

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 format. 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

Benedict, M., Zuravin, S., Brandt, D., and Abbey, H. (1994). Types and frequency of child maltreatment by family foster care providers in an urban population. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 18(7), 577-585.

Data on abuse incidents in foster homes were abstracted from child protective services records for 1984 through 1988 in Baltimore, Maryland. Results indicated that foster families had a threefold increased frequency of maltreatment compared to the non-foster families. Report frequency was highest for physical abuse. Overall, 20% of foster care reports were substantiated, compared to 35% of non-foster reports.

Daro, D. and McCurdy, K. (1994). *Preventing child abuse and neglect: Programmatic interventions*. *Child Welfare*, 73(5), 405-430.

A detailed overview of child abuse and neglect prevention programs is presented. This article discusses what is currently known about the efficacy of prevention programs and identifies elements of prevention programming that are most promising; it also examines critical research questions surrounding prevention. Three categories of prevention efforts are discussed: those efforts seeking to enhance parental capacity; child sexual abuse prevention programs; and those prevention efforts focused on victims of abuse or children vulnerable due to inadequate parental supervision or skill.

Hay, T. and Jones, L. (1994). Societal intervention to prevent child abuse and neglect. *Child Welfare*, 73(5), 379-403.

The theoretical framework presented for examining child maltreatment is an ecological developmental one which offers various ways to look at priorities in abuse prevention at the community and societal levels. Three areas with potential for broad social intervention efforts are discussed in this article: increasing economic self-sufficiency of families, enhancing communities and their existing resources, and discouraging corporal punishment and other forms of violence.

Prino, C.T. and Peyrot, M. (1994). The effect of child physical abuse and neglect on aggressive, withdrawn and prosocial behavior. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 18(10), 871-884.

This study examines aggressive, withdrawn, and prosocial behavior in physically abused (N=21), non-abused, neglected (N=26) and non-abused, non-neglected (N=21) children aged five to eight years. Physically abused children showed significantly more aggressive behavior than the neglected and non-abused; neglected children were significantly more withdrawn than the physically abused and non-abused; and non-abused children exhibited significantly more prosocial behavior than the abused and neglected.

Schwartz, I.M., Rendon, J.A., and Hsieh, C.M. (1994). Is child maltreatment a leading cause of delinquency? *Child Welfare*, 73(5), 639-655.

The popular assumption that child abuse is a major cause of juvenile delinquency is examined in this thought-provoking article. Following a review of the research literature that has examined this relationship, it is concluded that the available empirical evidence does not support child maltreatment as a leading cause of delinquency.

Wells, S.J. (1994). Child protective services: Research for the future. *Child Welfare*, 73(5), 431-450.

The legal basis for child protective services and how it affects virtually every aspect of practice is discussed in this detailed look at CPS. The author's analysis of the urgent need to develop consistent definitions of child maltreatment and evaluate service delivery are especially useful. Overall, this article offers valuable guidelines for child welfare researchers and administration, child advocacy groups, and legislators.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Dahlenberg, C.J. (1994). Making and finding memories: A commentary on the "repressed memory" controversy. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 3(3), 109-118

A balanced and thoughtful examination of the controversy surrounding "repressed memory" is presented. The author considers and challenges some of the more extreme criticisms of memory repression, then presents a well-researched position supporting the reality of memory retrieval within the context of therapy. The observation that causal memory reconstruction is an inherent part of psychotherapy offers an interesting argument in the "repressed memory" controversy.

Freund, K. and Kuban, M. (1994). The basis of the abused abuser theory of pedophilia: A further elaboration on an earlier study. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 23(5), 553-563.

This study investigates pedophilia in 303 heterosexual male sex offenders to determine whether the self-report of having been sexually abused before age 12 (or before age 16) by an adult is significantly more frequent in pedophiles than in other male groups. An earlier study found that sexual abuse in childhood by an adult male or female was significantly more often reported by pedophilic sex offenders than by controls who erotically preferred physically mature females. Although this study clearly found a close connection between pedophilia and a self-report of childhood seduction,

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the reasons for the higher frequency of self-reported sexual abuse are not clear.

Friedrich, W.N. and Gerber, P.N. (1994). Autoerotic asphyxia: The development of a paraphilia. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 33(7), 970-974.

