

## LITERATURE HIGHLIGHTS

The following selections from new additions to the Clearinghouse collection over the last six months may be borrowed from the Australian Institute of Family Studies library, via the interlibrary loan system. COMPILED BY JOAN KELLEHER.

### Adolescent mothers

**Adolescent childbearers in later life: maltreatment of their school-age children**, by E.M. Kinard, *Journal of Family Issues*, Vol.24, no.5, July 2003, pp. 687-710.

This study compared young adolescent, older adolescent and young adult mothers on a range of risk factors for child maltreatment. It then compared maltreating and nonmaltreating adolescent mothers for the same risk factors. Findings indicated that sociodemographic risk factors persist into later life for adolescent mothers and if not overcome place them at greater risk of child maltreatment.

### Adolescent sex offenders

**Healing the wounds...**, *Children in Scotland*, Jul. 2003, pp. 8-10.

Councils in Scotland are developing sex offender treatment programs for adolescent offenders. Models of treatment designed for adult offenders are not appropriate for children and adolescents.

**Managing sexually abused and / or abusing children in substitute care**, by E. Farmer & S. Pollock, *Child & Family Social Work*, Vol.8, Iss.2, May 2003, pp. 101-112.

Research on how to deal with children in substitute care who have been sexually abused or are abusing others is examined in this article. The need for adequate sex education and counselling that addresses their underlying needs is stressed.

**Understanding, assessing, and rehabilitating juvenile sexual offenders**, by P. Rich, Hoboken, N.J., John Wiley & Sons, 2003.

This book is aimed at therapists and program managers working with child and adolescent sexual offenders. It describes and discusses assessment, risk assessment and treatment models and theory, and presents an overview of sexual development and sexual offending.

### Bullying

**Technology and bullying: technology is morally neutral**, by A. Mellor, *Children in Scotland*, Feb. 2003, pp. 6-7.

This article describes a service called the Anti-Bullying website. The use of mobile phones and e-mail are new ways that bullies can torment their victims. The Anti-Bullying website aims to assist young people who are being bullied. It provides advice, information and a place to share experiences.

### Child abuse prevention

**Emerging practices in the prevention of child abuse and neglect**, [Washington D.C.?], Caliber Associates, [2003,].

Current programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect were evaluated, and a literature review was conducted. The results are reported, and the limits of existing knowledge about the effectiveness of prevention and prevention programs are discussed.

**Protecting children: a practical guide**, by J. Kay, London, Continuum, 2003.

This book, aimed at childcare workers in England, provides a basic understanding of child abuse, including types of abuse, indicators, responding to suspected abuse, child protection, UK law, and working with abused children. Each chapter features case studies and questions and answers for reflection or self-assessment.

### Child deaths

**Annual report of inquiries into child deaths: child protection 2003**, Melbourne, Vic, Victorian Child Death Review Committee, Department of Human Services, 2003.

The Victorian Child Death Review Committee (VCDRC) reviews investigative reports of all deaths of children who have died while they were current clients, or within three months of case closure, of Child Protection Services. The Committee provides advice to the Minister on measures that will minimise the risk of child deaths and contribute to a more broadly targeted strategy aimed at reducing the unacceptably high rates of abuse and neglect in the community. This report provides information on: deaths of children known to Child Protection in 2002; Child Death Inquiry reports; themes and issues arising from Child Death Inquiries; and the work of

the Victorian Child Death Review Committee. This year highlights a number of difficulties associated with the way in which the system has evolved to cope with the exceptionally high demand on the Child Protection Service's Intake phase, which assesses notifications made regarding children who may be in need of protection.

**Care, responsibility and cumulative error: coronial review of deaths of children under State care in Victoria**, by P.A Swain & M. Roberts, *Australian Journal of Family Law*, Vol.17, no.1, Apr 2003, pp. 62-75.

