

ABUSE RESEARCH

For archive and to sign up for distribution list:

<http://abuseresearch.info/>

Questions: Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Shusterman GR, Fluke JD, Nunez JJ, Fettig NB, Kebede BK.
Child maltreatment reporting during the initial weeks of COVID-19 in the US: Findings from NCANDS.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105929. PMID: [36270070](#)

From a national database, "In 2020, CPS screened in 39% fewer reports than during the same period in 2019, and the proportion of reports substantiated increased from 18 to 22%. Reports from all report sources decreased, especially from teachers (90% decrease) and daycare providers (65% decrease). The odds for substantiation were significantly higher during 2020 than in 2019...Explanations for the increase in percent of substantiation in the context of reduction of reports are considered."

Liu Y, Shepherd-Banigan M, Evans KE, et al.

Do children evaluated for maltreatment have higher subsequent emergency department and inpatient care utilization compared to a general pediatric sample?

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105938. PMID: [36330904](#)

For 367 children who received a maltreatment evaluation at a US child abuse and neglect subspecialty clinic, compared to the general pediatric population, children with a maltreatment evaluation were 30% more likely to be seen for an ED visit or inpatient hospitalization for any reason, and 4.4 times more likely to be seen for a maltreatment-related visit.

Malthaner LQ, Jetelina KK, Loria H, McLeigh JD.

Healthcare utilization among children with a history of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105934. PMID: [36302288](#)

595 North Texas children with a history of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS), compared to matched controls, had "significantly higher healthcare expenditures, and with the exception of hospitalizations, higher healthcare utilization beyond the newborn visit. These findings suggest the needs for interventions for children with NOWS beyond the immediate neonatal period."

Ruffolo LI, Gaba H, Dale BS, et al.

Outcomes after Child Physical Abuse and Association with Community-Level Social Determinants of Health.

J Am Coll Surg. 2022;235(5):810-8. PMID: [36102552](#)

Of 184 children admitted for suspected physical abuse, those whose residential address was in the more impoverished percentiles "presented with more severe injuries, had higher area injury scores in the abdomen and extremities, and required admission to the intensive care unit more often." Children from more impoverished neighborhoods were more likely to be discharged to a different caretaker than children from better off neighborhoods (71% caretaker change vs 49% caretaker change). "Child abuse reduction strategies might consider increased support for families with fewer resources and social support systems."

Schuermans IK, Luik AI, de Maat DA, et. al.

The association of early life stress with IQ-achievement discrepancy in children: A population-based study.

Child Dev. 2022;93(6):1837-47. PMID: [35822555](#)

For 2401 children in a Generation R Study, early life stress at age 0-10 was associated at age 12 with lower IQ, lower academic achievement, and greater IQ-achievement discrepancy (variance in academic achievement not explained by IQ).

Thackeray JD, Crichton KG, McPherson P, et. al.

Identification of Initial and Subsequent Injury in Young Infants: Opportunities for Quality Improvement in the Evaluation of Child Abuse.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2022 Jun 1;38(6):e1279-e1284. PMID: [35504033](#)

Using data from 6 children's hospitals to identify infants < 6 months old who were seen for an injury, and seen for another injury within one year, diagnosis codes for most common initial injuries were fractures (37.0%), bruising/ecchymosis (35.9%), and superficial injuries (28.3%). Using a different data method, reviewing consult notes of children seen at 18 months for suspected child abuse, 10.8% had had at least one initial injury, mainly 64.9% bruising. Completion of a skeletal survey ranged from 4.4% to 71.7%. "A standardized quality improvement approach may improve identification of injury."

Chen Q, Chan KL, Chen M, Lo CK, Ip P.

Associating sleep quality, quality of life and child poly-victimization.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;133:105846. PMID: [35994886](#)

From a large study of Hong Kong schoolchildren, “children who experienced four or more types of victimization were more likely to show parasomnia [such as sleepwalking, sleep talking, nightmares, and sleep terrors] and daytime dysfunction symptoms [such as daytime sleepiness] than those experiencing one to three types of victimization and non-victims.” It also revealed significant relationships between child poly-victimization and lower levels of quality of life, which were affected by parasomnia and daytime dysfunction.

Loos MHJ, Bakx R, Allema JH, et al.

Prevalence of inflicted and neglectful femur shaft fractures in young children in national level I trauma centers.

Pediatr Radiol. 2022;52(12):2359-67. PMID: [35523968](#)

Of Dutch children aged 0-6 years seen for an isolated thigh fracture, 89.9% of cases were accidental, 4.3% were inflicted, and 5.8% were due to neglect. Fractures due to abuse or neglect were significantly more likely to be found in children less than 24 months of age.

Lavoie J, Williams S, Lyon TD, Quas JA.

Do children unintentionally report maltreatment?

Comparison of disclosures of neglect versus sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;133:105824. PMID: [35970086](#)

In this chart review of substantiated cases of child neglect and child sexual abuse, neglect was most often initially suspected via contact with emergency services, while sexual abuse was most often suspected from children’s statements. “Children may benefit from greater knowledge about their needs for safety, supervision, and provision in the home, which could increase the likelihood they would disclose neglect.”

Nystrom A, Richards TN, Wood H, Cox LM, Gross M.

Examining missingness among children in out-of-home care placement in Nebraska.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105874. PMID: [36088663](#)

“About 30 % of Nebraska’s missing children are in OOH [out-of-home] care. Children missing from OOH care are older and are more likely to be Black...also more likely to be in group care, on probation, and have greater placement instability compared to children in OOH care who are not missing. Case contexts of missingness include unmet substance use and mental health challenges, experiences with violence and victimization, and few bonds to school.”

Greeley C.

