

-edited by
Thomas F. Curran

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 represented in an 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 or 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

Crittenden, P.M. (1993). An information processing perspective on the behavior of neglectful parents. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 20(1), 27-48

This article examines research on neglectful parents to develop a theory on how and why neglectful behavior occurs. Using cognitive theory on information processing, four stages at which parents could fail to respond to signals of children's needs are identified. The author proposes that failure at each stage represents a different type of child neglect, calling for different types of intervention. (TFC)

Crouch, J.L. and Milner, J.E. (1993). Effects of child neglect on children. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 20(1), 49-65.

This article reviews empirical studies which have examined the effects of child neglect on children's development. Despite the fact that neglect is the most frequently reported form of maltreatment, these studies show how poorly understood the developmental impact of neglect experiences remain. In addition, the numerous conceptual and definitional difficulties which have impeded research on the sequelae of neglect are examined. (TFC)

Dubowitz, H. and Black, M., Starr, R.H., and Zuravin, S. (1993). A conceptual definition of child neglect. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 20(1), 8-26.

A conceptual definition of neglect is presented in this article, based on an ecological model of child maltreatment. This definition focuses on the basic needs of children that are not met, rather than on the intentions or behaviors of parents. The authors present child neglect as a heterogeneous phenomenon which varies by type, severity, and chronicity. (TFC)

Trupin, E., Tarico, V., Low, B., Jamelka, R., and McClennan, J. (1993). Children on child protective service caseloads: Prevalence and nature of serious emotional disturbance. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17(3), 345-355.

The prevalence of serious emotional disturbance among children of protective service caseloads was assessed. Over 72% of the children studied were statistically indistinguishable from children in Washington State's most intensive mental health programs. The need for greater interdisciplinary and systematic cooperations is discussed. (TFC)

SEXUAL ABUSE

Draucker, C.B. (1993). Childhood sexual abuse: Sources of trauma. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 14(3), 249-262.

The purpose of this study was to delineate the sources of trauma resulting from a childhood sexual abuse experience as described by adult survivors who were asked to reflect on aspects of their experience which they considered traumatic. Participants were free to interpret "trauma" in any way that was meaningful to them. Eight categories identified by the participants as reflecting a source of trauma are discussed in detail. A sense of abandonment was the most often-cited source of trauma. This article should aid therapists in helping abused survivors identify, understand and resolve the traumatic aspects of their abuse experience. (TFC)

Fontes, L. (1993). Considering culture and oppression: Steps toward an ecology of sexual child abuse. *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*, 5(1), 25-54.

This article urges the adoption of an ecological view of child sexual abuse, with attention to the individual, the family, the ethnic culture, and the society at large. Case material is drawn from work with Puerto Rican families and research with Puerto Ricans in the United States on issues of child sexual abuse. (LT)

Gellert, G., Berkowitz, C., Gellert, M., and Durfee, M. (1993). Testing the sexually abused child for 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 professionals, take a lead role in the interdisciplinary team approach to facilitate testing for the HIV antibody in children suspected of infection through sexual abuse. Noted in the discussion is the paucity of data on HIV infection in known pedophiles. (MC)

Gutman, L.T., Herman-Giddens, M.E., and McKinney, R.E. (1993). Pediatric Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome: Barriers to recognizing the role of child sexual abuse. *American Journal of Disease in Children*, 147, 775-780.

This study discusses issues which have inhibited the study of the role sexual abuse plays in HIV
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transmission in younger children. Means of removing barriers to the understanding of the role of abuse in pediatric HIV transmission are reviewed. Preliminary recommendations are made for HIV testing of sexually abused children, along with indicators for evaluation of HIV infected children suspected of being sexually abused. (LTC)

Jenny, C. and Roelser, T.A. (1993). Quality--A response to "The Backlash" against child abuse diagnosis and treatment. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 2 (3), 89-98.

In this article the authors provide a thought-provoking examination of the child sexual abuse "backlash." A challenge is presented to child abuse professionals to use valid criticisms to improve interventions by all disciplines. A proposal which would remove quality assurance responsibility from the courts and place it with the diverse professions involved in child sexual cases is outlined. (TFC)

Kaplan, M., Morales, M., and Becker, J. (1993). The impact of verbal satiation on adolescent sex offenders: A preliminary report. *Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect*, 2 (3), 81-88.

The effectiveness of one cognitive behavioral treatment procedure, verbal satiation, was measured in this study of 15 adolescent sex offenders against children. Using the penile plethysmograph pre-and post-treatment, the results indicated an overall decrease in all but one of the participants' arousal to atypical stimuli. Shortcomings of this study are discussed.

Mennen, F.E. (1993). Evaluation of risk factors in childhood sexual abuse. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 32 (5), 934-939.

Multiple measures were used to examine interactional effects to evaluate whether specific factors in child sexual abuse increase the risk of serious distress in its victims. Seventy-five abused girls completed measures on depression, anxiety, and self-worth. When the sexual abuse included penetration, higher levels of distress on depression and self worth were reported. Force predicted higher levels of distress on those measures when the perpetrator was not a father figure, and lower levels when he was. (TFC)

Yama, M., Fogas, B., Teegarden, M., and Hastings, B. (1993). Childhood sexual abuse and parental alcoholism: Interactive effects in adult women. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 63 (2), 300-305.

