Child Abuse

Farrell CA, Fleegler EW, Monuteaux MC, et. al.

Community Poverty and Child Abuse Fatalities in the United States.
Pediatrics. 2017 May;139(5). pii: e20161616. PMID: 28557719

In the US from 1999 to 2014, 11,149 children 0 to 4 years old died of child abuse; 45% were <1 year, 56% were male, and 58% were white. Counties with the highest poverty concentration had >3 times the rate of child abuse fatalities compared with counties with the lowest poverty concentration.

Maclean MJ, Sims S, Bower C, et. al.

Maltreatment Risk Among Children With Disabilities.
Pediatrics. 2017 Apr;139(4). pii:e20161817. PMID: 28264988

“Although children with disabilities make up 10.4% of the population, they represent 25.9% of children with a maltreatment allegation and 29.0% of those with a substantiated allegation; however, increased risk of maltreatment was not consistent across all disability types.” Children with intellectual disability, mental/behavioral problems, and conduct disorder had increased risk, children with autism had a lower risk, and children with Down syndrome and birth defects/cerebral palsy had the same risk as children without disability.

Khan NR, Fraser BD, Nguyen V, et. al.

Pediatric abusive head trauma and stroke.

Of 282 children from one institution with abusive head trauma, 28% had one or more strokes on brain CT scan. Although groups with and without strokes had similar demographics, those with strokes had a longer hospital stay (11 vs 3 days), significantly higher charges per patient (mean $174,700 vs. $32,500), and higher death rates (25% vs. 1%). “Stroke is such an important predictor of health care utilization and outcome that it warrants a subcategory for both Grade II and Grade III injuries.”

Wright JN.

CNS Injuries in Abusive Head Trauma.
AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2017 May;208(5):991-1001. PMID: 28245144

Review of mechanisms and patterns of pediatric abusive central nervous system injuries and the role of imaging methods.

Christian CW, States LJ.

Medical Mimes of Child Abuse.
AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2017 May;208(5):982-990. PMID: 28225649

Review of findings that mimic child abuse, particularly radiologically.
Of 119 children seen by a child abuse physician and who had a classic metaphyseal lesion (certain kind of fracture associated with abuse), 95.8% had at least one addition injury including 84% additional fracture, 27.7% traumatic brain injury, 43.7% skin injuries, 10.1% mouth/neck injuries, and 10.1% abdominal/chest injuries.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Bush NR, Lane RD, McLaughlin KA.
Mechanisms Underlying the Association Between Early-Life Adversity and Physical Health: Charting a Course for the Future.
Psychosom Med. 2016 Nov/Dec;78(9):1114-1119. PMID: 27763991

Intro to special edition on Early-life adversities (ELA) and “subsequent pervasive alterations across a wide range of neurobiological systems and psychosocial factors that contribute to accelerated onset of health problems and diseases.”

Elfgen C, Hagenbuch N, Görres G, Block E, Leeners B.
Breastfeeding in Women Having Experienced Childhood Sexual Abuse.

Compared to matched controls, 85 women who experienced childhood sexual abuse more often described complications associated with breastfeeding. In addition, breastfeeding was a trigger for memories in 20%, and 58% reported dissociation when breastfeeding. “A support protocol tailored to the specific needs of these women during pregnancy and the lactation period may help to improve breastfeeding and the early mother-child relationship.”

Vaillancourt-Morel MP, Dugal C, Poirier Stewart R, et. al.
Extradyadic Sexual Involvement and Sexual Compulsivity in Male and Female Sexual Abuse Survivors.

For 669 adults currently involved in an intimate relationship, prevalence of sexual involvement outside of the relationship was 32% in female and 57% in male survivors of childhood sexual abuse (CSA), which was twice the rate among those with no CSA history.

Schalinski I, Teicher MH, Nischk D, et. al.
Type and timing of adverse childhood experiences differentially affect severity of PTSD, dissociative and depressive symptoms in adult inpatients.

For psychiatric inpatients with a variety of diagnoses, 4 or more adverse childhood experiences as reported on the MACE scale were associated with significantly increased risk for dissociation, PTSD and depression. Certain adverse factors were more likely to be associated with PTSD than others.
Hymowitz G, Salwen J, Salis KL.
A mediational model of obesity related disordered eating:
The roles of childhood emotional abuse.
Eat Behav. 2017 Aug;26:27-32. PMID: 28131963
For 598 undergraduates, a history of childhood emotional abuse was significantly associated with disordered eating, particularly night eating syndrome and binge eating disorder.

