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Child Abuse

Thompson K, Svendsen S.

Analysis of Cases Presenting With Concern of Child Abuse or Neglect to a Child Protection Team.

Clin Pediatr (Phila). 2023;99228231219119. PMID: [38153048](#)

“Data were collected for all referrals triaged by the Child Protection Program, a child abuse team located within an academic children's medical center. The program triaged a total of 928 cases and completed 345 in-person visits with a medical provider. Nearly half of all provider visits were for evaluation of children aged 3 years and younger (51%) and for a concern of physical abuse (49%). Of these visits, 26% were determined to be consistent with an accident or medical condition. This descriptive analysis highlights the burden of child abuse cases presenting to one small hospital-based child abuse program, as well as the structural and financial challenges faced by these programs.”

Tsang VMW, Verlinden E, Brilleslijper-Kater SN, et al.

A Longitudinal Study in Worrisome Sexual Behavior Following Sexual Abuse in Infancy or Early Childhood.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2023;16(4):1053-63.

PMID: [38045842](#)

“We examined the sexual behavior, as reported by parents of 45 children who experienced early-age sexual abuse for a period of more than five years. Overall, we found that WSB [worrisome sexual behavior] is likely to be a CSA-specific and potentially long-term outcome for children who were sexually abused at a very young age. Despite the decrease in sexual abuse-specific behavior over time, the level of this behavior was still significantly high 8 years after the sexual abuse. This finding supports long-term monitoring and assessment and intervention for WSB over time. Despite these findings, it is important to note that WSB does not serve as proof of sexual abuse in children; likewise, when a child does not present with WSB, it does not indicate the absence of a substantiated history of sexual abuse.”

Callahan R, Johns A, Young A, Kelsey C, Gupta M, Bellino P.
Association between missed appointments and hospitalization for child physical abuse.

Heliyon. 2023;9(12):e22779. PMID: [38076151](#)

Using a 20-year chart review for a single health system, of children 3 years or less hospitalized with high likelihood of child physical abuse (CPA) and a matched control group, the maltreated children were significantly more likely to have had a missed appointment (26% vs 9%). “We found an association between missed appointments and future admission for CPA. This finding has potential to assist clinicians with CPA risk stratification and future child abuse research.”

Seltzer RR, Thompson BS.

Pediatrician as Advocate and Protector: An Approach to Medical Neglect for Children with Medical Complexity.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2024;71(1):59-70. PMID: [37973307](#)

“For children with medical complexity (CMC), gaps in medical care can result in significant harm. When concerns for medical neglect arise for CMC, pediatricians may experience ethical challenges in attempting to simultaneously avoid harm, promote well-being, respect family goals and values, and maintain a positive therapeutic relationship. This article proposes an ethics-guided approach to identifying and addressing underlying modifiable risk factors for medical neglect through collaboration with family caregivers and other stakeholders (e.g. medical providers, school staff, and community resources). Pediatricians should recognize their critical role, beyond only as a mandated reporter, to be a mandated supporter.”

Lamela D, Pasion R, Costa R, et al.

Mother-child reporting discrepancies of child physical abuse: Associations with internalizing and externalizing symptoms.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;147:106575. PMID: [38041965](#)

Of 159 Portuguese mother-child pairs with exposure to IPV, of the pairs who were more divergent in reporting child physical abuse (with the child reporting significantly higher rates of their own physical abuse than did the mother), mothers reported more depressive and PTSD symptoms, and children showed the highest internalizing and externalizing symptoms.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Carr AL, Massou E, Kelly MP, Ford JA.

Mediating pathways that link adverse childhood experiences with cardiovascular disease.

Public Health. 2023;227:78-85. PMID: [38134567](#)

From a long-term study of 4547 British participants (56% women), with a mean age of 64 years, 45% reported at least one ACE. 24% developed incident cardiovascular disease (CVD) over a median follow-up period of 9.7 years. After adjusting for potential confounders, experiencing ≥ 4 ACEs compared with none was associated with 1.55 times increased risk of incident CVD, but no statistically increased risk was found for 1-3 ACEs. "There were two statistically significant mediators of the association between ≥ 4 ACEs and incident CVD: CRP [a measure of inflammation] and depression...Targeting these factors may reduce the future incidence of CVD."

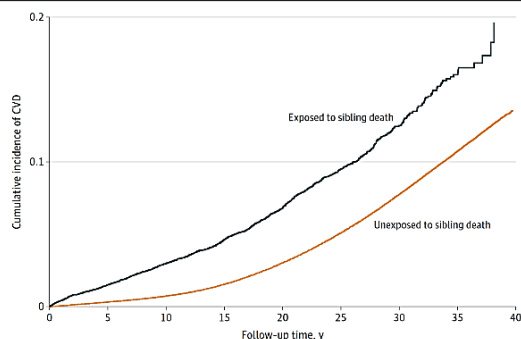
Huang C, Peng J, Lee PMY, et al.

Sibling Death in Childhood and Early Adulthood and Risk of Early-Onset Cardiovascular Disease.

JAMA Netw Open. 2024 Jan 2;7(1):e2350814. PMID: [38190182](#)

"In this cohort study, sibling death in childhood and early adulthood was associated with increased risks of overall and most type-specific early-onset CVDs, and the strengths of these associations varied by cause of death and age difference between sibling pairs. The findings highlight the need for extra attention and both social and mental support to bereaved siblings to reduce CVD risk later in life."