This paper reports the outcomes of research into Victorian coronial records of investigations into deaths of children subject to State custody or guardianship orders, over the period 1999-2000. It arose from the recognition that often the only independent, external review of such deaths is that undertaken through coroner's offices. The research found that there were often extensive periods of time before coronial investigations were completed and that, contrary to what might have been anticipated, in no completed coronial investigations included in this research were any child protection policy or practice recommendations made in coronial findings. It further appeared that the child death review system did not necessarily examine all the child deaths which warranted coronial investigation. Indeed the processes of coronial investigation and departmental review of child deaths appear to occur in isolation from each other. This research is expected to contribute to an Australia-wide research project examining such coronial investigations, in turn highlighting areas where child welfare practice requires re-definition. (Journal abstract)

**The Victoria Climbié inquiry: report of an inquiry**, by H. Laming, Norwich, UK, The Stationery Office, 2003.

A British independent statutory inquiry was convened to investigate the death of a young girl, Victoria Climbié, a victim of child abuse. This report examines the failure of the social services system in this case and makes recommendations on how such cases may be prevented in future.

### Child protection services

**How accessible are child abuse prevention services for families?** by K. Kovacs, *Family Matter,s* no.64, Autumn 2003, pp. 48-51.

There is currently little documented information available about how families locate, gain access to and use, child abuse prevention services. In order to start to redress this knowledge gap, the Commonwealth

Department of Family and Community Services requested the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies to undertake a small exploratory research project. The aim of the research was to investigate issues impacting on accessibility of services designed to prevent maltreatment, and how families with a child at risk of being maltreated avail themselves of such services.

**Putting children's services in their place: a call for universal children's services to prevent child abuse and neglect in Australia**, by G. Winkworth, *Children Australia*, Vol.28, no.1, 2003, pp. 11-16.



This paper discusses the need for a national early childhood intervention policy in Australia, including a universal approach to children's services as a platform for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, supporting families and enriching the lives of all children. It considers the literature on early intervention, including the theoretical and research base of successful programs and the link between early intervention and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It examines the way the child welfare and children's services sectors have grown and the imperative at the beginning of the 21st century for a closer alignment of services. The United Kingdom's 'Sure Start' early intervention strategy is considered in so far as it attempts to develop a more comprehensive approach to child welfare by developing programs which are based on the research. Finally the paper asserts that recent strategies introduced by Federal and State Governments to promote childhood health and wellbeing are positive first steps, but need to go further to seriously address increasing numbers of children reported as suffering harm through abuse and/or neglect. (Journal abstract)

**Review of child protection in SA**, by R. Layton, *Law Society of South Australia Bulletin*, Vol.25, no.4, May 2003, pp. 24-25.

In March 2002 the South Australian government appointed the author to undertake the Review of Child Protection in SA. In this article she summarises the major recommendations made in the report resulting from the review, which was tabled in March 2003. Among the recommendations are: structural reform, including the establishment of a state child protection board, a commissioner for children and young people, a state guardian for children in detention or foster care, and a child death and serious injury review; changes to the practices of the South Australian Department of Family and Youth Services; a review of aspects of the criminal justice system and amendments to legislation, including that relating to child witnesses and the evidence of children.

### Child protection workers

**Defining quality care for looked after children: frontline workers' perspectives on standards and all that?**, by D. Watson, *Child & Family Social Work*, Vol.8, no.1. Feb. 2003, pp. 67-77.

The perspectives of residential childcare workers in the UK on quality services and performance measurements are examined. Workers' definitions of quality services are noted. This approach is very different to the government's emphasis on process rather than outcomes. This paper explores how these two approaches can be combined to provide quality services.

**Elements of satisfying organisational climates in child welfare agencies**, by S.G Bednar, *Families in Society*, Vol.84, no.1, Jan. - Mar. 2003, pp. 7-12.

Burnout and job dissatisfaction among child welfare workers can lead to rapid staff turnover and impaired performance. There is plenty of information about how to create more satisfying work environments. But will creating a satisfying work environment result in an increase in worker retention rates and client outcome levels in the longer term?

