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Child Abuse

Hashemi SM, Yousefichaijan P, Salehi B, et. al.

Comparison of child abuse history in patients with and without functional abdominal pain: a case-control study.

BMC Psychiatry. 2020 May 24;20(1):258. PMID: [32448192](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32448192/)

Comparing 100 Iranian children seen with a diagnosis of functional abdominal pain (FAP - abdominal pain without an identifiable medical cause) to those without FAP, those with FAP were 5.13 times more likely to have experienced emotional abuse, 4.27 times more for neglect, and 8.2 times more for general maltreatment, however physical abuse was not found to be a significant single factor.

Feldman KW, Tayama TM, Strickler LE, et. al.

A Prospective Study of the Causes of Bruises in Premobile Infants.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2020 Feb;36(2):e43-e49. PMID: [29040244](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29040244/)

“More than half of premobile infants with initially unexplained bruises were found to be abused. Abuse was as likely for infants identified by primary care and ED providers as for those identified by child abuse pediatricians. Currently, physicians often do not obtain full abuse evaluations in premobile infants with unexplained bruising. Bruised infants often have clinically occult abusive injuries or will sustain subsequent serious abuse.”

Jenny C, Metz JB.

Medical Child Abuse and Medical Neglect.

Pediatr Rev. 2020 Feb;41(2):49-60. PMID: [32005682](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32005682/)

Review article - “medical child abuse and medical neglect have many features in common, even while the 2 conditions are on opposite ends of a spectrum of behavior. One is an act of commission and the other is an act of omission. Yet, the management of the 2 conditions share many things in common. In addition, the 2 conditions can be present in the same child/family at same time.”

TABLE 1. **Reasons that Families Fail to Seek Appropriate Medical Care for Their Children**

Parent factors
Poverty
Lack of health insurance
Geographic constraints
Lack of transportation
Lack of babysitters for siblings
Lack of available health-care providers
Language barriers
Family chaos and disorganization
Lack of awareness
Lack of knowledge
Lack of skills (especially regarding care of chronically or seriously ill children)
Lack of trust in medical providers
Availability of misleading information on the Internet
Intellectual disability
Substance abuse
Lack of parent health literacy
Misunderstanding or misinterpreting providers' instructions
Caretakers' belief systems
Religious beliefs
Belief in ineffective alternative medicine
Child factors
Failure of the child to cooperate with care
Peer influence
Self-consciousness, not wanting to appear ill to their peers
Fear of pain
Fear of medications
Health-care provider factors
Lack of knowledge about families' beliefs
Lack of knowledge about families' culture
Failure to communicate effectively
Language barriers
Lack of appropriate teaching materials in the practice
Inadequate time to explain the child's medical needs

Evans A, Hardcastle K, Bandyopadhyay A, et. al.
Adverse childhood experiences during childhood and academic attainment at age 7 and 11 years: an electronic birth cohort study.

Public Health. 2020 Dec;189:37-47. PMID: [33147524](#)
 From a large study of Welsh children at age 7 and follow-up at age 11, and controlling for multiple variables, at both ages there was an increased risk of not attaining expected school level due to adult household members with a common mental disorder, alcohol problem, or death; childhood maltreatment; and low family income. “Children with multiple adversities had substantially increased odds of not attaining the expected level at each educational assessment.”

Cortellini V, Brescia G, Cerri N, Verzeletti A.
Simultaneous DNA and RNA profiling in a case of sexual assault in a 3-year-old child: Forensic genetics solves the crime.

Leg Med (Tokyo). 2020 Nov;47:101727. PMID: [32562959](#)
 While DNA can identify an individual from a sample of biological material, messenger RNA (mRNA) can identify bodily fluids. In this case of a 3-year-old sexual abused by a family friend, the child’s DNA found on the perpetrator’s hands, rather than being simply from general contact, was found by mRNA to be from the child’s vaginal secretions.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Vallati M, Cunningham S, Mazurka R, et. al.
Childhood maltreatment and the clinical characteristics of major depressive disorder in adolescence and adulthood.

