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Child Abuse

Freisthler B, Price Wolf J, Chadwick C, Renick K.

Daily Stress and Use of Aggressive Discipline by Parents during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

J Fam Violence. 2021 Nov 27;1:9. PMID: [34866772](#)

For 323 parents from Ohio April-May 2020, “For each higher level of stress, parents had 1.3 greater odds of using aggressive discipline. Having used aggressive discipline at baseline was related to three times greater odds of using it during the study period...this places children at risk for abuse and neglect that may go without detection and intervention for longer time periods...Well child visits, routine vaccinations, and problem-focused care are important opportunities to assess parents’ stress and discipline practices that may be suggestive of abuse or neglect.”

Helton JJ, Vaughn MG, Schiff M.

The accrual of parent reported adverse childhood experiences following a child protective services investigation: A prospective approach.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Dec 17;124:105447. PMID: [34923299](#)

From a national survey, for children left in the home after a CPS investigation, the progression of ACEs was tracked over 3 years. “The average number of ACEs for in-home children increased precipitously, and higher ACE scores at baseline were associated with greater accumulation.”

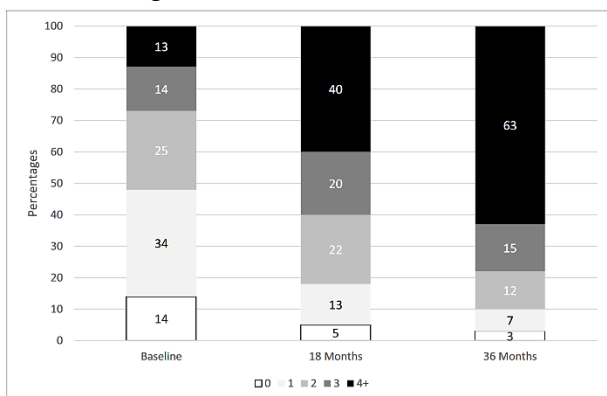


Fig. 2. Accrual of ACEs over time.

Ruest S, Kanaan G, Moore JL, Goldberg AP.

Pediatric Rib Fractures Identified by Chest Radiograph: A Comparison Between Accidental and Nonaccidental Trauma.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2021 Dec 1;37(12):e1409-e1415. PMID: [32371752](#)

From a chart review of children younger than 2 years seen at a level 1 pediatric trauma center, <1% of children seen with accidental trauma showed rib fractures (RF), vs. 26.3% of those with a final diagnosis of non-accidental trauma (NAT). “The presence of RFs in pediatric accidental trauma is uncommon even in the setting of high-force mechanisms, and when identified, these RFs are acute. Comparatively, the overall prevalence of RFs identified among cases with a final diagnosis of NAT was much higher and almost exclusively healing RFs...Identification of RFs is highly concerning for NAT even if an accidental mechanism is provided.”

Brennan B, Henry MK, Altaffer A, Wood JN.

Prevalence of Abuse and Additional Injury in Young Children with Rib Fractures as Their Presenting Injury.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2021 Dec 1;37(12):e1451-e1456. PMID: [32205804](#)

From one tertiary pediatric hospital of all children younger than age 5 with a rib fracture, and after excluding motor vehicle crashes, birth trauma, or bone disease, of the 67 remaining cases additional injuries were found in 60%, and CPS reports were filed in 72% of cases. “The presence of a rib fracture in young children is associated with a high likelihood of additional concerning injuries and should prompt a thorough evaluation for child abuse.”

Engler AD, Sarpong KO, Van Horne BS, Greeley CS, Keefe RJ.

A Systematic Review of Mental Health Disorders of Children in Foster Care.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2022 Jan;23(1):255-264. PMID: [32686611](#)

From a research review, “Foster children have higher rates of mental health disorders than those of the general population...as a response to either the circumstances that led to being removed from their homes or the experience of being placed in foster care...The most common diagnoses include oppositional defiant disorder/conduct disorder, major depressive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and reactive attachment disorder.”

Rettew DC, Pawlowski S.

