

JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ernestine C. Briggs, PhD

Journal Highlights informs readers of current research on various aspects of child maltreatment. APSAC members are invited to contribute by sending a copy of current articles (preferably published within the past 6 months) along with a two- or three-sentence review to Ernestine C. Briggs, PhD, Duke University Medical Center, Trauma Evaluation, Research and Treatment Program, Center for Child and Family Health—North Carolina, 3518 Westgate Drive, Suite 100, Durham, NC 27707 (Fax: 919-419-9353).

SEXUAL ABUSE

Relationship between CSA severity and borderline personality disorder symptoms

This article examined the severity of sexual abuse reported by 290 borderline personality disorder (BPD) inpatients and the relationship among factors, such as the severity of childhood sexual abuse (CSA), other forms of childhood abuse, and childhood neglect and severity of BPD symptoms and psychosocial impairment. Regression analyses showed that CSA severity was significantly related to symptom severity in core sectors of BPD psychopathology and overall severity of BPD and psychosocial impairment. Severity of childhood neglect was significantly related to 5 of the 10 factors studied including the overall severity of BPD, and the severity of other forms of childhood abuse was significantly related to 2 of these factors. Results suggest that 1) the majority of sexually abused BPD inpatients may have been severely abused, and 2) that severity of CSA, other forms of childhood abuse, and childhood neglect may all play a role in the BPD severity and psychosocial impairment.

Zanarini, M. C., Yong, L., Frankenburg, F. R., Hennen, J., Reich, D. B., Marino, M. F., & Vujanovic, A. A. (2002). Severity of reported childhood sexual abuse and its relationship to severity of borderline psychopathology and psychosocial impairment among borderline inpatients. *Journal of Nervous & Mental Disease, 190*(6), 381-387.

Development of dissociation in maltreated preschool-aged children

This study compared evidence of dissociation in 45 maltreated children (assessed for sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect) with dissociation in 33 nonmaltreated children. Rather than depend on adult observer reports of behavior, the study sought to gain an understanding of dissociation from the child's own point of view. It used a measure of dissociation evidenced in children's narrative story-stem completions. Maltreated children, especially physically abused children and sexually abused children, demonstrated more dissociation than did nonmaltreated children. During the preschool period, maltreated and

nonmaltreated children followed different trajectories. Thereafter, dissociation increased for maltreated children but did not do so for nonmaltreated children. Results were discussed in terms of cascading effects of maltreatment throughout development and of the importance of developmentally sensitive interventions.

Macfie, J., Cicchetti, D., & Toth, S. L. (2001). The development of dissociation in maltreated preschool-aged children. *Development & Psychopathology, 13*(2), 233-254.

Impact of child sexual and physical abuse on Native American women's well-being

This article examined the impact of perceived child abuse history on 160 adult, Native American women's emotional well-being (i.e., depressive mood and anger) and AIDS risk. Child physical-emotional abuse was found to have greater impact on depressive mood and anger and AIDS risk than child sexual abuse. This finding was independent of current stress in women's lives. Women who were physically-emotionally abused as children had 5.14 times greater odds of having a sexually transmitted disease in their lifetimes than did women who experienced only marginal or no physical-emotional abuse. Moreover, consistent with the communal culture of Native Americans, social support was found to contribute more to resilience than was sense of mastery.

Hobfoll, S. E., Bansal, A., Schurg, R., Young, S., Pierce, C. A., Hobfoll, I., & Johnson, R. (2002). The impact of perceived child physical and sexual abuse history on Native American women's psychological well-being and AIDS risk. *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology, 70*(1), 252-257.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Support and positive school experience may moderate link between CPA and purging

This study examined resiliency in 18,592 adolescent females (aged 12-18 yrs) who reported being physically abused. Factors examined included physical abuse, purging, age, ethnicity, family structure, parental education, sexual abuse, religiosity, family support, parent-adolescent communication, other adult support, and school climate. Results show that both physical abuse and sexual abuse were associated with purging 2 or more times per week. Physically abused adolescents were less likely to purge 2 or more times per week if they received high levels of family support and had positive experiences in school. Physically abused adolescents were more likely to engage in purging if they had also been sexually abused.

Perkins, D. F., Luster, T., & Jank, W. (2002). Protective factors, physical abuse, and purging from community-wide surveys of female adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Research, 17*(4), 377-400.

Association between sibling abuse and subsequent experiences of dating violence

This contribution examined the association between abuse by siblings and subsequent experiences of dating violence, comparing this with the relationship between parental abuse and dating violence in 120 college students. For males, dating violence was associated with abuse by older and younger siblings. For females, dating violence was associated with abuse by older siblings but not by younger siblings. Dating violence among males was more strongly associated with sibling abuse than with parental abuse. For females, dating violence was more strongly associated with abuse by parents. Examination of the type of violence revealed that emotional and physical aggression received from parents and siblings was associated with expressed emotional dating violence among males and with expressed physical dating violence among females. The findings support the hypothesis that abuse by siblings, like abuse by parents, may contribute to a cycle of violence in the lives of persons victimized by sibling abuse.

Simonelli, C. J., Mullis, T., Elliott, A. N., & Pierce, T. W. (2002). Abuse by siblings and subsequent experiences of violence within the dating relationship. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17*(2), 103-121.

PCIT applied to the treatment of child physical abuse: A case example

This article described the clinical application of parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT), detailing its essential clinical components and presenting a case example illustrating the application of PCIT to the treatment of child physical abuse. Recommendations for common implementation difficulties were presented through the case example.

Herschell, A. D., Calzada, E. J., Eyberg, S. M., & McNeil, C. B. (2002). Clinical issues in parent-child interaction therapy. *Cognitive & Behavioral Practice, 9*(1), 16-27.