### Child sexual abuse

**Is child sexual abuse declining? Evidence from a population-based survey of men and women in Australia**, by M. Dunne ...[et al], *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol.27, no.2, Feb 2003, pp. 141-152.

The incidence of reported child sexual abuse in the United States has declined over the past ten years. In this study the authors examine age cohort differences in self reported child sexual abuse cases to see if the same rate of decline is reflected in the general population in Australia. Methodology involved a cross-sectional, telephone based survey of a randomly selected national sample of men and women (876

males, 908 females). Although they warn that a simple interpretation of the statistics of reported abuse may obscure the prevalence of unreported cases, the authors do believe that a decline in child sexual abuse in the general population in Australia is occurring.

**Rethinking our knowledge about child sexual abuse**, by J. Southwell, *Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter*, no.2, Winter 2003, pp. 3-7.

Surveying the historical changes and developments in our knowledge and understanding of child sexual abuse (CSA), the author points out that there is no single unanimous view of what constitutes CSA, what is wrong with it and what should be done about it. She describes our awareness of CSA as having grown from almost complete ignorance 30 years ago, to an understanding governed largely by psychological and feminist constructions of child abuse as a social problem. The author discusses various frameworks that inform the social policy agenda for CSA - political, social, moral and legal - and reviews the scope of the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre's forthcoming Discussion Paper, due for release in August 2003.

**Understanding and assessing child sexual maltreatment**, by K.C. Faller, Thousand Oaks, CA, Sage, c2003.

This book reviews the skills and knowledge needed for child protection workers and related professionals in America. Topics include definitions and signs of abuse, collaboration with other services and professionals, assessment of suspected abuse, including interview techniques, evaluation, and issues of child memory, and considerations of allegations in foster care, divorce, and day care situations. Brief case studies are used to highlight issues.

### Data collection

**The national out-of-home care data collection: where to from here?** by H. Johnstone, *Children Australia*, Vol.28, no.2, 2003, pp. 45-47.

This paper outlines the parameters of the national out-of-home care data collection managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The paper discusses the need for national data, what is included in the national data collection and the current data collection process. In addition, possible developments to the national collection are outlined, in particular the proposal to collect the data electronically in unit record format. The benefits of this would include greater flexibility of the data and the ability to analyse how children move through the child protection and out-of-home care systems. (Journal abstract)

## Domestic violence

**Child protection social work and men's abuse of women: an Irish study**, by S. Holt, *Child & Family Social Work*, Vol.8, no.1, Feb. 2003, pp. 53-65.

This paper reveals the problems faced by Irish child protection workers when there is also domestic violence in the home. A lack of agency practice guidelines, no agreed definition of intimate violence and an absence of a team policy all highlight the difficulties and dilemmas faced by the child protection workers. The research identified the need for a clear policy and best practice guidelines for workers in this area.

**Good practice guidelines: domestic violence and child protection**, by J. Irwin, F. Waugh & M. Wilkinson, *Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal*, no.6, Autumn 2003, pp. 38-39.

With a view to improving understanding of domestic violence and child protection, Barnados Australia and the University of Sydney undertook a research project to examine practitioners' knowledge and understanding of domestic violence and child protection, to review the child protection strategies utilised by practitioners, and to identify effective strategies which could be used in responding to women and children. A key outcome of the project was to develop a template of good practice guidelines to assist practitioners. This article outlines the knowledge, skills and values needed by individual practitioners, agency responsibilities and roles for interagency collaboration and the community.

## Effects

**Children with reported histories of sexual abuse: utilizing multiple perspectives to understand clinical and psychosocial profiles**, by C. Walrath ...[et al], *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol.27, no.5, May 2003, pp. 509-524.

