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ABUSE RESEARCH

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Questions: Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Choudhary AK, Servaes S, Slovis TL, et. al.

Consensus statement on abusive head trauma in infants and young children.

Pediatr Radiol. 2018 Aug;48(8):1048-1065. PMID: 29796797
International consensus statement on abusive head trauma (AHT). "A diagnosis of AHT is a medical conclusion, not a legal determination of the intent of the perpetrator or a diagnosis of murder. We hope that this consensus document reduces confusion by recommending to judges and jurors the tools necessary to distinguish genuine evidence-based opinions of the relevant medical community from legal arguments or etiological speculations that are unwarranted by the clinical findings, medical evidence and evidence-based literature.

Boehnke M, Mirsky D, Stence N, et. al.

Occult head injury is common in children with concern for physical abuse.

Pediatr Radiol. 2018 Aug;48(8):1123-1129. PMID: 29654352
Using data from 20 US child abuse teams, of 1143
children <2 years old who were being evaluated for concern of abuse, and who were excluded if they had major signs or symptoms of head injury, of the 2/3 who did have head imaging, 19.7% had an unsuspected head injury. "Our data support the ACR recommendation that clinicians should have a low threshold to perform neuroimaging in patients <2 years of age."

Okada M, Otaga M, Tsutsui T, et. al.

Association of sleep with emotional and behavioral problems among abused children and adolescents admitted to residential care facilities in Japan.

PLoS One. 2018 Jun 1;13(6):e0198123. PMID: 29856806

Of 273 Japanese abused children and adolescents in a residential care facility, 40% had sleep-related symptoms and 19% suspected sleep disorders.

Those with emotional and behavioral problems, especially depression and antisocial behavior, had higher risk of a sleep disorder.

Nooner KB, Hooper SR, De Bellis MD.

An examination of sex differences on neurocognitive functioning and behavior problems in maltreated youth.

Psychol Trauma. 2018 Jul;10(4):435-443. PMID: 29199840

For groups of children around age 12 (drawn from those with a positive CPS evaluation and from the same school community), "maltreated boys performed more poorly on measures of intelligence, attention, language, memory, executive function, and academic achievement in both reading and math than nonmaltreated boys", and "maltreated girls performed more poorly on measures of intelligence, language, memory, executive function, and academic achievement than nonmaltreated girls; but performed similarly to nonmaltreated girls on measures of attention."

Teicher MH, Anderson CM, Ohashi K, et. al.

Differential effects of childhood neglect and abuse during sensitive exposure periods on male and female hippocampus.

Neuroimage. 2018 Apr 1;169:443-452. PMID: <u>29288867</u>

The hippocampus is a brain structure involved in memory and emtion, is known to be susceptible to stress, and hippocampal abnormalities have been reported in a variety of psychiatric disorders including major depression and PTSD. In this study of 336 young adults, male hippocampal volume was decreased by neglect, but not abuse, while female hippocampal volume was predicted by abuse, but not neglect. Exposure at a peak age had greater predictive importance than multiplicity, severity or duration of abuse.

McSwain SD, Bernard J, Burke BL Jr, et. al.

American Telemedicine Association Operating Procedures for Pediatric Telehealth.

Telemed J E Health. 2017 Sep;23(9):699-706. PMID: 28829680

Outline of procedures for pediatric telehealth visits, including consent, parental presence, requirements for establishing a physician–patient relationship, prescribing, prescribing controlled substances, handling of images, and age of majority. Possible abuse scenarios are touched on.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Sofer D.

The Lifelong Reverberations of Toxic Stress.

Am J Nurs. 2019 Jan;119(1):22-23. PMID: 30589695

Concise, easily readable 2 page explanation of toxic stress, ACEs, health consequences, and the role of pediatric screening. This could be a useful resource on this topic for introductory education and awareness of healthcare personnel.

Larance B, Gisev N, Cama E, et. al.

