Review of research on child maltreatment and violence in youth

Maas, Carl; Herrenkohl, Todd I; Sousa, Cynthia


This review addresses research regarding associations between child maltreatment and youth violence perpetration. The authors explore current findings on the direct effects of child maltreatment on later youth violence and possible gender and ethnic differences. They examine differences in the prediction of adolescent violence as a function of duration and timing of maltreatment. Results provide compelling evidence linking child maltreatment and later youth violence, although some research is inconclusive once demographics and other competing predictors are considered. Overall, physical abuse is perhaps the most consistent predictor of youth violence, patterned by an increased risk for children exposed to severe, compounded maltreatment. However, findings indicate that lesser severe forms of abuse can increase the risk of later violence for some youth.

Limitations of current research include relatively few prospective studies on the abuse-violence link; a general lack of specificity in definitions of key variables; and inconsistency in data analysis methods.

KEY WORDS: child maltreatment; youth violence; longitudinal analysis; predictors

Community violence exposure of Southeast Asian American adolescents

Ho, Joyce


Southeast Asian adolescents in the United States face the daily challenge of adjusting to the American culture and their culture of origin. However, little is known about how the patterns of their bicultural adjustment influence psychological symptoms, especially when faced with other challenges such as community violence and negative life events. Additionally, the overrepresentation of Southeast Asian youth in the mental health and juvenile justice systems also necessitates a deeper understanding of the adjustment of this group of adolescents. Data from a sample of 80 Vietnamese and Cambodian adolescents who were between 13 and 18 years old revealed high rates of community violence witnessing and victimization, and a moderate level of negative life events. All of these stressors were related to higher externalizing and trauma-related symptoms, but only violence victimization and negative life events were related to higher
internalizing symptoms. There was an additive effect of higher bicultural orientation related to lower externalizing and traumatic-stress symptoms in the face of stress and violence exposure, but no moderation effects were found. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: community violence; negative life events; bicultural orientation; Vietnamese Americans; Cambodian Americans

AN: Accession Number
81454

TI: Title
Psychobiology of posttraumatic stress disorder in pediatric injury patients: a review of the literature

AU: Author
Langeland, Willie; Olff, Miranda

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
Research suggests that about a quarter to a third of children with traffic-related injuries develop PTSD. Early symptoms of PTSD have been found to predict poor mental and physical outcome in studies of medically injured children. However, these symptoms are rarely recognized by physicians who provide emergency care for these children. In addition, there is insufficient knowledge about predictors of posttraumatic stress symptoms in this specific pediatric population. Early identification of those children at particular risk is needed to target preventive interventions appropriately. After some introducing remarks on the classification and the nature of posttraumatic stress reactions, current research findings on psychological and biological correlates of PTSD in pediatric injury patients are presented. The particular focus in this paper is on the neurobiological mechanisms that influence psychological responses to extreme stress and the development of PTSD. Continued study of the psychobiology of trauma and PTSD in pediatric injury patients, both in terms of neurobiology and treatment, is needed. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: trauma; PTSD; pediatric injury patients; risk factors; prevention

AN Accession Number
30250

TI: Title
The role of panic attacks in acute stress disorder in children

AU: Author
Sinclair, Emma; Salmon, Karen; Bryant, Richard A

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
This study examined the role of peritraumatic panic symptoms during trauma in childhood acute stress. Children (N = 60) who had suffered traumatic injury were administered the Child Acute Stress Reaction Questionnaire, the Child Depression Inventory, and the Physical Reactions Scale to index panic attacks that occurred during the trauma. Panic attacks were experienced during their trauma by 100% of
participants with acute stress reactions and 24% of participants without stress reactions. Panic attacks during trauma accounted for 28% of the variance of acute stress reactions, with an additional variance accounted for by age, time since the accident, and dysphoria. These findings are discussed in terms of fear conditioning models of posttraumatic stress. [Author Abstract]

AN: Accession Number
81484

TI: Title
Subjective well being of adolescents in boarding schools under threat of war

AU: Author
Ronen, Tammie; Seeman, Anat

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
How is subjective well being (SWB) of adolescents in boarding schools affected by threatened war, and related to perceived social support, self-control skills, and self-efficacy beliefs? 567 adolescents in five Israeli boarding schools completed questionnaires before the 2003 Iraq war. As expected, participants' fear of war affected SWB, and adolescents with high social support and self-control reported better SWB than low-scoring counterparts. Unexpectedly, self-efficacy regarding effective coping with upcoming war was unrelated to SWB. However, self-efficacy moderated links between social support and two SWB components (positive affect, life satisfaction). High-efficacy participants showed positive support-SWB correlations, whereas low-efficacy participants showed none. Findings highlighted personal resources as maintaining adolescents' SWB in boarding schools even under extreme stress. [Author Abstract]