Advances in child abuse and neglect research and practice.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105875. PMID: [36088662](#)

Authors discuss CAPNET (Child Abuse Pediatrics (CAP) clinical services (CAPNET)), a group of 11 US children’s hospitals, whose mission is “To improve the care of children by child abuse pediatricians... [by conducting] multisite, collaborative, patient-oriented research.” They also note challenges, gaps, and opportunities for the future of the database.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

D’Arcy-Bewick S, Terracciano A, Turiano N, et. al.

Childhood abuse and neglect, and mortality risk in adulthood: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105922. PMID: [36244209](#)

A research review of studies involving 265,858 individuals suggested an association between childhood abuse and neglect and 1.86 times increased mortality risk in adulthood. “Specific types of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual) were unrelated to mortality risk, but subgroup analyses suggested that physical and emotional abuse were associated with greater mortality risk among women.”

Childhood Trauma Meta-Analysis Study Group.

Treatment efficacy and effectiveness in adults with major depressive disorder and childhood trauma history: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Lancet Psychiatry. 2022 Nov;9(11):860-873. PMID: [36156242](#)

From a large research review, “Contrary to previous studies, we found evidence that the symptoms of patients with major depressive disorder and childhood trauma significantly improve after pharmacological and psychotherapeutic treatments, notwithstanding their higher severity of depressive symptoms.” In a commentary on this study (PMID [36156241](#)), the author notes that “Although these results are very important and encouraging for clinical practice, we should be cautious in their interpretation.” There is a range of “improvement” with incomplete response; and patients with a history of childhood trauma also have additive increased problems with sleep, substance use, recurrent/persistent depression, anxiety, PTSD, suicidality, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. “Therefore, people with major depressive disorder and a history of childhood trauma should receive special attention.”

Ng E, Wong EHY, Lipsman N, Nestor SM, Giacobbe P.
Adverse childhood experiences and repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation outcomes for depression.

J Affect Disord. 2023;320:716-24. PMID: [36206889](#)

Of 99 patients receiving trans-cranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) for major depression, patients had a mean of 2.4 ACEs. ACE score did not affect depression outcomes. "Presence of high levels of ACEs should not preclude consideration of TMS for depression."

Poletti S, Paolini M, Ernst J, Bollettini I, Melloni E, Vai B, et al.
Long-term effect of childhood trauma: Role of inflammation and white matter in mood disorders.

Brain Behav Immun Health. 2022;26:100529. PMID: [36237478](#)

In this study of 100 adult patients with bipolar disorder (BD) and 100 adult patients with major depressive disorder (MDD), different increased inflammatory blood factors were found for each group, which correlated with different brain white matter microstructure findings. Per authors, findings suggest that inflammation may be causative on the detrimental effect of early abuse on brain structure, with different mechanisms underlying brain alterations in BD and MDD.

Voss S, Frenzel S, Klinger-König J, et al.

Interaction of childhood abuse and depressive symptoms on cortical thickness: a general population study.

Eur Arch Psychiatry Clin Neurosci. 2022;272(8):1523-34. PMID: [35217912](#)

Using brain scans for 1551 individuals from the general population, cortical brain thickness was measured in 34 different regions. "Our results suggest that childhood abuse is associated with reduced cortical thickness in subjects with depressive symptoms. In abused subjects without depressive symptoms, larger cortical thickness [was found, and] might act compensatory and thus reflect resilience against depressive symptoms."

Jabbi MM, Harvey PD, Kotwicky RJ, Nemeroff CB.
Specific Associations Between Type of Childhood Abuse and Elevated C-Reactive Protein in Young Adult Psychiatric Rehabilitation Participants.

Int J Neuropsychopharmacol. 2022;25(11):891-9. PMID: [36124823](#)

Of 280 patients admitted to a psychiatric inpatient unit, mean age 27.3 years, 26% had significantly elevated levels of CRP, an inflammatory marker. "Compared with a history of emotional or physical abuse, a history of childhood sexual trauma was more specifically associated with elevated CRP."

Wamser-Nanney R.

Types of childhood maltreatment, posttraumatic stress symptoms, and indices of fertility.

Psychol Trauma. 2022;14(8):1263-71. PMID: [35007093](#)

For 275 trauma-exposed females, mean age 38.8, who had been or who had tried to become pregnant, "none of the maltreatment types, nor PTSS, was related to longer length to conception. Minorities reported longer length of time to conceive. PTSS was tied to fewer number of live births. A history of neglect corresponded with a greater number of miscarriages, as well as greater use of fertility treatments."

Stout ME, Tsotsoros CE, Hawkins MAW.

Does Loneliness Mediate the Relationship Between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Pain Catastrophizing Among Women?

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2022;15(4):1137-43. PMID: [36439660](#)

From an online survey of 109 female participants, mean age 39.8 years, results indicated that increased ACEs were related to greater loneliness, which, in turn, was related to greater pain catastrophizing. "Loneliness is a possible mechanism by which ACEs adversely impact cognitive and emotional well-being in adulthood...which might make dealing with stressful situations such as pain more difficult and, therefore, increase one's catastrophic thinking patterns."

Adolescents

Landberg Å, Svedin CG, Jonsson LS.

Patterns of disclosure and perceived societal responses after child sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105914. PMID: [36270071](#)

From a survey of 3282 Swedish high school students, a substantial share of abused girls and most abused boys had not yet told anyone about the abuse, leaving them unable to access protection or rehabilitation. Participants who had disclosed sexual abuse had most often turned to a peer, more rarely to an adult, and seldom to a professional or volunteer. Although the societal responses that the participants perceived were mixed, more severe abuse was associated with more negative societal responses. Most participants stated that they did not need any professional support; and among the minority who had sought help, half were satisfied and a third dissatisfied.

Chacon M, Raj A.

The Association Between Bullying Victimization and Fighting in School Among US High School Students.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(21-22):Np20793-np815. PMID: [35001717](#)

From a large national survey, “Both cyberbullying and in-school bullying were significantly associated with past year in-school fighting...which was amplified for male students...This suggests that punitive approaches to fighting in school may result in compounded harms for already vulnerable adolescents, and that support-oriented approaches emphasizing conflict resolution, social-emotional well-being, positive gender identity development, and bullying prevention may be more appropriate.”

