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Child Abuse

Baab SM, Lawsing JF, Macalino CS, Springer JH, Cline DM.
Nonaccidental Pediatric Trauma: Which Traditional Clues Predict Abuse?

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2023 Sep 1;39(9):641-645. PMID: [37463155](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37463155/)

Of 109 suspected child nonaccidental trauma (NAT) patients, the only independent variable found for likely abuse (8.65 times more likely) was a history incongruent with injuries. However, after review of prior records for these patients, in only 2 of 109 cases (1.8%) was there a prior visit where NAT could have been suspected using this criterion.

Fredin B, Letson MM, Rust SW, Crichton KG.

Physical abuse re-reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic: The kids are not okay.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023 Aug 11;145:106393. PMID: [37573798](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37573798/)

Of 238 children from one pediatric hospital with suspected child physical abuse re-reports made during the pandemic, males were younger than females (mean years 8.5 vs. 11.0), and males were 2.61 times more likely to have observable injuries. Reports of child abuse made by behavioral health specialists quadrupled during this time.

Samuel D, O'Malley F, Brink FW, et al.

Characterizing child maltreatment fatalities among child victims with disabilities in the United States, 2010-2019.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023 Oct;144:106354. PMID: [37517210](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37517210/)

Of 106 fatalities of children with disabilities due to maltreatment, "The average age of the victims was 5.9 years old and 74.6 % were male. The most frequent suspected perpetrators of maltreatment-related fatalities were biological mothers (35.2 %), and most perpetrators were White (55.7 %). Analyses showed a statistically significant relationship between fatalities caused by neglect and diagnoses of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, and/or traumatic brain injury...To decrease the

likelihood of abuse of disabled children, healthcare practitioners and caseworkers should work together to create strategies to help caregivers cope with the financial, mental, and physical stress that comes with raising children with disabilities."

Hofheimer JA, McGrath M, Musci R, et al.

Assessment of Psychosocial and Neonatal Risk Factors for Trajectories of Behavioral Dysregulation Among Young Children From 18 to 72 Months of Age.

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Apr 3;6(4):e2310059. PMID: [37099294](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37099294/)

"Emotional and behavioral dysregulation during early childhood are associated with severe psychiatric, behavioral, and cognitive disorders through adulthood. Identifying the earliest antecedents of persisting emotional and behavioral dysregulation can inform risk detection practices and targeted interventions to promote adaptive developmental trajectories among at-risk children." In this study of 3934 mother-child pairs, risk factors of high dysregulation trajectories included maternal psychological challenges, being born pre-term, and prenatal substance exposure.

Dube SR, Li ET, Fiorini G, Lin C, Singh N, Khamisa K, et al.

Childhood verbal abuse as a child maltreatment subtype: A systematic review of the current evidence.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106394. PMID: [37586139](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37586139/)

While childhood verbal abuse (CVA) is a key attribute of emotional abuse, CVA is not recognized as its own form of maltreatment. Authors make the case for this, citing negative speech volume, tone, and speech content, and their immediate impact, as factors shown to be "associated with a range of internalizing and externalizing outcomes across the lifespan."

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Bigio B, Sagi Y, Barnhill O, et al.

Epigenetic embedding of childhood adversity: mitochondrial metabolism and neurobiology of stress-related CNS diseases.

Front Mol Neurosci. 2023;16:1183184. PMID: [37564785](#)

Authors discuss “emerging epigenetic mechanisms underlying the long and winding road from adverse childhood experiences to adult physiology and brain functions...while it is not possible to ‘roll back the clock’, deeper understanding of the biological pathways and mechanisms through which stress produces a lifelong vulnerability to altered mitochondrial metabolism can provide a path for compensatory neuroplasticity.”

Kalin NH.

Early-life Adversity and Genetics Associated With the Risk to Develop Psychiatric Illnesses.

Am J Psychiatry. 2023;180(8):525-7. PMID: [37525597](#)

“The factors that determine the risk for most psychiatric disorders are present early in life even though the symptoms of these disorders may not emerge until later childhood, adolescence, or adulthood. This issue of the Journal pursues this neurodevelopmental theme by focusing on early-life factors that confer the risk for the later development of psychopathology.” [Table of Contents](#)

Harkness KL, Chakrabarty T, Rizvi SJ, et al.

The Differential Relation of Emotional, Physical, and Sexual Abuse Histories to Antidepressant Treatment Remission and Persistence of Anhedonia in Major Depression: A CAN-BIND-1 Report.

Can J Psychiatry. 2023;68(8):586-95. PMID: [36785892](#)

Of 164 individuals being treated for depression, “We identify emotional maltreatment as a specific early exposure that places patients at the greatest risk for nonremission following pharmacological treatment. Further, we suggest that anhedonia [lack of ability to feel pleasure] is a key symptom domain driving nonremission in patients with particular maltreatment histories.”

Crede M, Tynan M, Harms PD, Lester PB.

Clarifying the association between adverse childhood experiences and postdeployment posttraumatic stress disorder symptom severity: A meta-analysis and large-sample investigation.

J Trauma Stress. 2023 Aug;36(4):700-711. PMID: [37282808](#)

Authors review the research showing an association between ACEs and increased severity of PTSD symptoms in military personnel with combat exposure.

de Bles NJ, Pütz LEH, Rius Ottenheim N, et al.

Childhood trauma and anger in adults with and without depressive and anxiety disorders.

Acta Psychiatr Scand. 2023;148(3):288-301. PMID: [37430486](#)

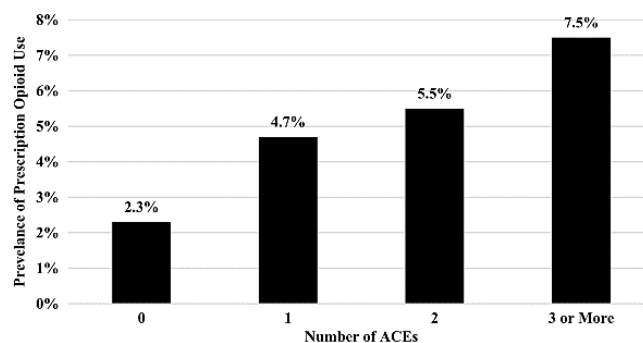
Of 2271 Dutch adults, average age 42.1 years, and 66.2% female, “Childhood trauma showed a dose-response association with all anger constructs...all types of childhood trauma except for sexual abuse were associated with higher levels of trait anger, and a higher prevalence of anger attacks and antisocial personality traits in adulthood...Focus on childhood traumatic experiences and adulthood anger may help to enhance the effectiveness of treatment for patients with depressive and anxiety disorders.”

Testa A, Jacobs B, Zhang L, et al.

Adverse childhood experiences and prescription opioid use during pregnancy: an analysis of the North and South Dakota PRAMS, 2019-2020.

BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2023;23(1):602. PMID: [37612614](#)

Of 2999 pregnant individuals from North and South Dakota, “The prevalence of prescription opioid use increases alongside more ACE exposure. Compared to those with no ACEs, recent mothers with three or more ACEs have a 2.4 greater odds of prescription opioid use during pregnancy...The findings suggest the need for additional research to understand better the link between ACEs and prescription opioid use during pregnancy, as well as how to support those with ACEs exposure in a trauma-informed manner to reduce the risk of subsequent substance use.”



Ashesh AM, Courchesne-Krak N, Kepner W, Marienfeld C.

Adverse Childhood Experiences Are Associated With History of Overdose Among Patients Presenting for Outpatient Addiction Care.

J Addict Med. 2023 May-Jun 01;17(3):333-338. PMID: [37267182](#)

For 115 adults being treated as outpatients for both mental health and addiction concerns, 22.6% reported an overdose in the past. Those with overdose history had a mean ACE score of 4.9 vs. 2.3 without overdose.

Bürgin D, Clemens V, Witt A, Sachser C, Jud A, Brähler E, et al. **Adverse childhood experiences increase the risk for low perceived social participation and health-related quality of life in a large-scale population-based study in Germany.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106382. PMID: [37527561](#)

Of 2531 adults as a representative German population sample, mean age 48.7 years, 51% women, "This study shows people exposed to ACEs to have a higher risk for lower perceived social participation and lower health-related QoL... Reduction of chronic stress, fostering of social support, and educational and vocational interventions are discussed to enable those with precarious starting conditions to partake in society."

D'Arcy-Bewick S, Turiano N, Sutin AR, et al.

Adverse childhood experiences and all-cause mortality risk in adulthood.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106386. PMID: [37542995](#)

For 6319 midlife adults, and regardless of sex, "ACEs may be cumulatively associated with increased mortality risk, such that each individual ACE increases risk. Physical abuse may be an important ACE type within a mortality risk context."

Hayes DK, Wiltz JL, Fang J, Loustalot F.

Less than ideal cardiovascular health among adults is associated with experiencing adverse childhood events.

Prev Med. 2023 Apr;169:107457. PMID: [36813249](#)

"Ideal cardiovascular health (CVH) is associated with a lower risk of heart disease and stroke while adverse childhood events (ACEs) are related to health behaviors (e.g., smoking, unhealthy diet) and conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes) associated with CVH...among 86,584 adults ≥ 18 years from 20 states...just 1 in 9 report ideal CVH. At least one ACE was reported in nearly two-thirds of adults and about 1 in 5 reported ≥ 4 ACEs. This study demonstrates the disproportionate burden for those reporting ≥ 4 ACEs having both poor and intermediate CVH."

Keirns BH, Keirns NG, Tsotsoros CE, et al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Obesity Linked to Indicators of Gut Permeability and Inflammation in Adult Women.

Physiol Behav. 2023;114319. PMID: [37562704](#)

"Gut permeability may increase cardiovascular disease risk by allowing bacterial components (e.g., lipopolysaccharides) to enter the bloodstream, leading to low-grade inflammation. People with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) consistently display evidence of chronic inflammation, but the source of this inflammation, and whether gut permeability may contribute, is unknown." In this

study of 79 women, aged 18-84 years, free of cardiometabolic diseases and inflammatory conditions, and not regularly taking anti-inflammatory medications, "ACE status and obesity were independently associated with evidence of gut permeability and systemic inflammation."

Adolescents

Gaylor EM, Krause KH, Welder LE, et al.

Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Among High School Students - Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021.