A group of 364 university women were studied to examine symptoms associated with both childhood sexual abuse and parental or adult alcoholism. Study results indicated a significant association between childhood abuse and alcoholism in adult survivors. (MC)

OTHER ISSUES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

Berliner, L. (1993). Is family preservation in the best interest of children; and **Gelles, R.J.** (1993). Family Reunification/Family Preservation: Are children really being protected? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 8 (4), 556-562.

In this brief commentary the issue of family preservation and reunification as the guiding U.S. welfare policy is analyzed. Gelles points out the absence of scientific evidence to support the key assumptions underlying family preservation/reunification doctrines, including the assumption that such programs work. A child-centered policy is recommended to replace reunification/preservation as the guiding welfare policy. (TFC)

Burnett, B.B., (1993). The psychological abuse of latency age children: A survey. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 17 (4), 441-454.

This study aimed at identifying potential definitions of psychological abuse by submitting vignettes with adult behaviors to be rated as abuse or not abuse by a group of citizens, and also by comparing these results with a professional social work cohort. Both groups identified nine types of adult behavior as abusive. (TFC)

Doueck, H.J., Levine, M., and Bronson, D. E. (1993). Risk assessment in child protective services: An evaluation of the child at risk field system. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 8 (4), 446-467.

This article presents information about one risk assessment system: The Child at Risk Field (CARF) system, along with the results of an independent evaluation of the CARF system. Although the CARF system was imperfectly implemented, the data indicated, among other things, that CARF may provide workers with a potentially useful tool for structured decision-making. (TCF)

Heartz, R.H. (1993). Guardians ad litem in child abuse and neglect proceedings: Clarifying the roles to improve effectiveness. *Family Law Quarterly*, 27 (3), 327-347.

The historical and legislative development of Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) appointments in abuse and neglect proceedings is reviewed. Various ethical and practical problems surrounding the current system for appointing GALs are also discussed, including the lack of uniformity regarding who should be a GAL and precisely what role that person should play. The CASA/GAL

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programs are discussed at length, along with studies documenting the effectiveness and benefits of volunteers. Although no definite solutions are presented, this article adds an interesting perspective on the current ethical debate about the role and duties of GALs. **Johnson, E.K. and Howell, R.J.** (1993) Memory processes in children: Implications for investigations of alleged child sexual abuse. *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law*, 21 (2), 213-226.

This article provides a discussion of certain developmental aspects of long-term memory functions in children, along with events and cognitive processes that may contribute to memory distortion. (TFC)

Myers, E.B. (1993) Expert testimony describing psychological syndromes. *Pacific Law Journal*, 24 (3), 1449-1464.

This article presents a clear description of psychological syndromes and how they should be used during civil or criminal litigation. The author analysis of the battered child syndrome and the child sexual abuse accomodation syndrome to distinguish diagnostic from non-diagnostic syndromes is particularly helpful. (TFC)

The Journal Highlights editor wishes to express his sincere thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to this issue: Marjorie Chan of NNEPSAC; Lisa Fontes, PhD, of Keene State College, Keene, NH, and Laura T. Gutman, MD, Duke University Medical Center.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for Editor-in-Chief

Nominations for Editor-in-Chief of the American Professional Journal on the Abuse of Children (APJAC) Solicited

APSAC is starting a new journal, to be called the *American Professional Journal on the Abuse of Children (APJAC)*. The first issue of *APJAC* will be published in February, 1996. The journal is to be a policy and practitioner-oriented journal which will clearly express APSAC's mission and goals.

The Editor Search Committee is now seeking nominations for candidates for the position of Editor-in-Chief of *APJAC*. Self nominations are welcome.

Process

The call for nominations will be distributed to all APSAC members through *The APSAC Advisor* and in separate mailings to APSAC's Board, Advisory Board, and state chapter presidents and coordinators. In addition, the Editor Search Committee will solicit nominations as needed.

Editor Qualifications

The Editor-in-Chief of *APJAC* should possess the following qualifications:

- Experience in clinical, research, writing, editing, and educational activities related to child abuse and neglect.
- A commitment to interdisciplinary cooperation and mutual respect.
- Organizational skills and the ability to work effectively with associate editors.
- Originality and high quality research and publications.

Medical Director. The Department of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine seeks a BC/BE pediatrician for medical director of a children's sexual abuse diagnostic clinic at the assistant/associate professor level. Responsi-

- A commitment to the Society and its goals, demonstrated through previous participation in APSAC activities at the state or national level.
- A grasp of the historical scope of the field of child maltreatment: its past, its evolution, and the most pressing issues facing it now. A vision about the field's development and how this development should be achieved.
- A vision for *APJAC* and its place in the field of child maltreatment.

Nominations for co-Editors-in-Chief will be considered if the candidates can demonstrate the ability to work together and complement each other.

Materials to be submitted

Candidates for Editor-in-Chief should submit the following materials:

- A letter stating their commitment, including the amount of time they envision being able to contribute as Editor and the strengths they bring to the position.
- An expanded vita, including samples of editorial work, original work, and references.
- Information regarding their clinical work.
- Information regarding their university's or employer's willingness to support the time commitment required by the Editor-in-Chief.

Procedure and deadline

Mail nominations to: Jon R. Conte, PhD, Chair, Editor Search Committee, APSAC, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60604. **Nominations must be received by May 30, 1994.** For further information, call APSAC at 312-554-0166.

bilities include supervision of nurse practitioners and residents in the clinic, quality assurance activities, and related research. Reply with CV to Deborah Bryant, MD, Community Pediatrics, 1900 Hayes St., Nashville TN 37203-2317; EOE.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT