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Child Abuse

Clemens V, Köhler-Dauner F, Ziegenhain U, Fegert JM.

Predictors of Parental Coping During the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Survey in Germany.

Front Psychol. 2021 Sep 10;12:715327. PMID: [34566797](#)

From a survey of 687 German parents of minors during the first lockdown due to the pandemic, younger age of the respective child, income loss, dissatisfaction with the sharing of childcare duties, and parental ACEs were significantly associated with an increase of potential harmful parenting behavior.

Zarei K, Xu G, Zimmerman B, Giannotti M, Strathearn L.

Adverse Childhood Experiences Predict Common Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Health Conditions among U.S. Children.

Children (Basel). 2021 Aug 31;8(9):761. PMID: [34572191](#)

From a large national pediatric database, household challenge ACEs (not including child maltreatment) were over 6-9 times more likely to be associated with behavior problems, depression, and substance use disorder. Increasing learning disability and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder were also associated with increases of these ACEs.

Bennett CE, Christian CW.

Clinical evaluation and management of children with suspected physical abuse.

Pediatr Radiol. 2021 May;51(6):853-860. PMID: [33999229](#)

"In this review, we address evidence-based recommendations to inform child physical abuse evaluations. We also discuss the role of medical providers in communicating with families, mandated reporting, and interpreting medical information for investigative agencies and other non-medical colleagues."

Henry MK, Wood JN.

What's in a name? Sentinel injuries in abused infants.

Pediatr Radiol. 2021 May;51(6):861-865. PMID: [33999230](#)

"Sentinel injuries are visible, minor, poorly explained injuries in young infants that raise

concern for abuse." These injuries include skin injuries such as bruising, eye hemorrhages, and intra-oral injuries. Sentinel injuries can signal hidden but more serious injuries at present, or precede more significant trauma from abuse. "Sentinel injuries offer an opportunity to intervene and protect infants from further harm."

George CLS, Theesfeld SSN, Wang Q, Hudson MJ, Harper NS.

Identification and Characterization of Oral Injury in Suspected Child Abuse Cases: One Health System's Experience.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2021 Oct 1;37(10):494-497. PMID: [30601344](#)

Using a 10-year billing review of accidental oral injuries in children under 24 months in one hospital system, those with a suspected child abuse diagnosis were more likely to be younger, less mobile, have tongue injuries and mouth/throat bruising, and less likely to have lacerations (cuts).

Palmer L, Prindle J, Putnam-Hornstein E.

A Population-Based Examination of Suicide and Child Protection System Involvement.

J Adolesc Health. 2021 Sep;69(3):465-469. PMID: [33814278](#)

From large California linked databases, "Among children and adolescents who died by suicide, 56.5% had a history of past allegations of abuse or neglect. Children with any CPS history had three times the odds of suicide compared to children with no history...Suicide risk is not isolated to the relatively small group of children and youth placed in foster care. Findings reinforce the importance of increased attention to the experiences of the larger universe of children who remain at home after alleged or substantiated maltreatment."

Ngai M, Delaney K, Limandri B, et. al.

Youth suicide risk screening in an outpatient child abuse clinic.

J Child Adolesc Psychiatr Nurs. 2021 Jun 10;10.1111/jcap.12335. PMID: [34114309](#)

Of 162 children aged 10-18 years seen in an outpatient child abuse evaluation clinic, 29.2% screened positive for suicide risk using the Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ) tool, with 23% of the positive screens found in the 10-12 year-old preteen group.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Layfield SD, Duffy LA, Phillips KA, et. al.

Multioomic biological approaches to the study of child abuse and neglect.

Pharmacol Biochem Behav. 2021 Nov;210:173271. PMID: [34508786](#)

“This review begins by providing an overview of childhood abuse, neglect, maltreatment, threat, and toxic stress, and the effects of these forms of adversity on the developing body, brain, and behavior. It then examines examples from the current literature of genomic, epigenomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic discoveries and biomarkers that may help to understand risk and resilience in the aftermath of trauma, predictors of traumatic exposure risk, and potential targets for intervention and prevention.”

Salonsalmi A, Pietiläinen O, Lahelma E, et. al.

Contributions of childhood adversities to chronic pain among mid-life employees.

Scand J Public Health. 2021 Jan 18;1403494820981509. PMID: [33461395](#)

Among 40-60-year-old Finnish employees (80% women), “childhood economic difficulties (Odds ratio =1.60), childhood illness (OR=1.74), parental divorce (OR=1.26), parental alcohol problems (OR=1.34) and bullying at school or among peers (OR=1.59) were associated with chronic pain. Working conditions, sleep problems and common mental disorders each slightly attenuated the associations between childhood adversities and chronic pain...the well-being of children might prevent pain and promote well-being in mid-life.”

Miller ES, Fleming O, Ekpe EE, Grobman WA, Heard-Garris N. **Association Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes.**

Obstet Gynecol. 2021 Nov 1;138(5):770-776. PMID: [34619717](#)

For 1274 pregnant women enrolled in a mental health program for perinatal depression support, 73% reported an ACE score of 1, and 23% reported 3+ ACEs. After controlling for various factors, “Having a high ACE score was associated with an increased risk of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and preterm birth.”

Kerkar S, Shankar A, Boynton-Jarrett R, Harville EW.

Adverse Childhood Experiences are Associated with Miscarriage in Adulthood: The GROWH Study.