MMWR Suppl. 2023 Apr 28;72(1):45-54. PMID: [37104546](#)

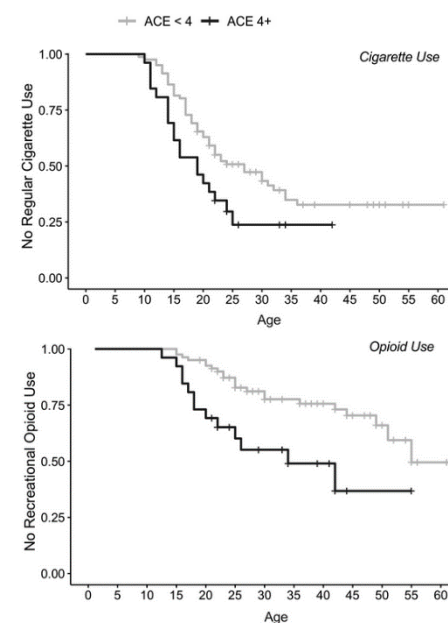
Using data from a national survey, "from 2019 to 2021, female students had an increased prevalence of seriously considered attempting suicide (from 24.1% to 30%), an increase in making a suicide plan (from 19.9% to 23.6%), and an increase in suicide attempts (from 11.0% to 13.3)...Prevalence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors remained stable overall for male students from 2019 to 2021."

Meadows AL, Strickland JC, Hyder SM, et al.

Adverse childhood experiences and early initiation of substance use: A survival analysis.

Int J Psychiatry Med. 2023;912174231195751. PMID: [37594029](#)

From a study of 107 adults, "A significant association was found between higher ACE scores and earlier initiation of cigarette and non-medical prescription opioid use...Primary prevention of ACEs, screening, and intervention in childhood may be unique approaches to decrease the risk of substance use and substance use disorder."



Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Orr C, Kelty E, Fisher C, O'Donnell M, Glauert R, Preen DB.

The lasting impact of family and domestic violence on neonatal health outcomes.

Birth. 2023 Sep;50(3):578-586. PMID: [36190166](#)

Of 1230 Australian women who gave birth within 12 months of experiencing family and domestic violence (antenatal = AFDV), compared to groups with a past history (HFDV) and no history of (NFDV), women in the AFDV group had higher proportions of factors associated with poor neonatal outcomes including smoking (42.4%), substance use (23.0%), and mental health disorders (34.8%). Neonates born to AFDV mothers had significantly higher odds of congenital anomalies (OR: 1.51), low birth weight (1.74), and preterm birth (1.48) compared with neonates born to no FDV mothers.

Khatlani K, Azam I, Baqir M, Mehmood A, Pasha-Razzak O.

Exploring the relationship between intimate partner violence during pregnancy and stillbirths.

Injury. 2023 Aug;54 Suppl 4(Suppl 4):110477. PMID: [37573063](#)

Comparing 256 Pakistani women aged 25-34 who experienced a stillbirth to matched controls, the women with stillbirth were 4 times more likely to report physical IPV during pregnancy.

Janczewski C, Mersky J, Plummer Lee C.

Intergenerational transmission of child protective services involvement: Exploring the role of ACEs and domestic violence among families who receive home visiting services.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106384. PMID: [37542996](#)

From a sample of 3039 Wisconsin caregivers who received home visiting programs, 22.8% were also involved with CPS. CPS prevalence rates were associated separately with caregiver personal ACEs as well as DV in the home.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Chiou KS, Rajaram SS, Garlinghouse M, Reisher P.

Differences in Symptom Report by Survivors With and Without Probable Intimate Partner Violence-Related Brain Injury.

Violence Against Women. 2023 Aug 9:10778012231192594. PMID: [37559478](#)

“Problematically, a high overlap between BI [brain injury] and trauma symptoms leads to difficulties in identifying when an IPV-related BI has occurred. This paper investigated differences in symptom reports between survivors with (n = 95) and without (n = 42) probable IPV-related BI...women screening positive for IPV-related BI were more likely to endorse the experience of headaches, dizziness, sensitivity to noise, numbness in limbs, lack of balance, anxiety, and difficulty with memory. Potential added distress caused by these additional symptoms may explain in part why survivors with IPV-related BI experience worse outcomes than survivors without BI.”

Scarlett T.

Emergency Department Presentations of Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence Relationships: A Case Report.

J Forensic Nurs. 2023 Jul-Sep 01;19(3):214-217. PMID: [37590944](#)

“Patients presenting to the emergency department after strangulation are in need of specialized care and treatment. Patient presentations after nonfatal strangulations vary dramatically; however, regardless of variation, no assumptions should be made about the seriousness of the injury...In this case report, three different cases of women who reported to the emergency department after strangulation by their intimate partners are presented. Although all three patients presented differently...bias associated with lack of injury, or presentation with injury, should not deter the treatment provided.”

Amos V, Lyons GR, Laughon K, Hughes RB, Alhusen JL.

Reproductive Coercion Among Women With Disabilities: An Analysis of Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Systems Data.

J Forensic Nurs. 2023 Apr-Jun 01;19(2):108-114. PMID: [37205617](#)

Of 3117 respondents to a national study of pregnant individuals, “approximately 1.7% of respondents without a disability reported RC [reproductive coercion] whereas 6.2% of respondents with at least one disability reported RC...Our findings highlight the need for healthcare providers working with women with disabilities to screen for RC and potentially uncover intimate partner violence and prevent its negative health consequences.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Shaughnessy EV, Simons RM, Simons JS, Freeman H.

Risk factors for traumatic bonding and associations with PTSD symptoms: A moderated mediation.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106390. PMID: [37572529](#)

From a national online survey of 354 male and female adults in current hetero- and homosexual abusive relationships, “childhood maltreatment and attachment insecurity significantly predicted traumatic bonding over and above the effects of age, gender, and romantic love...Traumatic bonding was positively associated with PTSD symptoms.”

Güler A, Lee RC, Rojas-Guyler L, Lambert J, Smith CR.

