

# ABUSE RESEARCH

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## Child Abuse

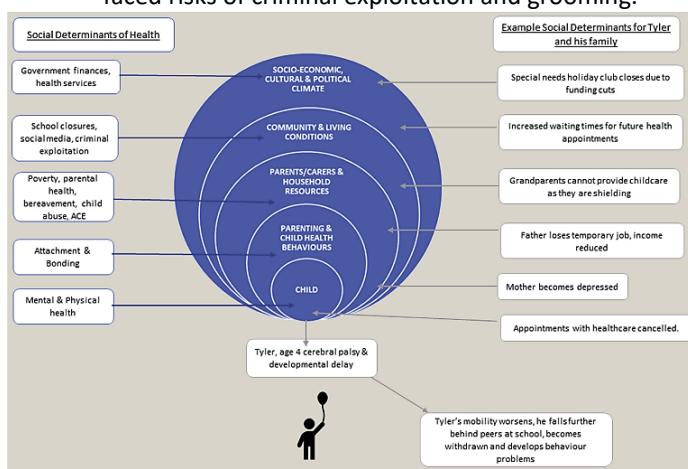
Singh A, Shah N, Mbeledogu C, Garstang J.

### Child wellbeing in the United Kingdom following the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Paediatr Child Health (Oxford). 2021 Dec;31(12):445-448.

PMID: [34630631](#)

"Children have suffered directly with lack of access to healthcare, and a decline in their mental health. Infant bonding may have been affected due to maternal stress, anxiety or depression, compounded by limited Health Visitor support. Poverty, food insecurity and lack of exercise contributed to increased obesity. Many children will have been exposed to domestic violence, parental mental illness and child abuse without being able to tell teachers or other adults outside of the home, and these Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) increase the risk for subsequent health and behaviour problems. Children have spent many hours online for school learning and socialising with friends but faced risks of criminal exploitation and grooming."



Seppälä P, Vornanen R, Toikko T.

### Multimorbidity and polyvictimization in children - An analysis on the association of children's disabilities and long-term illnesses with mental violence and physical violence.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Oct 6;122:105350. PMID: [34627039](#)

From a large survey of Finnish children aged 12-17 years, children's hearing impairment increased the odds of maltreatment perpetrated by parents by 5.68 times, physical disability by 3.32, and mental health problems by 4.37.

Schneiderman JU, Prindle J, Putnam-Hornstein E.

### Infant Deaths From Medical Causes After a Maltreatment Report.

Pediatrics. 2021 Sep;148(3):e2020048389. PMID: [34426532](#)

Examining birth, death, and CPS records for all children born in California 2010 - 2016, "After adjusting for baseline risk factors, and compared with infants never reported for maltreatment, the medical-related mortality risk was almost twice as great among infants reported once for maltreatment and 3 times greater if there was >1 maltreatment report. Among infants reported for maltreatment, periods of foster care placement reduced the risk of death by roughly half."

Hunter AA, DiVietro S, Schwab-Reese L, Riffon M.

### An Epidemiologic Examination of Perpetrators of Fatal Child Maltreatment Using the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS).

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Sep;36(17-18):NP9035-NP9052.

PMID: [31185785](#)

Using national data 2011-2015 for children < age 10 who experienced fatal child maltreatment, "Perpetrators were most often male (58%) and the parent of the child victim (53%). Intimate partners represented 22% of perpetrators. The odds of fatal maltreatment were modified by perpetrator age, sex, and relationship to the victim. (Filicide = the killing of one's child; infanticide = the killing of a child < 1 year of age)

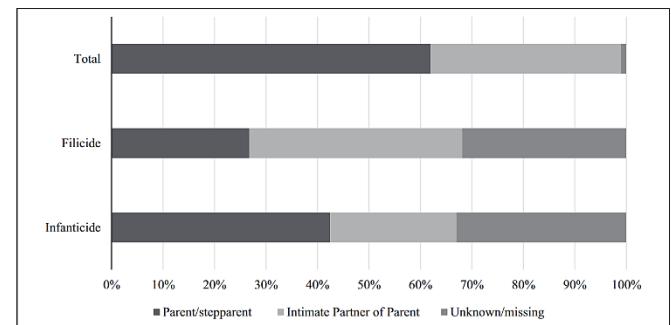


Figure 1. Perpetrator history of abusing child decedent, by fatality type.

# Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Howell KH, Miller-Graff LE, Martinez-Torteya C, et. al. **Charting a Course towards Resilience Following Adverse Childhood Experiences: Addressing Intergenerational Trauma via Strengths-Based Intervention.**

Children (Basel). 2021 Sep 24;8(10):844. PMID: [34682109](#)

"This review brings together various biological, psychological, and sociological principles that inform our understanding of ACEs and our approach to treatment. Specifically, we document the evolution of ACEs research, focusing on the intergenerational impact of ACEs, the importance of incorporating a resilience framework when examining ACEs, and implementing interventions that address adversity across generations and at multiple levels."

MacIntosh HB, Ménard AD.

**Where are We Now? A Consolidation of the Research on Long-term Impact of Child Sexual Abuse.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2021 Apr;30(3):253-257. PMID: [33988087](#)

Introduction to this special issue on long-term impacts of childhood sexual abuse on adult functioning and wellbeing. [Table of Contents with abstracts](#)

Lin L, Wang HH, Lu C, Chen W, Guo VY.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences and Subsequent Chronic Diseases Among Middle-aged or Older Adults in China and Associations With Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2021 Oct 1;4(10):e2130143. PMID: [34694390](#)

From a large national study in China of respondents aged 45 years or older and who had at least one chronic disease, 80.9% reported at least 1 ACE, and 18.0% reported 4+ ACEs. "Compared with those without ACE exposure, participants who experienced 4 or more ACEs had increased risks of dyslipidemia, chronic lung disease, asthma, liver disease, digestive disease, kidney disease, arthritis, psychiatric disease, memory-related disease, and multimorbidity...regardless of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics during childhood or adulthood."