A large sample of children, aged from 5 - 17.5 years, who were referred to Community Mental Health services were assessed on a range of variables. Children with a history of child sexual abuse presented with higher rates of depression and anxiety disorders than children who had not been sexually abused. They were also more likely to be female Caucasian with a complex history of life challenges. The complex history of these children is best understood from multiple perspectives. Using child, caregiver and clinician rated information provides a comprehensive profile that can be used to tailor service plans for the individual child.

**Wounded innocents and fallen angels: child abuse and child aggression**, by G.K. Gregory, Westport, Conn., Praeger, 2003.

This book discusses the causes and contexts of violence both against and by children, including the role of child neglect and resilience in children, and the cycle of violence in parents abused themselves as children, and is illustrated with clinical and legal case studies.

## Fathers

**Fathers and child abuse allegations in the context of parental separation and divorce**, by T. Brown, *Family Court Review*, Vol.41, no.3, Jul 2003, pp. 367-380.

Issues surrounding stereotyping of fathers in families where child abuse allegations have been made has been increasing. In this article the author examines the reality of the role that fathers play in relation to child abuse allegations in the context of parental separation and divorce, as projected against current research.

## Female sex offenders

**Adolescent females who have sexually offended: comparisons with delinquent adolescent female offenders and adolescent males who sexually offend**, by E.K. Kubik, J.E. Hecker & S. Righthand, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, Vol.11, no.3, 2003, pp. 63-83.

Adolescent female sex offenders are a little studied group. This article compared this group with (Study 1) a group of adolescent non-sexual offenders and (Study 2) a group of adolescent male sex offenders. Findings for Study 1 found that sexually offending females had less anti-social problems than the non-sexually offending group. Study 2 found few differences between the two sexually offending groups.

## Feminist theory

**New feminist stories of child sexual abuse: sexual scripts and dangerous dialogues**, edited by P. Reavey & S. Warner, London, New York, Routledge, 2003.

This book contributes to the understanding of child sexual abuse, as a Western cultural, political, and language construction. Academic, activist, and clinical writers explore theories of gender, childhood, abuse, and defining harm, mindful of feminist post-structuralism and improving interventions for women survivors.

## Gender of child sex offenders

**Child sexual abuse and the male monopoly: an empirical exploration of gender and a sexual interest in children**, by M. Freel, *British Journal of Social Work*, Vol.33, no.4, Jun. 2003, pp. 481-498.

This study confirms previous research on gender differences in regard to a sexual interest in children. Significantly more males than females expressed a sexual interest in children. Childhood sexual abuse was not found to be a predictive factor of a sexual interest in children.

## Home visiting services

**Multi-level determinants of mother's engagement in home visitation services**, by W.M McGuigan, A.P. Katzev & C.C Pratt, *Family Relations*, Vol.52, no.3, Jul. 2003, pp. 271-278.

This study investigated factors that influenced the non-participation of first time mothers in home visiting services. Poor community health services or social and family isolation contributed in a significant way to a reduction in the use of home visiting services.



**Multi-level determinants of retention in a home-visiting child abuse prevention program**, by W.M McGuigan, A.P. Katzev & C.C Pratt, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol.27, no.4, Apr. 2003, pp. 363-380.

Research on home visiting programs has tended to concentrate on the characteristics of the families or the home visitor in order to ascertain which families remain in the program and which families leave. This research adds another level of analysis - the community. Families in violent communities, young mothers and white non-Hispanic mothers were more likely to leave the program. Home visitors who received more hours of direct supervision had better retention rates than those with less direct supervision. In order to increase retention rates all of these issues need to be addressed and the programs adapted to meet the needs of families in different community environments.

**Reducing program attrition in home visiting: what do we need to know?**, by D. Olds, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol.27, no.4, Apr. 2003, pp. 359-361.

This is an invited commentary on the research by McGuigan, Katzev and Pratt on retention rates in home visiting programs.

## Interagency collaboration

**A developmental framework for collaboration in child-serving agencies**, by S. Hodges, M. Hernandez & T. Nesman, *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, Vol.12, no.3, Sept. 2003, pp. 291-305.