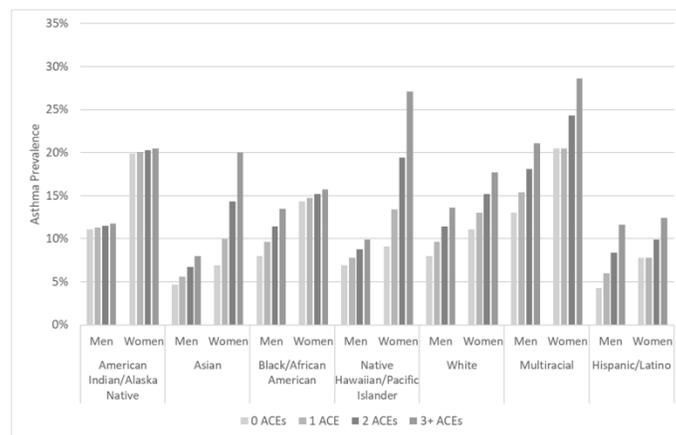
J Abnorm Psychol. 2020 Jul;129(5):469-479. PMID: [32237880](#)
 Of 575 adolescents and adults in a current episode of unipolar depressive disorder, higher levels of emotional and/or sexual maltreatment were significantly associated with greater depression severity, number of previous episodes, and risk for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and were significantly more strongly associated with these characteristics than was physical maltreatment. Further, “emotional maltreatment perpetrated by mothers was significantly associated with depression severity and history, whereas emotional maltreatment perpetrated by fathers was significantly associated with a greater risk of PTSD.”

Epperson CN, Duffy KA, Johnson RL, et. al.
Enduring impact of childhood adversity on lower urinary tract symptoms in adult women.

Neurourol Urodyn. 2020 Jun;39(5):1472-1481. PMID: [32368829](#)
 For 151 women with average age of 64.7 years seen in a urology clinic, the total number of ACEs predicted the total number and frequency of lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS), even after controlling for a large range of variables. “Childhood adversity has an enduring impact on risk for LUTS in adulthood.”

Hall T, Rooks R, Kaufman C.
Intersections of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Race and Ethnicity and Asthma Outcomes: Findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Nov 7;17(21):E8236. PMID: [33171864](#)
 From a large national database, “The likelihood of asthma is particularly high for women reporting ACEs as well as individuals identifying as AIAN, Black/African American, multiracial, or White.”



Shields M, Tonmyr L, Hovdestad WE, et. al.
Exposure to family violence from childhood to adulthood.
 BMC Public Health. 2020 Nov 9;20(1):1673. PMID: [33167904](#)

From a large Canadian survey of adults, a history of childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse or exposure to IPV in the home were all associated with a 2 times increased risk of adult IPV for both men and women. There was a dose-response relationship between severity and frequency of types of childhood maltreatment and adult IPV for women, but for men this association only applied to physical abuse.

Butler N, Quigg Z, Bellis MA.

Cycles of violence in England and Wales: the contribution of childhood abuse to risk of violence revictimisation in adulthood.

BMC Med. 2020 Nov 16;18(1):325. PMID: [33190642](#)

From a large representative survey of individuals aged 16 to 59 years, after controlling for multiple variables, childhood psychological and physical abuse were significantly associated with adult IPV, childhood psychological and sexual abuse with adult sexual violence, and childhood psychological abuse with adult physical assault. "Breaking the cycle of violence should be a public health priority."

Danese A, Widom CS.

Objective and subjective experiences of child maltreatment and their relationships with psychopathology.

Nat Hum Behav. 2020 Aug;4(8):811-818. PMID: [32424258](#)

Authors studied 1,196 children with both objective, court-documented evidence of maltreatment and subjective reports of their childhood maltreatment histories made once they reached adulthood, along with extensive psychiatric assessment. They found that, even for severe cases of childhood maltreatment identified through court records, adult mental health problems were minimal in the absence of impact of reported personal subjective experiences of childhood abuse. In contrast, risk of psychopathology linked to subjective reports of childhood maltreatment was high, whether or not the reports were consistent with objective measures. "These findings have important implications for how we study the mechanisms through which child maltreatment affects mental health and how we prevent or treat maltreatment-related psychopathology."

Adolescents

Grigsby TJ, Rogers CJ, Albers LD, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Health Indicators in a Young Adult, College Student Sample: Differences by Gender.

