

ABUSE RESEARCH

For archive and to sign up for distribution list:

<http://abuseresearch.info/>

Questions: Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Donnelly KA, Goyal MK.

The Epidemiology of Violence Exposure in Children.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023;70(6):1057-68. PMID: [37865430](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37865430/)

“Exposure to violence remains a significant issue for children in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated many of these exposures. Violence unequally impacts children of color and LGBTQ youth. Pediatricians can and must continue to advocate and intervene to decrease pediatric violence exposure and its effects.”



Fig. 1. Violence exposure in children on the social ecological model.

Kleinle S, Ngo H, Goldberg AP, Cohen RS.

A History of Child Abuse Pediatrics: Training, Research, and Clinical Diagnosis.

Rhode Island medical journal (2013). 2023;106(10):10-4.

PMID: [37890057](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37890057/)

“This article provides an historical review of child maltreatment, focusing on the three most common subtypes: physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. The evolution of recognizing, evaluating, and accurately diagnosing child maltreatment is described. Over time, the establishment of multidisciplinary teams, mandatory reporting, and Child Abuse Pediatrics as a subspecialty of pediatrics

has improved the training, research, and clinical diagnosis for all forms of child maltreatment. These advancements have set clinical standards to ensure accurate diagnosis, prevent the misdiagnosis of child abuse and neglect, and continually improve the systems meant to protect children.”

Kemal S, Nwabuo A, Hoffmann J.

Mental Health and Violence in Children and Adolescents.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023 Dec;70(6):1201-1215. PMID:

[37865440](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37865440/)

“This article examines the complex interplay between mental health and violence among children. Although children with mental illness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators, this article describes the few mental health conditions associated with increased violent behavior among children. Next, the authors examine the spectrum of mental health sequelae among children following exposure to various forms of violence. Lastly, the authors discuss the underutilization of mental health services in this population and highlight screening and intervention tools available to pediatric clinicians caring for children exposed to violence.”

Joseph J, Buss C, Knop A, et al.

Greater maltreatment severity is associated with smaller brain volume with implication for intellectual ability in young children.

Neurobiology of stress. 2023;27:100576. PMID: [37810429](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37810429/)

Of 49 children aged 3-5 years with maltreatment exposure, “Higher maltreatment severity was significantly correlated with smaller intracranial volume...primarily due to smaller gray matter volume. Furthermore, smaller gray matter volume was associated with lower IQ at study entry and predicted IQ one year later. The observed associations were independent of potential confounding variables, including height, socioeconomic status, age and sex...likely setting a path for far-reaching long-term disadvantages. Insights into the molecular and neural processes that underlie the impact of maltreatment on brain structure and function are urgently needed to derive mechanism-driven targets for early intervention.”

Esernio-Jenssen D, Morrobel A, Hansen SE, Kincaid HM.

Exploring Associations Between Abnormal Weight Classifications and Child Maltreatment Diagnoses.

Clin Pediatr (Phila). 2023;99228231204452. PMID: [37804149](#)

In a retrospective study of 855 pediatric patients diagnosed with maltreatment, "Neglect was most frequently diagnosed, and children with ≥2 diagnoses were more likely to be classified as underweight, overweight, or obese. Findings support abnormal pediatric weight as a biologic signal of adversity that warrants safety screening in the clinical setting."

Rhodes CA, Thomas N, O'Hara KL, et al.

Enhancing the Focus: How Does Parental Incarceration Fit into the Overall Picture of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)?

Res Child Adolesc Psychopathol. 2023 Dec;51(12):1933-1944.

PMID: [37875642](#)

Using data from a large national survey, "children with incarcerated parents had higher odds of experiencing other ACEs, higher odds of having mental health problems, and experienced fewer PCEs compared to children without incarcerated parents. Further, although PCEs were associated with a lower odds of mental health problems for both children with and without incarcerated parents, they did not mitigate the negative impact of parental incarceration on mental health outcomes...important implications for the development of multilevel intervention strategies that seek to promote resilience and reduce risk for this population."

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Alberry B, Silveira PP.

Brain insulin signaling as a potential mediator of early life adversity effects on physical and mental health.

Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2023;153:105350. PMID: [37544390](#)

"In this review, we describe the consequences of early life adversity in the brain where insulin signaling is a key factor and how insulin may moderate the effects of adversity on psychiatric and cardio-metabolic health outcomes."

Racine N, Deneault AA, Thiemann R, et al.

Intergenerational transmission of parent adverse childhood experiences to child outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;106479. PMID: [37821290](#)

In this research review, parental ACEs were associated with child mental health problems, and internalizing and externalizing difficulties, but not cognitive or language skills.

Brandford AA, Williams EN, Han G, Weston C, Downing NR.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Preventive Cervical Cancer Screening Behavior.

