

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 six 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

Ards, S. and Harrell, A. (1993). Reporting of child maltreatment: A secondary analysis of the national incidence surveys. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (3), 337-344.

By examining the 1980 and 1986 National Incidence studies, this article reviews discrepancies between cases known to CPS agencies and those known to professionals who regularly come in contact with children. In both studies the only child characteristic consistently related to CPS knowledge of a case was age: older victims were less likely to be known to CPS than younger children. Also, sexual abuse was the type of maltreatment most likely to be reported to CPS.

Kolko, D.J., Kazdin, A.E., Thomas, A., and Day, B. (1993). Heightened child physical abuse potential. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 8 (2), 169-192.

Child, parent, and family factors related to parents' heightened potential for physical abuse are evaluated in this study. Mothers (N=113) of child psychiatric patients and non-patients (ages 6-13) were classified as being at low, moderate, or high risk for child abuse. The high risk mothers reported greater child antisocial behavior, depression, self-injury, personal psychological dysfunction, and family stress than the low and moderate risk mothers, but no difference in parent management practices or family violence.

Wolfner, G.D. and Gelles, R.J. (1993). A profile of violence toward children: A national study. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (2), 197-212.

Based on the results from the Second National Family Violence Survey of over 6,000 households, this article presents a profile of family violence against children. The highest rate of abusive violence occurred in families living in the East, families whose annual income was below the poverty line, families in which the father was unemployed, families with four or more children, male children, and with children ages 3 to 6 years old. The data were consistent with a structural social stress model of family violence, where social and economic stressors positively correlate with abuse against children.

Schrier, H.A. (1992). The perversion of mothering: Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. *Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic*, 56 (4), 421-437.

This article provides a thorough overview of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, along with various case examples and possible explanations to some complex scenarios. Possible cultural, historical, and psychological factors which contribute to Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy are discussed. (MC)

SEXUAL ABUSE

Briere, J. and Conte, J. (1993). Self-reported amnesia for abuse in adults molested as children. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 6 (1), 21-31.

A sample of 450 adult clinical subjects reporting childhood sexual abuse histories were studied regarding their repression of sexual abuse incidents. A total of 267 subjects (59.3%) identified some period in their lives, before age 18, when they had no memory of the abuse. The variables most predictive of abuse-related amnesia were greater current psychological symptoms, abuse at an early age, extended abuse, and variables reflecting violent abuse (e.g., multiple perpetrators, being physically injured, etc.). In contrast, abuse characteristics more likely to produce psychological conflict, such as feeling guilt or shame, were not associated with abuse-related amnesia. The clinical, research, and forensic implications of the prevalence of sexual abuse-related repression are discussed.

Deblinger, E., Hathaway, C.R., Lippman, J. and Steer, R. (1993). Psychosocial characteristics and correlates of symptom distress in non-offending mothers of sexually abused children. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 8 (2), 155-163.

Three groups of non-offending mothers of sexually abused children were compared in this study on 17 psychosocial characteristics. Study findings challenge several commonly held negative stereotypes associated with mothers of incest victims, and indicate that these women appear to be secondary victims of abuse. In addition, the incest mothers were just as likely as mothers whose children experienced extra-familial abuse to believe their children's allegations.

Gellert, G., Berkowitz, C., Gellert, M., and Durfee, M. (1993). Testing the sexually abused child for the HIV antibody: issues for the social worker. *Social Work*, 38 (4), 389-394.

This article suggests that social workers, often aware of family patterns and dynamics possibly unavailable to other disciplines, take a lead role in an interdisciplinary team approach to facilitate testing for the HIV antibody in children suspected of infection through sexual abuse. The paucity of data available on HIV infection in pedophiles is discussed, along with various relevant legal and ethical concerns. (MC)

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Kohl, J. (1993). School-based child sexual abuse prevention programs. *Journal of Family Violence*, 8 (2), 137-150.

One hundred twenty-six major school-based child sexual abuse prevention programs throughout the country were identified and surveyed in this study. The results indicated that the programs reached hundreds of thousands of students, and offered a prescribed curriculum. Most of the programs aimed to meet the needs of disabled students, and there was rather wide variation in training format, duration, and materials used.

Olafson, E., Corwin, D.L., and Summit, R.C. (1993). Modern history of child sexual abuse awareness: Cycles of discovery and suppression. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (1), 7-24.

This article reviews and offers thoughtful explanations for the cyclical suppression of child sexual abuse throughout history. The authors reveal how the current "backlash" against the rediscovery of child sexual abuse utilizes very old but often successful arguments. Knowledge of these earlier arguments and the resulting suppression surely may help professionals understand and counter the modern day "backlash."

Peterson, R.F., Basta, S.M., and Dykstra, T.A. (1993). Mothers of molested children: Some comparisons of personality characteristics. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (3), 409-418.

The Clinical Analysis Questionnaire (CAQ) was used to study the personality characteristics of three groups of mothers: those whose children had been molested by a family member (N=13); those whose children had been molested by a teacher (N=15); and a control group of mothers whose children had not been molested (N=12). Few differences were found between the two groups of mothers of abused children. Significant differences between mothers of molested children and control mothers were found on 7 of the 12 scales measuring abnormal functioning, such as schizophrenia and anxiety. The study's results presented a relationship between maternal clinical symptoms and a child's maladjustment to abuse.

Reidy, T.J. and Hochstadt, N.J. (1993). Attribution of blame in incest cases: A comparison of mental health professionals. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (3), 371-382.

This study examined mental health professionals' attributions of blame in father-daughter incest cases, examining the influence of professional affiliation, gender, experience in treating victims and perpetrators, and years of clinical experience. Contrary to earlier research, the results did not indicate that mental health professionals blame the victim; rather, they appeared to blame the perpetrators completely. The amount of clinical experience various professionals had was a significant factor in blame attribution.

Rowan, A.B. and Foy, D.W. (1993). Post-traumatic stress disorder in child sexual abuse survivors: A review of the literature. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 6 (1), 3-20.

Research examining the consequences of child sexual abuse in terms of the applicability of a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis is discussed in this article. This review examines studies which have investigated relationships between exposure and symptom development among child sexual abuse survivors. An interesting discussion of some criticisms and benefits of applying the PTSD diagnosis to sexual abuse survivors is presented.

Summit, R.C. (1992). Abuse of the Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 1 (4), 153-163.

In this thought-provoking article, Roland Summit comments on the original purpose of the Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome (CSAAS). Summit explains how and why the CSAAS, like the phenomenon it describes, continues to be met with misunderstanding and denial. In this article Summit reflects upon the CSAAS, about the sexual abuse of children, and about why professionals continue to be so uncomfortable with both.

OTHER ISSUES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

Duquette, D.N. (1992). Child protection legal process: Comparing the United States and Great Britain. *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*, 54 (1), 239-294.

This article examines the history and cultural context of child protection laws in the United States, England, and Wales and Scotland. The different court structures, legal actors, and their respective roles are discussed. Finally, the substantive legal standards for formal court intervention in child abuse cases in each country are outlined.

Goldman, J., Graves, L., Ward, M., Albanese, I., Sorensen, E., and Chamberlain, C. (1993). Self-report of guardians ad litem: Provision of information to judges in child abuse and neglect cases. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (2), 227-232.

Reporting patterns of guardians ad litem to judges in child abuse and neglect cases were studied. In abuse and neglect cases, Guardians most frequently reported to the court on the child's physical safety, the interaction between parent(s) and child, and personality characteristics of the parent(s).

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