Bullying: An Update.

Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am. 2022 Jan;31(1):1-9. PMID: [34801148](#)

“Bullying is a complex and widespread public health issue that affects children of all ages and adults. For decades, childhood bullying has been viewed as an unpleasant but generally harmless rite of passage that carries with it few long-term consequences. Research has increasingly documented the serious and long-term behavioral and health consequences of bullying. This article addresses several features of bullying including epidemiology, psychological and physical impact, and the role of health providers in bullying detection, intervention, and prevention.”

Box 1

Opportunities for bullying prevention in pediatric primary care (middle childhood)

1. Screen for bullying risk factors including sudden reports of changes in behavior (more depressed, suicidal ideation), truancy, and chronic somatic symptoms without a discernible cause.
2. Provide anticipatory guidance for elementary school students, especially those at risk (perceived as anxious, weaker than other children) before the peak bullying age in middle school. See section on individual level interventions for details.
3. Discuss openly, directly, and gently a child's experience at school. Do not dispute a child's report of bullying even if it is not perceived by parents or teachers.
4. Advocate for schools to adopt elements of effective bullying prevention programs.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Kate MA, Jamieson G, Middleton W.

Childhood Sexual, Emotional, and Physical Abuse as Predictors of Dissociation in Adulthood.

J Child Sex Abus. 2021 Nov-Dec;30(8):953-976. PMID: [34353238](#)

Of 303 participants, including inpatients and outpatients receiving treatment for a dissociative disorder (DD), and university participants with elevated levels of dissociation or PTSD, plus with a control group, “clinical levels of dissociation and DDs occur in individuals reporting a history of childhood abuse, particularly sexual abuse and experiences that are potentially life-threatening to a child, such as choking, smothering, and physical injury that breaks bones or teeth, or that compromise the child's survival needs, including threats of abandonment and deprivation of basic needs. Females who disclosed sexual abuse in addition to being choked or smothered had a 106-fold increased risk of clinical levels of dissociation.”

Afifi TO, Sareen J, Taillieu T, et. al.

Association of Child Maltreatment and Deployment-related Traumatic Experiences with Mental Disorders in Active Duty

Service Members and Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Can J Psychiatry. 2021 Nov;66(11):961-970. PMID: [33472392](#)

Of 2941 Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans, 62.5% reported childhood maltreatment, and 68.6% deployment-related traumatic experiences (DRTEs). “Cumulative effects of having experienced both child maltreatment and DRTEs increased the odds of past 12-month PTSD symptoms, general anxiety disorder, social phobia, and major depression...Understanding these relationships may provide insight into developing effective interventions for military personnel and veteran mental health outcomes.”

Wan A, Bernstein CN, Graff LA, et. al.

Childhood Maltreatment and Psychiatric Comorbidity in Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Disorders.

Psychosom Med. 2022 Jan 1;84(1):10-19. PMID: [34654023](#)

For 681 adults with immune-mediated inflammatory disorders (IMID) of multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, and rheumatoid arthritis, plus a healthy control group, the prevalence of 1+ ACEs was higher in the inflammatory group (MS, 63.8%; IBD, 61.6%; RA, 62.3%; healthy controls, 45.6%). For women only, emotional abuse was 2.37 times more likely in those with IMID. A history of ACEs was 2.24 times more likely to be found in IMID, which did not differ across types of disorders. “Childhood maltreatment is more common in IMID than in a healthy population and is associated with psychiatric comorbidity.”

Trivedi M, Dumkrieger G, Chong CD, Dodick DW, Schwedt TJ.

Impact of abuse on migraine-related sensory hypersensitivity symptoms: Results from the American Registry for Migraine Research.

Headache. 2021 May;61(5):740-754. PMID: [33779989](#)

Of 588 adults in a registry for migraine patients, 38% reported a history of abuse. Those with an abuse history reported greater migraine-related sensory hypersensitivity symptoms, such as sensitivity to light or sound.

Brown MJ, Kaur A, James T, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Subjective Cognitive Decline in the US.

