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Child Abuse

Raz M, Gupta-Kagan J, Asnes AG.

Using Child Abuse Specialists to Reduce Unnecessary Child Protective Services Reports and Investigations.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Dec 1;177(12):1249-1250. PMID: [37812436](#)

“Given the high rates of CPS investigations in the US, the disproportionate number of poor and Black families subjected to these investigations, and the intrusiveness of these investigations for families and communities, reducing unnecessary CPS referrals is an imperative...data suggest that many CPS referrals are avoidable if clinicians are empowered to consult a CAP [child abuse pediatrician] prior to making a CPS report. We therefore suggest that hospitals develop an internal pathway for clinicians who are concerned but uncertain about the likelihood of abuse to first consult their local CAP prior to submitting a CPS report.”

Martin NR, Claypool AL, Diyaolu M, et al.

SCAN for Abuse: Electronic Health Record-Based Universal Child Abuse Screening.

J Pediatr Surg. 2023 Oct 20;S0022-3468(23)00635-8. PMID: [37953157](#)

“Following rollout of this EHR-based child abuse screening program, our center experienced increased detection of CPS-reportable cases of children who might have otherwise been missed, as well as an increase in overall CPS reporting rates of physical abuse. Furthermore, these results were accomplished without placing undue burden on nurses, social workers, or providers.” The protocol included an automatic referral for SCAN (suspected child abuse and neglect) team silent chart evaluation if a child under 5 was an injured/trauma patient, and depending upon initial evaluation the SCAN team could formally facilitate further actions.

Henderson TG, Graff AH, Thorvilson MJ.

The Role of Pediatric Palliative Care Following Nonaccidental Trauma.

J Palliat Med. 2023 Dec;26(12):1752-1754. PMID: [37433212](#)

“All children experiencing child maltreatment/neglect require child abuse experts to offer the complex care needed, and for the child with potential life-limiting injuries, both child abuse and palliative care experts are integral to the team...Here we describe a case of an infant who suffered injuries after nonaccidental trauma and the subsequent role of pediatric palliative care.”

Sarma A, Snyder EJ, Vankineni K, Williams HN, Pruthi S.

A Radiologist's Lexicon for Reporting in Child Abuse.

Radiographics. 2023 Jul;43(7):e220101. PMID: [37289645](#)

“Optimal radiologic terminology for suspected abuse-associated injuries may differ from that used in other scenarios (e.g., older patients, accidental trauma). Varying word usage for the same finding may sometimes lead to confusion. Child abuse pediatricians' expert evaluation of injury-mechanism correlation relies on precise, appropriately detailed, and consistent use of radiologic terminology.” Authors provide examples of appropriate and inappropriate wording.

Abraham-Bizot A, Greco C, Quartier P, et al.

Medical child abuse: Medical history and red flags in French adolescents.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106523. PMID: [37950944](#)

Of 29 French adolescents seen in 5 tertiary care Paris hospitals and identified as suspected medical child abuse (MCA), “the mean age was 12.9 years at suspected diagnosis. Medical wandering [“doctor shopping”] was common, with a mean of 23 alleged symptoms and 33 specialized consultations in a mean of six different hospitals. The mean number of emergency visits was 11.8 and radiologic exams 24.3. The impact of MCA on quality of life was major, with a high rate of school dropout (96%). The mean delay to the suspected diagnosis was 5.8 years, and even when recognized, it was rarely the subject of a social or judiciary report (only 42%)...Adolescent MCA is poorly known among the medical profession. Increasing awareness, education and knowledge of risk factors could contribute to better care.”

Nasrazadani A, Ruda M, Girardet R, et al.

Gonorrheal and chlamydia yield for genital and extragenital testing in children evaluated for sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023 Nov 8;147:106525. PMID: [37948873](#)

While Texas Forensic Nurse Examiners routinely test genital and non-genital sites for sexually transmitted infections (STI) in children being evaluated for sexual abuse, CDC guidelines recommend testing be based primarily on history of type of contact and other factors. In this study of 675 patients tested for STIs, with 11 positive, "10 patients' reported history of type of contact did not fully match sites that tested positive. Diagnosis of STI infection would have been missed for 5 patients if testing had been limited to the disclosed sites of sexual contact."

Rockhold MN, Kautz-Turnbull C, Handley ED, Petrenko CLM.

The trauma experiences of children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: Developmental outcomes utilizing a threat/deprivation child adversity framework.

Alcohol Clin Exp Res (Hoboken). 2023 Sep;47(9):1722-1735.

PMID: [37423769](#)

Of 84 children aged 4-12 with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, all in out-of-home placements, "87.5% of individuals experienced three or more subtypes of trauma. The average duration of all subtypes was 1.62 years, with a mean onset of 3.94 years. Biological parents were the most common perpetrator. There were significantly worse behavioral and caregiver-child relationship outcomes for children experiencing a combination of threat and deprivation trauma...longer duration of deprivation was associated with greater cognitive difficulties."