The influences of sociocultural norms on women's decision to disclose intimate partner violence: Integrative review.

Nurs Inq. 2023:e12589. PMID: [37583248](#)

“A one-size-fits-all approach is not adequate for women who are considering disclosing IPV. Findings underscore that regardless of residing in individualistic countries, those sociocultural norms related to traditional gender roles and gender inequality are still important barriers to the disclosure of IPV...Main categories emerged: (1) stigma surrounding IPV disclosure, victimization, and divorce; (2) gender roles; (3) preserving family honor; and (4) Children's well-being and future.”

Moulding N, Chung D, Zufferey C, Franzway S, Wendt S.

Social Participation After Intimate Partner Violence: Investigating the Impact on Women's Citizenship.

Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231196051. PMID: [37609828](#)

Examining the impact of IPV on 658 diverse women's social participation, “social participation in all categories contracted dramatically during IPV and, in most cases, never regained pre-violence levels. The study also found that following initial social withdrawal, many women went on to re-engage in new ways, including through political activism on gendered violence, revealing how failures on the part of the state and community to adequately respond to IPV can lead to new forms of participatory citizenship.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Goh WY, Chan MPC.

Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another in Palliative Care: A Case Report.

J Palliat Med. 2023 Aug;26(8):1165-1167. PMID: [36862535](#)

“In palliative care, many end-of-life (EOL) patients are physically dependent on their caregivers. These patients may also have difficulty expressing their needs because of their underlying disease and are vulnerable to abuse. Factitious disorder imposed on another (FDIA) describes a condition in which an individual intentionally feigns physical or psychological signs or symptoms in another person with the intention of deceiving medical providers...In this case discussion, we highlight a woman with advanced dementia who was subjected to FDIA. We discuss the impact of FDIA on EOL care and the management of FDIA in palliative care.”

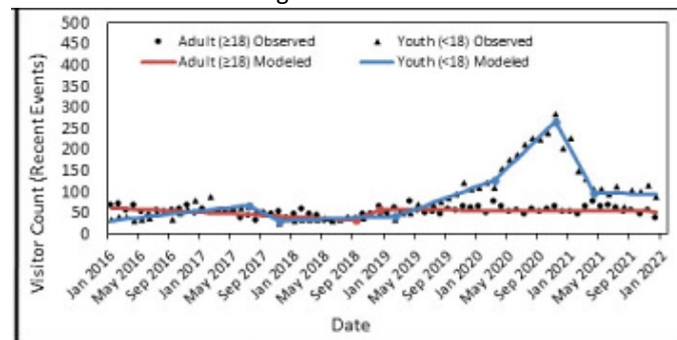
Sexual Assault

Goodman KL, Kamke K, Mullin TM.

Online Help-Seeking Among Youth Victims of Sexual Violence Before and During COVID-19 (2016-2021): Analysis of Hotline Use Trends.

JMIR public health and surveillance. 2023;9:e44760. PMID: [37566446](#)

Using data from the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline (NSAOH), “Most youth victims [<18 years] were abused by family members prior to (1013/1677, 60.4%) and after (2658/3661, 72.6%) the onset of COVID-19. The number of youth victims contacting NSAOH spiked in March 2020 and peaked in November 2020 for all youth discussing recent events. We observed a decline in youth victims into spring 2021 for all youth. Trends were stable for adults discussing recent events.”



Walsh K, Gilmore AK, Jaffe AE, et al.

A preliminary examination of sexual and physical victimization 6 months after recent rape.

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2023 Aug;26(4):495-501. PMID: [37286883](#)

“One in four US women will experience a completed or attempted rape in their lifetime, and more than 50% of survivors will experience two or more rapes. Rape and physical violence also co-occur. Multiple experiences of sexual and physical violence are associated with elevated mental and physical health problems.” For 233 female rape survivors, “Six months after the exam, 21.7% reported a new sexual or physical victimization...pre-rape victimization and making less than \$10,000 annually were associated with revictimization...Policies to provide financial support to recent rape victims and/or targeted prevention for those with pre-rape victimization could reduce revictimization risk.”

Cox RC, Garcia AN, Jessup SC, et al.

Subjective Sleep Disturbances in Sexual Assault Survivors: Associations With Trauma and PTSD Symptom Severity.

Behav Ther. 2023;54(5):863-75. PMID: [37597963](#)

For 60 sexual assault survivors, “insomnia symptoms and number of nocturnal awakenings were significantly associated with higher PTSD symptoms, and sexual assault severity was significantly associated with higher insomnia symptoms, longer sleep onset latency, and lower sleep quality.”

de la Torre Laso J.

The Reality of Tonic Immobility in Victims of Sexual Violence: "I was Paralyzed, I Couldn't Move".

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231191232. PMID: [37555259](#)

From a research review, “TI [tonic immobility] is characterized by two factors: fear and immobility...The immobility factor is the determining factor in explaining the victim's lack of defense or resistance and causes effects such as trembling, physical and mental paralysis, inability to vocalize, and eye closure. In addition, TI has been correlated with long-term negative clinical manifestations as victims are more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder...Therefore, legal and care practitioners must be able to recognize TI to understand the victim's behavior, differentiate it from consent, and to be able to assist in their recovery.”

Human Trafficking

Hornor G, Hollar J, Landers T, Sherfield J.

Healthcare Use and Case Characteristics of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Teen Victims Versus High-Risk Teens.

