Child Abuse

McKelvey LM, Conners Edge NA, Fitzgerald S, et. al.
Adverse childhood experiences: Screening and health in children from birth to age 5.

Using ACE screening during home visitation of at-risk children showed that increasing scores were associated with “health risks in the home (e.g., safety and secondhand smoke exposure), underuse of preventive health care, and overuse of emergency medical treatment.” Having four or more ACEs was associated with the child having a chronic health condition and/or developmental delay in at least one area.

Thompson R, Kaczor K, Lorenz DJ, et. al.
Is the Use of Physical Discipline Associated with Aggressive Behaviors in Young Children?
Acad Pediatr. 2017 Jan - Feb;17(1):34-44. PMID: 26924534

For 372 midwestern parents of children younger than age 4, and excluding children with suspected physical abuse, parents who reported using physical discipline were 2.8 times more likely to report aggressive child behaviors of hitting/kicking and throwing. Physical discipline was used on 38% of children overall.

Parent S, Lavoie F, Thibodeau MÈ, et. al.
Sexual Violence Experienced in the Sport Context by a Representative Sample of Quebec Adolescents.

Of 6450 Quebec adolescents aged 14-17, 0.5% experienced sexual abuse involving a coach, and 1.2% consensual sexual contact with a coach in the preceding 12 months. Rates were more than 4 times higher for girls than for boys.

Tishelman AC, Shumer DE, Nahata L.
Disorders of Sex Development: Pediatric Psychology and the Genital Exam.
J Pediatr Psychol. 2017 Jun 1;42(5):530-543. PMID: 27098964

Review of psychological challenges and management recommendations for pediatric genital examinations in children with “congenital conditions in which development of chromosomal, gonadal, or anatomic sex is atypical”.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Hughes K, Bellis MA, Hardcastle KA, et. al.
The effect of multiple adverse childhood experiences on health: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

In a research review including 37 studies and 253,719 participants and looking at odds ratios (OR), “Individuals with at least four ACEs were at increased risk of all health outcomes compared with individuals with no ACEs. Associations were weak or modest for physical inactivity, overweight or obesity, and diabetes (ORs of less than two); moderate for smoking, heavy alcohol use, poor self-rated health, cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease (ORs of two to three), strong for sexual risk taking, mental ill health, and problematic alcohol use (ORs of more than three to six), and strongest for problematic drug use and interpersonal and self-directed violence (ORs of more than seven).”

Lutz PE, Tanti A, Gasecka A, et. al.
Association of a History of Child Abuse With Impaired Myelination in the Anterior Cingulate Cortex: Convergent Epigenetic, Transcriptional, and Morphological Evidence.
Am J Psychiatry. 2017 Dec 1;174(12):1185-1194. PMID: 28750583

Postmortem brain samples were obtained from 78 human subjects as well as rodents with impacted early life. Findings showed a reduction in the thickness of myelin sheaths (the protective coating around individual brain cells) as well as impairment of myelin-related DNA genes in those with a history of depression and child abuse, but not with a history of depression alone, and not in controls. Similar findings were present in the rodent model.
de Araújo RM, Lara DR.
**More than words: The association of childhood emotional abuse and suicidal behavior.**
From a Brazilian online survey with 71,429 participants, and comparing all childhood trauma subtypes, emotional abuse was almost 23 times more likely to be associated with suicidality. Smaller magnitude associations were found for physical neglect and sexual abuse, but not for emotional neglect or physical abuse.

Grosse L, Ambrée O, Jörgens S, et. al.
**Cytokine levels in major depression are related to childhood trauma but not to recent stressors.**
Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2016 Nov;73:24-31. PMID: 27448525
For 214 adult patients with major depression, a history of childhood sexual abuse, but not recent life stress, showed a linear increasing relationship between abuse history and inflammatory markers.

Boulos D, Zamorski MA.
**Contribution of the Mission in Afghanistan to the Burden of Past-Year Mental Disorders in Canadian Armed Forces Personnel, 2013.**
Can J Psychiatry. 2016 Apr;61(1 Suppl):64S-76S. PMID: 27270744
From a survey of Canadian Armed Forces, the mission in Afghanistan contributed significantly to the burden of mental disorders, but a much stronger contribution was associated with a history of child abuse (effect 8.7% for Afghanistan vs. 34.7% for childhood abuse). This “highlights the need for strong military mental health systems, even in peacetime.”

