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### Adult survivors of sexual assault

**A collaborative approach to working with women who have experienced sexual violence as children**, by J. Bullen, J. Jacobs, L. Le Pont, M. Martin & C. Smith, Stepping Out Housing Program, paper presented at the NSW NGO Conference 2004 – *NGOs, Mental Health and Community: Turning the Tide*, March 2004, Sydney [NSW] Mental Health Coordinating Council, online only (PDF 56K) <http://www.mhcc.org.au/conferences/2004/papers/JaneBullen.pdf>

“Stepping Out Housing Program is a medium term supported accommodation service in south western Sydney for women (with or without dependent children) who have experienced child sexual assault and are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This paper addresses the needs and experience of tenants who tell the story of being considered ‘too hard’ to work with and who have trouble locating services that respond adequately to their complex needs. Tenants and staff from Stepping Out were interviewed about their experiences of collaboration between services including mental health services, and the paper includes the voices of the those interviewed. Ideas are suggested for positive ways forward toward a better outcome.” (Abstract)

**The effects of child sexual abuse in later family life: Mental health, parenting and adjustment of offspring**, by R. Roberts, T. O’Connor, J. Dunn, J. Golding & the ALSPAC Study Team, *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*, vol. 28, no. 5, May 2004, pp. 525-545.

“This study examines the effects of child sexual abuse on later mental health, family functioning and parenting behaviours of the abused individual. The intergenerational transmission of adjustment problems experienced by the victim’s later children are also discussed.” (Abstract)

**Mother-daughter incest: A guide for helping professionals**, by Beverly A. Ogilvie, Binghamton, [USA] Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press, 2004.

“[This book] illuminates the rarely examined phenomenon and aftermath of mother-daughter incest, focusing on the victim’s perception of and reaction to her experience. This unique book integrates psychological theory and practical interventions with the words of the survivors themselves.” (Cover)

### Attitudes to sexual assault

**Bystander education: Bringing a broader community perspective to sexual violence prevention**, by V. Banyard, E. Plante & M. Moynihan, *Journal of Community Psychology*, vol.32, no.1, Jan. 2004, pp.61-79.

This study furthers the literature on sexual assault prevention programs by examining the psychology of the bystander and the wider community, including community norms, community change, and bystander training.

**Don’t believe the hype: Young women’s experience of male violence in the “Girl Power” era**, by J. Baker, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.14, Jul 2003, pp.27-34.

“In this article it is argued that the material reality of young women’s experience of male violence is at odds with the triumphant images of female success associated with girl power and post-feminist discourses. An analysis of the ways in which young women describe and explain dating and domestic violence is set in a context of liberal individualist ideology and masculinity politics which has implications for policy and practice.” (Journal abstract)

**Town bikes unite**, by L. Harriott, *International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Work*, no.2, 2004, pp.3-7.

“Written by a counsellor in an Australian Centre Against Sexual Assault, this paper questions the attitudes of the dominant culture to women who are sexually prolific. It also explores the links for some women between experiences of sexual assault and subsequent prolific sexual activity. By questioning the effects of dominant attitudes towards women’s sexuality and by inviting therapists and researchers to explore the meanings that women give to their own experiences of sexuality, this paper offers new challenges to the counselling field.” (Journal abstract)

**Date-rape-supporting and victim-blaming attitudes among high school students in a multiethnic society: Israel**, by G. Geiger, M. Fischer, & Y. Eshet, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.19, no.4, Apr. 2004, pp.406-426.

The attitudes of 900 Israeli secondary school students to date rape and victim blaming are examined.

Findings identified wide support for stereotypes justifying rape and blaming the victim. The need for sex education programs to address these attitudes is highlighted.

**First- and second-generation measures of sexism, rape myths and related beliefs, and hostility toward women: Their interrelationships and association with college students' experiences with dating aggression and sexual coercion**, by G. Forbes, L. Adams-Curtis & K. White, *Violence Against Women*, vol.10, no.3, Mar. 2004, pp.236-261.

This United States study examines recent developments in conceptualisation and measurement of sexist attitudes and rape-supporting beliefs and their relationship with aggressive and coercive behaviours.

**Rape myth acceptance and rape proclivity: Expected dominance versus expected arousal as mediators in acquaintance-rape situations**, by P. Chiroro, G. Bohner, G. Tendayi Viki & C. Jarvis, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.19, no.4, Apr. 2004, pp.427-442.

