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Child Abuse

Kamke K, Kirkner A, Goodman KL.

"Nothing Was Done": Experiences of continued sexual abuse after disclosing to a mandated reporter among youth in the United States.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;155:106959. PMID: [39094279](#)

Using data from 124 anonymous hotline chats with youth whose sexual abuse continued after a prior disclosure to a mandated reporter, "In most cases (71 %), the abuse was seemingly not reported or not investigated. Mandated reporters' belief of the victim and minimization of abuse affected reporting decisions. Some mandated reporters tried to address the abuse directly with the perpetrators, endangering victims. Rarely, mandated reporters did not report to respect the victim's wishes. In 24 % of cases, the victim described an investigation that did not result in protection. Victims indicated that investigators "sided to the perpetrator" or said there was not enough evidence. Some victims recanted, often in fear. In 6 % of cases, formal actions were taken but did not provide long-term protection. Victims described temporary cessation of abuse that resumed because their guardian(s) allowed the perpetrator to access them...Disclosing to a mandated reporter can engender traumatic experiences without resulting in long-term safety. Professionals need additional training."

Koenig SM, Deng L, Onwubiko C, Beierle EA, Russell RT.

Pediatric Burn Injuries: Risk Factors for Increased Mortality.

J Surg Res. 2024;301:584-90. PMID: [39089134](#)

From a national database 2017-2019, "13,472 pediatric burn patients (≤ 14 y old) were identified. The overall mortality was low ($<1\%$). Children with burns to multiple body regions had the highest independent risk of mortality...those from ages 5 to <10 y old had the highest risk of mortality (odds ratio = 11.40). Black children had a significantly higher mortality compared to White children. Nonaccidental burns carried a mortality that was twice that of accidental burns."

Johnson K, Crumm C, Brown E.

Abusive Pediatric Burns Module in the Child Abuse Pediatrics Curriculum for Physicians (CAP-CuP).

MedEdPORTAL. 2024;20:11429. PMID: [39184363](#)

Abusive pediatric burns educational module. [Training materials.](#)

Tate AR, Fisher-Owens SA, Spiller L, et al.

Oral and Dental Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect: Clinical Report.

Pediatrics. 2024 Sep 1;154(3):e2024068024. PMID: [39155729](#)

"The purpose of this clinical report is to review the oral aspects of abuse and dental neglect in children and the role of pediatricians, dental professionals, and other physicians in evaluating such conditions. This clinical report addresses recommendations on the evaluation of bite marks, as well as perioral and intraoral injuries, infections, and diseases that may raise suspicion for child abuse or neglect."

Wensel S, Kerr G, Tamminen KA.

"The abuse of minors you witness or experience": A qualitative study of former professional ballet school students' characterizations of maltreatment.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;155:106982. PMID: [39151248](#)

"Participants were 15 former professional ballet school students (12 women, three men) aged 18-27 years old across six countries...Themes included: 1) psychological maltreatment in and beyond the studio; 2) neglect and devaluation: costs of over-prioritizing ballet; 3) physical abuse: outdated but still rationalized as instrumental; and 4) sexual abuse in blurred private and public spaces... suggested a need for more ballet school community awareness about the multiple potential forms of harm of CM, as well as more research, intervention, and advocacy about CM at ballet schools."

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Stevens SK, Boley R, Pollack M, et al.

The influence of neuropeptide Y (NPY) on the relationship between emotion regulation and mood-related pathology in survivors of childhood interpersonal trauma.

J Affect Disord. 2024;362:258-62. PMID: [38971192](#)

Neuropeptide Y (NPY) is a 36-amino acid peptide (a protein) that is widely expressed throughout the limbic system (the emotion area of the brain).

Recent evidence has highlighted NPY as a marker of resilience to posttraumatic psychopathology. Of 54 adult survivors of childhood interpersonal trauma, higher blood levels of NPY, assumed to be associated with higher brain levels, “decreased the association between emotion regulation and posttraumatic psychopathology in survivors of childhood interpersonal trauma. Further investigation of the contribution of NPY to psychopathology in this population is warranted.”

Lev-Wiesel R, Goldner L, Malishkevich Haas R, et al.

Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Draw and Describe Their Experiences of Dissociation.

Violence Against Women. 2024;30(10):2655-73. PMID: [36794435](#)

“The paper examined how dissociation is experienced and manifested in the drawings and narratives of female survivors of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder...Two main themes emerged: a constant movement between internal and external worlds, and distorted perceptions of time and space.”



Kay SJ, Keefe JR, Milrod BL, Barber JP.

Childhood Trauma and Panic Disorder: The Impact of History of Child Abuse on Illness Severity and Treatment Response.

