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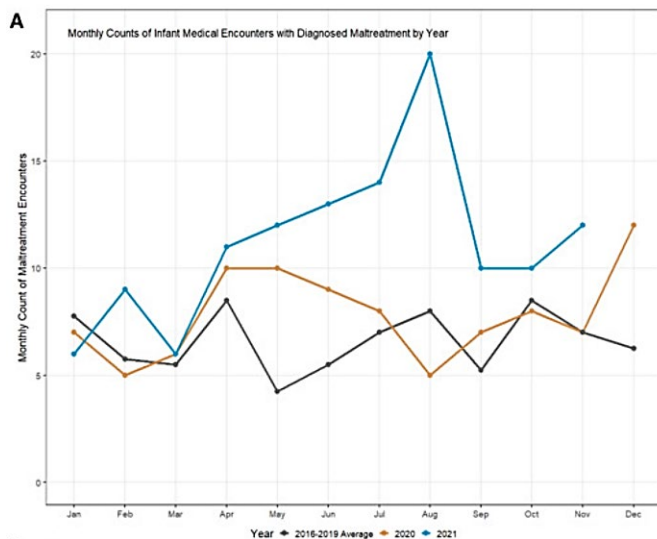
Questions: Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Rebbe R, Reddy J, Kuelbs CL, Huang J, Putnam-Hornstein E.
The Impact of COVID-19 on Infant Maltreatment Emergency Department and Inpatient Medical Encounters.

J Pediatr. 2023;113582. PMID: [37353150](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37353150/)

Using data from all ED and inpatient visits to a large California children’s hospital system, “We found an increase in infant maltreatment medical encounters during a 21-month period following the onset of COVID-19.”



Farah R, Rege SV, Cole RJ, Holstege CP.
Suspected Suicide Attempts by Self-Poisoning Among Persons Aged 10-19 Years During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, 2020-2022.

MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2023 Apr 21;72(16):426-430. PMID: [37079475](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37079475/)

“Compared with 2019 (prepandemic), during 2021, the overall rate of suspected suicide attempts by self-poisoning increased by 30.0%, rates among children aged 10-12 years, adolescents aged 13-15 years, and females increased 73.0%, 48.8%, and 36.8%, respectively, and these trends continued into the third quarter of 2022. Substances most frequently involved in overdoses were acetaminophen, ibuprofen, sertraline, fluoxetine,

and diphenhydramine. Acetaminophen-involved overdoses increased 71% in 2021 and 58.0% in 2022. Diphenhydramine-involved overdoses increased 24.2% in 2021 and 35.8% in 2022. A comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention, focused on children and adolescents and involving a partnership between families, school teachers, mental health professionals, and public health leadership is needed.”

Bozer JJ, Gruber MD, Letson MM, et al.
Long-Term Functional Outcome Following Neurosurgical Intervention for Suspected Abusive Head Trauma.

Pediatr Neurol. 2023;148:101-7. PMID: [37699270](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37699270/)

“We performed a single-center retrospective review (2007-2019) of patients aged less than three years who had intracranial injury suspicious for abusive head trauma and received a neurosurgical procedure...77 patients were identified; 53 survived to discharge and had at least one-year follow-up. To examine long-term functional outcome, Pediatric Cerebral Performance Category at the last available visit was found to be 1 or 2 (normal to mild disability) for 64% of patients and 3 or 4 (moderate to severe disability) for 36%. The last available Mullen Scale of Early Learning composite score demonstrated that 13% of patients scored in the “average” range, 17% in the “below average” range, and 70% in the “very low” range.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Rose H, Womick J, King LA.
Purpose maintained: ACEs and meaning in life.

J Pers. 2023 Dec;91(6):1425-1441. PMID: [36748110](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36748110/)

From a series of studies including college students and non-student adults, “Adverse childhood experiences consistently predict lower feelings of coherence [a sense of one's life making sense] and significance [a sense of life's inherent value and having a life worth living], but are unrelated to purpose [a sense of core goals, aims, and direction in life]. Purpose may represent a motivational strength emerging out of childhood adversity.”

Lyons-Ruth K, Li FH, Khoury JE, et al.

Maternal Childhood Abuse Versus Neglect Associated with Differential Patterns of Infant Brain Development.

Res Child Adolesc Psychopathol. 2023 Dec;51(12):1919-1932. PMID: [37160577](#)

For 57 mother-infant pairs, with infant mean age 12.28 months completing MRIs under natural sleep, “Maternal childhood history of neglect, but not abuse, was associated with lower infant grey matter volume. Maternal history of abuse, but not neglect, was associated with smaller infant amygdala volume at older ages. Results are consistent with a threat versus deprivation framework, in which threat impacts regions central to the stress response, whereas deprivation impacts areas more central to cognitive function.”

Bränn E, Vaina A, Daníelsdóttir HB, et al.

Association between adverse childhood experiences and perinatal depressive symptoms: a cross-sectional analysis of 16,831 women in Iceland.