Figure 1. Cumulative Incidence of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Among Individuals With and Without the Death of a Sibling



Bussi eres A, Hancock MJ, Elklit A, et al.

Adverse childhood experience is associated with an increased risk of reporting chronic pain in adulthood: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

European journal of psychotraumatology. 2023;14(2):2284025. PMID: [38111090](#)

From a research review, the odds of reporting chronic pain in adulthood were significantly higher among individuals exposed to a direct ACE (adjusted odds ratio 1.45). Individuals reporting childhood physical abuse were significantly more likely to report both chronic pain (1.50) and pain-related disability (1.46) during adulthood. The risk of chronic pain in adulthood significantly increased from one ACE (1.29) to four or more ACEs (1.95).

Voyer H, Aytur S, Tanda N.

Linking Adverse Childhood Experiences and Other Risk Factors to Subjective Cognitive Decline in an Aging Population.

Prev Chronic Dis. 2023;20:E115. PMID: [38127683](#)

From a large national on-going survey, 8.1% of survey respondents reported subjective cognitive decline in the last 12 months. Associated conditions included: depression (adjusted odds ratio 2.85), arthritis (1.30), diabetes (1.33), >3 falls per year (2.95), sleeping more than 9 hours at night (2.06), physical inactivity (1.32), and 2+ ACEs (1.69).

Cascino G, Monteleone AM.

Early traumatic experiences and the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis in people with eating disorders: A narrative review.

Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2024;159:106665. PMID: [37944210](#)

"Research evidence supports the idea that exposure to trauma in childhood may be responsible for long-lasting effects on the activity of the HPA axis [stress hormone system], which could contribute to biological vulnerability underlying a potential impaired ability to deal with stressful life events in the adulthood. This may favor the development/maintenance of psychiatric disorders, including eating disorders." Authors review the state of research on eating disorders in this context.

Montague R, Canning SE, Thielking P, Qeadan F.

Adverse childhood experiences and psychotropic medication prescription among cancer patients.

J Psychosoc Oncol. 2023;1-15. PMID: [38127059](#)

Of 178 adults receiving cancer care at a hospital in Utah, while the number of patients reporting at least 1 ACE was similar to the general population (67.4% vs. 63.6%), patients in this study had a much higher prevalence of 4+ ACEs (25.3% vs. 12.1%). In addition, there was a significant association between increasing ACEs and increasing prescriptions for mental health medications, with those reporting 3+ ACEs having 280% higher odds of these medications compared to those with 2 or fewer ACEs.

Corso A, Engel H, Müller F, et al.

Early life stress in women with autoimmune thyroid disorders.

Scientific reports. 2023;13(1):22341. PMID: [38102234](#)

Of 78 women median age 53 with documented autoimmune thyroid disorders (AITD), compared to a control group, patients with AITD did not differ in regards to childhood sexual abuse, or physical abuse or neglect, but they did report significantly more emotional abuse and emotional neglect. "This study provides initial evidence for emotional neglect and abuse as potential risk factors for AITD."

Korkmaz YN, Buyuk SK, Becet N.

Does childhood maltreatment play a role in temporomandibular disorders?

The British journal of oral & maxillofacial surgery.

2023;61(10):691-5. PMID: [37925310](#)

Of 380 male and female adults mean age 27.63 years, there was an association between child maltreatment scores and level of temporomandibular disorders (TMD = pain or dysfunction of the jaw). "Dentists should be aware that possible collaboration with psychiatrists and/or psychologists when treating patients with TMD could increase the success of their treatment."

Adolescents

Koski A, Van Roost K, Reiss F.

State and sex-specific trends in the annual incidence of child marriage in the United States since the year 2000.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;147:106566. PMID: [38043459](#)

"Child marriage, defined as marriage before 18 years of age, is a violation of human rights with harmful consequences for population health, educational attainment, and economic opportunities. Child marriage is legal across most of the United States...The rate of child marriage declined substantially across the United States between 2000 and 2019. Over 75% of all married children in each state were girls who married men an average of 4 years older than they were."

Schwartz A, Galera C, Kerbage H, Montagni I, Tzourio C.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and ADHD Symptoms Among French College Students.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2023;16(4):1109-17.

PMID: [38045835](#)

Of 1062 French colleges students, mean age 20.3 years, "After controlling for potential confounders, every increase in ACE exposure heightened the risk of ADHD symptoms with the respective adjusted

Odds Ratios: 1 ACE: 2.1, 2 ACEs: 4.5, ≥ 3 ACEs: 5.2. Estimates for ADHD symptoms were higher with sexual abuse, emotional and physical neglect, and bullying. Findings suggest that ACEs heighten the risk for developing ADHD symptoms among college students and bear important implications for prevention and clinical practice."

Sebalo I, Königová MP, Sebalo Vňuková M, et al.

The Associations of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) With Substance Use in Young Adults: A Systematic Review.

Substance abuse: research and treatment.

2023;17:11782218231193914. PMID: [38025908](#)

"This review provides clear evidence that exposure to ACEs, especially multiple ACEs, is a strong predictor for increased use of alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs by young adults. However, ACEs represent only one risk factor among many. As this effect was amplified by poor self-regulation and maladaptive coping strategies, these factors may represent initial targets for interventions...future research should identify protective factors that can reduce or eliminate the impacts of previous adverse experiences and buffer against future stressors."