Am J Psychother. 2024:appipsychotherapy20230060. PMID: [39104247](#)

Of 200 patients being seen for panic disorder, those with a history of childhood abuse (HCA), compared to those without, experienced significantly more severe symptoms of panic disorder, agoraphobia, depression, psychosocial impairment, anxiety

sensitivity, and personality disorder burden. A history of child abuse also predicted lack of response to applied relaxation training, but not to CBT or panic-focused psychodynamic psychotherapy. “The results of this study highlight the importance of HCA in formulating treatment recommendations.”

Luciani KR, Johal PK, Chao T, Thiessen KA, Schütz CG.

Adult self-reported childhood maltreatment types are associated with treatment satisfaction and alcohol relapse in patients with comorbid substance use and mental health disorders.

Am J Addict. 2024;33(5):516-24. PMID: [38504581](#)

Of 258 Canadian inpatients being treated for both mental health disorders and substance use disorders and who were surveyed for treatment satisfaction and relapse, childhood emotional neglect was associated with lower ratings across all treatment domains, and childhood physical neglect was associated with a lower rating for “outcome of care”. Childhood sexual abuse was associated with a greater likelihood of alcohol relapse.

Han YY, Celedón JC.

The effects of violence and related stress on asthma.

Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2024 Jul 26:S1081-1206(24)00479-4. PMID: [39069155](#)

Despite certain research limitations, “the aggregate evidence from studies conducted in different locations and populations suggests that exposure to violence affects asthma and asthma outcomes, and that this is explained by direct physiologic effects of violence-related distress and indirect effects (e.g., through risky health behaviors or co-morbidities).”

Vyas CM, Wang S, Menor AM, et al.

Association between childhood abuse and risk of post-COVID-19 conditions: Results from three large prospective cohort studies.

Brain Behav Immun. 2024 Aug 25;123:143-150. PMID: [39191351](#)

Of 2851 participants responding from three large national studies, including the Nurses’ Health Studies 2 and 3, mean age 55.8 years, “We observed a dose-dependent relationship between severity of childhood abuse and post-COVID conditions [covid symptoms lasting longer than 1 month]; participants with severe versus no childhood abuse had a 42 % higher subsequent risk of post-COVID conditions. Key lifestyle, health-related, and psychological factors mediated 25.5 % of this association. Both sexual and physical/emotional abuse, were independently associated with post-COVID conditions.”

Adolescents

Testa A, Jacobs B, Thompson J, et al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Police Contact in Canada.

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241270047. PMID: [39143752](#)

From a study of 940 Canadian individuals aged 16-30, "individuals with high ACE exposure, particularly those with four or more ACEs, are more likely to have police contact. The results are significant in understanding the interplay between childhood trauma and later encounters with the criminal justice system, emphasizing the need for trauma-informed approaches in policing and healthcare."

Patchin JW, Hinduja S.

The nature and extent of youth sextortion: Legal implications and directions for future research.

Behav Sci Law. 2024;42(4):401-16. PMID: [38775000](#)

Of 4972 middle and high school students (mean age = 14.5), about 5% reported that they were victims of sextortion (= > 1 million US teens). "Boys and girls of all races are equally as likely to be targeted, though non-heterosexual youth seem to be targeted more frequently than heterosexual youth. Most are targeted by someone they know, typically a boyfriend or girlfriend, or an offline friend. Most often the aggressor threatens to send the explicit content to the target's friends or to post them online, but less frequently do they actually follow through with the threats. Commonly the aggressor is desiring more images, money, or sex...girls were significantly less likely than boys to give into the aggressor's demands...About one-third of the time targets will tell a friend and/or their parent, though only about 40% of the incidents are reported to a parent or other authority (school official or the police). Notably, girls were significantly more likely to say they told no one about the sextortion...Sextortion is a serious and growing problem at the intersection of teens and technology that demands thoughtful consideration and an urgent, comprehensive response."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Temple JR, Baumler E, Wood L.

Intimate Partner Violence and Parenting.

JAMA Pediatr. 2024 Aug 26:e242705. PMID: [39186281](#)

Of 337 Texas parents mean age 28.0 years, "compared with their counterparts without IPV experiences, parents who recently experienced IPV reported more stress, were less likely to use positive parenting strategies, and had higher potential for child maltreatment...these findings reinforce an urgent need to prevent IPV. They emphasize that child maltreatment prevention and healthy development promotion may benefit from interventions focusing on teaching positive parenting skills and clinical efforts to treat stress and anxiety among people who have experienced violent relationships."

Fusco RA, Kulkarni SJ, Pless J.

"He gets mad that I'm sober": Experiences of substance use coercion among postpartum women in recovery.

