

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

Beeghly, M. and Cicchetti, D. (1994) Child maltreatment, attachment, and the self system: Emergence of an internal state lexicon in toddlers at high social risk. *Development and Psychopathology*, 6(1), 5-30.

This six-year study examines the impact of low-socioeconomic status (SES) and child maltreatment on the emergence of an internal states (IS) vocabulary in a sample of 30-month-old toddlers. It was anticipated that the maltreated toddlers from the low-SES homes would show compromised patterns of early IS language production, even after controlling for the effects of poverty. Detailed results are presented in four sections and include group comparisons on indices of children's general expressive and receptive language maturity; differences in the diversity, semantic content and self-other determination of children's IS word production, and the relationship between IS language production and their general linguistic maturity. Study findings were consistent with other research which suggests that child maltreatment clearly has a toxic effect on toddlers' early self-development and sociomaturational abilities beyond any probable effects attributable to poverty. The IS lexicons of abused toddlers were significantly delayed and restricted relative to the demographically and cognitively matched control group. This study, remarkable for its methodological rigor and comprehensiveness, received APSAC's 1995 Outstanding Research Study Award.

Black, M.M., Dubowitz, H., Hutcheson, J., Berenson-Howard, J. and Starr, R.H. (1995) A randomized clinical trial of home intervention for children with failure to thrive. *Pediatrics*, 95(6), 807-814.

The efficacy of a home-based intervention on the growth and development of a sample of 130 predominantly urban, African American children diagnosed as nonorganic failure to thrive (NOFTT) was evaluated. (Mean age of children was 12.7 months.) Children were randomized into two groups: clinic plus home intervention (HI group) (N = 64) or clinic only (N = 66). Of the 130 families, 116 (89%) completed the one-year evaluation. Among the various findings, although home intervention had no effect on altering cognitive development among toddlers, a beneficial effect on infant cognitive and receptive language development and on the quality of the home environment was found. In the discussion section, the authors note that these findings support only a cautious optimism regarding home intervention during the first year of life.

Coohy, C. (1995) Neglectful mothers, their mothers, and partners: The significance of mutual aid. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 19(8), 885-895.

Two major questions are examined in this article: Do mothers who neglect their children engage fewer resources than non-neglectful mothers; and, is there a link between the quality of mothers' relationships and the receipt of fewer resources? Neglectful mothers were found to receive fewer total resources from both their partners and their mothers, but the type of deficit varied depending on the network member and the type of support. Mothers of neglectful mothers were either less willing or less able to give emotional support to their neglectful daughters, and the daughters were less interested in receiving emotional support. In addition, neglectful mothers' partners provided less companionship and help with child care compared to partners in the companion groups.

Crittenden, P.M., Claussen, A.H., and Sugarman, D.B. (1994). Physical and psychological maltreatment in middle childhood and adolescence. *Development and Psychopathology*, 6(1), 145-164

This study, based on data from 100 children ages six to seventeen, who were referred to the Miami Child Protection Team for investigation, explored the relations among the experience of physical and psychological maltreatment. Various aspects of socioemotional development were also examined. The results indicated that, as in pre-school aged children, physical and psychological maltreatment co-occurred in most situations involving older children. In school-aged children, the severity of emotional abuse was related to severity of physical neglect; among adolescents, however, it was related to severity of physical injury. A useful review of the literature on maltreatment and its relation to age, gender and ethnicity is provided.

Hicks, R.A. and Gaughan, D.C. (1995). Understanding fatal child abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 19(7), 855-863.

Fourteen consecutive cases of fatal child abuse and neglect seen at the Children's Hospital in Dayton from 1988 to 1992 are reviewed. Only 14% of cases examined had a history of known suspicious injury. Of the cases previously known to CPS agencies, the reason for the referral was not the fatally abused child, but a sibling. Twelve of the fourteen cases involved death by physical abuse, with evidence of soft tissue head injury present in all those cases. Acute subdural hemorrhage was the most common brain injury, present in nine cases. Blunt impact-shaking head injury was the cause of death in all but one of the ten physical abuse cases.

