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Child Abuse

Conn AM, Szilagyi MA, Franke TM, et. al.

Trends in child protection and out-of-home care.

Pediatrics. 2013 Oct;132(4):712-9. PMID: [24062369](#)

Comparing national databases 2000 and 2010, the number of suspected child maltreatment cases increased 17%, but substantiated cases decreased 7% while the number of children placed in out of home care decreased 25%. "These changes may have led to a smaller but more complex out of home care population with substantial previous trauma and emotional problems."

Niederkrötenhaler T, Xu L, Parks SE, Sugarman DE.

Descriptive factors of abusive head trauma in young children--United States, 2000-2009.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Jul;37(7):446-55. PMID: [23535075](#)

In a CDC database review of abusive vs. non-abusive head trauma, abused patients were more likely to be <1 year of age, male, enrolled in Medicaid, over 8 times more likely to be hospitalized longer, and over 5 times more likely to die during hospitalization.

Gumbs GR, Keenan HT, Sevick CJ, et. al.

Infant abusive head trauma in a military cohort.

Pediatrics. 2013 Oct;132(4):668-76. PMID: [23999963](#)

In the first large database study of infant abusive head trauma in military families, rates were similar to the civilian population. Significant risk factors included parents in lower military pay grades, infants with military mothers, and infants born premature or with birth defects.

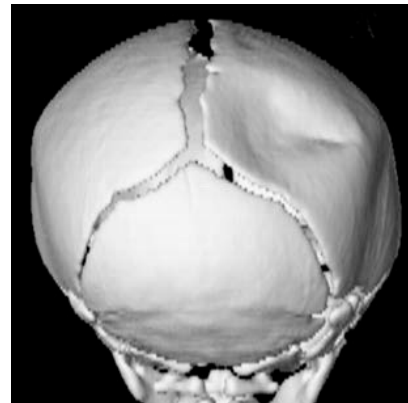
Prabhu SP, Newton AW, Perez-Rossello JM, Kleinman PK.

Three-dimensional skull models as a problem-solving tool in suspected child abuse.

Pediatr Radiol. 2013 Mar;43(5):575-81. PMID: [2318406](#)

In a study of CT head scans of 75 children seen by a child protection team, 3-D skull models were also obtained in 1/3, and the 3-D model changed the initial CT interpretation in 34.6% of cases.

[Infant 3-D skull imaging with normal suture lines between the skull bones plus a "ping pong" fracture. Courtesy of anatomybox.com]



Maguire SA, Upadhyaya M, Evans A, et. al.

A systematic review of abusive visceral injuries in childhood—their range and recognition.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Jul;37(7):430-45. PMID: [23306146](#)

In a review of research studies on abdominal injuries in children, compared to non-abusive injuries, children with abusive injuries were younger (2.5-3.7 years vs. 7.60-10.3 years) and mortality was higher (53% vs. 21%). Abdominal skin bruising was absent in up to 80% of internal abdominal injuries.

Myhre AK, Adams JA, Kaufhold M, et. al.

Anal findings in children with and without probable anal penetration: a retrospective study of 1115 children referred for suspected sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Jul;37(7):465-74. PMID: [23618719](#)

Review of abusive anal findings in children.

Dubowitz H.

Neglect in children.

Pediatr Ann. 2013 Apr;42(4):73-7. PMID: [23556521](#)

Review of the concept, identification and management of child neglect.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Kelly-Irving M, Lepage B, Dedieu D, et. al.

Adverse childhood experiences and premature all-cause mortality.

Eur J Epidemiol. 2013 Sep;28(9):721-34. PMID: [23887883](#)

From a British study of individuals born in 1958 and looking at all-cause mortality vs. ACE score (adverse childhood experiences), for men the risk of death was 57% higher among those who had experienced 2+ ACE, and for women 1 ACE had a 66% and ≥ 2 ACE had an 80% increased risk of death versus those with no ACE.

Seng JS, Sperlich M, Low LK, Ronis DL, Muzik M, Liberzon I.

Childhood abuse history, posttraumatic stress disorder, postpartum mental health, and bonding: a prospective cohort study.

J Midwifery Womens Health. 2013 Jan-Feb;58(1):57-68.

PMID: [23374491](#)

Of 588 US women followed during pregnancy and postpartum, lifetime PTSD from childhood abuse was associated with post-partum depression, which was associated with impaired bonding. Reported dissociation in labor was a risk for worse outcomes.