Wendler-Bödicker C, Kische H, Voss C, Beesdo-Baum K.

The Association Between Childhood Maltreatment and Body (dis)satisfaction in Adolescents and Young Adults.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2024;25(1):113-28. PMID: [37403492](#)

Of 1001 German adolescents aged 14-21 years, "More than one-third of the participants reported experiences of childhood maltreatment (37.4%), in which emotional neglect and abuse were the most frequent subtypes. Individuals with a history of childhood maltreatment showed significantly less satisfaction with their physical appearance than participants without such adverse experiences...the role of potential mediator variables such as self-esteem warrants further prospective research."

Rueb M, Rauen K, Koerte IK, et al.

Traumatic Encephalopathy Syndrome and Tauopathy in a 19-Year-Old With Child Abuse.

Neurotrauma Rep. 2023;4(1):857-62. PMID: [38156074](#)

"This is the first case with TES [traumatic encephalopathy syndrome, brain damage seen in contact sport athletes] in a 19-year-old male patient with progressive cognitive decline after daily domestic physical violence through repeated hits to the head for 15 years...This report underlines child abuse as a relevant criterion in diagnosing TES in cases with repetitive hits to the head." Authors used recently published diagnostic criteria for TES with brain and lab findings instead of autopsy findings.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Lockington EP, Sherrell HC, Crawford K, Rae K, Kumar S.
Intimate partner violence is a significant risk factor for adverse pregnancy outcomes.

AJOG Glob Rep. 2023;3(4):100283. PMID: [38077225](#)

In a study from one hospital in Australia, of 45,177 births, 3242 births (7.2%) were among women who were exposed to intimate partner violence. Those who identified as Indigenous or had refugee status experienced significantly higher rates of intimate partner violence, as well as worse birth outcomes. “Women exposed to intimate partner violence had greater odds of having a small for gestational age infant (adjusted odds ratio 1.17), preterm birth (1.21), preterm prelabor rupture of membranes (1.23), and an infant with severe neonatal morbidity (1.21)...also had higher odds of acute presentation to the obstetrical assessment unit (1.71) and admission to hospital (1.44).”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Khurana B, Prakash J, Lewis-O'Connor A, et al.

Assault-related anoxia and neck injuries in US emergency departments.

Inj Prev. 2023 Dec 8:ip-2023-045107. PMID: [38071575](#)

From a national injury database 2005-2019, “Out of a total of 24,493,518 assault-related injuries, 11.6% (N=2,842,862) resulted from IPV (defined as perpetrators being spouses/partners). Among 22,764 cases of assault-related anoxia [lack of oxygen to the brain], IPV accounted for 40.4%. Inhalation and suffocation were the dominant mechanisms (60.8%) of anoxia. Neck injuries represented only 3.0% of all assault-related injuries, with IPV accounting for 21% of all neck injuries and 31.9% of neck contusions [bruising]...The study reveals a significant burden of IPV-related anoxia and neck injuries, highlighting the importance of recognising IPV-related strangulation.

Comprehensive screening for IPV should be conducted in patients with unexplained neck injuries, and all IPV patients should be screened for strangulation events.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Pebole MM, Iverson KM, Fortier CB, et al.

Associations Between Head Injury, Strangulation, Cardiometabolic Health, and Functional Disability Among Female Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.

Womens Health Issues. 2023 Dec 14:S1049-3867(23)00203-7. PMID: [38102057](#)

“This pilot study explored the extent to which injury type (head injury, strangulation) and severity (no injury, subconcussive head injury, traumatic brain injury; no strangulation, strangulation, strangulation with loss of consciousness) were associated with biomarkers of cardiometabolic health and self-reported functioning among female survivors of IPV. Participants were 51 individuals assigned female at birth who experienced IPV during their lifetime and screened positive for probable posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Head injury was associated with statistically significant increases in blood glucose levels...moderate-strong effect sizes were also found in high-density lipoprotein, low-density lipoprotein, and waist-to-hip ratio. Strangulation was associated with increased cholesterol levels, with a moderate effect size. Regression models accounting for age, education, PTSD symptoms, childhood trauma, strangulation, and head injuries predicted functional disability status and several of its associated domains: cognition, mobility, and participation in society. Findings suggest the need to develop integrated treatments that address physical health comorbidities among female survivors of IPV with a history of head injury to improve daily function and quality of life.

Hauch D, Elklit A.

The psychological consequences of stalking: cross-sectional findings in a sample of Danish help-seeking stalking victims.

European journal of psychotraumatology. 2023;14(2):1-16.

PMID: [38018419](#)

Of 591 Danish individuals who contacted and received help through a Stalking Center, “Almost 80% of victims reported symptom levels indicative of a diagnosable disorder of PTSD, depression, or anxiety...it is indicated that stalking is a special type of trauma with many negative and harmful effects. Hence, further research into how to properly help stalking victims through preventive interventions and treatment is needed.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Zhang Kudon H, Herbst JH, Richardson LC, et al.

Prevalence estimates and factors associated with violence among older adults: National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence (NISVS) Survey, 2016/2017.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2023;1-17. PMID: [38129823](#)

Using a nationally-representative telephone survey of non-institutionalized adults in the United States with 10,171 individuals aged 60+ years, “Past 12-month prevalence of psychological aggression, physical violence, and sexual violence was 2.1%, 0.8%, and 1.7%, respectively. Odds of psychological aggression were significantly higher among those with hearing or vision impairment, and lower among those aged ≥70 years. Odds of physical violence were significantly higher for males and for those with hearing or vision impairment. Odds of sexual violence were significantly higher for unpartnered individuals and those with cognitive impairment; and lower for those aged ≥ 70 years.”