This article provides a framework which will help identify, define and develop the stages involved in building local collaborative services. Strong interagency collaboration and family participation were identified as two processes that need to be fully developed and woven together for true collaboration to be achieved.

## Internet & child abuse

**Child pornography: an internet crime**, M. Taylor & E. Quayle, Hove, East Sussex, New York, NY, Brunner-Routledge, 2003.

"The availability of child pornography on the Internet has become a cause of huge social concern in recent years. This book considers the reality behind the often hysterical media coverage of the topic. Drawing on extensive new research findings, it: examines how child pornography is used on the Internet, identifies the social context in which such use occurs, [and] develops a model of offending behaviour to help better understand and deal with the processes of offending" [from cover].

**'Downtime' for children on the Internet: recognising a new form of child abuse**, by J. Stanley, *Family Matters*, no.65, Winter 2003, pp.22-27.

The author argues that the community has a responsibility to protect children from abusive experiences through the Internet, especially those children whose parents are unable or unwilling to protect them. Internet risks to children are discussed, as are types of children likely to be at risk, and the importance of recognising and responding to Internet abuse is highlighted. What is required is more research, and comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies to protect all children who use the Internet, and particularly those who may be most vulnerable to experiencing this form of abuse.

**Home Office task force on child protection on the internet: good practice models and guidance for the internet industry on: chat services, instant messaging (IM), web based services**, London, Home Office Communication Directorate, 2003.

Voluntary guidelines for chat, instant messaging and web based services designed to make the Internet safer for children. The guidelines were developed in response to concerns about paedophiles contacting children through online communications.

**The protection of children from offensive material on the Internet**, by J. Stanley, *Small Screen*, no.184, Mar 2003, pp.1-2.

The past decade has seen rapid development and growth in the use of electronic, computer based communication and information sharing via the Internet. There is growing evidence that the Internet is a new medium through which sexual abuse of children may occur. The author outlines some of the dangers for children associated with Internet use, and the need for research to investigate the impact of exposure of offensive material on children. The author also argues for legislation aimed at providing more effective protection for children, such as central, large scale filtering.

### Legal proceedings

**The experiences of child complainants of sexual abuse in the criminal justice system**, by C. Eastwood, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Criminology, 2003.

The aim of the research reported in this paper was to investigate from the perspective of child complainants of sexual abuse, significant processes and consequences of involvement in the criminal justice system. The key finding was that when they were asked if they would ever report sexual abuse again following their experiences in the criminal justice system, only 44 percent of children in Queensland, 33 percent in New South Wales and 64 percent in Western Australia indicated they would. Comments from the children indicated a widespread belief that the process was not worth the trauma suffered. The paper suggests that legislative and procedural reform and a more child centred policy focus are required.

**Family law and child protection**, by M.J. Osborne, *Family Matters*, no.65, Winter 2003, pp. 73-75.

At the request of the Attorney-General, the Family Law Council has considered options for reform relating to the efficient and effective integrated delivery of child and family law services in relation to the care

and protection of children. This summary of the Council's final report, Family Law and Child Protection (2002) sets out its background and main recommendations.

**Safeguarding children's interests in welfare proceedings: the Scottish experience**, by M. Hill ...[et al], *Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law*, Vol.25, no.1, 2003, pp. 1-21.

In Scotland 'safeguarders' are appointed to represent a child's best interests in children's hearings. The recruitment, training, monitoring and support of safeguarders is examined. Aspects of the service which may lead to questions about its consistency and independence are discussed.

### Male victims

**Young men living through and with child sexual abuse**, by A. Durham, *British Journal of Social Work*, Vol.33, no.3, Apr. 2003, pp. 309-323.

This paper examines the experience and impact of child sexual abuse on young men. It details how the young men were targeted by the perpetrators and how they were made feel responsible for the abuse. This sense of guilt about the abuse made disclosure extremely difficult. Compulsory heterosexism and homophobia further complicated and exacerbated the experiences of the young men.