J Forensic Nurs. 2023 Jul-Sep 01;19(3):160-169. PMID: [37590938](#)

In a chart review from a midwestern academic ED and child advocacy center, high risk factors for commercial sexual exploitation of children included homelessness or life on the streets; runaway behavior; living with mother only; placement in a juvenile detention center, residential treatment center or group home; number of living arrangements (4+); legal age-inappropriate sex; and sexually transmitted infections.

Bono-Neri F, Toney-Butler TJ.

Nursing students' knowledge of and exposure to human trafficking content in undergraduate curricula.

Nurse Educ Today. 2023;129:105920. PMID: [37515956](#)

Using data from 644 survey participants from the National Student Nurses' Association, “approximately all participants reported minimal to no human trafficking content taught in undergraduate nursing curricula...<5 % of participants reported having full confidence in recognizing signs or clinical presentations of human trafficking in a client...Human trafficking content is taught at a minimal to zero amount in pre-licensure RN nursing curricula. Only eight states mandate continuing education on human trafficking for healthcare professionals. Once licensed, nurses who live in non-mandated states continue to be irregularly/inadequately educated on this topic.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Lowery St John TY, St George DMM, Lanier CA.

Examining Sexual and Dating Violence by Gender Identity Among High School Students.

J Adolesc Health. 2023 Aug 21:S1054-139X(23)00327-0. PMID: [37610386](#)

Using 2017-2019 national data, of 198,900 teenagers, 1.8% identified as transgender, 1.6% were not sure, and 1.9% responded that they did not know what question was being asked. Across all measures of violence, transgender, ‘unsure’ and ‘don't understand’ students were significantly more likely than cisgender students to report having been victimized...Standard analysis practices of eliminating unsure and/or don't understand responses to gender identity questions may underestimate at-risk youth.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Rattan J, Bartlett TR.

Potential influence of nurses' implicit racial bias on maternal mortality.

Public Health Nurs. 2023 Sep-Oct;40(5):773-781. PMID: [37141152](#)

“An increasing body of research describes the phenomenon of implicit racial bias among providers and how it may affect communication, treatment decisions, the patient care experience, and health outcomes. This synthesis of literature reviews and distills current research on the presence and influence of implicit racial bias among nurses...and interventions that can mitigate its effects.”

Goldstein E, Brown RL.

Influence of Maternal Adverse Childhood Experiences on Birth Outcomes in American Indian and non-Hispanic White Women.

MCN Am J Matern Child Nurs. 2023 Sep-Oct 01;48(5):258-265. PMID: [37326514](#)

Of 2,343 South Dakota pregnant women, “American Indian versus non-Hispanic White women had a higher mean ACE score (3.37 vs. 1.64). Adjusting for proportional differences, members of both groups with ACEs demonstrated significantly increased odds of prenatal and postpartum depression, preterm birth and low birthweight.

Hadley M, Oppong AY, Coleman J, Powell AM.

Structural Racism and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes Through the Lens of the Maternal Microbiome.

Obstet Gynecol. 2023 Oct 1;142(4):911-919. PMID: [37678901](#)

“Emerging data from studies that investigate the intestinal microbiome in pregnancy suggest strong influence of a poor diet on adverse pregnancy outcomes...We review evidence that links systemic racism to pregnancy health outcome differences with a focus on the vaginal and intestinal microbiomes as well as diet. We also review how structural racism ultimately contributes to inequitable access to healthy food and higher risk environmental exposures among pregnant people of lower socioeconomic status and exacerbates common pregnancy comorbidities.”

Karvonen KA, Balay-Dustrude E, Do A, et al.

Race, ethnicity, and experienced racism are associated with adverse physical and mental health outcomes among cancer survivors.

Cancer. 2023 Oct 1;129(19):3023-3033. PMID: [37394987](#)

“Data from 48,200 cancer survivors between 2014 and 2020 were evaluated...All historically

marginalized racial/ethnic groups were more likely to experience at least one adverse health outcome compared with non-Hispanic White survivors.” Those who physically experienced racism were 2.1 times as likely to report poor physical health, report poor mental health (3.51), inadequate sleep (2.14), depression (2.33), and activity limitations (1.42) compared with those who had not experienced racism. Similar associations were observed for emotionally experienced racism.

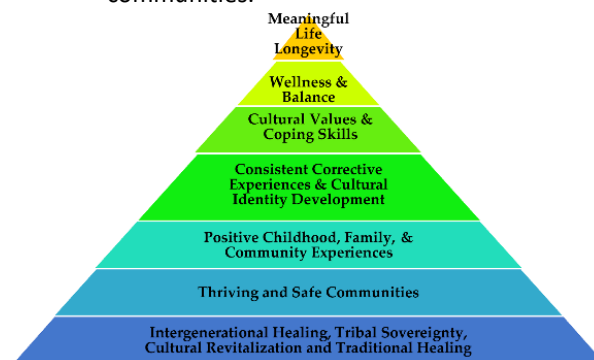
Rides At The Door M, Shaw S.

The Other Side of the ACEs Pyramid: A Healing Framework for Indigenous Communities.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023 Feb 25;20(5):4108.

PMID: [36901119](#)

“We provide a holistic Indigenous Wellness Pyramid ...to guide pathways toward healing in Indigenous communities.”



Perpetrators

Kaufman-Parks AM, Longmore MA, Manning WD, et al.