Arch Womens Ment Health. 2023 Dec;26(6):839-849. PMID: [37726573](#)

In this large study of Icelandic women, mean age 44 years, 36.8% had experienced probable perinatal depression (PND). Risk of PND increased in a dose-response manner with number of ACEs, with those who reported 5+ ACEs at 2.24 times increased risk. While all ACE types were associated with PND, with most pronounced association was for emotional neglect.

Hawes DJ, Allen JL.

A Developmental Psychopathology Perspective on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Introduction to the Special Issue.

Res Child Adolesc Psychopathol. 2023 Dec;51(12):1715-1723. PMID: [37421507](#)

“This special issue of Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology focuses on the developmental science of ACEs and child psychopathology...This Introduction provides an overview of ACEs and child mental health from a developmental psychopathology perspective, with an emphasis on key concepts and recent progress spanning the prenatal period through to adolescence and intergenerational pathways... Methodological innovations in this work are highlighted, along with implications for prevention and intervention.” [Table of Contents](#)

Han YY, Chen W, Forno E, Celedón JC.

Adverse Events during Adulthood, Child Maltreatment, and Asthma among British Adults in the UK Biobank.

Ann Am Thorac Soc. 2023 Nov;20(11):1614-1623. PMID: [37668472](#)

Using UK Biobank data, “In a cohort of British adults, child maltreatment was associated with current asthma in men and women, whereas adulthood adverse events were associated with current asthma in women only. This was independent of cigarette smoking.”

Clephane K, Wilson MC, Heiman JR, Craig AN, Lorenz T.

Sexual violence history predicts changes in vaginal immune parameters during sexual arousal.

Brain Behav Immun. 2022;104:171-80. PMID: [35697156](#)

91 healthy premenopausal women in a laboratory setting provided vaginal samples before and after viewing one neutral and one erotic film. “Relative to women without assault histories, women with a history of early life sexual trauma showed significantly altered vaginal immune responses following sexual arousal. If replicated, these findings may help explain the increased risk for sexually transmitted infections observed among women with sexual assault histories.”

Adolescents

Beal SJ, Greiner MV, Ammerman RT, et al.

Patterns of substance use among adolescents in and out of foster care: An analysis of linked health and child welfare administrative data.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106473. PMID: [37801757](#)

After controlling for multiple factors, 2787 youth in foster care had higher odds of engaging in substance use and at an earlier age than those not in care. “Placement stability and family care settings reduced odds of lifetime substance use.”

Koçtürk N.

Psychological symptoms of adolescent survivors of sexual abuse and characteristics of survivors displaying suicidal and/or self-harming behaviors.

Health Care Women Int. 2023;44(9):1136-54. PMID: [35133950](#)

Of 80 Turkish adolescent survivors of childhood sexual abuse, survivors with high psychological symptom scores were more likely to indicate that the perpetrator was a family member and that penetration occurred. For survivors who had previously attempted suicide, “the perpetrators in these cases were mostly reliable/loved people, while these survivors generally hid the events and were exposed to penetration more often.”

Vasilenko SA, Wang X, Liu Q.

Longitudinal Patterns of Multidimensional Violence Exposure and Adolescent Early Sexual Initiation.

Arch Sex Behav. 2023 May 8;10.1007/s10508-023-02607-5. PMID: [37154880](#)

“Early sexual intercourse is associated with sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and depressive symptoms, and delay of intercourse allows adolescents opportunities to practice relationship skills. Thus, understanding predictors of early sexual intercourse is crucial.” Using data from a national study of children aged 3 to 15, “Findings suggest that experiencing persistent physical and emotional abuse across childhood was associated with the greatest prevalence of early sexual initiation...early abuse was more strongly associated with sexual initiation for boys, while late childhood abuse was more strongly associated for girls...gender-sensitive programs are highly needed to address unique risk factors for boys' and girls' sexual behaviors.”

Clarke V, Goddard A, Wellings K, et al.

Medium-term health and social outcomes in adolescents following sexual assault.

Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 2023 Dec;58(12):1777-1793. PMID: [34370051](#)

This study of 75 adolescents followed after sexual assault showed high levels of vulnerability over a year post-assault, including persistent depression, anxiety and PTSD despite accessing support services; physical symptoms; and doubling of persistent absence from school. “Interview data suggested inter-relationships between mental ill-health, physical health problems and disengagement from school, and poor understanding from schools regarding how to support young people post-assault.”

Espinoza CN, Goering M, Mrug S.

Disclosure of Exposure to Violence in Urban Adolescents.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231202979. PMID: [37799041](#)

Of 81 urban adolescents from the Southeastern US, “Across three time points, 90% to 91% witnessed violence and 64% to 81% were victimized in the last year. Of these youth, 40% to 53% disclosed experiences of witnessing violence and 29% to 52% disclosed experiences of victimization...disclosure of violence most often involved parents and friends, with fewer youth disclosing to teachers and counselors. Experiences of dating violence victimization were less likely to be disclosed by adolescents, especially among males. These findings support the need for more research on adolescents' disclosure of violence exposure.”

Myran L, Sen A, Willumsen T, et al.

Associations of adverse childhood experiences with caries and toothbrushing in adolescents. The Young-HUNT4 Survey.

