

# ABUSE RESEARCH

For archive and to sign up for distribution list:

<http://abuseresearch.info/>

Questions: Harise Stein, MD [harise@stanford.edu](mailto:harise@stanford.edu)

## Child Abuse

UNICEF

**A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents 2017**

[https://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_101397.html](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_101397.html)

Evans EM, Jennissen CA, Oral R, Denning GM.

**Child welfare professionals' determination of when children's access or potential access to loaded firearms constitutes child neglect.**

J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2017 Nov;83(5S Suppl 2):S210-S216. PMID: [28570346](#)

From surveys of 193 experts, "almost all child neglect experts considered potential and actual access to loaded firearms as child neglect...Universal Child Access Protection laws may help ensure that determinations of child neglect are more consistent across states."

Wolf JP, Ponicki WR, Kepple NJ, Gaidus A.

**Are community level prescription opioid overdoses associated with child harm? A spatial analysis of California zip codes, 2001-2011.**

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2016 Sep 1;166:202-8. PMID: [27496625](#)

"Our results suggest that prescription opioid overdoses are associated with both child maltreatment and child injury in California zip codes between the years 2001-2011."

Nelson CA 3rd.

**Hazards to Early Development: The Biological Embedding of Early Life Adversity.**

Neuron. 2017 Oct 11;96(2):262-266. PMID: [29024653](#)

Review of the impact of adverse experiences on the developing brain.

Pfeifer CM, Hammer MR, Mangona KL, Booth TN.

**Non-accidental trauma: the role of radiology.**

Emerg Radiol. 2017 Apr;24(2):207-213. PMID: [27832341](#)

Review of radiology uses and pitfalls in the assessment of non-accidental trauma, for pediatricians and emergency medicine providers.

Reitsema AM, Grietens H.

**Is Anybody Listening? The Literature on the Dialogical Process of Child Sexual Abuse Disclosure Reviewed.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2016 Jul;17(3):330-40. PMID: [25951841](#)

Review of how and to whom children disclose sexual abuse.

Allen B.

**Children with Sexual Behavior Problems: Clinical Characteristics and Relationship to Child Maltreatment.**

Child Psychiatry Hum Dev. 2017 Apr;48(2):189-199. PMID: [26923833](#)

"Children with sexual behavior problems (SBP) are a diverse population and often misunderstood by practitioners and academics." In this study, while a history of sexual abuse was more prevalent in children displaying SBP than those who did not (21.6% vs. 9.1%), physical abuse was the only form of abuse associated with children displaying interpersonal forms of SBP.

Kvist T, Cocozza M, Annerbäck EM, Dahllöf G.

**Child maltreatment - prevalence and characteristics of mandatory reports from dental professionals to the social services.**

Int J Paediatr Dent. 2017 Jan;27(1):3-10. PMID: [26992159](#)

From a review of Swedish dental mandatory reports, with the primary concerns of parental and dental neglect, 86% of dental reported children had already had prior contact with social services.

## Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Edalati H, Krank MD.

