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Child Abuse

Ben Natan M.

Child sexual abuse: a review of the recent literature.

Minerva Pediatr. 2015 Feb;67(1):91-7. PMID: [25243505](#)

Summary of recent scientific literature on child sexual abuse with recommendations and implications for practice and research.

Allareddy V, Asad R, Lee MK, et. al.

Hospital based emergency department visits attributed to child physical abuse in United States: predictors of in-hospital mortality.

PLoS One. 2014 Jun 11;9(2):e100110. PMID: [24919088](#)

In a review of 16,897 emergency department visits from a national database, of those attributed to child physical abuse, 30.7% required hospitalization. Male or female partner of the child's parent/guardian accounted for >45% of perpetrators. Predictors of mortality included younger age (1.9 years vs. 6.4 years not hospitalized), females, and intracranial or crushing/internal injuries.

Gao W, Lu C, Kochanek PM, Berger RP.

Serum amyloid A is increased in children with abusive head trauma: a gel-based proteomic analysis.

Pediatr Res. 2014 Sep;76(3):280-6. PMID: [24941216](#)

In comparing serum protein profiles of children with mild abusive head trauma (AHT) and age-matched controls, "serum amyloid A (SAA) may be a potential biomarker to identify children with mild AHT who present for medical care without a history of trauma and who might otherwise not be recognized as needing a head computed tomography."

Choudhary AK, Ishak R, Zacharia TT, Dias MS.

Imaging of spinal injury in abusive head trauma: a retrospective study.

Pediatr Radiol. 2014 Sep;44(9):1130-40. PMID: [24687620](#)

Of 183 children who underwent a spinal MRI, cervical (neck) spinal ligament and soft-tissue abnormalities were found in 78% of the abusive head trauma group, 46% of accidental trauma group, and 1% of non-trauma group.

O'Neill BR, Handler MH, Tong S, Chapman KE.

Incidence of seizures on continuous EEG monitoring following traumatic brain injury in children.

J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2015 Aug;16(2):167-76. PMID: [25955809](#)

Of 144 children admitted with traumatic brain injury and who underwent EEG [brain waves] monitoring, 93% had evidence of subclinical seizures [seizures on EEG but without outward signs]. Children less than 2.4 years were 8.7 times more likely to experience subclinical seizures, and those with abusive head trauma were 6.0 times more likely.

Peltonen K, Ellonen N, Pösö T, Lucas S.

Mothers' self-reported violence toward their children: a multifaceted risk analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Dec;38(12):1923-33. PMID: [25459986](#)

For 2716 Finnish mothers, risk factors for committing severe violent acts against their children included corporal punishment experienced by the mother as a child (2.45 times increased odds), or used by the mother as a method of discipline (11.14), family-related stress (1.83) and lack of help in dealing with parenting problems (2.55).

Rajindrajith S, Devanarayana NM, Rajapakshe NN, et. al.

Do traumatic life events predispose children to develop constipation?

J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2015 Oct;61(4):513-4. PMID: [26439552](#)

For 1792 Sri Lankan children (54.4% males, mean age 14.4 years) using validated testing, 7.7% qualified as having functional constipation (FC). Prevalence of FC was significantly higher in those exposed to traumatic life events compared to controls (53.6% vs.32.9%, p<0.0001).

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Monnat SM, Chandler RF.

Long Term Physical Health Consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Sociol Q. 2015 Sep;56(4):723-752. PMID: [26500379](#)

Using a database of 52,250 US adults 2009-2012, after controlling for socioeconomic status and adult mental health, various adverse childhood experiences were associated with increased risk of poor self-rated health, functional limitations, diabetes, and heart attack. Importantly, childhood emotional abuse was at least as important a risk factor as physical abuse, and authors state “the results of this study suggest that screening for verbal abuse should also be a priority.”

McCarthy-Jones S, McCarthy-Jones R.

Body mass index and anxiety/depression as mediators of the effects of child sexual and physical abuse on physical health disorders in women.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Dec;38(12):2007-20. PMID: [25459987](#)

From a large US survey, “Compared to women with no childhood sexual abuse (CSA), women who had experienced CSA involving intercourse had more than twice the odds of being obese, more than 3 times the odds of experiencing mental health disorders, more than 4 times the odds of being alcohol dependent, more than 5 times the odds of being drug dependent, and more than 6 times the odds of attempting suicide.” Anxiety/depression accounted for a portion of these findings.