Rancher C, McDonald R, Kamata A, Jackson M, Jouriles EN.
Self-Blame in Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused: Factor Structure and Differential Correlates of Abuse-Specific and Global Measures.

Assessment. 2022;29(8):1676-85. PMID: [34189941](#)

From a study of 493 adolescents, 91% female, who had been sexually abused, authors note that in assessing self-blame it is important to distinguish between abuse-specific self-blame, and global/general self-blame, for evaluating subsequent impact and interventions.

Reeson M, Polzin W, Pazderka H, et al.

Child sexual abuse survivors: Differential complex multimodal treatment outcomes for pre-COVID and COVID era cohorts.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105926. PMID: [36332320](#)

Participants of this study were children and youth aged 8-17 who were engaged in a complex multimodal treatment program specifically designed for youth child sexual abuse survivors. Pre-covid, results showed improvements in measures of PTSD, depression, anxiety, quality of life, and self-esteem. Post-covid results were not as strong. “The COVID-19 pandemic may have retraumatized participants, resulting in treatment resistance.”

Pechtel P, Harris J, Karl A, et al.

Emerging ecophenotype: reward anticipation is linked to high-risk behaviours after sexual abuse.

Soc Cogn Affect Neurosci. 2022;17(11):1035-43. PMID: [35438797](#)

For 48 female adolescents in 3 groups - major depression and history of childhood sexual abuse (CSA), major depression and no CSA, and controls – brain scans showed that reward areas of the brain “appear to play a key role in high-risk behaviors [HRB] for adolescents with CSA irrespective of depression, providing initial support for a CSA

ecophenotype [a specific physiology variation as a function of life factors, such as heredity and environment]. Such information is pivotal to identify at-risk youth and prevent HRB in adolescents after CSA.”

Kutin JJ, Russell R, Reid M.

'I didn't even know it was a thing': Australian young adults' experience of economic abuse.

Health Promot Int. 2022;37(6). PMID: [36367418](#)

“Economic abuse is a form of intimate partner violence that involves one partner controlling or restricting, exploiting or sabotaging the economic resources of the other partner...Twenty-four young adults (18 women and 6 men) aged 18-29, were interviewed...Common experiences of economic abuse included: exploitation of financial and other resources, controlling access to money, damage to property, and sabotage of employment and study. The contextual factors included lack of awareness of economic abuse, valuing love and relationships over money, and fear of conflict and rejection. We argue that economic abuse prevention strategies should target young adults in their relationship formation stage.”

Bell TM, Raymond JL, Mongalo AC, et al.

Outpatient Opioid Prescriptions are Associated With Future Substance Use Disorders and Overdose Following Adolescent Trauma.

Ann Surg. 2022;276(6):e955-e60. PMID: [33491972](#)

Of 669 patients aged 12-18 admitted to two level 1 trauma centers and followed for 5 years after injury, “Each prescription opioid refill in the first 3 months after discharge increased the likelihood of new SUD [substance use disorder] diagnoses by 55%. Odds of overdose increased with ongoing opioid use over 2-4 years post-discharge...Approximately 1 in 8 adolescents are diagnosed with an SUD and 1 in 10 experience an overdose in the 5 years following injury.” (While this article did not discuss other factors influencing SUD, we know that ACEs are a factor, and this article helps us understand how vulnerable adolescents with injuries are, ACEs or not.)

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

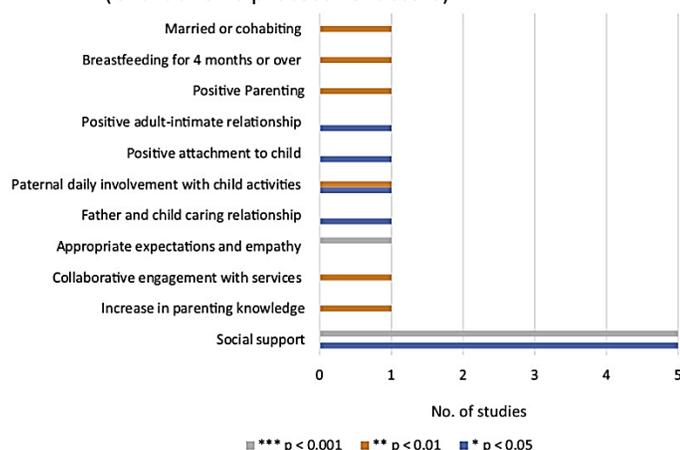
Younas F, Gutman LM.

Parental Risk and Protective Factors in Child Maltreatment: A Systematic Review of the Evidence.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2022;15248380221134634. PMID: [36448533](#)

Of childhood maltreatment risk factors, “At the micro level, findings mirror results of prior systematic reviews such as parental substance abuse, history of childhood maltreatment, and intimate partner violence (IPV). Social support was the most significant protective factor across all ecological levels and across all maltreatment types except child sexual abuse...IPV was a common risk factor across all maltreatment types.”

(Chart shows protective factors)



Spearman KJ, Hardesty JL, Campbell J.

Post-separation abuse: A concept analysis.

J Adv Nurs. 2022 May 27;10.1111/jan.15310. PMID: [35621362](#)

“Post-separation abuse can be defined as the ongoing, willful pattern of intimidation of a former intimate partner including legal abuse, economic abuse, threats and endangerment to children, isolation and discrediting and harassment and stalking. An analysis of literature identified essential attributes including fear and intimidation; domination, power and control; intrusion and entrapment; omnipresence; and manipulation of systems. Consequences include lethality, adverse health consequences, and institutional violence and betrayal, such as loss of child custody and economic deprivation.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Fanslow JL, Hashemi L, Gulliver P, McIntosh T.