Chiang CJ, Kim H, Jonson-Reid M, Yang M, Moon CK, Kohl P.

Risk factors and neglect subtypes: Findings from a nationally representative data set.

Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2023;93(6):532-542. PMID: [37561475](#)

"Neglect is the most frequently reported type of maltreatment and has been shown to have a significant impact on the long-term wellbeing of both children and families...This study identified five risk factors [child's age, child's biological sex, caregiver's perceived social support level, caregiver's parenting skills level, and caregiver's stress level] that were able to discriminate between subtypes of neglect...interventions and policies should consider the heterogeneity in risk factors among neglect subtypes."

Allard-Gaudreau N, Poirier S, Cyr M.

Factors associated with delayed disclosure of child sexual abuse: A focus on the victim's having been led to perform sexual acts on the perpetrator.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;147:106537. PMID: [37956501](#)

Results from a content analysis of 68 transcripts from investigative interviews with CSA victims aged 4 to 12 years old revealed that children were more likely to delay disclosure of sexual abuse if the perpetrator was a family member, the abuse was more frequent, and the child had been made to perform sexual acts on the perpetrator.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Danese A, Widom CS.

Associations Between Objective and Subjective Experiences of Childhood Maltreatment and the Course of Emotional Disorders in Adulthood.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2023 Oct 1;80(10):1009-1016. PMID:

[37405795](#)

1196 midwestern individuals who had objective substantiated records of childhood physical and sexual abuse and/or neglect between 1967 and 1971 were compared to a demographically matched group of participants experiencing no abuse or neglect in childhood. Participants were followed up to age 40 years, including a measurement of subjective childhood maltreatment experience at mean age 29 years. Those who showed a poor course of emotional disorders (depression and anxiety) over the subsequent decade were largely attributable to the subjective experience of maltreatment. Participants with objective and not subjective experiences of maltreatment had minimal depression or anxiety. "Modification of the subjective experience of childhood maltreatment could improve the longitudinal course of emotional disorders."

Giampetruzzi E, Tan AC, LoPilato A, et al.

The impact of adverse childhood experiences on adult depression severity and treatment outcomes.

J Affect Disord. 2023 Jul 15;333:233-239. PMID: [37086798](#)

Of 454 patients seen at a specialty clinic for treatment-resistant depression, those with 3+ ACEs had more severe symptoms and worse treatment outcomes. ACE subtypes of sexual trauma and physical violence were associated with more severe symptomatology, while childhood sexual trauma was associated with a history of suicide attempts and inpatient admissions.

Lee VM, Hargrave AS, Lisha NE, Huang AJ.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Aging-Associated Functional Impairment in a National Sample of Older Community-Dwelling Adults.

J Gen Intern Med. 2023 Nov;38(15):3362-3371. PMID: [37532875](#)

“Among the 3387 participants (aged 50 to 97 years; 54% female), 44% reported a history of one or more types of ACEs. After adjusting for age, gender, race, and ethnicity, participants reporting any ACE history were more likely to demonstrate physical mobility impairment (OR 1.30), cognitive impairment (OR 1.26) and report functional disability (OR 1.69)... Findings support the need for trauma-informed approaches to geriatric care that consider the potential role of early life trauma in shaping or complicating late-life functional challenges.”

Duka S, Rahman S, Hansen SE, Esernio-Jenssen D.

The Effect of Maternal Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on Substance Use During Pregnancy.

Matern Child Health J. 2023 Dec;27(Suppl 1):153-165. PMID: [37733152](#)

Data from 222 infants who were referred to CPS for suspected substance exposure were analyzed. “Half (50.0%) the infants had withdrawal symptoms. Most (67.0%) women had positive toxicology screens, while 85.0% reported prenatal substance use...a higher prevalence of mothers referred to the child protection team had ≥ 4 ACEs than women in the general population (50.9% vs. 15.2%), and a large proportion had used substances while pregnant. Routine prenatal ACEs screening and universal, nonpunitive toxicology testing of infants and mothers at birth may provide opportunities for intervention while reducing the transgenerational impact of ACEs.”

Kristbergdottir H, Valdimarsdottir HB, et al.

The role of childhood adversity and prenatal mental health as psychosocial risk factors for adverse delivery and neonatal outcomes.

Gen Hosp Psychiatry. 2023;85:229-35. PMID: [37995481](#)

From a study of Icelandic pregnant women, “ACEs are strong predictors for mental health problems during pregnancy. Both ACEs and prenatal common mental disorder diagnosis are associated with operative delivery interventions and neonatal outcomes. Findings underscore the importance of identifying high-risk women.”

Keenan-Devlin LS, Borders AEB, Freedman A, et al.