Barrios YV, Gelaye B, Zhong Q, et. al.

Association of childhood physical and sexual abuse with intimate partner violence, poor general health and depressive symptoms among pregnant women.

PLoS One. 2015 Jan 30;10(1):e0116609. PMID: [25635902](#)

For 1521 Peruvian pregnant women, “Any childhood abuse was associated with 2.2-fold increased odds of lifetime IPV...those who reported both childhood physical and sexual abuse had a 7.14-fold lifetime and 3.33 fold past year risk of physical and sexual IPV.” Childhood abuse was also associated with a 2.07 times increased risk of depression during pregnancy.

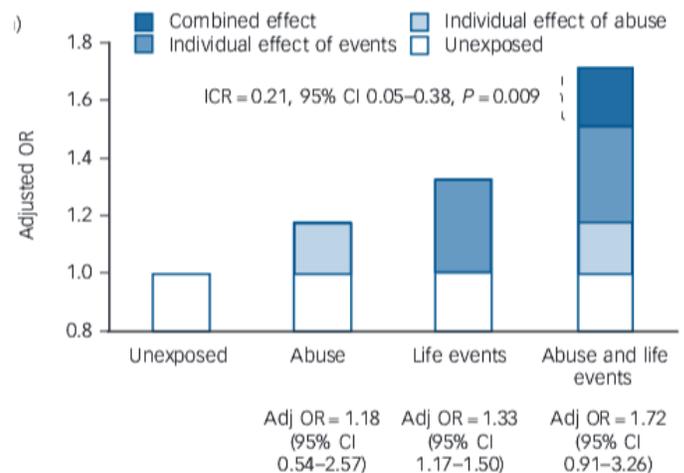
Morgan C, Reininghaus U, Reichenberg A, et. al.

Adversity, cannabis use and psychotic experiences: evidence of cumulative and synergistic effects.

Br J Psychiatry. 2014;204:346-53. PMID: [24627297](#)

Using data from 1680 East London adults, and after controlling for many variables, “childhood abuse creates an enduring vulnerability to psychosis [loss of touch with reality] that is realized in the event of exposure to further stressors and risk factors”.

Graph shows the odds (OR = odds ratio) of having experienced a psychotic event with no abuse, a history of abuse, a difficult life event, and the synergistic [additive effect] of abuse and a life event.



Taha F, Galea S, Hien D, Goodwin RD.

Childhood maltreatment and the persistence of smoking: a longitudinal study among adults in the US.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Dec;38(12):1995-2006. PMID: [25466425](#)

From a large national survey of adults, and after adjusting for multiple variables, “Childhood emotional, physical, and severe physical maltreatment were associated with increased odds of ever smoking, smoking daily, and persistent smoking.”

Borsini A, Hepgul N, Mondelli V, Chalder T, Pariante CM.

Childhood stressors in the development of fatigue syndromes: a review of the past 20 years of research.

Psychol Med. 2014 Jul;44(9):1809-23. PMID: [24093427](#)

Exposure to childhood stressors increased the risk of subsequent chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia 2-3 fold. Childhood stressors have been shown to induce persistent changes in the function of biological systems potentially relevant, such as the inflammatory system and the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal [stress] axis.

Hoertel N, Franco S, Wall MM, et. al.

Childhood maltreatment and risk of suicide attempt: a nationally representative study.

J Clin Psychiatry. 2015 Jul;76(7):916-23; quiz 923. PMID: [26231006](#)

From a large national survey of adults, childhood maltreatment was associated with increased risk for attempting suicide and an earlier age at first attempt, independent of mood disorders.

Vaillancourt-Morel MP, Godbout N, Labadie C, et. al.

Avoidant and compulsive sexual behaviors in male and female survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2015 Feb;40:48-59. PMID: [25435106](#)

From an online computerized questionnaire of 686 Canadian adults currently involved in a close relationship, 20% of women and 19% of men had experienced childhood sexual abuse (CSA). "CSA was associated with more sexual avoidance and sexual compulsivity, which, in turn, predicted lower couple adjustment."

Adolescents

Mansbach-Kleinfeld I, Ifrah A, Apter A, Farbstein I.

Child sexual abuse as reported by Israeli adolescents: social and health related correlates.