Matern Child Health J. 2021 Mar;25(3):479-486. PMID: [33389588](#)

Using data from 1511 reproductive age women from Louisiana Clinics, those with 4+ ACEs were 1.71 times more likely to experience miscarriage during first pregnancy, and 1.74 times for any pregnancy.

Giano Z, Ernst CW, Snider K, Davis A, O’Neil AM, Hubach RD. **ACE domains and depression: Investigating which specific domains are associated with depression in adulthood.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Sep 27;122:105335. PMID: [34592672](#)

From a large national survey, “Across all ACE scores, those with a history of family mental illness had the highest likelihood of receiving a depression diagnosis. The second strongest association were those with sexual abuse. No other trends were found among the six other domains. Further, those with a combination of family mental illness and sexual abuse had the highest odds of depression.”

Yang JZ, Kang CY, Yuan J, Zhang Y, Wei YJ, Xu L, Zhou F, Fan X. **Effect of adverse childhood experiences on hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis function and antidepressant efficacy in untreated first episode patients with major depressive disorder.**

Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2021 Sep 25;134:105432. PMID: [34607174](#)

Of 330 Chinese patients with major depression who were treated for the first time with one of 4 anti-depressants, a history of ACEs significantly decreased medication efficacy. A 12-week response was achieved by 37.2% in the ACEs group vs. 59.0% without ACEs. Remission was achieved by 15.2% in the ACEs group vs. 32.2% without ACEs. Exposure to ACEs also influenced measurements of the stress hormone system and was associated with more severe symptoms of depression.

Liu M, Luong L, Lachaud J, Edalati H, Reeves A, Hwang SW.

Adverse childhood experiences and related outcomes among adults experiencing homelessness: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Lancet Public Health. 2021 Sep 29;S2468-2667(21)00189-4. PMID: [34599894](#)

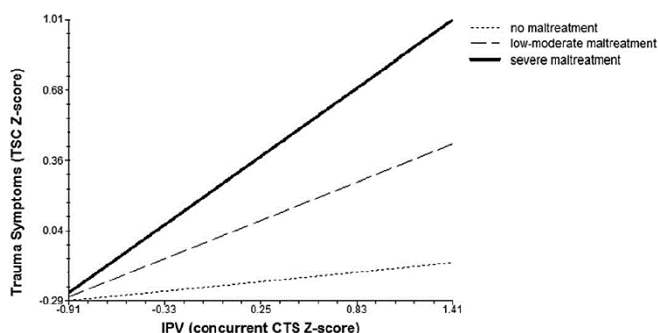
From a research review, lifetime prevalence of one or more ACEs among homeless adults was 89.8% and the lifetime prevalence of four or more ACEs was 53.9%. ACEs were consistently positively associated with high suicidality, suicide attempt, major depressive disorder, substance misuse, and adult victimization.

Cintora P, Laurent HK.

Childhood Trauma Exposure Exacerbates the Impact of Concurrent Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence on Women's Posttraumatic Symptoms.

J Trauma Stress. 2020 Dec;33(6):1102-1110. PMID: [32557954](#)

In this study of low-income mothers followed for 18 months postpartum, increasing IPV led to increasing PTSD symptoms over time. This effect was heightened when women reported a history of childhood maltreatment.



Yoon C, Emery RL, Hazzard VM, et. al.

Adverse experiences as predictors of maladaptive and adaptive eating: Findings from EAT 2018.

Appetite. 2021 Oct 7;168:105737. PMID: [34627979](#)

From a survey of 1411 adults aged 18-30 years, among women, intimate partner sexual violence was strongly associated with more overeating, binge eating, and less mindful eating. Among men, being attacked, beaten, or mugged was strongly associated with more overeating and binge eating.

Tiwari A, Andrews K, Casey R, Liu A, Tonmyr L, Gonzalez A. Associations Among Child Maltreatment, Mental Health, and Police Contact in Adulthood: Findings From a National Canadian Sample.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Sep;36(17-18):8741-8767. PMID: [31161854](#)

From a survey of 23,846 Canadian adults, childhood experience of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and adult IPV were each associated with 2-3 times increased contact with police as either a criminal or a victim. Victimization contact increased with increasing number of childhood maltreatment types.

Schickedanz A, Escarce JJ, Halfon N, Sastry N, Chung PJ.

Intergenerational Associations between Parents' and Children's Adverse Childhood Experience Scores.

Children (Basel). 2021 Aug 29;8(9):747. PMID: [34572179](#)

"Among 2205 parent-child dyads, children of parents with four or more ACEs had 3.25-fold higher risk of experiencing four or more ACEs themselves, compared to children of parents without ACEs."

Adolescents

Kim-Spoon J, Herd T, Briant A, Peviani K, et. al.

Maltreatment and brain development: The effects of abuse and neglect on longitudinal trajectories of neural activation during risk processing and cognitive control.

Dev Cogn Neurosci. 2021 Apr;48:100939. PMID: [33706181](#)

From brain scans of 167 adolescents assessed annually over 4 years to determine impact of maltreatment, results showed different effects as the result of neglect or abuse. Neglect was associated with detrimental neurodevelopment of the brain valuation system - estimating the value of alternative options - while abuse had negative effects on the brain control system - control over the pursuit or avoidance of risky options.

Babad S, Zwilling A, Carson KW, et. al.