**Childhood Maltreatment and Development of Substance Use Disorders.**

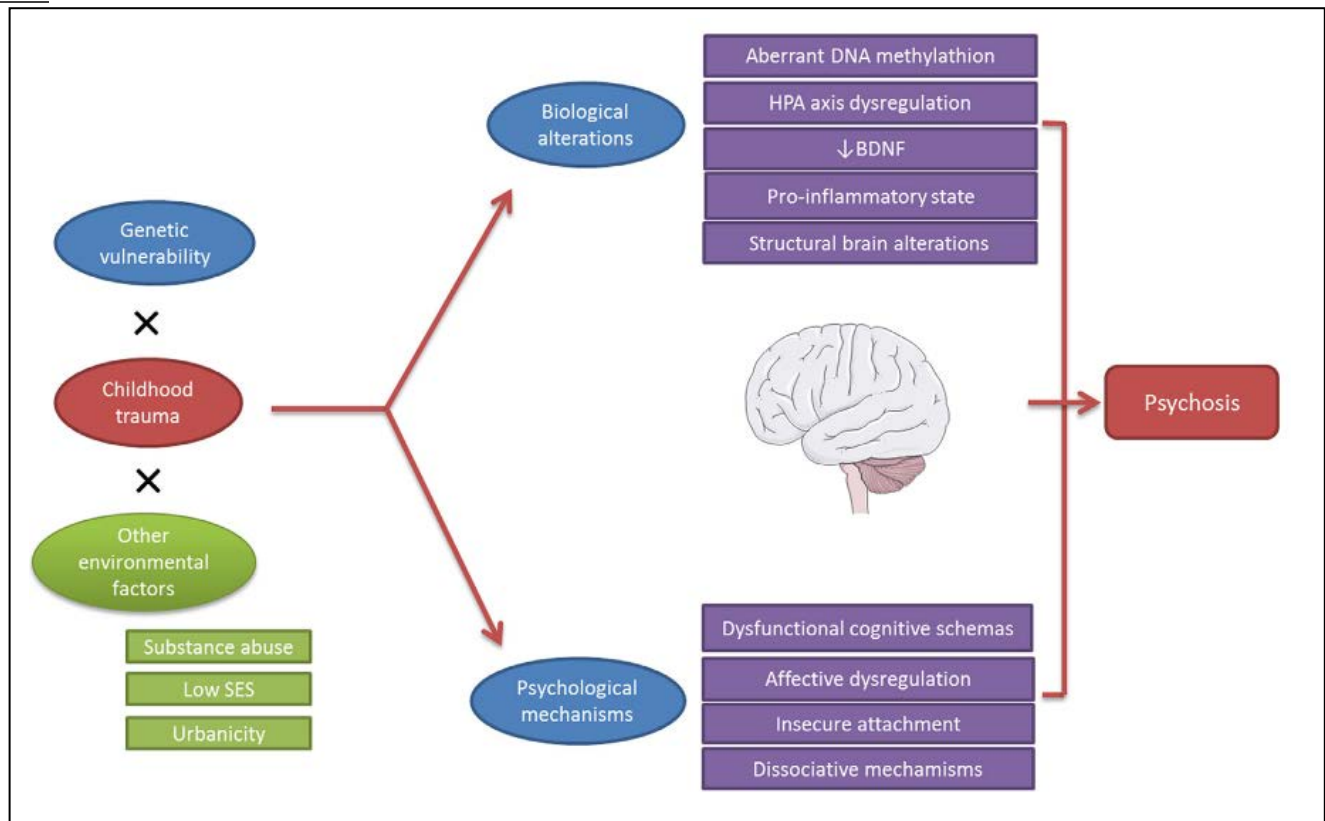
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2016 Dec;17(5):454-467. PMID: [25964275](#)

Discussion of how the cognitive impairments associated with childhood abuse (to intellectual performance, memory, attention, and executive function) increase vulnerability to substance use disorders.

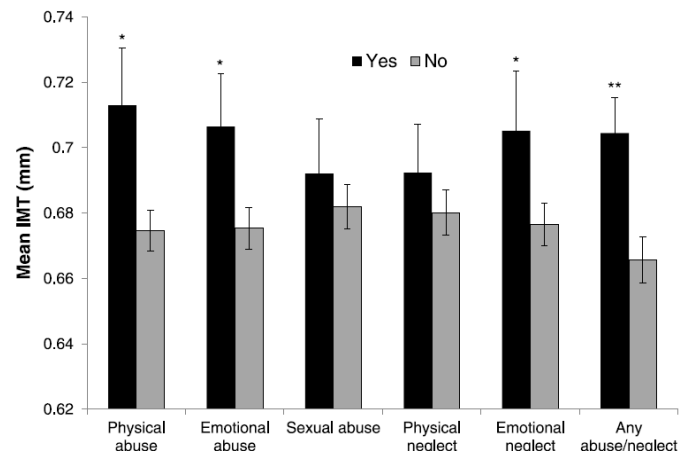
Quinn K, Boone L, Scheidell JD, et. al.  
**The relationships of childhood trauma and adulthood prescription pain reliever misuse and injection drug use.**  
 Drug Alcohol Dep. 2016 Dec 1;169:190-198. PMID: [27816251](#)  
 From a large national study of adolescent and adult health, "A strong and consistent dose-response relationship emerged" for prescription pain reliever misuse drug outcomes and cumulative trauma.