Tracy EL, Tracy CT, Kim JJ, Yang R, Kim E.

**Cascading effects of childhood abuse on physical health issues in later adulthood through trait anxiety and poor daily sleep quality.**

J Health Psychol. 2021 Oct;26(12):2342-2348. PMID: [32114830](#)

As part of a US national mid-life study, "Individuals who reported a higher level of childhood abuse reported a higher level of trait anxiety and a lower level of daily sleep quality, leading to an increase in physical health issues. The results highlight the cascading effects of childhood abuse on serious health consequences over the life span."

Haddad S, Martin-Marchand L, Lafaysse M, et. al. **Repeat induced abortion and adverse childhood experiences in Aquitaine, France: a cross-sectional survey.** Eur J Contracept Reprod Health Care. 2021 Feb;26(1):29-35. PMID: [32914679](#)

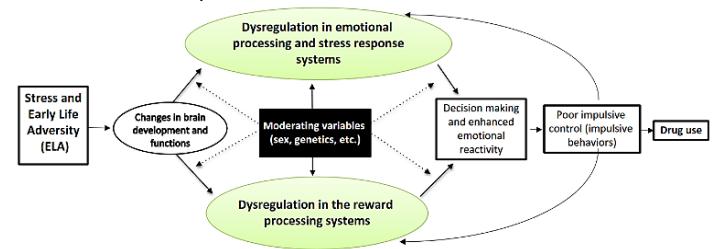
This study of 806 French women at 25 abortion centers showed a graded link between the extent of ACE exposure and the occurrence of repeat induced abortions, with those with high ACE exposure 7.73 times more likely to have had 3+ abortions.

Schönenfelder A, Rath D, Forkmann T, et. al. **Is the relationship between child abuse and suicide attempts mediated by nonsuicidal self-injury and pain tolerance?** Clin Psychol Psychother. 2021 Jan;28(1):189-199. PMID: [32816347](#)

For 308 German psychiatric inpatients with a recent suicidal crisis, all types of childhood abuse showed a relationship with non-suicidal self-injury, such as cutting, which itself was "an important predictor for suicide attempts and should be considered in suicide risk assessment."

al'Absi M. **The influence of stress and early life adversity on addiction: Psychobiological mechanisms of risk and resilience.** Int Rev Neurobiol. 2020;152:71-100. PMID: [32451001](#)

"Preclinical, clinical, and population research demonstrates that stress and early life adversity (ELA) increase vulnerability to initiate, maintain, and relapse in addiction...Our model proposes that long-term effects of stress and ELA on the brain contribute to dysregulation of the stress response, emotional reactivity, reward systems, cognitive dysregulation, and delay discounting that lead to impulsive and high-risk behaviors, such as drug use and relapse."



Chen G, Gueta K, Ronel N.

### **Does Self-Change Occur Among Severely Dependent Substance Users?**

J Psychoactive Drugs. 2020 Sep-Oct;52(4):357-365. PMID: [32490757](#)

For 229 Israeli adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) who were able to move away from addiction, the severity of substance dependence did not differentiate between self-changers and treatment-changers, but rather the severity of psychiatric problems and history of child abuse did. "This indicates a need for treatment interventions targeting all three issues of childhood trauma, SUDs, and psychiatric problems."

Clemens V, Beschoner P, Jarczok MN, et. al.

### **The mediating role of COVID-19-related burden in the association between adverse childhood experiences and emotional exhaustion: results of the egePan – VOICE study.**

Eur J Psychotraumatol. 2021 Oct 1;12(1):1976441. PMID: [34621498](#)

In this survey of 2500 German healthcare professionals during the first lockdown of the pandemic, all types of ACEs were associated with increased emotional exhaustion (EE) on the burnout scale, and there was a positive direct association between increasing ACE score and increasing EE.

## **Adolescents**

Mitchell JM, Becker-Blease KA, Soicher RN.

### **Child Sexual Abuse, Academic Functioning and Educational Outcomes in Emerging Adulthood.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2021 Apr;30(3):278-297. PMID: [33416025](#)

"In many parts of the world, emerging adults, aged 18 to 25 years old, require education beyond high school to transition to a stable, secure adulthood. Child abuse, trauma, victimization, and adversity have been shown to negatively affect academic functioning and educational attainment during childhood and adolescence. Despite this, many emerging adults who have experienced these adverse events also show remarkable resilience...We find initial evidence that academic functioning and educational outcomes are separable, with more research needed."

Sani F, Herrera M, Bielawska K.

### **Child maltreatment is linked to difficulties in identifying with social groups as a young adult.**

Br J Dev Psychol. 2020 Oct;38(4):491-496. PMID: [32227369](#)

"Subjective feelings of disconnectedness from social groups have been found to be detrimental to

mental health...across the lifespan." In this study of 396 Spanish young adults, "a greater degree of maltreatment received before the age of 14 is linked to a lower number of social groups one identifies with, even after controlling for current levels of depression, anxiety, and borderline personality."

## **Domestic Violence – Effects on Children**

Chung G, Jensen TM, Parisi A, Macy RJ, Lanier P.

### **Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Parenting and Children's Externalizing Behaviors: Transactional Processes Over Time.**

Violence Against Women. 2021 Nov;27(14):2576-2599.