Feinson MC, Hornik-Lurie T.
'Not good enough': Exploring self-criticism's role as a mediator between childhood emotional abuse & adult binge eating.
Eat Behav. 2016 Dec;23:1-6. PMID: 27372445
From telephone surveys of 498 adult women with mean age of 44, self-criticism relating to childhood emotional abuse (but not depression or anxiety), was the only psychological variable to explain binge eating severity. [Note: training in mindfulness/self-compassion may counteract self-criticism.]

Levandowski ML, Tractenberg SG, de Azeredo LA, et. al.
Crack cocaine addiction, early life stress and accelerated cellular aging among women.
This study compared telomere length (a DNA measure of cellular aging) of elderly women without a psychiatric diagnosis, and female crack cocaine dependent women with and without a history of childhood early life stress. Crack cocaine addiction showed shorter telomeres/greater aging significantly more than that of elderly women (telomere length 1.33 vs. 1.50), and adding a history of child abuse to addiction increased this aging effect (1.19).
Adolescents

Começanha R, Basto-Pereira M, Maia Â. Clinically speaking, psychological abuse matters. Compr Psychiatry. 2017 Feb;73:120-126. PMID: 27939648 From a sample of Portuguese college students, the experience of IPV psychological abuse alone (without physical or sexual abuse) was strongly and independently associated with PTSD, depression, and anxiety.

Fratto CM. Trauma-Informed Care for Youth in Foster Care. Arch Psychiatr Nurs. 2016 Jun;30(3):439-46. PMID: 27256954 “Childhood traumatic experiences are associated with serious and persistent long-term physical, psychological, and substance abuse issues. In addition to adverse effects on physical health, research indicates that early childhood trauma has particularly adverse effects on adolescent self-esteem, coping skills, school performance, self-regulation, critical thinking, self-motivation, and the ability to build healthy relationships...It is estimated that approximately 90-percent of children in foster care have experienced a traumatic event, with nearly half reporting exposure to four or more types of traumatic events...Clinicians should appreciate the link between how traumatized children understand the world and interact with others differently from other children and how to provide appropriate treatment for children with a history of traumatic exposures.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Ferraro AA, Rohde LA, Polanczyk GV, et al. The specific and combined role of domestic violence and mental health disorders during pregnancy on new-born health. BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2017 Aug 1;17(1):257. PMID: 28764678 For 775 underserved, urban Brazilian women, 27.15% experienced DV and 38.24% were given a mental health diagnosis. Despite controlling for multiple variables such as smoking, drinking and maternal weight gain, associations were noted between DV, mental disorder (MD) and adverse infant birth outcomes such as lower birth weight (BW), small for gestational age (SGA), smaller birth length (BL), and pre-term birth (PTB).

Hoang TN, Van TN, Gammeltoft T, et al. Association between Intimate Partner Violence during Pregnancy and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in Vietnam: A Prospective Cohort Study. PLoS One. 2016 Sep 15;11(9):e0162844. PMID: 27631968 Of 1276 pregnant Vietnamese women, and after controlling for age, education, occupation, BMI, hemoglobin level and previous adverse pregnancy outcomes, women who were exposed to IPV physical violence during pregnancy were 5.5 times more likely have preterm birth, and 5.7 times more likely to have a child with low birth weight.

