

A quarterly newsletter for our community partners

# Research Notes



Traumatic Stress Studies (TSS) Group



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## Winter News

Anne P. DePrince, Director, TSS Group

As the holiday season arrives, we reflect on the many ways that you make this research possible. Perhaps nothing makes that point as clearly as the fact that we have several new research articles available to you on our website...all of which involved Denver victim service agencies to make possible. Here's a preview (yup, just in time for the holidays!):

**NOTE:** Our offices will be closed December 23 - January 1. We will respond to email/voicemail messages when our offices re-open in 2015. Thank you for your patience!

- Interpersonal violence, depression, and executive function (Hebenstreit, C.L., DePrince, A.P., & Chu, A.T. (2014). *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*, 23:2, 168-187). This article examines interpersonal violence exposure, depression symptoms, and attention in women. Though many studies have documented attention problems following violence exposure, we did not find links between violence exposure and attention; however, higher levels of depressive symptoms were linked with greater attention problems.
- Longitudinal predictors of women's experiences of social reactions following intimate partner abuse (DePrince, A.P., Welton-Mitchell, C., & Srinivas, T. (2014). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 29, 2509-2523). Among women exposed to police-reported intimate partner abuse, more severe PTSD symptoms about a month after the incident predicted more negative social reactions one year later when women disclosed the abuse to others.
- Missed opportunities: Newspaper reports of domestic violence (Lindsay-Brisbin, J., DePrince, A.P., Welton-Mitchell, C. (2014). *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*, 23:4, 383-399). To understand how newspaper reports frame domestic violence (DV), this study examined 187 articles published across a single state over a one-year period. Approximately one-third of articles framed DV using themes that might misinform the public about DV (e.g., victim blame). The majority of articles missed opportunities to provide educational information or resources about DV and failed to situate DV in a community context.

Please visit our [website](#) to read more. Information is also available on our website for ongoing studies, such as the Women's Health Project (see page 3).

Thank you for your collaboration, partnership, and support in 2014. We wish you the very best for the holiday season and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

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## New Project: Maternal Attachment, Coping & Health (MATCH) to Launch in January 2015

Becca Babcock, 5<sup>th</sup> year graduate student

The Maternal Attachment, Coping & Health (MATCH) Project seeks to learn more about cognitive and relational factors that may contribute to the development of trauma-related symptoms in the children of trauma survivors (sometimes called the intergenerational transmission of trauma-related distress). Although the intergenerational transmission of trauma-related distress presents as a serious public health concern to children's early socio-emotional development, the mechanisms that actually "transmit" trauma-related distress from parents to their children are largely unknown.

Understanding the specifics of how intergenerational transmission of trauma-related distress occurs can be useful to practitioners and other service providers in helping guide prevention initiatives as well as parent-child treatment programs. The MATCH Project is particularly interested in investigating whether mothers' thoughts related to their own childhood abuse may influence the parent-child relationship and, in turn, the development of early symptoms (that is, trauma-related distress) in their young children. By conducting a research study that surveys abuse-survivor mothers, we hope to elucidate whether maternal trauma-related thoughts and parent-child relationship quality are linked with symptoms in young children. We hope findings from the MATCH Project will help inform early intervention strategies with parents who are survivors and their young children.

Beginning in **January 2015**, the MATCH Project will invite 110 mothers from the Denver Metropolitan area to answer an online survey (the survey will take approximately 40 minutes). Mothers must be over the age of 18, have a child between the ages of 1.5 and 5.0 years old, and have experienced abuse during their own childhoods in order to be eligible to participate. Mother participants will be paid \$15 for their participation, and will be entered to win a \$100 Amazon gift card for completing the survey. Mothers interested in taking the survey can contact the confidential project email: [matchproject@du.edu](mailto:matchproject@du.edu). We will email a survey link to mothers who indicate they would like to participate.