J Appl Gerontol. 2021 Dec 13;7334648211058718. PMID: [34898321](#)

From a large national survey of US adults >45 years, various ACEs were associated with 2-3 times increased subjective cognitive decline over the prior year. There was also a dose-response relationship between ACEs score and subjective cognitive decline.

Adolescents

Goncalves Soares A, Zimmerman A, et. al.

Abuse in Childhood and Cardiometabolic Health in Early Adulthood: Evidence From the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children.

J Am Heart Assoc. 2021 Dec 7:e021701. PMID: [34873916](#)

Of 3223 participants evaluated at age 18 and 25, at 18 years, childhood physical, sexual and psychological abuse were associated with higher body mass index. Physical abuse was also associated with lower high-density lipoprotein cholesterol ("good" cholesterol) and higher C-reactive protein (marker of inflammation), and sexual abuse was associated with higher heart rate. At age 25, all 3 types of abuse were additionally associated with higher insulin. "The age at which abuse occurred (<11 or 11-17 years) had little influence on the associations...Childhood abuse is associated with negative cardiometabolic outcomes even by young adulthood. Further follow-up will determine whether associations strengthen across the life course."

Klencakova LE, Pentaraki M, McManus C.

The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Young Women's Educational Well-Being: A Systematic Review of Literature.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Dec 11:15248380211052244. PMID: [34894875](#)

From a research review on the impact of IPV on education in young women aged 10-24, "females tend to display issues around concentration, absenteeism and academic disengagement, as well as decline in performance such as failing grades and higher drop-out rates."

Espeleta HC, Taylor DL, Kraft JD, Grant DM.

Child maltreatment and cognitive vulnerabilities: Examining the link to posttraumatic stress symptoms.

J Am Coll Health. 2021 Oct;69(7):759-766. PMID: [31944931](#)

From surveys of 376 college students, childhood maltreatment severity was related to decreased ability to control attention and increased repetitive negative thinking (RNT), which were then both related to increased post-traumatic stress symptoms. "Interventions for increasing attentional control and decreasing RNT should be implemented and evaluated for young adults with early adversity currently experiencing PTSS."

Joyner B, Beaver KM.

Examining the potential link between child maltreatment and callous-unemotional traits in children and adolescents: A multilevel analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Dec;122:105327. PMID: [34534846](#)

"For 4579 male and female youths from a national study, there was a significant association between child maltreatment and callous-unemotional traits, moreso for males than females."

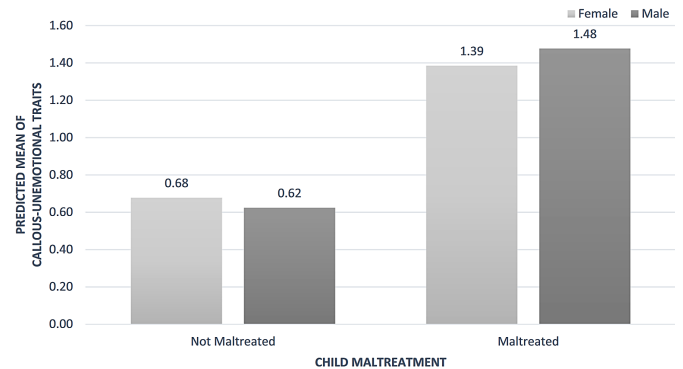


Fig. 1. Effect of child maltreatment by biological sex on callous-unemotional traits.

Islam MI, Yunus FM, Kabir E, Khanam R.

Evaluating Risk and Protective Factors for Suicidality and Self-Harm in Australian Adolescents With Traditional Bullying and Cyberbullying Victimizations.

Am J Health Promot. 2022 Jan;36(1):73-83. PMID: [34308672](#)

Of 2145 Australian adolescents aged 14-17 years, "25.6% of adolescents were traditional bullying victims and 12% were cyberbullying victims. The percentages of suicidality (34.4% vs 21.6%) and self-harm (32.8% vs 22.3%) were higher in cyberbullying victims than in traditional bullying victims. Girls were more often bullied and more likely to experience suicidal and self-harming behavior than boys...Positive mental health/resilience and adequate sleep were found be significantly associated with decreased suicidality and self-harm in both types of bullying victims."

