

The purpose of *Journal Highlights* is to inform readers of current research on various aspects of child maltreatment. Selected articles from journals representing APSAC's multidisciplinary membership are presented in annotated bibliography form. APSAC members are invited to contribute to *Journal Highlights* by sending a copy of current articles (preferably published within the past 6 months), along with a two to three sentence review, to Thomas F. Curran, MSW, JD, Child Advocacy Unit, Defender Association of Philadelphia, 121 N Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-1913.

PHYSICAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Herzog, E.P., Gara, M.A., and Rosenberg, S. (1992). The abused child as parent: Perception of self and other. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 13, 83-98.

The impact of abuse on mother's self- and interpersonal perception, and the interrelationship among abused mothers' social and self-perception, the quality of her interactions with her child, and the child's development were assessed. (KK-T)

Silber, S., Bermann, E., Henderson, M., and Lehman, A. (1993). Patterns of influence and response in abusing and nonabusing families. *Journal of Family Violence*, 8(1), 27-38.

Behaviors of influence and response during a conflict negotiation task were examined in eight physically child abusing, substance abusing families in which the father was the primary abuser, and eight matched non-abusing families. Abusing fathers displayed more coercive patterns of influencing behavior and more negative patterns of response to other family members. The findings are discussed in terms of their implication for understanding interaction in child abusing families. (TFC)

Toth, S.L., Manly, J.T., and Cicchetti, D. (1992). Child maltreatment and vulnerability to depression. *Development and Psychopathology*, 4, 97-112.

Children from abusive homes showed significantly higher levels of depressive symptomatology than children from either neglectful or nonmaltreating families. Children from physically abusive homes exhibited lower self-esteem than did nonmaltreated children. All groups of children, who were low SES, evidenced higher levels of acting out behaviors than would be expected in a nonclinical group of children. (KK-T)

Zuravin, S.J. and DiBlasio, F.A. (1992). Child-neglecting adolescent mothers: How do they differ from their nonmaltreating counterparts? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 7 (4), 471-489.

Among the objectives of this study of 102 low-income single parents who gave birth to their first child before age 18 was the identification of predictors of neglect. The findings suggest that the neglectful teen mothers differed from their nonmaltreating counterparts in five ways. Independent of race, they were more likely to have been sexually abused as children, to have had their first child at a younger age, to have completed fewer years of school, to have had a premature and/or low-birth-weight child first, and to have had more than one child during teen years. Educational achievement and number of children were moderately successful in predicting neglect. (TFC)

SEXUAL ABUSE

Berliner, L. and Conte, J. (1993). Sexual abuse evaluations: Conceptual and empirical obstacles. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (1), 111-126.

Current clinical approaches to child sexual abuse evaluations are critically examined for their empirical support and conceptual integrity. The two general approaches to recent sexual abuse clinical validation efforts, the indicators approach and the standards approach, are analyzed in detail. (TFC)

Berson, N.L., Herman-Giddens, M.E., and Forthingham, T.E. (1993). Children's perceptions of genital examinations during sexual abuse evaluations. *Child Welfare*, 72 (1), 41-49.

Based on the experiences of over 500 children evaluated for sexual abuse over a two-year period, this article examines the potential added stress and sense of violation which the medical examination can inflict on sexually abused children. Various techniques found useful in reducing children's anxiety levels are discussed, along with some very important suggestions for future research on children's reactions to medical examination for child sexual abuse. (TFC)

Gellert, G.A., Durfee, M.J., Berkowitz, C.D., Higgins, K.V. and Tubiolo, V.C. (1993). Situational and sociodemographic characteristics of children infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus from pediatric sexual abuse. *Pediatrics*, 91 (1), 39-44.

A report on an effort to estimate the number of children in the U.S. and Canada infected with HIV as a result of child sexual abuse, and to describe the situational and sociodemographic characteristics of sexual abuse that resulted in HIV infection. Of the 28 HIV - infected victims of sexual abuse identified, 22 had no other risk-factors reported for HIV infection. These children were mostly female, African American, prepubescent, and from low socioeconomic status families. Important prevention and policy considerations are discussed. (TFC)

Grayston, A.D., deLuca, R.V., and Boyes, D.A. (1992). Self-esteem, anxiety, and loneliness in preadolescent girls who have experienced sexual abuse. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 22, 277-286.