Sperry DM, Widom CS.

Child abuse and neglect, social support, and psychopathology in adulthood: a prospective investigation.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Jun;37(6):415-25. PMID: [23562083](#)

For a group of children with documented histories of physical and sexual abuse and neglect, compared to a matched control group and followed to mean age of 41, childhood maltreatment was significantly associated with lower levels of social support in adulthood. However, for those with a history of maltreatment, positive social support played a significant role in moderating adult anxiety and depression.

Easton SD, Renner LM, O'Leary P.

Suicide attempts among men with histories of child sexual abuse: examining abuse severity, mental health, and masculine norms.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Jun;37(6):380-7. PMID: [23313078](#)

Of 287 men aged 19-84 who were sexually abused in childhood, five variables increased the odds of suicidality in the past 12 months - duration of the sexual abuse, use of force during the sexual abuse, high conformity to masculine norms, level of depressive symptoms, and suicidal ideation.

Adolescents

Mills R, Scott J, Alati R, et. al.

Child maltreatment and adolescent mental health problems in a large birth cohort.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 May;37(5):292-302. PMID: [23380430](#)

In a large Australian study of mother-child pairs followed over time, childhood maltreatment and especially emotional abuse, neglect, and multi-type maltreatment were associated with age 14 internalizing (depression, anxiety) and externalizing (anger, aggression) behaviors.

Walsh K, Messman-Moore T, Zerubavel N, et. al.

Perceived sexual control, sex-related alcohol expectancies and behavior predict substance-related sexual revictimization.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 May;37(5):353-9. PMID: [23312991](#)

From anonymous surveys of 546 female college students, findings suggest that "lowered perceptions of sexual control resulting from childhood sexual abuse may be associated with increased sex-related alcohol expectancies and heightened likelihood of risky sexual behavior, which in turn may predict adult substance-related rape."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Shneyderman Y, Kiely M.

Intimate partner violence during pregnancy: victim or perpetrator? Does it make a difference?

BJOG. 2013 Oct;120(11):1375-85. PMID: [23786367](#)

For 1044 African-American pregnant women, those reporting reciprocal violence were more likely to drink, use illicit drugs, be less happy about their pregnancies and be depressed. Those who were IPV victims only were more likely to deliver prematurely and deliver low and very-low birth-weight infants.

Semaan I, Jasinski JL, Bubriski-McKenzie A.

Subjection, subjectivity, and agency: the power, meaning, and practice of mothering among women experiencing intimate partner abuse.

Violence Against Women. 2013 Jan;19(1):69-88. PMID: [23363656](#)

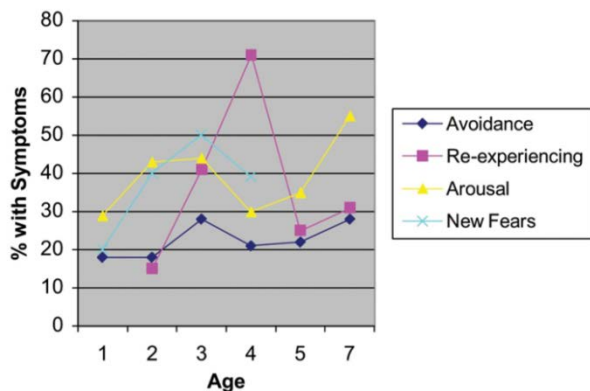
25 women who left their abusive partners discuss the role that issues of motherhood played in their decision to leave.

Levendosky AA, Bogat GA, Martinez-Torteya C.

PTSD symptoms in young children exposed to intimate partner violence.

Violence Against Women. 2013 Feb;19(2):187-201. PMID: [23420836](#)

Of 206 women and children followed from ages 1 to 7, approximately half of those children exposed to IPV developed some trauma symptoms. Frequency of IPV witnessed was associated with increased PTSD symptoms. Also, maternal and child PTSD symptoms were correlated.



Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Mason SM, Wright RJ, Hibert EN, Spiegelman D, Jun HJ, Hu FB, Rich-Edwards JW.

Intimate partner violence and incidence of type 2 diabetes in women.

Diabetes Care. 2013 May;36(5):1159-65. PMID: [23248189](#)

Using data from the Nurses' Health Study II, and after adjusting for BMI and other diabetes risk factors, physical IPV was modestly and severe psychological violence was substantially associated with increased risk of type 2 diabetes.