Couture MC, Kang JE, Hemenway D, Grinshteyn E.

Associations between having been threatened or injured with a weapon and substance use and mental health among high school students in the United States.

Int J Inj Contr Saf Promot. 2021 Dec 19:1-10. PMID: [34923925](#)

"Being threatened or injured with a weapon is a serious form of physical bullying...from a national 2017 youth survey, approximately 6.0% of students reported having been threatened/injured with a weapon." After adjusting for multiple variables, having been threatened/injured with a weapon was associated with binge drinking (adjusted odds ratio aOR = 2.5), marijuana use (aOR = 2.1), tobacco use (aOR = 2.6), misuse of prescription medication (aOR = 2.2), feeling sad/hopeless (aOR = 1.6) and considering suicide (AOR 1.7) compared with students who had not been threatened/injured.

Källmén H, Hallgren M.

Bullying at school and mental health problems among adolescents: a repeated cross-sectional study.

Child Adolesc Psychiatry Ment Health. 2021 Dec 14;15(1):74. PMID: [34906157](#)

In sequential surveys of all Swedish students aged 15 and 18 in 2014-2020, while the prevalence of bullying remained the same, mental health problems increased, with bullied boys 4 times and bullied girls 2.4 times more likely to report mental health problems than those without bullying.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Peitzmeier SM, Fedina L, Ashwell L, Herrenkohl TI, Tolman R. **Increases in Intimate Partner Violence During COVID-19.**

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Dec 5;8862605211052586. PMID: [34866451](#)

From an online survey of 1169 Michigan adults June-August 2020, “More than one in seven (15.1%) participants reported physical, sexual, psychological, or technology-facilitated IPV since COVID, similar to the the 3 months before COVID (16.2%). However... a majority (64.2%) who experienced IPV since COVID reported that the IPV was new to the relationship (34.1%) or of increased severity (26.6%), representing 9.7% of the overall sample. New or increased IPV was significantly more prevalent among those who were essential workers, pregnant, unable to afford rent, unemployed/underemployed or had recent changes to their job, had partners with recent changes to employment, and those who had gotten tested or tested positive for COVID-19. Urban residence, trans/nonbinary identity, and having a toddler were more strongly associated with IPV during COVID as compared to before COVID.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Storey JE, Hart S, Perka MR.

Identifying Interventions and Their Efficacy as Used by a Community Agency Managing and Responding to Elder Abuse.

J Appl Gerontol. 2022 Jan;41(1):103-112. PMID: [33586489](#)

A community agency multidisciplinary team analyzed interventions used in 164 elder abuse

cases, grouping them into categories, such as monitoring, creating barriers to abuse, and perpetrator support and treatment. 35% of categories were noted to have a positive outcome, with only 1% having a negative outcome, and 21% were not able to be implemented due to lack of funding or victim refusal.

Greene AJ.

Elder Financial Abuse and Electronic Financial Instruments: Present and Future Considerations for Financial Capacity Assessments.

Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2022 Jan;30(1):90-106. PMID: [33781661](#)

“Personal economic stability is one of the core social determinants of health and longevity...Older adults in the United States lose billions of dollars annually to elder financial abuse (EFA), which may be preceded by a decline of capacity to make financial decisions...Currently, there is no gold standard clinical assessment tool for evaluating financial capacity...This article summarizes the current state of EFA in the US, risk factors and strategies for prevention, and offers a clinician-administered screening questionnaire for EFA.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Chakraborty P, Alalwan M, Johnson RM, et. al.

Mental health and substance use by sexual minority status in high school students who experienced sexual violence.

Ann Epidemiol. 2021 Dec;64:127-131. PMID: [34571196](#)

From a national survey of 1364 high school students, 9.7% reported sexual violence. Relative to heterosexual youth, sexual minority youth had significantly higher prevalence rates for depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, medically treated suicide attempt, and past 30-day cannabis use.