Wang Y, Raffeld MR, Slopen N, Hale L, Dunn EC.
**Childhood adversity and insomnia in adolescence.**
Sleep Med. 2016 May;21:12-8. PMID: 27448466
From a large national study, almost 1/3 of adolescents reported insomnia, higher among girls and racial/ethnic minority groups. Risk of insomnia differed based on age at first exposure to adversity as well as type of adversity, and there was a dose response to increasing number of adversities.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Plant DT, Pawlby S, Sharp D, Zunszain PA, Pariante CM.
**Prenatal maternal depression is associated with offspring inflammation at 25 years: a prospective longitudinal cohort study.**
Transl Psychiatry. 2016 Nov 1;6(11):e936. PMID: 27801895
From an ongoing London study, children who were exposed in utero to maternal prenatal depression, even after controlling for a history of childhood maltreatment or depression (known causes of inflammation), were 11.8 times more likely to show blood markers of inflammation at age 25.

Khaironisak H, Zaridah S, Hasanain FG, Zaleha MI.
**Prevalence, risk factors, and complications of violence against pregnant women in a hospital in Peninsular Malaysia.**
Women Health. 2017 Sep;57(8):919-941. PMID: 27636717
For 1200 Malaysian pregnant women, experiencing violence during pregnancy “was significantly associated with anemia, urinary tract infection, premature rupture of membranes, antepartum hemorrhage, poor weight gain during pregnancy, low birth weight, and prematurity.”

Adolescents

Porter KA, Turpin J, Begg L, et. al.
**Understanding the Intersection of Young Age, Mucosal Injury, and HIV Susceptibility.**
Article reviews the social and behavioral issues that disproportionately affect adolescents in the current HIV epidemic, and details possible biological factors including gender- and age-specific influences on mucosal healing.

For 174 pregnant Iranian women, physical IPV during pregnancy was associated with 2 times increased odds of fear of childbirth, and 12 times increased if this was the first pregnancy.


For 426 married Bangladeshi women with a recent childbirth, while 99.3% initiated breastfeeding, that rate dropped to 28.6% at 6 months. The odds of continuing breastfeeding dropped significantly with factors of physical IPV, psychological IPV, postpartum depression, or a personal history of childhood sexual abuse.


Discussion of CAPRD (children affected by parental relationship distress = parental intimate partner distress, violence, acrimonious divorce, and unfair disparagement); the behavioral, cognitive, affective, and physical symptoms that children may experience; and in particular the internal loyalty conflict.


In a study of 81 children aged 4-6 years, Mothers reporting greater psychological IPV were 4.6 – 9.9 times more likely to engage in psychological and physical aggression toward their children, and those reporting greater physical IPV were 3.8 – 5.0 times more likely to engage in physical punishment of their child.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health


Of the 91 female homicides in Rhode Island 2004-2014, precipitating circumstances were IPV, an argument or conflict, or precipitated by another crime; 72.4% were killed in their home; 29.9% were killed by a firearm and 20.7% by a sharp instrument.

Rafael RMR, Moura ATMS. Severe intimate partner physical violence as a risk factor for inadequate cervical cancer screening. Cad Saude Publica. 2017 Dec 18;33(12):e00074216. PMID: 29267680

In this Brazilian study, women were 2.2 times less likely to have adequate cervical cancer screening if they experienced severe physical violence, 3.8 times less likely if there was mutual violence of the couple, and 10.2 times less likely if the woman experienced physical violence and had a personal alcohol abuse problem.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health


For 8,888 female veteran and nonveteran VHA patients across 13 facilities, even after controlling for military sexual trauma and combat trauma, those with a history of past year IPV were significantly more likely to have a mental health diagnosis.
Bohrman C, Tennille J, Levin K, Rodgers M, Rhodes K.
Being Superwoman: Low income mothers surviving problem drinking and intimate partner violence.
From interviews with 32 low-income mothers experiencing problem drinking and IPV, women needed to be “superwomen” – trying to be a good mother for their children which included “the fear that others would perceive them as bad mothers if they cut ties with their partners”; managing alone; being responsible for other family members and friends; and depression, poverty, poor access to housing, racism and sexism.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse
Yon Y, Mikton CR, Gassoumis ZD, Wilber KH.
Elder abuse prevalence in community settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis.
Looking at research from 28 countries, “elder abuse seems to affect one in six older adults worldwide, which is roughly 141 million people. Nonetheless, elder abuse is a neglected global public health priority, especially compared with other types of violence.”