BMC oral health. 2023;23(1):760. PMID: [37838651](#)

In a large study of Norwegian adolescents aged 13-17 years, “Adolescents exposed to physical abuse by others, sexual abuse by peers, parental separation/divorce, bullying, or who had witnessed violence, were more likely to report non-daily toothbrushing compared with those with no exposure to the given ACEs.” Each cumulative increase in ACE exposure was associated with a 30% higher likelihood of non-daily toothbrushing, and increased risk of dental caries (cavities). Particularly for 16-17 year-olds, bully victimization was associated with a 2.59 times higher likelihood of non-daily and higher dental caries experienced.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Ragavan MI, Murray A.

Supporting Intimate Partner Violence Survivors and Their Children in Pediatric Healthcare Settings.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023;70(6):1069-86. PMID: [37865431](#)

“In this article, we discuss how pediatric healthcare providers and systems can create healing-centered spaces to support IPV survivors and their children. We review the use of universal education and resource provision to share information about IPV during all clinical encounters as a healing-centered alternative to screening. We also review how to support survivors who may share experiences of IPV, focused on validation, affirmation, and connection to resources. Clinicians are provided key action items to implement in their clinical settings.”

American Academy of Pediatrics Intimate Partner Violence website	https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/intimate-partner-violence/
Futures Without Violence mandated reporting guidelines	https://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org/mandatory-reporting/
Futures Without Violence Issues Briefs	https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/AAPIssueBriefs
Children's National Hospital Intimate Partner Violence training videos	https://www.aapdc.org/domestic-violence/
National Domestic Violence Hotline	https://www.thehotline.org/
Futures Without Violence guidelines for developing community-medical partnership	https://ipvhealthpartners.org/
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia video training	https://injury.research.chop.edu/blog/posts/new-resource-alert-addressing-domestic-violence-healthcare-settings
Healthy Children.org resource for parents	Stress and Violence at Home During Challenging Times—HealthyChildren.org

Box 1
Recommendations for creating healing-centered systems

Prioritize development of comprehensive services and supports for IPV survivors (rather than just screening)

Develop and sustain funded programs to colocate IPV advocates in pediatric health-care settings to more easily facilitate warm handoffs

Partner with IPV survivors and advocates when developing service recommendations

Invest in community-medical partnerships and compensate victim services agencies who support patients

Provide survivor-centered training to all clinicians and staff

Develop systems for clinicians to privately speak with IPV survivors in pediatric health-care settings, without further traumatizing the child(ren). One potential option is a greater investment in child life specialists who can support children while the clinician is speaking with the parent or caregiver

Reimburse follow-up phone calls with IPV survivors so clinicians can further support them

Invest in healing for clinicians themselves, to address moral injury and vicarious trauma

Continue to interrogate institutional policies and practices to ensure they are strength-based, healing-centered, and rooted in principles of disrupting structural oppressions and making transformational change



Fig. 3. Potential services available at victim services agencies.

Metzger IW, Moreland A, Garrett RJ, et al.
Black Moms Matter: A Qualitative Approach to Understanding Barriers to Service Utilization at a Children's Advocacy Center Following Childhood Abuse.
Child Maltreat. 2023;28(4):648-60. PMID: [37042334](#)

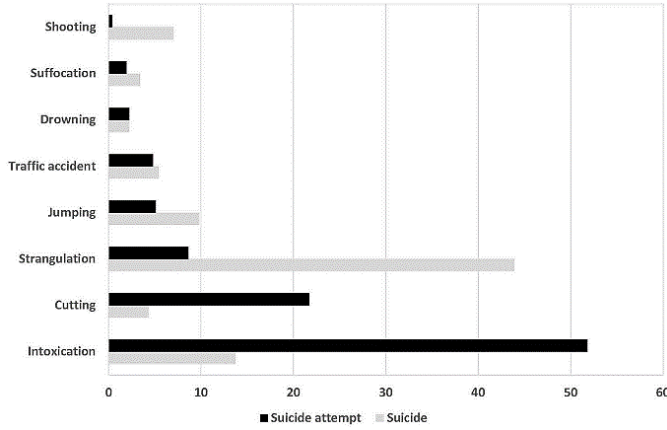
“Black maternal caregivers reported barriers to accessing services at CACs [children’s advocacy centers] including a lack of assistance and information in the referral and onboarding process, transportation issues, childcare, employment hours, system mistrust, stigma associated with the service system, and outside stressors such as stressors related to parenting. Maternal caregivers also shared suggestions for improving services at CACs including increasing the length, breadth, and clarity of investigations conducted by child protection services and law enforcement (LE) agencies, providing case management services, and having more diverse staff and discussing racial stressors.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Finnerty F, Caswell RJ, Wardle D.
Non-fatal strangulation.
Sex Transm Infect. 2023;99(7):504. PMID: [37848210](#)
 Succinct one page summary of cultural context; medical, legal, and psychological consequences; and clinical discussion with patient of non-fatal strangulation.

