demographic characteristics of the child, family structure, and economic variables on four types of child maltreatment are examined in this study. Physical neglect proved to be the most predictable and distinguishable form of abuse, and clearly related to family economic factors. Policy implications are also discussed.

Showers, J. (1992). "Don't Shake the Baby": The effectiveness of a prevention program. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 16 (2), 11-18.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether an educational program about the dangers of shaking a baby could influence parental knowledge, and would be perceived as helpful by new parents. Parents of newborns in one urban county received a "Don't Shake the Baby" informational packet over a one year period. More than three-fourths of respondents indicated the information was very helpful to them, and 49% said they were less likely to shake their babies after reading the materials.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Bloom, R.B. (1992). When staff members sexually abuse children in residential care. *Child Welfare*, 71 (2), 131-145.

This article presents suggestions for managing a child care agency through the difficult period after a staff member is accused of sexually abusing a client. Effective ways in which agency administrators can balance the need to protect and support the child victim, support the staff, and maintain the agency's integrity are discussed. All professionals responsible for the residential care of children will find this article very useful.

Celano, M.P. (1992). A developmental model of victims' internal attributions of responsibility for sexual abuse. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 7 (1), 57-69.

This article integrates developmental theory with the literature on sexual abuse to better understand the nature and implications of children's internal attributions of responsibility for their sexual victimization. Theories about the development of internal attributions and moral reasoning are applied to abuse experiences, and a typology of internal attributions of responsibility is presented. Finally, important implications for conducting mental health evaluations and treatment are discussed.

Heiman, M.L. (1992). Putting the puzzle together: Validating allegations of child sexual abuse. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 33 (2), 311-329.

The literature on assessing the validity of sexual abuse allegations is reviewed in this article. In addition, assessment criteria commonly used by professionals are consolidated and presented in a conceptual framework.

Konker, C. (1992). Rethinking child sexual abuse: An anthropological perspective. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 62 (1), 147-153.

This article examines beliefs about child sexual abuse from an evolutionary, cross-cultural, and developmental perspective. Some of the author's statements, particularly those concerning the effects of sexual abuse on its victims, are simply inaccurate and based on outdated research findings or unsupported personal opinion. Other issues discussed, however, such as the definition of sexual abuse and the current lack of educational and legal standards regarding "expert" qualifications and conduct, are important considerations.

Pribor, E.F. and Dinwiddie, S.H. (1992). Psychiatric correlates of incest in childhood. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 149 (1), 52-56.

This study reveals an association between childhood incest and the development of various psychiatric disorders in adulthood. Compared to general population rates, the women in treatment who had histories of incest victimization during childhood reported a higher prevalence of 19 psychiatric disorders and a significantly higher number of diagnoses demonstrating a pattern of greater susceptibility to illness for incest survivors.

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Rew, L., Esparza, D. and Sands, D. (1991). A comparative study among college students of sexual abuse in childhood. *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, 5 (6), 331-340.

The purpose of this study was to explore among one group of college students the differences in the responses of men and women to reported childhood sexual abuse experiences. No significant differences in self-efficacy and well-being were found between the abused and non-abused subjects. When contact sexual abuse was used as the independent variable, however, significant differences between men and women and between abused and non-abused students were found on the outcome of well-being; abused men indicated significantly more distress than other groups of subjects.

SEX OFFENDERS

Freund, K. and Watson, R. (1992). The proportions of heterosexual and homosexual pedophiles among sex offenders against children: An exploratory study. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 18 (1), 34-43.

This study of 465 non-psychotic sex offenders against children (ages 6-11) investigated whether the etiology of preferred partner sex among pedophiles is related to the etiology of preferred partner sex among males preferring adult partners. Phallometric test sensitivities were used to calculate the proportion of true pedophiles among the various groups of offenders studied, along with previously reported mean numbers of victims per offender group. The findings suggest that the resulting proportion of true pedophiles among persons with homosexual erotic development is greater than in persons who develop heterosexually.

Prentky, R.A., Knight, R.A., Burgess, A.W., Ressler, R., Campbell, J. and Lanning, K.V. (1991). Child molesters who abduct. *Violence and Victims*, 6 (3), 213-224.

Differences between 97 abducting and 60 non-abducting child molesters on selected typological and criminal-antisocial variables were examined, testing several hypotheses about purported discriminating characteristics of abductors. Initial findings indicate that child abductors displayed significantly lower social competence, had less contact with children outside of their offenses, and were more likely to carry and use a weapon during their offenses, suggesting a presumptive interpretation of abduction as a victim control strategy.

Shealy, L., Kalichman, S., Henderson, M., Szymanowski, D. and McKee, G. (1991). MMPI Profile subtypes of incarcerated sex offenders against children. *Violence and Victims*, 6 (3), 201-212.

This study attempted to identify homogeneous subgroups of 90 incarcerated sexual offenders against children on the basis of the MMPI. Four subgroups were identified, and each was differentiated by psychosexual, affective, and psychosocial history data. Results suggest the existence of homogeneous subgroups of incarcerated sex offenders against children.

OTHER ISSUES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

Abrahams, N., Casey, K. and Daro, D. (1992). Teachers' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about child abuse and its prevention. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 16 (2), 229-238.

This article describes the results of a nationwide survey of teachers from 40 school districts in 29 randomly selected countries. The study findings indicate that while the majority of teachers reported confronting child abuse among their students, they are provided inadequate training on how to effectively identify, report and intervene in suspected abuse cases. Other study findings, including teacher attitudes about corporal punishment in schools, are reported.

Kashani, J.H., Daniel, A.E., Dandoy, A.C. and Holcomb, W.R. (1992). Family violence: Impact on children. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 31 (2), 181-189.

Four types of family violence are briefly discussed: violence toward children, siblings, spouses, and the elderly. In addition, the known and possible effects that each form of violence has on children are examined, along with various intervention strategies.

Kean, R.B. and Dukes, R.L. (1991). Effects of witness characteristics on the perception and reportage of child abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 15 (4), 423-435.

Vignettes depicting psychological abuse, neglect, and physical abuse were given to 160 jurors and 176 CPS workers and police officers to test for bias in the perception and reporting of suspected child abuse. Jurors born before 1945 were found to be less critical of the abuse vignettes than those born later. Overall, this study presents some important new insight into various reporter biases and how they might impact on child abuse incidence and reporting rates.

Zellman, G.L. (1992). The impact of case characteristics on child abuse reporting decisions. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 16 (1), 57-74.

Using data from a national survey of mandated reporters that included vignettes in which case and personal characteristics were varied, this article examines the impact of selected case characteristics in making child abuse reporting decisions. A history of previous abuse, severity of the abuse, and recantation were found to be very powerful predictors of vignette outcomes. The age of the child, perpetrator intent, and family socioeconomic status also strongly influenced abuse-relevant judgements and reporting intentions.

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