LGBTQ Concerns
Dardis CM, Shiperd JC, Iverson KM.
Intimate partner violence among women veterans by sexual orientation.
Women Health. 2017 Aug;57(7):775-791. PMID: 27322372
From a web-based national survey of women veterans, 9.7% identified as LBQ. “In the past year, LBQ-identified veterans were twice as likely to endorse emotional mistreatment and physical IPV, and three times more likely to endorse sexual IPV, than were heterosexual-identified women veterans.”

Cultural Concerns
Loria H, Caughy M.
Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Low-Income Latino Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Children.
From a national telephone survey of 22,297 children, 29% were Latino (9% first generation, 57% second generation, 30% third or higher generation). ACE distribution was different for different generations, with 3rd generation prevalence similar to 5th generation prevalence similar to 3rd generation prevalence similar to white and black populations.

Robertson HA, Chaudhary Nagaraj N, Vyas AN.
Family Violence and Child Sexual Abuse Among South Asians in the US.
“It is particularly difficult to assess family violence and CSA [childhood sexual abuse] among South Asians because it is often hidden due to cultural and familial stigma.” From a web-based survey of 368 of South Asian adults in the US, 25.2 % reported CSA - 13.8 % exposure, 21.5 % touching, 4.5 % attempted sexual intercourse, and 3.5 % forced intercourse. Those with a history of CSA were almost 4 times more likely to have attempted suicide.

Holliday CN, McCauley HL, Silverman JG, et. al.
For 1234 female patients at 5 San Francisco family planning clinics, black and multiracial women had a disproportionately higher prevalence of reproductive coercion and unintended pregnancy.
Sexual Assault

Peles E, Seligman Z, Bloch M, et. al.  
Sexual Abuse and its Relation to Chronic Pain among Women from a Methadone Maintenance Clinic versus a Sexual Abuse Treatment Center. 
Comparing women with chronic pain at a sexual assault center and a methadone maintenance treatment program, chronic pain was found to be highly prevalent among sexually abused women, independent of an addiction history. Pain severity correlated with dissociation and complex-PTSD.

Goldberg AP.  
Genital piercings in the context of acute sexual assault. 
J Forensic Leg Med. 2017 Nov;52:181-183. PMID: 28946082  
Case report of a penile genital piercing being matched forensically to sexual assault injuries. Genital piercing may increase risk for blood-borne infections and impair condom use.

Hicks DL, Patterson D, Resko S.  
Lessons Learned From iCare: A Postexamination Text-Messaging-Based Program With Sexual Assault Patients. 
Lessons learned from a 4 week text messaging post-sexual assault support intervention. 65% responded at least once, 42.5% stopped replying by the third message, and 22.5% requested the texts stop before the end of the program.

Perpetrators

Casey EA, Masters NT, Beadnell B, et. al.  
Predicting Sexual Assault Perpetration Among Heterosexually Active Young Men. 
From an online survey of community young men, sexual assault perpetration was associated with childhood sexual abuse and childhood polytrauma. Hostile masculinity was the only factor significantly related to aggression.
Chester DS, DeWall CN.  
**The roots of intimate partner violence.**  
Curr Opin Psychol. 2018 Feb;19:55-59. PMID: 29279223  
Using the General Aggression Model as a framework, factors leading to IPV are discussed.

*The General Aggression Model.*

Bouffard JA, Bouffard LA, Miller HA.  
**Examining the Correlates of Women’s Use of Sexual Coercion: Proposing an Explanatory Model.**  
From a survey of 582 sexually active female undergrads, “while men may be socialized to view sexual relationships as a game to be won, sexual coercion among women may be one facet of a more general constellation of problem behaviors”, as indicated by increased psychopathy levels, risk seeking, and lack of belief in conventional values.