Maternal exposure to childhood maltreatment and adverse birth outcomes.

Sci Rep. 2023 Jun 27;13(1):10380. PMID: [37369688](#)

From a diverse US sample of 657 pregnant women, 32% reported any CM (childhood maltreatment) exposure. “Risk for SGA [small for gestational age] birth was 61% higher among those in the CM group compared to the non-CM group (14.1% vs. 7.6%), and each subsequent form of CM that an individual was exposed to corresponded with a 27% increased risk for SGA. There was no significant association between CM and preterm birth.”

Pryce P, Gangopadhyay M, Edwards JD.

Parental Adverse Childhood Experiences and Post-PICU Stress in Children and Parents.

Pediatr Crit Care Med. 2023 Dec 1;24(12):1022-1032. PMID: [37615404](#)

Of 145 parents of children cared for at one urban academic pediatric ICU, with a 95% response rate, 58% of parents reported 1+ ACE and 14% reported 4+ ACEs. At one month follow-up (79% response rate), 16% of parents had provisional PTSD, and risk for PTSD was 10.2 times greater in parents with 4+ ACEs. 56% of children screened at risk for PTSD, but there was no correlation with parental ACEs or parental PTSD. “Family-centered care that seeks to mitigate post-PICU stress should be mindful of the potential relevance of parental ACEs.”

Adolescents

Lussier AA, Zhu Y, Smith BJ, et al.

Association between the timing of childhood adversity and epigenetic patterns across childhood and adolescence: findings from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) prospective cohort.

Lancet Child Adolesc Health. 2023 Aug;7(8):532-543. PMID: [37327798](#)

Using data from a large long-term national study, researchers analyzed DNA methylation (changes to DNA caused by external circumstances) at 41 different DNA locations. “Exposure to one-adult households was associated with differences in DNA methylation at 20 [49%] of 41 loci, exposure to financial hardship was associated with changes at nine (22%) loci, and physical or sexual abuse was associated with changes at four (10%) loci... Differences in DNA methylation at 15 years were not present at 7 years and differences identified at 7 years were no longer apparent by 15 years... These findings highlight the time-varying effect of childhood adversity on DNA methylation profiles across development... these epigenetic signatures could ultimately serve as biological indicators or early warning signs of initiated disease processes.”

Lee K, McMorris BJ, Chi CL, et al.

Using data-driven analytics and ecological systems theory to identify risk and protective factors for school absenteeism among secondary students.

J Sch Psychol. 2023 Jun;98:148-180. PMID: [37253577](#)

Using data for 121,008 students, 18 risk and protective factors for chronic school absenteeism were noted.

Attribute
Social competency Scale (SCS)
Tobacco Product Use (TBP)
School engagement (SE)
Friends' approval of substance use
Sent to office for disciplinary issue
Marijuana use past year
Marijuana use frequency
Staying home due to sickness
Teacher-student relationship
Substance use – 1
Substance use – 2
Adversarial childhood experiences
In-school suspension
Binge drinking – 2 (5 or more drinks in a row)
Out-of-school suspension
Race & Ethnicity: American Indian Non-Hispanic
Race: Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander only
Medical Checkup

Williams PG, Yogman M.

Addressing Early Education and Child Care Expulsion.

Pediatrics. 2023;152(5). PMID: [37899732](#)

“Expulsion of young children ignores underlying emotional and behavioral concerns, disproportionately affects children of color (Black or Hispanic), males, children with disabilities, and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, and has long-term consequences on educational and life success. Addressing implicit bias and providing child mental health consultation (psychologists, social workers, developmental behavioral pediatricians, child psychiatrists, and child neurologists) to child care providers can prevent expulsion. Pediatricians and other providers within the medical home play an important part in preventing expulsion...By identifying children at risk for expulsion...the pediatrician can connect families with community resources that may ameliorate these effects.”

Astridge B, Li WW, McDermott B, Longhitano C.

A systematic review and meta-analysis on adverse childhood experiences: Prevalence in youth offenders and their effects on youth recidivism.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023 Jun;140:106055. PMID: [37142357](#)

From a research review of youth offenders aged 10-19 years, “Cumulative ACEs and neglect were positively associated with youth recidivism [re-offending], with OR = 1.966 and OR = 1.328, respectively. Physical and sexual abuse were not significantly associated with youth recidivism. Regarding the mechanisms underlying the

relationship between ACEs and recidivism; moderators [influencing the strength of the association] included gender, positive childhood experiences, strong social bonds, and empathy. Mediators [influencing whether there is an association or not] included child welfare placement, emotional and behavioural problems, drug use, mental health problems, and negative emotionality...Developing programs for youth offenders aiming to address the impact of cumulative and individual ACE exposure, strengthen the protective factors and weaken the risk factors, would be useful to reduce youth recidivism.”

Dadi D, Bonilla Z, Beckstrand MJ, et al.