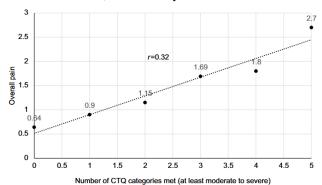
Predictors of transitions across stages of heroin use and dependence prior to treatment-seeking among people in treatment for opioid dependence.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2018 Oct 1;191:145-151. PMID: 30107320

For 1149 heroin-dependent Australians participating in treatment clinics, median age for first heroin use was 18 years, dependence 21 years, and treatment-seeking 24 years. Among other risk factors, childhood maltreatment was associated with more rapid transition from use to dependence. Earlier treatment-seeking was associated with having dependent children, and delayed treatment-seeking with less education, depression and alcohol dependence.

Brown RC, Plener PL, Braehler E, Fegert JM, Huber-Lang M. Associations of adverse childhood experiences and bullying on physical pain in the general population of Germany.

J Pain Res. 2018 Dec 6;11:3099-3108. PMID: 30584352
From a national randomized study of German adults, mean age 48.3 years, despite controlling for depression and anxiety scores, a significant correlation was found between increasing chronic pain and number of ACEs, as well as to a lesser extent a history of being bullied. Effect size was strongest for emotional abuse. [CTQ = Childhood Trauma Questionnaire]



Adolescents

Morrison-Beedy D, Grove L.

Adolescent Girls' Experiences With Sexual Pressure, Coercion, and Victimization: #MeToo.

Worldviews Evid Based Nurs. 2018 Jun;15(3):225-229. PMID: 29729655

Of 735 girls in Florida aged 15-19 enrolled in a sexual risk reduction trial, ½ reported being coerced into sex acts excluding intercourse, with 1 in 5 reporting such victimization by a man who used his position of authority. 12-28% reported being forced into penetrative sex acts against their will.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

ACOG Committee Opinion No. 762: Prepregnancy Counseling.

Obstet Gynecol. 2019 Jan;133(1):228-230. PMID: 30575672
Review of assessment and counseling
recommendations when patients are planning on
getting pregnant, including the need for IPV
screening at that time.

Purcell C, Riddell J, Brown A, et. al.

Women's experiences of more than one termination of pregnancy within two years: a mixed-methods study.

BJOG. 2017 Dec;124(13):1983-1992. PMID: 28922538

Of 1662 Scottish women responding to a questionnaire, 14.6% reported repeated termination of pregnancy within 2 years. That group was significantly more likely to report IPV and socio-economic disadvantage.

Lapierre S, Côté I, Lambert A, et. al.

Difficult but Close Relationships: Children's Perspectives on Relationships With Their Mothers in the Context of Domestic Violence.

Violence Against Women. 2018 Jul;24(9):1023-1038. PMID: 29332543

From focus groups and interviews with 46 Canadian children who experienced IPV, findings demonstrate that women's and children's victimizations are inextricably linked, that domestic violence affects mother-child relationships, that children generally consider their mothers as very significant individuals in their lives and have close relationships with them despite challenges, and that there is a dynamic of mutual protectiveness.

Domestic Violence -Physical Health

Patch M, Anderson JC, Campbell JC.

Injuries of Women Surviving Intimate Partner Strangulation and Subsequent Emergency Health Care Seeking: An Integrative Evidence Review.

J Emerg Nurs. 2018 Jul;44(4):384-393. PMID: 29292069
In this review of existing research on IPV non-fatal strangulation, injuries may be subtle, covert, or minimized yet can result in serious health outcomes. Screening, assessment and documentation of findings can improve recognition, support and referrals, and help future legal recourse. Potential for brain injury and memory loss should be considered in patient assessments and care plans. Additional research is needed to test screening, imaging and treatment protocols and long-term health outcomes. In addition, strangulation should be considered in young women presenting with strokes or stroke-like symptoms.

Pritchard AJ, Reckdenwald A, Nordham C.

