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Child Abuse

Center for Youth Wellness, 2014

Data Report - Findings on Adverse Childhood

Experiences in California: A Hidden Crisis

Related MedTED talk by Dr. Nadine Burke

Dvir Y, Ford JD, Hill M, Frazier JA.

Childhood maltreatment, emotional dysregulation, and psychiatric comorbidities.

Harv Rev Psychiatry. 2014 May-Jun;22(3):149-61. PMID: [24704784](#)

Review of “emotional regulation and its developmental neurobiology, and examination of the research evidence for associations between childhood trauma, emotional dysregulation, and psychiatric comorbidities in children, adolescents, and adults.”

Lutz PE, Turecki G.

DNA methylation and childhood maltreatment: from animal models to human studies.

Neuroscience. 2014 Apr 4;264:142-56. PMID: [23933308](#)

“DNA methylation (changes to DNA in response to stress) mediates life-long neurobiological effects of childhood maltreatment. Animal and human studies reveal adaptations to early-life adversity.”

Forkey H, Szilagyi M.

Foster care and healing from complex childhood trauma.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2014 Oct;61(5):1059-72. PMID: [25242716](#)

“Complex trauma alters immune response, neurodevelopment, and the genome, resulting in predictable and significant cognitive, behavioral, and physical consequences. Pediatric care of children in foster care must be trauma informed to meet their medical, mental health, and developmental needs.”

Taussig HN, Harpin SB, Maguire SA.

Suicidality among preadolescent maltreated children in foster care.

Child Maltreat. 2014 Feb;19(1):17-26. PMID: [24567247](#)

Of 515 maltreated children aged 9-11 years who entered foster care within the prior year, 26.4% had a history of suicidality. Highest risk factors were physical abuse and chronicity of maltreatment.

Jones DJ, Gonzalez M, Ward DS, et. al.

Should child obesity be an issue for child protective services?

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2014 Apr;15(2):113-25. PMID: [24231942](#)

Discussion of recent policy changes to consider childhood obesity an issue of child maltreatment requiring involvement with CPS, including the lack of research to inform this policy.

Evaluating children with fractures for child physical abuse.

Pediatrics. 2014 Feb;133(2):e477-89. PMID: [24470642](#)

AAP Clinical Report from a group effort of pediatric specialists, child abuse experts, and pediatric radiologists.

Flåm AM, Haugstvedt E, Scott S, et. al.

Early parental physical punishment and emotional and behavioural outcomes in preschool children.

Child Care Health Dev. 2014 May;40(3):337-45. PMID: [23731277](#)

From a Scottish national study, and after controlling for many variables, preschool children exposed to main caregiver “smacking” in the first two years of life were twice as likely to have emotional and behavioral problems at age 4.

Test balloons? Small signs of big events: a qualitative study on circumstances facilitating adults' awareness of children's first signs of sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Sep;37(9):633-42. PMID: [23899535](#)

In talking retrospectively with 20 non-abusing adult caregivers of children who experienced sexual assault, many children sent up “test balloons” in the form of verbal questions or reservations about some rules or obligations connected to the abuser or activities related to that person.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Lindert J, von Ehrenstein OS, Grashow R, et. al.

Sexual and physical abuse in childhood is associated with depression and anxiety over the life course: systematic review and meta-analysis.

Int J Public Health. 2014 Apr;59(2):359-72. PMID: [24122075](#)

In an analysis of multiple studies including 115,579 participants, "High levels of depression, anxiety and distress are reported in adults exposed to childhood sexual and physical abuse."

Cambron C, Gringeri C, Vogel-Ferguson MB.

Physical and mental health correlates of adverse childhood experiences among low-income women.

Health Soc Work. 2014 Nov;39(4):221-9. PMID: [25369722](#)

For 1073 low income adult women in Utah, "Results demonstrated significant associations between low-income women's self-reports of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in childhood, and current and lifetime anxiety disorder, domestic violence, current posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, physical health or mental health issues...Consistent with research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, findings suggest the applicability of conceptualizing childhood abuse as a public health issue."

Fergusson DM, McLeod GF, Horwood LJ.