Briere J, Agee E, Dietrich A.  
**Cumulative trauma and current posttraumatic stress disorder status in general population and inmate samples.**  
 Psychol Trauma. 2016 Jul;8(4):439-46. PMID: [26752099](#)  
 Comparing datasets from the general population and prison samples, PTSD was found in 4% of the general population and 48% of the prison sample. In the prison sample, women reported 70% childhood sexual abuse and men reported 50%. For the community sample, those with 6 or more trauma types had a 12% likelihood of PTSD, while for the prison sample 6+ exposure had a 64% chance of PTSD.

Misiak B, Kreff M, Bielawski T, et. al.  
**Toward a unified theory of childhood trauma and psychosis: A comprehensive review of epidemiological, clinical, neuropsychological and biological findings.**  
 Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2017 Apr;75:393-406. PMID: [28216171](#)



Thurston RC, Chang Y, Barinas-Mitchell E, et. al.  
**Child Abuse and Neglect and Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease Among Midlife Women.**  
 Psychosom Med. 2017 May;79(4):441-449. PMID: [27763988](#)  
 For 346 mid-life community women, despite controlling for a large number of variables, a history of childhood abuse or neglect was associated with subclinical cardiovascular disease, measured by thickening of the carotid artery (intima media thickness = IMT). Sleep disturbance and hot flashes increased this relationship.



Etain B, Lajnef M, Brichant-Petitjean C, et. al.  
**Childhood trauma and mixed episodes are associated with poor response to lithium in bipolar disorders.**

Acta Psychiatr Scand. 2017 Apr;135(4):319-327. PMID: [27987204](#)

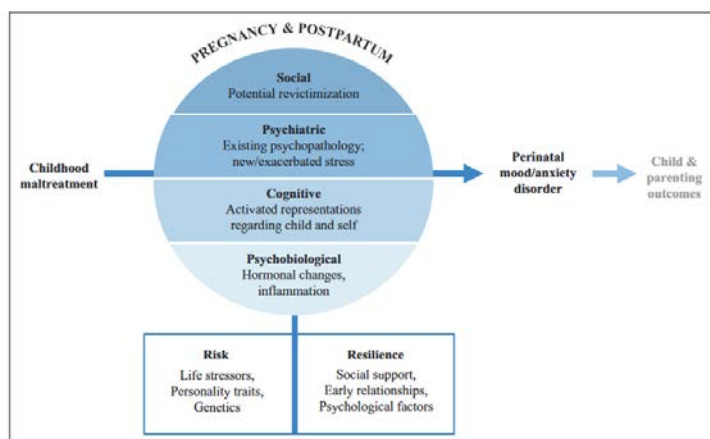
Of 148 bipolar patients, those exposed to at least two childhood trauma abuses, compared to none, were 4.9 times less likely to respond to lithium.

Choi KW, Sikkema KJ.

**Childhood Maltreatment and Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders: A Systematic Review.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2016 Dec;17(5):427-453. PMID: [25985988](#)

From a research review, “childhood maltreatment predicts perinatal mood and anxiety disorders above and beyond sociodemographic, psychiatric, perinatal, and psychosocial factors, but may also be partially mediated by variables such as later victimization and moderated by protective early relationships.”



## Adolescents

Johnson RM, LaValley M, Schneider KE, et. al.  
**Marijuana use and physical dating violence among adolescents and emerging adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis.**

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2017 May 1;174:47-57. PMID: [28314193](#)

In a review of research, marijuana use was associated with a 54% increase in physical dating violence victimization, and a 45% increase in perpetration – strongest among adolescents (vs. adults) and girls (vs. boys).

Nydegger LA, DiFranceisco W, Quinn K, Dickson-Gomez J.  
**Gender Norms and Age-Disparate Sexual Relationships as Predictors of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Risky Sex among Adolescent Gang Members.**

J Urban Health. 2017 Apr;94(2):266-275. PMID: [27538745](#)

Descriptions from interviews with 286 male and female gang members on problematic gender norms and interpersonal and sexual coercion/violence including pregnancy, group sex and gang rape.

## Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Ferdos J, Rahman MM.

**Maternal experience of intimate partner violence and low birth weight of children: A hospital-based study in Bangladesh.**

PLoS One. 2017 Oct 26;12(10):e0187138. PMID: [29073222](#)

Using data from a large hospital in Bangladesh, and controlling for multiple variables, a woman’s lifetime experience of physical IPV was associated with 3.01 times increased risk of a low birth weight baby, sexual IPV 1.98 times increased risk and both physical and sexual IPV 4.05 times increased risk.