PMID: [33507849](#)

"From a sample of 1,152 low-income mothers with children age 10-14 years...past-year IPV triggered increasing children's externalizing behaviors which, in turn, increased spanking and subsequently more externalizing behaviors."

Ahmad SI, Rudd KL, LeWinn KZ, et. al.

### **Maternal childhood trauma and prenatal stressors are associated with child behavioral health.**

J Dev Orig Health Dis. 2021 Oct 20:1-11. PMID: [34666865](#)

Using data from a study of 1503 mother-child pairs from pregnancy, and adjusting for multiple factors, "maternal childhood trauma, socioeconomic risk, and intimate partner violence were independently, positively associated with child socioemotional-behavioral problems at age one...modifiable environmental factors, including knowledge regarding child development, can mitigate these risks. Both findings support the importance of parental screening and early intervention to promote child socioemotional-behavioral health."

Grasso DJ, DiVietro S, Beebe R, Clough M, Lapidus G.

### **Quantifying Severity of Maltreatment, Adversity, and Trauma From Child Protective Services Case Record Files.**

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Sep;36(17-18):8142-8163. PMID: [31092088](#)

Of 100 families with 150 children referred to CPS, case records were assessed re: severity of maltreatment. "Severity of psychological intimate partner violence and neglect were predictive of new allegations of child abuse or neglect within 12 months of referral. Findings support moving beyond an incident-based CPS strategy to one that better incorporates case record information to assess risk."

Orr C, O'Donnell M, Fisher C, Bell M, Glauert R, Preen D. **School Readiness of Children Exposed to Family and Domestic Violence.** J Interpers Violence. 2021 Oct 20:8862605211050099. PMID: [34668413](#)

From an Australian study of children found in police and hospital records to have been exposed to family and domestic violence (FDV), compared to a control group, children exposed to FDV had higher odds than non-exposed children of being vulnerable in all important developmental domains of childhood: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based) and communication skills and general knowledge. Comprehensive multiagency early intervention for children exposed to FDV is required to mitigate the impact on outcomes, and ultimately the need to prevent FDV is needed."

Ward N, Correia H, McBride N. **Maternal psycho-social risk factors associated with maternal alcohol consumption and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: a systematic review.**

Arch Gynecol Obstet. 2021 Dec;304(6):1399-1407. PMID: [34468822](#)

From a research review, "Multiple studies identified the significance of prior mental illness, anxiety, depression, exposure to abuse and/or domestic violence and alcohol consumption behaviours of partners and family members as strong predictors of risky alcohol consumption during pregnancy and therefore associated risk of FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder]." Effects of FASD on exposed children include cognitive impairment, malformations of the skeletal system and major organ systems (specifically the heart and brain), inhibited growth, central nervous system complications, poor motor skills, mortality, and difficulty with learning, memory, social interaction, attention span, problem solving, speech and/or hearing. There are also facial features that are characteristic of babies with FASD, including small eyes, short or upturned nose, flat cheeks, and thin lips. These features fade as the child grows up.

## Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Tracy BM, Whitson AK, Chen JC, Weiss BD, Sims CA. **Examining Violence Against Women at a Regional Level 1 Trauma Center During the COVID-19 Pandemic.** Am Surg. 2021 Oct 13:31348211047467. PMID: [34645329](#)

While the rates of cases of violence against women seen at one trauma center remained the same pre-Covid and during Covid, there was a 5 times increased rate of penetrating trauma (such as caused by a knife or gun) during the pandemic.

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Dardis CM, Ahrens C, Howard RL, Mechanic MB. **Patterns of Surveillance, Control, and Abuse Among a Diverse Sample of Intimate Partner Abuse Survivors.** Violence Against Women. 2021 Dec;27(15-16):2882-2909. PMID: [33370216](#)

Of 246 diverse IPV survivors, 57% described surveillance by a partner, with no differences in ethnic groups. (Chart shows monitoring types.)

**Table 3.** Descriptive Statistics for Qualitative and Quantitative Surveillance Constructs.

Qualitative surveillance codes (N = 113)	Survivors describing code % (N)
Physically monitoring	31.0% (N = 35)
Monitoring electronic devices	30.1% (N = 34)
Monitoring activities and whereabouts	24.8% (N = 28)
Monitoring money, receipts, and belongings	11.5% (N = 13)
Monitoring work	5.3% (N = 6)
Using others to monitor	9.7% (N = 11)
Recording	1.8% (N = 2)
Quantitative surveillance items (N = 193)	% Experienced
My partner followed or spied on me.	31.6% (N = 61)
My partner made unwanted phone calls to me.	40.9% (N = 79)
My partner showed up uninvited at my home, at school, or at other places he had no business being, to keep track of me or to bother me.	26.4% (N = 51)

## Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Woolford MH, Stacpoole SJ, Clinnick L. **Resident-to-Resident Elder Mistreatment in Residential Aged Care Services: A Systematic Review of Event Frequency, Type, Resident Characteristics, and History.** J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2021 Aug;22(8):1678-1691. PMID: [33727003](#)

From a research review, the estimated frequency of resident-to-resident elder mistreatment (R-REM) was reported to be 12% to 23%, with 18.7% to 98.0% of care staff reporting to have observed R-REM. Physical and verbal abuse were the most commonly reported types of mistreatments. The mean age of perpetrators was 80.93 years, most were men (83.2%), and 64.4% had dementia and/or Alzheimer diagnosis.

Weeks LE, Stilwell C, Gagnon D, et. al.

**Initiatives to Support Older Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence.**

Violence Against Women. 2021 Dec;27(15-16):3011-3029.