Childhood sexual abuse and adult developmental outcomes: findings from a 30-year longitudinal study in New Zealand.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Sep;37(9):664-74. PMID: [23623446](#)

Following 900 New Zealanders to age 30, childhood sexual abuse was associated with increased risk of mental disorders and sexual risk-taking, and poorer physical health, psychological wellbeing and socioeconomic wellbeing.

Sala R, Goldstein BI, Wang S, Blanco C.

Childhood maltreatment and the course of bipolar disorders among adults: epidemiologic evidence of dose-response effects.

J Affect Disord. 2014 Aug;165:74-80. PMID: [24882181](#)

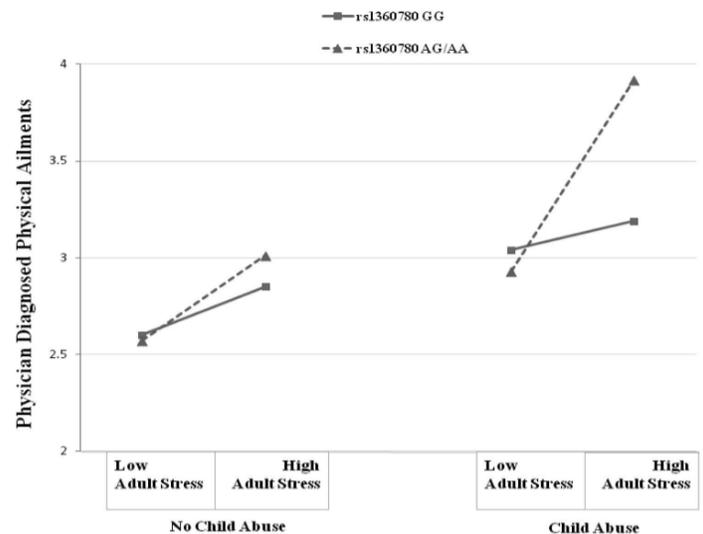
From a national survey, about half of participants with bipolar disorder had a history of at least one type of childhood maltreatment, and there was a clear dose-response relationship between extent of maltreatment and severity of bipolar characteristics, including co-morbidities, probability of treatment and level of functioning.

Lessard J, Holman EA.

FKBP5 and CRHR1 polymorphisms moderate the stress-physical health association in a national sample.

Health Psychol. 2014 Sep;33(9):1046-56. PMID: [24099078](#)

From a national sample of 527 adults, for those with a history of childhood abuse, having a certain type of gene relating to the stress system highly increased the number of physician-diagnosed physical ailments. This was especially true when exposed to adult stress, showing the interaction of genes and environment.



Crosswell AD, Bower JE, Ganz PA.

Childhood adversity and inflammation in breast cancer survivors.

Psychosom Med. 2014 Apr;76(3):208-14. PMID: [24632893](#)

"Childhood adversity was associated with elevated markers of inflammation in breast cancer survivors, with potential negative implications for health and well-being. In particular, chaotic home environment showed unique links with inflammatory outcomes."

Adolescents

Dick RN, McCauley HL, Jones KA, et. al.

Cyber dating abuse among teens using school-based health centers.

Pediatrics. 2014 Dec;134(6):e1560-7. PMID: [25404724](#)

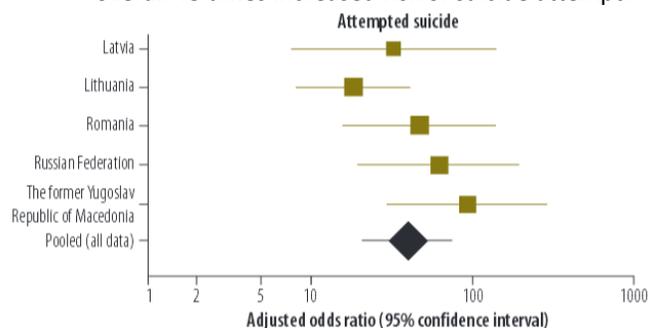
From a survey of 1008 teens at school-based health centers, cyber dating abuse was common (44.6% in females and 31.0% in males.) It was associated with physical or sexual dating partner abuse, nonpartner sexual assault, contraceptive nonuse and reproductive coercion.

Bellis MA, Hughes K, Leckenby N, et. al.