Etgen T, Stigloher M, Förstl H, Zwanzger P, Rentrop M.
Systematic analysis of nonfatal suicide attempts and further diagnostic of secondary injury in strangulation survivors: A retrospective cross-sectional study.
Health Sci Rep. 2023;6(10):e1572. PMID: [37795312](#)

Of 2125 verified cases of male and female nonfatal suicide attempts admitted to a large German psychiatric hospital, the most common methods were intoxication (51.8%), cutting (21.7%), and strangulation (8.6%). Among survivors of strangulation with external neck compression, no diagnostic steps were performed in 36.4% of patients and insufficient imaging in 20.6%. Carotid artery dissection was detected in two (4.0%) of 50 patients with adequate neuroimaging.



Toccalino D, Asare G, Fleming J, et al.
Exploring the Relationships Between Rehabilitation and Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: A Scoping Review.
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231196807. PMID: [37776318](#)

In this review of IPV and the field of rehabilitation, “findings show an awareness of IPV among rehabilitation professionals, the importance of identifying IPV in clients, and the ways in which rehabilitation professionals are uniquely situated to support survivors of IPV. There remains an opportunity to explore interventions designed specifically for IPV survivors.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Akinyemi O, Ogundare T, Oladunjoye AF, et al.
Factors associated with suicide/self-inflicted injuries among women aged 18-65 years in the United States: A 13-year retrospective of the National Inpatient Sample database.
PLoS One. 2023;18(10):e0287141. PMID: [37788271](#)

“There were 1,031,693 adult women hospitalizations in the U.S. with a primary diagnosis of suicide/self-inflicted injury in the study period. The highest suicide/self-inflicted injury risk was among women aged 31-45years (odds ratio = 1.23)...Intimate partner violence increased suicide/self-inflicted injury risk 6-fold (OR = 5.77).”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Lewis S, Connolly MT, Salvo E, et al.
Effect of an elder abuse and self-neglect intervention on repeat investigations by adult protective services: RISE project.
J Am Geriatr Soc. 2023 Nov;71(11):3403-3412. PMID: [37427825](#)

For a pilot project in two Maine counties, “RISE is a community-based intervention designed to complement APS that provides enhanced services and a longer intervention phase...RISE was associated with a significantly lowered likelihood of recurrence compared to usual APS care...reduction in recurrence carries important implications for APS clients, costs, resources, and workflow.”

Sexual Assault

Miyamoto S, Downing NR.
Leveraging Telehealth to Address Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Access Disparities in Rural Communities.
J Forensic Nurs. 2023 Oct-Dec 01;19(4):231-239. PMID: [36917655](#)

Of two health entities providing 335 SANE telehealth services to 18 remote sites, “Both programs provide access to 24/7 teleSANE consultation, quality assurance, and mentoring. Unique to each program were engagement of hospital leadership in advisory boards, use of telehealth technology, training programs, and fiscal sustainability...Critical needs identified to sustain programs included (a) multilevel community and hospital buy-in, (b) sustainable funding, and (c) robust processes to oversee technology support.”

Naumann DN, Morris L, Bowley D, et al.
Anogenital injury following sexual assault and consensual sexual intercourse: a systematic review and meta-analysis.
EclinicalMedicine. 2023 Oct 5;65:102266. PMID: [37842551](#)

From a research review, “Although AGI [anogenital injury] was significantly more likely to be detected after sexual assault than consensual sexual intercourse, more than half of survivors of sexual assault have no detectable injuries. The presence of AGI, therefore, does not prove there has been sexual violence and absence of injury does not refute that sexual assault has occurred.”

Echevarria SG, Peterson R, Woerner J.
College Students' Experiences of Dating App Facilitated Sexual Violence and Associations with Mental Health.
J Sex Res. 2023;60(8):1193-205. PMID: [36240457](#)

“Dating app facilitated sexual violence (DAFSV) includes behaviors such as unwanted sexual comments/harassment, unsolicited sexual photos, and gender-based harassment - and could extend to sexual violence when meeting partners face-to-face.” Of 277 college students who use dating apps, 88.4% self-reported at least one instance of DAFSV, more so for women and sexual minority individuals. DAFSV frequency was associated with more depression, anxiety and loneliness symptoms, and lower perceived control. “Given that dating apps are one of the most common means of meeting partners, research is needed to better understand these initial interactions, prevent DAFSV from occurring, and mitigate the impact of DAFSV.”

Human Trafficking

Mercera G, Kooijmans R, Leijdesdorff S, et al.
Risk and Protective Factors for Sexual Exploitation in Male and Female Youth From a Cross-Cultural Perspective.
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;15248380231201815. PMID: [37818954](#)

From a research review, “Results show that there are common risk factors in male and female youth worldwide (e.g., adverse childhood experiences, lack of a social network, substance use, and running away). Positive and supportive relationships are an important protective factor in mitigating the risk of sexual exploitation. Geographic differences were found. In non-Western continents, more environmental factors (e.g., economic vulnerabilities, residential instability) were cited. Research in countries outside the United States is limited and protective factors and males are underexamined.”