Nonfatal Strangulation as Part of Domestic Violence: A Review of Research.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2017 Oct;18(4):407-424. PMID: 26721886

Review of research on non-lethal strangulation in domestic violence cases, highlighting topics in the areas of criminology, forensic science, law, and medicine, and making recommendations for future research and practice.

Mittal M, Resch K, Nichols-Hadeed C, et. al.

Examining Associations Between Strangulation and Depressive Symptoms in Women With Intimate Partner Violence Histories.

Violence Vict. 2018 Dec;33(6):1072-1087. PMID: 30573551
Of 175 women experiencing IPV, 103 (59%)
reported having experienced non-lethal
strangulation by their partner. They also reported
more severe physical, sexual and psychological
abuse, but not more depressive symptoms, with
depression being high in the group as a whole.

Leite FMC, Amorim MHC, Gigante DP.

Implication of violence against women on not performing the cytopathologic test.

Rev Saude Publica. 2018 Nov 23;52:89. PMID: 30484483
Of 106 Brazilian females aged 30-59 years, those experiencing physical or sexual IPV were almost 2 times more likely to be behind in routine pap smear testing.

Domestic Violence -Mental Health

Tarzia L, Thuraisingam S, Novy K, et. al.

Exploring the relationships between sexual violence, mental health and perpetrator identity.

BMC Public Health. 2018 Dec 27;18(1):1410. PMID: 30591033

From surveys of Australian women in general practice clinics, sexual violence perpetrated by an intimate partner was associated with significantly higher mean PTSD and depression scores than by other perpetrators.

Kulkarni SJ, Mennicke AM, Woods SJ.

Intimate Partner Violence in the Workplace: Exploring Gender Differences in Current Health-Related QOL.

Violence Vict. 2018 Jun;33(3):519-532. PMID: 30567862 In this large corporate sample, IPV workplace interference "uniquely contributed to female employees' anxious moods, sleep disruptions, and reduced vitality, as well as male employee pain."

Ursano RJ, Stein MB, Herberman Mash HB, et. al. Documented family violence and risk of suicide attempt among U.S. Army soldiers.

Psychiatry Res. 2018 Apr;262:575-582. PMID: 28965813

Using data from active duty, Regular Army, enlisted soldiers with medically documented suicide attempts 2004-2009, compared to a control sample, suicide attempt (SA) risk was highest in the initial months following the first family violence (FV) event, with odds of SA elevated for both perpetrators and victims. Soldiers experiencing past-month FV were almost five times as likely to attempt suicide as those with no FV history.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Breckman R, Burnes D, Ross S, et. al.

When Helping Hurts: Nonabusing Family, Friends, and Neighbors in the Lives of Elder Mistreatment Victims. Gerontologist. 2018 Jul 13;58(4):719-723. PMID: 28204580

From a national telephone survey, nearly 30% of adults knew a relative, friend, or neighbor who had experienced elder mistreatment, 67% of whom reported personal distress regarding the mistreatment at a level of 8 or more out of 10.

DeLiema M.

Elder Fraud and Financial Exploitation: Application of Routine Activity Theory.

Gerontologist. 2018 Jul 13;58(4):706-718. PMID: <u>28329818</u> Discussion of Elder financial exploitation, committee

Discussion of Elder financial exploitation, committed by individuals in positions of trust, and elder fraud, committed by predatory strangers. In this analysis of cases, fraud and financial exploitation victims performed poorly on tests of cognitive functioning and financial decision making, and fraud perpetrators took advantage of elders when they had no trustworthy friends or relatives to safeguard their assets. "Prevention efforts should focus on reducing social isolation to enhance protection."

Ostaszkiewicz J.

A conceptual model of the risk of elder abuse posed by incontinence and care dependence.