J Subst Use Addict Treat. 2024;164:209407. PMID: [38782092](#)

"The study conducted qualitative interviews with 30 women with substance use disorders [SUD] who had given birth within the past six months... Analysis of the impact of IPV on substance use revealed four themes: 1) sabotaging sobriety, 2) making substance use a condition of the relationship, 3) portraying her as a "bad mom," and 4) furthering social isolation...Findings showed that women with SUDs have specific vulnerabilities that partners may exploit as a way of exerting control."

McGlothen-Bell K, Cartagena D, Malin KJ, et al.

Reimagining Supportive Approaches at the Intersection of Mandatory Reporting Policies for the Mother-Infant Dyad Affected by Substance Use.

Adv Neonatal Care. 2024 Oct 1;24(5):424-434. PMID: [39133542](#)

"While policies aimed at protecting infants from child abuse and neglect are well intentioned, literature regarding the short- and long-term social and legal implications of mandatory reporting policies is emerging...We provide an overview of historical and current trends in mandatory reporting policies for nurses related to substance use in pregnancy and related ethical and social implications for mother-infant dyads...We offer recommendations for practice including the integration of respectful care and family-centered support for the mother-infant dyad affected by substance use."

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Willson R, Roddy E, Martinson H, Skelton CF, Taitsman L.
Orthopaedic Injury Patterns in Intimate Partner Violence: Defensive Wounds and Fracture Patterns: A Systematic Literature Review.

JBJS Rev. 2024 Aug 6;12(8). PMID: [39106323](#)

Orthopaedic surgeons have a unique opportunity to intervene in cases of IPV as musculoskeletal injuries, including fractures, are the second most common type of injury seen in IPV patients. This systematic literature review aims to identify patterns in musculoskeletal injuries caused by IPV...with upper extremity fractures prevailing. Minimally displaced phalanges [fingers] fractures were most common (9.9%-64%), and isolated ulnar [lower arm] fractures had significant relative risk of IPV association (8.5-12.8). Patients with multiple fractures of varying chronicity were more likely to be victims of IPV ...New findings in male victims included a higher proportion of lower extremity and pelvic fractures.”

Ni F, Zhou T, Wang L, Cai T.

Intimate partner violence in women with cancer: An integrative review.

Asia Pac J Oncol Nurs. 2024;11(9):100557. PMID: [39185078](#)

From a research review, “IPV was found to be prevalent in the range of 5.8%–54% among women with cancers such as cervical cancer. This prevalence is notably higher than that reported among men with cancer, which ranges from 2% to 15%...The well-being of female cancer patients is significantly affected by the dynamics of their intimate relationships. Therefore, it is recommended that healthcare professionals conduct assessments for IPV risk during medical appointments and ensure the provision of appropriate support services.”

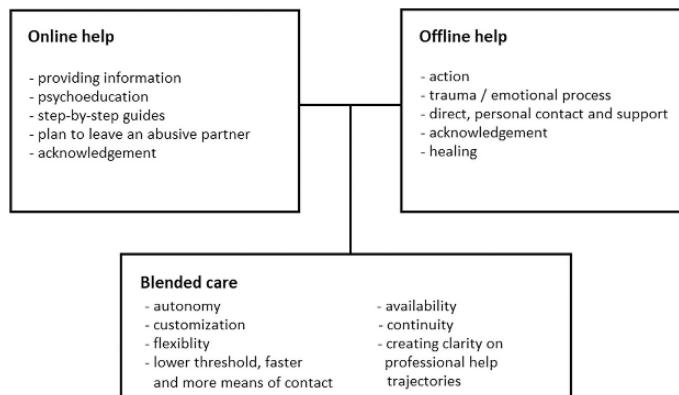
Domestic Violence – Mental Health

van Gelder N, Sow J, van Haalen D, et al.

Navigating Online and in-Person Support: Views and Experiences From Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse.

Violence Against Women. 2024:10778012241270223. PMID: [39114872](#)

Of 107 Dutch IPV survivors, from a survey and interviews, participants appreciated aspects of online and in-person support; 60% expressed interest in blended care. “Integration and optimization of online and blended care options can increase outreach and provide an enhanced, tailored help-seeking and recovery journey.”



Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Hancock DW, Haussner W, Chang EI, et al.

Elder Mistreatment Documentation by Prehospital Clinicians: An Analysis of the National Emergency Medical Services Information System Database.

Prehospital emergency care. 2024:1-10. PMID: [39212368](#)

“Out of 9,605,522 EMS encounters for patients aged ≥60, EM [elder mistreatment] was coded in 1,765 encounters (0.02%). Most EM cases were listed as the cause of injury (64%). Physical abuse was the most common type of mistreatment reported (20.8%), followed by sexual abuse (18.2%), neglect (9.7%), and psychological/emotional abuse (0.34%). The median age of patients with documented EM was 72, and 62.3% were female. The most common anatomic locations of injuries were the lower extremities, head, and upper extremities...Despite the high prevalence of EM, prehospital clinicians infrequently document EM in their encounters with older adults. Additional training and comprehensive protocols are needed to improve the identification and reporting of EM.”