Alicis E, Groot A, Snetselaar H, Stroeken T, van de Putte E.  
**Children bereaved by fatal intimate partner violence.**

PLoS One. 2017 Oct 4;12(10):e0183466. PMID: [28976977](#)

256 Dutch children lost a biological parent to IPV 2003-2012. On average, the children were 7.4 years old, 51.5% were boys, and 87.1% lost their mothers. 58.7% were present at the location of the homicide. Of the children who had been exposed, 43.1% had not received social services or mental health care.

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Kastello JC, Jacobsen KH, Gaffney KF, et. al.

**Predictors of Depression Symptoms Among Low-Income Women Exposed to Perinatal Intimate Partner Violence.**

Community Ment Health J. 2016 Aug;52(6):683-90. PMID: [26680595](#)

For 239 low-income pregnant women, those experiencing severe psychological IPV were 3.16 times more likely to develop depression than those experiencing severe physical or sexual IPV.

# Domestic Violence – Physical Health

McCloskey LA, Doran KA, Gerber MR.

## **Intimate Partner Violence is Associated with Voluntary Sterilization in Women.**

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2017 Jan;26(1):64-70. PMID: [27661288](#)

From interviews with 278 women from 10 different outpatient clinics, 29% disclosed childhood sexual abuse, which was associated with a 6.7 times increased risk of a later abusive relationship. Sterilization was reported by 19.6%, which was associated with having 3+ children. Of those sterilized, 74% had violent partners. “IPV raises the likelihood that women will choose sterilization.”

# Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Gallione C, Dal Molin A, Cristina FVB, et. al.

## **Screening tools for identification of elder abuse: a systematic review.**

J Clin Nurs. 2017 Aug;26(15-16):2154-2176. PMID: [28042891](#)  
11 elder abuse screening tools to be used by healthcare personnel are identified and discussed.

Edersheim J, Murray ED, Padmanabhan JL, Price BH.

## **Protecting the Health and Finances of the Elderly With Early Cognitive Impairment.**

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2017 Mar;45(1):81-91. PMID: [28270466](#)

Discussion of problems routinely encountered by families, health care providers, and legal professionals during the course of early Alzheimer’s Disease and mild cognitive impairment, including obstacles to early detection, benefits from early detection, and protection recommendations for national guidelines.

Gandsman A.

## **"A recipe for elder abuse:" From sin to risk in anti-euthanasia activism.**

Death Stud. 2016 Oct;40(9):578-588. PMID: [27284728](#)

Discussion of anti-euthanasia activists re-framing physician-assisted dying in terms of elder abuse, creating distrust among family members, medical institutions and governments.

Shah S, Tsitsou L, Woodin S.

## **Hidden Voices: Disabled Women's Experiences of Violence and Support Over the Life Course.**

Violence Against Women. 2016 Sep;22(10):1189-210. PMID: [26762144](#)

“Disabled women are significantly more likely to experience violence compared with their nondisabled contemporaries, at the hands of different perpetrators, including paid and unpaid carers, and in various ways, including those specific to their impairment”, and in addition have various barriers to their support.

# Cultural Concerns

Wong JY, Tiwari A, Fong DY, Bullock L.

## **A Cross-Cultural Understanding of Depression Among Abused Women.**

Violence Against Women. 2016 Oct;22(11):1371-96. PMID: [26796779](#)

“Comparing and contrasting the IPV definitions, family dynamics, coping, and expressions of depression of women in China, Japan, India, and the United States...depression is expressed differently across cultures. Somatization is commonly found in Asian countries, but it is not properly assessed by existing Westernized depression assessment tools. In addition, cultural factors were shown to shape abused women’s ways of adaptive coping.”

## **Ethnoracial Variation in Depression Symptoms.**

Hisp Health Care Int. 2016 Jun;14(2):81-8. PMID: [27257221](#)

Study of IPV in mothers of children ages 5-12 from four groups of women (African American, Biracial, Latina, and White), and how they cope with violence in their lives. Latina women had significantly higher depression symptoms.

Abuelezam NN, Fontenot HB.

## **Depression Among Arab American and Arab Immigrant Women in the United States.**

Nurs Womens Health. 2017 Oct - Nov;21(5):395-399. PMID: [28987212](#)

“The difficult and tense political climate Arab populations are currently facing” may be exacerbating mental health issues, reducing forms of social support, decreasing the desire to seek health care, and increasing barriers to reporting IPV.