Int J Older People Nurs. 2018 Jun;13(2):e12182. PMID: 29218819

"Coercive or abusive continence care practices include chastising a person for their incontinence and overriding their attempts to resist continence care. Neglect in continence care is characterised by withholding or delaying response to requests for help to maintain continence or to manage incontinence, and restricting a person's access to toileting assistance, incontinence aids or hygiene care."

Petti S.

Elder neglect-Oral diseases and injuries.

Oral Dis. 2018 Sep;24(6):891-899. PMID: 29029370

Review of elder dental neglect manifestations, including poor oral/denture hygiene, lack of needed/improper dentures, dry mouth, and skin/mucosal rashes. Neglect could be due to selfneglect, and caregiver neglect could be unintentional due to unawareness.

Bows H.

Practitioner Views on the Impacts, Challenges, and Barriers in Supporting Older Survivors of Sexual Violence.

Violence Against Women. 2018 Jul;24(9):1070-1090. PMID: 29332552

Practitioners supporting older survivors of sexual abuse reported physical and emotional effects of sexual violence leading to limited lifestyles, disengagement from social networks, and reliance on pathogenic coping strategies. Provision of effective support was complicated by challenges associated with aging bodies, social stigma associated with both sexual victimhood and older age, supporting older male survivors, and those living with dementia.

Toda D, Tsukasaki K, Itatani T, Kyota K, Hino S, Kitamura T. Predictors of potentially harmful behaviour by family caregivers towards patients treated for behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in Japan.

Psychogeriatrics.2018 Sep;18(5):357-364. PMID: 29989256
In a study of 133 pairs of Japanese dementia patients with their caregivers, 48.9% of caregivers showed potentially harmful behavior. Increased risk factors included increased caregiver burden, patient irritability or appetite/eating disorders, or daughter-in-law caregivers.

LGBTQ Concerns

Sexton MB, Davis MT, Anderson RE, et. al.

Relation between sexual and gender minority status and suicide attempts among veterans seeking treatment for military sexual trauma.

Psychol Serv. 2018 Aug;15(3):357-362. PMID: 30080095
Of 277 veterans seeking care for military sexual trauma-related treatment, 10.1% identified as sexual and gender minorities (SGM). 53.6% of these SGM veterans reported a history of suicide attempts vs. 28.1% of peers identifying as heterosexual and nontransgender.

Cultural Concerns

Lei MK, Beach SRH, Simons RL.

Childhood trauma, pubertal timing, and cardiovascular risk in adulthood.

Health Psychol. 2018 Jul;37(7):613-617. PMID: 29672100

Using data from a family health study of 405 African Americans, and controlling for a variety of health-related issues and health behaviors, authors show that early adverse childhood trauma experiences led to early pubertal maturation for both girls and boys, which was associated with increased symptoms of cardiovascular risk in young adulthood (BMI, blood pressure, diabetes marker).

Crabtree-Nelson S, Vincent NJ, Shalabi I.

Exploring the Experience of Arab American and Arab Immigrant Women With Intimate Partner Violence.

Violence Vict. 2018 Oct;33(5):918-931. PMID: 30567873

Unique needs of Arab American women survivors of IPV are discussed in regard to cultural context and community responses.

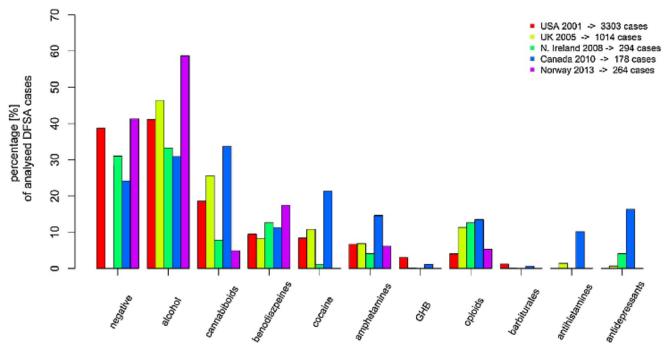
Sexual Assault

Grela A, Gautam L, Cole MD.