Gender Patterns in the Use of Physical Violence Against a Violent Partner: Results of a Cross-Sectional Population-Based Study in New Zealand.

J Interpers Violence. 2022 Dec;37(23-24):NP22890-NP22920. PMID: [35157543](#)

For 407 New Zealand women and 391 men who had experienced physical abuse from a partner, “a higher proportion of women than men reported having experienced severe IPV (57.6% women; 43.7% men), injuries resulting from IPV (44.5% women, 15.0% men), and fear of a partner (22.7% women, 4.9% men). Women were also more likely to report experiencing other types of IPV (particularly sexual IPV) and were more likely to report that their children were present at the time of violence. These factors contributed to the higher proportion of women who reported fighting back at least once (53.4% of women and 22.3% of men). Health, social, and legal services need to conduct appropriate and thorough assessment of nature and context (current and historical) of the violence that individuals have been exposed to as part of service provision.”

Gosangi B, Wong A, Gujrathi R, et. al.

Imaging patterns of thoracic injuries in survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV).

Emerg Radiol. 2022 Nov 23;1–14. PMID: [36418488](#)

In a retrospective review of 688 patients self-reporting IPV, 30 patients with 89 chest injuries were identified. The most common injury type was fracture (72%) with 52 rib, 3 sternal, 2 clavicular, and 7 vertebral fractures. There were 3 shoulder dislocations. There were 10 superficial soft tissue injuries, and 12 deep tissue injuries which included lung bruising, and findings of free air or blood within the chest cavity. One third of patients had injuries of other organ systems, most commonly to the head and face, followed by extremities. “Acute rib fractures with concomitant injuries to the head, neck, face, and extremities with an unclear mechanism of injury should prompt the radiologist to discuss the possibility of IPV with the ordering physician.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Brandhorst S, Clark DL.

Food security for survivors of intimate partner violence: Understanding the role of food in survivor well-being.

Health Soc Care Community. 2022 Nov;30(6):e6267-e6275. PMID: [36251587](#)

“As part of a larger study on survivors of domestic violence who are receiving services...survivors experience low food security at higher rates (53.8%) than the U.S. national average (11.5%). Additionally, the proportion of survivors who are receiving some form of food aid and remain food insecure is high (26.9%), leading to questions about the adequacy of food aid. Finally, our results underpin the relationship between food security and mental health for survivors, as low food security is positively correlated with depression, PTSD, disability, trouble concentrating, lack of hope and decreased well-being.”

Leite FMC, Oliveira AG, Barbosa B, et al.

Intimate Partner Violence against Mastectomized Women: Victims' Experiences.

Curr Oncol. 2022;29(11):8556-64. PMID: [36354734](#)

From interviews with 16 Brazilian mastectomized women 5 years after breast cancer diagnosis, and who had experienced IPV, participants reported that after mastectomy they experienced episodes of violence at a time when they were extremely vulnerable due to the various cancer treatments. Psychological violence took the form of humiliation and contempt for their condition. Physical violence involved assault, and sexual violence forced sex by coercion. Authors emphasize the importance of screening for IPV in cancer patients.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Lee M, Chansakul A, Rotman JA, Rosen A.

Elder Abuse.

Radiol Clin North Am. 2023;61(1):65-70. PMID: [36336392](#)

“This article reviews common distributions and radiographic patterns of injury sustained in physical elder abuse. It also discusses limitations and unique challenges, including issues of communication with frontline providers, and broad overlap in the appearance of abusive and accidental injuries in the setting of old age and deconditioning...while knowledge about the most common patterns of injury in elder abuse is still emerging, the most likely injured body parts are the head, face, and upper extremities.”

Sexual Assault

PeConga EK, Spector JE, Smith RE.

Judgments About Male Victims of Sexual Assault by Women: A 35-Year Replication Study.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(23-24):Np21672-np98. PMID: [34978934](#)

In a comparison of 1984 and 2019 male and female college students' opinions about sexual assault of men by women, “The 2019 male cohort was less likely to judge that the victim initiated or encouraged the incident (40% in 1984 compared with 15% in 2019) and derived pleasure from it (47.4% in 1984 compared with 5.8% in 2019). In contrast, the 2019 female cohort was more likely to attribute victim encouragement (26.9% compared with 4.3% in 1984) and pleasure to the male victim (25% in 2019 compared with 5% in 1984). A similar gender pattern occurred in judgments of how stressful the event was for the male victim.”

Silver E, Silver S.

The Influence of Moral Intuitions on Americans' Divergent Reactions to Reports of Sexual Assault and Harassment.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(21-22):Np20040-np64. PMID: [34654340](#)

“Using data from a nationally representative sample of USA adults (N =1050)...Americans whose moral intuitions emphasize care and protection of the vulnerable will show a greater willingness to believe reports of sexual assault and harassment, while those whose moral intuitions emphasize social order and cohesion will show greater skepticism toward such reports...Our results hold when females and males are examined separately...a moral intuitionist approach is useful for understanding Americans' divergent reactions to reports of sexual assault and harassment.”

Human Trafficking

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses. (AWHONN)

Human Trafficking.

J Obstet Gynecol Neonatal Nurs. 2022 Nov;51(6):e1-e3. PMID: [36280568](#)

This position statement from the AWHONN on Human Trafficking reviews the background, presentation, and role of the nurse in human trafficking care and management, and makes a list of institution and policy recommendations.

Recknor F, Di Ruggiero E, Jensen E.

Addressing human trafficking as a public health issue.

Can J Public Health. 2022 Aug;113(4):607-610. PMID: [35534761](#)

“Human trafficking (HT) exists in all nations, including Canada, and is estimated to impact 25 million people globally. It is associated with a myriad of deleterious health outcomes arising from adverse living and working conditions, and the physical, sexual, and/or psychological violence often accompanying it. Human trafficking also disproportionately affects people living under vulnerable circumstances...This commentary is intended to catalyze discussion in Canada and elsewhere as to what public health can contribute to this emergent field.”