# Sexual Assault

Casali MB, Palazzo E, Blandino A, et. al.

## **The Adult Male Rape Victim: Forensic Description of a Series of 57 Cases.**

Am J Forensic Med Pathol. 2017 Sep;38(3):175-179. PMID: [28704207](#)

Of 57 adult Italian male victims of sexual violence, mostly 31-40 years old, 10 referred to themselves as either homosexual or bisexual. Forced oral and/or anal penetration was reported in 86.8%, mostly by a single assailant. There were 61.4% anogenital injuries, and 35.1% extragenital injuries, none clinically severe.

Bradley CS, Nygaard IE, Hillis SL, Torner JC, Sadler AG.

## **Longitudinal associations between mental health conditions and overactive bladder in women veterans.**

Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2017 Oct;217(4):430.e1-430.e8. PMID: [28645572](#)

1 in 5 recently deployed US women veterans report overactive bladder symptoms. In a year-long study, depression, anxiety and prior sexual assault were independently associated with risk of overactive bladder symptoms.

Krahé B, Berger A.

## **Longitudinal pathways of sexual victimization, sexual self-esteem, and depression in women and men.**

Psychol Trauma. 2017 Mar;9(2):147-155. PMID: [27669161](#)

From a multi-year study of 2425 German college students, sexual assault at time 1 predicted depression/lower sexual self-esteem at time 2, which predicted additional sexual assault at time 3.

DeCou CR, Cole TT, Lynch SM, Wong MM, Matthews KC.

## **Assault-related shame mediates the association between negative social reactions to disclosure of sexual assault and psychological distress.**

Psychol Trauma. 2017 Mar;9(2):166-172. PMID: [27607768](#)

For female undergrads who had experienced sexual assault, the feeling of shame was an important factor in conjunction with negative social reactions to disclosure, increasing depression 4.56 times, PTSD 5.85 times, and global distress 4.82 times.

Carretta CM, Burgess AW, DeMarco R.

## **To Tell or Not to Tell.**

Violence Against Women. 2016 Nov;22(13):1499-1518. PMID: [27020377](#)

From an online survey of 242 women who had experienced rape, 63.8% of non-disclosing women believed the abuse was their fault versus only 39.1% of women with prior disclosure.

Holland KJ, Cortina LM.

## **"It Happens to Girls All the Time": Examining Sexual Assault Survivors' Reasons for Not Using Campus Supports.**

Am J Community Psychol. 2017 Mar;59(1-2):50-64. PMID: [28262981](#)

For 284 college women who experienced college sexual assault, reasons for not using campus supports included logistical issues (e.g., lacking time and knowledge), feelings and beliefs that made it seem unacceptable, judgments about support appropriateness, and alternative methods of coping. Authors propose several institutional changes.

Porta CM, Mathiason MA, Lust K, Eisenberg ME.

## **Sexual Violence Among College Students: An Examination of Individual and Institutional Level Factors Associated With Perpetration.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2017 Jul/Sep;13(3):109-117. PMID: [28820771](#)

From a survey of students at 17 colleges, "Self-reported perpetrators of sexual violence are more likely to be men, to have been a victim in his or her lifetime...and to be younger (18 or 19 years old)." Institutional characteristics did not yield significant associations with perpetration.

Djelaj V, Patterson D, Romero CM.

## **A Qualitative Exploration of Sexual Assault Patients' Barriers to Accessing and Completing HIV Prophylaxis.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2017 Apr/Jun;13(2):45-51. PMID: [28525428](#)

From interviews with Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners in which ED MDs wrote prescriptions for HIV prophylaxis, barriers encountered by patients ranged from providers inconsistently offering prescriptions for the correct medication, difficulty locating a local pharmacy stocking the medication, additional access steps needed by uninsured patients while feeling overwhelmed, emotional distress and fear of acquiring HIV leading to lack of comprehension of instructions, and possibility of 28 day pill regimen being a daily reminder of the assault. Multiple strategies to counteract these barriers are discussed.

Katz LS.

