

## LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The works listed in these pages comprise selections from the new additions to the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault library collection over the last six months. They may be borrowed from the Australian Institute of Family Studies library via the interlibrary loan system. Compiled by Institute Librarian, Joan Kelleher.

### Adolescent attitudes

**Pathways to manhood: The social and sexual ordering of young men's lives**, by M. Flood, *Health Education Australia*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2002, pp. 24-30.

The author discusses practices, discourses and relations among boys and young men that shape their social and sexual lives. This includes health issues such as contraception and disease transmission, as well as violence and familial relationships. He maps the sexual path many boys take – including proving themselves and how they learn about sex and boys' feelings on rape and heterosexuality – and argues that it is essential to understand these issues and attitudes in order to successfully promote good health behaviour among young men.

**Sowing the seeds of violence in heterosexual relationships: Early adolescents narrate compulsory heterosexuality**, by D. Tolman et al., *Journal of Social Issues*, vol. 59, no. 1, 2003, pp. 159-178.

This paper explores how the precursors of violence may be an integral part of adolescent dating behavior from the beginning. The concept of boys as sexual predators and the response of both boys and girls to this role are examined.

### Costs of crime

**Counting the costs of crime in Australia**, by P. Mayhew & G. Adkins, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, ACT, 2003 (8p), and Online (PDF 356K) <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/ti247.pdf>

This paper presents up-to-date figures on the costs of a range of offences and crime as a whole in Australia. The costs assessed include medical costs, lost output, and in tangible costs, which set a monetary value on pain, suffering and lost quality of life. Cost estimates are presented for homicide, assault, sexual assault, robbery, burglary, theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles, shop theft, other theft, criminal damage or vandalism, arson, fraud, drug offences, overall crime costs, and other costs, including criminal justice system costs, costs of victim assistance, security costs, household precaution costs, and insurance costs. Fraud is the most costly crime, followed by violent crime, including homicide, assault and sexual assault, and burglary.

### Impact of sexual assault

**Sexual assault: When sex is not OK**, South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault, Melbourne, 2000, one videocassette, 7 min.

This set of video, cd and booklet defines sexual assault and, if it has occurred, details what kind of help is available. It also briefly discusses possible reactions to sexual assault.

**The trauma of sexual assault: Treatment, prevention, and practice**, Edited by J. Petrak & B. Hedge, Wiley, Chichester, England, c2002. xiii, 354p.

Rape and sexual assault are common crimes in our societies, but work on its psychosocial impact and critiques of procedures and interventions are hard to find. The *Trauma of Sexual Assault* fills these gaps. It focuses on adult victims and opens up the debate with research findings, theoretical perspectives and implications for treatment, longer-term management and future policy . . . The book is a much-needed and accessible reference for clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors and therapists, nurses, the criminal justice system, and all professionals working in settings providing services for sexual assault. (Book jacket)

### Indigenous communities

**Domestic violence, sexual assault and the health of Aboriginal people**, by R. Widders, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth & Family Work Journal*, no. 6, Autumn, 2003, pp. 40-45.

The author discusses sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities in relation to the response from services and agencies, the importance of understanding the impact of history, the need to employ Aboriginal workers and to help in culturally appropriate ways, the importance of education and ways of dealing with perpetrators.

**Sharon's story: Young aboriginal women and domestic violence**, Hatchling Productions, Northern Territory, 1999, 1 videocassette, 22 min.

A young Aboriginal woman comes to realise that her relationship with her boyfriend isn't what it appears. With the help of her friends, she takes time to look at herself and her values. The video looks at the issues of violence within relationships between young Aboriginal people. It aims to give young women a better understanding of their legal rights in the event of domestic violence and sexual assault.

### Intimate partner assault

**Forced sexual intercourse in intimate relationships**, by I.M. Johnson & R.T. Sigler, Aldershot, England, c1997, ix, 189p.

This book examines the literature on date rape in both an historical and a conceptual context. Data on the prevalence and incidence of date rape is provided. Various theories of this form of sexual assault are explored.