Sampsel K, Deutscher J, Duchesne E.

Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking: Trauma We May Not Identify.

Emerg Med Clin North Am. 2023 Feb;41(1):101-116. PMID: [36424035](#)

“Intimate partner violence and human trafficking commonly affect patients presenting to the emergency department including the trauma bay. Although these forms of violence and exploitation are not always the underlying cause of that particular emergency department encounter, screening is important regardless of the presenting condition because this presentation may be the only opportunity to receive help and ultimately plant the seed for future access to help...that can make the difference in saving a life.”

CLINICS CARE POINTS

- A patient choosing to return to an abusive partner or trafficker is not a failure of care; survivors often reflect on initial visits that connected them to resources and started the stages of change that ultimately led to lifesaving outcomes.
- An absence of life-threatening conditions at initial presentation does not predict absence of fatal outcomes in the future.
- Take strangulation seriously. Always ask about it, remember indications for imaging, and recognize strangulation as a critical risk factor for future mortality.
- Anyone accompanying the patient can be an abusive partner or trafficker; always find a way to speak to your patient one on one, even if it is in the CT scanner.
- Screening is completed in many ways; consider how self-screening and referral tools may work best in your department if staff screening is not yet practical.
- Anyone can be a victim and everyone deserves to be a survivor.

LGBTQ Concerns

Prince DM, Ray-Novak M, Gillani B, Peterson E.

Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Foster Care: An Evidence-Based Theoretical Conceptual Model of Disproportionality and Psychological Comorbidities.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2022;23(5):1643-57. PMID: [33942681](#)

“Sexual and gender minority youth (SGMY) are overrepresented in the foster care system and experience greater foster-care-related stressors than their non-SGM peers. These factors may further elevate their risk of anxiety/depressive, PTSD, self-harm, and suicidality...[research] identifies three critical areas for intervention: family acceptance, community belonging and queer chosen/constructed family, and affirming and nondiscriminatory child welfare policy.”

Sabina C, Wills C, Robles G, Cuevas CA.

Victimization of Sexual Minority Latinx Youth: Results From a National Survey.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(23-24):Np23513-np26. PMID: [35244476](#)

From a Latinx youth survey, “Victimized SM [sexual minority] youth had significantly more depression, anxiety, and hostility than victimized HET [heterosexual] youth. Sexual minority youth also reported less social support from family and significant others...These factors are closely linked to the stigmatization that SM youth face. As such, efforts to destigmatize SM identities are needed to address the health and safety of SM Latinx youth.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

LaBrenz C, Kim Y, Baiden P, et al.

State Child Maltreatment Policies and Disparities in Substantiation: A Study of State-Administered Child Welfare Systems in the U.S.

Child Maltreat. 2022;10775595221143136. PMID: [36458462](#)

“We examined the relationship between state child maltreatment policies and substantiation, with child race/ethnicity as a moderator of this relationship...inclusion of exposure to domestic violence, harsh punishment, or educational neglect in state policy was more strongly associated with substantiation for children of color than white children. Implications for policy and research are explored.”

Coimbra BM, Hoeboer CM, Yik J, Mello AF, Mello MF, Olff M.
Meta-analysis of the effect of racial discrimination on suicidality.

SSM Popul Health. 2022;20:101283. PMID: [36387016](#)

“Research implicates RD [racial discrimination] in diminished well-being, lower life satisfaction and self-esteem, and mental health disorders.” In this research review, RD was also found to have a small but significant effect on increased risk of both suicidal ideation and suicide attempts.

Crouch E, Srivastav A, McRell AS.

Examining Racial/Ethnic Differences in Positive Childhood Experiences Among Respondents in a Southern State.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2022;15(4):1191-8.

PMID: [36439661](#)

Analyzing data from South Carolina 2019, “Our analyses revealed that people of color were less likely to be supported by friends, have an adult who took interest in them, and have a family who stood by them during difficult times...Findings from this study may be used to promote health equity in early childhood through programs, policies, and practices that seek to address historic, systemic, and intergenerational trauma.”

McCustian C, Kimball SL, Buitron de la Vega P, et. al.

Consideration of racism experiences in the implementation of trauma-focused therapy in primary care.

Health Serv Res. 2022 Dec;57 Suppl 2(Suppl 2):235-248.

PMID: [35521941](#)

“The current study presents qualitative findings from interviews with clinical stakeholders in primary care regarding how racism impacts patients and providers, and identifies recommendations for PTSD treatment in racism-based trauma.

Cooper SM, Hurd NM, Loyd AB.

Advancing scholarship on anti-racism within developmental science: Reflections on the special section and recommendations for future research.

Child Dev. 2022 May;93(3):619-632. PMID: [35596641](#)

In this introduction to a special journal section, authors review scholarship in the development of anti-racism in children across contexts (e.g., families, schools) and developmental stages (e.g., early childhood through emerging adulthood), and make recommendations for future research.

Rizzo MT, Britton TC, Rhodes M.

Developmental origins of anti-Black bias in White children in the United States: Exposure to and beliefs about racial inequality.

Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2022;119(47):e2209129119. PMID: [36378643](#)

“It is important to identify what leads children to form prejudicial beliefs and biases and what steps can be taken to preempt their development. This study examined how children’s exposure to and beliefs about racial inequalities predicted anti-Black biases in a sample of 646 White children (4 to 8 years) living across the United States. We found that for children with more exposure to racial inequality in their daily lives, those who believed that racial inequalities were caused by intrinsic differences between people were more likely to hold racial

biases, whereas those who recognized the extrinsic factors underlying racial inequalities held more egalitarian attitudes...racial biases emerge in part from the explanatory beliefs that children construct to understand the racial inequalities they see in the world around them.”