Understanding the effect of adverse childhood experiences on the risk of engaging in physical violence toward an intimate partner: The influence of relationship, social psychological, and sociodemographic contextual risk factors.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106381. PMID: [37542994](#)

Of 878 emerging adults, “ACEs had a cumulative effect on IPV, where each additional ACE increased the odds of engaging in IPV by 51.0 %. However, current drug use (OR = 1.131), arguments between partners (OR = 1.517), partner mistrust (OR = 1.663), and jealousy and control (OR = 1.412) were also significant correlates of IPV reports...individuals working with clients who engage in IPV would do well to address the long-term trauma impacts of early life adversity in addition to more proximal risk factors to reduce the risk of continued violence.”

Muñoz EA, Le VD, Shorey RC, Temple JR.
Reproductive Coercion and Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration Among Young Adult Males.

Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231196059. PMID: [37603586](#)

“Using a diverse community sample of young adults, we examined the prevalence of lifetime reproductive coercion perpetration and its relationship with other forms of intimate partner violence (IPV)...approximately 6.4% of the men reported perpetrating reproductive coercion in their lifetime...men who reported sexual (16.2%), physical (11.1%), or psychological (59.1%) IPV perpetration, relative to men who did not, reported a significantly higher prevalence of reproductive coercion perpetration.”

Petrecu VG, Burgess AW, Jarvis K.

Manual and instrument asphyxiation/strangulation: Examining perpetrator and victim characteristics.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2023;98:102575. PMID: [37549551](#)

Of 200 cases of perpetrators who strangled or asphyxiated at least one victim, “In 68% of the cases, perpetrators only targeted women. The primary murder motives were sadism (36%) and intense emotions (22%).” Various factors influenced perpetrators’ use of manual or ligature strangulation/asphyxiation.

Race/Ethnicity (offender)	Type of Strangulation/Asphyxiation		
	hands	Ligature/instrument	χ^2 /FET (p)
<i>N</i> = 200			
White	34	64	.009*
Black of African American	48	29	
Asian	2	2	
Hispanic or Latino	10	9	
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1	
Gender (offender)			
<i>N</i> = 200			
Male	92	96	.140
Female	3	9	
Race/Ethnicity (victim)			
<i>N</i> = 200			
White	54	76	.050*
Minorities	40	29	
White and Minorities	1	0	
Mental Health diagnosis (offender)			
<i>N</i> = 62			
Serious mental illness	6	4	.880
Other mental illness	2	2	
Personality disorder	11	13	
No diagnosis	13	11	
Substance abuse history (offender)			
<i>N</i> = 166			
Yes	35	41	.877
No	43	47	
History of trauma (offender)			
<i>N</i> = 90			
Physical	7	17	.001*
Sexual	6	9	
Psychological	14	4	
Physical and sexual	4	0	
Physical and psychological	11	5	
Physical, sexual and psychological	4	9	

Police and Court Systems

Lidén M, Thiblin I, Dror IE.

The role of alternative hypotheses in reducing bias in forensic medical experts' decision making.

Sci Justice. 2023 Sep;63(5):581-587. PMID: [37718005](#)

“A scenario-based experiment with forensic doctors (n = 20) was conducted. In two out of three scenarios, the existence of alternative hypotheses impacted the actual opinions reached, the confidence in the judgments, and the perceived consistency with the plaintiff hypothesis. Investigative and legal actors should be aware of the possibility of biases and importance of having alternative hypotheses when requesting and evaluating medical opinions.”

Denne E, George SS, Stolzenberg SN.

Developmental Considerations in How Defense Attorneys Employ Child Sexual Abuse and Rape Myths When Questioning Alleged Victims of Child Sexual Abuse.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231189512. PMID: [37530046](#)

In a study of 134 criminal trials of child sexual abuse, “defense attorneys employ...strategies when asking children questions that draw upon myths about sexual violence (CSA myths - disclosure myths, extent of harm, a child's positive relationship with their perpetrator, and the presence of witnesses; Rape myths - force and resistance, motives to lie, victim precipitation, and character issues)...and employ these adult rape myths in ways that are plausible, purposeful, and likely impactful...Prosecutors should be prepared to counterquestion these myths in redirect examination.”

Dixon R, Egan S, Hughes S, Chapman B.

The Sexome - A proof of concept study into microbial transfer between heterosexual couples after sexual intercourse.

Forensic Sci Int. 2023 Jul;348:111711. PMID: [37224760](#)

“Human microbiome research has suggested that a person's microbial diversity is unique, therefore microbiome analysis using Massively Parallel Sequencing (MPS) could serve as a useful adjunct method of perpetrator identification.” Using before and after samples from 6 couples having intercourse, “The data indicated a significant disruption to microbial diversity post-coitus in all samples...demonstrating a proof-of-concept in the utility of microbiome interrogation for sexual assault cases.”

Ingram S, DeCorte A, Gentry AE, et al.

Differentiation of vaginal cells from epidermal cells using morphological and autofluorescence properties.

Forensic science international Genetics. 2023;66:102909.

PMID: [37399646](#)

Using certain techniques, authors were able to identify vaginal cells on hands, for use in sexual assault cases involving digital penetration.

Green JG, Morabito MS, Savage J, et al.