Adverse childhood experiences and associations with health-harming behaviours in young adults: surveys in eight eastern European countries.

Bull World Health Organ. 2014 Sep 1;92(9):641-55. PMID: [25378755](#)

For young adults from 8 eastern European countries, having at least 4 adverse childhood experiences was associated with increased risk of multiple health-harming behaviors, including an overall 48 times increased risk of suicide attempt.



Luo F, Stone DM, Tharp AT.

Physical dating violence victimization among sexual minority youth.

Am J Public Health. 2014 Oct;104(10):e66-73. PMID: [25121813](#)

In pooled data including over 62,000 US high school students, sexual minority youth were 2-3 times more likely to experience physical dating violence.

Eaton AA, Matamala A.

The relationship between heteronormative beliefs and verbal sexual coercion in college students.

Arch Sex Behav. 2014 Oct;43(7):1443-57. PMID: [24696387](#)

For 555 heterosexual college students primarily of Hispanic origin, the endorsement of heteronormative beliefs (such as the belief that men should dominate women sexually or that men are always ready for sex) “was positively correlated with personal acceptance of verbal sexual coercion strategies and personal experience as the victim and perpetrator of verbal sexual coercion for both men and women.”

VAWnet

Teen Dating Abuse

Special collection at <http://vawnet.org/special-collections/TDV.php>

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Lecic-Tosevski D, Draganic-Gajic S, et. al.

Child is father of the man: child abuse and development of future psychopathology.

Psychiatriki. 2014 Jul-Sep;25(3):185-91. PMID: [25367662](#)

Per authors, dysfunctional communication in the family is a significant predictor for DV.

“Characteristics of dysfunctional communication include low levels of verbal expressiveness and emotional responsiveness, low tolerance to criticism and its interpretation as a threat or intimidation, and consequently increased anxiety and subsequent escalation of an argument into violence.” This communication dysfunction can be transmitted to children and thus predispose to DV in the next generation.

Lambert JE, Holzer J, Hasbun A.

Association between parents' PTSD severity and children's psychological distress: a meta-analysis.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Feb;27(1):9-17. PMID: [24464491](#)

In a research review, studies have shown that parental PTSD has a significant effect on children's distress. This was found to be moreso with parent-child pairs who were both exposed to interpersonal trauma than for combat veterans and their children.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Davis A.

Violence-related mild traumatic brain injury in women: identifying a triad of postinjury disorders.

J Trauma Nurs. 2014 Nov-Dec;21(6):300-8. PMID: [25397339](#)

“The purpose of this article is to examine the relationship between physical violence-associated mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) and post-injury cognitive, emotional, and psychological disorders... Screening for MTBI and the triad of disorders is advocated, and assessment methods are offered.”

de Visser RO, Badcock PB, Rissel C, et. al.

Experiences of sexual coercion in a representative sample of adults: the Second Australian Study of Health.

Sex Health. 2014 Nov;11(5):472-80. PMID: [25377000](#)

From an Australian national telephone survey with over 20,000 participants, 4.2% of men and 22.4% of women reported sexual coercion (being forced or frightened into sexual activity). “Those who had been coerced reported greater psychosocial distress, were more likely to smoke, were more anxious about sex and more likely to have acquired a sexually transmissible infection.” Few talked about this to others or to professionals.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Cody MW, Beck JG.

Physical injury, PTSD symptoms, and medication use: examination in two trauma types.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Feb;27(1):74-81. PMID: [24515535](#)

In an analysis of female survivors of motor vehicle accidents compared to IPV injury survivors, in both groups equally the presence of PTSD was associated with significantly increased use of pain and psychiatric medication. "Identifying and treating PTSD symptoms following traumatic injury may affect medication usage and improve clinical outcomes in all trauma survivors."

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Frazão SL, Silva MS, Norton P, Magalhães T.

Domestic violence against elderly with disability.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2014 Nov;28:19-24. PMID: [25440142](#)

In this summary of 70 Portuguese disabled elders, the majority were women with motor disabilities. The most frequently reported type of abuse was physical (86%), allegedly perpetrated by male abusers (63%) living with their victims (90%), who were most commonly their children (47%) or partners (49%; when victims are married). 64% of the time there were multiple injuries, usually of the head and neck (75%).