AN: Accession Number
81482

TI: Title
Trauma in childhood [letter]

AU: Author
McNally, Richard J

SO: Source
Archives of General Psychiatry, vol. 64, no. 12, pp. 1451, December 2007

AB: Abstract
Many studies indicate that crimes against children have been plummeting since the early 1990s. The decline has been dramatic, ranging from 40% to 70%, depending on the crime. We now need to identify the variables causing these massive improvement so that we can foster policies that accelerate these favorable trends. [Adapted from Text]

AN: Accession Number
30190

TI: Title
Families of infants and young children with cancer: a post-traumatic
stressed framework

AU: Author
Kazak, Anne E; Baxt, Chiara

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
Despite unique vulnerabilities in infants and young children, little research has been devoted to understanding the psychological impact of the diagnosis of cancer in this age group. We outline psychological factors affecting very young cancer patients and their families, using the broader literature on psychological adjustment of children and adolescents with cancer and their families, and a post-traumatic stress model for understanding likely reactions of children and families. Examples of evidence-based interventional approaches relevant to families of young children with cancer are presented.

[Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: psychological outcome; PTSD

AN: Accession Number
30246

TI: Title
Parental response and adolescent adjustment to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

AU: Author
Gil-Rivas, Virginia; Silver, Roxane Cohen; Holman, E Alison; McIntosh, Daniel N; Poulin, Michael

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
This study examined adolescents' adjustment following the attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11). A Web-based survey was administered 2 weeks and 7 months postattacks to a national sample of adolescents (N = 104). A randomly selected parent also completed a survey at the 7-month assessment. Although exposure to the attacks was indirect, over half the participants felt threatened. Adolescents' posttraumatic stress symptoms were associated with their acute stress symptoms, parental distress, parental coping advice, parental availability to discuss the attacks, and reports that 9/11-related discussions were unhelpful. Adolescents' distress symptoms were associated with a history of mental health problems, acute stress symptoms, and parental unavailability to discuss the attacks. [Author Abstract]

AN: Accession Number
81483

TI: Title
The relationship between acute stress disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder in injured children

AU: Author
Bryant, Richard A; Salmon, Karen; Sinclair, Emma; Davidson, Patricia

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
This study indexed the relationship between acute stress disorder (ASD) and subsequent PTSD in injured children. Consecutive children between 7-13 years admitted to a hospital after traumatic injury (n = 76) were assessed for ASD. Children were followed up 6-months posttrauma (n = 62), and administered the PTSD Reaction Index. Acute stress disorder was diagnosed in 10% of patients, and 13% satisfied criteria for PTSD. At 6-months posttrauma, PTSD was diagnosed in 25% of patients who were diagnosed with ASD. Acute stress reactions that did not include dissociation provided better prediction of PTSD than full ASD criteria. These findings suggest that the current ASD diagnosis is not optimal in identifying younger children who are high risk for PTSD development. [Author Abstract]
healing activities for adolescent orphans who, as boys, had been involved in wartime atrocities. This fusion of Western trauma treatment and ritual proved transformative in helping the youths overcome violent impulses and rediscover the pleasure of collective endeavour. Engaging in symbolic expression through attunement and kinaesthetic empathy enabled the teenagers to reflect on their personal involvement in armed conflict in a way that encouraged enhanced awareness of belonging to the broader humanity. The intervention therefore fostered conditions that led participants to create a public performance highlighting their dual roles as both victims and perpetrators in the war. This, in turn, advanced their reconciliation within the local community. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: dance/movement therapy, empathy, reconciliation, Sierra Leone, counseling, war, ritual

AN: Accession Number
81463

TI: Title
Culture and the assessment of trauma in youths
AU: Author
Nader, Kathleen Olympia
SO: Source
AB: Abstract
Culture influences or defines youths' characteristic reactions, methods of expressing reactions, and therapeutic needs following traumatic experiences. Culture shapes the mediating and moderating factors -- the traits, circumstances, and environmental issues that may alter outcomes -- associated with traumatic response. Cultural heritage molds the family unit, which in turn helps to form a youth's identity development. Findings have been mixed regarding many aspects of youths' traumatic responses. Many factors, including cultural issues, may account for these mixed findings. The norms of one culture may not apply to those of other cultures. The nature of early attachment relationships, for example, is a variable that has influenced psychological outcomes and resilience in children. The distribution of attachment types differs among cultures. Israeli, Japanese, and Indonesian attachment norms differ from those of North Americans. Accurate assessments of youths necessitate adaptations in methods, measures, and interpretations when multicultural or immigrant groups are evaluated within a country or in nations outside of the assessor's own nation. [Text, p. 169]