Oncol Nurs Forum. 2023;50(6):679-91. PMID: [37874753](#)

From a large Texas community survey, women with increased ACEs, and those with a history of childhood physical abuse, were less likely to have received recommended cervical cancer screening (PAP smears).

TABLE 3. Adjusted ORs for Not Receiving Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening by Number of ACEs (N = 1,920)

| Number of ACEs | n | Adjusted OR | 95% CI |
|----------------|-----|-------------|---------------|
| 0 | 605 | - | - |
| 1-3 | 845 | 3.57* | [1.04, 12.25] |
| 4-5 | 293 | 4.25 | [0.88, 20.55] |
| 6 or more | 177 | 9.3* | [2.35, 36.72] |

* Significant at 95% CI

TABLE 4. Adjusted ORs for Not Receiving Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening by Type of ACEs (N = 1,920)

| Type of ACEs | n | Adjusted OR | 95% CI |
|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------|
| Any | 1,010 | 2.1 | [0.97, 4.55] |
| Emotional | 664 | 0.62 | [0.24, 1.59] |
| Physical | 583 | 3.88* | [1.15, 13.1] |
| Sexual | 479 | 2.21 | [0.72, 6.74] |

* Significant at 95% CI

Yilgör A, Kurhan F.

Is Childhood Trauma a Risk Factor for Resistant Epilepsy?

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231203964. PMID:

[37815052](#)

85 patients being treated for epilepsy, 45 female and 40 male, "were divided into refractory epilepsy and treatment-responsive epilepsy groups. There was no significant difference between the groups in sociodemographic characteristics. On the other hand, total CTQ [Childhood Trauma Questionnaire] and all CTQ subscale scores and HAM-D [Hamilton Depression] scores were significantly higher in the refractory epilepsy group than in the treatment-responsive epilepsy group. This study demonstrates that childhood traumas may contribute to treatment resistance in epilepsy patients. Therefore, it is recommended that a history of childhood traumas be routinely queried in the treatment of epilepsy patients."

Sikorski C, Mavromanoli AC, Manji K, et al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Primary Headache Disorders: A Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Application of a Biological Theory.

Neurology. 2023 Nov 21;101(21):e2151-e2161. PMID: [37879940](#)

From a research review encompassing 154,739 participants from 19 countries, as the number of ACEs increased, the odds of primary headache increased with 1 ACE odds ratio 1.24 and 4+ ACEs OR 2.09. "A neurodevelopmental theory that categorizes ACEs into threat or deprivation was tested, and both were independently associated with primary headaches (threat OR = 1.46 and deprivation OR = 1.35, respectively)."

Hagemann CT, Spetalen S, Saga S, et al.

Symptoms of complex pelvic pain: A survey in three cohorts of women.

Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand. 2023;102(10):1396-408. PMID: [37698177](#)

From a comparison of Norwegian women from gynecologic outpatient clinics, members of chronic pelvic pain organizations, and healthy volunteers, women with high scores on a complex pelvic pain symptom scale were more likely to report a history of sexual assault as a child or adult, poor sexual function, and low mental health.

Adolescents

Jarvis L, Randell KA.

The Health Care Provider's Role in Addressing Adolescent Relationship Abuse.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023 Dec;70(6):1087-1102. PMID: [37865432](#)

"Adolescent relationship abuse (ARA) is highly prevalent across all sociodemographic groups, with negative outcomes in multiple domains of health. Using a healing-centered engagement approach, health care providers can support healthy adolescent relationships and connect ARA survivors to resources and supports...Essential components of health care support for adolescents experiencing ARA include validation of disclosure, assessing safety, a warm hand-off to advocacy resources, addressing immediate and long-term health needs, and connection to a trusted adult. Informing adolescents about limits of confidentiality and use of shared decision-making after ARA disclosure recognizes adolescents' lived experiences and emerging autonomy."

Malherbe I, Delhaye M, Kornreich C, Kacenenbogen N.

Teen Dating Violence and Mental Health: a Review.

Psychiatr Danub. 2023;35(Suppl 2):155-9. PMID: [37800219](#)

"The study underscores how mental health disorders can serve as both risk factors and consequences of TDV [teen dating violence], with depression, suicidality, PTSD, substance use, and eating disorders being prominently associated with TDV...This paper advocates for a multi-pronged approach that includes the implementation of prevention programs to educate teenagers about healthy relationships, regular screening for TDV among adolescents for early detection, and the establishment of robust referral systems to ensure victims receive necessary support and treatment."

Torp Løkkeberg S, Ihlebæk C, Brottveit G, Del Busso L.