PMID: [33543678](#)

Authors identified available resources for older Canadian women who experienced IPV through research reviews, surveys and interviews with service providers. They identified different types of service provisions, however they also identified ageist attitudes from general IPV support programs, isolation of programs just for older women, and conflicting opinions about whether services for these groups should be separated or not. "Several challenges can result from including all ages together, such as the specific needs of older women not being met."

Campbell RJ, Lichtenberg PA.

**Short Form of the Financial Exploitation Vulnerability Scale.**

Clin Gerontol. 2021 Oct-Dec;44(5):594-603. PMID: [33124959](#)

The short form of the Financial Exploitation Vulnerability Scale (FEVS) contains 9 items, and "had comparable internal consistency to the full FEVS...This tool serves a need in many professional settings (e.g., doctor's offices and Adult Protective Services) for a brief, standardized assessment measure of financial exploitation risk."

## LGBTQ Concerns

Heiderscheit EA, Schlick CJR, Ellis RJ, et. al.

**Experiences of LGBTQ+ Residents in US General Surgery Training Programs.**

JAMA Surg. 2021 Oct 20:e215246. PMID: [34668969](#)

From a survey of 6956 surgical residents, (85.6% response rate), 4.8% identified as LGBTQ+. LGBTQ+ respondents vs. non-LGBTQ+ respondents reported more discrimination (59.2% vs. 42.3%), sexual harassment (47.5% vs. 29.3%), and bullying (74.8% vs. 66.9%), with attending surgeons the most common source. Compared with non-LGBTQ+ men, LGBTQ+ residents were more likely to report discrimination (men: 2.57 times increased; women: 25.30 times), sexual harassment (men: 2.04; women: 5.72), and bullying (men: 1.51; women: 2.00). While learning environment, career satisfaction and burnout were the same for all groups, LGBTQ+ residents were over twice as likely to consider leaving their program, and mistreatment was associated with increased suicidality.

## Race/Cultural Concerns

Harris LK, Berry DC, Cortés YI.

**Psychosocial factors related to Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Young African American Women: a systematic review.**

Ethn Health. 2021 Oct 20:1-19. PMID: [34668802](#)

Findings from this review suggest that exposure to adverse psychosocial factors (perceived stress, racial discrimination, internalized racism, depression) may be related to increased CVD risk (higher body mass index and increased blood pressure) in early adulthood (age 19-24) in African American women.

Helminen EC, Scheer JR, Edwards KM, Felver JC.

**Adverse childhood experiences exacerbate the association between day-to-day discrimination and mental health symptomatology in undergraduate students.**

J Affect Disord. 2021 Oct 26:S0165-0327(21)01136-8. PMID: [34715169](#)

For 250 undergraduates, participants with greater discrimination exposure and ACEs reported significantly more depression, anxiety, physical symptoms, and more psychological distress, relative to those with less discrimination exposure and few or no ACEs. Both ACEs and discrimination seemed to have an additive negative impact on mental health. "Reported discrimination experiences included ancestry or national origin, gender, race/skin color, age, religion, height, weight, other aspect of physical appearance, sexual orientation, education/income, and physical disability.

Fedock G, Cummings C, Kubiak S, et. al.

**Incarcerated Women's Experiences of Staff-Perpetrated Rape: Racial Disparities and Justice Gaps in Institutional Responses.**

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Sep;36(17-18):8668-8692. PMID: [31148502](#)

"Within correctional settings, incarcerated women have disproportionately high rates of experiencing staff-perpetrated sexual victimization. In addition, only a small proportion of incarcerated women formally report their victimization experiences to correctional staff and even fewer reports are fully investigated by internal investigators and found to be substantiated...Black women represented over half of the incarcerated women who experienced staff-perpetrated rape...Black women were less likely to have their reports investigated by staff and were more likely to have their investigated reports found to be unsubstantiated."

Dormire SL, Gary JC, Norman JM, Harvey IS.

### **Insights into fear: A phenomenological study of Black mothers.**

J Adv Nurs. 2021 Nov;77(11):4490-4499. PMID: [34245167](#)

"Previous research has found that Black populations in America fear for their safety. This study identified a pervasive and profound fear for their children, specifically sons who are at a higher risk of being killed in normal daily activities. Mothers also expressed fears about their responsibility to keep them safe by providing the right tools."

Wyatt TR, Taylor TR, White D, Rockich-Winston N.

### **"When No One Sees You as Black": The Effect of Racial Violence on Black Trainees and Physicians.**

Acad Med. 2021 Nov 1;96(11S):S17-S22. PMID: [34348386](#)

From interviews with 7 Black trainees and 12 physicians from 2 Southern medical schools, "even though participants were not direct victims of racial violence, because their social identity is linked to the Black community, they experienced these events vicariously. The increase in racial violence triggered unresolved personal and collective memories of intergenerational racial trauma, and an awakening to the fact that the white community was unaware of their current and historical trauma. These events were felt in both their personal and professional lives."

## **Sexual Assault**

Brunton R, Dryer R.

### **Sexual violence and Australian women: A longitudinal analysis of psychosocial and behavioral outcomes.**

Soc Sci Med. 2021 Aug 20:114334. PMID: [34600769](#)

Using data from a large national Australian women's health study, women who had suffered sexual violence, in comparison to women with no SV history, had greater anxiety, depression, stress, lower mental health-related quality of life, less life satisfaction, more re-victimization, and more use of cigarettes and illicit drugs. Level of distress remained high even 12 years later, although level of social support decreased all of these effects except drug status.

Thurston RC, Jakubowski K, Chang Y, et. al.