AN: Accession Number
81582

TI: Title
Screening and assessing adolescent asthmatics for anxiety disorders
AU: Author
Ross, Carolyn J M; Davis, Terry M A; Hogg, D Y
SO: Source
Clinical Nursing Research, vol. 16, no. 1, pp. 5-24, February 2007
AB: Abstract
The purpose of this study was to evaluate a strategy designed to permit early detection of anxiety disorders in adolescent asthmatics. Adolescents with asthma (N = 53) were screened for anxiety disorders using the Trait subscale of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory for Children [STAI-C (Trait)] and the Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children (MASC). Adolescents and their parents were individually evaluated by a nurse trained in the administration of the Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule-IV: Parent and Child Versions (ADIS-IV: P&C). Of the participants, 21 (40%) met the diagnostic criteria for one or more anxiety disorders. The STAI-C (Trait) was more effective than the MASC in screening adolescents for risk of coexisting anxiety disorders. Nurses trained to administer the ADIS-IV: P&C diagnosed anxiety disorders with a high degree of accuracy. These results have important implications for resolving the problem of unrecognized and untreated anxiety disorders in the adolescent asthmatic population. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: adolescents; asthma; anxiety disorders

AN: Accession Number
30256

TI: Title
A child-centered refugee resettlement program in the United States

AU: Author
Xu, Qingwen

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
Refugee children are exposed to numerous risk factors resulting from war, genocide, and resettlement, and are facing multiple difficulties to cope with the resettlement process. These challenges set refugee children apart from the mainstream community and can stifle their overall adjustment and development. Unfortunately, policy makers have paid little attention to the caring for refugee children during their initial resettlement. This paper examines systematic barriers to refugee children's successful resettlement in the U.S., and presents a child-centered framework as an option to better address the needs of refugee children, and offers recommendations for policy changes and effective social work practice. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: refugee children, resettlement, child-centered framework

AN: Accession Number
81643

TI: Title
A clinical vignette: resource connection in EMDR work with children

AU: Author
Wizansky, Barbara

SO: Source

AB: Abstract
A vignette is a brief case report that makes a contribution to the literature, but which has used only EMDR's standard protocol measures. This vignette describes a procedure for drawing on and strengthening a child's resources in all phases of EMDR treatment. The procedure
facilitates the connection to more authentic and meaningful inner resources that come directly from the child's world, thus strengthening the positive memory networks so that these are available for the child to access when processing his/her traumatic material. Three separate cases are described to illustrate the application.

[Introduction]

EMDR, adaptive information processing, and case conceptualization

Shapiro, Francine


EMDR is an integrative, client-centered psychotherapy approach that emphasizes the brain's information processing system and memories of disturbing experiences as the bases of those pathologies not caused by organic deficit or insult. EMDR addresses the experiences that contribute to clinical conditions and those needed to bring the client to a robust state of psychological health. Overviews of the history, development, and research that have established EMDR as an empirically supported treatment are provided. Subsequent to an explanation of the adaptive information processing model, an extended case example is used to illustrate the recommended EMDR case conceptualization and eight phases of treatment. This approach is used to process the early memories that set the foundation for the pathology and the present situations that trigger the dysfunction, while providing templates for appropriate future action that incorporate the information and behaviors needed to overcome skill and/or developmental deficits. The benefits of integrating EMDR and family systems perspectives to provide the most comprehensive therapeutic effects are described.

[Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing; adaptive information processing model; memories; family systems therapy; integrative psychotherapy

Trauma and coping in juvenile delinquents [dissertation] (132 pp.)