Digital Violence and Abuse: A Scoping Review of Adverse Experiences Within Adolescent Intimate Partner Relationships.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231201816. PMID: [37818965](#)

From a research review on digitalized interactions between intimate adolescent partners, "Examples of less severe experiences could be different kinds of digital harassment, such as electronic intrusiveness, excessive texting, insults, unpleasant messages, and the spreading of rumors. Other adverse experiences related to digital interactions included being controlled by a partner, verbal abuse, experiences of aggression, sexual pressure, and coercion. Common consequences of adverse experiences included emotional and mental health-related difficulties, self-restricting behaviors, relationship difficulties, and risk behaviors."

Schuler BR, Gardenhire RA, Jones SD, et al.

Exploring the Association Between Trauma, Instability, and Youth Cardiometabolic Health Outcomes Over Three Years.

J Adolesc Health. 2023 Oct 15:S1054-139X(23)00476-7. PMID: [37843478](#)

For 360 Cleveland 6th graders followed for 3 years, while trauma (e.g., badly hurt, victim of crime, loss of close person) was not associated with statistically significant cardiometabolic markers, instability (e.g., moving, change of schools, change in household structure) was significantly associated with increased body mass index, decreased high-density lipoprotein, and increased C-reactive protein slopes, all markers for adverse cardiometabolic health.

Rasmussen EF, Barnard S, Athey A, Gorovoy S, Grandner MA.
Adverse childhood experiences associated with sleep health in collegiate athletes.

Sleep Health. 2023 Oct 2;S2352-7218(23)00175-4. PMID: [37793972](#)

189 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division-I male (n = 102) and female (n = 87) student-athletes were recruited by flyers on one campus. “We found a statistically significant dose-response relationship between adverse childhood experience score and increased insomnia levels, poor sleep quality and decreased sleep duration...When adjusted for other adverse childhood experience categories, emotional neglect had the strongest association with sleep outcomes.”

Flannery DJ, Scholer SJ, Noriega I.

Bullying and School Violence.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023 Dec;70(6):1153-1170. PMID: [37865437](#)

“Rates of traditional bullying have remained stable (30%) but rates of cyberbullying are increasing rapidly (46% of youth). There are significant long-term physical and mental health consequences of bullying, especially for vulnerable youth. Multi-component school-based prevention programs that include caring adults, positive school climate, and supportive services for involved youth can effectively reduce bullying...Pediatricians play a critical role in identification, intervention, awareness, and advocacy.”

| Table 2 Warning signs | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Youth Who Are Bullied | Youth Who Bullies |
| Somatic complaints | Uses verbal or physical aggression to address conflict |
| Anxieties | Blames others for behavior |
| Depression | Comes home with items that do not belong to them. |
| Social withdrawal | |
| School absenteeism | |
| Declining grades | |
| Behavioral outbursts | |
| Suicidal ideation | |

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Hemler ME, Kojan BH, Anthun KS, Fauske H.

Risk for referral to the child welfare system following parental relationship transitions in Norway.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106459. PMID: [37813020](#)

From a large Norwegian database, “The occurrence of any type of relationship transition increased the likelihood of referral to the child welfare system in the year that the transition occurred, with the transitions to single motherhood, to single

fatherhood, and from single fatherhood to a couple associated with greater odds of referral than the transition from single motherhood to a couple.”

Smith A, Bryson H, Gartland D, Mensah F, Wood CE, Price A.
Mothers' experiences of emotional abuse from an intimate partner and its associations with children's developmental outcomes at 5 years.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106458. PMID: [37866251](#)

“Intimate partner violence (IPV) is associated with an increased risk of poorer child development. Existing research has focused on physical abuse with less known about emotional IPV.” In this study of 194 Australian women experiencing social adversity, at child ages 3-5 years, 57% of women experienced emotional IPV, which was consistently associated with poorer child development outcomes at age 5.

Zhang Y, Shen F, Paredes J, Lindsay D, Liu Q, Madre N, et al.
Exploring the complex links between childhood exposure to IPV, maltreatment, and self-regulation.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106507. PMID: [37879255](#)

From a long-term study with 4402 families, “exposure to IPV during early childhood significantly predicts long-term behavioral self-regulation difficulties, even after controlling for the effects of child maltreatment.”

Testa A, Lee JG, Jackson DB, et al.

Physical IPV and prenatal oral health experiences in the US.

BMC oral health. 2023;23(1):749. PMID: [37828499](#)

From a large study including 31 states, “women who experience physical IPV during pregnancy have lower knowledge of prenatal oral health care, more oral health problems, and greater unmet dental care needs. Given the risk of IPV and oral health problems for maternal and infant health [while the mechanisms are not fully understood, oral health problems during pregnancy have been found to negatively impact birth outcomes, including preterm birth and low birth weight] the study findings point to greater attention toward the oral health needs of IPV-exposed pregnant women.”

