

The purpose of Journal Highlights is to inform readers of current research on various aspects of child maltreatment. 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 Rochelle F. Hanson, Ph.D., National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29425 (FAX 803 792-2945) e-mail: hansonrf@musc.edu.

## SEXUAL and/or PHYSICAL ABUSE

### The Impact of Childhood Sexual Abuse on Parenting

The aim of this study was to examine the impact of a history of child sexual abuse and more general family relationship quality on the parenting of a sample of low-income mothers. This study was a secondary analysis of archived data collected by Zuravin (1996) on 518 low-income mothers. Parenting was assessed using measures such as frequency of worry about child problems, views of self as a parent, and how child discipline problems were handled. Child sexual abuse was associated with more negative views of self as a parent and the greater use of physical punishment strategies even after accounting for differences in family-of-origin relationship quality. Implications for future research and intervention are discussed.

Banyard, V.L. (1997). The impact of childhood sexual abuse and family functioning on four dimensions of women's later parenting. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 21(11),1095-107

### An Overview of the Debate on Repressed Memory

The current debate over repressed memory as well as the prominent theories in this area are discussed. Recent legal developments of repressed memory litigation are discussed along with examples of legal cases that are most relevant to mental health professionals today.

Corelli, T.B., Hoag, M.J., & Howell, R.J. (1997). Memory, repression, and child sexual abuse: forensic implications for the mental health professional. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 25(1), 31-47

### Predicting the Development of PTSD in Childhood Rape Survivors

This study attempted to determine which crime, perpetrator, victim, and aftermath characteristics are related to PTSD status among childhood rape victims. A national representative sample of women (N = 3,220) were interviewed about their history of rape, trauma-related variables, and PTSD status. Consistent with research on crime victims, life threat and physical injury discriminated PTSD status in a sample of childhood rape victims. In addition, two other domains were related to PTSD development: (1) testification about rape and (2) rape types. The present findings are discussed in relation to previous research.

Epstein, J.N., Saunders, B.E., & Kilpatrick, D.G. (1997). Predicting PTSD in women with a history of childhood rape. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 10(4), 573-88

### Incidence of Physical & Sexual Abuse in a General Population

The purpose of this article was to determine the prevalence of a history of physical and sexual abuse during childhood among the general population. A random sample (N=9953) of residents aged 15 years and older, selected from households in the province of Ontario, Canada, participated in the Ontario Health Supplement. Respondents completed a self-administered questionnaire about a history of physical and sexual abuse in childhood. Prevalence of abuse differed for males and females. Age of the respondent was not significantly associated with childhood abuse within any category for males. However, for females, the reported prevalence in childhood of sexual abuse, co-occurrence of physical and sexual abuse, and both categories of severe abuse decreased with increasing age of the respondent.

MacMillan, H.L., Fleming, J.E., Trocme, N., Boyle, M.H., Wong, M., Racine, Y.A., Beardslee, W.R., & Offord, D.R. (1997). Prevalence of child physical and sexual abuse in the community. Results from the Ontario Health Supplement. *JAMA*. 278(2), 131-135

### Studying the Incidence of PTSD

This article reports on the findings of the DSM-IV Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Field Trial. Two hundred thirty four participants who reported sexual and/or physical abuse were evaluated. Participants were categorized according to type of abuse (physical, sexual, both), duration of abuse (acute versus chronic), and onset of abuse (early versus late). Separate logistic regression analyses examined the relationship between age of onset, duration, abuse type, and the complex PTSD (CP) lifetime diagnosis for women and men. Sexually abused women especially those who also experienced physical abuse, had a higher risk of developing CP, although CP symptoms occurred at a high base rate among physically abused women. The theoretical implications and incremental clinical usefulness of targeting CP symptoms with abused populations are discussed.