Culturally competent strategies for reducing violence in Latino families

This article examined common areas of misunderstanding between professionals and low-income Latino families concerning issues of physical abuse. It argued that low-income immigrant children deserve the same protection from harsh physical punishment as all other children. Suggestions gave culturally competent ways for counselors to work with Latino families to eliminate all forms of violence toward children, including corporal punishment.

Fontes, L. A. (2002). Child discipline and physical abuse in immigrant Latino families: Reducing violence and misunderstandings. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 80*(1), 31-40.

OTHER ISSUES IN CHILD MALTREATMENT

Additive impact of multiple types of abuse and suicidal behavior

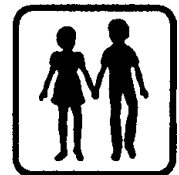
This study examined the association between exposures to multiple forms of childhood abuse (emotional, physical, and sexual) and adult suicidal behavior in a sample of 360 low-income, African American women (aged 18-65 yrs). Logistic regression analyses revealed that, compared with women who did not report any experiences of childhood abuse, women who experienced one, two, or three forms of abuse were 1.83, 2.29, or 7.75 times more likely to attempt suicide, respectively. Furthermore, compared with women who reported one or two types of abuse, women who reported all three types of abuse were more likely to attempt suicide.

Anderson, P. L., Tiro, J. A., Price, A. W., Bender, M. A., & Kaslow, N. J. (2002). Additive impact of childhood emotional, physical, and sexual abuse on suicide attempts among low-income African American women. *Suicide & Life-Threatening Behavior, 32*(2), 131-138.

History of child abuse linked with increased neuroendocrine stress reactivity in women

This study evaluated the relative role of early adverse experience versus stress experiences in adulthood in the prediction of neuroendocrine stress reactivity in women. A total of 49 women underwent a battery of interviews, completed rating scales on stress experiences and psychopathology, and were subsequently exposed to a standardized laboratory stressor. Outcome measures were plasma adrenocorticotropin (ACTH) and cortisol responses to the stress test. Peak ACTH responses to psychosocial stress were predicted by a history of child abuse, the number of separate abuse events, the number of adult traumas, and the severity of depression. Similar predictors were identified for peak cortisol responses. Although abused women reported more severe negative life events in adulthood than controls, life events did not affect neuroendocrine reactivity. The interaction of child abuse and adult trauma was the most powerful predictor of ACTH responsiveness. Findings suggest that a history of child abuse is related to increased neuroendocrine stress reactivity, which is further enhanced when additional trauma is experienced in adulthood.

Heim, C., Newport, D. J., Wagner, D., Wilcox, M. M., Miller, A. H., & Nemeroff, C. B. (2002). The role of early adverse experience and adulthood stress in the prediction of neuroendocrine stress reactivity in women: A multiple regression analysis. *Depression & Anxiety, 15*(3), 117-25.



Differential symptom pattern in children with PTSD and concurrent depression

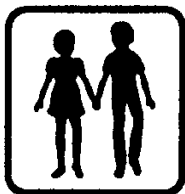
The present study attempted to examine specific differences in the posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptomatology among abused children with and without concurrent major depressive disorder (MDD). Analyses revealed that nine items reflecting depressive symptomatology, primarily vegetative symptoms, differentiated the diagnostic groups (PTSD-only, MDD-only, and the combined group). Analyses also revealed that three posttrauma symptoms—psychological amnesia, flashbacks/reenactments, and sleep difficulties—discriminated between the groups. The PTSD-only group reported more episodes of psychological amnesia while the PTSD and MDD group experienced more flashbacks. For the sample of abused children examined, these results illuminate differences with respect to PTSD-symptom presentation for those children with PTSD who have a concurrent depressive disorder compared with their non-depressed counterparts.

Runyon, M. K., Faust, J., & Orvaschel, H. (2002). Differential symptom pattern of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in maltreated children with and without concurrent depression. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 26(1), 39-53.

Risks of subsequent CPS maltreatment allegations

This study sought to (1) assess the relationship between identified prenatal substance use and the risk of subsequent maltreatment allegations among families involved with child protective services; and (2) compare the types of safety threats encountered by children whose parents had substance-exposed infant (SEI) allegations with the types of safety threats faced by children whose parents had other types of allegations. Cox regression models were conducted to assess the relative risk of subsequent allegations associated with parents whose child welfare case opened following an SEI allegation (the SEI group) compared with parents whose case opened following other types of allegations. The likelihood of subsequent allegations is greater among parents in the SEI group. However, the increased risk stems almost entirely from subsequent SEI-related allegations. Parents in the SEI group are not more likely to incur other types of allegations, such as physical abuse or lack of supervision.

Smith, B. D., & Test, M. F. (2002). The risk of subsequent maltreatment allegations in families with substance-exposed infants. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 26(1), 97-114.



Liability issues in child abuse reporting laws

This article reviewed the liability provisions found in child abuse and neglect reporting statutes and summarized relevant court findings. According to the author, courts seem motivated by 2 key considerations, namely, that statutes should be interpreted broadly and that states' interests in such reporting are compelling. These opinions offer practical guidance as well as information relevant to the debate on how these reporting statutes should be reformed.

Small, M. A., Lyons, P. M., & Guy, L. S. (2002). Liability issues in child abuse and neglect reporting statutes. *Professional Psychology—Research & Practice*, 33(1), 13-18.

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APSAC would also like to thank Board Member Terry Hendrix for his volunteer role as Publications Manager for the past 2 years. Without the donation of his valuable time (and space in his house and garage!), many orders would have gone unfilled.

THANK YOU TERRY!!!!