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Child Abuse

Putnam-Hornstein E, Cleves MA, Licht R, Needell B.

Risk of fatal injury in young children following abuse allegations: evidence from a prospective, population-based study.

Am J Public Health. 2013 Oct;103(10):e39-44. PMID:

[23947328](#)

Comparing CPS and vital birth and death databases for over ½ million California children referred for allegations of abuse, those with an allegation of physical abuse were five times more likely to die from intentional injuries than for children with an allegation of neglect.

Sonneveld LP, Brilleslijper-Kater SN, Benninga MA, et. al.

Prevalence of child sexual abuse in pediatric patients with chronic abdominal pain.

J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2013 May;56(5):475-80. PMID:

[23412538](#)

A review of research did not reveal any well-designed study analyzing the incidence of sexual abuse in children presenting with chronic abdominal pain. Two small uncontrolled studies noted 2.1% and 8.0%, however approximately 40% of adults with gastrointestinal complaints have a history of sexual abuse.

Cousins J.

Assessing and responding to infant mental health needs.

Community Pract. 2013 Sep;86(9):33-6. PMID: [24133942](#)

Discussion of how emotional neglect can impact an infant's mental health, and how providers can respond effectively to this key health need.

Mohan S, Rogan EA, Batty R, et. al.

CT of the neonatal head.

Clin Radiol. 2013 Nov;68(11):1155-66. PMID: [23937824](#)

Review of normal neonatal head findings on CT compared to suspected non-accidental injury and other conditions.

Bradford R, Choudhary AK, Dias MS.

Serial neuroimaging in infants with abusive head trauma: timing abusive injuries.

J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2013 Aug;12(2):110-9. PMID: [23799250](#)

Detailed description of findings, timing of injuries, and resolution in infant abusive head injuries.

DeRidder CA, Berkowitz CD, Hicks RA, Laskey AL.

Subconjunctival hemorrhages in infants and children: a sign of nonaccidental trauma.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2013 Feb;29(2):222-6. PMID: [23546430](#)

From UCLA case reviews, authors suggest subconjunctival hemorrhages [bleeding appearing in the lower part of the white of the eye] in infants and children can be a finding after non-accidental trauma, and consultation with a child abuse specialist should be considered.

Finkel MA.

Children's disclosures of child sexual abuse.

Pediatr Ann. 2012 Dec 6;41(12):3001-6. PMID: [23205659](#)

This article outlines the spectrum of clinical presentations that raise concern that a child has experienced sexual victimization, the disclosure process, differentiating normal developmental behaviors vs. sexual behaviors that are of concern, the unique role of patient's medical history as an essential element of a CSA diagnosis, expectations and liabilities of reporting sexual abuse, and the basics of meeting the medical, mental health, and child protection needs of child victims.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Youssef NA, Green KT, Dedert EA, et.al.

Exploration of the influence of childhood trauma, combat exposure, and the resilience construct on depression and suicidal ideation among U.S. Iraq/Afghanistan era military personnel and veterans.

Arch Suicide Res. 2013;17(2):106-22. PMID: [23614484](#)

From an ongoing multicenter study of 1488 military personnel and veterans, after controlling for the effects of combat exposure and PTSD, childhood trauma exposures were significantly associated with depression and suicidality.

Berglund KJ, Balldin J, Berggren U, Gerdner A, Fahlke C.
Childhood maltreatment affects the serotonergic system in male alcohol-dependent individuals.

Alcohol Clin Exp Res. 2013 May;37(5):757-62. PMID: [23384117](#)

In this small preliminary study of male alcoholic adults, those with a history of childhood emotional abuse showed a dramatic (more than 90%) reduction in brain serotonin response to a standard serotonin stimulus. [Serotonin is important for mood stabilization, especially depression.]

Fisher HL, Cohen-Woods S, Hosang GM, et.al.
Interaction between specific forms of childhood maltreatment and the serotonin transporter gene (5-HTT) in recurrent depressive disorder.