Draper JK, Feltner C, Vander Schaaf EB, Mieses Malchuk A.
Preparing Medical Students to Address Health Disparities Through Longitudinally Integrated Social Justice Curricula.

Acad Med. 2022 Aug 1;97(8):1226-1235. PMID: [35476779](#)

Some medical schools are adopting social justice curricula (SJC) that teach students to recognize and address health disparities. “Evaluations at graduation and in residency demonstrated students who experience SJC are more prepared than their peers to work with patients who are underserved...Future research should consider the long-term influences of these curricula on students, patients, and the community.”

Miller E, Nambiar-Greenwood G.

Exploring the lived experience of student nurses perspective of racism within education and clinical practice: Utilising the flipped classroom.

Nurse Educ Today. 2022;119:105581. PMID: [36257078](#)

From a study of Black African-Caribbean student nurses at a UK university, “direct and indirect racism was experienced by student nurses in both practice and educational environments. Common issues centred on patient’s refusal of care, poor support of students, discomfort or denial of staff in addressing sensitive issues, questioning of students’ clinical competencies, and educators using ‘otherness’ (ethnicity, and related stereotypes) to emphasise limitations of certain groups of students...The flipped classroom can be one way of creating inclusive safe spaces for discussing sensitive topics pertaining to racism, inequity, and social injustice.”

Woolston C.

'Beyond anything I could have imagined': graduate students speak out about racism.

Nature. 2022 Dec;612(7940):573-575. PMID: [36450957](#)

In a Nature worldwide survey of master and PhD students, 35% of respondents from minority racial or ethnic groups say that they have experienced discrimination or harassment during their current training, more than twice the rate reported by respondents who do not identify as members of those groups (15%). “A master’s student in the United States wrote: “Supervisors do not care about how their trainees face racism, homophobia, sexism and other barriers, but will pretend they do by using pronouns and rainbow flags.”

Perpetrators

Powell A, Scott AJ, Flynn A, McCook S.

Perpetration of Image-Based Sexual Abuse: Extent, Nature and Correlates in a Multi-Country Sample.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(23-24):Np22864-np89. PMID: [35184577](#)

“Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) is a form of technology-facilitated abuse in which intimate (nude or sexual) images of a person are taken, distributed, or threats are made to distribute the images, without a person's consent.” An online general community survey in the UK, Australia and New Zealand found one in six had perpetrated IBSA. Increased risk factors for IBSA perpetration included being male, having disability/assistance needs, holding attitudes that minimize the harms and excuse the perpetrators of IBSA, engaging in online dating behaviors, engaging in sexual self-image behaviors, and experiencing IBSA victimization.

Winters GM, Jeglic EL, Terry KJ.

The Prevalence of Sexual Grooming Behaviors in a Large Sample of Clergy.

Sex Abuse. 2022;34(8):923-47. PMID: [35220824](#)

“The study used archival data from a victim survey of 10,667 cases of alleged CSA within the U.S. Catholic Church...there was evidence of sexual grooming behaviors used by clergy in gaining access and isolation (e.g., using their role in the church to meet victims and socialize with their families), trust development (e.g., using a variety of gifts or other enticements), and desensitization (e.g., introducing sexualized conversations and physical contact with increased sexual touching) stages...Overall, the results suggest that while clergy used tactics consistent with sexual grooming in general, there are some unique aspects of sexual grooming by this population given their institutional role and position.”

Police and Court Systems

"Isn't There Any Other Way than Calling the Cops?": How Differences in Initiation of Police Intervention Influence Survivor Safety.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(23-24):Np21953-np74. PMID: [34933576](#)

“Twenty-four women whose partners were in a relationship violence intervention program were recruited to participate in the study. Results showed

that many survivors described a range of ongoing, strategic violence perpetrated by their partners that required intervention; yet the complex nature of the violence often extended beyond police capacity...No matter the outcomes of police intervention, survivors actively engaged in strategies outside of formal systems to protect themselves and their families. Study results imply that police intervention may be ill-suited to support survivors' safety goals and highlight a need for alternative interventions focused on de-escalation and prevention.”

Gallen KM, Smith MJ, Crane J, et al.

Law Enforcement and Patient Privacy Among Survivors of Violence: A Nationwide Mixed-Methods Study.

J Surg Res. 2022;283:648-57. PMID: [36455418](#)

“During the emergent treatment of violently injured patients, law enforcement (LE) officers and health care providers frequently interact.” From a national survey and interviews with hospital-based violence intervention program representatives, risks to patient privacy, autonomy, and health were noted. “Unclear policies related to LE access to information and patient property, questioning, and shackling were primary areas of concern and are targetable areas for specific policy improvement...Primary areas identified for improvement include clarifying and revising hospital policies, education of staff and LE officers, and improved communication between health care providers and LE officers.”

Providers

Ravi KE, Robinson SR, Schrag RV.

Facilitators of Formal Help-Seeking for Adult Survivors of IPV in the United States: A Systematic Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2022;23(5):1420-36. PMID: [33685292](#)

From a research review of factors facilitating formal help-seeking for adult survivors of IPV, factors identified included provider knowledge, support, accessibility, desire to provide protection (for self and children) and to prevent future violence. Findings demonstrate a need for more research on the facilitators of help-seeking among East Asian, South Asian, and Middle Eastern survivors living in the United States, as well as male-identified, trans, and gender nonconforming survivors. The review also indicates a need for culturally sensitive and accessible services to support these survivors.

Bravo LG, Ahmed C, Choi K.

Addressing Social Context in Adverse Childhood Experience Screening Policy: Implications for Children With Special Health Care Needs.