Ross J.

Elder Abuse-the Need for Increased Awareness, Assessment, and Reporting in Health Care.

J Perianesth Nurs. 2023;38(6):945-6. PMID: [38042582](#)

This succinct review article on elder abuse also provides a resource list (links updated here):

- Elder Abuse Helplines and Hotlines Call 1-800-677-1116
- National Center on Elder Abuse www.ncea.acl.gov
- National Institute on Aging www.nia.nih.gov
- National Center on Law and Elder Rights Administration for Community Living acl.gov
- For state specific laws: Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement eagle.usc.edu/state-specific-laws/
- Screening tools for Elder Abuse <https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Elder-Abuse-Screening-Tools-for-Healthcare-Professionals.pdf>

Nobels A, De Schrijver L, Van Landuyt M, et al.

"In the End You Keep Silent": Help-Seeking Behavior Upon Sexual Victimization in Older Adults.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231220017. PMID: [38149594](#)

“Data were collected through structured face-to-face interviews with a random sample of 227 sexual violence victims 70 years and older living in Belgium...We found that up to 60% of older sexual violence victims never disclosed their experiences

and 94% never sought professional help. Help-seeking is a complex process comprising several phases, which are affected by strong feelings of shame and self-blame, ageist premises and taboos about sexuality. In the end, most victims choose to cope on their own...Healthcare professionals working with older adults need capacity building through training, screening tools, and care procedures to initiate conversation on sexual violence, and to detect signs, prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual victimization in older adults.”

Rollandi I, Banerjee S, Qiu Y, et al.

Improved outcomes for depressed elder abuse victims with video-delivered psychotherapy during COVID-19.

Psychother Res. 2023;1-13. PMID: [38109490](#)

PROTECT, Providing Options to Elderly Clients Together, is a brief therapy developed for depression for elder abuse victims in collaboration with partners at the Department for the Aging of New York City. “PROTECT reduced depression an average of 5.15 PHQ-9 points [a depression screening scale]. Video and phone delivery were non-inferior to in-person delivery. The video group completed therapy more quickly than the in-person group and had a more rapid improvement in depression symptoms.”

Sexual Assault

Zaccari B, Higgins M, Haywood TN, et al.

Yoga vs Cognitive Processing Therapy for Military Sexual Trauma-Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: A Randomized Clinical Trial.

JAMA network open. 2023;6(12):e2344862. PMID: [38064219](#)

200 women veterans aged 22-71 years, with PTSD from military sexual trauma, had treatment randomized to either Trauma Center Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TCTS) or group Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). While both groups saw an equal significant decrease in PTSD symptom severity, the yoga group completion rate was 65.3% vs 45.8% for the CPT group. “The higher treatment completion rate for TCTS indicates its higher acceptability as an effective and acceptable PTSD treatment...that could address current VA PTSD treatment limitations.”

Hardeberg Bach M, Ahrens C, et al.

EHealth for Sexual Assault: A Systematic Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(1):102-16. PMID: [36632639](#)

“Providing efficient psychosocial support for survivors of sexual assault is of critical societal importance. Around the globe, technology-based solutions (eHealth) are increasingly being used to accomplish this task, especially following COVID-19.” Authors review 85 international studies of the use of eHealth for sexual assault survivors aged 13+ years. “Many innovative eHealth applications for sexual assault exist today, and the included studies suggested that survivors generally experience eHealth positively and seem to benefit from it. Nevertheless, much more clinical and empirical work is needed to ensure accessible and effective solutions for all.”

Table I. Characteristics of eHealth Interventions.

Categories	Variables	N
Intervention in study	Website/platform	36
	Video therapy	17
	Intervention video	7
	Mobile app	4
	Virtual reality (VR)	3
	Chat/chatbot	3
	Text-message	2
	Multiple and other (e.g., virtual yoga)	13
Intervention aim	Treatment	29
	Support (broad)	25
	Inform about supports	9
	Psychoeducation/self-help	2
	Multiple and other	20
Psychological needs targeted	Broad/unspecified	46
	PTSD	13
	Acute distress	2
	Anxiety	0
	Depression	0
	Multiple and other (e.g., suicidal ideation)	19
	None	5
Psychosocial needs targeted	Broad/unspecified	37
	Substance abuse	9
	Relational	2
	Sexological	1
	Multiple and other	9
Type of sexual violence addressed	None	27
	Sexual assault	48
	Combined sexual assault and IPV	14
	Military sexual assault	12
	Child sexual abuse	6
	Sex trafficking	1
	Female genital mutilation	1
Other (e.g., clergy sexual abuse)	3	

Human Trafficking

Raj A, Krass P, Hackett K, Green S, Wood JN.

Integrating Social Care Into a Specialized Medical Home for Sex-Trafficked Youth.