J Affect Disord. 2013 Feb 15;145(1):136-41. PMID: [22840631](#)

For 227 British adults with recurrent depression compared to healthy controls, those maltreated as children and with a specific type of serotonin receptor gene were significantly more vulnerable to adult recurrent depression.

Sigurdardottir S, Halldorsdottir S, Bender SS.
Deep and almost unbearable suffering: consequences of childhood sexual abuse for men's health and well-being.

Scand J Caring Sci. 2012 Dec;26(4):688-97. PMID: [22462731](#)

Interviews with 14 adult Icelandic males with a history of childhood sexual abuse revealed "deep and almost unbearable suffering, affecting their entire life, of which there is no alleviation in sight. The men have lived in repressed silence most of their lives."

Teicher MH, Samson JA.
Childhood maltreatment and psychopathology: A case for ecophenotypic variants as clinically and neurobiologically distinct subtypes.

Am J Psychiatry. 2013 Oct 1;170(10):1114-33. PMID: [23982148](#)

"Maltreated individuals with depressive, anxiety, and substance use disorders have an earlier age at onset, greater symptom severity, more comorbidity, a greater risk for suicide, and poorer treatment response than non-maltreated individuals with the same diagnoses... Treatment guidelines and algorithms may be enhanced if maltreated and non-maltreated individuals with the same diagnostic labels are differentiated."

Adolescents

Grace LG, Starck M, Potenza J, Kenney PA, Sheetz AH.
Commercial sexual exploitation of children and the school nurse.

J Sch Nurs. 2012 Dec;28(6):410-7. PMID: [22627024](#)

Since the national average age of entry for girls into prostitution is 12-15, and since many continue to attend school although sporadically, this article describes the needs of these girls to raise awareness in school nurses.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Letourneau N, Morris CY, Secco L, et. al.
Mothers and infants exposed to intimate partner violence compensate.

Violence Vict. 2013;28(4):571-86. PMID: [24047040](#)

For 49 Canadian mothers and 51 children younger than 3 years of age affected by IPV, the predominant observation was of mothers and infants compensating for exposure to IPV in their interactions with each other.

Foster DG, Kimport K.
Who seeks abortions at or after 20 weeks?

Perspect Sex Reprod Health. 2013 Dec;45(4):210-8. PMID: [24188634](#)

Comparing 272 women who received an abortion at or after 20 weeks gestation with 169 women who received first-trimester abortions in facilities across the country, characteristics of those seeking later abortions included younger women with limited financial resources and conflict with a male partner or experiencing DV.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Jacovides CL, Bruns B, Holena DN, et. al.
Penetrating trauma in urban women: patterns of injury and violence.

J Surg Res. 2013 Sep;184(1):592-8. PMID: [23890398](#)

In a review of 8 years of penetrating injuries at an urban trauma center, IPV accounted for 25% of all penetrating injuries, with stab wounds more likely than gunshot wounds in women.

Siemieniuk RA, Krentz HB, Miller P, et. al.

The clinical implications of high rates of intimate partner violence against HIV-positive women.

J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2013 Sep 1;64(1):32-8. PMID: [23714742](#)

For 339 HIV positive Canadian women, 40.4% reported experiencing IPV. Those disclosing IPV had decreased rates of use of antiretroviral therapy, and increased HIV-related and HIV-unrelated hospitalizations (256 admissions per 100 patient years compared to 166 for non-IPV exposed HIV positive women).

Allsworth JE, Secura GM, Zhao Q, Madden T, Peipert JF.

The impact of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse on contraceptive method selection and discontinuation.

Am J Public Health. 2013 Oct;103(10):1857-64. PMID: [23948012](#)

For 7170 women enrolled in a contraceptive study in St. Louis, one third had experienced some form of abuse in their lifetimes. Women with a history of abuse were more likely to discontinue long-acting and highly more likely to discontinue non-long-acting contraception.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Meekers D, Pallin SC, Hutchinson P.

