

## **Family Member Issues**

### **Recent Scientific Articles on this Topic:**

*Core issues for female child abuse survivors in recovery from substance misuse.* Hall JM, Qual Health Res 2000 Sep;10(5):612-31

Female survivors of childhood abuse have increased risk for substance misuse. Childhood abuse survivors describe current mental health and substance misuse services as not addressing central problems, the "heart of the matter." Negative core issues related to abuse events, contexts, substance use, and current problems were explored in open-ended interviews with 20 female abuse survivors. Most were marginalized because of cocaine use, poverty, and ethnic status. Narrative analysis involved within- and between-account comparisons through adequate paraphrasing of in vivo descriptions. Results include in-depth description of basic core beliefs, developmental core influences, and current core experiences. Implications for practice and policy include appreciation of the influence of negative core experiences on mental health, substance misuse recovery, and preparedness for adulthood demands.

*Childhood sexual abuse and adult psychiatric and substance use disorders in women: an epidemiological and cotwin control analysis,* Kendler KS, Bulik CM, Silberg J, Hettema JM, Myers J, Prescott CA, Arch Gen Psychiatry 2000 Oct;57(10):953-9

**BACKGROUND:** Women who report childhood sexual abuse (CSA) are at increased risk for developing psychiatric disorders in adulthood. What is the diagnostic specificity and cause of this association?

**METHODS:** In a population-based sample of 1411 female adult twins, 3 levels of CSA were assessed by self-report and cotwin report: nongenital, genital, and intercourse. Interviews with twins and parents assessed family background and diagnoses of psychiatric and substance dependence disorders. Odds ratios (ORs) were calculated by logistic regression.

**RESULTS:** By self-report, 30.4% reported any CSA and 8.4% reported intercourse. Self-reported CSA was positively associated with all disorders, the highest ORs being seen with bulimia and alcohol and other drug dependence. The ORs were modest and often non-significant with non-genital CSA and increased with genital CSA and especially intercourse, where most ORs exceeded 3.0. A similar pattern of findings was seen with CSA as reported by the cotwin, although many ORs were smaller. Controlling for family background factors and parental psychopathology produced a small to modest reduction in ORs. In twin pairs discordant for CSA, the exposed twin was at consistently higher risk of illness.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Women with CSA have a substantially increased risk for developing a wide range of psychopathology. Most of this association is due to more severe forms of CSA and cannot be explained by background familial factors. Although other biases cannot be ruled out, these results are consistent with the hypothesis that CSA is causally related to an increased risk for psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

***A study of barriers to the engagement of significant others in adult addiction treatment.*** De Civita M, Dobkin PL, Robertson E, J Subst Abuse Treat 2000 Sep;19(2):135-44

Using the focus group methodology, this study identified personal and structural barriers to the engagement of significant others in an outpatient addictions treatment program. Twenty-eight significant others (family members, other kin, and friends) associated with 21 patients participated in one of three focus group sessions. The cut-and-paste technique was used to analyze the narrative data. Improving communication and reconnecting patients with a supportive community were forms of support identified. Patients' willingness to accept support and therapists' invitation to involve significant others in the treatment were identified as necessary precursors to their initial involvement. Providing educational and therapeutic support to significant others were endorsed as important elements in maintaining their involvement. Offering a diversity of therapeutic services beyond standard office hours, providing home visits and child care were viewed as facilitators for their involvement. It became apparent that support providers tended to resent having their own needs ignored. Feelings of isolation, fatalism, loneliness, ignorance, and fear were expressed by significant others. Theoretical and practical implications of the findings are discussed.

***A parenting group for women dealing with child sexual abuse and substance abuse.*** Hiebert-Murphy D, Richert M, Int J Group Psychother 2000 Jul;50(3):397-405

This article describes a group developed to address the parenting needs of women dealing with child sexual abuse and substance abuse. A solution-focused 12-week group intervention is described, and the results of an evaluation are presented. Participants included 29 women who attended seven parenting groups. The results suggest that the group was perceived as beneficial by the women, who reported an increase in self-esteem, parenting satisfaction, and parenting self-esteem and an improvement in their attitudes toward their children.

***Parenting practices as predictors of substance use, delinquency, and aggression among urban minority youth: moderating effects of family structure and gender.*** Griffin KW, Botvin GJ, Scheier LM, Diaz T, Miller NL, Psychol Addict Behav 2000 Jun;14(2):174-84

This study examined how parenting factors were associated with adolescent problem behaviors among urban minority youth and to what extent these relationships were moderated by family structure and gender. Sixth-grade students (N = 228) reported how often they use alcohol, smoke cigarettes, or engage in aggressive or delinquent behaviors; a parent or guardian reported their monitoring and other parenting practices. Findings indicated that boys and those from single-parent families engaged in the highest rates of problem behavior. More parental monitoring was associated with less delinquency overall, as well as less drinking in boys only. Eating family dinners together was associated with less aggression overall, as well as less delinquency in youth from single-parent families and in girls. Unsupervised time at home alone was associated with more smoking for girls only. Implications for prevention interventions are discussed.

***The effects of perceived parental behaviors, attitudes, and substance-use on adolescent attitudes toward and intent to use psychoactive substances.*** Teichman M, Kefir E, J Drug Educ 2000;30(2):193-204

The effects of parental behaviors, attitudes, and drug-use as perceived by adolescents on the latter's attitudes toward and intent to use psychoactive substances were studied. Perceived parental rejection, acceptance, and attitudes significantly differentiated between adolescents who reported favorable attitudes toward and high intent to use substances and those who expressed less favorable attitudes. On most parameters, the father's influence was significant, whereas the effect of the mother did not reach significance. Positive and significant relationships were also found between perceived

parental rejection, acceptance, and attitudes and adolescent attitudes and intent to use psychoactive substances. No relationships were found between controlling parental behavior and adolescent attitudes and intent to use psychoactive substances. The role of the parents, as well as implications of the findings for prevention are discussed.