MacCarthy S, Saunders CL, Elliott MN.

Sexual Minority Adults in England Have Greater Odds of Chronic Mental Health Problems: Variation by Sexual Orientation, Age, Ethnicity, and Socioeconomic Status.

LGBT Health. 2022 Jan;9(1):54-62. PMID: [34882021](#)

From a British survey of 1,341,339 adults, “bisexual adults, especially young bisexual females, reported the highest rates of chronic mental health problems. Sexual minority females 18-24 years of age had five times the odds of reporting chronic mental health problems than their heterosexual peers...Sexual minority identity was also strongly associated with chronic mental health problems for adults who were White and lived in more affluent areas.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Garb HN.

Race bias and gender bias in the diagnosis of psychological disorders.

Clin Psychol Rev. 2021 Dec;90:102087. PMID: [34655834](#)

From a research review, “race bias occurs for the diagnosis of conduct disorder, antisocial personality disorder, comorbid substance abuse and mood disorders, eating disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder, and the differential diagnosis of schizophrenia and psychotic affective disorders. Other results suggest that gender bias occurs for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, and antisocial and histrionic personality disorders. The way that symptoms are expressed (e.g., Black cultural expressions of depression) appears to have a significant effect on diagnoses...training in cultural diversity and debiasing strategies should be provided to mental health professionals.”

Smith CM, Turner NA, Thielman NM, et. al.

Association of Black Race With Physical and Chemical Restraint Use Among Patients Undergoing Emergency Psychiatric Evaluation.

Psychiatr Serv. 2021 Dec 21;appips202100474. PMID: [34932385](#)

In this single-center review of 12,977 adult encounters for emergency psychiatric evaluation 2014-2020 at a large academic medical center in Durham, North Carolina, 7.4% of patients were physically restrained and 15.8% chemically restrained. After adjusting for multiple variables, Black patients were 35% more likely to be physically restrained and 33% more likely to chemically restrained.

Currie CL, Higa EK.

The Impact of Racial and Non-racial Discrimination on Health Behavior Change Among Visible Minority Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2021 Nov 29;1-9. PMID: [34845675](#)

Of 210 Canadian adults who identified as a visible minority, “the majority of adults (56.2%) reported past-month discrimination including 26.7% who attributed it to their race. Asian adults reported more racial discrimination and discrimination due to people believing they had COVID-19 than other visible minorities.” Racial discrimination during the pandemic was strongly associated with increased substance use (Odds Ratio OR: 4.0), decreased sleep (OR: 7.0), and decreased exercise (OR: 2.0). “Racial

discrimination may have a particularly important effect on intensifying adverse health behavior changes” during the pandemic.

Giesbrecht CJ, Jamshidi L, LaVallie C, et. al.

Assessing the Efficacy of a Cultural and Artistic Intervention for Indigenous Women Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence.

Violence Against Women. 2021 Dec 6;10778012211058220. PMID: [34870521](#)

“nato' we ho win is a trauma-and-violence-informed artistic and cultural intervention for Indigenous women who have experienced intimate partner violence. The results of this study provide evidence that engagement in nato' we ho win had a positive impact on participants' well-being,” including at one-year follow-up increased resilience, personal agency, connectedness and post-traumatic growth. There were also statistically significant decreases in anxiety and depression.

Sexual Assault

Steine IM, Skogen JC, Hysing M, et. al.

Sexual harassment and assault predict sleep disturbances and is partly mediated by nightmares: Findings from a national survey of all university students in Norway.

J Sleep Res. 2021 Dec;30(6):e13338. PMID: [34130358](#)

For 49,051 Norwegian university students, “For both genders, all forms of harassment with the exception of “indecent exposure” and “unwanted sexual photographs” for men were negatively associated with sleep duration, with the strongest associations being found for “rape” and “attempted rape”. For both genders, the odds of insomnia increased as a function of cumulative harassment exposure.”