Intimate partner violence and mental health in Bolivia.

BMC Womens Health. 2013 Jun 26;13:28. PMID: [23799992](#)

Of over 10,000 married or cohabiting Bolivian women, 47% experienced some type of spousal abuse in the prior 12 months. IPV was highly associated with depression, anxiety and non-epileptic seizures. Mental health outcomes were the same for those experiencing psychological abuse only as in those experiencing physical abuse.

Cultural Issues

O'Connor TM, Cerin E, Hughes SO, et. al.

What Hispanic parents do to encourage and discourage 3-5 year old children to be active: a qualitative study using nominal group technique.

Int J Behav Nutr Phys Act. 2013 Aug 6;10:93. PMID: [23919301](#)

“Hispanic preschoolers are less active than their non-Hispanic peers.” From focus groups with Hispanic parents – “Allowing TV and videogame use,

psychological control, physical or emotional abuse, and lack of parental engagement emerged as parenting practices that discourage children from being active.”

Black BM, Chiodo LM, Weisz AN, et. al.

Iraqi American refugee youths' exposure to violence: relationship to attitudes and peers' perpetration of dating violence.

Violence Against Women. 2013 Feb;19(2):202-21. PMID: [23423847](#)

Analysis of dating violence among Iraqi American youth who are not traditionally allowed to date but may do so secretly, highlighting “the complexities of prevention and intervention of teen dating violence within secretive relationships.”

Gonzalez-Guarda RM, De Santis JP, Vasquez EP.

Sexual orientation and demographic, cultural, and psychological factors associated with the perpetration and victimization of intimate partner violence among Hispanic men.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2013 Feb;34(2):103-9. PMID: [23369121](#)

Of 160 South Florida Hispanic men with differing sexual orientations, bisexual Hispanic men were almost four times more likely and heterosexual men almost 2 times more likely to report the perpetration of IPV than homosexual men.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Newman FL, Seff LR, Beaulaurier RL, Palmer RC.

Domestic abuse against elder women and perceived barriers to help-seeking.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2013;25(3):205-29. PMID: [23627428](#)

For 447 older women experiencing IPV, barriers to help-seeking included self-blame, secrecy, putting the needs of the family first, and “emotional gridlock”.

Falk NL, Baigis J, Kopac C.

Elder mistreatment and the Elder Justice Act.

Online J Issues Nurs. 2012 Sep;17(3):7. PMID: [23213845](#)

Nursing review of types of elder abuse and the nursing role in identification, management and advocacy in light of national elder abuse policies. “Elder mistreatment is unrecognized, hidden, and underreported.”

Phelan A.

Elder abuse in the emergency department.

Int Emerg Nurs. 2012 Oct;20(4):214-20. PMID: [22981420](#)
Review of elder abuse presentation, recognition and management in the ED.

Doron I, Band-Winterstein T, Naim S.

The meaning of elder self-neglect: social workers' perspective.

Int J Aging Hum Dev. 2013;77(1):17-36. PMID: [23986978](#)
For Israeli social workers interviewed about dealing with elder self-neglect, the three main themes were: non-understanding (How can you live like that?), the personal burden on themselves, and keeping on trying to find intervention strategies following the refusal to accept assistance.

Perpetrators

Kolla NJ, Malcolm C, Attard S, et. al.

Childhood maltreatment and aggressive behaviour in violent offenders with psychopathy.

Can J Psychiatry. 2013 Aug;58(8):487-94. PMID: [23972111](#)
In a group of adult Canadian violent offenders, a history of childhood physical abuse was associated with reactive aggression, while psychopathic traits were associated with proactive aggression.

Gondolf EW.