### **Sexual Assault and Carotid Plaque Among Midlife Women.**

J Am Heart Assoc. 2021 Feb;10(5):e017629. PMID: [33619993](#)

In a study of 169 non-smoking, cardiovascular disease-free women aged 40-60 years assessed over 5 years, those with a history of sexual assault had a 4-fold increased risk of higher plaque levels at

baseline than those without an assault history, and over a 3-fold increase in plaque progression over the course of the study. "Neither depression nor post-traumatic symptoms were related to plaque... Associations were not explained by standard cardiovascular disease risk factors."

Decker SE, Ramsey CM, Ronzitti S, et. al.

### **Military sexual trauma and suicidal ideation in VHA-care-seeking OEF/OIF/OND veterans without mental health diagnosis or treatment.**

Psychiatry Res. 2021 Sep;303:114089. PMID: [34247061](#)

Of 41,658 veterans without evidence of a mental health diagnosis or treatment, military sexual trauma (MST) was reported by 27.9% of women and 2.9% of men. MST was associated with a high risk of suicidal ideation (SI) in both genders. "Positive MST screening should prompt SI screening."

Mailhes J, Yarrarapu SNS, Callahan AL.

### **Sexual Assault Clothing Collection and Documentation.**

StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2021 Jan. PMID: [32491329](#)

"Medical management should be the first and top priority in caring for sexual assault victims...After the patient is clinically stable, proper assault protocol can commence." This review then outlines proper procedure for evidence collection.

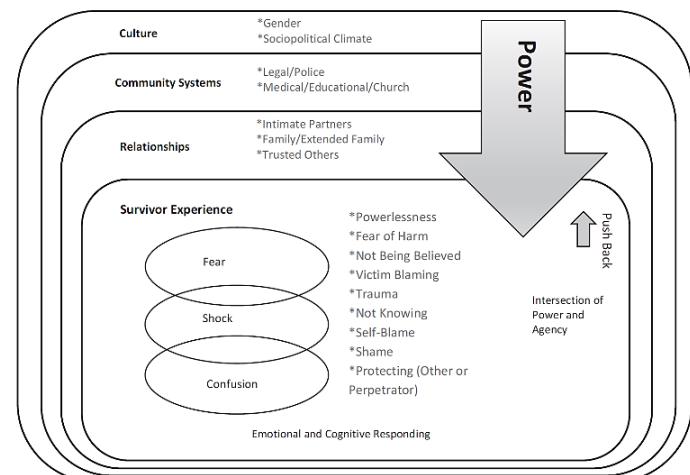
Whiting JB, Pickens JC, Sagers AL, PettyJohn M, Davies B.

### **Trauma, social media, and #WhyIDidntReport: An analysis of twitter posts about reluctance to report sexual assault.**

J Marital Fam Ther. 2021 Jul;47(3):749-766. PMID: [33350489](#)

From an analysis of twitter responses on not reporting a sexual assault, "this study highlights the important role power and agency play in survivors' experience with deciding to report...Each survivor interacts with relationships, community, and society, and makes a decision based on these factors."

*The Interaction of Ecological Factors and Individual Reluctance to Report Sexual Assault*



Cusack SE, Bourdon JL, Bountress K, et. al.  
**Prospective Predictors of Sexual Revictimization Among College Students.**  
*J Interpers Violence.* 2021 Sep;36(17-18):8494-8518. PMID: [31130049](#)

Of 3,294 college students who had experienced sexual assault, 39.5% experienced revictimization. Rates of revictimization were higher for those identifying as women and White. "Trauma-related distress and increased symptoms of alcohol use disorder (AUD) and depression were all related to a greater risk of experiencing revictimization... universal programming efforts should also focus on factors that promote resilience in the face of sexual assault, such as reducing risky drinking behavior, increasing social support, and reducing stigma around the reporting of mental health symptoms."

## Human Trafficking

Peck JL, Meadows-Oliver M, Hays SM, Maaks DG.  
**White Paper: Recognizing Child Trafficking as a Critical Emerging Health Threat.**  
*J Pediatr Health Care.* 2021 May-Jun;35(3):260-269. PMID: [32178939](#)

"The purpose of this article was to engage and equip pediatric health care providers to respond effectively to human trafficking in the clinical setting, improving health outcomes for affected and at-risk children.

TABLE 2. Health care provider response to CT victims in the clinical setting	
Response	Action Items
<b>Evidence-Based</b>	Practice within the scope of your education, license, certification and training Adhere to mandatory reporting laws in your state Seek high quality continuing education from reputable entities Provide appropriate care for presenting clinical concerns (i.e. injuries or illnesses) Advocate for use of scientifically-designed screening tools with evidence of reliability and validity Facilitate appropriate referral and connection to interprofessional holistic service entities
<b>Trauma-Informed</b>	<b>Safety-</b> Ensure emotional and physical safety for all involved parties in the clinical setting Avoid unintentional re-traumatization by using well-intentioned but ill-informed interview techniques Make every effort to provide privacy during clinician interaction with the individual, separate from individuals potentially posing threats (i.e. traffickers) <b>Choice-</b> Provide individuals with control and clear, appropriate messages about their rights and responsibilities Do not attempt to force the patient to self-disclose Know and adhere to federal and state laws as well as organizational policy governing mandatory reporting <b>Collaboration-</b> Share power in decision making and planning Collaborate with interprofessional disciplines <b>Trustworthiness-</b> Maintain respect and professional boundaries Do not make promises you cannot keep <b>Empowerment-</b> Prioritize empowerment and skill building Do not "rescue" the patient Communicate messages of hope This is a safe place You are not alone This is not your fault You deserve to receive help <b>Culturally-Responsive</b> Identify your personal potential biases Use a professional interpreter or interpreter service(s) to provide linguistically appropriate services to individuals who speak a different language Recognize the differences between the culture of law enforcement, the health care profession, trafficked individuals, and other interprofessional disciplines involved in care Advocate trafficking response teams that are inclusive and representative of diverse perspectives
Note. CT, child trafficking. Source: Peck, 2019.	