Int J Behav Med. 2020 Dec;27(6):660-667. PMID: [32643038](#)

From a large study of ACEs in college students from California, Minnesota and Texas between 2017 and 2018, 51.7% reported at least one ACE. "We observed graded relationships between levels of ACE exposure and physical, mental, and behavioral health indicators including cigarette use, e-cigarette use, drinking and driving, obesity, lifetime depression, suicide ideation and attempt, non-suicidal self-injury, and lack of restful sleep. ACE-

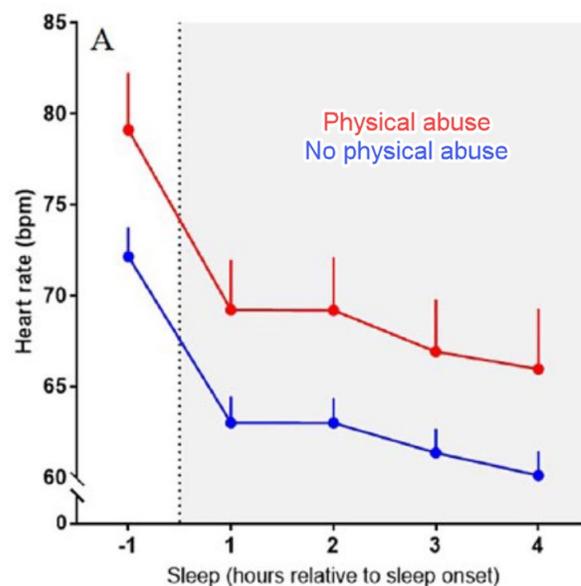
exposed females reported worse mental health status than ACE-exposed males, while males reported more substance use than females."

Beilharz JE, Paterson M, Fatt S, et. al.

The impact of childhood trauma on psychosocial functioning and physical health in a non-clinical community sample of young adults.

Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2020 Feb;54(2):185-194. PMID: [31631683](#)

Healthy Australian young adults who have experienced childhood trauma "are vulnerable to negative health outcomes, including mental and physical health, stress, well-being, sleep quality, and physical symptoms." This study also showed increased heart rate response to everyday stressors, and increased resting heart rate during sleep for those with a history of childhood physical abuse.



Cense M, Grauw S, Vermeulen M.

'Sex Is Not Just about Ovaries.' Youth Participatory Research on Sexuality Education in The Netherlands.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Nov 19;17(22):E8587.

PMID: [33227971](#)

From a survey of Dutch high school students, "young people want more sexuality education during their whole school career. They want sexuality education to move beyond biological functions, sexually transmitted diseases, and reproduction into issues like dating, online behavior, sexual pleasure, relationships, and sexual coercion. Moreover, pupils want sexual diversity integrated and normalized in all content."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Normann AK, Bakiewicz A, Kjerulff Madsen F, et. al.

Intimate partner violence and breastfeeding: a systematic review.

BMJ Open. 2020 Oct 31;10(10):e034153. PMID: [33130559](#)

In a review of research studies, evidence is presented that IPV is associated with increased risk of not initiating breastfeeding, shortened duration of breastfeeding, and early termination of exclusive breastfeeding.

Carnevale S, Di Napoli I, Esposito C, et. al.

Children Witnessing Domestic Violence in the Voice of Health and Social Professionals Dealing with Contrasting Gender Violence.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Jun 21;17(12):4463.

PMID: [32575898](#)

From interviews with Italian health and welfare professionals regarding children who witness domestic violence, a core category is seeing the situation as “The Crystal Fortress”. “In this structure the parental roles of protection and care (fortress) are suspended and everything is extremely rigid, fragile and always at risk of a catastrophe. It also symbolizes the difficult role of health professionals in dealing with such children and their families.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Huhn AS, Dunn KE.

Challenges for Women Entering Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder.

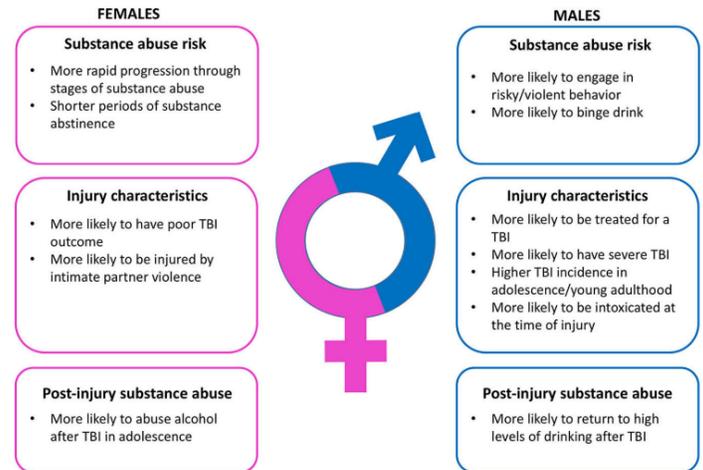
Curr Psychiatry Rep. 2020 Oct 31;22(12):76. PMID: [33128093](#)