Reasons police respond in schools: An analysis of narrative data from police incident reports.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106350. PMID: [37523829](#)

“We analyzed 882 police incident report narratives selected from a stratified sample of 57 schools in one urban school district during the 2017-18 school year...police most frequently responded to instances of sexual physical violence (17.5 %), physical assault (15.8 %), dysregulated behavior (11.2 %), threatening language (10.8 %), and threat of or actual school violence (4.4 %). Incidents involving students most often resulted in: (1) parents/guardians being contacted (57.3 %), (2) schools engaging in disciplinary actions (39.7 %) or school safety actions (27.0 %), and (3) child maltreatment reports being made to Crimes Against Children (a subdivision of the police department focused on child maltreatment; 26.0 %) or to the Department of Children and Families (26.2 %)...Findings indicate that many events leading to police responses in schools are related to maltreatment and behavioral health. These events rarely result in a criminal justice response, and most often result in action by families and schools.”

Providers

Whiteman PJ, Macias-Konstantopoulos WL, Relan P, et al.

Violence and Abuse: A Pandemic Within a Pandemic.

West J Emerg Med. 2023 Jul 17;24(4):743-750. PMID:

[37527378](#)

“In early 2021, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Public Health and Injury Committee was tasked with reviewing the impact the pandemic had on violence and abuse...We reviewed the literature on the effect the pandemic had on domestic violence, child and elder abuse and neglect, human trafficking, and gun violence. In this paper we explore common themes and causes of this violence and offer suggestions to help mitigate risk during ongoing and future pandemics...Hospitals and violence prevention programs need to start planning for the next pandemic with a focus on

preserving or expanding access to services, strengthening social service agency partnerships, and ensuring these agencies have access to the ED with proper personal protective equipment.”

Ragavan MI, Garg A, Raphael JL.

Creating Healing-Centered Health Systems by Reimagining Social Needs Screening and Supports.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Jun 1;177(6):555-556. PMID: [37036730](#)

“Although HRSN [health-related social needs] screening offers enormous potential to support families, its current development and implementation in pediatric health systems is often siloed and created without key partners. Implementing HRSN screening as part of a healing-centered system that supports families in addressing social needs could ultimately accomplish multiple stakeholders’ goals, such as improving care quality and family satisfaction, optimizing reimbursement opportunities for meaningful and impactful work, and, most important, advancing child health equity.”

Hassan IF, Gorski V, Sanderson D, et al.

Consensus on Social Determinants of Health Knowledge Topics and Behavior Learning Goals Across Primary Care Residencies: Results of a Delphi Study.

Acad Med. 2023 Aug 1;98(8):941-948. PMID: [36917120](#)

A national group of experts in internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology met to discuss educating physician trainees on social determinants of health (SDH). “The SDH knowledge topics and behavior learning goals that achieved expert consensus can serve as a first step toward developing measurable curriculum learning objectives and associated trainee assessments.”

Sandhu S, Solomon L, Gottlieb LM.

Awareness, Adjustment, Assistance, Alignment, and Advocacy: Operationalizing Social Determinants of Health Topics in Undergraduate Medical Education Curricula.

Acad Med. 2023 Aug 1;98(8):876-881. PMID: [37000825](#)

“The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, elaborates on 5 strategies to strengthen social care: awareness, adjustment, assistance, alignment, and advocacy. In this article, the authors highlight and provide examples of how mapping SDOH [social determinants of health] skills to the 5As framework can help educators meaningfully operationalize SDOH topics into specific curricular activities during the preclinical and clinical stages of undergraduate medical education.”

Prevention

Crandall A, Magnusson BM, Barlow MJ, et al.

Positive adult experiences as turning points for better adult mental health after childhood adversity.

Frontiers in public health. 2023;11:1223953. PMID: [37601196](#)

From a survey of 435 adults, “Even when ACEs were high or PCEs were low, adults with high PAEs [positive adult experiences] had lower odds for moderate-to-severe anxiety and/depression. Positive adult experiences may be an opportunity to turn the tide for individuals who experienced childhood adversity and/or low levels of support or connection.”

Malin Y, Gumpel TP.

Dispositional mindfulness plays a major role in adolescents' active and passive responding to bully-victim dynamics.

Aggress Behav. 2023 Sep;49(5):509-520. PMID: [37098754](#)

Of 429 middle and high school students, “this study shows that higher dispositional mindfulness is associated with lower active and passive forms of bullying, suggesting that mindfulness intervention may lead to help-giving behaviors in bully-victim dynamics at schools.”

Coleman JN, Mehari K, Farrell AD.

Relations between youths' community violence exposure and their physical aggression: The protective role of adults.

J Res Adolesc. 2023 Sep;33(3):986-998. PMID: [37052986](#)

Of 2575 southeastern US middle school students, mean age 12.3 years, “High adult support was associated with weaker relations between exposure to violence in the fall and aggression in the winter among male adolescents. High adult support was related to weaker relations between victimization in the fall and aggression in the winter among female adolescents.”

Du Y, Luo Y, Ren Z, Zheng X, Liu J.

Impact of adverse childhood experiences on life expectancy with depression in the U.K. population: The mitigating role of educational attainment.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106383. PMID: [37541093](#)

“The study used data on 5597 participants from the English Longitudinal Study of Aging (2006-2013)...With a high level of educational attainment, older adults with ACEs lived fewer depression years and spent a higher proportion of their life being free of depression than adults with ACEs who had a low level of educational attainment.”

Bellis MA, Hughes K, Ford K, Lowey H.

Measuring changes in adult health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic and their relationship with adverse childhood experiences and current social assets: a cross-sectional survey.

BMC Public Health. 2023;23(1):1618. PMID: [37620866](#)

From a national telephone survey in England and Wales during the pandemic, “ACEs were strongly related to moving into poorer mental health, physical health, and sleep categories during the pandemic, with likelihoods more than doubling in those with ≥ 4 ACEs (vs. 0)...Individuals with more trusted family members were less likely to move into poorer health categories regardless of ACE counts...Connectedness, especially with family, appears an important factor in maintaining health during pandemic restrictions.”