A multifactorial critical appraisal of substances found in drug facilitated sexual assault cases.

Forensic Sci Int. 2018 Nov;292:50-60. PMID: 30292936

Discussion of the major classes of drugs used in drug facilitated sexual assault, including their dissolvability in water or alcohol, time of onset, length of effect, and mechanism of action.



Fantasia HC, Sutherland MA, Hutchinson MK.

Lifetime and Recent Experiences of Violence Among College
Women.

J Forensic Nurs. 2018 Oct/Dec;14(4):190-197. PMID: 30080710

From a random sampling of female undergrads at 5 northeastern universities, 52% reported having experienced at least one episode of violence in their lifetime, and 12% reported experiencing IPV or SV during the preceding semester. Heavier alcohol drinking on the weekends was correlated with reports of forced sex.

Breland JY, Donalson R, Li Y, et. al.

Military sexual trauma is associated with eating disorders, while combat exposure is not.

Psychol Trauma. 2018 May;10(3):276-281. PMID: <u>28493727</u>
Of 407 female veterans aged 18-70 using medical services without psychosis or suicidality, 66% reported military sexual trauma, 32% combat exposure, and 15% met eating disorder criteria. Women reporting military sexual trauma had twice

the odds of an eating disorder, while combat exposure was not associated with eating disorders.

Campbell R, Feeney H, Fehler-Cabral G, Shaw J, Horsford S. The National Problem of Untested Sexual Assault Kits (SAKs): Scope, Causes, and Future Directions for Research, Policy, and Practice.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2017 Oct;18(4):363-376. PMID: 26698602

"This review article examines the growing national problem of untested rape kits by summarizing current research on the number of untested kits in the United States and exploring the underlying reasons why police do not submit this evidence for DNA testing. Recommendations for future research that can guide policy and practice are discussed."

Human Trafficking

Lamb-Susca L, Clements PT.

Intersection of Human Trafficking and the Emergency Department.

J Emerg Nurs. 2018 Nov;44(6):563-569. PMID: <u>30149896</u>

"Many victims of HT go unnoticed and are captives in plain sight. ED nurses may be the HT victim's only limited contact with the outside world...it is integral for ED nurses to be able to recognize the signs of trafficking, have an awareness of where to report any suspicious cases, and to be knowledgeable about the services that are available."

Barron CE, Moore J, Baird G, Hardy E, Goldberg A. The Provision of HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis in the Context of Child Sex Trafficking.

R I Med J (2013). 2018 Nov 1;101(9):23-26. PMID: 30384515
Discussion of the risk of HIV for victims of child sex trafficking, and the need for medical guidelines to address the complex considerations of providing HIV prevention medicine for these patients, who may have repeated exposures and who may not comply with the full course of treatment.

Perpetrators

Aaron SM, Beaulaurier RL.

The Need for New Emphasis on Batterers Intervention Programs.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2017 Oct;18(4):425-432. PMID: <u>26762112</u>

"Research on BIPs suggests that they have not been particularly effective at preventing recidivism, are prone to attrition, and increasingly lack the support and confidence of the courts. Nevertheless, BIPs remain one of the few viable alternatives to incarceration for perpetrators of domestic violence. This article examines the historical and empirical reasons for the apparent lack of effectiveness of BIPs. New research suggests avenues for improvement."

Police and Court Systems

Logan TK, Lynch KR.

Dangerous Liaisons: Examining the Connection of Stalking and Gun Threats Among Partner Abuse Victims.

Violence Vict. 2018 Jun;33(3):399-416. PMID: 30567855

Using data from over 500 women who utilized the National DV Hotline, "one-third of the participants had experienced threats with guns, and one-fifth of those without gun threats worried their (ex)partner

would harm them with a gun...three-fourths of those who were threatened with a gun reported being stalked. Victims who experienced stalking were also more likely to report their (ex)partner threatened others with guns and were more likely to carry a firearm on their body or in their car, which suggests stalkers who threatened with guns may pose a significant risk to public safety."