“Women respond differently to opioids based on hormonal factors, are more likely to present to treatment with mental health conditions, especially depression, and are more likely to have experienced trauma via intimate partner violence compared with men. Women also face stigma when entering OUD [opioid use disorder] treatment, particularly if they have children...Women have a fundamentally different experience than men during the course of OUD and upon treatment entry. Programs that address childcare/family support, mental health, and trauma are warranted for women with OUD.”

Oliverio R, Karelina K, Weil ZM.

Sex, Drugs, and TBI: The Role of Sex in Substance Abuse Related to Traumatic Brain Injuries.

Front Neurol. 2020 Oct 19;11:546775. PMID: [33192975](#)

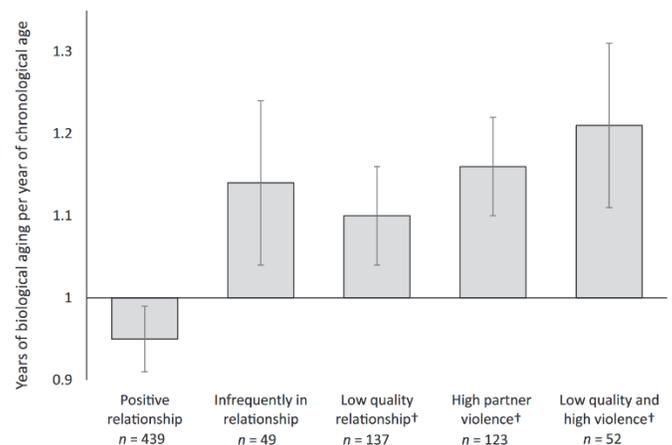


Bourassa KJ, Caspi A, Harrington H, et. al.

Intimate partner violence and lower relationship quality are associated with faster biological aging.

Psychol Aging. 2020 Dec;35(8):1127-1139. PMID: [33211513](#)

Of 974 adult New Zealanders, “people who were in romantic relationships tended to evidence slower biological aging. In addition, people who were in higher quality relationships had slower biological aging, and people with more partner violence in their relationships had faster biological aging, especially when experiencing physical violence from a partner...accelerated biological aging might help explain the association between relationship characteristics and later health outcomes.”



Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Navarrete L, Nieto L, Lara MA.

Intimate partner violence and perinatal depression and anxiety: Social support as moderator among Mexican women.

Sex Reprod Healthc. 2020 Oct 16;27:100569. PMID: [33157402](#)

Of 210 Mexican pregnant women, the prevalence of IPV was about 11% during pregnancy and postpartum. IPV increased the risk of depression in pregnancy by 3.5 times, and six months postpartum by 18.3 times. Lack of social support had a great impact on depression and anxiety associated with IPV by 14.12 times during pregnancy and 5.49 times postpartum.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Kosa SD, Du Mont J, Macdonald S.

Development and Evaluation of an Elder Abuse Forensic Nurse Examiner e-Learning Curriculum.

Gerontol Geriatr Med. 2020 Oct 23;6:2333721420965819. PMID: [33173804](#)

Core content domains of this successful e-Learning training include: Older Adults and Abuse; Documentation, Legal, and Legislative Issues; Interview with Older Adult, Caregiver, and Other Relevant Contacts; Initial Assessment; Medical and Forensic Examination; and Case Summary, Discharge Plan, and Follow-Up Care. [Full text.](#)

DeLiema M, Deevy M, Lusardi A, Mitchell OS.

Financial Fraud Among Older Americans: Evidence and Implications.

J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci. 2020 Mar 9;75(4):861-868. PMID: [30561718](#)

From a US Health and Retirement Study, 5.0% reported at least one form of investment fraud, usually in the greater wealth group, and 4.4% recounted prize/lottery fraud, usually from those in the lower housing wealth group or who had symptoms of depression. Risk factors of low social support and financial literacy were not significant.