Symes L, McFarlane J, Nava A, Gilroy H, Maddoux J.

The association of pain severity and pain interference levels with abuse experiences and mental health symptoms among 300 mothers: baseline data analysis for a 7-year prospective study.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2013 Jan;34(1):2-16. PMID: [23301564](#)

Of 300 mothers experiencing IPV, higher levels of chronic pain severity were significantly associated

with anxiety, PTSD, and depression. "Mental health symptoms compounded by pain, may leave abused women less able to access resources or practice safety behaviors to protect themselves and their children."

Winter A, Stephenson R.

Intimate partner violence and symptoms of reproductive tract infections among married Indian women.

Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2013 Jun;121(3):218-23. PMID: [23497750](#)

Of over 65,000 married women in India, 23.9% reported at least one type of IPV. Verbal, physical and sexual IPV each demonstrated a significant independent effect on reporting reproductive tract infections; the odds of infection were higher with the more types of IPV a woman experienced.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Fleming KN, Newton TL, Fernandez-Botran R, et. al.

Intimate partner stalking victimization and posttraumatic stress symptoms in post-abuse women.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Dec;18(12):1368-89. PMID: [23419275](#)

After accounting for levels of partner abuse, post-abuse stalking accompanied by fear and threat was positively correlated with PTSD symptom severity, especially hyper-arousal.

Cultural Issues

Parra-Cardona JR, Escobar-Chew AR, Holtrop K, et. al.

"En el grupo tomas conciencia (in group you become aware)": Latino immigrants' satisfaction with a culturally informed intervention for men who batter.

Violence Against Women. 2013 Jan;19(1):107-32. PMID: [23404244](#)

From in depth interviews with 19 Latino men engaged in a culturally attuned batterer curriculum, participants identified specific cultural characteristics that led to satisfaction with the intervention, including a close relationship with the group facilitator, the relevance of Latino cultural values in their lives, and the chance to discuss the challenges that they had faced as a result of racial discrimination and exclusion.

Ishida K, Klevens J, Rivera-García B, Mirabal B.
Child maltreatment in Puerto Rico: findings from the 2010 National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System.

P R Health Sci J. 2013 Sep;32(3):124-31. PMID: [24133893](#)

From a national database 2006-2010, child maltreatment rates were consistently higher in Puerto Rico than in the US despite lower reporting rates. Neglect followed by emotional abuse were the most common forms of maltreatment, and reporting was more commonly anonymous in Puerto Rico than in the US (29.8% vs. 9.4%).

Chen PH, Jacobs A, Rovi SL.

Intimate partner violence: IPV in the LGBT community.

FP Essent. 2013 Sep;412:28-35. PMID: [24053263](#)

Review of management of LGBT individuals experiencing IPV including physician behaviors and inclusive language, the threat of “outing” as a barrier to seeking help, limited resources for LGBT patients, and the greater risk of depression and substance abuse relating to stigmatization and discrimination.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Mills WL, Roush RE, Moyer J, et. al.

An educational program to assist clinicians in identifying elder investment fraud and financial exploitation.

Gerontol Geriatr Educ. 2012;33(4):351-63. PMID: [23095220](#)

Description of a successful educational program with clinician pocket guide and patient brochure raising awareness and assisting clinicians in identifying elder investment fraud and financial exploitation.

Maxton C, Dineen RA, Padamsey RC, Munshi SK.

Don't neglect 'neglect'- an update on post stroke neglect.

Int J Clin Pract. 2013 Apr;67(4):369-78. PMID: [23521329](#)

“Post-stroke neglect is common and an independent predictor of functional outcome.” This article reviews research on this subject including useful assessment strategies.

Livingston G, Barber J, Rapaport P, et. al.

Clinical effectiveness of a manual based coping strategy programme (START, STRategies for Relatives) in promoting the mental health of carers of family members with dementia: pragmatic randomised controlled trial.

BMJ. 2013 Oct 25;347:f6276. PMID: [24162942](#)

A manual-based 8 session coping intervention for family carers of dementia patients resulted in decreased depression, and improved quality of life for caregivers.

Perpetrators

Romero-Martinez A, Moya-Albiol L.

Neuropsychology of perpetrators of domestic violence: the role of traumatic brain injury and alcohol abuse and/or dependence.

Rev Neurol. 2013 Dec 1;57(11):515-522. Spanish, English.