Kaltiso SO, Greenbaum VJ, Moran TP, et. al.  
**Feasibility of a screening tool for sex trafficking in an adult emergency department.**

*Acad Emerg Med.* 2021 Dec;28(12):1399-1408. PMID: [34133829](#)  
A busy urban emergency department screened 26,974 adult patients for human trafficking during 2019. 189 had a positive screen, 37 of these were confirmed to have a likely sex trafficking status, and 8 of these patients elected to go to a community partner safe house. The power of the original 11 question screen was found to rely on 7 questions, especially "Does anyone make you have any kind of sex for work/money?"

Helpingstine C, Kenny MC, Malik F.  
**Vicarious Traumatization and Burnout among Service Providers for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.**  
*J Child Sex Abus.* 2021 Aug-Sep;30(6):722-745. PMID: [34137346](#)

From interviews with service professionals, "Most participants reported experiences of vicarious trauma and burnout are inevitable when working with this population, but self-care strategies and peer support are essential to combatting these negative experiences."

## Perpetrators

Key R, Underwood A, Farnham F, Marzano L, Hawton K.  
**Suicidal behavior in individuals accused or convicted of child sex abuse or indecent image offenses.**  
*Suicide Life Threat Behav.* 2021 Aug;51(4):715-728. PMID: [33811669](#)

From a research review, "The risk of suicide in perpetrators of child sexual abuse and accessing indecent images of children might be over 100 times that of the general population, although estimates vary widely between studies. Several complex, interlinking factors were identified as associated with risk, including shame, characteristics of the offenders, absence of prior criminal contact, and the impact of a criminal investigation."

Bukten A, Stavseth MR.  
**Suicide in prison and after release: a 17-year national study.**  
*Eur J Epidemiol.* 2021 Oct;36(10):1075-1083. PMID: [34427828](#)

From a national Norwegian database, suicide accounted for about 10% of all deaths of adults with a history of incarceration, and was the leading cause of death in prison (53% of deaths). Rates were 10 times higher on day one of incarceration, and also peaked on day one after release. Convictions for severe violent crime, especially homicide, were associated with increased suicide risk.

Hales ST, Gannon TA.

### **Understanding Sexual Aggression in UK Male University**

#### **Students: Prevalence and Psychological Risk Factors.**

Sex Abuse. 2021 Oct 27:10790632211051682. PMID:

[34702099](#)

Of almost 300 male UK university students, 11.4% reported recent sexual aggression. "These participants could be statistically differentiated from their non-offending peers on various established indicators...atypical sexual fantasies, general aggression, hostility toward women, and rape myth acceptance as being the most reliable predictors."

## **Police and Court Systems**

Bendlin M, Sheridan L.

### **Risk Factors for Severe Violence in Intimate Partner Stalking Situations: An Analysis of Police Records.**

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Sep;36(17-18):7895-7916. PMID:

[31064254](#)

369 domestic violence stalking police reports were analyzed, and factors associated with those resulting in severe physical violence included child contact, history of domestic violence, separation, nonfatal strangulation, jealousy, previous injury, and victim belief of potential harm.

Hudspith LF, Wager N, Willmott D, Gallagher B.

### **Forty Years of Rape Myth Acceptance Interventions: A Systematic Review of What Works in Naturalistic Institutional Settings and How this can be Applied to Educational Guidance for Jurors.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Oct 26:15248380211050575.

PMID: [34696651](#)

Authors conducted a research review to develop an educational intervention for jurors in rape trials that addresses rape myth acceptance (RMA), "given previous evidence that RMA can affect decision-making and verdicts...Intervention types that were effective in reducing RMA included those that presented RM information; those that contained an empathy component; and bystander programmes. With regards to duration and format, short interventions led to reductions in RMA, and most successful interventions were presented via videos."

## **Providers**

Clements AD, Haas B, Cyphers NA, Hoots V, Barnet J.

### **Creating a Communitywide System of Trauma-Informed Care.**

Prog Community Health Partnersh. 2020;14(4):499-507.

PMID: [33416770](#)

"We have successfully developed a communitywide system of TIC enhancing collaboration and common language across sectors and organizations. The collaboration involved more than 100 individuals from more than 45 organizations including healthcare, education, children's services, the faith community, behavioral health providers, criminal justice, law enforcement, private businesses, and others...verifying its ability to increase understanding and implementation of TIC principles, replication in a nearby city, and the development of an instructional toolkit to aid other communities in creating such systems of care."

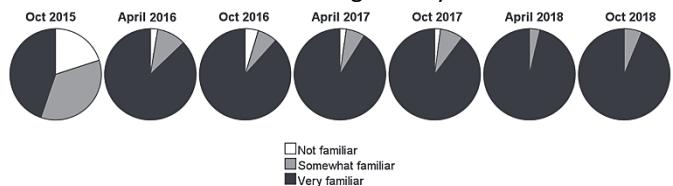


Figure 1. Familiarity with Trauma Informed Care

Sherfinski HT, Condit PE, Williams Al-Kharusy SS, et. al.

### **Adverse Childhood Experiences: Perceptions, Practices, and Possibilities.**

WMJ. 2021 Oct;120(3):209-217. PMID: [34710303](#)

This research review concluded "ACEs are a public health concern. However...A large proportion of providers and trainees are unaware of the effects of adverse childhood experiences...the long-term effects of trainings remain largely unexplored. Barriers such as a lack of time, resources, comfort, or consensus regarding how to ethically screen impede broader efforts to implement systematic screenings for adverse childhood experiences."