LGBTQ Concerns

Turban JL, Beckwith N, Reisner SL, Keuroghlian AS.

Association Between Recalled Exposure to Gender Identity Conversion Efforts and Psychological Distress and Suicide Attempts Among Transgender Adults.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2020 Jan 1;77(1):68-76. PMID: [31509158](#)

Of 27,715 transgender survey respondents, mean age 31.2 years, among the 71.3% who had ever spoken about their gender identity with a secular or religious professional, 19.6% reported exposure to gender identity conversion efforts (GICE). Those who experienced GICE were 1.56 times more likely to report severe psychological distress during the previous month, and 2.27 times more likely to have attempted suicide. Suicide attempt risk increased to 4.15 for those exposed to GICE prior to age 10.

Mensinger JL, Granche JL, Cox SA, Henretty JR.

Sexual and gender minority individuals report higher rates of abuse and more severe eating disorder symptoms than cisgender heterosexual individuals at admission to eating disorder treatment.

Int J Eat Disord. 2020 Apr;53(4):541-554. PMID: [32167198](#)

Of 2,818 individuals treated at a large, US eating disorder center, 17% identified as sexual/gender minorities (SGM). SGM individuals were twice as likely to have experienced sexual abuse, other trauma, and bullying. They had more severe symptoms at admission, which coincided with a greater delay between eating disorder onset and treatment initiation, possibly due to decreased recognition by healthcare providers.

Du Mont J, Hemalal S, Kosa SD, Cameron L, Macdonald S.

The promise of an intersectoral network in enhancing the response to transgender survivors of sexual assault.

PLoS One. 2020 Nov 18;15(11):e0241563. PMID: [33206636](#)

From surveys of 67 Canadian healthcare and community organizations asked about response to transgender survivors of sexual assault, ways to address the multiple challenges and barriers included: “Center the voices of trans communities in advocacy; Support competence of professionals to provide trans-affirming care; Provide the platform, strategies, and tools to aid in organizational change; and Create space for organizations to share ideas, goals, and resources.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Churchwell K, Elkind MSV, Benjamin RM, et. al.

Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities: A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association.

Circulation. 2020 Dec 15;142(24):e454-e468. PMID: [33170755](#)

“The American Heart Association has previously published statements addressing cardiovascular and cerebrovascular risk and disparities among racial and ethnic groups in the United States, but these statements have not adequately recognized structural racism as a fundamental cause of poor health and disparities in cardiovascular disease. This presidential advisory reviews the historical context, current state, and potential solutions to address structural racism in our country.”

Maldonado AI, Cunradi CB, Nápoles AM.

Racial/Ethnic Discrimination and Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration in Latino Men: The Mediating Effects of Mental Health.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Nov 4;17(21):E8148. PMID: [33158179](#)

For both US born and immigrant Latino men, discrimination variously was associated with poorer mental health (anxiety, depression, PTSD, alcohol or drug dependence), moreso for US born Latino men. For both groups poorer mental health contributed to IPV perpetration.

Sexual Assault

Basile KC, D'Inverno AS, Wang J.

National Prevalence of Sexual Violence by a Workplace-Related Perpetrator.

Am J Prev Med. 2020 Feb;58(2):216-223. PMID: [31831292](#)

“Using 2010-2012 data from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (22,590 women and 18,584 men)...In the U.S., 5.6% of women (almost 7 million) and 2.5% of men (nearly 3 million) reported some type of sexual violence by a workplace-related perpetrator. Almost 4% of women reported sexual violence by nonauthority figures and 2.1% reported authority figures; 2.0% of men reported sexual violence by nonauthority figures, and 0.6% reported authority figures. An estimated 1 million women (0.8%) have been raped by a workplace-related perpetrator. For women and men, fear was the most commonly reported impact of workplace-related sexual violence.”

Koontz JS, Mountjoy M, Abbott KE, et. al.

Sexual Violence in Sport: American Medical Society for Sports Medicine Position Statement.

Clin J Sport Med. 2020 Jul;30(4):291-292. PMID: [32516236](#)

Position statement from the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine - “Sexual violence in sport is an egregious violation of an athlete’s right to safety and is unacceptable. It is a serious societal and public health issue that can affect any athlete and may have severe and long-standing negative impacts on an athlete’s physical, psychological, and social well-being.”