Robinson E, Ketterer T, Molnar J, et. al.

Emergency Department Visits for Behavioral Health Concerns After Sexual Assault.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2021 Dec 1;37(12):e1251-e1254. PMID: [31929388](#)

Of 192 adolescents aged 12-15 years seen in a children's hospital ED after sexual assault, 24.5% subsequently returned to the ED with a behavioral health concern (aggression, anxiety, attempted suicide, suicidal ideation, or depression) either as a primary complaint or as noted by the care provider. Of these, 7.3% returned within 6 months. “Further investigation is needed to determine factors affecting a return visit to the ED, which can lead to improved services when caring for sexual assault victims.”

Human Trafficking

Macy RJ, Klein LB, Shuck CA, et. al.

A Scoping Review of Human Trafficking Screening and Response.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Dec 20:15248380211057273.

PMID: [34930040](#)

“Many practice-based and/or non-governmental organizations have been making important and worthwhile efforts to address the complex and challenging problem of how best to identify people who are being trafficked to connect them with resources. Likewise, this review shows that considerable, additional work is needed for the development of clear, practical, evidence-based guidance to inform both human trafficking identification and immediate response. It is our hope that this review will provide a helpful summary and foundation to inform the next iteration of anti-trafficking practice and research.”

Perpetrators

Potter MH, Kennedy RS, Font SA.

Rates and predictors of child maltreatment re-perpetration against new victims and prior victims.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Nov 29;123:105419. PMID: [34856446](#)

Using a sample of 285,245 first-time perpetrators of a substantiated maltreatment incident in 2010, “Fifteen percent of perpetrators re-maltreated one or more of their original victims (“same victim re-perpetration”); 12% maltreated a new victim. Overall, re-perpetration was more common among younger, female, and White perpetrators. Perpetrators who were the biological or adoptive parent of their initial victim(s) had higher rates of same victim re-perpetration; new victim re-perpetration was more common among perpetrators who initially victimized an adoptive or stepchild...Child welfare agencies should track re-perpetration in addition to revictimization as part of agency evaluations and risk assessments.”

Warren S, Morley C, Clarke J, et. al.

Weaponizing COVID-19: How the Pandemic Influenced the Behavior of Those Who Use Violence in Domestic and Family Relationships.

Violence Against Women. 2021 Dec 3:10778012211054871.

PMID: [34859730](#)

“This article has reported findings from our nationwide [Australian] study regarding how perpetrator behavior has changed and how violence

has increased in complexity and severity during COVID-19. The increased use of control and coercion by perpetrators was particularly notable during COVID-19. There were also a number of other strategies perpetrators used to weaponize violence that were intensified by the increased social isolation and financial vulnerability for victims/survivors during the COVID-19 period. There needs to be a fundamental reform of practice and policy for responding to the challenges in preventing domestic and family violence based on experiences and learnings from this period.”

Police and Court Systems

Tomsich EA, Schleimer J, Wright MA, et. al.

Intimate Partner Violence and Subsequent Violent Offending Among Handgun Purchasers.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Dec 12:8862605211057268. PMID:

[34894835](#)

Of 76,311 California adults who legally purchased a handgun in 2001 and were followed through 2013, those with a history of prior IPV compared to those who had no criminal history, were 2.6 times more likely to have a subsequent arrest for violent index crime (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault), 3.2 times for any violent crime, and 5.2 times for an IPV crime. “Results affirm prior research identifying IPV as a risk factor for future offending.”

Providers

Newnham EA, Chen Y, Gibbs L, et. al.

The Mental Health Implications of Domestic Violence During COVID-19.

Int J Public Health. 2022 Jan 21;66:1604240. PMID: [35126030](#)

“The compounding mental health impacts of stress, infection and violence have created acute strains on mental health systems worldwide, requiring significant investment and innovation by services and governments. Mental health services must immediately coordinate efforts to scale up training of professionals and lay-providers and establish sustainable systems for culturally-secure, trauma-informed mental healthcare. Ongoing economic investment in established domestic violence services and growth of the mental health sector will be critical in supporting violence survivors throughout the pandemic.”