Risk-Taking Propensity and Sensation Seeking in Survivors of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Oct;36(19-20):NP10670-NP10687. PMID: [31538863](#)

"ACEs related to environmental instability may have a unique impact on sensation seeking domains in emerging adults. Clarifying the role of sensation seeking in emerging adults can contribute to better understanding of risk and resilience factors in this vulnerable population."

Huesmann LR, Dubow EF, B Boxer P, et. al.

Longitudinal predictions of young adults' weapons use and criminal behavior from their childhood exposure to violence.

Aggress Behav. 2021 Nov;47(6):621-634. PMID: [34148248](#)

In a 10 year study of 426 at-risk youth in Flint, Michigan, and after controlling for multiple factors, "(1) more early exposure to weapon use within the family predicts more using or threatening to use a gun; (2) more cumulative early violent video game playing predicts more gun using or threatening to use weapons, and normative beliefs that gun use is acceptable; (3) more cumulative early exposure to neighborhood gun violence predicts more arrests for a weapons crime; and (4) more cumulative early exposure to movie violence predicts more weapon carrying."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Creech SK, Pulverman CS, Kroll-Desrosiers A, et. al.
Intimate Partner Violence Among Pregnant Veterans: Prevalence, Associated Mental Health Conditions, and Health Care Utilization.

J Gen Intern Med. 2021 Oct;36(10):2982-2988. PMID: [33464464](#)

Of 442 pregnant veterans, 14% reported past-year IPV. IPV was associated with increased mental health visits during pregnancy, and difficulties with pregnancy risk behaviors including smoking, alcohol, and drug use.

Edwards LM, Le HN, Garnier-Villarreal M.
A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Risk Factors for Postpartum Depression Among Latinas.

Matern Child Health J. 2021 Apr;25(4):554-564. PMID: [33394276](#)

From a research review on factors relating to postpartum depression among Latinas, "Partner/father's social support had a large effect size. Prenatal depression and recent IPV had medium effect sizes, while education, economic stress, general social support and remote IPV had small effect sizes. Negligible effect sizes were found for age, marital status, number of children, and acculturation."

Khatoon F, Fatima M, Zaidi Z, Nishad S, Ahmad A.
Domestic Violence During Pregnancy: Evaluating the Impact on Maternal and Perinatal Health-A Pilot Study in Uttar Pradesh.

J Obstet Gynaecol India. 2021 Aug;71(4):386-392. PMID: [34566297](#)

For women attending an ob clinic in India, 22.2% reported domestic violence during pregnancy, which was associated with increased relative risk for "hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, antepartum haemorrhage, recurrent urinary tract infection and preterm labour. Apgar scores of babies in affected mothers was lower, and there were significantly greater NICU admissions."

Hui M, Maddern R.
Children's perceptions of their parents in the context of domestic violence: A qualitative synthesis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Sep 28;122:105343. PMID: [34597883](#)

From a research review, "Five analytical themes were identified, consisting of children's descriptions of their parent as someone who does not meet their physical or emotional needs, the perpetrating parent as someone who is overpowering and controlling, experiences of one's own parents being unlike other parents, the perpetrating parent as being either inherently bad and unchanging or varying in their character, and the non-perpetrating

parent as a protective figure in the children's lives. Findings highlighted children's acute awareness of the power dynamics of DV, the wide-ranging impacts that DV can have on the perceived quality of the parent-child bond and the diverse ways in which children manage their ongoing relationships with both parents. Understanding these varied perspectives will enable clinicians to tailor interventions, assist children in processing their relationships, and enhance existing supports."

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Beauchamp F, Boucher V, Neveu X, et. al.
Post-concussion symptoms in sports-related mild traumatic brain injury compared to non-sports-related mild traumatic brain injury.

CJEM. 2021 Mar;23(2):223-231. PMID: [33512694](#)

Of non-hospitalized patients age >14 seen at 7 Canadian emergency departments with a documented mild traumatic brain injury (TBI), those with sports-related injuries has less fatigue and dizziness at 90 days. "Clinicians should be mindful that non-sports-related mild TBI patients may experience more post-concussion symptoms and that the level of physical activity may influence the patient's rehabilitation."

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

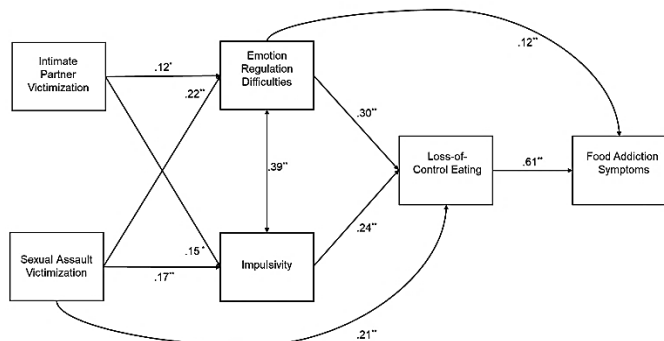
Marsden S, Humphreys C, Hegarty K.
Why Does He Do It? What Explanations Resonate During Counseling for Women in Understanding Their Partner's Abuse?

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jan 23:886260521989850. PMID: [33491550](#)

20 women who had seen psychologists after experiencing IPV participated in semi-structured interviews. "Women found it powerful in their healing processes when psychologists offered the opportunity to discuss their partners individual characteristics as explanations for their use of IPV", including "narcissist description was helpful" and "not all bad all the time". Some of the women also reflected on "wider structural contexts."