Gilmore AK, Ward-Ciesielski EF, Smalling A, et. al.

Managing post-sexual assault suicide risk.

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2020 Oct;23(5):673-679. PMID: [32623514](#)

From a study of a mental health screen done with a forensic exam for sexual assault, after sexual assault individuals who have been previously hospitalized for a mental health problem, who had higher acute stress symptoms, or who were homeless, reported more suicidal ideation.

Sienkiewicz ME, Amalathas A, Iverson KM, et. al.

Examining the Association between Trauma Exposure and Work-Related Outcomes in Women Veterans.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Jun 25;17(12):4585. PMID: [32630579](#)

From surveys of 369 female veterans, participants reported high rates of trauma exposure - “childhood sexual assault (25.3%), childhood physical assault (17.2%), adult sexual assault (36.4%), adult physical assault (20.2%), military-related trauma (38.9%), and any military sexual trauma (54.5%).” 47.5% were out of the workforce, which was associated with PTSD and depression symptoms rather than specific types of trauma.

Human Trafficking

Tiller J, Reynolds S.

Human Trafficking in the Emergency Department: Improving Our Response to a Vulnerable Population.

West J Emerg Med. 2020 Apr 16;21(3):549-554. PMID: [32421500](#)

“Using a published toolkit based on existing guidelines and recommendations from experts, and models from other centers, we describe the implementation of an ED response protocol...to guide members of our department in more effectively caring for known or suspected victims of human trafficking.”

Roney LN, Villano CE.

Recognizing Victims of a Hidden Crime: Human Trafficking Victims in Your Pediatric Trauma Bay.

J Trauma Nurs. 2020 Jan/Feb;27(1):37-41. PMID: [31895318](#)

“Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the United States and almost half of the victims are children. This crime against children is referred to as domestic minor human sex trafficking (DMHST). The majority of DMHST victims access health care, often at an emergency department, at some point during their captivity. Trafficking of minors has been cited as the most underreported form of child abuse, making education on this topic essential for all health care providers.”

TABLE 1 Risk Factors That Increase Vulnerability to Domestic Minor Human Sex Trafficking: “FAMILY” Mnemonic	
F	Family history of violence/mental illness/drug or alcohol abuse
A	Adverse childhood experiences or abused by parents or others
M	Money stress or underemployment or unemployment of parent(s)
I	Involvement with child protective services or law enforcement
L	Lack of support systems/living with people other than parents
Y	Youth with behavioral or mental health concerns

Collins C, Skarparis K.

The impact of human trafficking in relation to maternity care: A literature review.

Midwifery. 2020 Apr;83:102645. PMID: [32035342](#)

“Women who have been trafficked are at risk of physical and emotional health issues that may affect maternal and fetal outcomes. Multiple barriers to care exist, and social factors including housing, poverty and dispersal policies may impact both health and access to care. Healthcare staff do not feel adequately prepared to respond to the needs of this vulnerable group.”

Perpetrators

Léveillé S, Vignola-Lévesque C.

Toward a Better Understanding of the Psychosocial Issues and Different Profiles of Male Filicides.

J Psychol. 2020;154(7):467-486. PMID: [32730724](#)

“Our study analyzed 50 perpetrators of filicides [killing of one’s child] committed in the province of Quebec...male perpetrators of filicide are, on average, 34.8 years old...Most filicides were committed following a marital separation (34%), the victims were between 0 and 5 years old (78%) and

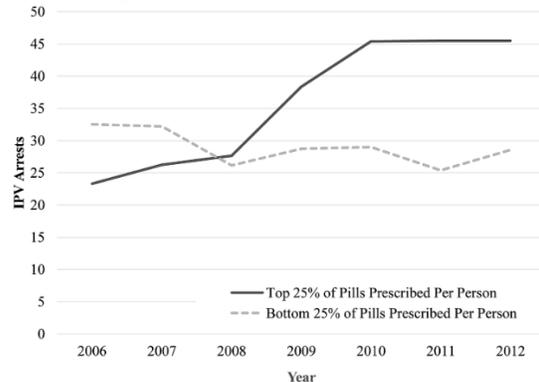
they were killed with bare hands (78%). Half of the perpetrators of filicide had a criminal record (42%) or history of domestic violence (50%).”