Dutton LB, Tamborra TL, Narchet FM.

Domestic Violence Agency Personnel Experiences With and Perceptions of the Lethality Assessment Program.

Violence Vict. 2018 Jun;33(3):417-435. PMID: 30567856

Eleven Connecticut DV agencies discuss challenges and benefits of being associated with law enforcement in a Lethality Assessment Program. All but one would continue the program. Recommendations for those considering implementation are provided.

Ernberg E, Magnusson M, Landström S.

Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse Cases Involving Preschool-Aged Children: A Study of Swedish Cases from 2010 to 2014.

J Child Sex Abus. 2018 Oct;27(7):832-851. PMID: <u>30188250</u>

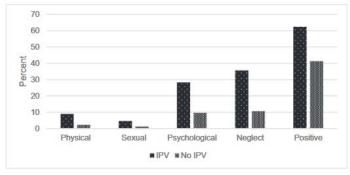
In an analysis of 130 Swedish cases of alleged sexual abuse of pre-school aged children, prosecuted cases were more likely to contain forensic evidence, confession from the suspect, or more than one alleged victim. Decreased prosecution likelihood factors included ongoing custody disputes between parents, foster care placements prior to the abuse, and if the report concerned a boy.

Fedina L, Backes BL, Jun HJ, et. al.

Police violence among women in four U.S. cities.

Prev Med. 2018 Jan;106:150-156. PMID: 29104021

From a survey of 932 adult women from four Eastern US cities, women variously reported police abuse or neglect, as well as positive police interactions, grouped by whether they were experiencing an IPV call or not. "A notable proportion of women experience police victimization, with significantly higher rates among racial and ethnic minority women."



Providers

Logan TK, Walker R.

Stalking: A Multidimensional Framework for Assessment and Safety Planning.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2017 Apr;18(2):200-222. PMID: 26337574

Authors provide a structural framework for analyzing stalking, suggesting that "(1) stalking behaviors are varied and complex making target responses difficult, (2) victim fear and harm resulting from stalking accumulate over time, and (3) stalking harms need to be expanded beyond violence to include sabotage of victim lives."

Strategy	Surveillance	Life Invasion	Intimidation	Interference Through Sabotage or Attack
Examples of tactics	 Follow Watch Wait Show up Tracking software Obtain information about target Proxy stalking 	 Unwanted contact at home, work, and other places Phone calls Property invasion Public humiliation Harass friends and family 	 Threats Property damage Forced confrontations Threaten or actually harm self Threats to target about harming others 	 Financial and work sabotage Ruining reputation Custody interference Keep from leaving Road rage Attack friends and family Physical/sexual attack

Rothman EF, Stone R, Bagley SM.

Rhode Island Domestic Violence Shelter Policies, Practices, and Experiences Pertaining to Survivors With Opioid Use Disorder: Results of a Qualitative Study.

Subst Abuse. 2018 Nov 27;12:1178221818812895. PMID: 30505145

Interviews with 6 Rhode Island dv shelters on policies and practices pertaining to clients with opioid use disorders (OUD) revealed 50% keep naloxone on site, and only one had a protocol for disposing of unused opioid or drug paraphernalia if found at the shelter. "OUD is an issue that affects their clientele, creates problems for both IPV survivors and for staff who are helping them heal from IPV, and causes concerns about the safety of children and other shelter residents." Management suggestions are provided.

Zarnowiecki D, Nguyen H, Catherine Hampton, et. al. The Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program for aboriginal mothers and babies: Describing client complexity and implications for program delivery.

Midwifery. 2018 Oct;65:72-81. PMID: 29980362

In this analysis of an Australian nurse home visiting program for Aboriginal mothers and infants with complex circumstances, challenges included housing insecurity requiring about half of all "home visits" to be conducted in staff cars or community locations; exposure to IPV undermining client capacity to make meaningful change; and low client literacy meaning written hand-outs were unhelpful for many, requiring pictorial-based materials.