Emerging adult college students' descriptions of exposure to childhood emotional abuse and associated factors.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106516. PMID: [37922619](#)

From interviews with 58 college students, themes were reported about their experiences with childhood emotional abuse, and the context surrounding that abuse: inability to meet parent expectations, parent attacks on the child's character, parent negative comparisons to siblings and others, parent invalidation of the child's emotions and mental health needs, and evolution over time in the parent-child relationship. Aspects of childhood family environments contemporaneous with the childhood emotional abuse included: financial stress; parent mental illness; parent divorce, separation, or volatile relationship; parent adversity or trauma; physical abuse; and young parent age.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Ayhan F.

The Association Between Witnessing Interparental Violence and Adolescents' Anger Expression Styles.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231209993. PMID: [37919952](#)

From a national online survey of 1,000 adolescents aged 15-19 years, trait, externalized, and internalized anger scores were higher among the 44.6% of adolescents who had witnessed interparental violence compared to those who had not...has significant effects on the individual's trait anger and anger expression styles. We recommend that witnessing violence in different cultural environments be evaluated in future studies.”

Wilson RF, Xu L, Betz CJ, et al.

Firearm Homicides of US Children Precipitated by Intimate Partner Violence: 2003-2020.

Pediatrics. 2023 Dec 1;152(6):e2023063004. PMID: [37927118](#)

“From 2003-2020, a total of 11,594 child homicides were captured in the National Violent Death Reporting System, of which 49.3% (n = 5716) were firearm homicides; 12.0% (n = 686) of child firearm homicides were IPV-related. Among IPV-related child firearm homicides, 86.0% (n = 590) were child corollary victims (i.e., children whose death was connected to IPV between others); 14.0% (n = 96) were teens killed by a current or former dating partner...Over half of IPV-related firearm homicides of child corollary victims included homicide of the adult intimate partner, of which 94.1% were the child victim's mother.”

Ragavan MI, Culyba AJ.

Intimate Partner Violence-Related Firearm Child Homicides: An Urgent Call to Action.

Pediatrics. 2023 Dec 1;152(6):e2023063805. PMID: [37927100](#)

In this editorial regarding the above article, authors review the statistics and impact on children of IPV and homicide as well as adolescent relationship abuse and homicide, and emphasize how a pediatric medical home can be a source of support and resources for women, children, and dating adolescents against family and partner violence.

Cochran KA, Kashy DA, Bogat GA, et al.

Economic Hardship Predicts Intimate Partner Violence Victimization During Pregnancy.

Psychology of violence. 2023;13(5):396-404. PMID: [37928622](#)

Of 294 low-income pregnant women, “Greater economic hardship on average during pregnancy predicted increased odds of IPV victimization...Although IPV victimization tended to decrease on average over the course of pregnancy...IPV decreased more gradually for women reporting high levels of economic hardship.”

Daw JR, Underhill K, Liu C, Allen HL.

The Health And Social Needs Of Medicaid Beneficiaries In The Postpartum Year: Evidence From A Multistate Survey.

Health Aff (Millwood). 2023;42(11):1575-85. PMID: [37931190](#)

In a survey of postpartum people in six states and New York City, “Compared with respondents who had commercial insurance at the time of childbirth, Medicaid respondents were less likely to have a usual source of care and reported less use of primary, specialty, and dental care in the

postpartum year. Depression symptoms and social concerns such as food insecurity, intimate partner violence, and financial strain were significantly higher in the Medicaid population. Rates of anxiety symptoms, delaying or not getting needed care, and unsatisfactory child care were similar in both populations. Our findings suggest that postpartum Medicaid extensions should be coupled with state initiatives to address beneficiaries' health and social needs.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Fotuhi M, Khorrami ND, Raji CA.

Benefits of a 12-Week Non-Drug "Brain Fitness Program" for Patients with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder, Post-Concussion Syndrome, or Memory Loss.

J Alzheimers Dis Rep. 2023 Jun 29;7(1):675-697. PMID: [37483322](#)

223 child and adult patients with ADHD, post-concussion syndrome (PCS), or mild cognitive impairment/decline underwent “a brain rehabilitation program in an outpatient neurology practice that consists of targeted cognitive training, lifestyle coaching, and electroencephalography (EEG)-based neurofeedback, twice weekly (90 minutes each), for 12 weeks...Pre-post test score comparison demonstrated that all patient subgroups experienced statistically significant improvements on most measures, especially the PCS subgroup, which experienced significant score improvement on all measures tested.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

De Jaegere E, Dumon E, van Heeringen K, et al.

Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy for Individuals Who Are Suicidal: A Randomized Controlled Trial.

Archives of suicide research. 2023;1-21. PMID: [37994872](#)

A group of Dutch adults with suicidal ideation were randomized to a group mindfulness-based cognitive therapy adapted for suicidality intervention or to a control group treatment as usual. A significant reduction was found at follow-up in suicidal ideation and depressive symptoms for the mindfulness intervention group.