Pryor C, Boman JH 4th, Hemez P.

Using arrest and prescription data to examine the relationship between intimate partner violence and opioid prescriptions in the United States, 2006-2012.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2021 Jan 1;218:108389. PMID: [33139153](#)

Counties with higher opioid pill prescriptions had higher IPV arrests.



Strang E, Peterson ZD.

Use of a Bogus Pipeline to Detect Men's Underreporting of Sexually Aggressive Behavior.

J Interpers Violence. 2020 Jan;35(1-2):208-232. PMID: [27920357](#)

For 93 young community men responding to two self-report measures of sexually aggressive behavior, reports of verbal coercion were the same for both studies, but their reporting of illegal sexual assault strategies was 6.5 times greater when they believed their honesty was able to be measured in the second self-report survey. “Men’s use of sexual assault strategies may be far more common than is suggested by most self-report studies.”

Rollero C, De Piccoli N.

Myths about Intimate Partner Violence and Moral Disengagement.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020 Nov 4;17(21):E8139. PMID: [33158077](#)

From a survey of Italian college students, hostile sexism toward women and theories assuming that sex differences are a product of biology significantly affected the endorsement of IPV myths (to minimize, deny, or justify physical violence against a partner). Hostile sexism was also associated with moral disengagement – excusing oneself from immoral conduct due to altered justification, displacing blame, disregarding or misrepresenting injurious consequences, and denigrating victims.

Police and Court Systems

Stringer KL, Marotta P, Goddard-Eckrich D, et. al.

Mental Health Consequences of Sexual Misconduct by Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Personnel among Black Drug-Involved Women in Community Corrections.

J Urban Health. 2020 Feb;97(1):148-157. PMID: [31773558](#)

Of 351 drug-involved Black women from community corrections in New York City, 14% reported sexual misconduct by law enforcement and criminal justice personnel...which was associated with depression and PTSD. These findings are a previously underappreciated risk factor for adverse mental health outcomes among legal system-involved women.

Delker BC, Van Scoyoc A, Noll LK.

Contextual influences on the perception of pregnant women who use drugs: Information about women's childhood trauma history reduces punitive attitudes.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2020 Jan-Feb;21(1):103-123. PMID: [31608822](#)

"Punitive attitudes and consequences (e.g., incarceration) for prenatal illicit drug use persist in the United States despite evidence that these policies are ineffective and even harmful to women and children...the threat of these consequences can deter women from seeking healthcare, prenatal care, and drug treatment." University students who were given vignettes with information that included a history of childhood trauma, especially interpersonal versus stranger trauma, decreased punitive attitudes. [ACOG position statement](#)

Providers

Esquivel A, Pastrana I, Marshall V, Lukefahr JL, Mitchell I.

The Implementation of a Pediatric Nonaccidental Trauma Evaluation Protocol: A Quality Improvement Analysis.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2020 Feb;36(2):e61-e65. PMID: [32011570](#)

After protocols for children aged <6 months and 6-36 months were instituted for detection of non-accidental trauma at a level 3 trauma center, compliance with elements of the protocol were improved after a multi-disciplinary conference. Routine urinalysis and blood type and screen were dropped, as evaluation showed them to be clinically unnecessary.

Pulverman CS, Meston CM.

Sexual dysfunction in women with a history of childhood sexual abuse: The role of sexual shame.

Psychol Trauma. 2020 Mar;12(3):291-299. PMID: [31414868](#)

This study of 120 adult women from the community showed that sexual shame completely mediated (was responsible for) the association between childhood sexual abuse and sexual function difficulties, suggesting that targeting sexual shame may improve sexual function in these women.

Huntley AL, Szilassy E, Potter L, et. al.

Help seeking by male victims of domestic violence and abuse: an example of an integrated mixed methods synthesis of systematic review evidence defining methodological terms.

BMC Health Serv Res. 2020 Nov 26;20(1):1085. PMID: [33243236](#)

From a research review, needs of male survivors of domestic abuse are discussed, including policy recommendations and need for more information regarding better guidance for the response of police and the criminal justice system; and appropriate services for men in terms of access, referral, substance/alcohol abuse, mental health, sexuality, and race.

Massey WV, Williams TL.

Sporting Activities for Individuals Who Experienced Trauma During Their Youth: A Meta-Study.