Pediatrics. 2024 Jan 1;153(1):e2023062394. PMID: [38124620](#)

“The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia successfully launched the Adolescent Protection Collaborative in July 2021. This novel clinic created a specialized medical home for sex-trafficked youth. The clinic was staffed by a core team of child abuse pediatrics and adolescent medicine physicians and a social worker who provided coordinated evaluations and same-day services, followed by ongoing long-term care...Pilot data from the initial 21 months of clinical operations revealed that 88% of 43 referred patients (ages ranging from 13-22 years with a mean of 16 years) attended a scheduled appointment with 55% returning for follow up. All (100%) had past or present involvement with child protective services. Fifty percent of referrals tested positive for a sexually transmitted infection... Patient-desired contraception was facilitated for approximately 67% of referrals. Social care needs, such as referrals for educational support, case management, housing and employment resources, and mental health linkages, were offered alongside standard medical services.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Woerner J, Chadwick SB, Antebi-Gruszka N, et al.

Negative Sexual Experiences Among Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men Using GPS-Enabled Hook-Up Apps and Websites.

J Sex Res. 2023:1-16. PMID: [38016029](#)

“Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) often use GPS-enabled dating apps and websites to facilitate in-person sexual encounters.” Authors interviewed 60 GBMSM who used such apps and experienced negative sexual encounters, including: 1) sexual violence (physical sexual assault, verbal sexual coercion, intoxicated assault/coercion), 2) sexual health risk behaviors (condom use resistance and coercion, deception related to HIV/STI status), 3) non-negotiated behaviors (undiscussed/unexpected sex acts, rough sex, sexualized racism, undesired substance use by the partner), and 4) threats to physical safety beyond sexual violence (being blocked from leaving, stalked, robbed, drugged). These results can inform future research and interventions that aim to promote safety on dating apps/websites within the GBMSM community.”

Bedford CE, Trotter AM, Potter M, Schmidt NB.

Minority stress and mental health in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer survivors of sexual assault.

J Trauma Stress. 2023;36(6):1031-43. PMID: [37776211](#)

“We examined associations between experiences of minority stress and post-SA [sexual assault] psychopathology in a sample of LGBTQ+ individuals (N = 92)...findings indicate that experiences of minority stress may serve as risk or maintenance factors for post-SA psychopathology. These results offer important considerations for future treatment approaches tailored to LGBTQ+ survivors of SA.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Wijeratne C, Sharma S, Large M.

Understanding and addressing racism in clinical encounters.

Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2023;48674231219854. PMID:

[38131317](#)

Authors discuss different types of racist attitudes from patients towards diverse psychiatric healthcare personnel, and management strategies.

Cogburn CD, Roberts SK, Ransome Y, et al.

The impact of racism on Black American mental health.

The Lancet Psychiatry. 2024;11(1):56-64. PMID: [38101873](#)

“Black individuals in the USA experience disparities in mental health that lead to unfavorable health outcomes and increased morbidity from mental illness due to centuries of racism...Historical factors such as European imperialism, enslavement, the myth of Black inferiority, and scientific racial classification have all perpetuated disparities, leading to the current underestimation, misdiagnosis, and inadequate treatment of mental illness in Black populations.”

Wolf RM, Hall M, Williams DJ, et al.

Disparities in Pharmacologic Restraint for Children Hospitalized in Mental Health Crisis.

Pediatrics. 2024 Jan 1;153(1):e2023061353. PMID: [38073320](#)

“We performed a retrospective cohort study of children (aged 5-≤18 years) admitted for a primary mental health condition from 2018 to 2022 at 41 US children's hospitals. Pharmacologic restraint use was defined as parenteral [a shot or IV, not a pill] administration of medications for acute agitation.” Of 61,503 hospitalizations, children of non-Hispanic White, Asian, or other race and ethnicity, were less likely to receive pharmacologic restraint than non-Hispanic Black children. There was no significant difference with Hispanic children.”

Puls HT, Hall M, Boyd R, Chung PJ.

Public Benefit Programs and Differential Associations With Child Maltreatment by Race and Ethnicity.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Dec 18:e235521. PMID: [38109092](#)

The association between total state spending for public benefit programs and CPS investigations “differed significantly by race and ethnicity: there was an inverse association between total state spending and CPS investigations for White children, but not for Black children or Hispanic children...These results raise concerns that benefit programs may add relative advantages for White children compared with Black and Hispanic children and contribute to racial and ethnic disparities in CPS investigations.”

Perpetrators

Mathews B, Finkelhor D, Pacella R, et al.

Child sexual abuse by different classes and types of perpetrator: Prevalence and trends from an Australian national survey.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;147:106562. PMID: [38061281](#)

“Australian CSA prevalence was 28.5%, with the following prevalence by perpetrator classes: other known adolescents (non-romantic): 10.0%; parents/caregivers in the home: 7.8%; other known adults: 7.5%; unknown adults: 4.9%; adolescents (current/former romantic partners): 2.5%; institutional caregivers: 2.0%; siblings: 1.6%; unknown adolescents: 1.4%. Women experienced more CSA by all perpetrator classes except institutional caregivers. Age group comparison showed significant declines in CSA by parents/caregivers and other known adults; and increases in CSA by adolescents (current/former romantic partners)...Targeted prevention of CSA by adolescents must be prioritised.”

Seiser A, Eher R, Turner D, Rettenberger M.

The prevalence of mental disorders among incarcerated adult men convicted of child sexual exploitation material offences.

CNS spectrums. 2023;28(6):719-25. PMID: [37130812](#)

Of 66 individuals serving a sentence for child sexual exploitation material offenses in the Austrian prison system, 80.3% were diagnosed with a mental disorder: 40.9% Axis I disorder (such as mood disorders and substance use), 71.2% Axis II disorder (such as personality disorders), 65.2% pedophilic disorder, and 42.4% hypersexual disorder.