Child Abuse Negl. 2015 Feb;40:68-80. PMID: [25542832](#)

In a study of 906 Israeli adolescents interviewed in 2004-5, 3.3% reported childhood sexual abuse (CSA). After controlling for gender and depression, CSA was associated with adolescent suicidality, stomachache, dizziness, sleep problems and bullying behaviors.

Howell KH, Miller-Graff LE.

Protective factors associated with resilient functioning in young adulthood after childhood exposure to violence.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Dec;38(12):1985-94. PMID: [25459988](#)

For 321 college students who had experienced childhood violence, higher resilience was associated with greater spirituality, greater emotional intelligence, and support from friends (but not from family).

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Schiff M, Plotnikova M, Dingle K, et. al.

Does adolescent's exposure to parental intimate partner conflict and violence predict psychological distress and substance use in young adulthood? A longitudinal study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Dec;38(12):1945-54. PMID: [25082429](#)

Using 21-year follow-up from a large Australian study, young adults who had grown up in a home with IPV were more likely to manifest anxiety, depression, nicotine, alcohol and cannabis disorders.

Devanarayana NM, Rajindrajith S, Benninga MA.

The association between adverse life events and abdominal pain-predominant functional gastrointestinal disorders.

J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2015 Oct;61(4):517-8. PMID: [26439561](#)

For 1792 Sri Lankan children (54.4% males, mean age 14.4 years) using validated testing, 17.0% qualified as having a pain-predominant functional gastrointestinal disorder. Adverse life events which were significantly associated with this disorder were parental substance abuse and domestic violence in the home.

Waldman-Levi A, Bundy A, Katz N.

Playfulness and Interaction: An Exploratory Study of Past and Current Exposure to Domestic Violence.

OTJR (Thorofare N J).

2015 Apr;35(2):89-94. PMID: [26460471](#)

Of 36 mother-child pairs residing in a family crisis shelter due to serious IPV, children of mothers with PTSD or mothers who had themselves experienced childhood maltreatment were less playful and had poorer interactions with their children.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Flanagan JC, Jaquier V, Overstreet N, Swan SC, Sullivan TP.

The mediating role of avoidance coping between intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization, mental health, and substance abuse among women experiencing bidirectional IPV.

Psychiatry Res. 2014 Dec 15;220(1-2):391-6. PMID: [25174851](#)

For 362 women experiencing bidirectional IPV, symptoms of depression, PTSD and substance abuse were all exacerbated when women used avoidance coping [escape or withdrawal to avoid dealing with a stressor].

LaMotte AD, Taft CT, Reardon AF, Miller MW.

Agreement between veteran and partner reports of intimate partner aggression.

Psychol Assess. 2014 Dec;26(4):1369-74. PMID: [25265413](#)
Veterans and their partners had low to moderate levels of agreement on intimate partner aggression (IPA), and PTSD was a factor – veterans with PTSD reported less IPA, and partners with PTSD reported more.

Weiss NH, Dixon-Gordon KL, Duke AA, Sullivan TP.

The underlying role of posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms in the association between intimate partner violence and deliberate self-harm among African American women.

Compr Psychiatry. 2015 May;59:8-16. PMID: [25752736](#)
For 197 African American community women currently experiencing IPV, 31% reported a history of deliberate self-harm. PTSD symptom severity was an important factor in the relationship between IPV severity and self-harm history and versatility.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Peterson JC, Burnes DP, Caccamise PL, et. al.

Financial exploitation of older adults: a population-based prevalence study.

J Gen Intern Med. 2014 Dec;29(12):1615-23. PMID: [25103121](#)
Using data from 4156 community-dwelling, cognitively intact New York elders, lifetime prevalence of financial exploitation was 4.7%. Risk factors included African American race, poverty, increasing number of non-spousal household members and having ≥ 1 impairment in activities of daily living.

Roepke-Buehler SK, Simon M, Dong X.

Association Between Depressive Symptoms, Multiple Dimensions of Depression, and Elder Abuse: A Cross-Sectional, Population-Based Analysis of Older Adults in Urban Chicago.

J Aging Health. 2015 Sep;27(6):1003-25. PMID: [25804901](#)
In a large study of Chicago elders, “participants in the highest tertile of depressive symptoms were twice as likely to have confirmed abuse with a perpetrator.”