Cimino-Fiallos N.

Elder abuse and neglect: making the diagnosis and devising a treatment plan in the emergency department.

Emergency medicine practice. 2024;26(9):1-20. PMID: [39173111](#)

“This review presents a systematic approach for emergency department diagnosis of elder abuse and neglect, including a thorough history and physical examination combined with the use of standardized validated screening tools. To better assess and treat victims of suspected abuse, physicians can also employ a multidisciplinary team or recruit available resources in the hospital and the community, such as case managers, social workers, and primary care providers to create safety plans for at-risk elders.”

Sexual Assault

Kaul A, Connell-Jones L, Paphitis SA, Oram S.

Prevalence and risk of sexual violence victimization among mental health service users: a systematic review and meta-analyses.

Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 2024;59(8):1285-97. PMID: [38570379](#)

From a research review, “Studies consistently showed a high prevalence of past year and adult lifetime sexual violence victimisation in psychiatric service users, with higher rates found in women than men, compared to controls. For example, the largest study found their sample of 936 psychiatric service users were over 17 times more likely to experience sexual violence than the 32,449 general population controls...Our findings justify the development of tailored interventions for survivors with psychiatric disorders.”

Human Trafficking

Speck PM, Sanchez RV, Montgomery AP, et al.

Labor trafficking of migrant registered nurses.

Nurs Outlook. 2024;72(5):102226. PMID: [39116650](#)

“Migrant RNs are visa workers, displaced, refugees, immigrants, or asylum seekers. Labor traffickers target vulnerable migrant RNs seeking employment outside their home country. Unlike ethical recruiters, traffickers lure migrant RNs into indentured contracts in work environments that result in health-threatening conditions, long shifts, and exorbitant fines that threaten families with financial retribution.”

Casassa K, England G, Karandikar S.

"It's Not Love, Baby Doll. It's Science": Experiences of Trauma Bonding Among Survivors of Sex Trafficking.

Violence Vict. 2024 Aug 26:VV-2023-0005.R1. PMID: [39187293](#)

“Trauma bonds between sex trafficking survivors and their traffickers or other perpetrators are one of the most complex and least understood concerns facing survivors.” From interviews with 19 female sex trafficking survivors, “survivors have experienced trauma bonds (a) as involuntary, (b) as having lingering power, and (c) as consisting of both love and hate. These findings contain significant implications for practice, policy, and future research.”

Helpingstine C, Kenny MC.

Working With Youth Who Have Experienced Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Voices From the Field.

Violence Vict. 2024 Aug 12:VV-2022-0195.R1. PMID: [39134402](#)

Twelve service providers shared their experiences working with youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), including the challenges posed by working with this population, the breadth of necessary services and the type of support that is needed, the importance of being prepared to work with this population and learn from those with lived experience, the complexity of cases, and the difficulty engaging youth who had experienced CSE.

LGBTQ Concerns

Raney JH, Weinstein S, Testa A, et al.

Sexual identity is associated with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in US early adolescents.

Acad Pediatr. 2024 Aug 10:S1876-2859(24)00290-0. PMID: [39134208](#)

From a large national survey of adolescents aged 10-14 years, “LGB adolescents had higher risk of experiencing 2, 3, or ≥4 ACEs (2 ACEs Relative Risk Ratios [RRR] =1.57, 3 ACEs RRR=1.78, or ≥4 ACEs RRR=3.20), and not sure adolescents had a higher risk of having ≥4 ACEs (RRR=2.17), compared to heterosexual adolescents. LGB and not sure adolescents had higher risks of reporting emotional abuse (“yes” odds ratio =4.21, “maybe” OR=6.20) and parent mental illness (“yes” OR=1.95, “maybe” OR=1.63) compared to heterosexual adolescents...Recognizing this heightened risk of ACEs in early adolescence is critical for designing clinic and school-based interventions.”

Madzoska M, Lawrence D, Higgins DJ, et al.
Child Maltreatment, Mental Health Disorders, and Health Risk Behaviors in People With Diverse Gender Identities.
J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241270077. PMID: [39152737](#)

From a national Australian study, people with diverse gender identities who experienced child maltreatment were significantly more likely to have generalized anxiety disorder (43.3% vs. cisgender men 13.8% and cisgender women 17.4%). Similarly, higher prevalence was found for PTSD (21.3%), self-harm (27.8%) and suicide attempt (7.2%) for people with diverse gender identities.

Whitton SW, Swann G, Newcomb ME.
Common and Unique Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Violence Victimization Among Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals Assigned Female at Birth.