J Pediatr Health Care. 2022 Nov 29;S0891-5245(22)00341-8. PMID: [36460544](#)

“Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) disproportionately affect children with special health care needs, especially racial and ethnic minority children whose ACEs may be less likely to be identified...deriving an ACE score from a preestablished, policy-defined set of adversities is not the end goal of screening. Rather, ACE scores may be used as a starting point to assess the most significant stressors in a child’s life, which may include stressors beyond those included in common ACE screening instruments. By taking a holistic view of ACEs and thinking beyond scores alone, clinicians can ensure that ACE-related policies are implemented with maximum benefit to diverse children with special health care needs.”

McLellan AT, Koob GF, Volkow ND.

Preaddiction-A Missing Concept for Treating Substance Use Disorders.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2022 Aug 1;79(8):749-751. PMID: [35793096](#)

“Treatment efforts and public health policies have focused almost exclusively on those with serious, usually chronic addictions, virtually ignoring the much larger population with early-stage SUDs [substance use disorders]...Importantly, even low-level substance misuse is a major cause of motor vehicle crashes, interpersonal assaults, and overdose deaths among young adults...The diabetes field likely succeeded owing to a broad, well-organized, and sustained strategy applied concurrently at the clinical, public, and policy levels [for “prediabetes”]. If an analogous approach is to be effective in the SUD field, it will require similarly integrated efforts in 3 important areas” – measures to define and detect pre-addiction; engaging, effective interventions for pre-addiction; and public and clinical advocacy.

Jagielski CH, Harer KN.

Working with Trauma in the Gastroenterology Setting.

Gastroenterol Clin North Am. 2022;51(4):867-83. PMID: [36376001](#)

Very helpful, practical article. “History of trauma is considered a risk factor for the development of disorders of gut-brain interaction...Gastroenterology patients are at high risk for re-traumatization secondary to the sensitive and invasive nature of GI examinations and testing...This article discusses key

points for providers in understanding how various aspects of trauma can affect patients' physical and mental health and medical interactions, as well as trauma-informed strategies providers can use to increase patient comfort, improve communication, and improve effectiveness of treatment.”

Trauma Categories	
Interpersonal Trauma	Occurs between people, often those who know each other such as spouses or between parents and children. Examples of interpersonal trauma include physical and emotional abuse or neglect; sexual abuse or assault; intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as domestic violence; and elder abuse. IPV may involve aspects of actual or threatened physical, emotional, sexual abuse.
Adverse Childhood Trauma	Adverse childhood experiences including physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, growing up in a home with a substance abuse-dependent parent, a parent who is incarcerated, mentally ill, or a household member with suicidal ideation, witnessing spousal abuse between parents, divorce or separation.
Group Trauma	Impacts a particular group, such as first responders or military groups, that are at increased risk of losing multiple members.
Community or Culture Trauma	A wide range of violence or harm that impacts the sense of safety within a community (neighborhoods, schools, towns, reservations). Includes physical or sexual assaults, hate crimes, robberies, workplace or gang related violence, or shootings. Includes school shootings.
Mass Trauma	Results from disasters that affect large numbers of people directly or indirectly. The initial event causes destruction and the consequences of that event may cause additional stressful events that requires survivors to further adjust, as well as putting increased demands on first responders or disaster relief agencies. Examples include hurricanes or other natural disasters.
Political Terror and War	Political terror and war threatens the existence beliefs, wellbeing, or livelihood of a community. The overall goal of perpetrators is to maximize the uncertainty, anxiety, and fear of a large community with long lasting effects.
Historical Trauma	Historical Trauma results from events that affect an entire culture, intense enough that trauma influences future generations of the culture beyond those that experienced the trauma directly (for example the enslavement of African Americans, forced assimilation and relocation of American Indians, the violence and suffering suffered by the Jews and others during World War II, and other genocides)
System Oriented Trauma (retraumatization)	Triggering events that make an individual feel as though they are undergoing another trauma or re-experiencing a trauma. Patients may also experience primary trauma through systems such as a medical system.

Nuako K, Sule A.

Using The Wire in medical education.

Lancet Psychiatry. 2022;9(11):858-9. PMID: [36244358](#)

“The Wire could be a useful tool in medical education to begin conversations about challenging topics...allows educators to discuss how economic instability, unsafe physical environments, social policy, social norms, and structural racism intertwine to contribute to negative psychiatric outcomes...trainees can observe the progression of mental health outcomes over the course of several episodes...helps to transform social determinants of health from a checklist to discussions about how these determinants have dynamic impacts...and in doing so integrates discussions of determinants of health with the systems that shape them, which could ultimately help medical students to advocate for their patients.”

Prevention

Duva IM, Murphy JR, Grabbe L.

A Nurse-Led, Well-Being Promotion Using the Community Resiliency Model, Atlanta, 2020-2021.

Am J Public Health. 2022 Jun;112(S3):S271-S274. PMID: [35679550](#)

This description of a brief, simple, online widely-disseminated Community Resilience Training provided by Georgia nurses during the pandemic included trauma awareness and resiliency skills. The program targeted all Georgians, beginning with front-line health care workers, and included caregivers of the most vulnerable children and families in 16 multicounty Georgia regions, community coalitions, and staff from state-level organizations such as the Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, the Division of Family and Children Services, and Georgia School Nurses and Social Workers.

Skill	Description
Tracking	Conscious awareness of body sensations, differentiating between pleasant and unpleasant; basis for all CRM skills
Resourcing	Something that brings a sense of peace, safety, joy, or calm and awareness of associated body sensations
Grounding	Awareness of sensations of support and security in the present moment
Gesturing	Spontaneous, comforting gestures used intentionally to move into a resilient state
Help now!	Emergency strategies used when one is in a very distressed state: quick, focused activation of senses
Shift and stay	Using a CRM skill and intentionally lingering with the experience until the unpleasant sensation or emotion abates

Branco MSS, Altafim ERP, Linhares MBM.