Veggi S, Benfante A, Di Tella M, Roveta F, Castelli L, Zara G. **Intimate Partner Violence and Alexithymia.** Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;15248380231217045. PMID: [38131327](#)

From a research review, both perpetrators and victims of IPV had comparable levels of alexithymia (difficulty in identifying and expressing emotions), and which were found to be at higher levels than the general public.

Mileva B, Goshev M, Georgieva M, et al. **Self-Mutilation: A Way to Protect Yourself From a Committed Crime or to Gain Personal Benefits.**

Cureus. 2023;15(10):e48085. PMID: [38046479](#)
“Self-mutilation refers to the state in which a person deliberately hurts himself without the intention to commit suicide but with the motive of some personal gain. Four cases are described in the current study with four different personal motives - drug supply, accusation of intimate partner violence, confrontation of parental prohibition, and a way to hide and escape from a committed crime. Evaluating the injuries due to self-mutilation might be challenging due to atypical lesions and well-structured false stories when the victim has some level of competency. Careful analysis of the victim's story and a thorough evaluation of the sustained injuries are needed.”

Meyer SR, Hardt S, Brambilla R, Shukla S, Stöckl H. **Sociological Theories to Explain Intimate Partner Violence.** Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;15248380231210939. PMID: [38006302](#)

“This systematic review fills a gap in sociological theories of predictors of male-perpetrated IPV against women and also provides critical analysis of how these theories overlap and intersect...there are several compelling components of sociological theory [including criminological theories, neighborhood theory, cultural theory, family theory, and peer theory] that hold explanatory power for comprehending how, where, and why IPV occurs.”

Police and Court Systems

Islam MJ, Suzuki M, Mazerolle P. **Police responses to intimate partner violence incidents involving children: Exploring variations in actions and concerns in an Australian jurisdiction.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;147:106568. PMID: [38039762](#)
175 Australian police officers responded to 4 IPV scenarios about how they would proceed. Then they were asked if they would proceed differently if

children were present. Differences for the 4 scenarios ranged from 48.9% to 22.0%, with those changing their process due to concerns about effects on children and ability of non-offending partner to keep children safe. “While children are acknowledged as secondary victims of IPV in research and practice, it appears that this concerning issue is sometimes being ignored by frontline officers...highlights the need for comprehensive training that accounts for the intricate interplay between standardized procedures and the unique contexts of IPV incidents involving children.”

Mitchell KJ, Gewirtz-Meydan A, Finkelhor D, et al. **The mental health of officials who regularly examine child sexual abuse material: strategies for harm mitigation.**

BMC Psychiatry. 2023;23(1):940. PMID: [38093256](#)
“Police investigators, forensic examiners, and others connected with the criminal justice system from across the United States who were exposed to CSAM [child sexual abuse materials] as part of their professions (N = 500) completed an anonymous online survey. Duration, frequency, amount, and content of CSAM exposure was not related to poorer mental health with the exception of exposure to violent CSAM which was related to elevated post-traumatic stress symptoms. Several agency-level practices and policies, such as the availability of an Officer Wellness Program and more frequently knowing the final case resolution, were related to better mental health and well-being. Harm mitigation strategies, such as talking to other officers investigating the case and taking breaks from the material being viewed, were also related to better mental health.”

Providers

Haslam SK, Munroe A, Hamilton-Hinch B, et al. **Adverse childhood experiences and stress among oral health students: a descriptive correlational study.**

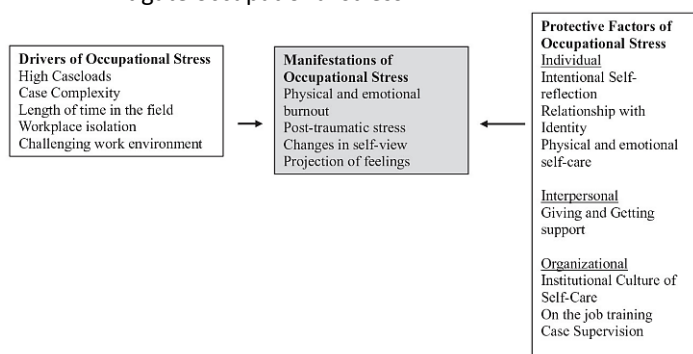
Can J Dent Hyg. 2023;57(3):149-60. PMID: [38020077](#)
From a survey of Canadian oral Health Students (OHS) with a 26% response rate, average ACEs score was 2.2, with 34.9% reporting 3+ ACEs (greater than the general population). The most common ACE was emotional abuse (41%). Associations were observed between numbers of ACEs and levels of stress, but not ACE type. “Faculty in dental and dental hygiene programs should recognize the prevalence of ACEs among OHS and the potential impact on their mental well-being.”

Miller SL, Fleury-Steiner R, Camphausen LC, et al.
Lessons Learned From the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States by Domestic Violence Coalition Leaders.
 Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231220369. PMID: [38087424](#)

“State-, territorial-, and tribal-level DV Coalitions in the United States are ideally situated to identify the macro-level factors affecting DV communities and service agencies that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their insight about what did or did not work, as well as system-level innovations implemented during the pandemic can improve workforce efficiency, worker satisfaction, and empowerment for both survivors and advocates moving forward.” Authors note take-aways for each system level.