"Individuals who are high in rape myth acceptance (RMA) have been found to report a high proclivity to rape. In a series of three studies, the authors examined whether the relationship between RMA and self-reported rape proclivity was mediated by anticipated sexual arousal or anticipated enjoyment of sexually dominating the rape victim. Results of all three studies suggest that the anticipated enjoyment of sexual dominance mediates the relationship between RMA and rape proclivity, whereas anticipated sexual arousal does not. These findings are consistent with the feminist argument that rape and sexual violence may be motivated by men's desire to exert power over women. Theoretical and practical implications of our findings are discussed." (Journal abstract)

**Social perception of rape: How rape myth acceptance modulates the influence of situational factors**, by B. Frese, M. Moya & J. Megias, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.19, no.2, Feb. 2004, pp.143-161.

This study investigated the role of rape myth acceptance and situational factors, including stranger versus acquaintance or marital rape and drunkenness, in how people perceive the seriousness of rape and attribute blame or responsibility, using a survey of Spanish college students.

### Cultural diversity

**Culture, social discourse and domestic violence: What is the connection?** by C. Noble & C. Bettman, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.14, Jul 2003, pp.42-52.

"Men's violence against women is seen as a universal problem but there are societies in which it has been absent or infrequent. By focusing on a number of non-Western or indigenous societies, where domestic violence is not prevalent or is rare, this article seeks to investigate the influence of culture on domestic violence. It suggests that each culture has a body of information and knowledge about male violence according to the discourses it accepts and makes function as true, which determines the behavioural choices of its members and the way power and privilege are manifested. It concludes that further work which explores the interface of culture and social discourse is necessary to ensure that the spotlight remains on male violence and that the community at large collectively explores the way male violence is discussed and defined as a cultural and social discourse." (Journal abstract)

### Feminist theory

**Managing violence? Feminist management practice in a domestic violence service**, by A. Bartlett, R. Campbell & L. Whitaker, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.14, Jul 2003, pp.35-41.

"Domestic violence organisations have been drawing on feminist approaches to management for almost 30 years now, yet the processes of managing seem fraught and women come out of committees feeling traumatised and burnt out. In this article, the authors draw on their professional domains of knowledge to reflect on their experiences as volunteer management committee members of a domestic violence service and try to articulate why such a motivated and visionary feminist practice might be so difficult to implement." (Journal abstract, edited)

### Homeless young people

**Involuntary sex experienced by homeless young people: A public health problem**, by D. Rosenthal & S. Mallett, *Psychological Reports*, vol.93, no.3, Dec 2003, pp.1195-1196.

There is a higher incidence of young homeless people being exposed to adverse sexual health outcomes and in particular, more sexual assault. This survey of homeless young people in Melbourne found that the incidence of involuntary sex was higher than in the general adolescent population. The authors argue that there is a need for programs to provide this group with the ability to avoid unwanted sex.

### Incidence and trends

**The epidemiology of female rape victims who seek immediate medical care: Temporal trends in the incidence of sexual assault and acquaintance**

**rape**, by D. Magid, D. Houry, T. Koepsell, A. Ziller, M. Soules & C. Jenny, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.19, no.1, Jan. 2004, pp.3-12.

This study investigates sexual assault trends, incidence and characteristics by comparing the reports of female sexual assault victims presenting to a US emergency department in 1991 with 1974.

### Intimate partner and acquaintance sexual assault

**Just “keeping the peace”: A reluctance to respond to male partner sexual violence**, by M. Heenan, *Issues*, Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault, no.1, Mar 2004, 1-39.

Two decades ago in most Australian states and territories, rape in marriage was not a crime. Legislation now addresses this issue, and this paper explores whether the social and legal responses to sexual violence perpetrated by men against their female partners has changed. Five key areas are discussed: the historical development of the law and legal treatment relating to male partner rape; the current status of research into intimate partner sexual violence and gaps that exist; difficulties faced by women in recognising and disclosing their experience of male partner rape; the impact of male partner sexual violence on women’s physical and emotional health; and the reluctance of support services to respond specifically to male partner rape.

**Wife rape: Understanding the response of survivors and service providers**, by R. Bergen, Thousand Oaks [USA] Sage Publications, 1996.