**Police and Court Systems**

Morash M.  
**The Nature of Co-Occurring Exposure to Violence and of Court Responses to Girls in the Juvenile Justice System.**  
Violence Against Women. 2016 Jul;22(8):923-42. PMID: 26597085  
Insightful qualitative research study on the benefits and detriments of the juvenile justice system on abused girls.

Owens JG.  
**Why Definitions Matter: Stalking Victimization in the United States.**  
Discussion of differing definitions of stalking vs. harassment, and the impact of including levels of fear in the definition, such as reasonable fear vs. subjective fear.

Reingle Gonzalez JM, Bishopp SA, Jetelina KK.  
**Rethinking police training policies: large class sizes increase risk of police sexual misconduct.**  
Assessing police academy graduation data for officers accused of police sexual misconduct (PSM) between 1994 and 2014, “Officer’s graduating class size was positively associated with odds of discharge for PSM. For every one-officer increase in class size, the rate of discharge for PSM increased by 9%. For classes with >35 graduates, discharge rates were 4.43 times greater than for smaller classes...Officer recruitment strategies or training quality may be compromised during periods of intensive hiring...all police trainees [need to] receive the required supervision, one-on-one training, feedback and attention necessary to maximize public safety.”

**Providers**

Sperlich M, Seng JS, Li Y, Taylor J, Bradbury-Jones C.  
**Integrating Trauma-Informed Care Into Maternity Care Practice: Conceptual and Practical Issues.**  
“This article presents an overview of traumatic stress sequelae of childhood maltreatment and adversity, the impact of traumatic stress on childbearing, the technical assistance that is available...and implementing trauma-informed care into midwifery and other maternity care practices.”

Stevens NR, Tirone V, Lillis TA, et. al.  
**Posttraumatic stress and depression may undermine abuse survivors’ self-efficacy in the obstetric care setting.**  
For 41 pregnant abuse survivors, obstetricians detected abuse histories in less than one quarter of cases. PTSD and depression symptoms were associated with lower self-efficacy in communicating obstetric care preferences.  
“Women most at risk for experiencing distress during their obstetric visits and/or undergoing potentially distressing procedures may also be the least likely to communicate their distress to obstetricians.”
Carmona-Torres JM, Recio-Andrade B, et. al.  
**Intimate partner violence among health professionals: distribution by autonomous communities in Spain.**  
Rev Esc Enferm USP. 2017;51:e03256. PMID: 29211231  
From an anonymous survey of Spanish National Health professionals, the overall rate of lifetime IPV was 25.9% (33.8% of women and 2.7% of men), which was slightly higher than the general population at 24.4%. Rates by role were as follows: doctors 19.5%, nurses 31% and nurses’ aides 48.6%.

Amin P, Buranosky R, Chang JC.  
**Physicians’ Perceived Roles, as Well as Barriers, Toward Caring for Women Sex Assault Survivors.**  
Womens Health Issues. 2017 Jan - Feb;27(1):43-49. PMID: 27863981  
From interviews with physicians in various specialties, barriers to providing care for women sex assault survivors included “1) internal barriers (e.g., discomfort with the topic of SA), 2) physician-patient communication, and 3) system obstacles (e.g., competing priorities for time).”

Dowd MD.  
**Intimate Partner Violence and Pediatric Practice.**  
Pediatr Ann. 2017 Dec 1;46(12):e438-e440. PMID: 29227517  
It is estimated that 15 million children are exposed to home IPV each year, with profound short and long term impacts. This article summarizes the basic elements of an approach to IPV in pediatric practice.

Ellington E.  
**Psychiatric Nursing’s Role in Child Abuse: Prevention, Recognition, and Treatment.**  
“Psychiatric nurses have a vital role to play in the prevention, recognition, and treatment of child abuse.”

Johnson DM, Johnson NL, Beckwith CG, et. al.  
**Rapid Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing and Risk Prevention in Residents of Battered Women’s Shelters.**  
Womens Health Issues. 2017 Jan - Feb;27(1):36-42. PMID: 27914861  
A rapid HIV testing and brief risk prevention intervention for residents of a battered women’s shelter proved to be acceptable, feasible, and efficacious for future safety behaviors.