Najmabadi L, Agénor M, Tendulkar S.
"Pouring From an Empty Cup": Manifestations, Drivers, and Protective Factors of Occupational Stress Among Healthcare Providers of Trauma-Informed Care.
 J Interpers Violence. 2023:8862605231215028. PMID: [38059411](#)

“The DV workforce, including healthcare providers, social workers, advocates, and other providers, utilize trauma-informed care in a variety of settings to help DV survivors heal and recover from their traumatic experiences. Given the intensity of DV work and occupational stressors associated with navigating complex survivor cases and systems of care, health and mental health professionals can experience burnout, compassion fatigue, and secondary traumatic stress. The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore how professionals in the DV workforce, including healthcare and mental health professionals, experience and mitigate occupational stress.”



Hill Weller L, Tang J, Chen R, Boscardin C, Ehie O.
Tools for Addressing Microaggressions: An Interactive Workshop for Perioperative Trainees.
 MedEdPORTAL 2023;19:11360. PMID: [38034501](#)

“This workshop was developed with the primary aim of educating trainees on microaggressions,

amplifying the role of allyship, and providing tools to respond to microaggressions as an ally” for anesthesia and surgical residents. “The facilitator and course feedback was remarkably positive...the strategies presented in this workshop could be applied across other graduate medical education programs.” [Full article plus training materials.](#)

Dimopoulos MP, Schnur JB, Adams RD, et al.
Identifying radiation therapists' perceptions of potentially triggering aspects of care for survivors of sexual violence undergoing radiotherapy.
 Journal of medical imaging and radiation sciences. 2023;54(4s):S64-s76. PMID: [37482508](#)

“Research shows that for survivors of sexual violence (SV), cancer procedures can be retraumatizing due to perceived similarities to the original SV. To date, there is no training program designed specifically for the radiation therapist (RTT) on how to deliver care sensitively to survivors of SV.” From surveys of 50 RTTs, “Relatively few trainees identified sensory/environmental triggers...Future research should identify a comprehensive list of triggers and then develop a training specific to the RTT...from the perspective of the patient in the often unfamiliar and frightening radiotherapy suite.”

McGrath E, Dwaihy M, Smitherman L, et al.
Treasure (Hunt for) Your Health! Addressing Pediatric Social Determinants of Health Through Child-Friendly Community Engagement Events.
 Clin Pediatr (Phila). 2023:99228231218160. PMID: [38131315](#)

“The ‘Wayne Pediatrics Health and Nutrition Expo’ held at Detroit's Eastern Market was an activity-based health and nutrition event addressing pediatric SDoH [social determinants of health]. Partnering with community organizations, the event had 10 stations addressing SDoH: access to a primary-care pediatrician; HIV-care and prevention; childhood literacy; clothing & winter coats; mental health and childhood development; nutrition; staying active; vaccination; and food insecurity. The free, public event featured a child-themed treasure hunt and map, music, giveaways, and live demonstrations, all in a family-friendly park atmosphere.”

Prevention

La Charite J, Khan M, Dudovitz R, et al.

Specific domains of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) associated with improved adult health: A nationally representative study.

SSM - population health. 2023;24:101558. PMID: [38034480](#)

From a national survey including 7105 adults, “Experiencing childhood peer support, a healthy school climate, and neighborhood safety were especially protective against multiple adult health conditions, including for ACE exposed individuals. Interventions that promote PCEs may yield population health gains.”

Hoffmann F, Linz R, Steinbeis N, et al.

Children with maltreatment exposure exhibit rumination-like spontaneous thought patterns: association with symptoms of depression, subcallosal cingulate cortex thickness, and cortisol levels.

J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2024;65(1):31-41. PMID: [37402634](#)

Of 183 children aged 6-12 years, 96 of whom were exposed to maltreatment, maltreated children exhibited fewer positive thoughts or future-oriented thoughts, and more rumination thought patterns, all of which were associated with depressive symptoms and brain scan correlates of depression. “Targeting thought patterns in children with maltreatment exposure may be an effective strategy to effectively mitigate depression risk early in life.”

Senn CY, Hobden KL, Eliasziw M, et al.

Testing the effectiveness of a sexual assault resistance programme in 'real-world' implementation.

European journal of psychotraumatology. 2023;14(2):2290859. PMID: [38109360](#)

The EAAA (Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, Act) program is a 12 hour, small-group, educational program designed to help college women resist acquaintance sexual assault, and was proven effective in a randomized trial. In this study of its real-world use at 5 Canadian universities, completed rape was significantly reduced by 57.3% at 6-months, and attempted rape was reduced by 32.9%.

Taft CT, Campbell JC.

Promoting the Use of Evidence-Based Practice for Those Who Engage in Intimate Partner Violence.

Am J Prev Med. 2024;66(1):189-92. PMID: [37633427](#)

“Despite widespread acknowledgment that the most prominent and long-standing IPV intervention programs are relatively ineffective, movement away from these programs has been slow...Examining effective ways to prevent IPV escalation is such a neglected area of study that the field has almost ceased to exist. This kind of secondary prevention—

to stop IPV—is what many if not most of those who are experiencing IPV desire rather than dissolution of the relationship or criminal justice actions against their partners. Federal funding is necessary because the kind of studies that are needed are expensive, complex clinical trials that attend to partner safety and community contexts...Developing and implementing evidence-based IPV interventions should be an important national priority.”