PMID: [24265146](#)

“Neuropsychological impairments of the executive functions, memory, attention, intelligence quotient, and empathy have been found in perpetrators of domestic violence.” Article reviews the neuropsychological deficits of perpetrators of IPV.

Panczak R, Geissbühler M, Zwahlen M, et. al.

Homicide-suicides compared to homicides and suicides: Systematic review and meta-analysis.

Forensic Sci Int. 2013 Dec 10;233(1-3):28-36. PMID:

[24314498](#)

In an international review of DV homicide-suicide vs. homicide or suicide, homicide-suicide emerged as a distinct entity – with perpetrators more likely to be male, older, married/separated from their victims, and with less influence of alcohol or unemployment at the time of the event. The proportion of firearm use in homicide-suicide was highest in the USA, Switzerland and South Africa.

Police and Court Systems

Kercher C, Swedler DI, Pollack KM, Webster DW.

Homicides of law enforcement officers responding to domestic disturbance calls.

Inj Prev. 2013 Oct;19(5):331-5. PMID: [23396836](#)

From an FBI database 1996-2010, there were 116 US law enforcement officer homicides relating to IPV encounters. 95% were committed with a firearm despite 67% of officers wearing body armor when killed. 61% of perpetrators had criminal records. Victims were killed in 21% of the IPV related cases as opposed to only 5% of other domestic disturbance calls.

Watson LB, Ancis JR.

Power and control in the legal system: from marriage/relationship to divorce and custody.

Violence Against Women. 2013 Feb;19(2):166-86. PMID: [23446105](#)

27 women describe how abuse dynamics of power and control continued during divorce and custody, including "child support litigation, custody and visitation battles, intimidation/harassment, deliberately prolonging the case, manipulating finances, and distortions of information."

Providers

Bryant-Davis T, Wong EC.

Faith to move mountains: Religious coping, spirituality, and interpersonal trauma recovery.

Am Psychol. 2013 Nov;68(8):675-84. PMID: [24320650](#)

Review of the role of positive religious coping among survivors of child abuse, sexual violence, and war. "Researchers, clinicians, and advocates for trauma survivors are encouraged to attend to the faith traditions and beliefs of persons confronting the potential devastation of traumatic events."

Williston CJ, Lafreniere KD.

"Holy cow, does that ever open up a can of worms": health care providers' experiences of inquiring about intimate partner violence.

Health Care Women Int. 2013;34(9):814-31. PMID: [23790127](#)

Interviews with Canadian healthcare providers on difficulties and barriers to interacting with patients experiencing IPV.

Nuzzolese E.

Identification of human trafficking victims in dental care settings.

J Forensic Odontostomatol. 2013 Oct 1;31 Suppl 1:30. PMID: [24362133](#)

Article from Italy on the role of dental professionals volunteering at a shelter for human trafficking victims.

Kiely M, Gantz MG, El-Khorazaty MN, El-Mohandes AA.

Sequential screening for psychosocial and behavioural risk during pregnancy in a population of urban African Americans.

BJOG. 2013 Oct;120(11):1395-402. PMID: [23906260](#)

Of 1044 African American pregnant women in the District of Columbia, asking about psychosocial issues repeatedly during pregnancy increased disclosure of smoking by 11%, IPV by 9% and depression by 20%.

Babcock RL, Deprince AP.

Factors contributing to ongoing intimate partner abuse: childhood betrayal trauma and dependence on one's perpetrator.

J Interpers Violence. 2013 May;28(7):1385-402. PMID: [23266993](#)

For 190 survivors of IPV followed over 6 months after an incident reported to the police, a history of childhood betrayal trauma was associated with ongoing victimization, and both depression and unemployment predicted greater physical and sexual aggression and injuries.

Gilroy H, McFarlane J, Nava A, Maddoux J.

Preferred communication methods of abused women.

Public Health Nurs. 2013 Sep-Oct;30(5):402-8. PMID: [24000912](#)

For 300 female Texan first time users of criminal justice or safe shelter for abused women, 80% preferred face-to-face and phone voice communication vs. phone text, email or facebook.

Haeseler LA.

Themes of coping in the spectrum of domestic violence abuse: a review of the literature.

J Evid Based Soc Work. 2013;10(1):25-32. PMID: [23368992](#)

Discussion of the obstacles and coping mechanisms of women experiencing IPV, "including psycho-physiological, economic, education, family, and childcare factors."