Jacques-Tiura AJ, Lanni DJ, Anderson LA, Naar S.
Victimization and Food Addiction Symptoms: Direct and Indirect Effects through Emotion Dysregulation, Impulsivity, and Loss-of-Control Eating.

Psychol Women Q. 2021 Jun;45(2):243-254. PMID: [34588739](#)
 (Positive numbers in figure below show the extent of positive association.)



presence of dementia, and hand and facial fractures were associated with increased risk of abuse.

Race/Cultural Concerns

Sheffield V, Fraley L, Warriar G.
Addressing Biased Patient Behavior: A Teachable Moment.
 JAMA Intern Med. 2021;181(12):1631-1632. PMID: [34605854](#)

Figure. Toolkit for Addressing Biased Patient Behavior

Prepare

<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Set the stage "We sometimes will receive inappropriate comments." </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Make explicit Outline the roles and response plan. </div>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Invite input Which team member should be first to respond? </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> Show commitment "Let's commit to using this plan." </div>
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Address

<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Direct "That is not OK to say." "I am surprised you thought that was appropriate to say." </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Redirect "Let's keep it professional." "We're here to focus on your health." </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Clarify roles "We are your team of doctors." "Dr X is in charge of your day-to-day care." </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Challenge stereotype "That stereotype isn't fair." "I don't think you would have said that to a male physician." </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Describe "When you said x, I felt y." "You are perpetuating some problematic ideas here." </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> Probe "What do you mean by that?" "What was your goal with that comment?" </div>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Respond in real time </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Avoid silence </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Avoid minimizing </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> Avoid banter </div>
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Debrief

<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Ensure team safety Check in and assess ongoing trauma. </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> Discuss ways to improve What went well? What did not? </div>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Acknowledge challenge "That was a difficult encounter." </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> Adjust plan Limit 1-on-1 contact and transition care if necessary. </div>
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Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Chang ES, Levy BR.
High Prevalence of Elder Abuse During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Risk and Resilience Factors.

Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2021 Nov;29(11):1152-1159. PMID: [33518464](#)

From an online survey of 897 diverse US seniors in April and May 2020, one in five older persons in the study sample (21.3%) reported elder abuse, an increase of 83.6% from prevalence estimates before the pandemic. Physical distancing decreased the risk, and financial strain increased the risk.

Wong RT, Cafferky BM, Alejandr JP.
Chronic Disease and Elder Mistreatment: A Meta-Analysis.

Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2021 Oct 11. PMID: [34633703](#)
 From a research review, neurologic disease (such as dementia, stroke), endocrine disease (such as diabetes), heart disease, and other chronic disease were all associated with elder mistreatment. Neurologic disease had the strongest association, and for emotional abuse in particular.

Ben Natan M, Steinfeld Y, Yonai Y, Berkovich Y.
Retrospective study of older patients that increase the likelihood that a fracture was associated with abuse.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2021 Jun;33(3):221-229. PMID: [34096472](#)
 From a chart review of 1,000 Israeli elders seen in an emergency department for fractures, older age,

Page RL, Montalvo-Liendo N, Nava A, Chilton J.
'Now My Eyes are Open': Latina women's experiences in long-term support groups for IPV survivors.
 Int J Ment Health Nurs. 2021 Jun;30(3):715-723. PMID: [33491274](#)

“Five themes emerged from the qualitative data: awakening, transformation, community, empowerment, and advocate. Women described still feeling the 'ugliness of the abuse' even years after it occurred...The need for long-term support groups was evident as women described the value of the group for providing support and gaining an understanding that they are not alone, or their awakening that they can have a life without abuse.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Scheer JR, Clark KA, Talan A, et. al.
Longitudinal associations between childhood sexual abuse-related PTSD symptoms and passive and active suicidal ideation among sexual minority men.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Oct 9;122:105353. PMID: [34638046](#)
 From a survey of 6305 sexual minority men, mean age 33.2 years and 53.5% White, those with a history of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) were 2.5 times more likely to report suicidality than those without a CSA history. CSA-related PTSD was associated with passive suicidal ideation, and regardless of PTSD severity, suicidal ideation was increased in those with lower social support and greater loneliness.

Sexual Assault

Pinciotti CM, Seligowski AV.
The Influence of Sexual Assault Resistance on Reporting Tendencies and Law Enforcement Response: Findings From the National Crime Victimization Survey.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Oct;36(19-20):NP11176-NP11197. PMID: [31608765](#)

“Using data from the National Crime Victimization Survey between 2010 and 2016, victims are significantly less likely to report to law enforcement if they froze during the attack. Interestingly, although engagement in forceful resistance increases victims' likelihood of reporting to law enforcement, it has no bearing on law enforcement response beyond the effect of physical injury. Rather, physical injury (e.g., bruises, cuts, broken bones) is the only predictor of law enforcement response to sexual assault allegations.”

Cannon LM, Bailey JM, Ernst SD, et. al.
A Retrospective Descriptive Analysis of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Records From Sexual Assault Survivors at a Large University Emergency Department 2003 - 2017.
 Violence Vict. 2021 Feb 1;36(1):66-91. PMID: [33328342](#)

Of 837 patients seeking post-assault care at an academic hospital, “Drug and/or alcohol use at the time of the assault was reported in 44.8% of cases and 20.8% of survivors reported having a disability. Understanding the demographic and sexual assault characteristics of survivors is fundamental to providing sensitive and responsive care.”