Crapolicchio E, Cinquegrana V, Regalia C.
The Role of Positivity on Depressive Symptoms in Women Seeking Help for Intimate Partner Violence.
 Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(22). PMID: [37998309](#)

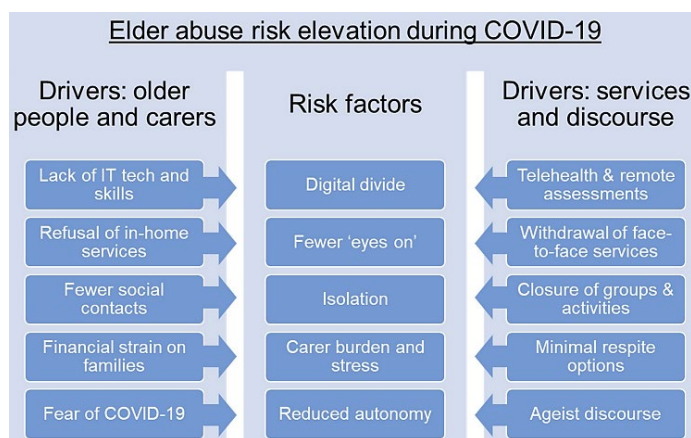
Of 171 Italian women seeking assistance from anti-violence centers, “the association between psychological violence and depressive symptoms is moderated by the levels of perceived positivity [defined as positive self-perceptions, optimistic life perspectives, and a hopeful view of the future], even when controlling for instances of physical violence. These results and implications for interventions are discussed.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Brijnath B, Feldman P, Dow B, Muoio R.
Australian Frontline Service Response to Elder Abuse During COVID-19: Learnings, Successes, and Preparedness for Disaster.

Journal of applied gerontology. 2023;7334648231214941.
 PMID: [37994902](#)

From interviews with Australian service organizations, “severity and frequency of elder abuse increased during the pandemic, and remoteness of services undermined comprehensive risk assessments, especially for older people who were not proficient in English and/or current digital platforms. Service providers endorsed a range of recommendations to improve sector preparedness for responses to elder abuse during disasters, primarily to upskill providers and improve the service system and direct support for individuals.”



Gagnon S, Nadeau A, Tanguay K, et al.
Prevalence and predictors of elder abuse among older adults attending emergency departments: a prospective cohort study.

CJEM. 2023 Dec;25(12):953-958. PMID: [37853307](#)
 Of 1061 Canadian elders, “When questioned directly, 5.1% of older adults attending EDs reported experiencing abuse...of which 34.3% were aware of available community-based resources. Identified predictors of elder abuse were female sex (OR 2.8), financial difficulties (OR 3.6), food insecurity (OR 2.7), need for a caregiver (OR 2.7) and at least one pre-existing mental health condition (OR 2.6).”

Sexual Assault

D'Angelo DV, Liu Y, Basile KC, et al.
Rape and Sexual Coercion Related Pregnancy in the United States.

Am J Prev Med. 2023 Nov 5:S0749-3797(23)00442-7. PMID: [37935321](#)

From a 2023 random-digit-dial telephone survey of U.S. non-institutionalized adults 18 years and older, “One in 20 women in the U.S., or over 5.9 million women, experienced a pregnancy from either rape, sexual coercion, or both during their lifetimes. Non-Hispanic Multiracial women experienced a higher prevalence of all three outcomes compared with non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, and Hispanic women. Among victims who experienced pregnancy from rape, 28% experienced a sexually transmitted disease, 66% were injured, and over 80% were fearful or concerned for their safety.”

Bhuptani PH, Orchowski LM, Forkus SR, et al.
The impact of exposure to physical and sexual violence on opioid consequences among trauma-exposed individuals recruited from the community who use opioids.

Harm reduction journal. 2023;20(1):167. PMID: [37950215](#)
 “Participants were 84 trauma-exposed individuals recruited from the community who use opioids (mean age = 43.5; 50% men; 55% white). Whereas no significant differences emerged in the consequences of opioid use based on a history of physical violence, individuals with a history of sexual violence demonstrated higher levels of impulsive consequences of opioid use compared to individuals without a history of sexual violence. These data highlight the importance of considering the role of exposure to sexual violence in the context of opioid use disorder treatment.”

Baert S, Fomenko E, Machiels A, et al.

Mental health of sexual assault victims and predictors of their use of support from in-house psychologists at Belgian sexual assault care centres.

European journal of psychotraumatology.