Schweer-Collins M, Lanier P.

### **Health Care Access and Quality Among Children Exposed to Adversity: Implications for Universal Screening of ACEs.**

Matern Child Health J. 2021 Dec;25(12):1903-1912. PMID: [34665356](#)

From a large national study, high ACEs (4 or more) were associated with lower quality of provider care, including effective care coordination, family-centered care, shared decision making, and referrals for care. Children with high ACEs were also less likely to have a medical home and also had significantly greater difficulty accessing mental health treatment. Similar results were found for children in the moderate ACE (2-3) and low ACE (1) groups...Because findings indicate that children with high ACEs may be the least likely to receive quality care or necessary mental health treatment to address this adversity, universal screening for ACEs should be considered with caution."

Wood L, Hairston D, Schrag RV, et. al.

**Creating a Digital Trauma Informed Space: Chat and Text Advocacy for Survivors of Violence.**

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Oct 29:8862605211043573. PMID: 34715764

"Chat/text services provide a space for connection, resource provision, education, and access to resource gain in a timely, concise, and survivor-centered way. The five major goals for chat/text advocacy models include the following: (1) rapid access to support and connection; (2) identification of options and needs for each service user; (3) increased access to resources and supports; (4) expanded understanding of violence, abuse, and harm; and (5) improvement of survivor safety."

Lucas C, Crowell KR, Olympia RP.

**School Nurses on the Front Lines of Healthcare: Red Flags and Red Herrings: Improving the Recognition of Bruises and Burns Associated With Physical Abuse in School-Age Children.**

NASN Sch Nurse. 2021 Jan;36(1):32-38. PMID: 32741252

"Through a series of case scenarios, this article describes the assessment and management of suspected physical child abuse presenting as bruises and burns. Although it is not uncommon for school-age children to have accidental injuries, recognizing patterns associated with physical child abuse and understanding red flags for abuse is vital...failure to intervene appropriately may leave children at risk for more serious injury or death."

Fauteux N.

**Jackie Campbell: Creator of the Danger Assessment.**

Am J Nurs. 2021 Oct 1;121(10):68-70. PMID: 34554994



Tribute to Dr. Jackie Campbell, professor and Chair at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing with a joint appointment at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, American Academy of Nursing's Living Legend, "godmother" of IPV research, and creator of the Danger Assessment. As she "nears the end of her career, she remains committed to her research and wishes more nurses would follow in her footsteps. She would also like to see greater collaboration across the researcher/practitioner divide, so the two perspectives are 'together in designing the research and figuring out what the practice implications are from the beginning'."

Constantian MB, Zaborek N.

**The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Body Shame, and Revision Request Rate in 218 Plastic Surgery Patients: What Drives Postoperative Dissatisfaction?**

Plast Reconstr Surg. 2021 Dec 1;148(6):1233-1246. PMID: 34644275

218 consecutive plastic surgery patients (86% aesthetic and 14% reconstructive) completed the ACE Survey and the Experience of Shame Scale. Compared to the general population, patients in this study had higher overall adverse childhood experience prevalence (79.8% versus 64%), emotional abuse (41% versus 11%), emotional neglect (38% versus 15%), family substance abuse (36% versus 27%), and family mental illness (29% versus 19%). 52% had body shame, which was predicted by ACE score. Body shame was associated with more cosmetic operations, more health problems, higher antidepressant use, substance abuse history, demands for additional pain medication, and requests for surgical revision (49% versus 17%).

Giesbrecht CJ.

**Intimate Partner Violence, Animal Maltreatment, and Concern for Animal Safekeeping: A Survey of Survivors Who Owned Pets and Livestock.**

Violence Against Women. 2021 Oct 14:10778012211034215. PMID: 34647504

In this disturbing qualitative and quantitative study of Canadian pet and livestock owners experiencing IPV, 34.5% stated that care for their companion animals prevented them from seeking assistance for IPV. 32.4% reported that their children had witnessed pets being abused, threatened, starved or even killed, and perpetrators had refused to allow veterinary care, which prolonged suffering. Several participants put themselves in the path of violence to protect their animals. "I just wish that all safe houses would include whatever pets the woman and her family have."

**Table 3.** Barriers for Victims Who Care for Animals.

	Pets (n=58) % (n)	Livestock (n=11) % (n)
Afraid my partner would hurt the animal(s) if I left it/them behind	36.2 (21)	27.3 (3)
There was no one I could ask to board my animal(s)	29.3 (17)	45.5 (5)
There was no one I could ask to check on, feed, and water my animal(s)	24.1 (14)	36.4 (4)
Companionship/support—I did not want to be away from the animal(s)	51.7 (30)	27.3 (3)
Other	27.6 (16)	45.5 (5)

Joy EA, Herring SA, Nelson C, et. al.

**Sexual Violence in Sport: Expanding Awareness and Knowledge for Sports Medicine Providers.**

Curr Sports Med Rep. 2021 Oct 1;20(10):531-539. PMID: 34622818

"Several sports organizations (e.g., International Olympic Committee, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and the National Athletic Trainers' Association) have developed policies and

procedures to prevent sexual violence and help sports medicine specialists provide care and services for athletes affected by sexual violence. Nevertheless, there remains a need for clinical guidelines, screening tools, and education, as well as clinical best practices to address sexual violence in sports medicine."

## Prevention

Mehta D, Kelly AB, Laurens KR, et. al.