Gray MJ, Kilwein TM, Amaya S, Binion KC.
Heightened Sexual Misconduct Victimization Rates among Reserve Officers' Training Corps Women.
 Violence Against Women. 2021 Sep 28;10778012211030948. PMID: [34581664](#)

1,562 college women were sampled from a sexual misconduct campus climate survey. “ROTC women reported higher victimization rates for all variants of sexual misconduct and violence relative to the broader student population, as well as previously established high-risk groups...Given the tens of thousands of ROTC cadets across thousands of institutions of higher learning in the United States, this population may represent a historical blind spot in sexual violence prevention programming efforts.”

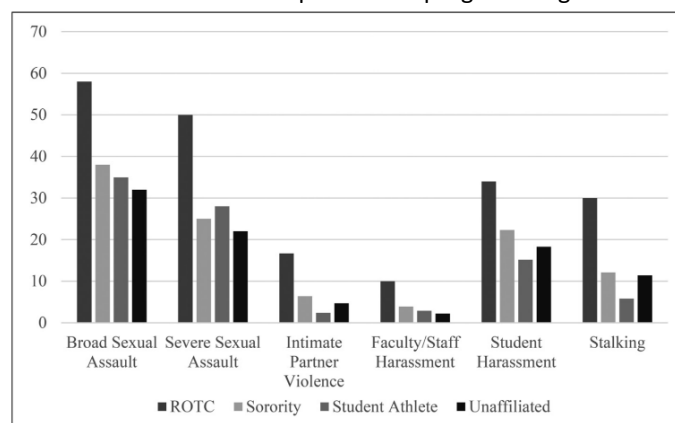


Figure 1. Percentage of Sexual Misconduct Victimization by Student Affiliation.

Herbenick D, Fu TC, Kawata K, Eastman-Mueller H, et. al.
Non-Fatal Strangulation/Choking During Sex and Its Associations with Mental Health.

J Sex Marital Ther. 2021 Oct 1:1-13. PMID: [34596011](#)

“Choking/strangulation during sex is prevalent among young adults in the United States.” From a survey of 4352 undergraduates, 33.6% of women and 6.0% of men reported having been choked more than five times. After adjusting for demographics, having been choked remained significantly associated with feeling depressed, anxious, sad, or lonely in the prior 30 days.

Short NA, Lechner M, Bell K, et. al.

Anxiety Sensitivity Prospectively Predicts Increased Acute Posttraumatic Stress and Related Symptoms After Sexual Assault.

J Trauma Stress. 2020 Dec;33(6):1111-1120. PMID: [33179292](#)

For 48 female sexual assault survivors, those who had increased anxiety sensitivity (fear of anxiety symptoms due to a belief that these symptoms are likely to have harmful consequences, such as fear that a rapid heart rate could represent a heart attack) were more likely to report post-traumatic stress symptoms [PTSS] 6 weeks after the assault. Authors suggest future research on “whether targeting anxiety sensitivity could mitigate the development of PTSS in this vulnerable population.”

Berman Z, Thiel F, Kaimal AJ, Dekel S.

Association of sexual assault history with traumatic childbirth and subsequent PTSD.

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2021 Oct;24(5):767-771. PMID: [33847820](#)

From records of 683 pregnant women, “Obstetric complications and unplanned cesareans were more prevalent among women with SA [sexual assault] history. They also had higher rates of probable CB[childbirth-related]-PTSD and were two times more likely to have premature deliveries than women without SA history. Screening women for history of sexual trauma is warranted to optimize birth outcomes.”

Human Trafficking

Garg A, Panda P, Malay S, Rose JA.

A Human Trafficking Educational Program and Point-of-Care Reference Tool for Pediatric Residents.

MedEdPORTAL. 2021 Sep 13;17:11179. PMID: [34568551](#)

This educational session on human trafficking, which included a 60-minute interactive didactic presentation and distribution of a point-of-care reference tool, in collaboration with a survivor of human trafficking, significantly increased pediatric residents’ comfort with defining, recognizing, referring, and understanding the health consequences of human trafficking. [Presentation guide and materials](#)

Casassa K, Knight L, Mengo C.

Trauma Bonding Perspectives From Service Providers and Survivors of Sex Trafficking: A Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Jan 18;15:24838020985542. PMID: [33455528](#)

From a research review: “A trauma bond is an emotional attachment between an abuser and victim. Trauma bonds in sex trafficking compel victims to submit to continued exploitation and protect the trafficker...The features of trauma bonding identified in these articles were (1) imbalance of power that favors trafficker, (2) traffickers' deliberate use of positive and negative interactions, (3) victim's gratitude for positive interactions and self-blame for the negative, and (4) victim's internalization of perpetrator's view. We also identified four aspects related to trauma bonding: (1) prior trauma made victims vulnerable, (2) victim's feelings of love remained even after exiting trafficking, (3) love is why victims do not prosecute traffickers, and (4) traffickers' intentional cultivation of the trauma bond. No article indicated how trauma bonds could be severed and replaced with healthy attachments.”

Hagan E, Raghavan C, Doychak K.

Functional Isolation: Understanding Isolation in Trafficking Survivors.