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Kasim, M.S., et al. (1995) Childhood deaths from physical abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 19(7), 847-854.

This article provides an interesting comparison to the Hicks and Gaughan article in the same issue of *Child Abuse and Neglect*. In this study of 30 cases of childhood deaths from physical abuse seen at General Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, subdural hemorrhage was also the leading cause of death. The various epidemiologic similarities between these two studies, in two distinctly different cultures, raise serious questions for child abuse fatality research and policy development.

Milner, J.S., Halsey, L.B. and Fultz, J. (1995). Empathic responsiveness and affective reactivity to infant stimuli in high- and low-risk for physical child abuse mothers. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 19(6), 767-780.

Empathic and emotional reactions to infant stimuli in matched groups of mothers at high and low risk for physical child abuse were examined. High-risk mothers showed a significantly more negative reaction to infant crying, including increased levels of distress and hostility. Low-risk mothers, on the other hand, showed significant increases in empathy to infant crying. The results of this study fully support aggression models which suggest a lack of empathy and the presence of negative affect in caretakers precede abusive behavior.

Scerbo, A.S. and Kolko, D.J. (1995). Child physical abuse and aggression: Preliminary findings on the role of internalizing problems. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 34(8), 1060-1066.

To examine the role of emotional distress in relation to the manifestation of aggression in physically abused children, fifty-two clinic-referred disruptive children (ages 7 through 15) were assessed for a history of physical abuse, internalizing behavior problems (as rated by parents), and aggressive behavior (as rated by parents, teachers and clinic staff). This study was undertaken within the context of a transactional model, which suggests that aggressive behavior problems arise when there is a mismatch between intrinsic child characteristics and family environmental conditions. Consistent with the transactional model, results indicated that physically abused children with co-occurring high levels of internalizing problems exhibited the highest levels of aggressive behavior. Physical abuse itself, however, was not necessarily predictive of aggressive behavior, as the scores of physically abused children with low internalizing behavior problems actually exhibited the lowest levels of aggression.

Sexual Abuse

Boudewyn, A.C. and Liem, J.H. (1995). Childhood sexual abuse as a precursor to depression and self-destructive behavior in adulthood. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 8(3), 445-459.

Childhood sexual abuse as a predictor of depression and self-destructive behavior in adulthood was examined relative to other traumatic stressors in childhood and adulthood in a nonclinical sample of college men (N = 173) and women (N = 265). Sixteen percent of males and 24% of females reported having been sexually abused as children. Although the generalizability of the findings are limited because of exclusive reliance on retrospective self-reports and the sample composition, for both male and female respondents, having a reported history of child sexual abuse accounted for a significant proportion of the total variance in depression and chronic self-destructiveness. In addition, the more frequent and severe the childhood abuse and the longer its duration, the more depression and self-destructiveness were reported in adulthood.

Marshall, W.L., Barbaree, H.E. and Fernandez, Y.M. (1995). Some aspects of social competence in sexual offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 7(2), 113-127.

Child molesters and rapists seen as outpatients were compared with a socioeconomically similar group of non-offenders, and with a group of university students, on various measures of social functioning and in matters regarding their judgments about actors displaying under-, over-, and appropriately assertive behavior. Child molesters and the community non-offenders were the most lacking in social self-confidence, the most socially anxious, and the most unassertive. Child molesters also rated the unassertive actors as the most appropriate and attractive; displayed the most social difficulties; and held beliefs about social behavior in sharp contrast to that generally regarded as appropriate. Based on these findings, it is suggested that evaluating and changing the models of appropriate behavior that sex offenders hold, especially child molesters, should be an important part of any therapeutic intervention.

Marshall, W.L. and Hall, G.C.N. (1995). The value of the MMPI in deciding forensic issues in accused sex offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 7(3), 205-219.