Mephram J, Nelles-McGee T, Andrews K, Gonzalez A.

Exploring the effect of prenatal maternal stress on the microbiomes of mothers and infants: A systematic review.

Dev Psychobiol. 2023;65(7):e22424. PMID: [37860905](#)

This review evaluates knowledge to date about how prenatal maternal stress (characterized by exposure to stress, anxiety, depression, or intimate partner violence) may detrimentally alter the microbial composition, diversity, and gut immunity in mothers and infants, with possible long-term health implications.

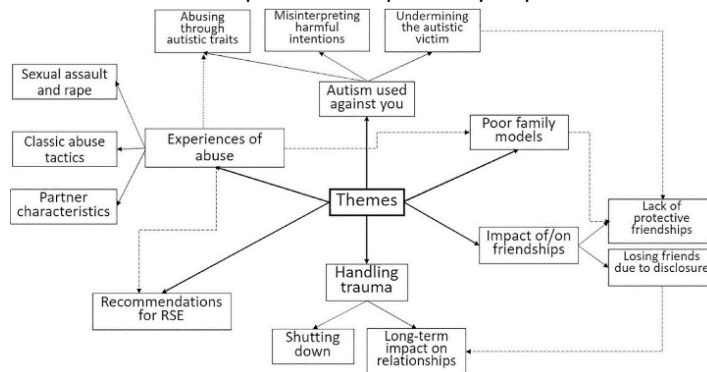
Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Douglas S, Sedgewick F.

Experiences of interpersonal victimization and abuse among autistic people.

Autism : the international journal of research and practice. 2023:13623613231205630. PMID: [37842827](#)

“This article reports on interviews with 24 autistic adults about their experiences of being victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault and/or domestic abuse. Some of the themes which came from these interviews are shared with non-autistic victims, but others appeared unique to autistic people...working with autistic people who have experienced abuse to design and implement training for social workers, police and survivor’s charities could go some way towards improving the support available. It is important for families, schools, and support workers to understand how autistic people may experience abuse differently to non-autistic people, so that better systems can be created to catch these instances earlier and put a stop to them, and to help autistic survivors recover from their experiences as positively as possible.



Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Walter B, Chung D, Waters R, Watts L.

Exploring Lived Experience of Family and Domestic Violence Against Women With Disability: A Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231201813. PMID: [37776309](#)

From a research review, “Disability-based abuse was perpetrated primarily by intimate partners, including financial and physical disability-based abuse, and was used to exploit and perpetuate

situations of isolation...However, women with disability reported strategies of resistance, healing, coping, and moving on in the aftermath of family and domestic violence and indicated what can be done to promote justice, both personally and within systems.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Gottesman E, Elman A, Rosen T.

Elder Mistreatment: Emergency Department Recognition and Management.

Clin Geriatr Med. 2023 Nov;39(4):553-573. PMID: [37798065](#)

Comprehensive review article. “Elder mistreatment is experienced by 5% to 15% of community-dwelling older adults each year. An emergency department (ED) encounter offers an important opportunity to identify elder mistreatment and initiate intervention. Strategies to improve detection of elder mistreatment include identifying high-risk patients; recognizing suggestive findings from the history, physical examination, imaging, and laboratory tests; and/or using screening tools. ED management of elder mistreatment includes addressing acute issues, maximizing the patient's safety, and reporting to the authorities when appropriate.”

Box 1 Potential risk factors for elder abuse

For becoming a victim

- Functional dependence or disability
- Poor physical health
- Cognitive impairment/dementia
- Poor mental health
- Low income/socioeconomic status
- Social isolation/low social support
- Previous history of family violence
- Previous traumatic event exposure
- Substance abuse

For becoming a perpetrator

- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Caregiver stress
- Previous history of family violence
- Financial dependence on older adult

Sexual Assault

O'Doherty L, Whelan M, Carter GJ, et al.
Psychosocial interventions for survivors of rape and sexual assault experienced during adulthood.
Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2023;10(10):Cd013456. PMID: [37795783](#)

“Our review suggests that survivors of rape, sexual violence and sexual abuse during adulthood may experience a large reduction in post-treatment PTSD symptoms and depressive symptoms after experiencing a psychosocial intervention, relative to comparison groups...However, the number of dropouts and study attrition were generally high...Also, the differential effects of specific intervention types needs further investigation...the needs and preferences of individuals must be considered in selecting suitable approaches.”

Voth Schrag RJ, Baumler E, Hairston D, Jones C, Wood L.
Safety and Academic Outcomes of College Campus-Based Advocacy Services.
J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231198487. PMID: [37864427](#)

For 112 student sexual assault survivors from 5 universities in one Southwestern state, campus-based advocacy programs, providing education, supportive connection, and resources, “demonstrate substantial reductions in sexual violence, IPV, stalking, and school sabotage at 6-month follow-up, as well as significant reductions in academic disengagement for student survivors.”