If you're willing to hang flyers at your organization to help get the word out about the MATCH Project, please email [matchproject@du.edu](mailto:matchproject@du.edu) at your convenience. Thank you very much for helping us get the word out about the MATCH Project - as always, we greatly appreciate your efforts.

<p><b>We are interested in learning more about what it's like to be a mother...</b></p> <p>We will ask you about the joys and challenges of being a mother, and about stress during your own childhood (like abuse or neglect)....</p>  <p>... The things we learn will be used to try to improve services for mothers like yourself... your story can make a difference down the road.</p>	<p>Is this study a <b>MATCH</b> for you?</p> <p><b>Maternal Attachment, Coping &amp; Health Study</b></p>  <p><b>Invites mothers who:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are over the age of 18.</li> <li>• Have a child that is 1 1/2 to 5 years old.</li> <li>• Experienced stress as a child themselves.</li> </ul> <p><b>Interested?</b> Call or email us for more information: <a href="mailto:matchproject@du.edu">matchproject@du.edu</a></p>	<p><b>What does the project involve?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project involves taking one 40 minute survey online at a place and during a time that is comfortable and convenient for you.</li> </ul> <p><b>How do I find the survey online?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call or email to tell us that you are interested in participating. We will email you a unique link and password so you can take the survey. It's that simple!</li> </ul> <p><b>Who will know what my responses were to the survey?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We keep all of your responses confidential. We will not tell anyone you completed the survey.</li> <li>• Your name will not be connected to any of your answers on the survey. Your responses will be anonymous.</li> </ul> <p><b>Will I be paid for the survey?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes! We want to thank you for your time. You will receive payment of \$15 for participation.</li> <li>• You can choose to receive payment through PayPal or receive an Amazon Gift Card.</li> <li>• You will also be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card!</li> </ul> <p><small>This research was approved by the University of Denver Institutional Review Board. Project Director: Rebecca L. Babcock, M.A.</small></p>
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## Women's Health Project Information

Sure, we know lots of facts and figures about unwanted sexual experiences.



*But, facts and figures don't tell the whole story.*  
**Each woman's story is unique.**

- ✓ Have you had an unwanted sexual experience in the last year?
- ✓ Did you tell someone (such as a counselor, advocate, police officer, health provider) about that experience?
- ✓ Are you 18 years of age or older?
- ✓

Women who answer yes to these questions are invited to participate in the Women's Health Project.

### WHAT DOES THE PROJECT INVOLVE?

- 4 interviews over 9 months with a female interviewer.
- The first interview takes 3 hours; the others each take 2 hours.
- Everything in the interview is voluntary. You do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.
- We are trying to learn:
  - ... what can people say and do to help after an unwanted sexual experience?
  - ... what is it like to talk to counselors, health providers, advocates, lawyers, or the police?
  - ... what makes it easier or harder to cope?
  - ... what is it like to try to find services that can help?
- 

### WILL MY COUNSELOR OR THE POLICE KNOW THAT I AM IN THE STUDY?

No. We will not tell anyone you are in the study. We keep everything you tell us about your experiences private.

### WILL I BE PAID FOR MY TIME?

Yes! To thank you for your time, you can receive up to \$230 total, as follows: \$50 for the first interview, \$55 for the second interview, \$60 for the third interview, \$65 for the fourth interview.

### WHAT ABOUT GETTING TO THE INTERVIEW?

We can help with cab fare, bus tokens, or \$10 cash for transportation costs. You tell us which you prefer.

### CONTACTING US

For more information, please contact us:

Private email: [healthstudy@du.edu](mailto:healthstudy@du.edu)

Private phone: 303.871.4103

The Denver Women's Project is paid for by a grant from the National Institute of Justice. The research was approved by the University of Denver Institutional Review Board. Project Director: Anne P. DePrince, Ph.D.

Agency information for the project is available at <http://www.du.edu/tssgroup/womenshealth/agencyinfo>.