Gutfraind A, Yagci Sokat K, Muscioni G, et al.
Victims of human trafficking and exploitation in the healthcare system: a retrospective study using a large multi-state dataset and ICD-10 codes.

Frontiers in public health. 2023;11:1243413. PMID: [37841726](#)

Using a dataset from a large health insurer with over 47 million patients 2018-2022, 2,793 patients were identified by ICD-10 codes. “Of the patients, 1,248 were recently trafficked, while the remainder had a personal history of exploitation. Of the recent cases, 86% experienced sexual exploitation, 14% labor exploitation and 0.8% both types. These patients were predominantly female (83%) with a median age of 20. The patients were characterized by persistently high prevalence of mental health conditions (including anxiety: 21%, post-traumatic stress disorder: 20%, major depression: 18%), sexually-transmitted infections, and high utilization of the emergency department. The patients' first report of trafficking occurred most often outside of a hospital or emergency setting (55%), primarily during office and psychiatric visits.”

LGBTQ Concerns

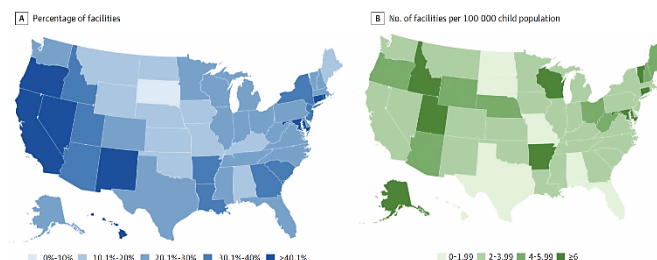
Choi KR, Wisk LE, Zima BT.

Availability of LGBTQ Mental Health Services for US Youth, 2014 to 2020.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Aug 1;177(8):865-867. PMID: [37273225](#)

“Approximately 1 in 10 children and youth in the US identifies as being in a sexual or gender minority group (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer [LGBTQ]). Compared with heterosexual or cisgender youth, LGBTQ youth have 3 times higher prevalence of depression and anxiety, and 42% have considered suicide. Fifty-four percent of LGBTQ youth reported wanting mental health care but not receiving any, partly due to adverse experiences with clinicians and perceptions that clinicians do not understand sexual or gender identity-related mental health needs.” From a data review of service availability by state, “Twenty-eight percent of youth-serving US mental health facilities offered LGBTQ-specific mental health services in 2020. Although some states had relatively high levels of LGBTQ service availability as a percentage of facilities, many of these states had few facilities available to children per capita. Public mental health facilities were less likely to offer LGBTQ-specific mental health services, a concern given that the cost of care is a barrier to services.”

Figure 1. Youth-Serving Mental Health Facilities Offering Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ)-Specific Services in 2020



Race/Cultural Concerns

Tolliver DG, He Y, Kistin CJ.

Child Maltreatment.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023;70(6):1143-52. PMID: [37865436](#)

“Child maltreatment is associated with significant morbidity, and prevention is a public health priority. Given evidence of interpersonal and structural racism in child protective service assessment and response, equity must be prioritized for both acute interventions and preventive initiatives aimed at supporting children and their families. Clinicians who care for children are well-positioned to support families, and the patient-centered medical home, in collaboration with community-based services, has unique potential as a locus for maltreatment prevention services.”

Edwards F, Roberts SCM, Kenny KS, et al.

Medical Professional Reports and Child Welfare System Infant Investigations: An Analysis of National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System Data.

Health equity. 2023;7(1):653-62. PMID: [37786528](#)

“Between 2010 and 2019, child welfare investigated 2.8 million infants; ~26% (n=731,705) stemmed from medical professionals' reports. Population-adjusted rates of these investigations doubled between 2010 and 2019 (13.1-27.1 per 1000 infants). Rates of investigations stemming from medical professionals' reports increased faster than did rates for other mandated reporters, such as teachers and police, whose reporting remained relatively stable. In 2019, child welfare investigated ~1 in 18 Black (5.4%), 1 in 31 Indigenous (3.2%), and 1 in 41 White infants (2.5%) following medical professionals' reports...Investigations related to substance use comprised ~35% of these investigations; in some states, this was almost 80%...Rates of child welfare investigations of infants stemming from medical professional reports have increased dramatically over the past decade with persistent and notable racial inequities in these investigations.”

Nnoli A.

Historical Primer on Obstetrics and Gynecology Health Inequities in America: A Narrative Review of Four Events.

Obstet Gynecol. 2023;142(4):779-86. PMID: [37734087](#)

“Four historical events provide context for racial injustices and inequities in medicine in the United States today: the invention of race as a social construct, enslavement in the Americas, the legal doctrine of Partus sequitur ventrem [children of enslaved mothers were born into slavery], and the American eugenics movement [including forcible sterilization of the poor, disabled, and minorities]. This narrative review demonstrates how these race-based systems resulted in stereotypes, myths, and biases against Black individuals that contribute to health inequities today.”

Grobman WA, Entringer S, Headen I, et al.

Social determinants of health and obstetric outcomes: A report and recommendations of the workshop of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2023 Oct 12:S0002-9378(23)00742-1.