Violence Vict. 2024;39(3):277-94. PMID: [39107073](#)
Of 367 sexual and gender minority youth assigned female at birth (SGM-AFAB) aged 16-31 years, "some traditional risk factors, including child abuse, depression, cannabis use, and low social support, raise IPVV [intimate partner violence victimization] risk among SGM-AFAB youth. Microaggressions and internalized stigma represent additional, unique IPVV risk factors in this population. SGM-affirmative efforts to prevent IPVV should address these common and SGM-specific risk factors."

Race/Cultural Concerns

Qian J, Wolfson C, Kramer B, Creanga AA.
Insights from preventability assessments across 42 state and city maternal mortality reviews in the United States.
Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2024 Aug 26;S0002-9378(24)00870-6. PMID: [39197563](#)

Preventability was analyzed among all deaths during pregnancy or within 1 year postpartum from any cause (pregnancy-associated deaths) and deaths during pregnancy or within 1 year postpartum from causes related to pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental causes...Of deaths that occurred after 2010, between 53% to 93.8% of pregnancy-associated deaths and 45% to 100% of pregnancy-related deaths were deemed preventable across the 42 states and cities...While collectively patient-family and provider factors were most frequently noted as contributing to pregnancy-related deaths...racism or discrimination were noted in relation to 37.7% of pregnancy-related deaths.

Reeder-Hayes KE, Jackson BE, Kuo TM, et al.
Structural Racism and Treatment Delay Among Black and White Patients With Breast Cancer.
J Clin Oncol. 2024;Jco2302483. PMID: [39106434](#)

Authors developed a multidimensional county-level structural racism measure (SRCI = structural racism composite index). Of 32,095 individuals from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry with stage I to III breast cancer diagnosed between 2004 and 2017, "For Black patients, a 10-unit increase in SRCI score was associated with increased odds of delay (Adjusted odds ratios [aOR], 1.25). No such association was found for White patients...Treatment delay was defined as a time to treatment >60 days, a threshold chosen for its known association with decrements in cancer outcomes."

Ruben MA, Stosic MD.
Documenting Race and Gender Biases in Pain Assessment and a Novel Intervention Designed to Reduce Biases.
J Pain. 2024;25(9):104550. PMID: [38692397](#)

"This article demonstrates the underestimation of pain among people of color and women. We also found support that a novel intervention reduced observers' pain assessment biases toward marginalized groups. This could be used in medical education or clinical care to reduce intersectional pain care disparities." The intervention was focused on behavioral skill building (ie, practice and immediate feedback) for each pain assessment.

Ghanem N, Goldberg DG, Granger E, Warren JR, Gimm G.
A critical qualitative study to understand current black women medical student perspectives on anti-racist reform in US medical education.
Med Educ Online. 2024;29(1):2393436. PMID: [39164948](#)

From interviews with US Black women medical students, "The interviews revealed critical limitations in the teaching of race, racism, and racial disparities, including a lack of historical depth, continuity, and evaluation of this content; lack of actionable guidance to address racial disparities in clinical practice; and dissonance between emerging anti-racist content and national licensing examinations. The qualitative data yielded several anti-racist strategies and practices that can be implemented in US medical schools to redress historical curriculum limitations and better prepare future generations of physicians to care for marginalized populations."

Davis S, Jester M, Yoder CM, et al.

Introducing the "Nursing Education Integrating Social Change for Health Equity (NISCHÉ)" framework for nursing education.

Nurs Outlook. 2024;72(5):102263. PMID: [39167995](#)

"This paper provides nurse educators with a unifying curriculum framework that centers racism as a root cause of health inequity shaping structural determinants of health."

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| <p style="text-align: center;">SSDH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Stability• Education Access and Quality• Healthcare Access and Quality• Neighborhood and Built Environment• Social and Community Context |
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Jones MN, Elliott K, Sherman SN, et al.

"Racism happens every day, all the time": Black families' outpatient experiences of racism across a large pediatric system.

Acad Pediatr. 2024 Aug 25:S1876-2859(24)00329-2. PMID: [39191371](#)

From focus groups with parents or guardians of Black children, recruited from academic primary care offices at a single pediatric institution, "Black families have had many poor pediatric experiences, perceive racism as affecting child health broadly across socioecological levels, and recommend a multidimensional antiracist approach to improvement. Our findings underscore the importance of elevating Black family voices in developing policies that prioritize antiracism."

Perpetrators

Hunt GR, Mathews B, Higgins DJ, et al.

The prevalence of child sexual abuse perpetrated by leaders or other adults in religious organizations in Australia.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024:106946. PMID: [39103255](#)

From a national Australian survey, 1 in 250 people reported being sexually abused as a child by an adult in a religious organization (0.4 %). Men reported significantly higher rates of child sexual abuse by these perpetrators (0.8 %), compared to women (0.1 %). This type of sexual abuse was overwhelmingly perpetrated by men compared to women, and was substantially more often experienced in Catholic organizations (71.9 %) than other Christian denominations or other religions. Prevalence of child sexual abuse in religious organizations has declined over time (2.2 % of men 65 years and older, compared with 0.2 % of 16-24-year-old men).