Human Trafficking

Moore JL, Fitzgerald M, Raj A.
Caring for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Patients: Recommendations for Identification, Interventions, and Resources.
Rhode Island medical journal (2013). 2023;106(10):29-33. PMID: [37890061](#)

In this general review, authors “provide recommendations on how to identify, engage trafficked youth, and provide beneficial linkages with community resources. A coordinated, multidisciplinary, and trauma-informed response that fosters therapeutic alliances promoting agency, safety, and trust are key components of successful care for this vulnerable adolescent population.”

Thomas H, Cromb D, Jacob H.
Acute safeguarding essentials in modern-day paediatrics: neglect, unsupervised minors and modern slavery.
Arch Dis Child Educ Pract Ed. 2023 Dec;108(6):397-400. PMID: [37890978](#)

Authors discuss various aspects of practical management of an 11 year-old female non-English speaking child wandering around a train station at midnight, who is being trafficked by relatives.

Key learning points

1. There is no legal age limit for leaving children home alone in the UK or in many other countries; however, parents or guardians can be prosecuted for putting a child at risk of suffering or injury due to lack of supervision.
2. Inability to speak the local language and not being enrolled in formal education can both contribute to the social isolation of a child and should be considered as risk factors for potential abuse. Such children may not be in the sight of any other adults, let alone other professionals.
3. There is a National Referral Mechanism for reporting cases of suspected modern slavery in the UK, and similar police-based reporting systems exist in other countries.
4. Children's social care services have an on-call duty worker who is available at all times for urgent discussions regarding child safeguarding and should always be contacted as soon as concerns are raised. They can also act as the hub for communication with other partner agencies.
5. Be wary of the 'social admission': it may not always be the best thing for the child concerned or other children in the department. Involve senior clinicians if there is any debate.
6. Hospital security services and/or the police should be informed early if you suspect a relative may put the safety of any patients or staff at risk.

LGBTQ Concerns

Helminen EC, Scheer JR, Ash TL, Haik AK, Felver JC.
Discrimination, Depression, and Anxiety Among Sexual Minority and Heterosexual Young Adults: The Role of Self-Compassion.

LGBT Health. 2023 May;10(4):315-323. PMID: [36656549](#)
From an online survey of 251 college students, “Self-compassion may be a particularly important coping resource to protect against depression symptoms among SMYAs [sexual minority young adults] experiencing discrimination. These findings provide an impetus for SMYA-tailored intervention and prevention efforts that incorporate cultivating self-compassion as a protective coping resource.”

Erlangsen A, Jacobsen AL, Ranning A, et al.
Transgender Identity and Suicide Attempts and Mortality in Denmark.

JAMA. 2023 Jun 27;329(24):2145-2153. PMID: [37367977](#)
Of 3759 Danish individuals identified as transgender at a median age of 22 years, and followed for several years, transgender individuals had significantly higher rates of suicide attempt (7.7 times increased rate), suicide mortality (3.5), suicide-unrelated mortality (1.9), and all-cause mortality (2.0) compared with the non-transgender population.

Race/Cultural Concerns

Gaba H, Shamaskin-Garroway AM, Pierson WE, Berliant MN.

Racial and Ethnic Differences in Patient-Reported Acceptability of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Screening in Adult Primary Care.

J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2023 Dec;10(6):3107-3114.

PMID: [36469290](#)

Among 131 patients seen at a primary care academic safety net clinic, “37% reported 4 or more ACEs. Black/African American patients and Hispanic/Latinx patients were overrepresented in the high ACE score (4+) group. Over one in three of all patients did not find ACE screening to be an acceptable part of their primary care...patient-reported acceptability was not statistically associated with patients' ACE score or patients' race, ethnicity, gender, or age. Notably, however, in our small sample of Native American and Hispanic/Latino patients, over half did not find ACE screening to be acceptable...We consider routine ACE screening to be unsubstantiated and premature, and instead encourage the development of comprehensive trauma-informed practices for which a disclosure of childhood adversity is not necessary.”

Kunstman JW, Ogungbadero T, Deska JC, et al.

Race-based biases in psychological distress and treatment judgments.

PLoS One. 2023;18(10):e0293078. PMID: [37856467](#)

From four studies with participants from the American public and the field of mental health, “When presented with identical mental illnesses (e.g., depression, anxiety, schizophrenia), both laypeople and clinicians believed that psychopathology would be less distressing to Black relative to White individuals. These distress biases mediate downstream treatment judgments.”