## **Efficacy of Warrior Renew group therapy for female veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma.**

Psychol Serv. 2016 Nov;13(4):364-372. PMID: [27537615](#)

Description of a successful 12 week program for female veterans who had experienced military sexual trauma(MST), including "coping skills for affect management (e.g., triggers and anxiety) and addressing unique aspects of MST including anger/resentments because of injustice and lack of closure, betrayal, and self-blame."

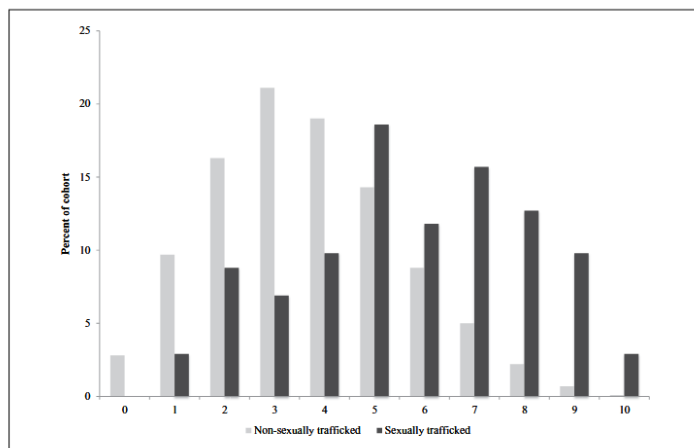
# Human Trafficking

Naramore R, Bright MA, Epps N, Hardt NS.

## Youth Arrested for Trading Sex Have the Highest Rates of Childhood Adversity: A Statewide Study.

Sex Abuse. 2017 Jun;29(4):396-410. PMID: [26337192](#)

For over 64,000 arrested Florida youth, those related to sex trafficking had higher # of ACEs, and higher rates of ACEs, particularly a history of sexual abuse or physical neglect.



**Figure 2.** Prevalence of ACE scores among sexually trafficked and non-sexually trafficked offending juveniles.

Note. ACE = adverse childhood experience.

Oram S, Khondoker M, Abas M, Broadbent M, Howard LM.  
**Characteristics of trafficked adults and children with severe mental illness: a historical cohort study.**

Lancet Psychiatry. 2015 Dec;2(12):1084-91. PMID: [26489912](#)

From 200,000 Londoner electronic health records, those identified as trafficked adults were 7.61 times more likely to have had involuntary admissions as psychiatric inpatients as non-trafficked adults.

McAlpine A, Hossain M, Zimmerman C.

## Sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in settings affected by armed conflicts in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

BMC Int Health Hum Rights. 2016 Dec 28;16(1):34. PMID: [28031024](#)

There are various forms of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in conflict-affected settings, including early or forced marriage, forced combatant sexual exploitation, and sexual slavery. "Studies highlight the extraordinary vulnerability of women and girls to these extreme abuses."

Houston-Kolnik JD, Todd NR, Wilson M.

## Preliminary Validation of the Sex Trafficking Attitudes Scale.

Violence Against Women. 2016 Sep;22(10):1259-81. PMID: [26834147](#)

The Sex Trafficking Attitudes Scale assesses knowledge about sex trafficking, awareness of sex trafficking, attitudes toward ability to leave sex trafficking, attitudes toward helping survivors, empathic reactions toward sex trafficking, and efficacy to reduce sex trafficking.

## Perpetrators

Henshaw M, Ogloff JRP, Clough JA.

## Looking Beyond the Screen: A Critical Review of the Literature on the Online Child Pornography Offender.

Sex Abuse. 2017 Aug;29(5):416-445. PMID: [26346545](#)

Per this review, online child pornography offenders have significantly different characteristics than child contact sexual offenders, and same risk assessment tools and treatment programs may not be suitable.

Dubessy AL, Leu-Semenescu S, Attali V, Maranci JB, Arnulf I.

## Sexsomnia: A Specialized Non-REM Parasomnia?

Sleep. 2017 Feb 1;40(2). PMID: [28364495](#)

Discussion of sexsomnia, which includes fondling or complete sexual intercourse of a bed partner, or masturbation, during sleep and without memory, with possible clinical and forensic consequences.

LaMotte AD, Taft CT, Weatherill RP, et. al.

## Sleep problems and physical pain as moderators of the relationship between PTSD symptoms and aggression in returning veterans.

Psychol Trauma. 2017 Jan;9(1):113-116. PMID: [27732020](#)

Findings from a study of 103 returning service members and veterans suggest that "sleep problems and physical pain strengthen the relationship between veteran's PTSD symptoms and physical aggression toward others."