Brunst KJ, Rosa MJ, Jara C, et al. Impact of Maternal Lifetime Interpersonal Trauma on Children’s Asthma: Mediation Through Maternal Active Asthma During Pregnancy. Psychosom Med. 2017 Jan;79(1):91-100. PMID: 27359172 For 857 Boston area pregnant women followed until their children were age 6, chronic maternal interpersonal trauma - (defined as having experienced this type of trauma both as a child and as an adult), was associated with maternal asthma and an almost 3 times increased risk of asthma in male but not female children. Authors discuss possible mechanisms, including trauma’s effect on maternal stress hormone and immune systems, which prenatally influence these systems in the fetus.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Zakrison TL, Ruiz X, Gelbard R, et al. Universal screening for intimate partner and sexual violence in trauma patients: An EAST multicenter trial. J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2017 Jul;83(1):105-110. PMID: 28426560 4 US level 1 trauma centers screened all trauma patients for one year for intimate partner and sexual violence (IPSV) regardless of mechanism of injury. Mean age was 37 with 63% male. The proportion of positive screens for men was 9.3%, with variability between centers (3.8-72.7%), and for women was 16.1% (15.3-50.0%). Of patients who screened positive for IPSV, 60.0% had one or more trauma-associated comorbidities (such as substance use or mental illness) compared to 15.1% of patients who screened negative.
Iverson KM, Dardis CM, Pogoda TK.
Traumatic brain injury and PTSD symptoms as a consequence of intimate partner violence.
Compr Psychiatry. 2017 Apr;74:80-87. PMID: 28126481
From a web-based survey of 224 US women veterans who reported IPV during their lives, 28.1% related IPV traumatic brain injury (TBI) history, and 12.5% IPV-related TBI with current symptoms. After adjusting for many variables, women with IPV-related TBI with current symptoms were 5.9 times more likely to have PTSD.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Jain S, Varshney K, Vaid NB, Guleria K, Vaid K, Sharma N.
A hospital-based study of intimate partner violence during pregnancy.
Of 400 women screened for IPV between 20-28 weeks of pregnancy, 12% reported IPV. Depression was diagnosed in 46.3% of women affected by IPV.

Iverson KM, Vogt D, Maskin RM, Smith BN.
Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Associated Implications for Health and Functioning Among Male and Female Post-9/11 Veterans.
Med Care. 2017 Sep;55 Suppl 9 Suppl 2:S78-S84. PMID: 28806369
In a survey of 407 post-9/11 veterans, 52% women, nearly two thirds of both men and women reported past 6-month IPV. 8% of men and 7% of women reported physical IPV and 4% of men and 7% of women reported sexual IPV. Psychological aggression was found in 65% of men and 59% of women, and was strongly linked with mental health for both sexes.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Friedman LS, Avila S, Rizvi T, Partida R, Friedman D.
Physical Abuse of Elderly Adults: Victim Characteristics and Determinants of Revictimization.
Of 111 cases of elder physical or sexual abuse from 5 teaching hospitals in the Chicago area, 52.3% were revictimized. Risk factors for revictimization included individuals who were female, widowed, diagnosed with dementia, and returning to the home where the perpetrator lived or visited. Only 57% of community-dwelling cases were reported to adult protective service or to the police, and only 26.6% had an APS report on record.

Dong X.
Associations Between the Differential Definitions of Elder Mistreatment and Suicidal Ideation Outcomes in U.S. Chinese Older Adults: Do the Definitions Matter?
For 3157 Chinese elders in Chicago, maltreatment was significantly associated with suicidal ideation, with some variation by subtype and different definitions.

Dong X, Li G, Simon MA.
The Association Between Childhood Abuse and Elder Abuse Among Chinese Adult Children in the United States.
For 548 Chinese adult children caring for parents, a history of childhood abuse was associated with increased risk for elder abuse.

Sexual Assault

Muehlenhard CL, Humphreys TP, Jozkowski KN, Peterson ZD.
Authors review sexual assault among college students, the conceptual challenges of defining sexual consent, and principles that could be useful for consent policies.

Kamimura A, Trinh HN, Nguyen H, et. al.
Bystander Attitudes to Prevent Sexual Assault: A Study of College Students in the United States, Japan, India, Vietnam, and China.
J Sex Res. 2016 Nov-Dec;53(9):1131-1138. PMID: 27268768
Multi-country sexual assault bystander behaviors were very divergent and were associated with factors such as gender, prior knowledge of involved parties and knowledge about campus or community organizations.
Möller A, Söndergaard HP, Helström L.
**Tonic immobility during sexual assault - a common reaction predicting post-traumatic stress disorder and severe depression.**

"Similar to animals, humans exposed to extreme threat may react with a state of involuntary, temporary motor inhibition known as tonic immobility." Of 298 Swedish women seen in an emergency clinic for sexual assault, 70% reported significant tonic immobility and 48% extreme tonic immobility during the assault. Tonic immobility was associated with 2.75 times increased risk of developing PTSD, and 3.42 times increased risk of depression. Knowledge of this common reaction is important for legal and healthcare issues.