2023;14(2):2263312. PMID: [37819370](#)

Of 555 persons aged 16+ years seen at a Belgian sexual assault care center (SACC), "Victims with a mental health history (OR 1.46), victims accompanied by a support person during acute care (OR 1.51), and victims who were assaulted by an acquaintance in comparison to those assaulted by a stranger (OR 1.60) were more likely to attend their appointment with the SACC-psychologist... Prescheduling of appointments with an in-house psychologist in combination with phone reminders may improve the uptake of such services."

Human Trafficking

Barrick K, Sharkey TC, Maass KL, Song Y, Martin L.

Expanding Our Understanding of Traffickers and Their Operations: A Review of the Literature and Path Forward.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231210937. PMID: [37997384](#)

"The dearth of information on traffickers and their operations limits our ability to reduce or prevent perpetration. The current study presents a comprehensive and critical review of the existing literature focused on traffickers...characteristics of traffickers, relationships between traffickers and victims, organizational characteristics and networks, operations, connections with other crimes, motivations, perceptions of behavior, and risks associated with trafficking. It concludes with recommendations for future research."

Jannesari S, Damara B, Witkin R, et al.

The Modern Slavery Core Outcome Set: A Survivor-Driven Consensus on Priority Outcomes for Recovery, Wellbeing, and Reintegration.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231211955. PMID: [37991003](#)

From a research review and interviews with survivors and experts in a Delphi process, authors propose 7 human trafficking recovery and reintegration outcomes: "long-term consistent support; secure and suitable housing; safety from any trafficker or other abuser; access to medical treatment; finding purpose in life and self-actualisation; access to education, and compassionate, trauma-informed services."

LGBTQ Concerns

Fedina L, Bender AE, Tibbits J, Herrenkohl TI, Tolman R.
Dating Abuse and Harassment Among Sexual and Gender Minority U.S. College Students.

LGBT Health. 2023 Sep;10(S1):S79-S88. PMID: [37754923](#)

From a large national survey of college students, "Dating abuse victimization during college was reported by 6.5% of transgender women, 5.0% of transgender men, 5.0% of genderqueer/nonconforming students, 2.0% of 'women,' and 1.0% of 'men'...SGM [sexual and gender minority] students with particular racial/ethnic identities (i.e., Indigenous, multiracial) reported disproportionately higher rates, particularly American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students...Targeted intervention strategies and resources are needed on college campuses to support the needs and experiences of SGM students."

Domingos VAC, de Lira AN.

Risk and Protective Factors Associated With Intimate Partner Violence with Gay Men: A Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231209738. PMID: [37997339](#)

From a research review, "Significant individual risk factors associated with victimization and perpetration of IPV in gay men included: Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, mental health issues (depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation), alcohol abuse, substance use, and childhood experiences of family violence. Relational risk factors include: longer relationship, cohabiting with an intimate partner, early experiences of IPV, sexual agreements such as closed relationships, risky sexual behaviors and use of digital apps. Community risk factors include: experiences of stigma, threat of being outed by the intimate partner, difficulty in seeking help and support, internalized stigma, power imbalance between intimate partners related to gender inequalities. Individual protective factors include being older, and higher levels of education, self-esteem, self-efficacy, happiness, and resilience. Relational protective factors include being older at the first homosexual relationship, commitment in the relationship, and compliance with sexual agreements. Socio-community protective factors include access to an informal support network and instrumental support in the relationship."

Race/Cultural Concerns

White RS, Tangel VE, Lui B, Jiang SY, Pryor KO, Abramovitz SE. **Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Delivery In-Hospital Mortality or Maternal End-Organ Injury: A Multistate Analysis, 2007-2020.**

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2023 Dec;32(12):1292-1307. PMID: [37819719](#)

“We performed a retrospective multistate analysis of adult inpatient delivery hospitalizations (Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Washington) between 2007 and 2020...Black and Hispanic patients had higher adjusted odds of in-patient mortality and end-organ damage after birth than White patients. Race and ethnicity serve as strong predictors of health care inequality, and differences in outcomes may reflect broader structural racism and individual implicit bias. Proposed solutions require immense and multifaceted active efforts to restructure how obstetrical care is provided on the societal, hospital, and patient level.”

Sheehy S, Aparicio HJ, Palmer JR, et al.

Perceived Interpersonal Racism and Incident Stroke Among US Black Women.

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Nov 1;6(11):e2343203. PMID: [37948073](#)

Using extensive data from the Black Women’s Health Study, Black women who reported experiences of interpersonal racism in all 3 situations involving employment, housing, and interactions with police appeared to have a 38% increased risk of stroke, even after accounting for demographic and vascular risk factors.

Cuevas AG, Krobath DM, Rhodes-Bratton B, et al.

Association of Racial Discrimination With Adiposity in Children and Adolescents.

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Jul 3;6(7):e2322839. PMID: [37432683](#)

In this diverse national study of 6463 children, mean age 9.95 years, children’s perceived racial discrimination was associated with increased body mass and waist circumference. “Interventions to reduce exposure to racial discrimination in early life may help reduce the risk of excess weight gain across throughout life.”