Five adolescent practitioners of autoerotic asphyxia were studied to determine contributors to its etiology. Detailed case studies of each of the five adolescents are presented. A history of choking, physical and sexual abuse, other trauma, and risk-taking behaviors characterized each subject, along with extraordinary compulsivity and ritualistic behaviors. In summary, the etiology of severe and persistent autoerotic asphyxia appears to include the pairing of choking with sexual arousal, with paired-associate learning theory providing a useful concept for understanding this dynamic.

Oates, K.R., O'Toole, B.I., Lynch, D.L., Stern, A., and Cooney, G. (1994). Stability and change in outcomes for sexually abused children. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 33(7), 945-953.

This study evaluates 84 sexually abused children and their families at intake and 18 months later, in comparison with a control group. Various assessment instruments were used, including the Children's Depression Inventory and the Achenbach Child Behavior Checklist. While the control children's self-esteem, depression, and behavior scores showed little change over time, the abused children's scores were far more likely to move toward the normal range, although 56% still remained in the dysfunctional range for self-esteem, as did 48% for behavior, and 35% for depression. Adequacy of family functioning was directly related to child outcome, but no relationship was found between therapy and outcome.

OTHER ISSUES ON CHILD MALTREATMENT

Bools, C., Neale, B., and Meadow, R. (1994). Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: A study of psychopathology. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 18(9), 773-788.

Data from 56 families in which a child had been the victim of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSP) are presented in this study. Findings from interviews that were conducted with 19 of the mothers provide an interesting look at family backgrounds, lifetime psychiatric problems, personality assessments, and current mental health status. The majority of the mothers interviewed were assessed as having a personality disorder, a finding that concurs with previous research on perpetrators of MSP.

Dubowitz, H. and Sawyer, R. (1994). School behavior of children in kinship care. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 18(11), 899-911.

In this study of the health and educational status of children in kinship care, questionnaires were completed by teachers of 75% of 374 school-aged children in one city. Compared to their classroom peers, children in kinship care had poorer study habits and attention/concentration skills, and more problems with overactivity, aggressiveness, and attention-seeking behaviors. Multivariate analyses yielded several predictors that explained much of the variation in school behavior problems. This study highlights the need for comprehensive services for all children placed in kinship care, including the careful monitoring of school performance and behavior.

English, D.J. and Pecora, P.J. (1994). Risk assessment as a practice method in child protective services. *Child Welfare*, 73(5), 451-474.

This article provides a thorough overview of the development of risk assessment and its purposes, a summary of current research, and suggestions for future research. Although the research indicates that risk assessment models are widely used, there is also a lack of conceptual clarity and difficulty incorporating these models into child protective services practice. Noting that most of the risk assessment instruments currently in use are unable to achieve a high degree of predictive accuracy, this analysis will be useful for CPS administrators and policy makers.

Finkelhor, D. and Dziuba-Leatherman, J. (1994). *Children as victims of violence: A national survey.* *Pediatrics*, 94(4), 413-420.

The goal of this study, which was based on a nationwide telephone survey of 2,000 children aged 10 to 16, was to gain a more comprehensive perspective on the scope, variety, and consequences of child victimization. Levels of victimization revealed in this study far exceeded those reported in official government victimization statistics. This discrepancy, it is suggested, can be attributed to using children as the study respondents. Results indicated that, among other findings, one-quarter of the children reported a completed victimization (excluding corporal punishment) in the previous year, and over one-third a completed or attempted victimization. Over half of the children reported a completed or attempted victimization at some time in their lives, with non-family assaults the most common. This article contains a great deal of information and victimization data analysis.

Kaufman, J., Jones, B., Stieglitz, E., Vitulano, L., and Mannarino, A. (1994). The use of multiple informants to assess children's maltreatment experiences. *Journal of Family Violence*, 9(3), 227-248.

In this study, information about children's maltreatment experiences was obtained from child protective services workers and three supplementary sources: parents, medical records, and clinical observations. Results suggest the urgent need to reexamine the common practice of relying solely on CPS reports of abuse. Collecting data from multiple sources appears to provide the "best estimate" of children's abuse experiences, and frequently leads to the discovery of new, previously undisclosed or reported abuse incidents.

CONFERENCES

APSAC Discounts

January 23-27, 1995. *The San Diego Conference on Responding to Child Maltreatment.* Sponsored by San Diego Children's Hospital Center for Child Protection. Call Robbie or Diane at 619-576-5814.