Seo DC, Satterfield N, Alba-Lopez L, et al.

"That's why we're speaking up today": exploring barriers to overdose fatality prevention in Indianapolis' Black community with semi-structured interviews.

Harm reduction journal. 2023;20(1):159. PMID: [37891632](#)

From interviews with 23 Black residents of Indianapolis on overdose fatality prevention, “Help seeking barriers such as stigma, fear, and mistrust contributed to practical barriers such as knowledge of how to administer naloxone... Participants discussed the double stigma of substance use and being Black, fear of being searched in law enforcement encounters and what would happen if law enforcement found naloxone on them, and

mistrust of law enforcement and institutions that provide medical intervention.”

Simpson JE, Landers AL, White Hawk S.

Longing to belong: The ambiguous loss of Indigenous fostered/adopted individuals.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;106441. PMID: [37833120](#)

“Indigenous fostered/adopted persons experienced ambiguous loss in foster care and adoption. Their loss remained unresolved due to a loss of access to information about their family and tribe of origin. Although family of origin, tribal community, and culture were not physically present due to separation by foster care/adoption, they remained psychologically present. As a result of ambiguous loss, participants experienced disenfranchised grief, wondering and longing to belong, and mental health and substance abuse.”

Melendez DR, Alexander AJ, Nardolillo J, et al.

An Exploration of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism in Standardized Patient Simulations.

Am J Pharm Educ. 2023;87(11):100594. PMID: [37783306](#)

Authors report on seven pharmacy training programs incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism (DEIA) in their standardized patient (SP) training scenarios. “Common barriers...included recruitment of diverse SPs, lack of faculty knowledge for implementation of DEIA-focused simulations, and emotional protection of SPs involved. While no best practices or standardized processes exist, the authors provide suggestions for addressing barriers, and make a call to action for further research to determine best practices related to recruitment, training, and utilization of diverse SPs in simulation activities.”

Edwell A, Van Schaik S, Teherani A.

URM: Underrepresented or Underrecognized? A Case Study of Black Pediatric Critical Care Physicians.

Acad Med. 2023 Nov 1;98(11S):S50-S57. PMID: [37983396](#)

“By using an antideficit framework, this study delineates and centers participants' ingenuity in cultivating repertoires of practice that enabled them to succeed, despite challenges rooted in systemic racism. Going forward, rather than focus solely on what is missing, academic medicine should try to shift systems and regularly recognize and value the knowledge, expertise, and merit that Black physicians bring. Perhaps an appropriate framing is not that Black physicians are underrepresented in medicine; maybe instead, it is that they are underrecognized.”

Perpetrators

Zhu Y, He C, Bell M, et al.

Association of Ambient Temperature With the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Among Partnered Women in Low- and Middle-Income South Asian Countries.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2023 Sep 1;80(9):952-961. PMID: [37379013](#)

Of 194,871 ever-partnered women, mean age 35.4 years, from India, Nepal, and Pakistan, with data collected at multiple points in time, “each 1 °C increase in the annual mean temperature was associated with a mean increase in IPV prevalence of 4.49%.”

Police and Court Systems

Barnert ES, Schlichte LM, Tolliver DG, et al.

Parents' Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences and Offspring Involvement With the Criminal Legal System.

JAMA network open. 2023;6(10):e2339648. PMID: [37878312](#)

“In this nationally representative study, children of parents with higher ACEs were at greater risk of arrest during adolescence and young adulthood, even after controlling for parents' PCEs...Having 4 or more parental ACEs was associated with 1.91-fold higher adjusted odds of arrest before age 26 and 3.22-fold higher adjusted odds of conviction before age 26 years, compared with children of parents without ACEs...Addressing and preventing childhood adversity through multigenerational life course approaches may help disrupt intergenerational pathways to the criminal legal system.”

Moser C.

Differentiating sexual violence from BDSM.

J Sex Med. 2023;20(10):1233-4. PMID: [37784215](#)

“BDSM (bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, and sexual sadism and masochism) is a sexual interest and, for some, a sexual orientation. By definition, BDSM is consensual. Sexual violence is characterized by intentional nonconsensual sexual behavior...The differences between BDSM and sexual violence are important and can have significant legal consequences (criminal and civil) as well as psychological ramifications for the individuals involved...The present article is an attempt to familiarize clinicians with some basic information to distinguish sexual violence from BDSM.”

Pear VA, De Biasi A, Charbonneau A.