**Child Maltreatment and Long-Term Physical and Mental Health Outcomes: An Exploration of Biopsychosocial Determinants and Implications for Prevention.**

Child Psychiatry Hum Dev. 2021 Sep 29:1-15. PMID: [34586552](#)

"This review has highlighted the high and most likely underestimated prevalence of child maltreatment, the ongoing challenges of measurement, the profound and long-lasting impacts of child maltreatment on mental and physical health, and the substantial economic costs associated with these impacts...Five recommendations relating to the accurate measurement of trends, research on brain structures and processes, improving the reach and impact of teleservices for detecting, preventing and treating child maladjustment, community-based approaches, and building population-focused multidisciplinary alliances and think tanks are presented."

Ross KM, Cole S, Sanghera H, Anis L, Hart M, Letourneau N. **The ATTACH™ program and immune cell gene expression profiles in mothers and children: A pilot randomized controlled trial.**

Brain Behav Immun Health. 2021 Oct 2;18:100358. PMID: [34647106](#)

For 20 mother-child pairs recruited from a Canadian domestic violence shelter, a 10 week psycho-educational intervention that fosters maternal reflective function showed, after controlling for various factors, that both mother and child participants had "healthier immune cell gene expression profiles post-intervention compared with wait-list controls. Parenting interventions could decrease the impact of toxic stress on maternal-child immune health."

Morton KR, Lee JW, Spencer-Hwang R.

**Plant-based dietary intake moderates adverse childhood experiences association with early mortality in an older Adventist cohort.**

J Psychosom Res. 2021 Sep 28;151:110633. PMID: [34634675](#)

In this study of 9301 Seventh-day Adventists 2006-2017, the majority being female, White, and 60 years old, "ACEs were adversely associated with survival time...Plant-based intake was associated with a reduction in the association of 4+ ACEs with early mortality above and beyond demographics, animal-based intake, physical health, mental health, BMI, exercise, and worship. We estimate that after 4+ ACEs, those eating high versus low plant-based dietary intake may live 5.4 years longer...however, observational studies cannot determine causality." (There are several issues with this study, including unknown impact of lifelong dietary intake vs. present intake, but the concept of diet is something important to consider in ACE outcomes prevention.)

Taussig HN, Dmitrieva J, Garrido EF, Cooley JL, Crites E. **Fostering Healthy Futures Preventive Intervention for Children in Foster Care: Long-term Delinquency Outcomes from a Randomized Controlled Trial.**

Prev Sci. 2021 Nov;22(8):1120-1133. PMID: [33905053](#)

"This study examines the long-term impact of the Fostering Healthy Futures (FHF) program, a 30-week mentoring and skills group preventive intervention for preadolescent maltreated children in foster care. Participants included 426 children recently placed in out-of-home care who were randomized to intervention or control conditions...the intervention group self-reported 30-82% less total and non-violent delinquency than the control group between ages 14 and 18. Court charges for total and violent delinquency in mid-adolescence were also 15-30% lower for the intervention group."

## Researchers

Meehan AJ, Baldwin JR, Lewis SJ, MacLeod JG, Danese A. **Poor Individual Risk Classification From Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening.**

Am J Prev Med. 2021 Oct 9:S0749-3797(21)00456-6. PMID: [34635382](#)

"The classification accuracy of a recommended clinical definition for high-risk exposure ( $\geq 4$  versus 0-3 adverse childhood experiences) was evaluated on the basis of sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values, and positive likelihood ratios...findings suggest that screening based on the adverse childhood experience score does not accurately identify those individuals at high risk of health problems. This can lead to both allocation of unnecessary interventions and lack of provision of necessary support."

Linde-Krieger LB, Moon CM, Yates TM.

**The Implications of Self-Definitions of Child Sexual Abuse for Understanding Socioemotional Adaptation in Young Adulthood.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2021 Jan;30(1):80-101. PMID: [33206584](#)

In a large and ethnically diverse college student sample of 2,195, those who objectively and subjectively perceived themselves as having experienced childhood sexual abuse showed the largest elevations in mental health and risk behaviors, whereas survivors who did not perceive their experiences as "abuse" evidenced the largest deficits in how they perceived themselves. "These findings indicate that standard screening criteria may misidentify a sizable group of CSA survivors because these individuals do not perceive their experiences as 'abuse'".

## Other of Interest

Bradley J.

**Residential Institutions Redress Board of the Irish Government 2002-2018.**

Med Leg J. 2021 Mar;89(1):54-57. PMID: [33496206](#)

"In 1999, the Irish Government commissioned a report into the abuse of children who were in the care of facilities managed and run under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church in the Irish Republic in the 1940s and 1950s. A Redress Board was set up to investigate and compensate claimants who were abused physically and mentally as children when living in these facilities. The Board sat for 16 years. In total, 16,650 applications were processed with awards worth €970 million. Of these, 1069 applications were withdrawn, refused or had a nil award."

Balfour ME, Hahn Stephenson A, Delany-Brumsey A, et. al.

**Cops, Clinicians, or Both? Collaborative Approaches to Responding to Behavioral Health Emergencies.**

Psychiatr Serv. 2021 Oct 20:appips202000721. PMID: [34666512](#)

"How a community responds to behavioral health emergencies is both a public health issue and social justice issue...Such crises account for a quarter of police shootings and >2 million jail bookings per year. Racism and implicit bias magnify these problems for people of color...This policy article reviews best practices for law enforcement crisis responses, outlines the components of a comprehensive continuum-of-crisis care model that provides alternatives to law enforcement involvement and ED use, and offers strategies for collaboration and alignment between law enforcement and clinicians toward common goals. Finally, policy considerations regarding stakeholder engagement, financing, data management, legal statutes, and health equity are presented to assist communities interested in taking steps to build these needed solutions."

**FIGURE 1. Alignment of crisis services toward a common goal of optimal care for individuals in behavioral health crisis<sup>a</sup>**