**Young men surviving child sexual abuse: research stories and lessons for therapeutic practice**, by A. Durham, Chichester, UK, Wiley, c2003,.

This book presents interviews with 7 English youths on their experiences of child sexual abuse and the impact this has had on their lives so far. Drawing on this research, the author develops a therapeutic model and explores issues in practice and theory.

### Parent education

**Implementing parent management training in the context of poverty**, by M. Eamon Keegan & M. Venkataraman, *American Journal of Family Therapy*, Vol.31, no.4, Jul.-Sept. 2003, pp. 281-293.

Parent Management Training (PMT) is an effective and preferred treatment for children exhibiting externalizing behaviours. This paper proposes that children from poor families are less likely to benefit from PMT. This is because the same factors that explain why poor children are more likely to exhibit behaviour problems interfere with successful PMT. Also, such interventions are not acceptable to poor parents and are less likely to be adopted.

## Parental risk factors

**Child-related cognitions and affective functioning of physically abusive and comparison parents**, by M.E. Haskett ...[et al.], *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol.27, no.6, Jun. 2003, pp. 663-686.

This research uses the cognitive behavioral model of abusive parenting as tool to examine risk factors for child abuse. A selection of risk factors were identified and examined. A combination of social cognitive and affective variables were found to be predictive of child abuse.

**Defining and classifying supervisory neglect**, by C. Coohy, *Child Maltreatment*, Vol.8, no.2, May 2003, pp. 145-156.

This study aims to develop and test a classification system that will define different types of parental supervisory problems that constitute neglect. The system's interrater reliability was tested against 602 reported cases of abuse and neglect and found to be excellent for most supervisory problems. The most common supervisory problems were not watching a child closely enough and leaving a child alone or with an unsuitable carer.

**Drug use by parents: a challenge for family reunification practice**, by A.N. Maluccio & F. Ainsworth, *Children & Youth Services Review*, Vol.25, no.7, 2003, pp. 511-533.

This article argues that the present family reunification system needs to be re-assessed because many more children are entering out-of-home care due to parental drug use. Recent family reunification research is reviewed and the importance of family reunification is confirmed. The authors propose a new, enhanced three-stage model of family reunification for families where there is parental drug use.

**Parental drug use: the bigger picture: a review of the literature**, by N. Patton, St Kilda South, Vic, Mirabel Foundation, 2003.

This report collates the current literature on children and families who have experienced parental illicit drug use. The author discusses the effects of prenatal exposure to illicit drug use on physical development, cognitive development and psychosocial development, and the effects of environmental factors at the same stages of development. She discusses child protection intervention, family preservation and the rights of the child. She also examines the commonalities between children affected by parental illicit drug use and other minority groups of children in the community, such as those whose parents have a disability or mental health issues.

## Prevention programs

**Child sexual abuse: prevention or promotion?**, by R. Bolen, *Social Work*, Vol.48, no.2, Apr. 2003, pp.174-185.

Child sexual abuse prevention programs have not reduced the prevalence of abuse. This article argues that a school-based healthy relationships program may be more effective. This approach is compared to the victim-based approach.

## Research

**Strategies for obtaining parental consent to participate in research**, by A.C. Fletcher & A.G. Hunter, *Family Relations*, Vol.52, no.3, Jul. 2003, pp. 216-221.

This article describes procedures that resulted in a 95% return rate of consent forms from parents allowing their children to participate in research. These procedures worked in schools across a variety of racial and socioeconomic compositions.

## Resilience

**Family resilience and good child outcomes: an overview of the research literature**, by R. Mackay, *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, no.20, Jun 2003, pp. 98-118.