Sex Abuse. 2021 Mar;33(2):176-199. PMID: [31777323](#)

“The tactics used by traffickers varied and included not only the commonly defined structural isolation in which victims are restricted physically and socially, but also included a shrinking of safe social space and an elimination of privacy and social support. The latter, which we label as functional isolation, refers to instances when survivors are surrounded by peers who are either unreliable or aligned with the trafficker and thus are unable to give true social support. Survivors reported a combination of isolation tactics (i.e., both structural isolation and functional isolation).”

Jaeckl S, Laughon K.

Risk Factors and Indicators for Commercial Sexual Exploitation/Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking of Adolescent Girls in the United States in the Context of School Nursing: An Integrative Review of the Literature.

J Sch Nurs. 2021 Feb;37(1):6-16. PMID: [33208003](#)

This research review “identified a comprehensive list of risk factors and indicators associated with CSEC [commercial sexual exploitation of children] that school nurses need to be aware of to quickly and accurately identify and refer children at risk for or victims of CSEC...some children may exhibit no apparent risk factors, other than their normal neurodevelopmental stage, making them prone to impulsivity and risk-taking...all children may be at risk for CSEC, independent of their socioeconomic background, race, school performance, or behavior.”

Lucas C, Lind M, Olympia RP.

School Nurses on the Front Lines of Healthcare: Recognizing the Signs and Putting the "BRAKES" on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

NASN Sch Nurse. 2021 Mar;36(2):92-98. PMID: [32502361](#)

"Through a presented case scenario, this article describes the assessment and management of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), which includes sex trafficking, as relevant for the school nurse."

Perpetrators

Davis RE, Renzetti CM.

Is Religious Self-Regulation a Risk or Protective Factor for Men's Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration?

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jan 13:886260520985497. PMID: [33438495](#)

From an anonymous online survey of 289 men in heterosexual relationships, "introjected religious self-regulation was significantly positively associated with physical, psychological, and sexual IPV perpetration, while identified religious self-regulation was significantly negatively associated with physical, psychological, and sexual IPV perpetration...These findings have implications for faith leaders and secular service providers." ("Introjected people engage in an activity due to guilt or compulsion or to maintain their self-worth. Identified regulation refers to performing an activity because one identifies with the personal importance of the behavior.")

Romero-Martínez A, Lila M, Moya-Albiol L.

Sympathetic Nervous System Predominance in Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators After Coping With Acute Stress.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jan 13:886260520985494. PMID: [33435804](#)

"It has been suggested that intimate partner violence (IPV) against women perpetrators present emotional dysregulations when dealing with acute stress, which in turn could help to explain their proneness to violence...in this laboratory study of 107 IPV perpetrators and a control group, perpetrators presented with more anger and worse mood when challenged with a stressor (a set of cognitive tests performed in front of an expert committee) and showed higher heart rate and other body parameters during recovery from stress.

Turhan Z.

Safe Father-Child Contact Postseparation in Situations of Intimate Partner Violence and Positive Fathering Skills: A Literature Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Oct;22(4):856-869. PMID: [31736430](#)

"Improving custody workers' knowledge of intimate partner violence and developing father's parenting practices during interventions are essential in achieving the safety of father-child interactions. The father's regular participation in perpetrator interventions and parenting programs can prevent them from continuing to abuse their partners and children during visitations."

Crouch JL, Davila AL, Holzman JB, et. al.

Perceived Executive Functioning in Parents at Risk for Child Physical Abuse.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Sep;36(17-18):8874-8884. PMID: [31130041](#)

For 98 members of the general population who were given a battery of tests, those considered at higher risk of child physical abuse also had higher rates of Working Memory Problems, Emotional Control Difficulties, and Difficulties Shifting Thoughts, Feelings, and Behaviors – all measures of executive function (the ability to plan, focus, remember, and juggle multiple tasks). "These findings highlight the potential importance of assessing and strengthening executive functioning in interventions designed to reduce risk of parent-to-child aggression."

Police and Court Systems

Vinchon M, Karnoub MA, Noulé N, Lampin ME.

Confessed versus denied inflicted head injuries in infants: similarities and differences.

Childs Nerv Syst. 2021 Oct 4. PMID: [34608530](#)

Of 350 cases of abusive head injury in infants at one institution over 20 years, 39.1% were confessed. "We found no statistically significant difference between the two groups regarding the child's previous history, as well as the personality and previous history of the caretakers. However...we found that the perpetrators' decision to confess or deny was markedly influenced by the severity of the inflicted lesions."

Koppa V, Messing JT.

Can Justice System Interventions Prevent Intimate Partner Homicide? An Analysis of Rates of Help Seeking Prior to Fatality.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Sep;36(17-18):8792-8816. PMID: [31161856](#)

“This study examines administrative data from one large urban police jurisdiction to understand rates of help seeking by homicide victims in the 1 to 3 years prior to the homicide. Over 4 years (2010-2014), 197 women and 776 men were killed. The proportion of women killed by an intimate or ex-intimate partner was 39.6%, and the proportion of men killed by an intimate or ex-intimate partner was 3.9%. Police had been in contact with the victim of intimate partner femicides for a domestic violence complaint in 91% of cases in the 3 years prior to the femicide (44.9% resulted in arrest), with an average of 6.2 visits per contacted victim. Among male intimate partner homicide victims, 73.3% had been the complainant on a domestic violence case (38.1% resulted in arrest). Few (<10%) victims sought protection orders before the homicide...Results indicate high rates of engagement of police officers with intimate partner homicide victims before their deaths, and highlight the opportunity for homicide prevention through integration of risk assessment (to identify high-risk cases) and enhanced criminal justice and social service interventions in high-risk cases.”