This article reviews the research studies which have attempted to distinguish various types of sex offenders based on their responses to the MMPI. Sound empirical evidence is presented which clearly demonstrates that MMPI responses, regardless of how they are scored or represented, do not distinguish any type of sex offender from other groups, including non-offenders. In an article with potentially far-reaching forensic implications, the authors conclude that because there is no way to tell from an accused sex offender's MMPI responses whether he actually committed the charged offense, MMPI scores should not be considered in evidence bearing on guilt or innocence. Attorneys who handle sex offense cases, and the judges who preside over them at any level, should read this article. (NOTE: This issue of *Sexual Abuse* is devoted to various psychological assessment instruments and their efforts to categorize sex offenders)

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Russell, D.H. (1995) The making of a whore. *Violence Against Women*, 1(1), 77-98.

This article, which is a shortened version of a chapter in a forthcoming book by Russell on incestuous abuse in white South Africa, is largely the personal account of a 23-year-old incest survivor. Even the most seasoned therapist with adult survivors of child sexual abuse will find this moving case study educational. Russell concludes the article with a section detailing the general relationship between childhood sexual victimization and adult prostitution.

Urquiza, A.J. and Goodlin-Jones, B.L. (1994). Child sexual abuse and adult revictimization with women of color. *Violence and Victims*, 9(3), 223-232.

To examine the long-term consequences of child sexual abuse, this study analyzed the rates of sexual victimization from a sample of 243 women of color (African-American, Asian-American, Latina and White). Nearly two-thirds of the women who reported rape as adults had histories of child sexual abuse, and approximately one-third of the women reportedly not raped as adults were sexually abused as children. Rates of child sexual abuse were roughly similar for African-American and white women (44.8% and 38% respectively) and lower for Latinas (25.6%) and Asian-American women (21%). African-American women disclosed the highest rate (37.9%) for adult rape, followed by white women (25.5%). Latinas and Asian-American women reported lower rates (17.9% and 10.5% respectively). A very thought-provoking discussion of why women with a history of child sexual abuse are more likely to be raped, and how specific ethnic groups are at greater risk of rape, is presented.

Zerbe Enns, C., McNeilly, C.L. and Gilbert, M.S. (1995). The debate about delayed memories of child sexual abuse: A feminist perspective. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 23(2), 181-279.

In a special issue of *The Counseling Psychologist* devoted exclusively to delayed memory, this article provides an excellent review of the debate and the social, psychological and political issues associated with it. With over 16 pages of references, information about the current debate regarding the veracity of delayed memories of childhood sexual abuse is examined, along with a discussion of the debate's history and the development of psychotherapy for reported trauma survivors. This article also contains an exhaustive review of the theoretical and empirical literature regarding abuse memories. In addition, several thoughtful recommendations regarding future practice and research are presented. The "Reactions" which immediately follow this article, especially those by Briere, Courtois and Loftus, et al, are enlightening.

Other Issues In Child Maltreatment

Boyer, B.A. (1995). Jurisdictional conflicts between juvenile and child welfare agencies: The uneasy relationship between institutional co-parents. *Maryland Law Review*, 54(2), 377-431.

This article closely examines the tension which often exists between juvenile courts and public child welfare agencies. Although several potential contributing factors are discussed, the article's focus is primarily on one specific question: Where does ultimate responsibility lie for the placement of children who are subject to the juvenile court's jurisdiction and are committed to the custody of the state's child welfare agency? The author concludes that ultimate responsibility should rest with the juvenile court for determining when deference to administrative decision-making is appropriate.

Davidson, H. (1995). Child abuse and domestic violence: Legal connections and controversies. *Family Law Quarterly*, 29(2), 357-373

The connection between child abuse and other forms of family violence is examined in this article, which provides very strong support for a holistic, household violence assessment approach by CPS investigators. Detailed policy changes are discussed regarding perpetrators who abuse both their adult partners and their children, the issue of non-abusing parents' failure to protect children from abuse, and when family violence victims also abuse their children. Ten public policy reforms aimed at assuring a more sensitive approach to intervention with children in violent homes are presented.

Finkelhor, D. (1995). The victimization of children: A developmental perspective. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 65(2), 177-193.