Dalve K, Ellyson AM, Bowen D, et al.

Violent deaths among individuals subject to domestic violence protection orders in King County, Washington, USA, 2014-2020.

Inj Prev. 2024 Jul 31:ip-2023-045189. PMID: [39084700](#)

Of 3543 respondents subject to domestic violence restraining orders 2014-2020 in one Washington State county, there were 66 deaths; 25.8% were violent deaths, and 52.9% of violent deaths involved firearms. This was 3.71 times higher mortality from violent deaths compared to other King County residents. Authors note the DVRO process may identify those who could benefit from services to address risk factors.

Police and Court Systems

Wieberneit M, Thal S, Clare J, Notebaert L, Tubex H.

Silenced Survivors: A Systematic Review of the Barriers to Reporting, Investigating, Prosecuting, and Sentencing of Adult Female Rape and Sexual Assault.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024:15248380241261404. PMID: [39077946](#)

From a research review of experiences of adult female sexual assault survivors, "Identified barriers were most prevalent to reporting, followed by investigating, prosecuting, and, lastly, sentencing...Overarching themes across all barriers and specifically the reporting stage might be summarized under lack of trust in the criminal justice system (e.g., fear of not being believed, fear of experiencing mistreatment by law enforcement, legal professionals, or other components of the justice system, and lack of legal accountability for the perpetrator by criminal justice system), internal reactions (e.g., self-blame, shame, and/or guilt, and fear) rape myths and societal norms (e.g., minimization and/or denial of the experience, intoxication at the time of offense, and pre-existing bias that women use false complaints to seek attention and/or revenge), and perpetrator characteristics (e.g., social status of perpetrator, perpetrator's credibility deemed higher than victim's credibility, and perpetrator being current partner or ex-partner). These overarching themes and barriers portray a complex decision-making process wherein survivors carefully consider various societal, contextual, interpersonal, and intrapersonal factors before deciding whether to report...The identified barriers emphasize an urgent need for reform of the criminal justice system's response to sexual assault and rape."

Goodman-Williams R, Volz J, Smith S.

Do Concerns About Police Reporting Vary by Assault Characteristics? Understanding the Nonreporting Decisions of Sexual Assault Victims Who Utilize Alternative Reporting Options.

J Forensic Nurs. 2024;20(3):151-9. PMID: [38198517](#)

For 296 patients who experienced sexual assault and had a sexual assault evidence kit selected, but opted not to report the assault to police, reasons reported “included lacking information about the assault, fear of harm/retaliation, and self-blame/minimization. Physical force, drug/alcohol consumption, and victim-offender relationship were related to patients referencing lacking information and fearing harm/retaliation as reasons for not reporting...Being aware of these relationships may help forensic nurses provide patient-centered services and anticipatory guidance.”

Wengloski CE, Cleary HMD.

Help-Seeking from Victim Services, Personal Networks, and Reporting to Police: Stalking Victim Behaviors from the 2019 NCVS Supplemental Victimization Survey.

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241268773. PMID: [39099178](#)

“Victims who knew their offenders (intimate or non-intimate) were more likely than victims of stranger stalking to seek help from victim-serving agencies and personal networks. Younger victims were more likely to seek help from personal networks. None of the variables we examined predicted reporting to police. This study shows the characteristics of stalking victims have stayed consistent over time but highlights an ongoing need for resources for victims of stranger stalking, who may not know about or be able to access stalking services that are offered by intimate partner violence agencies.”

Summers A, Gatowski SI.

A Multimethod Exploration of the COVID-Era Transition to Virtual Hearings in Child Welfare Court Cases.

Child Maltreat. 2024 Aug;29(3):440-450. PMID: [38319043](#)

“From a four-state court observation study conducted pre and post emergence of the pandemic, as well as from a national survey of court professionals and a survey of parents, we reflect on the experiences of courts and court participants with virtual hearings in child welfare cases. Findings indicate that despite stakeholder perceptions, there is little difference in the quality of hearings with respect to judicial engagement and discussion. Differences were found however, in the attendance of fathers and relatives at hearings, with less fathers and relatives attending virtual hearings. Parents had mixed experiences with the virtual hearing process.

Professionals noted challenges, as well as strategies for overcoming challenges, to engage parents and ensure their access to virtual hearings.”

Providers

Quas JA.

Improving Outcomes for Vulnerable Children and Families: Applying what We Learned About the COVID-19 Pandemic and Child Maltreatment.