Stankunas M, Soares JF, Viitasara E, et. al.

Factors associated with refraining from buying prescribed medications among older people in Europe.

Australas J Ageing. 2014 Dec;33(4):E25-30. PMID: [24521077](#)
From a survey of 4467 elders from seven European countries, elders experiencing abuse were 1.64 times more likely to refrain from buying needed prescribed medication.

Danesh MJ, Chang AL.

The role of the dermatologist in detecting elder abuse and neglect.

J Am Acad Dermatol. 2015 Aug;73(2):285-93. PMID: [25956658](#)
Screening and management of elder abuse with particular relevance to dermatologists.

Manthorpe J.

The abuse, neglect and mistreatment of older people with dementia in care homes and hospitals in England: the potential for secondary data analysis: innovative practice.

Dementia (London). 2015 Mar;14(2):273-9. PMID: [24962001](#)
Discussion of linking multiple sources of data in Britain to evaluate risk of maltreatment of elders with dementia.

Sexual Assault

Shevlin M, Hyland P, Elklit A.

Different profiles of acute stress disorder differentially predict posttraumatic stress disorder in a large sample of female victims of sexual trauma.

Psychol Assess. 2014 Dec;26(4):1155-61. PMID: [24978131](#)
For 1261 Danish female rape victims, degree of hyperarousal from acute distress (continuing fight/flight/freeze responses) was significantly predictive of subsequent development of PTSD.

Weiss NH, Tull MT, Gratz KL.

A preliminary experimental examination of the effect of emotion dysregulation and impulsivity on risky behaviors among women with sexual assault-related posttraumatic stress disorder.

Behav Modif. 2014 Nov;38(6):914-39. PMID: [25155301](#)
For 30 women with sexual assault-related PTSD, those who received emotion modulation or impulsivity reduction skills training, as opposed to health education, were significantly less likely to subsequently engage in substance use and risky sexual behaviors.

World Health Organization

Strengthening the Medico-Legal Response to Sexual Violence

Nov 2015

<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/medico-legal-response/en/>

Human Trafficking

Kiss L, Pocock NS, Naisanguansri V, et. al.

Health of men, women, and children in post-trafficking services in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam: an observational cross-sectional study.

Lancet Glob Health. 2015 Mar;3(3):e154-61. PMID: [25701993](#)

From interviews with 1102 men, women and children post-trafficking in multiple work sectors, 48% experienced physical or sexual violence or both, 70% worked 7 days per week, 30% worked at least 11 hours per day, 22% had had a serious injury at work, 61.2% reported symptoms of depression, 42.8% anxiety, and 38.9% PTSD. 5.2% had attempted suicide in the past month.

Hamenoo ES, Sottie CA.

Stories from Lake Volta: the lived experiences of trafficked children in Ghana.

Child Abuse Negl. 2015 Feb;40:103-12. PMID: [25015268](#)

Detailed narratives of children as victims of trafficking in fishing communities from the Volta region of Ghana, where they are often treated essentially as slaves, diving to disentangle fishing nets. They are subject to starvation, physical abuse, sexual abuse, lack of medical services or education, and many drown.

Katsanis SH, Kim J, Minear MA, et. al.

Preliminary perspectives on DNA collection in anti-human trafficking efforts.

Recent Adv DNA Gene Seq. 2014;8(2):78-90. PMID: [25687341](#)

“DNA testing may be useful for confirmation of biological relationship claims in immigration, identification of trafficked individuals who are missing persons, and family reunification of displaced individuals after mass disasters and conflicts...questions arise as to how to address the ethical challenges of collection, security, and privacy of collected samples.”

Ijadi-Maghsoodi R, Todd EJ, Bath EP.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children and the role of the child psychiatrist.

J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2014 Aug;53(8):825-9. PMID: [25062588](#)

Concise review of identification and management of sexually exploited children for child psychiatrists.

Cultural Issues

Sharp S.

Resisting religious coercive control.

Violence Against Women. 2014 Dec;20(12):1407-27. PMID: [25398370](#)

Abusive partners who use the Christian doctrine of submission as a means of religious coercive control can be resisted by victims who have more knowledge of a particular religious culture and have more “interpretive confidence” in interpreting doctrine.

Quelopana AM, Alcalde C.

Exploring knowledge, belief and experiences in sexual and reproductive health in immigrant Hispanic women.