**Intimate partner sexual assault: The impact of competing demands on victims' decisions to seek criminal justice solutions**, by D. Lievore, Paper presented at the 8th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference, Melbourne, 12-14 February 2003, Melbourne (8p). Online only (PDF 40K) <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/afc8/lievore.pdf>

Despite initiatives to encourage the reporting of sexual assault to police, women who are sexually victimised by intimate partners are least likely to seek legal redress. This leaves them at risk of repeat victimisation and open to victim blaming. This paper demonstrates that reporting decisions are mediated by a number of competing personal, cultural and situational demands, which act as barriers to the criminal justice system. At the same time, non-reporting may be viewed as a rational response to victimisation in some circumstances, as it maintains particular values and achieves desired outcomes. This is not to suggest that women should not be encouraged to report sexual offences, but indicates that victims who do report to police must be enabled to achieve other desired outcomes, such as protection from reprisal. (Author abstract)

### Law reform

**Sexual offences: Interim report**, by Victorian Law Reform Commission, Melbourne, Victorian Law Reform Commission, 2003, 421p.

This is the second report to be published by the Victorian Law Reform Commission as part of their reference on sexual offences. It describes the current operation of sexual offence laws and makes recommendations for some legislative, procedural and administrative change. It includes research on current rates of reporting to police as well as documents the findings from a study of prosecution outcomes for penetrative offences other than rape. The report also debates the responsiveness of the criminal justice system to victims of sexual assault and considers options for reform that will reduce the distress of giving evidence that include: tightening the restrictions on the admission of sexual history evidence, prohibiting the disclosure of counselling files, allowing for the compulsory use of closed circuit television for victims to give their evidence, and reducing the number of times children are required to appear in court. The Interim Report calls for submission from the public on these issues.

**The trials of sex assault victims**, by J. Silveri, *Law Institute Journal*, vol. 77, no. 5, April, 2003, pp. 18-23.

In the words of one female magistrate when discussing sexual offences: "If it were my daughter, even though I'd want the perpetrator dealt with, I wouldn't put her through [the legal system]." This statement is an indication that the criminal justice system is struggling to make the legal experience of most sexual assault victims anything less than painful. The Victorian Law Reform Commission is about to release its report into the responsiveness of the criminal justice system to the needs of sexual assault victims. This represents the latest attempt to make the legal system less traumatic for victims. The article provides an overview of community concerns about this problem.

### Male victims

**Male victims of sexual assault**, Edited by G.C. Mezey & M.B. King, Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York, 2000, xiii, 161p.

This volume discusses the subject of male victims of rape and sexual assault. It addresses the important issues of prevention, care and treatment. A chapter on male child and adolescent victims of sexual abuse is included.

### Medical care

**Management of acute adult sexual assault**, by J. Mein et al., *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 178, no. 5, March, 2003, pp. 226-23.

An estimated 13 per cent of women and 3 per cent of men worldwide report sexual assault in their lifetime. This article outlines the forensic care that should follow adult sexual assault and notes that although managing sexual assault may appear daunting, some victims want medical care only. The authors state that after disclosure, forensic assessment should be discussed. If a complaint to the police is possible, a forensic assessment should take place. If medical care only is desired, determine the timing and type of assault and current contraception, manage general and genital injuries and perform relevant tests. Counselling is important for all victims of sexual assault, as psychosocial consequences are more common than physical injuries. Management by a sympathetic, non-judgemental health practitioner helps the victim to regain control. (Journal abstract, edited)

### Offender profiles

**Predators: Pedophiles, rapists, and other sex offenders: Who they are, how they operate, and how we can protect ourselves and our children**, by A.C. Salter, Basic Books, New York, c2003, xvi, 272p.

World-renowned psychologist Anna Salter has been studying sexual offenders and their victims for more than twenty years. Now, for the first time, she uses her expertise to dispel the myths surrounding sexual offenders – how they think, how they deceive their victims, and how they elude the law . . . Why is sexual abuse so common, and how do predators cover their tracks? . . . Anna Salter argues that it is our misconceptions about predators that make us so vulnerable to them. Drawing on the stories of abusers, told in their own words, Salter sheds light on the surprising motives behind sexual abuse. (Book jacket)

### Offender treatment programs

**How to work with sex offenders: A handbook for criminal justice, human service, and mental health professionals**, by R. Flora, Haworth Clinical Practice Press, New York, c2001, xv, 252p.

The complex areas of sex offender prosecution and treatment in the United States are presented in this book in an accessible way. It provides an overview of what happens to an offender from the time of apprehension, through prosecution, adjudication and treatment programs. Information for investigators, prosecutors, child protection workers and therapists is included.

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**Sex offender treatment: Accomplishments, challenges, and future directions**, Edited by M.H. Miner & E. Coleman, Haworth Press, New York, c2001, 125p.