Schember, Jennifer J


Studies of PTSD and psychopathy have demonstrated relationships between each of these constructs and trauma exposure. Coping skill utilization is one mechanism proposed to influence the relation between trauma and such negative psychological outcomes. The present study was designed to assess the moderational role of coping in a population of juvenile delinquents, as this group reliably demonstrates high rates of trauma exposure and increased risk for negative psychological sequelae. Juveniles in this sample reported
increased rates of traumatic family experiences, PTSD symptoms, and both approach-oriented and avoidant coping, when compared to previously-reported normative means. Coping did not play a moderating role in the relations between trauma and PTSD, nor in the relationship between familial trauma and psychopathy. The coping strategy of cognitive avoidance, however, did moderate the relation between neighborhood violence and psychopathy. A strong relationship was observed between these variables in those youth who endorsed engaging in high levels of cognitive avoidance, while no relationship existed when cognitive avoidance was utilized less. The variables which directly influenced PTSD symptom severity were trauma scores (both family and neighborhood) and behavioral avoidant coping. The coping strategy involving problem solving had a primary effect on psychopathy scores, demonstrating an inverse relationship. These results suggest that clinical interventions for PTSD should target behavioral avoidance, and that Problem Solving Skills Training (PSST) should continue to be utilized with delinquent youth. The need for continued research on the construct of psychopathy in youth and its relation to symptoms of PTSD is highlighted. [Author Abstract]
religious beliefs and practices, community and cultural activities, meaning of life, family and social support, war experiences, substance use, and social conduct. Multiple regression analyses were conducted with a traumatic stress measure as the criterion variable and war experiences, age, and gender (step 1) and intellectual measures, religious beliefs, family and social support, meaning of life (step 2), as predictors. Some results were unexpected (e.g., psychosocial variables such as religious practice and social activities did not enhance resiliency) but, as expected, intelligence, age, meaning of life, family and social support, problem behaviors, and Raven percentile, all impacted resiliency. The implications of findings regarding rehabilitative services for traumatized youth and the primary prevention of the many known pathological consequences of war among children worldwide are discussed. The study's limitations and suggestions for future research are also considered. [Author Abstract]

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TI: Title
Linking youth internet and conventional problems: findings from a clinical perspective
AU: Author
Mitchell, Kimberly J; Finkelhor, David; Becker-Blease, Kathryn Anne
SO: Source
AB: Abstract
This article utilizes data from a clinical sample of 512 youth to examine whether various problematic Internet experiences are distinctly different from or extensions of the conventional adolescent mental and behavioral health problems seen by clinicians. A Two-step Cluster Analysis identified four mutually exclusive groups of youth, those with: (a) online victimization; (b) inappropriate sexual behavior online; (c) online isolation; and (d) online and offline problems. Results suggest support for the idea that problematic Internet experiences are often extensions of experiences and behaviors that clinicians were working with prior to the advent of the Internet. However, the Internet may be introducing something qualitatively or quantitatively new, such as an increased severity, an increased frequency, or some unique dynamic that requires new responses or interventions. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: Internet, cluster analysis, youth, clinical, problematic experiences
AN: Accession Number
81623
TI: Title
Childhood exposure to domestic violence: posttraumatic stress symptomatology and the effects of resilience on short- and long-term
The deleterious effects of domestic violence on children have been extensively documented yet there has been an absence of research to understand the etiology of these children's symptomatology and the protective factors that might mitigate their adverse experiences. This research integrated the tenets of complex psychological trauma and resilience to advance such understanding. The study examined the relationship between exposure to domestic violence and risk for developing posttraumatic stress symptoms in two groups of children of battered women: exposed-nonvictims of physical abuse (E-NVPA) and exposed-victims of physical abuse (E-VPA). The study also examined the relationship between posttraumatic stress and two aspects of resilience -- sense of mastery and sense of relatedness. A sample of 405 child-mother dyads who had escaped from domestic violence situations was recruited from 7 family violence agencies serving 25 counties in central and west Texas. Participant data were collected using a cross-sectional nonexperimental survey design and were analyzed using a repeated measures MANOVA. Results showed that children in the E-VPA group exhibited significantly more posttraumatic stress symptoms than children in the E-NVPA group. Additionally, children with higher levels of mastery and relatedness exhibited significantly fewer posttraumatic stress symptoms than children with lower levels of either resilience aspect. These findings have important implications for positive social change in the areas of practice and policy for children, families, communities, and professionals. Most particularly, the findings provide knowledge about assessment, clinical intervention, mobilizing interagency partnerships, and proactive training of professionals. [Author Abstract]
69 subjects met criteria for schizophrenia. 45% of the subjects met criteria for substance use disorders (i.e., substance abuse or dependence), and another 7% tried illicit substances without meeting criteria for abuse or dependence. Substance use disorders (SUDs) were not significantly associated with the type of psychotic illness, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, severity of positive or negative symptoms at baseline, or other hypothesized risk factors (e.g., disruptive behavior disorders, familial substance abuse, and maltreatment). Subjects with SUDs had a significantly older age of entry into the study (p < .001). Subjects with co-occurring schizophrenia and SUDs used substances prior to the onset of psychosis and had a significantly older age of onset of psychosis (p < .021). Only 26% of youths with SUDs had received specific chemical dependency treatment. CONCLUSIONS: Substance abuse is a very significant and under-treated problem in this sample of youths with early onset psychosis. Efforts to identify specific risk factors and effective intervention strategies are needed. [Author Abstract] KEY WORDS: substance abuse, psychosis, child and adolescent