Providers

Heron RL, Eisma MC.

Barriers and facilitators of disclosing domestic violence to the healthcare service: A systematic review of qualitative research.

Health Soc Care Community. 2021 May;29(3):612-630. PMID: [33440034](#)

From a research review, “Our results indicate that barriers for disclosure of domestic violence in healthcare settings persist despite the widespread implementation of policies and guidelines to counter them. Based on these findings, we provide recommendations for clinical practice and future research to help improve disclosure in healthcare settings.”

Guarino JC.

Innovative Strategies to Facilitate Safe Assessment and Intervention for Intimate Partner Violence During a Pandemic and Beyond.

Nurs Womens Health. 2021 Oct;25(5):395-399. PMID: [34270999](#)

This multidisciplinary stakeholder panel created a process using technology to address the concern of increased IPV during the pandemic – “an infographic poster with IPV screening questions and a Quick Response (QR) code was displayed in bathrooms in the perinatal service area. The infographic allowed respondents to signal a safety concern, launching an individualized plan of care to address their needs privately.”

Balneg K, Van Winkle K.

Do adverse childhood experiences lead to poorer health outcomes?

Nursing. 2021 Oct 1;51(10):15-17. PMID: [34580257](#)

This brief review for nurses on the health effects of ACEs includes the nurses’ role and resources.

Contributing to the solution

There are numerous ways in which nurses can raise awareness about the impacts of ACEs and actively protect patients. Here are some examples.

- Participate in training on how to screen patients in a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive manner.¹⁴
- Screen for child abuse and neglect. See this technical package from the CDC for more strategies: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf.
- Screen patients using tools found in a recent article titled “Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma.” The article can be found at: www.chcs.org/resource/screening-for-adverse-childhood-experiences-and-trauma.
- Participate in or have knowledge of specific community programs that match the needs of the patient and patient’s family. Appendix A of the article from Schulman and Maul compiles some examples of centers across the US.¹⁴
- Become aware of and address the effects of your own ACEs, if applicable, so they do not hinder forming trust and therapeutic relationships with patients.¹¹

Resources and tips for parents

• **CDC**

www.cdc.gov/parents/essentials/

Parents can visit this CDC webpage for videos, skills practice, and parenting tips from preschoolers to teenagers.

• **Folsom’s Hope**

www.folsomshope.org

This organization provides tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programs for school-aged children.

• **Bridges After-School/ASSETS**

www.sanjuan.edu/domain/4357

The San Juan Unified School District’s Bridges After-School/ASSETS Programs provides homework support, enrichment/disguised learning, pro-social skills/recreation, and parent support and empowerment.

• **Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

www.bgca.org/programs/health-wellness/kids-and-mental-health

In addition to parental resources, mentors are available to help guide kids and teens and provide safe spaces.

From ref 14 above -

<https://www.traumainformedcare.chcs.org/>

Bass DI, Lee A, Browd SR, Ellenbogen RG, Hauptman JS.
Medicolegal issues in abusive head trauma for the pediatric neurosurgeon.

Neurosurg Focus. 2020 Nov;49(5):E23. PMID: [33130608](#)

“The authors begin with a brief history on the origins of the diagnosis of abusive head trauma and the controversy surrounding it, highlighting some of the facets of the diagnosis that make it particularly unique in pediatric neurosurgery. They then review some special medical considerations in these patients and provide several examples as illustration. The authors discuss how to appropriately document these cases in the medical record for expected legal review, and last, they provide an overview of the legal process through which the neurosurgeon may be called to provide testimony.”

MacGregor JCD, Oliver CL, MacQuarrie BJ, Wathen CN.
Intimate Partner Violence and Work: A Scoping Review of Published Research.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Oct;22(4):717-727. PMID: [31615345](#)

Authors review what is known about IPV and work, and identify research gaps: useful interventions that would guide policy decisions regarding workplace supports, and better understanding of the experiences and needs of perpetrators, as well as of gender and sexual minorities.

Prevention

Rogel A, Loomis AM, Hamlin E, et. al.

The impact of neurofeedback training on children with developmental trauma: A randomized controlled study.

Psychol Trauma. 2020 Nov;12(8):918-929. PMID: [32658503](#)

“This pilot study demonstrated that 24 sessions of neurofeedback training significantly decreased PTSD symptoms, internalizing, externalizing, other behavioral and emotional symptoms, and significantly improved the executive functioning of children aged 6-13 years with severe histories of abuse and neglect who had not significantly benefited from any previous therapy.”

Donofry SD, Stillman CM, Hanson JL, et. al.

Promoting brain health through physical activity among adults exposed to early life adversity: Potential mechanisms and theoretical framework.

Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2021 Oct 5:S0149-7634(21)00439-5. PMID: [34624365](#)

Authors review the influence of early life adversity (ELA) on brain health in adulthood, and highlight evidence for the role of physical activity on brain growth factors, stress hormones, inflammation, and epigenetics as a low cost behavioral approach to address the long-term consequences of ELA.

Rothman EF, Farrell A, Paruk J, et. al.