Physical tactics of female partners against male batterer program participants.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Sep;18(9):1027-44. PMID: [22996628](#)
40% of 563 female partners of men in batterer programs reported using "severe" conflict tactics. "These women were also highly likely to report acting out of fear or self-defense, and having sought a variety of services to deal with the men's violence. Overall, the findings suggest women's 'violent resistance' rather than 'mutuality and symmetry'." [This journal issue is focused on women's use of violence.]

Police and Court Systems

Rich K, Seffrin P.

Police officers' collaboration with rape victim advocates: barriers and facilitators.

Violence Vict. 2013;28(4):681-96. PMID: [24047047](#)
"Rape reporters receive better treatment by police officers when advocates are involved...Studies of

advocates have described tension, role confusion, and poor communication with police officers." From a survey of 429 police officers, professional training variables vs. personal variables were more related to collaboration with victim advocates.

Leung LC.

It's a Matter of Trust: Policing Domestic Violence in Hong Kong.

J Interpers Violence. 2014 Jan;29(1):82-101. PMID: [24176986](#)
From interviews with victims and police officers in Hong Kong, the police attitude of non-intervention vs. arrest stems from "(1) stereotyping the victims, (2) cynical interpretation of women's motivation in reporting, and (3) disbelief the problem is solvable."

Providers

Abdulmohsen Alhalal E, Ford-Gilboe M, Kerr M, Davies L.

Identifying factors that predict women's inability to maintain separation from an abusive partner.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2012 Dec;33(12):838-50. PMID: [23215985](#)
For 286 Canadian women followed over a 12-month period, higher levels of depression made it 4.6 times more likely and PTSD symptoms 2.7 times more likely that women would be unable to maintain separation from a former or new abusive partner. "These finding underscore the importance of supporting women to identify and manage mental health problems as a means of enhancing their safety."

Galano MM, Hunter EC, Howell KH, et. al.

Predicting shelter residence in women experiencing recent intimate partner violence.

Violence Against Women. 2013 Apr;19(4):518-35. PMID: [23637314](#)
Comparing 113 women with recent histories of IPV, those who resided in a shelter vs. the community were best predicted by trauma symptoms, housing instability and ethnicity rather than violence exposure.

Shavers CA.

Intimate partner violence: A guide for primary care providers.

Nurse Pract. 2013 Dec 10;38(12):39-46. PMID: [24253530](#)
Review of IPV for nurse practitioners.

Abel SN, Bhoopathi V, Herzig K, et. al.

The impact of an oral health program on domestic violence survivors within community shelters.

J Am Dent Assoc. 2013 Dec;144(12):1372-8. PMID: [24282267](#)

Shelter residents reported significantly improved oral health-related quality of life after dental residents provided dental care via a mobile van as part of a dental residency DV education program. "Treatment can play an important role in DV survivors' self-esteem and reintegration into normal social and workplace activities."

Nyame S, Howard LM, Feder G, Trevillion K.

A survey of mental health professionals' knowledge, attitudes and preparedness to respond to domestic violence.

J Ment Health. 2013 Dec;22(6):536-43. PMID: [24279406](#)

From a survey of 131 British mental health professionals, only 15% routinely asked about DV, and only 27% provided information following disclosure. 60% felt that they lacked adequate knowledge of support services.

Szilagyi M.

The pediatric role in the care of children in foster and kinship care.

Pediatr Rev. 2012 Nov;33(11):496-507. PMID: [23118315](#)

Excellent review of the foster care system, the effects of pre-placement trauma on medical and mental health problems, and the role of the pediatrician.



Table 1. Health Issues of Children and Adolescents at Entry to Foster Care

Health Problem	Percentage of Population
Chronic medical problems	30%–45%
Complex medical/developmental ^a	10%
Mental health	48%–80%
Developmental delay	60% of children <6 y old
Educational issues ^a	45% in special education or with individualized educational plan
Dental problems ^a	35%
Family dysfunction	100%

^aUnpublished data from Starlight Pediatrics, Rochester, NY. Other data from a variety of sources.

Preer G, McAlister Groves B.