“[This book] lends voice to the personal testimonies of survivors and contrasts these stories with interviews of service providers, illustrating the lack of validation and insufficient assistance currently available to wife rape survivors. Offering insight and hope to survivors and providing critical information to service providers, this valuable volume helps readers better understand wife rape and the response of agencies to the problem.” (Cover)

**Intimate betrayal: Understanding and responding to the trauma of acquaintance rape**, by V. Wiehe & A. Richards. Thousand Oaks [USA], Sage Publications, 1995.

“This book informs and educates about the nature of acquaintance rape and its impact on the victim, intervention, and prevention. The chapters on intervention include material on crisis intervention, tools for effective rape counseling, and strategies for meeting the psychosocial needs of survivors who are facing long-term recovery due to previous sexual assault victimisation. The authors also offer a special chapter on marital rape to expose this long-denied and insidious form of rape. In addition, a useful review of current literature pinpoints interventions crucial to rape prevention.” (Publisher website, edited)

### Intimate partner and family violence

**Measuring the tides of violence: current family violence data for the western region of Melbourne**, Footscray [Vic.] Women’s Health West, 2003.

This research report examines the incidence of intimate partner violence against women in the Western Region of Melbourne, including the region’s demographics, data from police and crisis services, and disadvantaged groups. Extracts from presentations from the Rising Tides of Violence forum are included as appendices.

**The effects of arrest on intimate partner violence: New evidence from the Spouse Assault Replication Program**, by C. Maxwell, J. Garner & J. Fagan, Washington DC, National Institute of Justice, 2001, <http://www.ncjrs.org/AlphaTitles.html#E>

Discusses an analysis of 4,032 incidents, across five jurisdictions, in which males assaulted their intimate female partners, comparing the number of repeat offences when batterers are and are not arrested. The five jurisdictions are included in the Spouse Assault Replication Program sponsored by the National Institute of Justice. The analysis was cosponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Intimate partner violence surveillance: Uniform definitions and recommended data elements**, by L. Saltzman, et al, Atlanta [USA] Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2002, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/pubs.htm>

This document is intended for voluntary use by individuals and organisations in the United States interested in gathering surveillance data on intimate partner violence (IPV). Its aim is to promote and improve consistency of IPV surveillance, thereby enabling better estimation of the incidence and prevalence of IPV and overcoming problems of data incompatibility and the high costs of collecting, linking and using data.

### Legal procedures

**Do trials of perpetrators re-traumatise crime victims?**, by U. Orth & A. Mearcker, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol.19, no.2, Feb 2004, pp.212-227.

This study investigated whether attendance at court trials has a retraumatizing effect on victims, leading to an increase in the post traumatic stress symptoms caused by the original crime, using a survey of German victims of violent crimes, including rape victims.

**The self-confessed perpetrator and the Australian legal system that sanctioned the crime**, by “Debra”, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.14, Jul 2003, pp.53-61.

The author of this article gives a detailed account of her experience of the legal system as a victim/survivor of sexual assault. She describes the actions and attitudes of the police and legal system from the time the rape was reported through to an eventual trial and finally the outcome of an Ombudsman's investigation of her complaint about the handling of her case. This experience left the author feeling that she did not achieve justice, and that this case is just one example of how the legal system in Australia fails to treat rape and sexual assault as a serious crime.

**Sexual assault, criminal justice and law and order**, by J. Stubbs, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.14, Jul 2003, pp.14-26.

"This article engages with questions about the role of the criminal justice system in responding to sexual assault. The author demonstrates the limitations of policies based on deterrence and sentencing, by reference to statistics on the processing (or not) of reported sexual offences in New South Wales. She also challenges the assumption that punitive policies allied with law and order rhetoric provide improved safety for women." (Journal abstract)

**Sexual offences: The new law**, by R. Card, Bristol [UK], Jordan Publishing, 2004.

"Sexual Offences - The New Law is an authoritative guide to the new [Sexual Offences Act 2003], as it applies to England and Wales. In addition to detailed explanatory commentary on the new law, the text of the Act is included." (Cover)

### Mother blaming

**Mother blaming: A covert practice in therapeutic intervention**, by J. Allan, *Australian Social Work*, vol.57, no.1. Mar 2004, pp.57-70.