Jargin SV.

Elder abuse and neglect vs. parricide: a letter from Russia.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2014;26(3):341-4. PMID: [24779543](#)

Article discusses the vague line in Russia between elder abuse and parricide (killing of a parent) such as "involving older people in binge drinking, denying them help, and manipulating them to commit suicide" - often for economic gain.

Dong X, Chen R, Fulmer T, Simon MA.

Prevalence and correlates of elder mistreatment in a community population of U.S. Chinese older adults.

J Aging Health. 2014 Oct;26(7):1209-24. PMID: [25239973](#)

15.0% of 3,159 Chinese elders living in Chicago reported elder mistreatment. Mistreatment was associated with poorer quality of life and worsening health over the past year.

Adams VM, Bagshaw D, Wendt S, Zannettino L.

Financial abuse of older people by a family member: a difficult terrain for service providers in Australia.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2014;26(3):270-90. PMID: [24779540](#)

"Financial abuse by a family member is the most common form of abuse experienced by older Australians," and this article discusses the difficulties in being able to successfully intervene.

Sexual Assault

Ulirsch JC, Ballina LE, Soward AC, et. al.

Pain and somatic symptoms are sequelae of sexual assault: results of a prospective longitudinal study.

Eur J Pain. 2014 Apr;18(4):559-66. PMID: [24019249](#)

For 84 sexual assault survivors followed over time after the event, at 3 months: 60% experienced new or worsening pain symptoms, especially in regions not affected by the trauma; 52% reported common symptoms such as headache, nausea, persistent fatigue; and 47% had developed PTSD.

Dossa NI, Zunzunegui MV, Hatem M, Fraser W.

Fistula and other adverse reproductive health outcomes among women victims of conflict-related sexual violence: a population-based cross-sectional study.

Birth. 2014 Mar;41(1):5-13. PMID: [24654632](#)

For 320 women living in the Democratic Republic of Congo, compared to a control group without sexual violence, women who had experienced conflict-related sexual violence were more likely to have fistula (11.1 times more likely), chronic pelvic pain (5.1), lack of desire for sex (3.5) and lack of desire for children (3.5).

Heavey E.

Female refugees: sensitive care needed.

Nursing. 2014 May;44(5):28-34; quiz 34-5. PMID: [24667406](#)

Discussion of care of female refugees who may have experienced sexual assault in their conflict country of origin, including sensitive management of their mental and physical health concerns.

Morris EE, Smith JC, Farooqui SY, Surís AM.

Unseen battles: the recognition, assessment, and treatment issues of men with military sexual trauma (MST).

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2014 Apr;15(2):94-101. PMID: [24231941](#)

Review of the known information about men with military sexual trauma, including prevalence, experiences, and medical and psychiatric sequelae.

Halvorsen L, Nerum H, Oian P, Sørli T.

Giving birth with rape in one's past: a qualitative study.

Birth. 2013 Sep;40(3):182-91. PMID: [24635503](#)

Raw quotes from women with a history of sexual assault about feelings and experiences during delivery, and their recommendations for providers.

Corum V, Carroll J.

Forensic analysts' perspectives: sexual assault kits under the microscope.

J Forensic Nurs. 2014 Jan-Mar;10(1):50-7. PMID: [24553395](#)

From a national survey of crime labs, "forensic SANE nurses are highly respected and valued for the quality of their evidence collection." Some recommendations are made and the pros and cons of a national standardized rape kit are discussed.

Human Trafficking

American Women's Medical Association

PATH – Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans

[Website](#) with educational videos of patient interactions on recognition and management of HT.

Cultural Issues

Wilson JB, Rappleyea DL, Hodgson JL, Hall TL, White MB.

Intimate partner violence screening among migrant/seasonal farmworker women and healthcare: a policy brief.

J Community Health. 2014 Apr;39(2):372-7. PMID: [24091834](#)

Review of research related to IPV among migrant and seasonal farm workers, with recommended policies to improve detection, intervention and resources.

Venable VM, Guada J.

Culturally competent practice with African American juvenile sex offenders.

J Child Sex Abus. 2014;23(3):229-46. PMID: [24641684](#)

Discussion of culturally competent treatment approaches for African American juvenile sex offenders and their families in order to increase engagement in the treatment process.