Child Maltreat. 2024;29(3):516-8. PMID: [38715368](#)

“One theme that emerged across these studies concerned challenges faced by professionals as they attempted to evaluate families and provide service and support. Organizational leadership was crucial in helping these professionals navigate challenges in a positive and productive manner. A second theme concerned remote service delivery. Findings suggested that remote maltreatment assessments, treatment, and court procedures all worked to some degree. Thus, despite the massive social disruption caused by the pandemic and lockdowns, parents, professionals, and systems were able to adapt and address core needs of children and families. In future work, it may be important to consider how these findings and their implications vary depending on the type of maltreatment children experienced.”

Stover CS, Holland ML, Martin E, et al.

Comparing in Person to Telehealth Delivery of a Family Violence Intervention.

Clin Psychol Psychother. 2024;31(4):e3034. PMID: [39089327](#)

Evaluating a Fathers for Change (F4C) intervention which was delivered in person pre-pandemic and then via telehealth, “There were few differences in completion rates or outcomes based on in-person compared to telehealth delivery. Fathers were slightly more likely to complete treatment and attended a significantly higher percentage of their sessions when it was delivered by telehealth during COVID. Fathers reported significantly lower stress scores posttreatment when they received COVID telehealth delivery compared to prior to COVID in-person delivery of F4C. These findings suggest that telehealth may be an appropriate and viable option for the delivery of IPV interventions for families.”

Goslin MC, Epstein C.

Telehealth Delivery of the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention is Associated With Reduced Posttraumatic Stress in Children and Caregivers.

Child Maltreat. 2024 Aug;29(3):430-439. PMID: [38379207](#)

“The Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention is a brief (5-8 session), evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health treatment developed for implementation with children and caregivers in the early phase of the trauma response...9 agencies that provided CFTSI via telehealth in 2020 and 2021...revealed significant reductions in child and caregiver posttraumatic stress symptoms. Effect sizes were large and consistent with or stronger than prior studies of CFTSI implemented in person. Preliminary findings also indicated high levels of caregiver satisfaction.”

Baker M, Berens KA, Giesbrecht CJ, et al.

"Locked in a Jail Cell in Your Own Home": Child Maltreatment Investigators' Perspectives of COVID-19's Effects on Maltreated Children.

Child Maltreat. 2024 Aug;29(3):415-429. PMID: [38086535](#)

Focus groups with 16 Canadian child maltreatment investigators, “resulted in five primary themes regarding maltreatment investigators' perceptions of the pandemic's effects on children, including child maltreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, increased exposure to violent and traumatic events, stress and challenges faced by families, reduced access to services, and challenges and delays with maltreatment investigations. Child maltreatment investigators perceived that the pandemic profoundly impacted maltreated children and their families. It is critical to ensure children and parents have access to services during future emergencies.”

Lenert L, Rheingold AA, Simpson KN, et al.

Electronic Health Record-Based Screening for Intimate Partner Violence: A Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial.

JAMA network open. 2024;7(8):e2425070. PMID: [39088215](#)

For 8895 adults patients, mean age 34.6 years, seen at 15 family medicine primary care clinics in Charleston South Carolina, using “A noninterruptive EHR alert combined with confidential screening by computer questionnaire using the EHR platform followed by risk assessment and a decision support template...increased the rate of IPV screening from 45.2% (10 268 of 22 730 patient visits) to 65.3% (22 303 of 34 157 patient visits). The confidential screening process was more effective than baseline nurse-led oral screening at identifying patients reporting past-year IPV (130 of 8895 patients [1.5%] vs 9 of 17 433 patients [0.1%])...A highly private approach to screening for IPV in primary care may

be necessary to achieve adequate detection rates while addressing potential safety issues of patients experiencing IPV.”

Perkins E, Blair EW, Allen DE, et al.

Updates to American Psychiatric Nurses Association: Seclusion and Restraint Position Statement and Standards of Practice.

J Am Psychiatr Nurses Assoc. 2024;30(4):805-9. PMID: [37382297](#)

Review of current literature guided a Task Force to make updates to a position statement on the use of seclusion and restraints. “Core to psychiatric-mental health nursing is providing care in an environment that is safe, person-centered, respectful and noncoercive, in tandem with implementing the best available evidence-based practices. This foundation guides the APNA's position to continue to articulate psychiatric-mental health nursing's goal to prevent and reduce, with the aspiration of altogether eliminating, seclusion and restraint.”

Prevention

Wortham W, Sullivan KS, Ancharski K, et al.

Reducing risk factors for child maltreatment: The Parenting-STAIR open pilot study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106942. PMID: [39079321](#)

The novel intervention, Parenting-STAIR (P-STAIR), seeks to address maternal mental health and parenting skills in order to reduce punitive parenting behaviors...P-STAIR was administered to 112 child welfare-involved mothers in New York City ...Among the 71 mothers who completed treatment, “significant improvements...were observed for nonviolent discipline, psychological aggression, expectations, empathy, and parent-child family roles.”