AN: Accession Number
81621

TI: Title
Impact of child abuse timing and family environment on psychosis
AU: Author
Faust, Jan; Stewart, Lindsay M
SO: Source
Journal of Psychological Trauma, vol. 6, no. 2/3, pp. 65-85, 2007
AB: Abstract
The theoretical basis for the development of differential psychopathology in children in response to a traumatic event suggests the timing of trauma and the family environment likely influence the development of psychological disturbances. We predicted that abused children who had psychotic symptoms would have experienced the trauma earlier in life than those children diagnosed with PTSD. We also predicted that children with psychotic symptoms would hail from homes higher in cohesion and family conflict than those children with PTSD. Participants were 40 children, ages 6 to 17, and their mothers. All children were receiving treatment at a community mental health center, and were diagnosed with either PTSD (n = 20) or a psychotic based disorder (n = 20). Results indicated that children with psychotic disorders experienced trauma earlier than children with PTSD (p < .02). Children with psychotic disorders reported more familial conflict (p < .04) than those children with PTSD. When compared to mothers of children with PTSD, mothers of psychotic children rated their family as less cohesive (p < .03). Implications of this research were discussed. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: child abuse, PTSD, psychosis

AN: Accession Number
81638

TI: Title
The effects of an aerobic exercise program on posttraumatic stress disorder symptom severity in adolescents [dissertation] (211 pp.)
AU: Author
In the current study, the impact of aerobic exercise on PTSD symptom severity in adolescents was investigated. Previous findings lend support to the validity of the current investigation. 12 female adolescents between the ages of 14 and 17, gathered from a private residential facility in the metropolitan New York area, completed a five week, 15 session aerobic exercise program consisting of moderate-intensity walking. All participants completed the Child PTSD Symptom Scale (CPSS), Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC), Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children (MASC), and Children's Depression Inventory (CDI) twice at pretest. The MASC and CDI were included in this study, as strong relationships among symptoms of PTSD, anxiety, and depression exists. The effects of aerobic exercise on PTSD, anxiety, and depression symptoms were explored at the conclusion of the exercise program as well as one month post-intervention. Yarnold's ipsative z-score comparison method for single-case repeated measures designs was utilized in analysis of the data of participants who demonstrated stable levels of symptomatology across the extended baseline period. 91% of such participants showed a significant reduction in PTSD symptomatology on the CPSS, following participation in the aerobic exercise program. 67% of the participants who demonstrated stable levels of trauma-related stress on the TSCC and 50% of the participants who demonstrated stable levels of anxiety on the MASC showed significant reductions in symptomatology following participation in the exercise program. In addition, 25% of the participants who demonstrated stable levels of depression on the CDI demonstrated significant reductions in symptomatology, following participation in the aerobic exercise program. Current results were fairly consistent with previous research findings, which have documented the beneficial effects of aerobic exercise activity on symptoms of trauma. Strong effects of aerobic exercise on depression and anxiety were not found; however, relatively low levels of such symptomatology were noted during the baseline phase of the study for many participants. Future research is recommended to clarify current results and address this study's flaws. Larger sample sizes and the use of a control group are encouraged. [Author Abstract]
Research has established that both exposure to community violence and family functioning are predictive of various forms of psychological distress in adolescents. This study examined whether predictors in this area interact in such a way that the relation of community violence exposure to psychological distress in serious male juvenile offenders is moderated by caregiver-adult support and caregiver control. A heterogeneous sample of 116 male incarcerated adolescents (aged 12-18) was administered measures evaluating exposure to community violence, caregiver-adult support and control, and different forms of psychological distress. As expected, a significant caregiver-adult support by violence exposure interaction was found for alcohol/drug use and depression/anxiety. The implications of the findings for understanding and treating serious male juvenile offenders are discussed. [Author Abstract]KEY WORDS: adolescents, incarcerated, community violence, family functioning, psychological distress