Researchers

Liu S, Morin SB, Bourand NM, et al.

Social Vulnerability and Risk of Suicide in US Adults, 2016-2020.

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Apr 3;6(4):e239995. PMID: [37099296](#)

“From 2016 to 2020, there were a total of 222,018 suicides in 3141 counties. Comparing the least socially vulnerable (0% to 10%) to the most socially vulnerable (90% to 100%) counties, there was a 56% increase in suicide rate as measured by the SVI [SVI = social vulnerability index incorporates 15 social factors from four main types of variables - socioeconomic status, household composition, race/ethnicity/language, and housing/transportation] and an 82% increase in suicide rate as measured by the SVM [SVM = newer social vulnerability metric measures how social factors impact health, using an array of public databases calculable at the zip code or county level].

Anderson RE, Doctor HN, Piggott DM.

Measuring sexual violence perpetration acknowledgment: Testing the effects of label and response format.

Aggress Behav. 2023 Sep;49(5):499-508. PMID: [37086468](#)

Two different strategies, using a label of “sexual assault” vs. “rape”, and using a scaled item instead of yes or no, produced 3-15 times greater sexual assault perpetration acknowledgment.

Anderson RE, Goodman EL, Carstens Namie EM.
**Participant Acceptability of Questionnaires Impacts Sexual
 Victimization Prevalence Rates.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2023;1-19. PMID: [37533189](#)
 673 college students found the Post-Refusal Sexual
 Persistence Scales-Victimization (PRSPS-V) easier to
 understand and preferred it 2.5 to 1 over the Sexual
 Experiences Survey-Short Form Victimization (SES-
 SFV), as well as reporting 9.8% more instances of
 sexual assault with the PRSPS-V.

Anderson KM, Karris MY, DeSoto AF, Carr SG, Stockman JK.
**Engagement of Sexual Violence Survivors in Research:
 Trauma-Informed Research in the THRIVE Study.**

Violence Against Women. 2023;29(11):2239-65. PMID:
[36148910](#)
 “The present article provides review of the need for
 integration of TIC into research with survivors of
 sexual violence, as well as the methodological
 process of operationalizing TIC in biobehavioral
 research, and evidence of the positive experiences
 of survivors of sexual violence during their
 participation. Such an example may provide insight
 and guidance for the operationalization of trauma-
 informed practices in other research studies.”

Table 4. Lessons Learned in The THRIVE Study: Comparison to Standard Practice and Application Within the Research Process.

Lesson learned	Standard practice	Trauma-informed practice	Research process application
Training of study staff	Ethical conduct of research/human subjects research training (i.e., CITI)	Ethical conduct of research/human subjects research training (i.e., CITI); mental health first aid training; trauma-informed care training; study procedure training series	Grant writing; development of standard operating procedures/protocols; time allocation and budgeting for research staff; recruitment; study implementation/ data collection
Preparation for connection to support services	Provision of national or local hotline numbers (411, National Suicide Hotline, local crisis line)	Provision of national or local hotline numbers (411, National Suicide Hotline, local crisis line); provision of name and telephone number of specific local organizational contact; request permission to given contact the participant's information to facilitate follow-up	Grant writing (letters of support); development of standard operating procedures/protocols; dissemination of study information and engagement of community stakeholders and support services
Participant engagement	Neutrality in study procedures and data collection	Employment of feminist research methods in study procedures and data collection; leading with compassion in participant interactions	Development of standard operating procedures/ protocols; hiring of research staff; recruitment; study implementation/data collection

Steinhoff A, Shanahan L, Bechtiger L, et al.
**When Substance Use Is Underreported: Comparing Self-
 Reports and Hair Toxicology in an Urban Cohort of Young
 Adults.**

J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2023 Jul;62(7):791-804.
 PMID: [36731790](#)
 Of 1002 urban young adults, mean age 20.6 years,
 “Self-reports underestimated the prevalence of

most substances by 30% to 60% compared to hair tests...Consequently, estimates of associations between substance use and risk factors or outcomes are likely biased.”

Other of Interest

Singh B, Olds T, Curtis R, et al.
**Effectiveness of physical activity interventions for
 improving depression, anxiety and distress: an overview of
 systematic reviews.**

Br J Sports Med. 2023 Feb 16;bjsports-2022-106195. PMID:
[36796860](#)

From a research review, “Physical activity is highly beneficial for improving symptoms of depression, anxiety and distress across a wide range of adult populations, including the general population, people with diagnosed mental health disorders and people with chronic disease. Physical activity should be a mainstay approach in the management of depression, anxiety and psychological distress.”

Kwon EG, Rice-Townsend SE, Agoubi LL, et al.
**Association of Community Vulnerability and State Gun Laws
 With Firearm Deaths in Children and Adolescents Aged 10
 to 19 Years.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 May 1;6(5):e2314863. PMID:
[37223901](#)
 “In this cross-sectional study including 5813 youths aged 10 to 19 years who died of an assault-related firearm injury, death rates increased in a stepwise fashion with increasing community-level social vulnerability; this trend persisted among all types of state gun laws. States with restrictive gun laws had lower rates of assault-related firearm deaths among youths; however, youths from socially vulnerable communities were disproportionately impacted across the spectrum of state gun laws.”
 (SVI = social vulnerability index)