Perpetrators

Kloess JA, Beech AR, Harkins L.

Online child sexual exploitation: prevalence, process, and offender characteristics.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2014 Apr;15(2):126-39. PMID:

[24608540](#)

"This review provides an overview of current knowledge and understanding of the process of sexual grooming and exploitation of children via the Internet."

Schenk AM, Cooper-Lehki C, Keelan CM, Fremouw WJ.

Underreporting of bestiality among juvenile sex offenders: polygraph versus self-report.

J Forensic Sci. 2014 Mar;59(2):540-2. PMID: [24502368](#)

In a small study of 32 male juvenile severe sex offenders, reported rates of bestiality were 37.5% on written survey, but 81.25% with polygraph. Bestiality is theorized to either represent a generalized pattern of sexual behavior involving coercion, control and potential infliction of pain, or the beginning of a progression of behavior from animal to human.

Police and Court Systems

Appelbaum PS, Scurich N.

Impact of behavioral genetic evidence on the adjudication of criminal behavior.

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2014;42(1):91-10. PMID:

[24618524](#)

When a representative sample of 250 US adults were given a vignette of an apparently impulsive homicide with 4 explanations (childhood abuse, genetic predisposition, abuse + genetics, or simple impulsive behavior), participants gave the defendants in both childhood abuse categories longer sentences. They did not give the defendants in both genetic categories longer sentences even though they were the most afraid of them.

Wolak J, Liberatore M, Levine BN.

Measuring a year of child pornography trafficking by U.S. computers on a peer-to-peer network.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Feb;38(2):347-56. PMID: [24252746](#)

An analysis of one year of online child pornography trafficking activity on one peer-to-peer network showed that 80% of involved computers shared fewer than 10 files during the year, however ~1% had high traffic, contributing to 30% of activity.

Koss MP.

The RESTORE program of restorative justice for sex crimes: vision, process, and outcomes.

J Interpers Violence. 2014 Jun;29(9):1623-60. PMID: [24368680](#)

Outcome evaluation for 22 cases using RESTORE, a restorative justice program for adult sexual assault. "RESTORE conferences included voluntary enrollment, preparation, and a face-to-face meeting where primary and secondary victims voice impacts, and responsible persons acknowledge their acts and together develop a re-dress plan that is supervised for 1 year."

Providers

Hahn SA, Postmus JL.

Economic empowerment of impoverished IPV survivors: a review of best practice literature and implications for policy.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2014 Apr;15(2):79-93. PMID: [24346706](#)

Examination of interventions to economically empower IPV survivors "require the comprehensive and holistic organization of program and service delivery systems."

Neill KS, Peterson T.

Perceived risk, severity of abuse, expectations, and needs of women experiencing intimate partner violence.

J Forensic Nurs. 2014 Jan-Mar;10(1):4-12. PMID: [24553393](#)

Interviews with 43 women regarding their expectations and needs at the time of their partner being arrested for IPV, including feeling upset at how police acted in front of their children, and "Counseling is a wonderful thing, then you are thinking oh my god, how am I going to pay rent. Huge factor in why women go back to their abuser and stay."

Bianchi AL, McFarlane J, Nava A, et. al.

Rapid assessment to identify and quantify the risk of intimate partner violence during pregnancy.

Birth. 2014 Mar;41(1):88-92. PMID: [24654640](#)

Of 300 women seeking assistance for partner abuse and followed for 7 years, those who experienced abuse during pregnancy were more likely to experience threats, physical violence, and increased risk for homicide. "Abuse during pregnancy not only affects mothers but also impacts future generations. An urgent need prevails to implement policies that will ensure all pregnant women are screened for partner abuse..."

Stover CS, Lent K.

Training and Certification for Domestic Violence Service Providers: The Need for a National Standard Curriculum and Training Approach.

Psychol Violence. 2014 Apr;4(2):117-127. PMID: [25405068](#)

"A proposed set of standards and training guidelines are proposed for DV advocates, batterer interventionists, and clinicians along with a discussion of the implications of such standards for the field."

Nicolai MP, Keller JJ, de Vries L, et. al.

The impact of sexual abuse in patients undergoing colonoscopy.