Law Enforcement Officer Knowledge of, Attitudes Toward, and Willingness to Use Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

JAMA network open. 2023;6(10):e2338455. PMID: [37856122](#)

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)—often known as “red flag laws”—empower families and law enforcement to prevent gun tragedies by temporarily restricting access to guns for individuals at an elevated risk of harming themselves or others. In this survey of 283 law enforcement officers, 85.2% cisgender men and 71.4% non-Hispanic White, from 14 states and the District of Columbia, with 53.7% living in California, “81.3% were very or somewhat familiar with ERPO laws and 56.2% had received ERPO training. Opinions about ERPO laws were generally favorable but varied by self-identified political ideology...support was highest in cases involving intimate partner violence (71.4%-78.6%) and lowest in cases involving suicidality (54.2%-73.3%)...training and experience with ERPOs was associated with greater support for their use across a range of scenarios.”

Providers

Ha M, Rowe A, Hendrix K, Anwar S, Mang K, Wen F, et al.

Use of Metaphor as an Explanation Tool in Adverse Childhood Experiences Simulation Training.

The Permanente journal. 2023;1-10. PMID: [37876251](#)

“Health care practitioners need effective communication tools for trauma-sensitive inquiries with patients. This study aimed to describe characteristics of effective metaphor use by health care trainees when discussing ACEs and health with adult patients, and to provide example metaphors for clinicians to use to sensitively address ACEs...the most common being the overloaded backpack. Mean metaphor duration was 37 seconds...No one metaphor performed significantly better...Literary devices like metaphors may be efficient and effective explanatory tools to improve clinician communication skills and patient understanding in addressing sensitive topics, such as ACEs.”

| Metaphor | Description |
|------------------|---|
| Backpack | Heavy backpack filled with bricks, representing traumatic experiences in life weighing a person down. |
| Overloaded truck | Truck overloaded with traumatic experiences preventing smooth functioning and causing breakdown. |
| Volume dial | Effects of childhood trauma “turns up the volume” on symptoms in a patient’s body. |
| Tree of trauma | Childhood trauma is like unhealthy soil or lack of watering that can lead to poor growing conditions for a plant. |
| Sunburn | Effects of a childhood sunburn may not be seen until years later via skin cancer, wrinkling. |
| Broken bone | A broken bone in childhood can result in localized aches and pains in adulthood. |
| Puppy | A well-nurtured dog may become friendly and playful, but a neglected, abused dog may become aggressive and cruel. |

Raja S, Rabinowitz EP, Sayer MA, da Fonseca M.
Patient comfort discussing sensitive behavioral health topics.

Journal of communication in healthcare. 2023;16(3):239-44.
PMID: [37859460](#)

From an online survey, "Participants reported being more comfortable discussing cigarette smoking and less comfortable discussing trauma, IPV and gun ownership compared to depression. Privacy and perceived irrelevance were the most common reasons for discomfort...Patient comfort may increase through provider trainings that focus on communication skills, clear administrative procedures that allow for privacy and adequate time for discussions, and community education that underscores how these issues impact health."

Davidson J, Karadzhev D, Collins H, Brown A.
Complexities of protecting children from violence during the COVID-19 pandemic: Providers' and policymakers' best practices, innovations and challenges in 12 countries.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106480. PMID: [37801758](#)

"Most respondents reported their sectors had experienced challenges in protecting children from violence - particularly delays in reporting abuse and pursuing justice, and reaching those living in poor and/or rural areas. Good practices and innovations in children's protection during the pandemic were reported in several domains: advocacy and signposting; justice; health care; education and awareness-raising; children's visibility; and virtual service delivery. Community resources and involvement were also highlighted as vital. The ineffectiveness of child protection laws, policies and organizational responses, however, hindered the implementation of effective practices...Collectively, the findings reinforce the criticality of collaborative, urgent and child-centered responses."

Shadik JA, Harris E, McDonald E.

Learning from child welfare staff experiences during the pandemic: Practices to maintain and discontinue.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106481. PMID: [37801759](#)

In a study of 267 staff members from 50 Ohio agencies, "Thematic analysis of practices staff hoped to continue after the pandemic resulted in five themes: Nontraditional Site and Schedule, Remote Meetings, Safety Protocols, Communication and Support, and Helping Children and Families. Thematic analysis of practices staff hoped would end after the pandemic resulted in six themes: Masking, Virtual Meetings, Mandated Work Location, Unreasonable Policies, Overloading and Overwhelming Staff, and Separation from Coworkers."

Wells SA, Fleury-Steiner RE, Miller SL, et al.
Impacts of the COVID-19 Response on the Domestic Violence Workforce.

J Interpers Violence. 2023:8862605231203610. PMID: [37799057](#)

From interviews with 25 DV coalition executive directors on challenges during the pandemic, workforce themes included an accelerated rate of job turnover among both leadership and staff; a lack of essential worker status for domestic violence advocates; and unsustainable levels of stress, fear, and exhaustion. "Domestic violence advocates are essential first responders and must be supported in ways that increase the resilience of empowerment-based services for victims and survivors."