McGillivray CJ, Pidgeon AM, Ronken C, et. al.

Resilience in Non-Offending Mothers of Children Who Have Reported Experiencing Sexual Abuse.

J Child Sex Abus. 2018 Oct;27(7):793-810. PMID: 29897311
Resilience in non-offending mothers of sexually abused children was found to be higher in those with higher self-compassion and social support.

Gregory AC, Williamson E, Feder G.

The Impact on Informal Supporters of Domestic Violence Survivors: A Systematic Literature Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2017 Dec;18(5):562-580. PMID: <u>27066990</u>

Review of research on the impact on informal supporters of those experiencing domestic violence – relatives, friends, neighbors and colleagues - who are at risk of secondary traumatization and physical harm from the perpetrator. Authors point out the need for available support for these groups.

Tsukasaki Y.

Impact of Spousal Violence on Employment at the Post-Leaving Stage in Japan.

Violence Vict. 2018 Oct;33(5):949-963. PMID: 30567875

From a survey of Japanese women who had left an abusive relationship, those with mental or physical health issues caused by the abuse were significantly less able to engage in a job search, even a year later, and more likely to only be employed part-time.

Thus the abuse continued to affect these women and their children by keeping them in a low income loop with housing and food insecurity.

Benuto LT, Newlands R, Ruork A, Hooft S, Ahrendt A. Secondary traumatic stress among victim advocates: prevalence and correlates.

J Evid Inf Soc Work. 2018 Sep-Oct;15(5):494-509. PMID: 29856279

"The prevalence rate of secondary traumatic stress among victim advocates is approximately 50% and risk factors include number of hours worked per week, direct service hours, and working with adult survivors of child sexual abuse...Intervention efforts for this population are sorely needed."

Alvarez C, Fedock G, Grace KT, Campbell J.

Provider Screening and Counseling for Intimate Partner Violence: A Systematic Review of Practices and Influencing Factors

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2017 Dec;18(5):479-495. PMID: 27036407

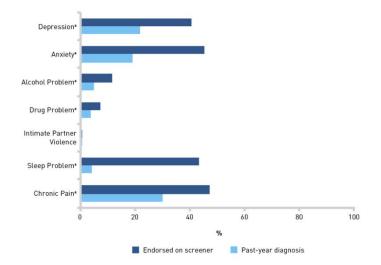
"Overall, a great deal of variability exists in regard to provider screening practices. This variability may be due to a lack of clear system-level guidance for these practices and a lack of research regarding best practices...Future research directions are outlined."

Kene M, Miller Rosales C, Wood S, et. al.

Feasibility of expanded emergency department screening for behavioral health problems.

Am J Manag Care. 2018 Dec;24(12):585-591. PMID: 30586492

For 598 Kaiser system patients given a written screen while waiting in the ED, and comparing results to their medical record, all of the categories of behavioral health inquiry were reported in significantly higher numbers by ED patients as compared to their medical record, with the exception of IPV.



Prevention

US Preventive Services Task Force.

Interventions to Prevent Child Maltreatment: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement.

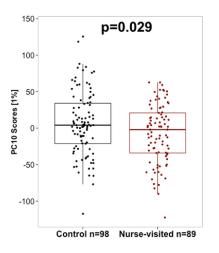
JAMA. 2018 Nov 27;320(20):2122-2128. PMID: 30480735

"Importance: In 2016, approximately 676 000 children in the United States experienced maltreatment (abuse, neglect, or both), with 75% of these children experiencing neglect, 18% experiencing physical abuse, and 8% experiencing sexual abuse. Approximately 14% of abused children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, and more than 1700 children died as a result of maltreatment...Conclusions and Recommendation: The USPSTF concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of primary care interventions to prevent child maltreatment."