"This article discusses the continuing discursive support for idealised motherhood, describes some ways mother blaming is practiced within therapeutic intervention and discusses the implications of this for social work practice. The article is based on a qualitative study of professionals who provide therapeutic intervention for sexually violent children and their families. The case examples discussed come from this study and describe the roles attributed to mothers in causing and maintaining their children's sexual violence." (Journal abstract)

### Offenders

**The police perspective on sex offender orders: A preliminary review of policy and practice**, by K. Knock, London, Home Office, Policing and Reducing Crime Unit, 2002.

Sex Offender Orders (SOOs) were introduced in Great Britain under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and can be applied to prohibit convicted or cautioned sex

offenders from engaging in behaviours known to have led to the commission of offences in the past. In this way SOOs are intended to help prevent further offences from occurring. This report provides an overview of their use by police in England and Wales from their inception on 1 December 1998 up to 31 March 2001.

**Predicting reconvictions for sexual and violent offences using the revised offender group reconviction scale**, by R. Taylor, London, Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, 1999, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/rf1999.html>

"The Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) predicts the probability that an offender will be reconvicted within two years of release from prison or from the start of a community penalty for any standard list offence. A revised version of OGRS is now used, which also predicts reconvictions for sexual and violent offences. These findings examine the advantages and limitations of the revised OGRS, particularly in relation to predicting sexual and violent reconvictions." (Website)

### Policy

**Report of the Task Force on Sexual Assault and Rape in Tasmania**, Hobart, Women Tasmania, 1998, <http://www.women.tas.gov.au/resources/reports/index.html>

The Task Force on Sexual Assault and Rape was established by the Tasmanian government in 1995 to review the whole-of-system response to sexual assault and rape, and was convened and chaired by the Office of the Status of Women (subsequently Women Tasmania). The policy emphasis of the Task Force Report is that sexual assault is a crime and must therefore be aligned with the crime prevention responsibilities of government. The strategy developed by the Task Force is intended to: enable the government and community to work together to change public attitudes to sexual assault; provide a less traumatic process in the courts; ensure consistent condemnation of the proven offender; and provide an adequate level of support for the victim.

### Political attitudes

**Interview with Natasha Stott Despoja: Political dimensions of violence against women**, by A. Neame, *Aware*, Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault Newsletter no.3 Feb 2004, 3-5.

Senator Natasha Stott Despoja is the Australian Democrat's Spokesperson for the Status of Women, and in this role she spoke to the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault about the political significance of violence against women in Australia. In this edited transcript of the interview, Senator

Stott Despoja gives her perspectives on violence against women, and in particular sexual violence, as a political issue and a public concern, and its connections with other issues of women's inequality.

### Pornography

**When words are not enough: The search for the effect of pornography on abused women**, by J. Hinson Shope, *Violence Against Women*, vol.10, no.1. Jan. 2004, pp.56-72.

This study investigated the use of pornography as a factor in increasing the probability that a woman will be sexually, as well as physically abused, by her partner. It found that the combination of alcohol and pornography increased the odds of sexual abuse.

### Rural issues

**Unspoken crimes: Sexual assault in rural America**, by S. Lewis, Enola [USA] National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 2003, [http://www.nsvrc.org/rural\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.nsvrc.org/rural_booklet.pdf)

"This booklet examines sexual assault from a rural perspective. Its goal is to present service providers with a better sense of the unique characteristics that are so often a part of rural regions. It considers the issue of prevalence of rural sexual assault by examining national data as well as information from several states." (p.1)

### Self defense training

**"I can take care of myself": The impact of self-defense training on women's lives**, by J. Hollander, *Violence Against Women*, vol.10, no.3, Mar. 2004, pp.205-235.

The author provides evidence from a longitudinal study of women's self-defense training that shows that it reduces risk of sexual assault and has other important life-enhancing effects.

**Sexual assault of women: Prevention efforts and risk factors**, by I. Sochting, N. Fairbrother & W. Koch, *Violence Against Women*, vol.10, no.1, Jan. 2004, pp.73-93.

Authors provide a meta-evaluation of sexual assault programs, and conclude that the most promising avenue seems to be self-defense training. Research on risk factors is also reviewed, and it is suggested that existing programs could benefit from focusing on these factors.

### Sexual exploitation

**Girls' sexual development in the inner city: From compelled childhood sexual contact to sex-for-things exchanges**, by E. Dunlap, A. Golub & B. Johnson, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, vol.12, no.2, 2004, pp.73-96.

The sexual development of adolescent girls in the inner city of New York is described in this paper. Many of the girls follow a developmental pathway that leads from being compelled to have sex to engaging in sex-for-things exchanges in adulthood. The mechanics of this process and how it is sustained are discussed.

