



ELEMENTS OF A RESEARCH ARTICLE

Title—summarizes the main idea of the article

Author(s)—name(s) and institutional affiliation(s) listed

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS IN CHILDHOOD TRAUMA SURVIVORS WHO ABUSE DRUGS

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Abstract—a brief comprehensive summary of the contents of the article

ABSTRACT

The relationships between the level of childhood maltreatment and current psychological distress were examined in a community sample of 676 substance abusing men and women using a validated self-report instrument (the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire) designed to measure physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and physical and emotional neglect. Current levels of self-reported psychological distress/symptoms were measured using a 53-item Brief Symptom Inventory. Prevalence of early trauma

Introduction—states the reason for the research; identifies and discusses findings of others; includes a review of the literature

INTRODUCTION

Child abuse has been linked with several long-term psychological effects. Most reports in the literature (1–4) focus primarily on sexual abuse. Sexual abuse

Methodology—3 parts

① describes the research population or study sample

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Study Sample

The study sample consisted of 676 men and women substance abusers from San Antonio, TX (Table 1). There were 363 (53.7%) women and 313 (46.3%) men in the study sample. Ethnic make-up by self-report consisted of 54% Hispanic, 34% African American, and 12% Anglo-American. The average age was 36 years (SD 8.6).

Elements of a Research Article - continued

② describes the method used to gather information or data collection

→ Data Collection

Data were collected from April 1996 to February 1998. The subjects were recruited from the participants in the Community Outreach for the Prevention of AIDS project, a nationwide Cooperative Agreement program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and based in the San Antonio area.

③ describes the means used for measuring or measures

→ Measures

The CTQ is used to assess five areas of childhood trauma (physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and physical and emotional neglect). The CTQ contains 25 five-point Likert-type items. The response choices ranged from 1 = "never true" to

Results—summarizes the results and presents findings using text, charts, graphs and tables

→ RESULTS

The primary aim of this study was to assess the relation between current levels of psychological distress and reported severity of five types of childhood trauma. The results (Table 2) were highly consistent across trauma types. The ANOVA yielded a highly significant main effect for trauma severity (all $p < 0.0001$). For every trauma type studied, psychological distress increased

Discussion—analyzes findings, explains the significance of the research, and suggests future projects

→ DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to determine the degree of current psychological distress reported in a community sample of substance abusers and assess the association of distress to a history of various forms of childhood abuse and neglect. The rates of abuse and neglect identified in this sample were consistent with previous reports (5,15,21,22), supporting the conclusion that

References—an alphabetical listing of works that were cited and used to support the research

→ REFERENCES

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