Okeson K, Reid C, Mashayekh S, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Healthcare Utilization of Children in Pediatric Emergency Departments.

J Pediatr. 2022 Jan;240:206-212. PMID: [34547336](#)

Of 1000 children presenting to 2 pediatric Eds (PEDs), those with ACEs were more likely to not have a primary care provider, and to be seen more frequently, especially for sick visits. "Over 85% of caregivers reported never discussing ACEs with their primary care provider. Most caregivers felt comfortable addressing ACEs in PEDs (84.4%) and would use referral resources (90.4%)...Given higher PED utilization in children with more ACEs and caregiver acceptance of PED-based screening and intervention, PEDs may represent a strategic and opportune setting to both assess and respond to ACEs among vulnerable populations."

Dimitropoulos G, Lindenbach D, Devoe DJ, et. al.

Experiences of Canadian mental health providers in identifying and responding to online and in-person sexual abuse and exploitation of their child and adolescent clients.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Dec 21;124:105448. PMID: [34952461](#)

From a survey of Canadian pediatric mental healthcare workers, 83% had worked with a client impacted by grooming, luring, sexual abuse or sexual image distribution in the last year. From participants' responses, "There is a need to improve mental health providers understanding of how technology is being utilized to exploit children, so that they can respond effectively to protect their clients."

Barnard M, Bynum LA, Bouldin A.

Preparing student pharmacists to care for patients exposed to intimate partner violence.

Curr Pharm Teach Learn. 2021 Dec;13(12):1619-1626. PMID: [34895671](#)

Description of a program to educate pharmacy students to recognize and address IPV in the pharmacy setting.

Christy K, Welter T, Dundon K, Valandra, Bruce A.

Economic Abuse: A Subtle but Common Form of Power and Control.

J Interpers Violence. 2022 Jan;37(1-2):NP473-NP499. PMID: [32370580](#)

From interviews with service users and providers, participants made several recommendations regarding IPV economic abuse (EA): (a) identifying EA as a distinct type of IPV-W, (b) updating legal guideline to allow offenders of EA to be prosecuted, (c) encouraging banks to do more to assist victims of EA, and (d) updating police training and frontline workers to include EA.

Prevention

Hazzard VM, Yoon C, Emery RL, et. al.

Adverse childhood experiences in relation to mood-, weight-, and eating-related outcomes in emerging adulthood: Does self-compassion play a buffering role?

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Dec;122:105307. PMID: [34492573](#)

From a diverse sample of 1440 emerging adults, self-compassion acted as a buffer against adverse mood-, weight-, and eating-related outcomes in the face of ACEs, and "therefore may be an important intervention target."

Thurston RC, Fritz MM, Chang Y, Barinas Mitchell E, Maki PM.

Self-compassion and subclinical cardiovascular disease among midlife women.

Health Psychol. 2021 Nov;40(11):747-753. PMID: [34914480](#)

For 195 women mean age 59 years and without overt cardiovascular disease (CVD), "Self-compassion is associated with lower subclinical CVD [early signs of disease measured by the thickness of the lining of an artery in the neck]. Associations were not explained by standard CVD risk factors nor by depressive symptoms. Future research should consider whether enhancing self-compassion improves women's vascular health."

Researchers

Reid M, Snyder C.

Feasibility of Using Child Maltreatment Measurement Instruments in the Primary Care Setting: A Systematic Review.

J Pediatr Nurs. 2021 Nov-Dec;61:e1-e14. PMID: [33926746](#)

Authors evaluated 111 child maltreatment measurement instruments, and recommend 6 for use by primary care providers "dependent on the needs of their individual practice...there is not a single superior instrument nor any instrument with a complete psychometric profile." The six instruments are: ACE – Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire, BCAP – Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory, CTQ – Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, CTQSF – Childhood Trauma Questionnaire Short Form, PSNA – Parenting Support Needs Assessment, STRESS – Structured Trauma-Related Experiences and Symptom Screener. The pros and cons of each are discussed.