**The psychological impact of sexual slavery of trafficked women: Parallels with torture, sexual abuse and domestic violence**, by F. Rousseaux, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.14, Jul 2003, pp.4-13.

This article explores the psychological impact of trauma on women and children who are trafficked for the purposes of sexual slavery. It explores some themes of the traumatic experience relevant to this group by examining parallels between victims of sex-trafficking and survivors of torture, sexual abuse and domestic violence. The applicability of our current knowledge-bases in these fields is demonstrated. Some suggestions for future service provision and development are made. (Journal abstract)

**Sex work and "date" violence**, by S. Kurtz, H. Surratt, J. Inciardi & M. Kiley, *Violence Against Women*, vol.10, no.4, Apr. 2004, pp.357—385.

This study explores the issue of sex workers who are victimised by their clients or "dates". Risk factors associated with sex work and "date" violence are examined. Recommendations for a harm-reduction approach to outreach and educational programs for sex workers are included.

**Violence in the sex trade industry**, *Violence Against Women*, vol. 10, no. 2 Feb. 2004 Special issue

"This group of articles provides a counterweight to a remarkable phenomenon: the minimisation of the violence in the indoor sex industry and other mythologies about the sex trade industry involving pimps and customers. As money has been more readily available from the public health and drug addiction sector to study women in the streets, funding has clearly played a part in the general lack of information about women in indoor sex venues. Common is the assertion that indoor prostitution represents a transaction between consenting adults that does not warrant the state's concern or regulation. Although this statement accords with desires for non-interference with individual sexual behaviours and preferences, it is one that ignores the more pernicious aspects of prostitution despite the venue: violence against women." (Editor's introduction)

### Sexual harassment

**Taking it seriously: Contemporary experiences of sexual harassment in the workplace: WASH (Working Against Sexual Harassment) research project 2003/2004**, by P. Hayes, Carlton [Vic.] CASA

House, Royal Women's Hospital, 2004, [http://www.rwh.org.au/casa/index.cfm?doc\\_id=4652](http://www.rwh.org.au/casa/index.cfm?doc_id=4652)

A report comprised of interviews, case studies, and a survey of some 200 workers, which includes the experiences of people who have been sexually harassed in the Victorian workplace since 1999 and who did not report it under either federal or state legislation. The purpose is to assess the current situation and to develop strategies for change. (reviewed in this edition, p. 3)

**Working for women's safety**, by G. Beecher, *Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal*, no.14, Jul 2003, pp.71-73.

This article discusses the need to put workplace sexual harassment on the agenda of governments, businesses and communities. The objectives and philosophy of Working Against Sexual Harassment (WASH) are described, a group that works towards the elimination of sexual harassment through raising public awareness, working with organisations and conducting research.

#### Telephone counselling

**A best practice manual for specialised sexual assault crisis telephone counselling**, by F. Rummery, Drummoyne, NSW, NSW Rape Crisis Centre, 2003.

This manual is a guide designed to assist workers at the NSW Rape Crisis Centre in their work to provide telephone crisis counselling to women who have experienced sexual violence. The manual attempts to standardise the approach taken by counsellors in assessing and managing those seeking assistance through the Rape Crisis Centre, and draws on the knowledge and experience of the counsellors as well as other associated health professionals. The guide covers: initial stages of contact; ongoing contact and case management; crisis intervention; risk assessment procedures; and general issues for survivors of sexual violence.

#### Violence against women

**Toolkit to end violence against women**, National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women and the Violence Against Women Office, Washington DC, National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women, 2001, <http://toolkit.ncjrs.org/>

The National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women developed this Toolkit to provide concrete guidance to communities, policy leaders and individuals engaged in activities to end violence against women. The website contains 16 chapters on different subjects, each of which includes a summary, a full download option and links to other relevant resources.

#### Special rural issue

## Women Against Violence journal

It is six years since *Women Against Violence – an Australian feminist journal* published the first rural issue. In that time, women outside the major cities have continued to experience violence; researchers have continued to build knowledge in this field and rural practitioners across the country have continued to work against violence in innovative ways.