Du Mont J, Woldeyohannes M, Macdonald S, et. al.
**A comparison of intimate partner and other sexual assault survivors’ use of different types of specialized hospital-based violence services.**

From a Canadian study of 619 women aged 16 and older who presented to 30 hospital-based sexual assault centers, those who had been assaulted by a present or former partner were significantly less likely that those assaulted by a known assailant or a stranger to utilize services of emergency contraception, sexually transmitted infection prophylaxis, and counseling for potential HIV. However, they were more likely to ask for photographic documentation of injuries, to have undergone a risk assessment, and to have engaged in safety planning.

Banja JD.
**Failures of foreseeability: Risk management considerations in reducing allegations of sexual violence in psychiatric units.**

Review of factors leading to allegations of sexual violence in health care facilities, including inadequate physical layout, poor or absent video surveillance, and staff acquainted with policies on patient safety or refusing to enforce relevant rules.

Brignone E, Gundlapalli AV, Blais RK, et. al.
**Increased Health Care Utilization and Costs Among Veterans With a Positive Screen for Military Sexual Trauma.**
Med Care. 2017 Sep;55 Suppl 9 Suppl 2:S70-S77. PMID: 28806368

For 426,223 men and 59,611 women Veterans, those with a history of military sexual trauma were associated with 50% higher healthcare utilization and costs relative to a negative screen.

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**Human Trafficking**

Byrne M, Parsh B, Ghilain C.
**Victims of human trafficking: Hiding in plain sight.**
Nursing. 2017 Mar;47(3):48-52. PMID: 28225400
General medical review article.

Tracy EE, Macias-Konstantopoulos W.
**Identifying and Assisting Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Patients Seeking Women's Health Care Services.**
Detailed review article for women’s health providers.

Powell C, Dickins K, Stoklosa H.
**Training US health care professionals on human trafficking: where do we go from here?**
Med Educ Online. 2017;22(1):1267980. PMID: 28178913
From an analysis of available human trafficking training options for healthcare providers, authors suggest “an agency or institution at the national level to provide consistency and standardization of HT training content as well as to guide a process that would develop metrics for evaluation and the building of an evidence base.”

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**Perpetrators**

Chan EJ, McNiel DE, Binder RL.
**Sex Offenders in the Digital Age.**
J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2016 Sep;44(3):368-75. PMID: 27644871
Discussion on the evolving legal landscape in reference to registered sex offenders and their subsequent use of the internet and social networking sites.

Kingston DA, Graham FJ, Knight RA.
**Relations Between Self-Reported Adverse Events in Childhood and Hypersexuality in Adult Male Sexual Offenders.**
Arch Sex Behav. 2017 Apr;46(3):707-720. PMID: 27752854
For 529 adult male sexual offenders, “psychological abuse in childhood and adolescence, especially by a father, was found to be the most prominent predictor of subsequent hypersexual thoughts and behaviors.”

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Chen CY, Raine A, Chou KH, Chen IY, Hung D, Lin CP. Abnormal white matter integrity in rapists as indicated by diffusion tensor imaging. BMC Neurosci. 2016 Jul 7;17(1):45. PMID: 27388479
Brain scans of 15 Chinese incarcerated male adult sex offenders against adult women, compared to matched controls, showed “abnormalities in white matter connectivity in brain regions involved in reward/motivation and moral judgment, which may predispose rapists to be both over-responsive to sexual reward stimuli and also to make inappropriate moral decisions.”

Police and Court Systems

“This article contrasts the sex offender response and prevention efforts typically employed in the U.S. (i.e., containment, registration, and notification policies and public education programs) with treatment programs aimed at preventing child sexual abuse in Germany, Belgium, and Canada.”

Providers

Good practical review article on recognition and management in primary healthcare.

From a Netherlands study of using a checklist for child abuse screening, results are analyzed and a shortened checklist is suggested in the outpatient setting to increase awareness (not for diagnosis). The two questions are: 1) Injury compatible with history and corresponding with age of the child? and 2) Father/mother and child: appropriate behavior/interaction?

Review of ED interventions for DV suggest that staff training isn’t enough to improve management unless accompanied by system changes such as standardized documentation and referral pathways.

Description of the formation, process and accomplishments of a hospital team to care for child nonaccidental trauma patients.

Report of an educational intervention to increase knowledge, confidence and self-efficacy in school nurses regarding children at risk of maltreatment, including barriers to the project.

Interviews with 8 childhood trauma survivors being treated for addiction revealed 4 “levels of betrayal”: direct victimization by a perpetrator; complicity, denial, or indifference of another adult to the child’s victimization; failures of responsible individuals in community settings to protect the child; and represented self-betrayal such as turning to substance misuse.