O'Donnell KJ, Chen L, MacIsaac JL, et. al.

DNA methylome variation in a perinatal nurse-visitation program that reduces child maltreatment: a 27-year follow-up.

Transl Psychiatry. 2018 Jan 10;8(1):15. PMID: 29317599
Although this study has some issues (such as 50% lost to follow-up), it appears to show a small but measureable decrease in the amount of methylation (epigenetic changes to DNA caused by life circumstances) measured in young adults 25 years after they had received an intervention as babies with their mothers in a home nursing program to support mothers at risk of abusive parenting.



Fenton RA, Mott HL.

Evaluation of the Intervention Initiative: A Bystander Intervention Program to Prevent Violence Against Women in Universities.

Violence Vict. 2018 Aug;33(4):645-662. PMID: 30567766

This bystander intervention initiative commissioned by Public Health England for use by all English universities was evaluated at one site. While measures such as rape myth acceptance decreased significantly and bystander readiness to help and intent to help increased significantly, actual prosocial bystander behavior did not increase. No backlash was identified. [What is the missing piece here? What are we not teaching/asking/measuring in relation to an intervention such as this that is the

Clements-Nolle K, Waddington R.

key to efficacy?]

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Psychological Distress in Juvenile Offenders: The Protective Influence of Resilience and Youth Assets.

J Adolesc Health. 2019 Jan;64(1):49-55. PMID: 30579436
For 429 adolescents involved in the juvenile justice system, the mean ACE score was 3.7 and 52.8% reported four or more ACEs. Higher ACE score was associated with increased risk for psychological distress, however high internal resilience and school connectedness significantly reduced the relationship between high ACE exposure and psychological distress.

Researchers

Houtepen LC, Heron J, Suderman MJ, Tilling K, Howe LD.

Adverse childhood experiences in the children of the Avon
Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC).

Wellcome Open Res. 2018 Aug 30;3:106. PMID: 30569020
Authors describe the use of the ALSPAC dataset with an expanded ACE screen for timing of ACE exposures between birth and 16 years, leading to a cumulative total adversity score. This is an open dataset available for research purposes.

Other of Interest

Taylor S, Xia Y.

Cyber Partner Abuse: A Systematic Review.

Violence Vict. 2018 Dec;33(6):983-1011. PMID: 30573547

"The high prevalence rates and detrimental outcomes of CPA suggest the need for further efforts concerning this issue. This systematic review

provides direction for expanding and diversifying future CPA research and prevention."

Bradley S.

Domestic and Family Violence in Post-Conflict Communities: International Human Rights Law and the State's Obligation to Protect Women and Children. Health Hum Rights. 2018 Dec;20(2):123-136. PMID: 30568407

Post-conflict communities consistently experience high rates of domestic and family violence (DFV) against women and children. Protecting women and children from DFV should be an essential public policy goal under international human rights law - the fundamental human rights to life, to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment, to freedom from discrimination, and to health. Rather than dismissing it as a private sphere issue, the protection of women and children should be "a nonnegotiable facet of peace-building agendas."

Kendall-Taylor N, Stanley K.

Seeing Context through Metaphor: Using Communications Research to Bring a Social Determinants Perspective to Public Thinking about Child Abuse and Neglect.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2018 Jan 19;15(1). pii: E152. PMID: 29351195

UK design thinking evaluation of possible metaphors in communicating a social determinants of health approach to child maltreatment. The most effective metaphor was "Overloaded: When a lorry carries too much weight, it can be overloaded to the point of breaking down. And when parents are burdened with stresses like poverty or lack of support, the weight of these problems can overload their mental and emotional capacity to take care of their children's basic needs. However, just like we can unload an overloaded lorry by sharing the load with other lorries or offloading cargo in other ways, we can provide social supports that offload sources of stress from overloaded parents and improve their capacity to care for their children."