Issue no. 15 will once again feature articles, briefings and news from rural Australia. It will tackle important questions facing rural women and rural services, including:

- *What does it mean to be a rural woman in Australia?*
- *What is meant by a rural culture?*
- *What barriers do women in rural areas face when disclosing their experiences of violence to authorities?*

Importantly, researchers and practitioners keep returning to the stories told by the women who are victim/survivors of violence, and we are very fortunate to have a powerful and inspiring survivor account in this issue. We hope that this issue of *Women Against Violence* will inspire women in rural and urban Australia, and internationally, to continue working against violence.

For more information or to subscribe, visit our website at [www.rwh.org.au/casa/](http://www.rwh.org.au/casa/) and click on to Women Against Violence Journal.

**Prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey**, by P. Godeke Tjaden & N. Thoennes, Washington DC, National Institute of Justice, 2000, <http://www.ncjrs.org/AlphaTitles.html#P>

This report presents findings on the prevalence and incidence of rape, physical assault, and stalking, the rate of injury among rape and physical assault victims, and injured victims' use of medical devices. Findings are based on the National Violence Against Women Survey jointly sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and indicate that violence is more widespread and more injurious to women's and men's health than previously thought.

**Family violence, anger expression styles, and adolescent dating violence**, by K. Wolf, & V. Foshee, *Journal of Family Violence*, vol. 18, no. 6 Dec. 2003, pp. 309-316.

This study examined the relationship between witnessing or experiencing family violence and later perpetration of dating violence by adolescents, including the mediating affect of anger expression, based on a survey of US young teenagers on their family history, aggressive behaviour during dates, and their constructive, destructive and indirect styles of anger.

### Young people

**Intervention with sexually abusive young people in Australia and New Zealand**, by K. Flanagan, *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, vol.9, no.2, Nov 2003, pp.135-149.

This article presents the results of an audit across Australia and New Zealand on services providing therapeutic intervention with adolescents engaging in sexually abusive behaviours. The study includes information on the types of clients accepted and the therapeutic models used. Issues and recommendations based on the review of services are discussed, including the identification of specific gaps in service delivery and the need for timely access to programs.

**Students as bystanders to sexual coercion: How would they react and why?** by K. Rigby & B. Johnson, *Youth Studies Australia*, vol.23, no.2, June 2004, pp.11-16.

"More than half of 200 Year 8 and 9 students who watched a video showing a girl being sexually coerced by a boy in the presence of student bystanders reported that such events occurred regularly at their Australian school. When asked how

they would respond as bystanders, just over half said they would directly object to the boy's action, and nearly a fifth said they would seek help for the girl from a teacher. However, a quarter of the students said they would ignore what was happening and one in 40 said they would support the boy. Analysis of the results indicated that students' attitude to victims, but not their gender, predicted the likelihood that they would express a readiness to help the girl. These findings, as provided in this article, suggest that promoting more caring attitudes in students towards the victims of peer abuse will encourage positive interventive action by both boy and girl bystanders in cases of sexual harassment at school." (Journal abstract)

**Multiple sexual victimisations among adolescent boys and girls: Prevalence and associations with eating behaviours and psychological health**, by D. Ackard & D. Neumark-Sztainer, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, vol. 12, no. 1 2003, pp. 17-37.

This study examined the relationship between child sexual abuse, eating disorders and mental health. Sexual abuse was associated with eating disorders and a variety of mental health problems. Victims of multiple sexual abuse situations were most likely to resort to unhealthy eating behaviors.

**Differences in trauma symptoms and family functioning in intra- and extrafamilial sexually abused adolescents**, by S. Bal, I. De Bourdeaudhuij, G. Crombez, & P. Van Oost, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 19 no. 1 Jan. 2004, pp. 101-123.

This study investigated whether abuse-related symptoms and family functioning were associated with intra- or extrafamilial sexual abuse of adolescents. Findings indicated no difference in the abuse-related symptoms between the two groups. Lack of family cohesion, however, was found to contribute to internalising trauma-related problems.

**Predictors of maternal support: The point of view of adolescent victims of sexual abuse and their mothers**, by M. Cyr, J. Wright, J. Toupin, J. Oxman-Martinez, P. McDuff & C. Theriault, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2003, pp. 39-65.

Maternal support is an important factor in recovery from child sexual abuse. This study collected information from both abuse victims and their mothers. Five significant predictors of maternal support were identified in each data set, four were common to both. These findings highlight the need to consider both the victim's and their mother's perceptions of the victim's post-disclosure functioning and later adjustment. ■