Qual Health Res. 2020 Jan;30(1):73-87. PMID: [31154911](#)

From a research review, "a sense of belonging, psychological escape, embodied experience, and the physical and social environmental are important considerations in the study of sporting activities for trauma survivors."

Prevention

Bustnay TG.

Group Intervention with Parents of Juvenile Sex Offenders.

J Child Sex Abus. 2020 Apr;29(3):278-294. PMID: [31525118](#)

A supportive program for Israeli parents of male juvenile sex offenders showed that "the combination of emotional support, provision of information and knowledge, and parental guidance can empower the parents to be a supportive, directive authority in supervising their children, thereby helping to prevent their recidivism to sexually offensive behavior."

Cui Z, Oshri A, Liu S, Smith EP, Kogan SM.

Child Maltreatment and Resilience: The Promotive and Protective Role of Future Orientation.

J Youth Adolesc. 2020 Oct;49(10):2075-2089. PMID: [32236791](#)

Comparing a group of maltreated vs. non-maltreated youth, future orientation [the extent to which an individual thinks about the future, anticipates future consequences, and plans ahead before acting] significantly predicted higher levels of social competence and attenuated the adverse effects of maltreatment on youth delinquency and substance use." The findings highlight the role of future orientation in the development of resilience prevention and intervention programs.

Researchers

Evans DP.

COVID-19 and violence: a research call to action.

BMC Womens Health. 2020 Nov 10;20(1):249. PMID: [33172466](#)

"Police in China report that 90% of the causes of recent IPV cases could be attributed to the COVID-19 epidemic. Rising fears and anxiety about prolonged movement restrictions, increased economic strain and diminished health care capacity to support survivors are among the potential reasons for such dramatic effects...The call to action for the research community is clear. We must systematically measure the effects of COVID-19 and movement related restrictions on violence."

Other of Interest

Temkin D, Harper K, Stratford B, et. al.

Moving Policy Toward a Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Approach to Support Children Who Have Experienced Trauma.

J Sch Health. 2020 Dec;90(12):940-947. PMID: [33184886](#)

"State policymakers must thus consider trauma not as a stand alone issue, but as one that should be integrated throughout policies governing how schools address students' physical, social, and emotional needs. Simply requiring teacher training, especially when available trainings have only limited evidence, or mandating screening of students for ACEs or adversity, which carries several limitations and risks, cannot create the supportive environments students experiencing trauma need to thrive."

Shields GS, Spahr CM, Slavich GM.

Psychosocial Interventions and Immune System Function: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Randomized Clinical Trials.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2020 Oct 1;77(10):1031-1043. PMID: [32492090](#)

From a research review on the effects of mental health treatment on immune function, "Recent estimates suggest that more than 50% of all deaths worldwide are currently attributable to inflammation-related diseases." [And various forms of abuse are linked to increased inflammation.] "Overall, being randomly assigned to a psychosocial intervention condition vs a control condition was associated with a 14.7% improvement in beneficial immune system function and an 18.0% decrease in harmful immune system function over time. These associations persisted for at least 6 months following treatment and were robust across age, sex, and intervention duration. These associations were most reliable for CBT [cognitive behavioral therapy] and multiple or combined interventions."

Simonetti JA.

Active Shooter Safety Drills and US Students-Should We Take a Step Back?

JAMA Pediatr. 2020 Aug 31. PMID: [32870260](#)

"The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that 95% of public schools performed lockdown drills during the 2015 to 2016 academic year. This was partially driven by a multibillion-dollar cottage industry that seeks to prepare schools using active shooter scenarios...including unannounced intruders; firing of blank firearm cartridges or pellets; and mock execution of teachers. One training drill included students posing as injured individuals while others were chained to chairs as hostages and fastened to mock explosives. Some scenarios incorporate options-based trainings, encouraging children (including kindergarteners) to attack armed assailants with available objects, including scissors, pencils, and chemicals...Although the effectiveness of lockdown or active shooter drills is unclear, there is compelling preliminary evidence that they may be associated with substantial emotional and psychological harms...students have vomited, fainted, and experienced asthma exacerbations and panic attacks... In 2014, the National Association of School Psychologists and National Association of School Resource Officers published best practice considerations...quick action is needed from the education, health care, public health, research, and policy communities to provide guidance on whether and how we should go about preparing students."