J Immigr Minor Health. 2014 Oct;16(5):1001-6. PMID: [23475348](#)

From focus groups of Hispanic immigrant women who had previously experienced very restrictive knowledge about or discussion of sex, women felt more empowered to make their own decisions regarding reproductive health after receiving knowledge and “gender power” in the US.

Perpetrators

Smid WJ, Kamphuis JH, Wever EC, Van Beek DJ.

A comparison of the predictive properties of nine sex offender risk assessment instruments.

Psychol Assess. 2014 Sep;26(3):691-703. PMID: [24773035](#)

Analysis of the feasibility and utility of these instruments.

Crotty G, Doody O, Lyons R.

Aggressive behaviour and its prevalence within five typologies.

J Intellect Disabil. 2014 Mar;18(1):76-89. PMID: [24189373](#)

Review of available research on the prevalence in those with intellectual disabilities on the five main typologies of aggressive behavior: verbal aggression, aggression against property, self-aggression, sexual aggression and physical aggression against others.

Police and Court Systems

Evans S, Baylis S, Carabott R, et. al.

Guidelines for photography of cutaneous marks and injuries: a multi-professional perspective.

J Vis Commun Med. 2014 May;37(1-2):3-12. PMID: [24848573](#)

Guidelines for positioning the camera when taking pictures of skin "pattern" injuries as well as injury objects used, to avoid distortion and improve matching.

Williams S, Panacek E, Green W, et. al.

Recovery of salivary DNA from the skin after showering.

Forensic Sci Med Pathol. 2015 Mar;11(1):29-34. PMID: [25534825](#)

Male salivary Y-chromosome DNA can be found on a woman's skin even after showering by using certain collection and laboratory techniques.

Providers

Jonker IE, Sijbrandij M, van Luitelaar MJ, Cuijpers P, Wolf JR.

The effectiveness of interventions during and after residence in women's shelters: a meta-analysis.

Eur J Public Health. 2015 Feb;25(1):15-9. PMID: [25074976](#)

An analysis of available English language research "suggests that interventions provided during and after stay in a shelter are effective in improving mental health, abuse and social outcomes...future studies should compare different type of interventions and should evaluate cost-effectiveness."

Jonker IE, Jansen CC, Christians MG, Wolf JR.

Appropriate care for shelter-based abused women: concept mapping with Dutch clients and professionals.

Violence Against Women. 2014 Apr;20(4):465-80. PMID: [24686124](#)

From interviews with clients and professionals at Dutch women's shelters, the three most important factors in appropriate care were: "help with finding a safe house if necessary," "safety and suitable care for the children," and "a personalized, respectful approach."

Forsdike K, Tarzia L, Hindmarsh E, Hegarty K.

Family violence across the life cycle.

Aust Fam Physician. 2014 Nov;43(11):768-74. PMID: [25393462](#)

Concise and practical general review article for Family Practitioners about child, adult and elder abuse.

Center for Youth Wellness

CYW Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire and User Guide 2015

Describes how to administer and interpret the CYW ACE-Q for communication and potential treatment for the child and parent/caregiver(s).

<http://www.centerforyouthwellness.org/healthcare-professionals/>

Jedwab M, Benbenishty R, Chen W, et. al.

Child protection decisions to substantiate hospital child protection teams' reports of suspected maltreatment.

Child Abuse Negl. 2015 Feb;40:132-41. PMID: [25550100](#)

In this Israeli study of six medical centers, child protection officers substantiated 53.5% of reports made by hospital child protection teams. Authors emphasize the importance of cooperation and information transfer among professionals to reduce maltreatment recurrence.

Lee K, Devine A, Marco MJ, et. al.

Sexual and reproductive health services for women with disability.

BMC Womens Health. 2015 Oct 15;15(1):87. PMID: [26466892](#)

Providers may have limited awareness of the sexual and reproductive health needs of women with disability, or factors undermining health such as violence and abuse.

Howell EF.

Ferenczi's concept of identification with the aggressor: understanding dissociative structure with interacting victim and abuser self-states.

Am J Psychoanal. 2014 Mar;74(1):48-59. PMID: [24603172](#)

Psychoanalytic discussion of the mental state of an abuse victim.

Prevention

Klevens J, Barnett SB, Florence C, Moore D.

Exploring policies for the reduction of child physical abuse and neglect.