Flaherty EG, Schwartz K, Jones RD, Sege RD.

Child abuse physicians: coping with challenges.

Eval Health Prof. 2013 Jun;36(2):163-73. PMID: [22960291](#)

Although overall satisfied with their career choice, in a survey of 56 child abuse physicians 52% report experiencing threats to their personal safety, 50% formal complaints to supervisors, 23% negative stories in the media, and 16% malpractice suits.

Prevention

Amar AF, Sutherland M, Kesler E.

Evaluation of a bystander education program.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2012 Dec;33(12):851-7. PMID: [23215986](#)

After a bystander education program for 202 full time undergraduate students, participants reported decreased rape myth acceptance, increased intention to act when a bystander, and increased sense of responsibility to intervene.

Chahine Z, Sanders D.

The road ahead: comprehensive and innovative approaches for improving safety and preventing child maltreatment fatalities.

Child Welfare. 2013;92(2):237-53. PMID: [24199332](#)

“This article presents a high-level overview of the complex issues, opportunities, and challenges involved in improving child safety and preventing child maltreatment fatalities. It emphasizes that improving measurement and classification is critical to understanding and preventing child maltreatment fatalities. It also stresses the need to reframe child maltreatment interventions from a public health perspective.”

Staal II, Hermanns JM, Schrijvers AJ, van Stel HF.

Risk assessment of parents' concerns at 18 months in preventive child health care predicted child abuse and neglect.

Child Abuse Negl. 2013 Jul;37(7):475-84. PMID: [23352082](#)

From the Netherlands, parent concerns and perceived need for support at toddler 18 month old visits were predictive of reports to child abuse authorities 1.5 years later. Using a SPARK (Structured Problem Analysis of Raising Kids) instrument, parents scoring at high risk were 16.3 times more likely to have a subsequently reported child. Early recognition of families at risk could benefit from interventions.

Researchers

Leenarts LE, Diehle J, Doreleijers TA, Jansma EP, Lindauer RJ.

Evidence-based treatments for children with trauma-related psychopathology as a result of childhood maltreatment: a systematic review.

Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2013 May;22(5):269-83. PMID: [23266844](#)

Review of evidence-based treatments for maltreated children with trauma symptoms.

Kraanen FL, Vedel E, Scholing A, Emmelkamp PM.

Screening on perpetration and victimization of intimate partner violence (IPV): two studies on the validity of an IPV screening instrument in patients in substance abuse treatment.

PLoS One. 2013 May 16;8(5):e63681. PMID: [23696847](#)

Description of a 4 item screening tool for individuals entering substance abuse programs to identify victims or perpetrators of IPV.

Moffitt TE; Klaus-Grawe 2012 Think Tank.

Childhood exposure to violence and lifelong health: Clinical intervention science and stress-biology research join forces.

Dev Psychopathol. 2013 Nov;25(4 Pt 2):1619-34. PMID: [2434285](#)

With a review of the effects of abuse on a child's physiology (inflammatory reactions, telomere erosion, epigenetic methylation, gene expression) and brain (mental disorders, neuroimaging, and neuropsychological testing); and a review of promising interventions for families, couples, and children, the authors invite intervention scientists and stress-biology researchers to collaborate.

Other of Interest

Adams AE, Tolman RM, Bybee D, Sullivan CM, Kennedy AC.

The impact of intimate partner violence on low-income women's economic well-being: the mediating role of job stability.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Dec;18(12):1345-67. PMID: [23419274](#)

Among 503 female welfare recipients, IPV had significant negative effects on women's job stability and economic well-being, with the effects lasting up to three years after the IPV ended.

Banerjee PR.

Dowry in 21st-century India: the sociocultural face of exploitation.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2014 Jan;15(1):34-40. PMID: [23897921](#)

Despite laws prohibiting the practice of dowries in India, over 8,000 women age 15-34 are killed (government data) and over 25,000 killed or maimed (activist data) each year due to the dowry being deemed unsatisfactory by the recipient.

Lim MM, Elkind J, Xiong G, et. al.

Dietary therapy mitigates persistent wake deficits caused by mild traumatic brain injury.

Sci Transl Med. 2013 Dec 11;5(215):215ra173. PMID: [24337480](#)

“Sleep disorders are highly prevalent in patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and can significantly impair cognitive rehabilitation.” Sleep deficits were improved in mice with TBI when fed supplements of branched chain amino acid precursors for glutamate, a brain chemical.