PLoS One. 2014 Jan 15;9(1):e85034. PMID: [24454784](#)

Anonymous questionnaires returned from patients who had experienced colonoscopy at two Netherlands centers (54% response) showed prevalence of sexual abuse 3.9% for males and 9.5% for females. Those with a sexual abuse history experienced more distress during the procedure, and 43.4% suggested deeper sedation to diminish distress.

Farber BA, Feldman S, Wright AJ.

Client disclosure and therapist response in psychotherapy with women with a history of childhood sexual abuse.

Psychother Res. 2014;24(3):316-26. PMID: [23906369](#)

Adult clients with a history of childhood sexual abuse were interviewed about the costs and benefits of disclosure. "Significant benefits of disclosing included a sense of relief from sharing bottled-up emotions, and feeling more accepted and understood by one's therapist; significant negative consequences included feeling emotionally overwhelmed, and feeling uncomfortably vulnerable and exposed."

Futures Without Violence, 2015

[Open Enrollment AND Beyond: How the Affordable Care Act can help patients experiencing domestic and interpersonal violence](#)

Archived webinar/slides

Prevention

Godbout N, Briere J, Sabourin S, Lussier Y.

Child sexual abuse and subsequent relational and personal functioning: the role of parental support.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Feb;38(2):317-25. PMID: [24199753](#)

Of 348 Canadian adults in stable relationships, 17% reported childhood sexual abuse, with 14% reporting parental intervention after the abuse was

disclosed, 15% lack of parental intervention and 71% parent(s) unaware. Adult survivors who had had supportive parents showed psychiatric symptom patterns and couple adjustment equivalent to non-abused participants. Perceived parental support served as a protective factor. "Positive parental responses to a traumatic event may offer a crucial opportunity to build cognitive models of the self and others that will positively affect later adjustment."

Researchers

Hamilton HA, Boak A, Mann RE.

Involvement with child protective services: is this a useful question in population-based surveys?

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Sep;37(9):712-5. PMID: [23838213](#)

Since direct questions on child maltreatment in population-based surveys may be problematic for ethical or methodological reasons, authors suggest asking about involvement with CPS as a reasonable proxy "and serves as a general reflection of an adverse experience."

Rassenhofer M, Spröber N, Schneider T, Fegert JM.

Listening to victims: use of a Critical Incident Reporting System to enable adult victims of childhood sexual abuse to participate in a political reappraisal process in Germany.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Sep;37(9):653-63. PMID: [23796600](#)

In Germany "A media campaign was launched to publicize the establishment of a Critical Incident Reporting System (CIRS) whereby now-adult victims of past abuse could anonymously provide testimonials and let policy makers know what issues were important to them." This input significantly influenced recommendations to a newly appointed Independent Commissioner to establish new laws and action plans.

Parkinson S, Bromfield L.

Recruiting young adults to child maltreatment research through Facebook: a feasibility study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Sep;37(9):716-20. PMID: [23768931](#)

While Facebook was useful in quickly recruiting a convenience sample of 100 Australian young adults about early life experiences, it resulted in a non-representative sample of higher educated females with an abuse history.

Other of Interest

Salter M.

Multi-perpetrator domestic violence.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2014 Apr;15(2):102-12. PMID:

[24217092](#)

Women and girls who experience multiple perpetrator domestic violence are usually either partnered to members of gangs/organized crime groups, or are members of certain ethnic minority communities with a particular cultural role of masculine honor.

Redmond LW.

Spiritual coping tools of religious victims of childhood sexual abuse.

J Pastoral Care Counsel. 2014 Mar-Jun;68(1-2):3. PMID:

[25241481](#)

Surveys of the 20% of students from 3 Christian universities who had experienced childhood sexual abuse revealed their experiences with professional and church based-counseling, coping strategies, and effects on religious practices.

Olema DK, Catani C, Ertl V, Saile R, Neuner F.

The hidden effects of child maltreatment in a war region: correlates of psychopathology in two generations living in Northern Uganda.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Feb;27(1):35-41. PMID: [24478246](#)

In a study of 2 generations living in camps in severely war-affected regions in Northern Uganda, "We conclude that, even in the context of severe war, the impact of child maltreatment on psychological disorders surpasses the damage of war trauma."