Researchers

Kerr-Davis A, Hillman S, Anderson K, Cross R.

Introducing Routine Assessment of Adverse Childhood Experiences For Looked-After Children: The Use and Properties of the Trauma and Adverse Life Events (TALE) Screening Tool.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2023;16(4):981-94. PMID: [38045847](#)

“The present study aims to illustrate the process of developing, implementing, and clinically validating a new assessment measure, the Trauma and Adverse Life Events (TALE) screening tool, to assess Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) among looked-after children [children in foster or group care]...Adverse and traumatic experiences were highly prevalent in this population and appeared to be closely related with children's psychosocial wellbeing. Results emphasise the importance of routine assessment of past experiences within trauma-informed psychological care and intervention planning for looked-after children.”

O'Brien JE, Trumbell JM, O'Brien AJ, Fischer C.

Pivots and Partnerships: Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned From Conducting Research During a Global Pandemic.

Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231222490. PMID: [38146199](#)

“This research note describes one team's attempt at conducting a longitudinal, mixed-methods study during the COVID-19 pandemic with women in the perinatal period who had experienced intimate partner violence. Initial recruitment strategies are provided, as well as the ways in which those initial efforts necessitated revision and redesign. Lessons learned are offered, including ways these strategies may be adapted for other similarly vulnerable populations in the context of a community-level trauma.”

Winqvist A, Leiker CB, Landis T, Fraser J, Eddy LL, Burduli E. **Development and psychometric evaluation of the reporting suspected child abuse and neglect (RSCAN) scale for United States registered nurses.**

J Pediatr Nurs. 2023 Nov-Dec;73:e319-e326. PMID: [37863784](#)

The Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (RSCAN) tool, with 8 items, “is the first US instrument to reliably measure nurses' professional knowledge and self-efficacy of reporting suspected CAN...Future research can build upon these findings to recognize and support nurses in their mandated role to report CAN.”

Other of Interest

Wilson RF, Mintz S, Blair JM, Betz CJ, Collier A, Fowler KA. **Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths Among Children and Adolescents Aged 0-17 Years - National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003-2021.**

MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2023 Dec 15;72(50):1338-1345. PMID: [38096119](#)

“In the United States, unintentional injury is the fourth leading cause of death among infants (i.e., children aged <1 year) and is the top cause of death among children and adolescents aged 1-17 years; firearms are a leading injury method...Data recorded during 2003-2021 by the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) identified 1,262 unintentional firearm injury deaths among children aged 0-17 years: the largest percentage (33%) were among children aged 11-15 years, followed by 29% among those aged 0-5 years. Overall, 83% of unintentional firearm injury deaths occurred among boys. The majority (85%) of victims were fatally injured at a house or apartment, including 56% in their own home. Approximately one half (53%) of fatal unintentional firearm injuries to children were inflicted by others; 38% were self-inflicted. In 9% of incidents, it was unknown whether the injury was self- or other-inflicted. Approximately two thirds (67%) of shooters were playing with or showing the firearm to others when it discharged. Overall, firearms used in unintentional injury deaths were often stored loaded (74%) and unlocked (76%) and were most commonly accessed from nightstands and other sleeping areas (30%). Unintentional firearm injury deaths of children are preventable. Secured firearm storage practices (e.g., storing firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition) have been identified as protective factors against child firearm injuries and deaths, underscoring the importance of policymakers, health care professionals (e.g., pediatricians), and

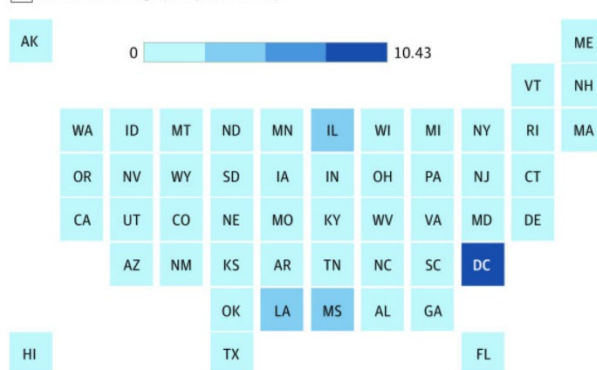
others partnering with parents, caregivers, and firearm owners to promote secure firearm storage.”

Barnard LM, Wright-Kelly E, Brooks-Russell A, Betz ME. **Characterization of Mass Shootings by State, 2014-2022.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Jul 3;6(7):e2325868. PMID: [37494046](#)

“The US has more than 10 times the number of mass shooting events as other developed countries. Mass shootings in the US have increased in frequency, with more than half occurring since the year 2000. These events have a direct toll on individuals injured or killed, as well as a psychological impact on families, friends, and society...From 2014 to 2022, there were 4011 mass shootings, ranging from zero events in Hawaii and North Dakota to 414 events in Illinois. For these 9 years, 27.3% were social-related mass shootings, 15.8% were crime related, 11.1% were domestic violence (DV) related, 1.4% were school or work related, and 52.0% were not a part of these categories. A total of 21,006 people were killed or injured...Crime-, social-, and DV-related mass shootings followed a similar pattern, while mass shootings that were not part of these categories were more evenly distributed across the US.

A All mass shootings (rate per 1 million)



C Domestic violence-related shootings (rate per 1 million)