Koss MP, White JW, Lopez EC.  
**Victim voice in reenvisioning responses to sexual and physical violence nationally and internationally.**  
Am Psychol. 2017 Dec;72(9):1019-1030. PMID: 29283665  
“Victim voice is conceptualized as expressions of needs, priorities, and goals onto which the field could map existing emphasis and guide future resource allocation. A true reflection of victim voice involves hearing directly from victimized individuals who are demographically diverse and is also inclusive of the currently unheard voices of the majority of victims. These include those who choose not to disclose to law enforcement, seek medical care, visit a shelter or crisis center; attend once and do not return; and would prefer not to share their views with others.”

**Prevention**

Taylor J, Bradbury-Jones C, Lazenbatt A, Soliman F.  
**Child maltreatment: pathway to chronic and long-term conditions?**  
Authors “argue that a public health approach is the most effective way of focusing preventative efforts on the long-term sequelae of child maltreatment”, and recommend concentrating public, professional and government awareness on the extent and impact of the issue.

Wilkins N, Myers L, Kuehl T, Bauman A, Hertz M.  
**Connecting the Dots: State Health Department Approaches to Addressing Shared Risk and Protective Factors Across Multiple Forms of Violence.**  
This article presents approaches used by and lessons learned from 2 state health departments, who integrated a shared risk and protective factor approach into their violence prevention work.

Afifi TO, MacMillan HL, Taillieu T, et. al.  
**Individual- and Relationship-Level Factors Related to Better Mental Health Outcomes following Child Abuse: Results from a Nationally Representative Canadian Sample.**  
From a large Canadian study, “Only 56.3% of respondents with a child abuse history report good mental health compared to 72.4% of those without a child abuse history. Individual- and relationship-level factors associated with better mental health included higher education and income, physical activity, good coping skills to handle problems and daily demands, and supportive relationships that foster attachment, guidance, reliable alliance, social integration, and reassurance of worth.”
Letourneau EJ, Schaeffer CM, Bradshaw CP, Feder KA. Preventing the Onset of Child Sexual Abuse by Targeting Young Adolescents With Universal Prevention Programming. Child Maltreat. 2017 May;22(2):100-111. PMID: 28413921

Summary of programs that have been effective at preventing adolescent dating violence and recommendations for program design characteristics, including unambiguous messaging, parental involvement, multisession dosage, skills practice, and bystander considerations.”

Forster M, Gower AL, Borowsky IW, McMorris BJ. Associations between adverse childhood experiences, student-teacher relationships, and non-medical use of prescription medications among adolescents. Addict Behav. 2017 May;68:30-34. PMID: 28088740

From a study of 104,332 8th, 9th and 11th graders in Minnesota, approximately 3% of students acknowledge past year nonmedical use of prescription drugs (NMUPD), most frequently Ritalin/ADHD medication, opiate-based painkillers, tranquilizers, and stimulants. Students tended to use more than one medication. Prescription drug use increased by 62% for every additional ACE. Positive student-teacher relationships buffered the association between ACEs and NMUPD.

Researchers


Using the single screening question "Did your partner hit or hurt you in any way?”, and comparing to the Conflict Tactics Scales, screening for partner physical violence showed 45.9% sensitivity and 94.7% specificity. The sensitivity of this question screening for psychological abuse was only 17.9%.


This study examined ICD-11’s PTSD and complex PTSD (CPTSD) across populations with prolonged trauma of varying intensity and ages of exposure. CPTSD was not exclusively associated with childhood abuse, and had the highest frequency of work-related functional impairment.

Other of Interest

Bernard K, Lee AH, Dozier M. Effects of the ABC Intervention on Foster Children’s Receptive Vocabulary: Follow-Up Results From a Randomized Clinical Trial. Child Maltreat. 2017 May;22(2):174-179. PMID: 28152611

Description of a 10 session Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up caregiver intervention started in infancy of children involved in foster care, that significantly improved verbal skills at 36 months in these at-risk infants.


Discussion of the clinical benefits of mindfulness training for PTSD, along with neurobiological and neuroimaging findings. Mindfulness interventions target emotional under- and over-expression, both of which are critical features of PTSD symptoms. Mindfulness may be effective in connecting emotional areas of the brain with executive (assessment and decision-making) networks.


With the exception of rape, blood lead levels in children were statistically significant predictors of violent crime at the census tract level in St. Louis – for firearm crimes, assault, robbery and homicide.