February 23-25, 1995. *First Annual South Carolina Professional Colloquium on Child Abuse.* Charleston, SC. Sponsored by APSAC's South Carolina chapter, SCPSAC. Distinguished faculty of local and national experts. Call Vickey Craft at 803-792-9782.

April 7, 1995. *Child maltreatment: The primal wound.* New York, NY. First annual meeting of APSAC's New York chapter, NYPSAC. Keynote speaker: James Garbarino, PhD. Contact Anne Meltzer (914-722-0042). Leah Harrison (718-920-5833), or Eileen Treacy (718-823-5988).

April 7-9, 1995. *Fifth Annual Mental Health and the Law Symposium.* Ft. Lauderdale. Sponsored by the University of Miami School of Law. Fourteen presenters, including J. Becker, S. Brodsky, C.P. Ewing, C. Slobogin, B. Sales. Contact Bruce Frumkin, 305-666-0068.

June 7-11, 1995. *APSAC's Third National Colloquium.* Tucson, AZ. At the beautiful desert resort, "La Paloma." See inside this issue for the Call for Abstracts. Call 312-554-0166, for information.

October 11-14, 1995. *The association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers' 14th Annual Research and Treatment Conference.* New Orleans, LA. Call Connie Isaacs at 503-233-2312.

June 26-30, 1996. *APSAC's Fourth National Colloquium.* Chicago Hilton & Towers. Chicago, IL.

Other Conferences

February 16-21, 1995. *First Annual Conference on Trauma, Loss, & Dissociation.* Alexandria, VA. Call 1-800-844-2789.

February 28 - March 3, 1995. *Children '95.* Washington, DC. Sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). Call 202-942-0289.

March 1-4, 1995. *Eighth National Youth Crime Prevention Conference.* Miami, FL. Sponsored by Youth Crime Watch of America and the National Crime Prevention Council. Call 305-670-2409 or 202-466-2672, Ext. 155.

March 9-11, 1995. *Leave No Child Behind - Building & Strengthening Communities for Children.* Seattle, WA. Annual National Conference. Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF). Call 202-662-3684. Fax 202-662-3540.

March 16-18, 1995. *Sexuality and Relationships in the 21st Century.* San Francisco. Sponsored by the Committee on Sexuality: Advocating for People with Developmental Disabilities. Call 510-676-0505.

March 19-22, 1995. *22nd National Conference on Juvenile Justice.* Phoenix, AZ. Sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Call 702-784-6012.

March 30 - April 2, 1995. *Comprehensive Psychodynamic Psychotherapy of Adult Trauma Survivors.* Intermediate course. Advanced course dates **September 21-24, 1995.** Atlanta. Sponsored by Metropolitan Psychotherapy Associates and Georgia State University Counseling Center. Call MPA at 404-321-4954.

April 4-7, 1995. *Finding Better Ways: Working with High-Risk Youth and Their Families.* Cambridge, MA. Sponsored by the Albert E. Trieschman Center and Boysville of Michigan. Call Trieschman Center 617-449-0625, Ext. 125.

April 24-28, 1995. *Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Intervention: Advanced Training in the Multidisciplinary Approach - Discipline Specific Case Management.* and **September 18-22, Accountability and resolution.** Huntsville, AL. Sponsored by the National Children's Advocacy Center and the National Resource Center for Child Sexual Abuse. Registration limited to 100 participants. Call 800-239-9938.

April 25-27, 1995. *13th Annual Protecting our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.* Minneapolis, MN. Sponsored by the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the American Indian Institutes, University of Oklahoma. Call Larry Douglas 503-222-4044, Ext. 14 or Fax 503-222-4007.

May 15-19, 1995. *The 23rd Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Symposium.* Keystone, CO. Sponsored by the C. Henry Kempe National Center. Call 303-321-3963. Fax 303-329-3523.

June 8-12, 1995. *Eastern Regional Conference on Abuse & Multiple Personality Disorder.* Alexandria, VA. Call Barry Cohen, ATR, at 1-800-950-6463.

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The following professionals were elected to APSAC's Board of Directors in 1994: Judith Cohen, MD; Esther Deblinger, PhD; Harry Elias, JD; Martha Erickson, PhD; David Kolko, PhD; Robert Reece, MD; Kathryn Turman; and Anthony Urquiza, PhD. We warmly welcome them to APSAC's Board of Directors, and thank all of the candidates for their willingness to give so much of their valuable time to APSAC.