A review of the international research literature on family resilience shows that processes that operate at the family level - including strong emotional bonds, effective patterns of communication, the use of coping strategies and family belief systems, especially those based on spiritual or religious values - are important means by which families manage to cope with adversity. Positive parenting is a key influence on children's development, especially in adverse financial circumstances. Wider family involvement can also assist families to cope with stress. In particular, non-resident fathers and other father figures have an important role to play in promoting the development of children in lone-mother families, while the burden of teenage parenthood can be eased by multi-generational co-residence. On the question of whether it is possible to inculcate resilience in families, evidence from a range of recent evaluations of selected intervention programmes shows that approaches that work best are those that involve early intervention, that are sensitive to families' cultures and values and that assist in relieving families' ecological stresses. (Journal abstract)

**Family resilience and good child outcomes: a review of the literature**, by A. Kalil, Wellington, NZ, Centre for Social Research and Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development, 2003.

This report focuses on the issue of family resilience. The central question is why is it that some families manage to cope well when facing stress or confronted with a crisis, while other families in similar circumstances fail to do so. The report draws on a wide range of literature to examine how the concept of family resilience has been defined and applied by scholars in this field and to document the research findings about how family resilience manifests itself. The following conclusions were reached: early intervention is key to obtaining positive results; different programs are needed for different types of family environments; and it is necessary to build the factors that protect families and to reduce the ecological risks that threaten family functioning.

**Hardiness as a moderator of shame associated with childhood sexual abuse**, by L. Feinauer, H.G. Hilton, & E. H. Callaghan, *American Journal of Family Therapy*, Vol.31, no.2, Mar.-Apr. 2003, pp. 65-78.

Adult female survivors of childhood sexual abuse were surveyed about their reactions to their childhood trauma. The negative impact of childhood sexual abuse was found to be moderated by hardiness (a protective or transformational style of coping with trauma).

#### Risk factors

**Child maltreatment in the “children of the nineties”: the role of the child**, by P. Sidebotham, J. Heron & H. Grigg Baxter, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol.27, no.3, Mar. 2003, pp. 337-352.

This study examined whether child characteristics may lead to abuse or maltreatment. Low birth weight, unintended pregnancies, poor health and development in infancy often resulted in maltreatment. Negative attributes in infancy, feeding and crying problems and temper tantrums were not associated with maltreatment. So whilst child factors are important they are only one part of a complex situation.

#### Sex offenders

**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, New York, Basic Books, c2003.

“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 miscon-

ceptions about predators that make us so vulnerable to them. Drawing on the stories of abusers, told in their own words, Salter heds light on the surprising motives behind sexual abuse.”—Book jacket.

#### Sibling incest

**But she didn't say no: an exploration of sibling sexual abuse**, by M.J. McVeigh, *Australian Social Work*, Vol.56, no.2, Jun 2003, pp. 116-126.

Sibling sexual abuse often causes polarities of view in professional and client groups alike. These views range from seeing it as benign to damaging. For professionals new to the field this paper gives an overview of the discussion that sibling sexual abuse is as traumatic as parental sexual abuse, and has lasting impact on its victims. Recognising the particular dynamics of sibling sexual abuse and effect on victims raises the challenge of case management in families where it occurs. This paper explores this challenge within the New South Wales context. (Journal abstract)

#### Statistics

**Child maltreatment 2001: 12 years of reporting**, Washington, DC, Children's Bureau, 2003.

Statistical data relating to child maltreatment in the U.S. for the calendar year 2001. Where available case level data was used, otherwise aggregate data was used. Maltreatment includes neglect, medical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional or psychological abuse. A brief state by state commentary is included.

**Child protection Australia 2001-02**, Canberra, ACT, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, 2003.

This report provides comprehensive information on child protection services provided by State and Territory community service departments. The report contains data for 2001 - 2002, as well as trend data on child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations, children on care and protection orders and children in out-of-home care. Detailed information on the characteristics of children in the child protection system is presented, specifically data on their age, sex and Indigenous status. In addition for child protection substantiations, data on the family type, the relationship of the person believed responsible and the source of notification are also included. For children on care and protection orders there are data on types of orders and living arrangements, and for children in out-of-home care there are data on types of placements and length of time in out-of-home care.