Perpetrators

Cartwright AD, Craig J.

Empathy and Cognitive Distortions in Sex Offenders Participating in Community Based Treatment.

Int J Offender Ther Comp Criminol. 2023;67(16):1599-614. PMID: [36346152](#)

Of 151 individuals who committed sexual offenses who were receiving community-based sex offender treatment in a large southern state, those with lower empathy were more likely to have cognitive distortions (thoughts that cause individuals to perceive reality inaccurately, such as assuming they know what others are thinking, allowing them to justify their behavior) than those with higher empathy. “Recommendations for future research and implications for treatment are provided.”

Police and Court Systems

Stojakovic N, D'Alessio SJ, Stolzenberg L.

Intangible Identity Theft and Intimate Partner Violence.

Violence Vict. 2023 Dec 11;38(6):819-838. PMID: [37949459](#)

Authors present their contention “that intimate partner abusers are shifting their abusive behavior to intangible identity theft to thwart legal mechanisms traditionally used to deter IPV. Unlike the monetary motive associated with document identity theft, intangible identity theft is committed by someone with a preexisting grievance against the victim because the theft’s primary purpose is to tarnish the victim’s reputation...intangible identity theft may be a form of intimate partner abuse with few adverse consequences for offenders because identity thieves are rarely arrested and prosecuted.”

Franklin CA, Bouffard LA, Goodson A, Garza AD.

Police Decisions in a Rape Scenario: The Effect of Trauma Response, Forensic Evidence, Stranger-Perpetrators, and Rape Mythology.

Violence Against Women. 2023 Dec;29(15-16):3024-3049. PMID: [37709270](#)

This study examined the direct effect of “classic rape” characteristics, and how they were moderated by rape myth endorsement, among a sample of 468 police participants from a sizeable municipal law enforcement agency in one of the largest and most diverse U.S. cities. “Despite mandatory training to educate and normalize the unexpected behaviors often manifested by victims who present to police, including blunted affect, limited eye contact, and nonlinear recollection of events, participants in this sample continued to interpret behavioral hysteria, expressive emotionality, and sequential recall as indicators of [non] truth-telling. These factors influenced participant decisions related to arrest, perceptions of DA charge acceptance, and perceptions of suspect conviction.”

Providers

Dubowitz H, Kressly SJ.

Documenting Psychosocial Problems in Children's Electronic Health Records.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Sep 1;177(9):881-882. PMID: [37486683](#)

Authors note the importance of understanding and documenting a child's home environment for their health care, as well as the many barriers to doing so. "Ultimately, health information technology interoperability standards should include ways to segment sensitive data at a granular level and allow for limited disclosures that are both patient-consented and appropriately shared, reasonably balancing potential benefit and harm. Pediatricians can advocate for functionality that promotes safe and equitable data sharing while protecting sensitive data that are important to high-quality care and valuable to other stakeholders."

Adjognon OL, Brady JE, Iverson KM, et al.

Using the Matrixed Multiple Case Study approach to identify factors affecting the uptake of IPV screening programs following the use of implementation facilitation.

Implement Sci Commun. 2023;4(1):145. PMID: [37990345](#)

Authors used a standardized process to assess why various VA clinics implemented IPV screening more successfully than others. 15 factors they found important for success included categories of: promoting understanding of the importance of IPV screening, providing resources attached to the IPV screening tool for screening staff, and involving change makers that drive implementation through consistent engagement with clinic staff members.

Neil JM, Barton C, Hegarty K.

Should we be concerned? A qualitative study of educators' perceptions of medical student wellbeing in domestic violence training.

Med Teach. 2023 Aug 14:1-7. PMID: [37579323](#)

From interviews with 13 Australian medical educators who train students about domestic violence, they felt that they had been thrown "into the deep end", had to figure out ways to keep students emotionally safe and provide a trauma-informed learning environment, and were challenged by student DV disclosures. Participants felt they needed increased training, supports, and resources.

Gordon C.

Learning from vicarious trauma: Lessons for intimate partner violence teaching.

Med Teach. 2023;1. PMID: [37909888](#)

In this letter to the editor regarding the prior article, the author, who teaches an IPV curriculum in South Africa, relates extensive student disclosure about IPV experiences, including with fellow students. "I now spend time teaching students about warning signs and worrying behaviours in potential partners, and I show them how to avoid getting into such relationships, or where to get help if they are currently in such a position. I would encourage others teaching on IPV to sensitise students to the fact that there are likely to be perpetrators in the audience as well, and to build in information on warning signs of potential IPV perpetration in prospective partners. Finally, we should all be thinking and teaching about how to help perpetrators stop perpetrating, and perhaps the best place to start is in our very own classrooms."

Kirjava SA, Phelan J.