Authors suggest a framework of stages for PTSD, differentiating acute from chronic, and distinguishing therapeutic approaches needed according to the degree of biological progression of the disorder. “PTSD should be conceptualised as a systemic disorder underpinning a range of biological dysregulation, including metabolic and altered immune function, reflected in the increased rates of cardiovascular and autoimmune disease.”
Mindfulness in PTSD treatment.
Lang AJ. Mindfulness in PTSD treatment. Curr Opin Psychol. 2017 Apr;14:40-43. PMID: 28813317
In a review of research on mindfulness for PTSD treatment, “The skills derived from this experience, including focused attention, nonjudgmental acceptance of internal experiences and reduced autonomic reactivity may be helpful in counteracting pathological responses to trauma.”

Prevention
Williams CM, Cprek S, Asaolu I, et. al.
Matern Child Health J. 2017 May;21(5):1166-1174. PMID: 28093688
Description of a Kentucky state-wide pre and postnatal home visitation program that significantly decreased preterm delivery, low birth weight, and substantiated reports of child maltreatment.

Stover CS, Carlson M, Patel S.
Integrating intimate partner violence and parenting intervention into residential substance use disorder treatment for fathers.
In a study of introducing a coordinated intervention for IPV and parenting into a substance use treatment program for men (Fathers for Change), interviews showed a significant decrease in thoughts of anger and a reduction in problems with emotional regulation. 84.1% of participants completed the program and were highly satisfied with the content.

Arincorayan D, Applewhite L, Garrido M, Cashio V, Bryant M.
Resilience-enhancing relationships: what we can learn from those with a history of adverse childhood experiences.
Deployed soldiers who seek mental health care during combat are more likely to have 3 or more ACEs, and are at increased risk of developing PTSD. In this study of 250 active duty service members, those with at least 3 ACEs but who measured high on resilience were interviewed. “Our findings support the conclusions made by others that supportive relationships do make a positive difference in the lives of those who experienced childhood adversity by contributing to resilience in adulthood. Further, being experienced as supportive entails several prominent characteristics that include availability, communication that emphasizes listening, caring, trustworthiness, and being a respected role model who is willing to coach and, as necessary, provide firm guidance on behaving in socially acceptable ways without being judgmental.”

Researchers
Thombs BD, Saadat N, Riehm KE, et. al.
Consistency and sources of divergence in recommendations on screening with questionnaires for presently experienced health problems or symptoms: a comparison of recommendations from the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care, UK National Screening Committee, and US Preventive Services Task Force.
In a comparison analysis of Canadian, UK and US national recommendations for healthcare screening, UK and Canadian guidelines were not found to assume benefit from indirect evidence, and more strongly took into account possible harms and resource consumption compared to US guidelines. Only the US recommended screening for IPV.

Nielsen LH, Hansen M, Elklit A, Bramsen RH.
Sexual Assault Victims Participating in Research: Causing Harm When Trying to Help?
From interviews with 51 survivors of sexual assault, the majority “considered their participation in research a positive experience causing little short- or long-term psychological or physiological distress. In addition, over half of the respondents reported some benefits from participation.”
Other of Interest

Strand EB, Brandt J, Rogers K, et. al.
Adverse Childhood Experiences among Veterinary Medical Students: A Multi-Site Study.

For 1118 veterinary medical students across six institutions, with a 39% response rate, 61% reported at least one ACE, the most common of which was living with a household member with a mental illness (31%). Students with 4 or more ACEs were 3 times more likely to be depressed. Rates of exposure to ACEs were similar to other population-based studies. [Ed. note: I have thought it might be interesting to get ACE scores from incoming medical, law and business school students and see if anything interesting popped up.]

Journal of Clinical Nursing Aug 2017
Entire issue devoted to “Abuse and Violence in Families”
Table of contents

Academic Pediatrics Sept-Oct 2017
Entire issue devoted to “Child Well-Being and Adverse Childhood Experiences in the US”
Table of contents
http://www.academicpedsjnjl.net/issue/S1876-2859%2817%29X0002-8

Tran TD, Nguyen H, Fisher J.
Attitudes towards Intimate Partner Violence against Women among Women and Men in 39 Low- and Middle-Income Countries.

Fig 1. Percentages of women having attitudes accepting of a ‘husband beating his wife’ in any of five circumstances by country.