PMID: [37832813](#)

This article summarizes a 2 day workshop of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine to “Review the current evidence on the relationship between social determinants of health and obstetrical outcomes, discuss approaches to and research opportunities for measuring how social determinants get biologically embedded to influence health and disease risk, and discuss approaches to and research opportunities for interventions and strategies to...improve obstetrical outcomes.”

Unifying principles of social determinants of health interventions

Discussants generated a list of unifying principles to guide SDOH interventions. The list is as follows:

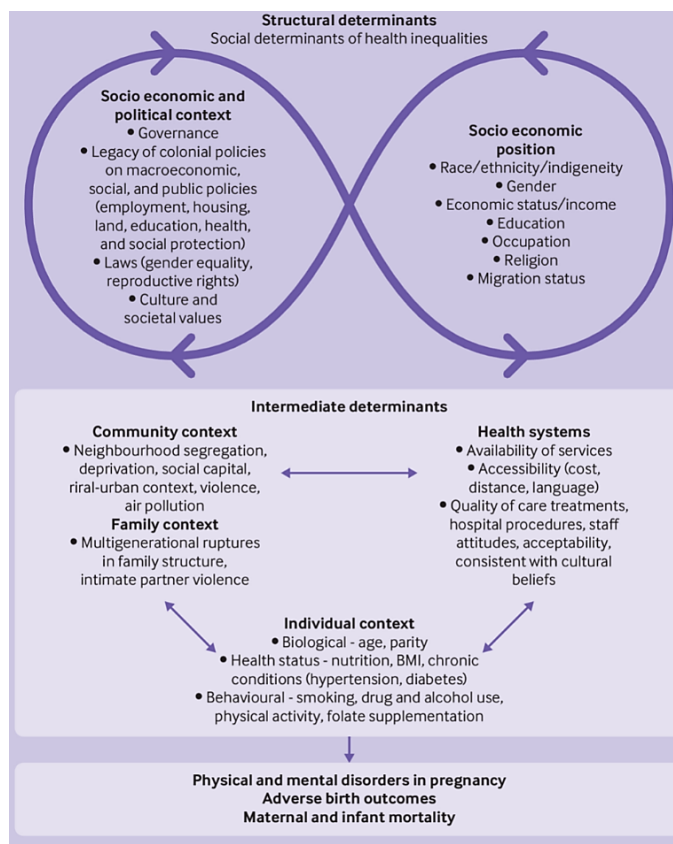
- Listen to the community.
- Respond to patient needs—solve their problems, not yours.
- Be flexible and iterative in the development and implementation of interventions.
- Think outside the box, clinic, or hospital.
- Be trustworthy.
- Practice cultural humility.
- Connect to your “why.”

Catalao R, Zephyrin L, Richardson L, et al.

Tackling racism in maternal health.

Bmj. 2023;383:e076092. PMID: [37875287](#)

“Ethnic minority and Indigenous populations experience large inequities in maternal health outcomes across the globe. These inequities are globally driven by larger structured social disparities in health determinants and health service access. Interventions must be designed and led by the communities they are designed to serve and ensure the voices of racialized populations are heard and acted on.”



Perpetrators

Relyea MR, Presseau C, Runels T, et al.

Understanding Veterans' intimate partner violence use and patterns of healthcare utilization.

Health Serv Res. 2023 Dec;58(6):1198-1208. PMID: [37452496](#)

From a survey of 834 male and female veterans, “Half (49%) of the Veterans who reported utilizing VA healthcare in the past year indicated using IPV...Veterans who used IPV were more likely than Veterans who did not use IPV to have received treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD; 39% vs. 27%), chronic sleep problems (36% vs. 26%), anxiety or depression (44% vs. 36%), severe chronic pain (31% vs. 22%), and stomach or digestive disorders (24% vs. 16%).”

Police and Court Systems

Martinez NG, Roberts SC, Achu-Lopes RA, et al.
Reconsidering the Use of Urine Drug Testing in Reproductive Settings.

Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM. 2023;101206. PMID: [37871695](#)
“The urine drug test is ubiquitous within reproductive healthcare settings. Although the test can have evidence-based use for a patient and clinician, in practice, it is often applied in ways that are driven by bias and stigma, do not correctly inform decisions about clinical aspects of patient care, and cause devastating ripple effects through social and legal systems. This paper proposes a framework of guiding questions...We demonstrate the use of this framework using 3 common uses of the urine drug test within abortion care and labor and delivery settings.”

Bradshaw J, Gutowski ER, Nyenyezi K.
Intimate Partner Violence Survivors' Perspectives on Coping With Family Court Processes.
Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231205586. PMID: [37807804](#)

“We analyzed qualitative responses from 214 IPV-exposed mothers to the question of who/what helped during family court. Participants described (a) receiving social support, (b) accessing tools and resources, (c) modifying actions, thoughts, and emotions to adapt to a system that is not trauma-informed, (d) being believed/validated, and (e) managing post-separation family life as helpful. Participants also reported (f) barriers to navigating family law proceedings; a few expressed nothing helped. Findings support a trauma-informed, network-oriented approach to supporting family court-involved survivor mothers.”