The pediatrician's role in patient and family recovery after child abuse.

Pediatr Ann. 2012 Dec 6;41(12):e1-5. PMID: [23205660](#)

When primary care pediatricians offer ongoing support to patients and families who have been affected by abuse, "they can play a critically important role in catalyzing the healing process". This article offers an overview of essential information for the pediatrician caring for a patient who has experienced abuse.

Prevention

Schultz D, Jaycox LH, Hickman LJ, et. al.

The relationship between protective factors and outcomes for children exposed to violence.

Violence Vict. 2013;28(4):697-714. PMID: [24047048](#)

In this analysis, protective factors for children exposed to violence that decreased PTSD symptoms and behavior problems included child self-control and the quality of parent-child relationships.

Paradis HA, Sandler M, Manly JT, Valentine L.

Building healthy children: evidence-based home visitation integrated with pediatric medical homes.

Pediatrics. 2013 Nov;132 Suppl 2:S174-9. PMID: [24187121](#)

Description of a home visitation intervention with at risk families that showed high retention rates and preliminarily decreased CPS reports and foster care placement.

Sharps P, Alhusen JL, Bullock L, et. al.

Engaging and retaining abused women in perinatal home visitation programs.

Pediatrics. 2013 Nov;132 Suppl 2:S134-9. PMID: [24187115](#)

Description of successful strategies for engaging and retaining abused pregnant women in a Domestic Violence Enhanced Home Visitation Program.

[No authors listed]

Preventing domestic violence in families of veterans.

J Clin Psychiatry. 2013 Oct;74(10):974-80. PMID: [24229747](#)

Review of military culture that affects a veteran's reaction to suggestions about mental health treatment, the effect of involving the significant other when treating the veteran, and veteran community resources.

Researchers

Roller CG.

The perinatal self-care index: development of an evidence-based assessment tool for use with child sexual abuse survivors.

J Perinat Neonatal Nurs. 2012 Oct-Dec;26(4):319-26. PMID: [23111720](#)

“Every ninth woman presenting for prenatal care reports having experienced childhood sexual abuse. Many develop mental health disorders, including PTSD. In response to PTSD, pregnant women survivors of childhood sexual abuse engage in negative perinatal self-care behaviors that can lead to adverse perinatal outcomes.” This article describes a Perinatal Self-Care Index sensitive to PTSD-affected and PTSD-resilient individuals as a useful predictor of birth weight.

Grasso DJ, Webb C, Cohen A, Berman I.

Building a consumer base for trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy in a state system of care.

Adm Policy Ment Health. 2013 May;40(3):240-54. PMID: [22392348](#)

“This paper documents the scope and limitations of an outreach effort to build a consumer base for Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy in a state public mental health system for children...Each aspect of the implementation plan is described in detail - as are the barriers encountered and lessons learned during the course of execution.”

Other of Interest

Lokuge K, Shah T, Pintaldi G, et. al.

Mental health services for children exposed to armed conflict: Médecins Sans Frontières' experience in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Paediatr Int Child Health. 2013 Nov;33(4):259-72. PMID: [24196701](#)

Doctors Without Borders report on the use of a brief trauma-focused therapy for 3025 individuals younger than 20 years of age presenting for mental health services in three conflict areas. The most common precipitating event was sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, domestic violence in Iraq, and incarceration/detention in the Palestinian territory.

Norte CE, Souza GG, Vilete L, et. al.

They know their trauma by heart: an assessment of psychophysiological failure to recover in PTSD.

J Affect Disord. 2013 Aug 15;150(1):136-41. PMID: [23273551](#)

In this small study of adults exposed to trauma and comparing those with and without PTSD, both groups experienced elevated heart rate when reminded of their trauma, but the PTSD group sustained this increased rate while controls recovered to baseline. PTSD patients also showed a reduction in heart rate variability [a measure of heart health] during trauma exposure and lack of recovery.

