

BPS WORKING GROUP ON RECOVERED MEMORIES & EXTREME ABUSE SURVEYS

Summary

The poster revisits results of a British Psychological Society (BPS) survey where 15% of clinical practitioners had encountered Satanist Ritual Abuse (SRA) disclosures and the Extreme Abuse Survey where the most frequently identified offender group was 'Satanists'. It questions why society ignores research on SRA and urges renewed efforts calling for a repeat of these surveys together with coverage of additional themes in the spiritual and energy realm.

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BPS Survey

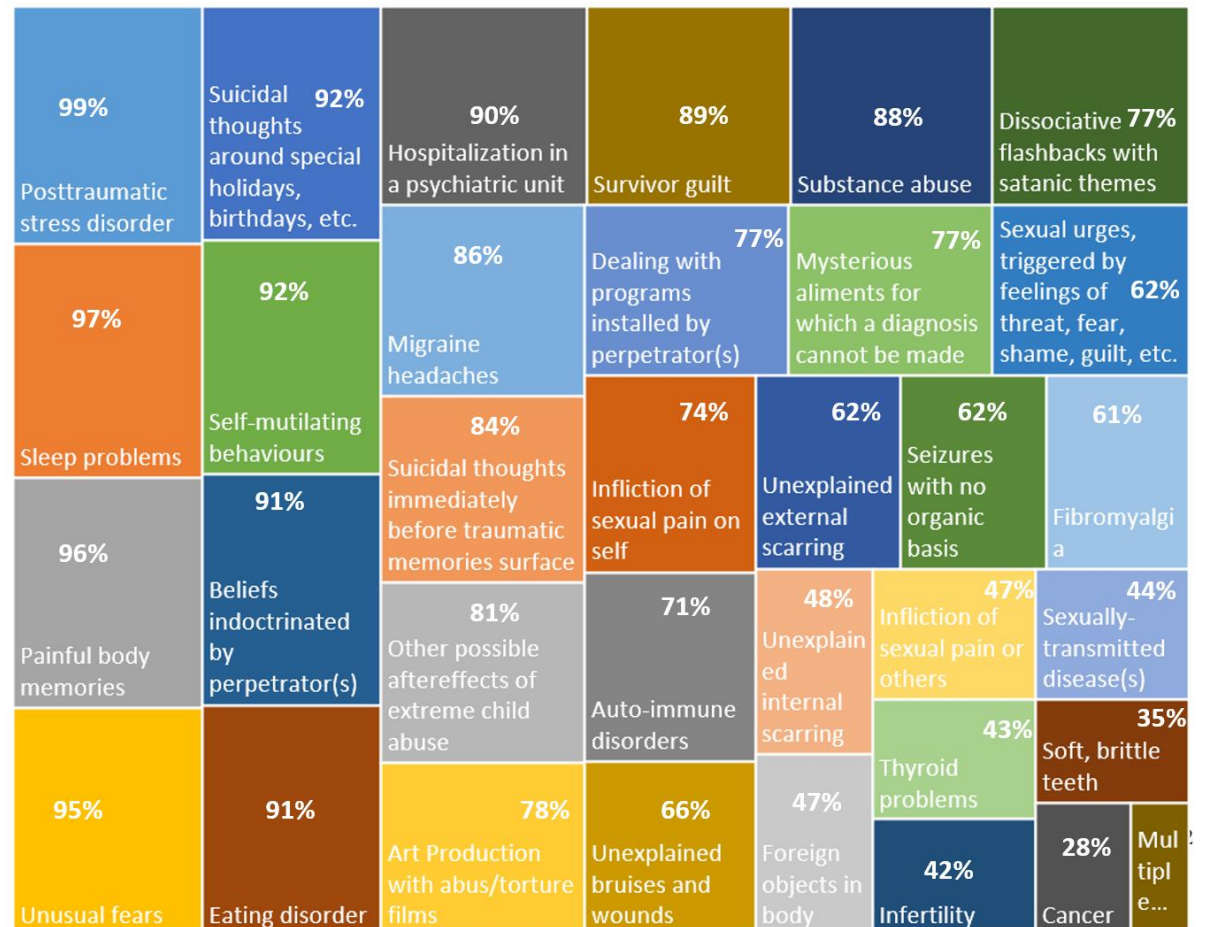
The BPS Working Group on Recovered Memory wrote an outstanding report (Andrews et al., 1995) providing a balanced account of the nature of traumatic memories as well as 'False Memories' produced through coercion manipulation or post-hypnotic suggestions.

The authors also published a little known article in *The Psychologist* sharing some findings of their survey featuring 19 questions sent to 4005 clinical practitioners of whom 1083 responded. Interestingly 15% had encountered disclosures of SRA. Curiously the article does not even attempt to define or illustrate SRA. The ratio of those considering the disclosures credible to not credible was 13:2. In their reply to a commentary in the November issue the authors state: 'It may well be that reports of satanic ritual abuse are of sufficient interest in their own right to warrant being examined by another working party'.

Extreme Abuse Survey

Karriker et al. (2007) conducted the Extreme Abuse Survey (EAS) in English and German with Adult Survivors (N=1114), Mental Health Professionals (N=223) and Carers of child victims (N=85). It featured numerous questions concerning extreme offending including Satanist Ritual Abuse (SRA). Becker et al (2008) presented preliminary findings whereas a 309 page report can be downloaded from the website of US Clinical Psychologist Dr Ellen Lacter.

Sadegh (2017) illustrated the many symptoms reported by victims many of which are familiar to clinical practitioners. However there are numerous themes for which traditional Psychiatry and Psychology have no explanation, treatment or 'cure'. Instead 're-victimisation' frequently sets in with rigid (and often ignorant) claims that 'no organic cause could be found'.



Possible Aftereffects – Extreme Abuse Survey EAS, 2007 (Table 18 – All Surveys EAS-P)
Visual adapted from: Sadegh (2017).

Organised Extreme Abuse

It is important to be aware that some extreme abuse survivors have memories of the type that many people do not know is possible. Howard (2018) compiled a comprehensive list of questions that go beyond the scope of the EAS surveys. He covers energetics and spiritual realms as well as extreme offending that did not feature in the EAS such as use of directed energy weapons.

Need for Future Surveys

Society has arrived at a crossroad where survivor and (alternative) media accounts of Satanist offending are plentiful and easily accessible yet professional bodies remain silent on this issue. It is high time to repeat the BPS Survey with Clinical Practitioners. Smart branching algorithms could be used to trigger the EAP-P for those who encountered SRA disclosures. Finally questions could be added tackling energetics and extreme offending.

Respondents' Beliefs About Recovered Memories				
Belief in essential accuracy of recovered memories	3% never	53% sometimes	38% usually	6% always
Belief in possibility of false memories	67% yes		33% no	
False memories ever in own practice	85% never	11% sometimes	4% more than once	
Respondents' Beliefs about Satanic Ritual Abuse				
Belief in essential accuracy of reports of SRA	3% never	54% sometimes	38% usually	5% always
Ever worked with clients reporting SRA and believed them (15 per cent had clients reporting SRA)	13%			

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