Mersky JP, Lee CP, Liu X, Janczewski CE.
Impact of a family treatment court on child permanency and safety.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106512. PMID: [37866252](#)
“The sample included 648 eligible adults who were referred to a Family Treatment Court in a Midwest metropolitan area, including 266 program participants and 382 non-participants...Compared to non-participants, program participants were 81% more likely to reunify. Group differences in time to reunification and permanency were mixed, and there was no evidence of program impact on maltreatment recurrence. Substance use type and race/ethnicity did not moderate associations between program participation and study outcomes.”

Providers

Arenson M, Forkey H.
Violence Exposure and Trauma-Informed Care.
Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023;70(6):1183-200. PMID: [37865439](#)

“Addressing violence in pediatrics requires a working knowledge of trauma-informed care (TIC). TIC weaves together our current understanding of evolution, child development, and human physiology and how these explain common childhood responses to traumatic events. In this article, we describe our current approach to treating childhood trauma in the context of violence...TIC leverages a child's natural strengths and biologic processes by (1) scaffolding the patient's relationships to safe, stable, and nurturing adults and (2) strengthening core resilience skills while addressing trauma symptoms when necessary.”

T	Thinking, learning, and problem-solving skills with opportunity for cognitive development
H	Hope, optimism, faith, belief in a future for oneself
R	Regulation (self-regulation, self-control of emotions, behaviors, attention, and impulses)
E	Efficacy perceived by self or society; has sense of coherence (life is comprehensible, manageable, and meaningful)
A	Attachment to a positive, competent adult (ie, SSNR)
D	Development of age-salient developmental tasks, DNA (heritable, polygenic sensitivity to context)
S	Social ecology, including people, places, and policies in which one lives and learns

Esposito J, Davis M, Boyd RC.
Suicide Prevention in Pediatric Health Care Settings.
Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023 Dec;70(6):1115-1124. PMID: [37865434](#)

“Suicidal thoughts and behaviors are prevalent among youth. Research has highlighted disparities in suicide risk. Evidence-based practices for suicide screening, assessment, and brief intervention exist, but there are barriers to implementing these practices in health care settings...focus should be on ways to partner with providers, health system leaders, patients, and families to determine optimal ways to consistently implement and sustain best practices for suicide prevention in health care settings...such as the [AAP Mental Health Toolkit](#).”

Culyba AJ, Fleegler EW, Pratt AH, Lee LK.

Violence Prevention in Pediatrics: Advocacy and Legislation.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023 Dec;70(6):1225-1238. PMID: [37865442](#)

“This article focuses on the role of pediatric clinicians in advocating for youth and families, promoting change within clinical and hospital systems, partnering with communities to advance evidence-informed prevention and intervention, and legislative advocacy to advance violence prevention policy, research, and practice.”

Gordon JB, Felitti VJ.

The Importance of Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in all Medical Encounters.

AJPM Focus. 2023;2(4):100131. PMID: [37790951](#)

In this editorial, authors advocate for ACE screening in clinical interactions, and counter recent arguments against doing so.

Aunon FM, Azrael D, Simonetti JA, Miller M.

Beliefs Among Veteran Firearm Owners Regarding Whether Clinicians Should Discuss Firearm Safety With Patients.

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Jun 1;6(6):e2321219. PMID: [37382951](#)

From a survey of 678 veteran firearm owners, mean age 64.7 years, “most veteran firearm owners believe that clinicians should provide firearm counseling during routine care when a patient or family member is at heightened risk of firearm injury. These findings belie concerns that discussing firearm access with veteran firearm owners is an unacceptable practice.” Positive responses included 73.4% when someone is “going through a hard time”, 79.4% when a patient or family member is at risk for suicide, and 88.2% when someone has “mental health or behavioral problems”.

Nemeth J, Ramirez R, Debowski C, et al.

The CARE Health Advocacy Intervention Improves Trauma-Informed Practices at Domestic Violence Service Organizations to Address Brain Injury, Mental Health, and Substance Use.

J Head Trauma Rehabil. 2023 Nov-Dec 01;38(6):439-447. PMID: [36951455](#)

“The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact that domestic violence service organizations’ (DVSO) agency-wide adoption of CARE had on improving DVSO trauma-informed care (TIC) practices, overall, and in relation to addressing brain injury and mental health. CARE is an advocacy intervention designed to raise DVSOs’ capacity to CONNECT with survivors; A CKNOWLEDGE that head trauma, strangulation, and mental health challenges are common; RESPOND by accommodating needs in

services and providing targeted referrals; and EVALUATE effectiveness of response to meet survivors’ stated concerns.” After 1 year of implementation at 5 DVSOs, “CARE increased DVSO staff’s belief in personal and organizational support to implement TIC and in their agency’s ability to foster survivor empowerment.”

Allman M, Nava A, Asim N, et al.

Using the Colaizzi Method to Explore Intimate Partner Violence Caseworkers’ Subjective Experience: Pathways to IPV Work and What Keeps Them Going.

Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231207039. PMID: [37817670](#)

From interviews with 15 IPV caseworkers, authors identify motivations for this work, including historical, personal, intergenerational, connection and empathy to IPV survivors, calling to help survivors, and camaraderie with IPV survivors. “These findings increase the understanding of IPV caseworkers’ path to IPV work and the motivations they identify to keep them going in the field despite its challenges.”

Prevention

Gastineau KAB, McKay S.

Firearm Injury Prevention.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023 Dec;70(6):1125-1142. PMID: [37865435](#)

“Firearms are the leading cause of death for US youth, overtaking motor vehicle collisions in 2020. Approximately 65% are due to homicide, 30% to suicide, 3.5% to unintentional injuries, 2% are undetermined intent, and 0.5% are from legal interventions. In homes with firearms, the likelihood of unintentional death, suicide, and homicide is three to four times higher than those without firearms. Secure storage of firearms, having them locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition can prevent unintentional firearm injuries.”

Austin AE, Shanahan M, Frank M, et al.

State expansion of supplemental nutrition assistance program eligibility and rates of interpersonal violence.

Prev Med. 2023:107725. PMID: [37827207](#)

“States that adopted both SNAP eligibility policies (eliminated the asset test and increased the income limit) had a lower rate of IPV and other relationship violence compared to states that did not adopt either policy...Expanding SNAP eligibility may help prevent interpersonal violence at the population-level.”

Researchers

Pollmann A, Fritz J, Barker E, Fuhrmann D.

Networks of Adversity in Childhood and Adolescence and Their Relationship to Adult Mental Health.

Res Child Adolesc Psychopathol. 2023 Dec;51(12):1769-1784. PMID: [36331717](#)

Using network analysis to reveal adversity clusters from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, “Emotional and physical abuse were central to the network of adversities. Emotional abuse was especially connected to mental health issues in early adulthood, highlighting that preventing this type of adversity may be relevant in addressing depression as a public health issue. During adolescence, adversities can be divided into direct abuse, family, and social/educational factors. Adolescent adversities such as housing issues and abuse by a romantic partner were central in the network of adversities. Educational issues were strongly connected to mental health issues later in life. Different adversities may need to be considered to support adolescents compared to children. Future research should deepen this understanding and work towards a comprehensive approach to tackle adversity across the lifespan.”

Jain A, Brooks JR, Alford CC, et al.

Awareness of Racial and Ethnic Bias and Potential Solutions to Address Bias With Use of Health Care Algorithms.

JAMA Health Forum. 2023 Jun 2;4(6):e231197. PMID: [37266959](#)

42 organization representatives (e.g., clinical professional societies, universities, government agencies, payers, and health technology organizations) and individuals responded to a survey about bias in algorithms used in healthcare. “Algorithms [sets of mathematical rules or calculations] are commonly incorporated into health care decision tools used by health systems and payers and thus affect quality of care, access, and health outcomes...(1) algorithms are in widespread use and have significant repercussions, (2) bias can result from algorithms whether or not they explicitly include race, (3) clinicians and patients are often unaware of the use of algorithms and potential for bias, (4) race is a social construct used as a proxy for clinical variables, (5) there is a lack of standardization in how race and social determinants of health are collected and defined, (6) bias can be introduced at all stages of algorithm development, and (7) algorithms should be discussed as part of shared decision-making between the patient and clinician.”

Goodall K, Sawrikar V.

The Rating of Emotional Abuse in Childhood (REACH) Questionnaire: A new self-report measure assessing history of childhood emotional abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106498. PMID: [37844458](#)

Authors discuss validation of a new tool assessing a history of childhood emotional abuse (CEA). Two scales measured threatening and devaluing emotional abuse, which represent “unique dimensions of CEA even though they often co-occur.”

Lee S, Yoon S, Namgung E, et al.

Distinctively different human neurobiological responses after trauma exposure and implications for posttraumatic stress disorder subtyping.

Mol Psychiatry. 2023 Jul;28(7):2964-2974. PMID: [36854717](#)

In this detailed brain-research oriented study, authors used a data-driven classification approach of both trauma-exposed and trauma-unexposed individuals across a wide range of assessments. “We identified four distinct and replicable subtypes for trauma-exposed individuals according to posttraumatic stress symptoms. Each subtype was distinct in clinical characteristics, brain functional organization, and long-term trajectories for posttraumatic symptoms.”

Other of Interest

Purtle J, Nelson KL, Lê-Scherban F, Gollust SE.

Unintended consequences of disseminating behavioral health evidence to policymakers; Results from a survey-based experiment.

Implement Res Pract. 2023;4:26334895231172807. PMID: [37790180](#)

“A preregistered, web-based survey experiment with U.S. state legislators/staffers was conducted in 2021 (n = 133). Respondents were randomized to view a policy brief about the behavioral health consequences of ACEs that included state-tailored data (intervention condition) or national data (control condition) and then answered survey questions...61.2% of respondents in the intervention condition rated parents as ‘very much to blame’ for the consequences of ACEs compared to 37.1% in the control condition...Unintended messaging effects warrant greater attention in dissemination research and practice.”