Does Trauma-Informed Care Have a Place in Audiology? A Review and Practical Suggestions.

Audiol Res. 2023;13(6):929-38. PMID: [37987338](#)

"This narrative review article discusses trauma-informed care (TIC) strategies that audiologists can use to recognize and respond to trauma in patients and prevent retraumatizing patients during their encounters in audiology clinics", such as claustrophobia in the hearing booth, and sudden loud sounds during testing.

Prevention

Ostrosky F, Decety J, Lozano A, et al.

Can psychopathy be prevented? Clinical, neuroimaging, and genetic data: an exploratory study.

Child Neuropsychol. 2023;1-21. PMID: [37947201](#)

In this small study of 14 maltreated children, mean age 8.77 years, from a shelter in Mexico City, and compared to a control group of 10 children from the general population, brain scans showed amygdala hyperactivation during exposure to fear and anger stimuli in the maltreated children. After trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, the maltreated group showed decreased activation in this brain area as well as decreased clinical symptoms. "Trauma-Focused Behavioral Therapy may help reorganize the brain's processing of emotional stimuli. These observations reveal the importance of an early intervention when the mechanisms of neuroplasticity [the brain's ability to change and heal] may be still recruited."

Campbell KA, Wood JN, Berger RP.

Child Abuse Prevention in a Pandemic-A Natural Experiment in Social Welfare Policy.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Dec 1;177(12):1263-1265. PMID: [37870864](#)

“The COVID-19 pandemic was a unique natural experiment in child abuse prevention through social welfare policy. Paid parental leave, universal basic income, and housing and health care security provided stability to the most vulnerable households in our communities...The decrease in abusive head trauma rates at the height of the pandemic and the gradual return to prepandemic levels as the pandemic era social welfare policies were lifted strongly support an association between public policy and child abuse prevention.”

Sanders MR.

The Triple P System of Evidence-Based Parenting Support: Past, Present, and Future Directions.

Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev. 2023;26(4):880-903. PMID: [37432507](#)

“The Triple P system is used as a case example to discuss the past, present and future challenges, and opportunities involved in developing, evaluating, adapting, scaling and maintaining a sustainable system of evidence-based parenting intervention.”

Researchers

Chen A, Demaestri S, Schweiberger K, et al.

Inclusion of Non-English-Speaking Participants in Pediatric Health Research: A Review.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Jan 1;177(1):81-88. PMID: [36315130](#)

“This review of 3 pediatric journals provides preliminary evidence suggesting exclusion of NES [non-English speaking] communities from pediatric research from 2012 to 2021 and highlights an opportunity to provide more methodological detail about communication with NES participants. Best practices for improving inclusivity of NES participants are needed to guide researchers toward improved methods and more relevant results.”

Gonzalez C, Morawska A, Higgins DJ, Haslam DM.

Psychometric properties of the parenting belief scale in a multi-country sample of parents from high-income countries.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;147:106565. PMID: [38000351](#)

Authors discuss the validity and consistency of the Parenting Belief Scale, to evaluate parents' perceived privacy in their parental role and acceptability of corporal punishment.

Hietamäki J, Laajasalo T, Lindgren M, Therman S.

Development and initial validation of the THL Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (ACE-THL).

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106483. PMID: [37922617](#)

“Based on the initial validation, the 14-item ACE-THL [THL = Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare] questionnaire is a reliable and valid instrument to measure adverse childhood experiences, as well as protective experiences...The final 14-item questionnaire, including 12 ACE items and two items measuring protective experiences, was highly acceptable to the respondents...The ACE-THL covers the same domains as the original ACE questionnaire (physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, domestic violence and neglect, substance abuse or mental health problems in the family, and the loss of a parent), and additionally includes items such as bullying during childhood and financial difficulties, which were deemed to be important based on recent literature. The questionnaire also included two items related to positive experiences (having an adult to speak to and the feeling of being valued at home) that are infrequently measured simultaneously with ACEs and that can also improve the response experience.”

Other of Interest

Zhu Z, Huang X, Du M, et al.

Recent advances in the role of miRNAs in post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Mol Psychiatry. 2023 Jul;28(7):2630-2644. PMID: [37340171](#)

“MicroRNAs (miRNAs), a well-known class of small non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs), have rapidly gained momentum in many nervous system disorders, given the miRNAs' multitudinous and key regulatory role in various biological processes, including neural development and normal functioning of the nervous system...Currently, a wealth of studies has elucidated the similarities of PTSD and TBI [traumatic brain injury] in pathophysiology and symptoms...In this review, we summarize the recent available studies of miRNAs in PTSD and TBI and discuss and highlight promising miRNAs therapeutics for both conditions...whether as biomarkers for distinguishing PTSD status and monitoring TBI progression or as therapeutic targets for drug intervention...miRNAs indisputably bring new insights and opportunities to novel future therapies.”