Eapen DJ, Tsusaki RB, Mullassery DG, et al.
A Systematic Review of Women's Experiences of Interpersonal Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Nurs Womens Health. 2023 Oct 19;S1751-4851(23)00202-7.
PMID: [37866396](#)

From a research review, "Women reported worsening of abuse during the pandemic. The pandemic led to severe economic challenges, which eventually precipitated more abuse. Additionally, women experienced mental health distress from social isolation and increased surveillance and control from their abusive partners. Several factors affected their ability to access health care and support services; these included limited availability of services, fear of contracting the virus, and an abusive partner who restricted their movement outside the home...need to plan for coordinated efforts in the event of future pandemics or other public health emergencies."

Prevention

Baumler E, Wood L, Temple JR.
Three-Year Outcomes From a Middle School Dating Violence Prevention Program.

Pediatrics. 2023;152(4). PMID: [37675485](#)

"In one of the few ARA [adolescent relationship abuse] intervention studies to measure effectiveness beyond 2 years, we found that Fourth R teens with a history of ARA who received the intervention evidenced substantially less perpetration of ARA 3 years later than their counterparts in the control group. Although primary prevention programs remain the gold standard, efforts to interrupt ARA perpetration are needed, especially given the strong link between ARA and adult intimate partner violence."

Miele C, Maquigneau A, Joyal CC, et al.

International guidelines for the prevention of sexual violence: A systematic review and perspective of WHO, UN Women, UNESCO, and UNICEF's publications.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;146:106497. PMID: [37832246](#)

“All international guidelines were limited to primary or tertiary prevention, and they were not specifically dedicated to sexual violence. In addition, each organization had developed idiosyncratic prevention strategies. Common primary prevention determinants of health were still found across organizations, including education, socio-economic inequalities, and life skills training. Tertiary prevention was poorly developed and polarized between victims and perpetrators. Secondary prevention was never addressed, however, despite the effectiveness of approaches such as helplines for people sexually attracted to children...an international consortium of professional teams, all involved in the secondary prevention of sexual violence, was recently formed with a ratified charter presented here.”

Researchers

Ertanir B, Cobb CL, Unger JB, et al.

Crisis Migration Adverse Childhood Events: A New Category of Youth Adversity for Crisis Migrant Children and Adolescents.

Res Child Adolesc Psychopathol. 2023 Dec;51(12):1871-1882. PMID: [36626084](#)

“The present article proposes an extension of the concept of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to apply to crisis migration - where youth and families are fleeing armed conflicts, natural disasters, community violence, government repression, and other large-scale emergencies. We propose that adverse events occurring prior to, during, and following migration can be classified as crisis-migration-related ACEs...We propose a research agenda centered around definitional clarity, rigorous measurement development, prospective longitudinal studies to establish predictive validity, and collaborations among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.”

Kaul A, Chavendera DD, Saunders K, Paphitis SA.

Improving Emotional Safety, Coping, and Resilience Among Women Conducting Research on Sexual and Domestic Violence and Abuse.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231207617. PMID: [37876237](#)

“This study qualitatively explored violence researcher's professional experiences of secondary trauma and their perceptions of what enables and constrains their own coping and resilience...All participants reported experiencing symptoms of secondary trauma from their work including cognitive disturbances; altered beliefs of themselves, others or the world; and challenges connecting with others...Organizational support for violence researchers was rarely provided and participants felt generally unsupported -- left to manage any resultant distress alone. Research organizations and universities should implement trauma-informed policies which positively transform workplace culture, provide peer support spaces, and conduct effective training in order to mitigate psychological harm and promote resilience among violence researchers.”

Other of Interest

Gonzalez-Guarda RM.

Applying Lessons From Major Public Health Accomplishments to Firearm Injuries in the US.

JAMA Health Forum. 2023 Jun 2;4(6):e232201. PMID: [37261834](#)

“Firearm violence prevention requires a multilevel approach that goes beyond individual interventions. Effective public health lessons in addressing tobacco use, motor vehicle safety, and COVID-19 can be used to inform strategies that reduce access to firearms, engineer new safety solutions, and mobilize community action.”

Borg K, Faulkner N, Slattery P, Tear MJ.

Understanding and Changing Community Attitudes Toward Vulnerable Families: A Review of Literature and Practice.

Fam Community Health. 2024 Jan-Mar 01;47(1):66-79. PMID: [37747843](#)

“A number of interventions to change community attitudes and behaviors were identified. Practitioners indicated that success factors for interventions included facilitating active participation from community members; using multifaceted approaches; and increasing empathy toward vulnerable families. Despite increasing evidence around how community members think and act toward vulnerable families, more research is needed to determine how to effectively change these attitudes and behaviors.”