Evaluation of a Multi-Session Group Designed to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors: The "My Life My Choice" Curriculum.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Oct;36(19-20):9143-9166. PMID: [31354019](#)

The Boston-based My Life My Choice (MLMC) program offers a multisession psychoeducation group to girls who are identified as "at-disproportionate-risk" for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). For 354 individuals with mean age 15.6 years, after completion of the program and 3 months of follow-up, participants demonstrated increased knowledge and awareness about CSE and its harms, reported fewer episodes of sexually explicit behavior, were 24% less likely to report dating abuse, and were 40% more likely to have given help or information about CSE to a friend.

Dorol-Beauroy-Eustache O, Mishara BL.

Systematic review of risk and protective factors for suicidal and self-harm behaviors among children and adolescents involved with cyberbullying.

Prev Med. 2021 Nov;152(Pt 1):106684. PMID: [34538376](#)

From a research review, school connectedness, restrictive style of parenting, parental support, life satisfaction, having a healthy diet, personal skills and having family dinners were associated with less risk of suicidal and self-harm behaviors following cyberbullying.

Researchers

Adkins-Jackson PB, Chantarat T, Bailey ZD, Ponce NA.

Measuring Structural Racism: A guide for epidemiologists and other health researchers.

Am J Epidemiol. 2021 Sep 25:kwab239. PMID: [34564723](#)

“The goal of this commentary is to inspire the use of up-to-date and theoretically-driven approaches to increase discourse amongst public health researchers on capturing racism as well as to improve evidence of its role as the fundamental cause of racial health inequities.”

Roldós MI, Farhat T.

Inadequate Data Limit the Analysis of Health Disparities and Causes: A Call for Research on Youth Interpersonal Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Oct;36(19-20):9850-9856. PMID: [31354027](#)

“In the last 20 years, the U.S. population has continued to become more racially and ethnically diverse. There is an ever-more pressing need to examine the health profile of all racial and ethnic groups that make up the U.S. population, rather than the health profile of a select few. Native Americans, Eskimo, and Asians are absent from most interpersonal violence analyses...This lack of data limits not only the understanding of the epidemiology of interpersonal violence for these populations but also the examination of the determinants contributing to disparities in interpersonal violence between populations.”

Pavarini G, Smith LM, Shaughnessy N, et. al.

Ethical issues in participatory arts methods for young people with adverse childhood experiences.

Health Expect. 2021 Oct;24(5):1557-1569. PMID: [34318573](#)

Authors take a detailed look at ethical issues between researchers and vulnerable adolescents with ACEs who are involved in arts-based research. Ethical guidance is offered for project entry, participation, and dissemination of results.

Other of Interest

Afrouz R.

The Nature, Patterns and Consequences of Technology-Facilitated Domestic Abuse: A Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Sep 28:15248380211046752. PMID: [34582729](#)

This research review found that many victims and frontline workers did not understand the nature and impacts of TFDA (technology-facilitated domestic abuse) - digital devices, online applications and social media accounts. “Thus, several strategies are needed to adequately tackle TFDA, including conducting further research on the issue, developing appropriate policy, and addressing gender inequality in the online environment.”

Hayes JM, Hann I, Punch LJ.

The Bullet Related Injury Clinic-Healing the Deep Wounds of Gun Violence.

JAMA Surg. 2021 Dec 22. PMID: [34935864](#)

“The Bullet Related Injury Clinic (BRIC) is an innovative program that seeks to address a common

gap in care for people who have had bullet-related injury (BRI), an experience that disproportionately affects young Black men. In the US, there is an annual average of more than 85 000 emergency department (ED) visits for nonfatal bullet injury and approximately 70% of patients are discharged from the ED to self-care without hospital admission. Yet, as bullets often affect otherwise healthy individuals who have no prior wound care experience, most survivors are not prepared to properly manage their pain and wounds...Warranted mistrust and structural barriers create obstacles for people who have experienced BRI, creating a body of unmet need in which neither the physical, psychological, nor social manifestations of BRI are adequately addressed...The BRIC was established to create a new system of care in St Louis, Missouri, by providing low-barrier, timely, and culturally competent support to survivors of BRI.”

Smitherman LC, Golden WC, Walton JR.

Health Disparities and Their Effects on Children and Their Caregivers During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2021 Oct;68(5):1133-1145. PMID: [34538304](#)

“The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has uncovered long-standing health disparities in marginalized communities, including racial and ethnic minorities and children with underlying medical and social problems. African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans have higher rates of COVID-19 infections and deaths than their population percentages in the United States. Unique populations of children, including children with developmental disabilities, children in the foster care system, children with chronic medical problems, and children who are homeless are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 infection. This article explores how the COVID-19 pandemic superimposed on health disparities directly and indirectly affects children, adolescents, and their caregivers.”

- Recommendations to decrease these disparities include addressing social determinants of health:
 - Education: providing schools and families with appropriate resources to stabilize and enhance virtual learning, offering individualized instruction for students falling behind, and redesigning the educational system to focus on the whole child
 - Health and health care: monitoring and addressing the physical and mental health of patients and families during the pandemic, advocating for the elimination of barriers to COVID-19 testing and vaccines, and recommending appropriate compensation for telemedicine care
 - Economic stability: providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for all essential workers, supporting fair housing practices (rental assistance, eviction moratoria) during the pandemic, and promoting affordable/free PPE supplies to families with high-risk household members.