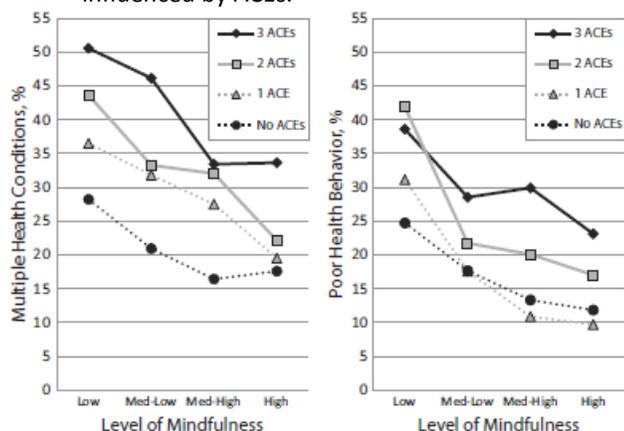
Child Abuse Negl. 2015 Feb;40:1-11. PMID: [25124051](#)

CDC evaluation of 37 state policies that might impact child maltreatment. After controlling for multiple variables two policies "were significantly associated with decreased child maltreatment rates: lack of waitlists to access subsidized child care and policies that facilitate continuity of child health care."

Whitaker RC, Dearth-Wesley T, Gooze RA, et. al.
Adverse childhood experiences, dispositional mindfulness, and adult health.

Prev Med. 2014 Oct;67:147-53. PMID: [25084563](#)

From an online survey of 2160 Pennsylvania Head Start staff, level of mindfulness decreased number of health conditions and poor health behaviors influenced by ACEs.



National Center for PTSD

Mobile App: Mindfulness Coach

Mindfulness app for those with a trauma history.
http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/materials/apps/mobileapp_mindfulness_coach.asp

Ghimire DJ, Axinn WG, Smith-Greenaway E.
Impact of the spread of mass education on married women's experience with domestic violence.

Soc Sci Res. 2015 Nov;54:319-31. PMID: [26463551](#)

From a large survey of Nepalese women, "women's childhood access to school, their parents' schooling, their own schooling, and their husbands' schooling are each associated with their lower likelihood of experiencing domestic violence...suggest that the proliferation of mass education will lead to a marked decline in domestic violence..."

Researchers

Taylor HA, Kuwana E, Wilfond BS.
The obligations to report statutory sexual abuse disclosed in a research study.

Am J Bioeth. 2014;14(10):50. PMID: [25229589](#)

Article presents a bioethics case of a conflict between research confidentiality and legal requirements. Three subsequent articles in this issue discuss the implications during research of certificates of confidentiality, the approach to informed consent, and the roles of researchers compared to clinicians.

Burge SK, Becho J, Ferrer RL, et. al.
Safely examining complex dynamics of intimate partner violence.

Fam Syst Health. 2014 Sep;32(3):259-70. PMID: [24911769](#)

Description of a study showing the feasibility and safety of using real-time daily data on IPV experiences. Only 2 out of 200 women were withdrawn from the study for safety reasons, and in post-participation interviews many participants reported increased safety they experienced as a result of participating in the study.

Other of Interest

Bombay A, Matheson K, Anisman H.
The intergenerational effects of Indian Residential Schools: implications for the concept of historical trauma.

Transcult Psychiatry. 2014 Jun;51(3):320-38. PMID: [24065606](#)

Review of research on the "intergenerational effects of the Indian Residential School (IRS) system in Canada, in which Aboriginal children were forced to live at schools where various forms of neglect and abuse were common...findings provide empirical support for the concept of historical trauma, which takes the perspective that the consequences of numerous and sustained attacks against a group may accumulate over generations and interact with proximal stressors to undermine collective well-being."

Rassenhofer M, Zimmer A, Spröber N, Fegert JM.
Child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in Germany: comparison of victim-impact data collected through church-sponsored and government-sponsored programs.

Child Abuse Negl. 2015 Feb;40:60-7. PMID: [25528952](#)

In 2010 the German government and the Roman Catholic Church each set up a critical incident reporting system (CIRS) to report child sexual abuse within the Church. Each reporting group had various characteristics. "In sum, there may have been different motivations on the part of victims to address themselves to one CIRS or the other...This finding suggests that to maximize the validity and acceptability of a complaint management system, the availability of different options may be beneficial."