The author suggests a developmental perspective to better understand the nature and impact of victimization on children, and presents the initial framework for a new field called developmental victimology, the study of victimization across the changing phases of childhood and adolescence. The developmental victimology of children is subdivided into two distinct domains: the developmental aspects of risk, and the developmental aspects of impact. Each of these branches examines significant developmental periods and conditions which influence a child's vulnerability to victimization. The author presents an interesting theoretical framework for understanding children as victims of crime and maltreatment, one which invites further research.

Quinsey, V.L. (1995). The prediction and explanation of criminal violence. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 18(2), 117-127.

The author examines the empirical research on the prediction of violent behavior, specifically on a sample of mentally disordered and non-mentally disordered male offenders. Twelve variables were used in the Psychopathy Checklist or PCL-R, a 20-item checklist scored from file information that measures characteristics such as lack of empathy and impulsivity, the DSM-III diagnosis, alcohol abuse, and failure of prior conditional releases from incarceration. The article concludes with a thought-provoking discussion of

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whether violence results from a mental disorder or from environmental adaptations.

Small, M.A. (1994). Constitutional challenges to child witness protection legislation: An update. *Violence and Victims*, 9(4), 369-377

The current status of child protection legislation in various states, particularly Illinois, is reviewed. Non-lawyers who question how a state statute or appellate court decision could require literal in-court face-to-face confrontation in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's holding in *Maryland v. Craig* (1990) will find this article informative. For non-lawyers and lawyers, this article presents a concise examination of child witness protection statutes and their treatment at the state court level.

Thompson, A.H. and Newman, S.C. (1995) Mortality in a child welfare population: Implications for policy. *Child Welfare*, 74(4), 843-857

This study examined death rates in a one-year cohort of children with child welfare "status" in Alberta, Canada to determine whether children in out-of-home placement due to abuse or neglect were at higher than average risk for violent death. Although study results supported this conclusion, no evidence could be found that placement in the child welfare system exacerbated this risk. A thoughtful discussion of why death rates were elevated only for children approaching age 18, when child welfare support was withdrawn, is presented.

Violence Prevention Task Force (EAST). (1995) Violence in America: A public health crisis - The role of firearms. *Journal of Trauma*, 38(1), 63-167.

This is a position statement issued by the Violence Prevention Task Force of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST). Statistics on injuries caused by firearms are presented, among them the following: every two years, more Americans are killed by firearms than were killed in the entire Vietnam War; approximately 15 Americans under age 20 die every day from firearms; and the United States has the highest firearms death rate among all of the world's industrialized nations, and 41 times the rate of Canada, Japan, England, West Germany and Australia combined. Several recommendations are made by EAST to reduce these firearms-related deaths, including restricting the private ownership and use of handguns.

The "JH" Editor wishes to thank John Briere, PhD, USC School of Medicine, and Diane DePanfilis, MSW, University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Social Work, for their generous contributions to this issue.

Coming in the first issue of *Child Maltreatment*!

The first issue of APSAC's journal, *Child Maltreatment*, will be mailed to members in February, 1996. Among the articles scheduled for publication are the following:

- **Parents' perceptions of the risk of child sexual abuse and their protective behaviors: Findings from a qualitative study**
Mary Elizabeth Collins, PhD
- **Social isolation of neglectful families: A review of social support assessment and intervention models**
Diane DePanfilis, MSW
- **Subgroup differences in the modus operandi of adolescent sexual offenders**
Keith Kaufman, PhD; Daniel R. Hilliker; Eric L. Daleiden
- **The long-term sequelae of childhood sexual abuse in women: A meta-analytic review**
Debra A. Neumann, PhD; Beth M. Houskamp; Vicki E. Pollock; John Briere, PhD
- **Cognitive behavioral groups for non-offending mothers and their young sexually abused children: A preliminary treatment outcome study**
Lori B. Stauffer, PhD; Esther Deblinger, PhD
- **Weighing evidence in sexual abuse evaluations: An introduction to Bayes' Theorem**
James Wood, PhD

Child Maltreatment has been designed specifically to meet the needs of APSAC's members by providing interdisciplinary, policy- and practice-oriented articles of immediate usefulness. Upcoming issues will include special sections on

- **interviewing children**
- **the findings of treatment outcome research**
- **child abuse policy in a block grant world.**

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