## Police and Court Systems

Schmitt T, Cross TP, Alderden M.

## Qualitative Analysis of Prosecutors' Perspectives on Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and the Criminal Justice Response.

J Forensic Nurs. 2017 Apr/Jun;13(2):62-68. PMID: [28525430](#)

Interviews with 8 assistant district attorneys who prosecute sexual assault cases revealed definite advantages to the involvement of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, including "superior documentation, thoroughness of the physical examination, better identification of injuries, quality of relationships with patients, professionalism, skill in trial preparation and testifying, and credibility with jurors."



Wolford-Clevenger C, Smith PN.

**The Conditional Indirect Effects of Suicide Attempt History and Psychiatric Symptoms on the Association Between Intimate Partner Violence and Suicide Ideation.**

Pers Individ Dif. 2017 Feb 1;106:46-51. PMID: [29056805](#)

For 134 women seeking shelter from IPV, depressive symptoms, but not PTSD or hopelessness, were associated with suicidal ideation, increased by a prior history of suicide attempt.

## Prevention

Storer HL, Casey E, Herrenkohl T.

**Efficacy of Bystander Programs to Prevent Dating Abuse Among Youth and Young Adults: A Review of the Literature.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2016 Jul;17(3):256-69. PMID: [25951840](#)

In-depth review of the content and program components as well as the efficacy of bystander programs.

Madigan S, Wade M, Plamondon A, Jenkins JM.

**Neighborhood Collective Efficacy Moderates the Association between Maternal Adverse Childhood Experiences and Marital Conflict.**

Am J Community Psychol. 2016 Jun;57(3-4):437-47. PMID: [27250904](#)

From an ongoing study of mothers, maternal ACEs were associated with increased marital conflict; however, this association was reduced when there were high levels of neighborhood collective efficacy – feelings of security, trust, order, and connectedness with others.

## Researchers

Hyland P, Shevlin M, Elklit A, et. al.

**An assessment of the construct validity of the ICD-11 proposal for complex posttraumatic stress disorder.**

Psychol Trauma. 2017 Jan;9(1):1-9. PMID: [26950013](#)

“A new diagnosis, complex posttraumatic stress disorder (CPTSD), is set to be introduced in the 11th revision to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)...current results support the proposals of the ICD-11 that exposure to abuse during early development is associated with a greater likelihood of CPTSD than PTSD.”

McCauley HL, Silverman JG, Jones KA, et. al.  
**Psychometric properties and refinement of the Reproductive Coercion Scale.**

Contraception. 2017 Mar;95(3):292-298. PMID: [27639927](#)

Assessment and refinement of the Reproductive Coercion Scale, identifying two underlying domains of pregnancy coercion and condom manipulation.

## Other of Interest

Lockwood R, Arkow P.

**Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence: The Cruelty Connection and Its Implications for Veterinary Pathology.**

Vet Pathol. 2016 Sep;53(5):910-8. PMID: [26936222](#)

“There is overwhelming evidence that when animals are abused, people are at risk; when people are abused, animals are at risk. Veterinary forensic pathology can often reveal information beyond the physical condition of the victim. It can also help provide insights into the methods, motives, and state of mind behind such cruelty, and thus give the courts and mental health professionals additional tools for the assessment of the significance of these crimes and the potential risks offenders may pose to other animals and society as a whole.”

Houston-Kolnik JD, Todd NR.

**Examining the Presence of Congregational Programs Focused on Violence Against Women.**

Am J Community Psychol. 2016 Jun;57(3-4):459-72. PMID: [27233477](#)

In this research project exploring different Christian religious traditions across time in 3334 congregations, clergy gender and the ability of women to serve in leadership roles predicted the presence of different types of programs supporting survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Hemmings SMJ, Malan-Müller S, van den Heuvel LL, et. al.  
**The Microbiome in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Trauma-Exposed Controls: An Exploratory Study.**

Psychosom Med. 2017 Oct;79(8):936-946. PMID: [28700459](#)

In this small study of South African adults with PTSD and a control group of trauma-exposed individuals without PTSD, analysis of gut microbiomes showed no difference in overall microbial diversity; however those with PTSD had decreased abundance of 3 particular phyla of bacteria.