Roth, S., Newman, E., Pelcovitz, D., van der Kolk, B., & Mandel, F.S. (1997). Complex PTSD in victims exposed to sexual and physical abuse: Results from the DSM-IV Field Trial for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 10(4), 539-55

### Covert Video Surveillance Detects Potentially Lethal Abuse

The purpose of this article was to describe historic markers and clinical observations of life-threatening child abuse as diagnosed by covert video surveillance (CVS). CVS was used to investigate suspicions of induced illness in a sample of 39 children and a control group of 46 children whose illnesses were proven to be attributable to natural medical causes. The use of CVS revealed attempted suffocation or other child abuse in 33 of 39 suspected cases. The authors conclude that detection of this type of abuse requires careful history-taking; thorough examination of the health, social, and police records; and close and focused collaboration between hospital and community child health professionals, child psychiatrists, social workers, and police officers. CVS may help investigate suspicions and ensure that children are protected from additional abuse.

Southall, D.P., Plunkett, M.C., Banks, M.W., Falkov, A.F., & Samuels, M.P. (1997). Covert video recordings of life-threatening child abuse: lessons for child protection. *Pediatrics*. 100(5), 735-60

### Tracking the Clinical Progression of Fatal Head Injuries

The purpose of this article was to determine the normal clinical progression of fatal head injuries in children to aid investigations of nonaccidental trauma. One hundred and thirty-eight accidental fatalities involving head injury were identified by a retrospective chart review. Details of 95 cases were reviewed and cases in which a child either had a Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) of 14-15 or was described as having a "lucid interval" or as being "conscious" were further studied. Review of head CTs revealed that brain swelling could be detected as early as 1 hour and 17 minutes post injury. The authors discuss clinical implications of their findings.

Willman, K.Y., Bank, D.E., Senac M. & Chadwick D.L. (1997). Restricting the time of injury in fatal inflicted head injuries. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 21, 929-40.

### OTHER ISSUES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

#### Distinguishing Family Violence from Family Maltreatment

The authors of this review argue for the importance of distinguishing between family maltreatment, characterized by minimal physical or sexual harm or endangerment, and family violence, characterized by serious physical injury, profound psychological trauma or sexual violation. The authors provide an empirically based review and discuss the definition and epidemiology of family violence and its causes, its consequences, and appropriate intervention.

Emery, R.E., & Laumann-Billings (1998). An overview of the nature, causes, and consequences of abusive family relationships: Toward differentiating maltreatment and violence. *American Psychologist*, 53, 121-135.

## CHILD MALTREATMENT SPECIAL SECTIONS CALL FOR PAPERS

*Child Maltreatment*, APSAC's quarterly, peer-reviewed journal, is currently soliciting papers for two upcoming special focus sections. For complete details on these sections and instructions for authors, please visit the *Child Maltreatment* website at <http://157.142.136.54/CM/CALLS.HTM>. Please send 5 copies and a cover letter indicating which focus section the manuscript is for to:

**Mark Chaffin, Editor in Chief, Center on Child Abuse and Neglect,  
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### FOCUS SECTION ON REPEAT VICTIMIZATION

**Guest Editor: Dan Smith, Ph.D., University of Arkansas**

A number of studies over the past two decades have reported an association between reports of childhood maltreatment and reports of a variety of victimization experiences later in life, often extending into adulthood. Although this phenomenon has been widely discussed, it is not well understood. *Child Maltreatment* is soliciting manuscripts on topics related to repeat victimization. Manuscripts should be submitted by August 31, 1998.

### FOCUS SECTION: CONTROVERSIAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF CHILD MALTREATMENT

**Editors: Theresa Reid, M.A., and Mark Chaffin, Ph.D.**

*Child Maltreatment* is preparing a focus section for an upcoming issue of the journal on the topic of controversial practices in the field of child abuse and neglect. The section is intended to encourage thoughtful and balanced analysis of practices which are the subject of serious criticism or debate. For example, the section might include contributions related to debated interview techniques, the appropriateness of categorizing infant drug exposure as maltreatment, controversial policies such as time limits for reunification efforts, controversial diagnoses such as dissociative disorders, or controversial treatment approaches such as memory recovery or reattachment therapy. However, the section would be less appropriate for contributions about practices or policies where an accepted negative consensus already exists, including practices which run counter to established law or published guidelines, such as coercive interviewing techniques or failing to report ongoing abuse. All manuscripts for this section are asked to respect a 30 page limit. The deadline for submissions is February 15, 1999.