Universal Intervention to Strengthen Parenting and Prevent Child Maltreatment: Updated Systematic Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2022;23(5):1658-76. PMID: [33973499](#)

This research review of 14 different parenting programs in general showed improved parenting, decreased child behavior problems, and additional benefits of improved parental mental health, couple relationships, coparenting, and coping ability of parents. "The positive changes in parenting and child behavior outcomes encourage the implementation of parenting programs as a universal prevention strategy."

Morello L, Caputi M, Scaini S, Forresi B.

Parenting Programs to Reduce Recurrence of Child Maltreatment in the Family Environment: A Systematic Review.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022;19(20). PMID: [36293863](#)

Of 8 randomized, controlled research studies looking the the effects of a brief, manualized behavioral parenting program (PP) to reduce recurrent child maltreatment, "three reported a significant reduction in recidivism rates and maltreatment risk, and five improvements in parent-child relationships...More studies are needed to give further support to PP effectiveness in protecting children from recurrent maltreatment."

Rudolph JI, Walsh K, Shanley DC, Zimmer-Gembeck MJ.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: Parental Discussion, Protective Practices and Attitudes.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(23-24):Np22375-np400. PMID: [35098765](#)

From a survey of 248 Australian and UK parents on how they discussed a variety of sensitive topics with their elementary school children, "Almost all parents were supportive of CSA [child sexual abuse] prevention education and felt they should provide this education. However, two-thirds of parents thought CSA education may be associated with harms for the child and two-thirds of parents believed children could prevent their own abuse." Authors also highlight the need for parents to be more protective around their children's access to online devices.

Scott LJ, Wilson R, Davies P, et. al.

Educational interventions to prevent paediatric abusive head trauma in babies younger than one year old: A systematic review and meta-analyses.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022;134:105935. PMID: [36308894](#)

This research review of parental educational and behavioral programs to reduce pediatric abusive head trauma found weak to no evidence of their effectiveness.

Chiu DT, Hamlat EJ, Leung CW, Epel ES, Laraia BA.

Childhood stress and midlife depression in women: the influence of diet quality.

Nutr Neurosci. 2022;25(12):2668-79. PMID: [34844523](#)

For 382 midlife California women, "Higher current diet quality, particularly as aligned with chronic disease prevention guidelines, predicted lower depression risk in women with low childhood adversity. Diet quality did not buffer depression risk in women with high childhood stress."

Moyes E, Nutman G, Mirman JH.

The Efficacy of Targeted Mindfulness-Based Interventions for Improving Mental Health and Cognition Among Youth and Adults with ACE Histories.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2022;15(4):1165-77.

PMID: [36439656](#)

In a research review, MBIs (mindfulness-based interventions) were effective for improving mental health and cognition for individuals with ACEs. Research quality shortcomings included lack of reporting of methodological details and not reporting adverse events. "Recommendations are made for future research to strengthen the evidence base for MBIs for individuals with ACEs."

Lassri D, Gewirtz-Meydan A.

Self-Compassion Moderates the Mediating Effect of Self-Criticism in the Link Between Childhood Maltreatment and Psychopathology.

J Interpers Violence. 2022;37(23-24):Np21699-np722. PMID:

[34963361](#)

From an online survey of 914 adults, self-compassion was a robust resilience factor related to reduced psychopathology, and moderated the link between self-criticism, a potent risk factor, and psychopathology in the context of child maltreatment. "These results thus provide empirical evidence for the relevance of compassion and mindfulness in counseling settings."

Researchers

Wathen CN, Schmitt B, MacGregor JCD.

Measuring Trauma- (and Violence-) Informed Care: A Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;24(1):261-77. PMID: [34235986](#)

Authors reviewed 13 existing measures of trauma/violence-informed care (TVIC), and concluded that "The items and measures are roughly split in terms of assessing individual-level knowledge, attitudes and practices, and organizational policies and protocols. Few measures examine structural factors, including racism, misogyny, poverty and other inequities...existing measures do not generally cover the full potential range of T(V)IC...such a measure would need to adapt and/or combine two or more existing tools."

Hayashi M.

Child psychological/emotional abuse and neglect: A definitional conceptual framework.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2022;15(4):999-1010.

PMID: [36439673](#)

Authors use a framework to evaluate different definitions of psychological/emotional abuse and neglect (PEA). "Policy, practice, and research on PEA are unlikely to progress without clarity about the definitions being used (in terms of their conceptual components) and the rationale for using the specific definitions chosen. The framework provided by the study is an effective tool for describing the components used in PEA definitions and thus distinguishing the differences between definitions."

Other of Interest

Owen C, Crane J.

Trauma-Informed Design of Supported Housing: A Scoping Review through the Lens of Neuroscience.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022;19(21). PMID: [36361166](#)

"Formalizing the intersection of built environment design with neuroscience (e.g., establishment of The Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture) has provided considerable insights into both established and emerging design principles...This study sought to examine the scope of existing evidence on the relationship between trauma, housing and design, and to identify gaps and opportunities for future research related to the key domains of safety and security; control; and enriched environments."

Purtle J, Bowler S, Boughter-Dornfeld M, et. al.

Newspaper Coverage of ACEs and Toxic Stress in the United States, 2014-2020: Consequences, Causes, and Solutions.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;24(1):313-23. PMID: [34269132](#)

"News media can shape public opinion about child adversity and influence the translation of research into public policy...content analysis was conducted of 746 newspaper articles mentioning "adverse childhood experience(s)" and/or "toxic stress" published in 25 U.S. newspapers between January 1, 2014, and May 30, 2020...We found that newspaper coverage of ACEs and toxic stress increased dramatically between 2014 and 2018 and then sharply declined. Only 13.3% of articles mentioned both ACEs and toxic stress. There were many statistically significant differences in the causes, consequences, and solutions identified. Coverage of both concepts predominantly focused on consequences for individuals, not society. Increased volume in newspaper coverage about ACEs and toxic stress could increase public awareness about the relationship between childhood adversity and adult outcomes. There is a need to portray ACEs and toxic stress more coherently in news media."