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Conflict may slow growth

LONDON (AP) - Children who live with warring parents or come from broken homes are more likely to be shorter, according to a British study published Wednesday.

And children who grow slowly may suffer from psychological problems caused by stress that have lifelong consequences, according to the report in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, the journal of the Royal College of Pediatrics.

"It may be that family conflict begins a spiral of disadvantage that results in the accumulation of health risks throughout life," the researchers said.

Those researchers, led by Dr. Scott Montgomery of London's Royal Free Hospital, noted that previous studies have shown that slow growth in childhood is associated with unemployment as adults.

To determine whether family conflict was associated with slow growth up to the age of 7, they studied 6,574 British boys and girls born in the same week in 1958 who have been tracked for nearly 40 years as part of a National Child Development Study.

The researchers checked their heights at the age of 7 and separated the shortest 20 percent. To

"Our results show independent relations of slower growth in childhood with family conflict and crowding."

NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT STUDY

assess family conflict, they checked reports from health visitors and found that almost 300 children - 4.5 percent - came from homes with family difficulties resulting from domestic tension, divorce, separation or desertion.

Their analysis found that 31.7 percent of children who had experienced family conflict were of short stature, compared with 20.2 percent of those who had not, representing odds of about three to two. After adjustments for other factors known to influence growth, including social class, crowding in the home and gender, the relative odds were only slightly reduced.

"Our results show independent relations of slower growth in childhood with family conflict and crowding," the report said.

The researchers said the mech-

anisms by which stress can influence growth and health risks are not fully understood.

They suggested that family conflict may raise the levels of beta-endorphin, a chemical produced by the brain in response to stress. Beta-endorphin, in turn, reduces the amount of growth hormone released in the body.

Another chemical induced by long-term stress interfered with the normal development of the hippocampus, the part of the brain that deals with learning and memory, the researchers noted.

The team pointed out that since growth reflected underlying metabolic activity, slow growth could also indicate processes that were "themselves potentially damaging for future mental and physical health."

Physicians devise violence guidelines

■ Omaha researchers develop procedures to identify victims.

OMAHA (AP) - Just as they have guidelines to help them diagnose diabetes and cancer, Omaha physicians now have a list to follow in identifying victims of domestic violence.

The procedures cover everything from asking patients about violence to documenting evidence of abuse. The list was unveiled Wednesday when 150 to 200 health care professionals gathered at the Boys Town National Research Hospital for a conference on domestic violence.

The guidelines put Omaha in the forefront of combating abuse, said Robert McAfee, who as a past president of the American Medical Association has led a national initiative to improve the medical community's response to domestic violence.

"Until you say in Omaha, 'Enough is enough,' nothing is going to change," McAfee told the audience of doctors, nurses and medical students. "This is an opportunity today for you to say, 'I am going to be part of this initiative'" to end abuse.

Omaha's medical community has been working with police, prosecutors and judges to develop a coordinated approach to identifying and preventing domestic

abuse. The medical guidelines released Wednesday are an outgrowth of that effort.

If doctors follow the procedures, they not only will get more patients to open up about violence in their homes, but also will collect the kind of evidence that prosecutors need to hold abusers accountable for their actions, said Sandy Johnson, executive director of the Metro Omaha Medical Society and a member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Greater Omaha.

McAfee assured health care workers that they can make a difference in their battered patients' lives. A study several years ago found that more than 80 percent of abused women wanted to talk to their physicians about the violence they endured. Far more women wanted to confide in their family doctors than in their rabbis or pastors, or even the police.

Another study, however, found that lawyers, not doctors, were the key players in helping women escape abuse, said William Kuyper, a Council Bluffs obstetrician and gynecologist who participated in a panel discussion on domestic violence.

Historically, the health-care profession hasn't done all it could to stop and prevent domestic violence, Kuyper said. Doctors often have blamed this on patients who refuse to talk about abuse.

Videotapes revealed to GOP, press

WASHINGTON (AP) - With the veil lifted on nearly 100 hours of his fund-raising videotapes, President Clinton was shown Wednesday fraternizing with controversial Democratic donors, and candidly acknowledging he benefited from ads that weren't supposed to directly help his campaign.

In the Washington version of a movie premiere, Republican investigators huddled in their offices across the Capitol scouring the tapes for evidence of fund-raising wrongdoings while reporters got their own narrated screening at the White House.

The long-sought tapes, which only recently turned up, show Clinton alongside Charlie Trie, John Huang, Pauline Kanchanalak and other Democratic fund-raisers whose activities in the last election thrust their party into controversy.

In one clip among the 158 events detailed on the tapes, Clinton is shown hailing Huang as "my good friend." In another, he reminisces with donors about his two-decade friendship with Trie, an Arkansas restaurateur turned Washington fund-raiser.

"Soon it will be 20 years since I had my first meal with Charlie Trie," Clinton said to a hotel room

Please see CLINTON on 6

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1998 NATIONAL TALENT AUDITIONS

U of N Culture Center

Upper Multi-Purpose Room ☆ Lincoln, NB.

Monday, October 20, 1997

Registration begins at 9 a.m. through 2 p.m.
Auditions begin at 10 a.m.

Call backs will be held same day.

General Information

- ☆ ALL PERSONS AUDITIONING SHOULD PROVIDE HEAD SHOT & RESUME.
- ☆ You must be at least 16 years of age to audition. (must be 18 year of age to perform in New Jersey)
- ☆ **Dancers:** Prepare a one-minute dance combination. If you also sing, prepare (2) one-minute musical selections.
- ☆ **Singers:** Prepare (3) one-minute selections that display versatility. Provide sheet music in your key or track tape without vocals! Singers may be asked to dance.
- ☆ **Actors:** Prepare a one-minute comedic monologue. If you also sing, prepare (2) one-minute musical selections.
- ☆ **Stunt Performers:** Prepare (2) one-minute comedic monologues, current resume and be prepared to discuss past performance experience.
- ☆ **Variety Groups or Artists:** Prepare a two-minute selection that showcases your act or talent.
- ☆ **Wardrobe and Technical:** Interviews held at audition locations.
- ☆ Compensation package for performers begins at \$10/hr.

For more information please call **210-697-5550**

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