Ross MC, Heilicher M, Cisler JM.

Functional imaging correlates of childhood trauma: A qualitative review of past research and emerging trends.

Pharmacol Biochem Behav. 2021 Dec;211:173297. PMID: [34780877](#)

“In this review, we discuss three popular approaches for discerning functional neural correlates to early life trauma, including regional activation [activation of a specific area of the brain], bivariate functional connectivity [activating multiple related areas of the brain at the same time to form a circuit], and network-based connectivity [how different circuits influence each other]. The breadth of research in each method is discussed, followed by important limitations and considerations for future research.” Very technically detailed.

Bethell C, Blackwell CK, Gombojav N, et. al.

Toward measurement for a whole child health policy: Validity and national and state prevalence of the Integrated Child Risk Index.

Acad Pediatr. 2021 Dec 8;S1876-2859(21)00616-1. PMID: [34896272](#)

Authors developed and validated an Integrated Child Risk Index (ICRI), which includes medical health risk (MHR), social health risk (SHR) and relational health risk (RHR) domains. It can be used to “estimate national and state prevalence on a multi-dimensional index that assesses the complex medical, social and relational health risks experienced by US children.”

Mathews B, MacMillan HL, Meinck F, et. al.

The ethics of child maltreatment surveys in relation to participant distress: Implications of social science evidence, ethical guidelines, and law.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Dec 6;123:105424. PMID: [34883421](#)

“We provide an updated overview of scientific evidence of the frequency and severity of distress in studies of child maltreatment, a review of ethical requirements including a focus on beneficence and participant welfare, and a new analysis of researchers' legal duties towards participants...we distil key principles of good epidemiological practice ...which both fulfil ethical requirements to participants, and demonstrate trauma-informed practice.”

Vallury KD, Baird B, Miller E, Ward P.

Going Viral: Researching Safely on Social Media.

J Med Internet Res. 2021 Dec 13;23(12):e29737. PMID: [34898450](#)

“We call for and provide suggestions to inform the development of training, guidelines, and policies that address practical and ethical aspects of using

social media for research, mental and physical health and safety risks and management, and the development of coordinated and evidence-based institutional- and individual-level responses to cyberbullying and harassment [against researchers]...which would help to ensure that universities have the capacity to maximize the potential of social media for research while better supporting the well-being of their staff and students.”

Other of Interest

Levine GN, Cohen BE, Commodore-Mensah Y, Fleury J, et. al. **Psychological Health, Well-Being, and the Mind-Heart-Body Connection: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association.**

Circulation. 2021 Mar 9;143(10):e763-e783. PMID: [33486973](#)

“Based on current study data, the following statements can be made: There are good data showing clear associations between psychological health and CVD [cardiovascular disease] risk; there is increasing evidence that psychological health may be causally linked to biological processes and behaviors that contribute to and cause CVD; the preponderance of data suggest that interventions to improve psychological health can have a beneficial impact on cardiovascular health; simple screening measures can be used by health care providers for patients with or at risk for CVD to assess psychological health status; and consideration of psychological health is advisable in the evaluation and management of patients with or at risk for CVD.

Cole EJ, Phillips AL, Bentzley BS, et. al.

Stanford Neuromodulation Therapy (SNT): A Double-Blind Randomized Controlled Trial.

Am J Psychiatry. 2022 Feb;179(2):132-141. PMID: [34711062](#)

“Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide, and half of patients with depression have treatment-resistant depression. Intermittent theta-burst stimulation (iTBS) [magnetic brain stimulation] is approved by the U.S. FDA for the treatment of treatment-resistant depression but is limited by suboptimal efficacy and a 6-week duration.” In this small double-blind randomized controlled trial, patients had customized brain scans to target a specific area of their brain for 5 days of treatment, and 4 weeks later the treatment group reported 52.5% reduction in symptoms compared to 11.1% reduction in the sham group. This promising treatment modality is being constantly refined by groups around the world.