Platt C, Hunsley J, Platt B, Morrison H, Pace T, Gephart S.

Effects of a behavioral intervention with foster families.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;155:106984. PMID: [39126881](#)

“95 currently fostering families across the US, participated in a 4-week, online, self-paced, behavioral intervention with an emphasis on the relationship between children residing in the home...Providing families the sibling-inclusive intervention caused an increase in positive indicators of sibling relationship and overall family hardiness. Researchers should consider the implications of supporting foster siblings and the affects their inclusion may have on outcomes for children in foster care.”

Barata PC, Samardzic T, Eliasziw M, et al.
A Successful Sexual Assault Resistance Program Also Reduced Intimate Partner Violence.
J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241270057. PMID: [39183675](#)

For 153 college women who completed the the Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, Act (EAAA) Sexual Assault Resistance program...effectively, the EAAA program significantly reduced the 1-year risk of IPV by 54.4%...the EAAA program is effective in reducing the risk of IPV and highlights the generalizability of programming that targets the foundational underpinning of multiple forms of gender-based violence.”

Newman EF, Efthymiadou E, Quayle E, et al.
The Impact of a Public Health Campaign to Deter Viewing of Child Sexual Abuse Images Online: A Case Study of the UK Stop It Now! Campaign.
Sex Abuse. 2024;36(6):635-61. PMID: [37837444](#)

“This paper explores the impact of The Lucy Faithfull Foundation's 'Stop It Now!' campaign in the UK (2015-2018) on help-seeking...there were more visitors to the help website during active campaigning periods, and helpline callers and website visitors were more likely to seek help after viewing campaign materials...Help-seekers were predominantly men concerned about their own behavior...their awareness of the law (75.5%), and legal and personal consequences (67.9%) had changed after hearing about the campaign, and 66% reported a change in behavior. Public health campaigns may be an effective way to promote help-seeking and prevent abuse.”

Researchers

Rajan S, Buttar N, Ladhani Z, et al.
School Violence Exposure as an Adverse Childhood Experience: Protocol for a Nationwide Study of Secondary Public Schools.

JMIR research protocols. 2024;13:e56249. PMID: [39196631](#)
“Exposure to school violence, specifically intentional gun violence, is an increasingly prevalent ACE. The anticipation of school shootings has led to the implementation of school safety and security interventions that may increase anxiety, depression, and other indicators of poor mental well-being among students and staff alike...Data collection is currently ongoing and the expected completion date is January 2025...Analyses will be used to evaluate the role of ACEs on the relationships among exposure to an intentional school shooting,

exposure to school safety strategies, and student outcomes (ie, mental health and well-being, perceptions of school safety, and educational outcomes).”

Other of Interest

Lennon T, Kemal S, Heffernan ME, et al.
Childhood Exposure to Firearm Violence in Chicago and Its Impact on Mental Health.
Acad Pediatr. 2024;24(6):982-6. PMID: [38101617](#)

Data were collected in May-July 2022 from 989 parents with children aged 2-17 years from all 77 Chicago neighborhoods. “Firearm violence exposure was characterized as indirect (hearing gunshots or knowing someone who was shot) or direct (witnessing a shooting, being threatened with a firearm, being shot at but not injured, or being shot and injured)...More than one third (37%) of children were exposed to firearm violence with an indirect exposure prevalence of 32% and a direct exposure prevalence of 10%. Mental health symptoms associated with firearm violence exposure were reported for 20% of children...7% of children without firearm violence exposure compared to 31% with indirect exposure (adjusted odds ratio 6.2) and 68% with direct exposure (aOR 36.1)...Trauma informed care approaches to mitigate the negative mental health effects of both direct and indirect firearm violence exposure are critical.”

Testa A, Fu K, Jackson DB, Semenza DC, McKay S.
Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult Household Firearm Ownership.
JAMA network open. 2024;7(8):e2428027. PMID: [39145981](#)

From a Nevada random digit phone survey with a 40.2% response rate, among the 1709 adults (50.9% males, mean age 48.5 years), 42.4% reported household firearm ownership. Household firearm ownership was lowest among respondents with 0 ACEs (30.8%) and highest among those with 4 or more ACEs (49.8%). “The relationship may be due to a heightened sense of vulnerability to physical violence and greater perceived threats to personal safety associated with a traumatic childhood, which lead individuals to seek self-protection. Furthermore, exposure to violence and instability in childhood may normalize the presence and use of weapons, making firearm ownership a more acceptable and familiar choice later in life. Still, having a firearm in the home is a known risk factor for suicide, homicide, and unintentional injury.”