This book gives a general overview of the current types of sex offender treatment programs and outlines future directions. It includes a proposal for a multisystemic treatment model for juvenile offenders. A restorative justice approach for reintegration of adult offenders back into the community is described.

### Online support networks

**Support groups, online bulletin boards and chat rooms**, by M. McKenzie, *Domestic Violence & Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no. 4, Summer 2002, pp. 15-17.

A range of support groups exists for people who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault. The author lists and describes the support offered by some groups, professionally facilitated or not. She focuses on the emergence of online support in particular, and discusses the benefits of anonymity provided by online support services.

### Personal safety

**Acting on the women's safety strategy**, by Victorian Office of Women's Policy, Office of Women's Policy, Melbourne, 2002, 39p.

The Women's Safety Strategy was introduced by the Victorian Government in October 2002. This booklet describes how the strategy will be implemented and the kinds of pro-

grams that exist to assist with the future development of government policy in the area of violence against women.

**Women's safety strategy: A policy framework**, by Victorian Office of Women's Policy, Office of Women's Policy, Melbourne, 2002, 76p.

One in three Victorian women experiences some form of violence in adulthood. This book outlines the Bracks Government policy on women's safety, designed to reduce the level of violence against women and women's fear of violence. The single policy framework operates across many portfolios; the key areas are crime prevention, community care, disability services, regional health and aged care. The document considers "What is violence against women?"; addresses the following forms of violence against women including definitions of violence such as family violence, sexual assault, violence in public places, stalking, workplace violence and bullying, sexual harassment, racial and religious violence against women, trafficking in women and girls, female genital mutilation; and asks why does violence against women occur and how it impacts on Victorians?

**Women's safety, women's voices**, by Victorian Office of Women's Policy, Melbourne, State of Victoria, 2002, 24p.

Released as part of the Victorian Government's Women's Safety Strategy, this booklet contains the personal accounts of several women who have been victims of violence. The booklet aims to raise community awareness of family violence and violence against women generally, and to encourage women who are experiencing violence to seek help. The stories deal with domestic violence, incest, sexual harassment, rape and other violence towards women. ►

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**What other services would you find useful for your work?**

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**What topics would you liked covered in the Centre's publications, or considered for research projects?**

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Membership form overleaf ►

## Pornography

**Youth and pornography in Australia: Evidence on the extent of exposure and likely effects**, by M. Flood & C. Hamilton, The Australia Institute, Lyneham, ACT, 2003, 64p.

Children now have easy and free access to pornography on the Internet. In this study, 16 and 17 year olds were surveyed to determine the extent of their exposure to X rated material. The survey investigates the paths and extent of this underage exposure to pornography, the content of the pornography, and the possible effects of the exposure on attitudes and behaviour, and on the extent to which exposure may also lead to a higher incidence of sexual assault.

## Prevalence rates

**Sex in Australia: Experiences of sexual coercion among a representative sample of adults**, by R.O. de Visser et al. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 27, no. 2, April, 2003, pp. 198-203.

The purpose of this article is to provide reliable estimates of the prevalence, correlates and consequences of sexual coercion among a representative sample of Australian adults. Computer-assisted telephone interviews were completed by a representative sample of 10,173 men and 9,134 women aged 16-59 years. The overall response rate was 73.1 per cent. Sexual coercion is an unacceptably common experience, with detrimental effects on various aspects of people's lives. It most commonly occurs at the ages at which people become sexually active and women are more likely than men to be sexually coerced. Implications of the

research show that there is a need for services to tailor their responses to dealing with the impact of sexual coercion on victims who are less likely to identify or disclose experiences that fall outside what may be considered the more conventional definitions and perceptions of what constitutes sexual violence. (Journal abstract, edited)

**Women's experience of crime and safety in Victoria 2002**, by C. Gordo et al., Crime Prevention Victoria, Melbourne, 2002, 16p.

Many more women than men are the victims of family violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and stalking. This report provides statistics on the incidence of crime against women, the effects of violence, and what is being done in Victoria to address the issue. The report looks at women as victims of homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault, family violence, stalking, violence and misconduct in the workplace, missing persons, and property crime, and women as offenders.

## Research

**Researching sexual violence against women: Methodological and personal perspectives**, Edited by M.D. Schwartz, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, c1997, xvii, 222p.

This volume presents a strong overview of current research into sexual violence against women. It examines the issues and controversy around 'real' rape versus acquaintance or date rape. New methodologies for research in this area are explored and the effects of this research on researchers themselves are examined.

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