In this study, the levels of self-esteem, anxiety, and loneliness were compared for 35 sexually abused girls (ages 7-12) and 35 controls. Sexually abused girls had lower levels of self-esteem than nonabused children, but levels of anxiety and loneliness did not differ between the groups. (KK-T)

Newberger, C.M., Gremy, I.M., Waternaux, C.M., and Newberger, E.H. (1993). Mothers of sexually abused children: Trauma and repair in longitudinal perspective. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 63 (1), 92-102.

The course of mothers' psychological symptomology over the year following disclosure of their children's sexual abuse was examined in this study, along with the relationship between mothers' emotional well-being and their children's emotional states. Strong relationships between mothers' reports of their own and their children's symptoms were accompanied by persistent discrepancies between maternal and direct assessments of the children's emotional states. Possible explanations for such discrepancies are discussed, along with treatment implications. (TFC)

Priest, R. (1992). Child sexual abuse histories among African-American college students: A preliminary study. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 62, 475-476.

This study collected self-report questionnaire data from 684 female and 356 male African-American college students (aged 18-56 years) regarding their experiences of child sexual abuse. Twenty-five percent of females and 12% of males had been sexually abused before age 17 years. However, only 3 females and none of the males indicated they had received mental health counseling directly related to their sexual victimization. (KK-T)

Springs, F.E. and Friedrich, W.N. (1992). Health risk behaviors and medical sequelae of childhood sexual abuse. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, 67, 527-532

The relationship between childhood sexual abuse and subsequent health risk behaviors and medical problems was examined in 511 women who had used a family practice clinic in a rural midwestern community during a two-year period. The results indicated that sexually abused women reported significantly more medical problems, greater levels of somatization, and more health risk behaviors than did the nonabused women. More severe abuse correlated with more severe problems. (KK-T)

LEGAL ISSUES

Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. (1992). Predictors of legal intervention in child maltreatment cases. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 16 (6), 807-821.

This study examined the extent and nature of dependency and criminal filings in 833 substantiated intrafamilial child maltreatment cases reported in Denver, Los Angeles, and New Castle (DE) counties during 1985-1986. Factors and case characteristics associated with filings in both court systems are examined in detail. Overall, legal intervention was found to be very rare: only 21% had dependency court filings and 4% had criminal filings. In each jurisdiction, sexual abuse was the type of maltreatment most likely to result in a filing in both courts. (TFC)

OTHER ISSUES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

Cicchetti, D. and Barnett, D. (1991). Attachment organization in maltreated preschoolers. *Development and Psychopathology*, 3, 397-411.

The attachment patterns of maltreated and nonmaltreated preschoolers from the low socioeconomic strata were examined. Results revealed that maltreated children were significantly more likely to exhibit insecure patterns of attachment to their caregivers. Longitudinally, the high percentage of nonmaltreated children who were classified as securely attached were likely to remain securely attached at subsequent assessments. (KK-T)

Haskett, M.E. and Kistner, J.A. (1991). Social interactions and peer perceptions of young physically abused children. *Child Development*, 62, 979-990.

Behavior observations, teacher reports, and peer sociometric ratings were used in this study. Abused children initiated fewer positive interactions with peers and exhibited more negative behavior than nonabused children. Peers viewed abused children as less well liked and were also less likely to reciprocate the initiations of abused children. In addition, teachers viewed abused children as more disturbed. (KK-T)

Gutman, L.T., Herman-Giddens, M.E., and Phelps, W.C. (1993). Transmission of human genital papillomavirus disease: Comparison of data from adults and children. *Pediatrics*, 91 (1), 31-38.

This article reviews the evaluation of the data on the means of transmission of human papillomavirus (HPV) disease of the genital tract in adults and compares those data with that available on the transmission of anal-genital HPV disease in children. Considerable evidence is presented supporting the proposition that anal-genital HPV diseases of children appearing after infancy are usually acquired through abusive sexual contact. (MEH-G)

Steward, M.S., Bussey, K., Goodman, G.S., and Saywitz, K.J. (1993). Implications of developmental research for interviewing children. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (1), 25-38.

A brief and practical review of recent research on children's development of cognition, memory and language is provided, along with an analysis of studies on children's knowledge about the legal system. The literature on young children's experiences in pediatric settings is also reviewed, with a discussion of how these studies can assist in understanding children's abuse reports and in preparing children for court. Investigative interviewers and attorneys will find this article particularly valuable. (TFC)

Journal reviewers for this issue included: Thomas F. Curran, MSW, JD, Kathleen A. Kendall-Tackett, Ph.D., Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA; Nancy L. Berson, B.A., Clinical Fellow, Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; and Marcia E. Herman-Giddens, P.A., M.P.H., Department of Pediatrics, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC.