Child Abuse

Spies EL, Klevens J.

Fatal Abusive Head Trauma Among Children Aged <5 Years - United States, 1999-2014.


“...AHT [abusive head trauma] resulted in nearly 2,250 deaths among U.S. resident children aged <5 years. Whereas rates were relatively stable during 1999-2009, there was a statistically significant average annual decline of 13.0% in fatal AHT rates during 2009-2014...Although this decline in AHT deaths is encouraging, more can be done to prevent AHT, including family-based interventions and policies that create safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children.”

Jones MD, Martin PS, Williams JM, Kemp AM, Theobald P.

Development of a computational biomechanical infant model for the investigation of infant head injury by shaking.


Development of a computational infant model (MD Adams®) to investigate simulated shakes by combining radiological, kinematic, mechanical modelling and literature-based data with biomechanical effects of varying neck stiffness.

Bright MA, Knapp C, Hinojosa MS, Alford S, Bonner B.

The Comorbidity of Physical, Mental, and Developmental Conditions Associated with Childhood Adversity: A Population Based Study.


From a national study of 95,677 household phone interviews of parents of children 0-17 years, 23% reported their child experienced 1 ACE, 9.2% 2 ACEs, and 10.3% 3 or more. Increasing number of ACEs was associated with increasing number of mental, physical and developmental conditions.

Yoon S, Steigerwald S, Holmes MR, Perzynski AT.


Using national survey data on 2064 children 8-15 years old reported to CPS for maltreatment, “Our findings suggest that PTS [post-traumatic stress] symptoms may be a mechanism underlying the association between violence exposure and internalizing behavior problems [such as anxiety and depression].”

Glick JC, Lorand MA, Bilka KR.

Physical Abuse of Children.


Review article on the identification, evaluation and management of physical abuse in children, with particular attention to the “sentinel injury”.

Nowak CB.

Recognition and prevention of child abuse in the child with disability.


Features of underlying conditions may make it more difficult to detect abuse and/or be mistaken for abuse in children with disabilities.

Rabago J, Marra K, Allmendinger N, Shur N.

The clinical geneticist and the evaluation of failure to thrive versus failure to feed.


Review of the differentiation of failure to thrive (genetic or other metabolic causes) vs. failure to feed (neglect and/or child abuse).

Patel B, Butterfield R.

Common skin and bleeding disorders that can potentially masquerade as child abuse.


Review of common potential diagnostic mimics of inflicted injury.


Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Wade R Jr, Cronholm PF, Fein JA, et al. Household and community-level Adverse Childhood Experiences and adult health outcomes in a diverse urban population. Child Abuse Negl. 2016 Feb;52:135-45. PMID: 26726759 From a cross-sectional survey of 1784 Philadelphia adults, conventional ACEs had a robust impact on health risk behaviors and physical and mental illness, while expanded ACEs (community violence, discrimination, bullying and foster care) were associated with substance abuse and sexually transmitted infections.

Baumeister D, Akhtar R, Ciufolini S, Pariante CM, Mondelli V. Childhood trauma and adulthood inflammation: a meta-analysis of peripheral C-reactive protein, interleukin-6 and tumour necrosis factor-α. Mol Psychiatry. 2016 May;21(5):642-9. PMID: 26033244 In a research review, there was a significant association between childhood trauma and the inflammatory markers TNF-α, IL6 and CRP, regardless of age, gender or BMI. “This provides strong evidence that childhood traumatic events significantly impact on the inflammatory immune system, with trajectories reaching into adulthood, thus offering a potential molecular pathway by which early trauma confers vulnerability to developing psychiatric and physical disorders later in life.”

Leung JP, Britton A, Bell S. Adverse Childhood Experiences and Alcohol Consumption in Midlife and Early Old-Age. Alcohol. 2016 May;51(3):331-8. PMID: 26553290 From a British survey of 7870 adults, “Participants who were exposed to parental arguments/fights in childhood were 1.2 times more likely to drink at hazardous levels in midlife (mean age 56 years) after controlling for covariates and other ACEs.”
McFarland DC, Andreotti C, Harris K, et. al.  
**Early Childhood Adversity and its Associations With Anxiety, Depression, and Distress in Women With Breast Cancer.** Psychosomatics. 2016 Mar-Apr;57(2):174-84. PMID: 26876888

For 125 breast cancer patients (stages 0-IV), early childhood adversity, especially neglect, was associated with multiple psychologic symptoms, most specifically depression.

Ranchod YK, Headen IE, Petito LC, et. al.  

Despite adjusting for multiple variables, 2873 pregnant women’s risk of prepregnancy obesity was increased 60% for a personal history of childhood physical abuse, and increased 30% for childhood household alcohol abuse. Both of these variables were also associated with a 20% increase risk of excessive weight gain during pregnancy.

Mason SM, Tobias DK, Clark CJ, et. al.  
**Abuse in Childhood or Adolescence and Gestational Diabetes: A Retrospective Cohort Study.** Am J Prev Med. 2016 Apr;50(4):436-44. PMID: 26547539

From the Nurses’ Health Study II, a history of childhood/adolescent severe physical abuse and/or forced sexual activity was associated with a significantly increased risk of diabetes during pregnancy, regardless of weight status.

Mason SM, Bryn Austin S, Bakalar JL, et. al.  

Article discusses the various lines of evidence for the childhood trauma/adult obesity connection, including trauma history acting as a factor in the development of obesity and as a barrier to its treatment. “There is now two decades of evidence supporting the trauma – obesity connection. It is time to translate this evidence into action.”

Gottfried R, Lev-Wiesel R, Hallak M, Lang-Franco N.  
**Inter-relationships between sexual abuse, female sexual function and childbirth.** Midwifery. 2015 Nov;31(11):1087-95. PMID: 26324214

For 300 pregnant Israeli women, those with a lifetime history of sexual abuse, compared to women without such history, were at an increased risk for distressed antenatal and postpartum female sexual function, postpartum depression, a more negatively experienced childbirth, and caesarean childbirth.

Weinrich S, Hardin S, Glaser D, et. al.  
**Assessing sexual trauma histories in homeless women.** J Trauma Dissociation. 2016;17(2):237-43. PMID: 26583457

“Almost 1 out of every 3 homeless women (32%) in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia has experienced childhood sexual trauma.”

### Adolescents

Montiel I, Carbonell E, Pereda N.  
**Multiple online victimization of Spanish adolescents: Results from a community sample.** Child Abuse Negl. 2016 Feb;52:123-34. PMID: 26724825

3897 Spanish adolescents reported “online harassment (50%), unwanted exposure to sexual content (24.4%), pressure to obtain personal information (18.4%) and online grooming by an adult (17.2%).”

Herrenkohl TI, Jung H.  

Of 457 preschool-aged children reassessed as adults, “Dating violence victimisation and peer approval of dating violence in adolescence emerged as the unique predictors of IPV victimisation and perpetration in adulthood. Official child maltreatment predicted IPV perpetration.”

### Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Karlsson ME, Temple JR, Weston R, Le VD.  

For 918 dating teens, witnessing interparental violence and acceptance of dating violence were significant predictors of teen dating violence victimization.
Domestic Violence – Physical Health


For divorced community midlife women free of current IPV, past IPV predicted odds of poor sleep quality even after adjusting for socioemotional, medical, or sociodemographic risks. “A dose-response relationship between IPV chronicity and poor quality sleep was observed.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health


For 41 community women (mean age 45) experiencing IPV, women with PTSD, compared to those without, were nearly 15 times more likely to have days of co-occurring drug and alcohol use, and nearly 7 times more likely days of drug use alone.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse


Of 1670 substantiated elder abuse cases then followed for five years, “Compared with physical and psychological abuse, victims of caregiver neglect and financial exploitation had the lowest survival over the 5-year period... These findings may be explained by the number of risk factors shared by both the type of abuse involved and mortality.”


Overview of global issues in the field of elder abuse, with a focus on prevention.

Figure 1. International prevalence rates according to elder abuse type.


Evaluation and care of sexually assaulted elders with cognitive impairment.

Sexual Assault


“Engaging with colleagues and students to prevent sexual assault, responding to the aftermath of sexual trauma, and fostering policies and practices that enhance safety on college campuses are vital responsibilities that academic psychiatrists should be poised to fulfill. These responsibilities must involve not only providing care to survivors of sexual trauma but also working to shift the perceptions, norms, and general climate relating to sexual assault on campuses.”

From a survey of 615 college women at 2 northeastern US colleges, 36.1% reported lifetime experiences of IPV/SV, with 8.1% experiencing IPV/SV in the past 6 months. 63% were not asked about IPV/SV at their most recent off-campus health care visit, and 90% were not asked at their most recent visit to the college health center.


“It is argued that the ‘minor/serious’ sexual assault legal distinction is meaningless to survivors and conceals a shared felt experience. It is also argued that sexual assault is fundamentally a ‘public issue’ of betrayal of citizen trust—not just a collection of ‘private troubles’.”


From interviews with 19 African American women who experienced sexual coercion, “Men pressured partners for unwanted sex through verbal and non-verbal tactics, ranging from pestering and blunt requests for sex to verbal bullying and violence. Many women responded by clearly saying no. However, many women also described eventually ceasing to resist their partners and engaging in unwanted sex. After the unwanted sex, men actively and passively avoided discussing the incident.”


“In this review, we briefly summarize existing research on military sexual trauma prevalence rates, effects on victims, and risk factors, as well as prevention and response programs in the military context...and make recommendations for future research.”


Discussion of the process with lessons learned when researchers-practitioners partnered to redesign the Michigan sexual assault kit.

**Human Trafficking**

Rafferty Y. Challenges to the rapid identification of children who have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Child Abuse Negl. 2016 Feb;52:158-68. PMID: 26718261

Description of challenges in identifying trafficked children as well as victimization experienced by children who are wrongly arrested for crimes associated with prostitution or illegal border crossings, rather than being identified as victims.


Brief editorial summarizing ED presentations of human trafficking, with suggestion for management.


“Mandatory reporting has the potential to bring victims and survivors to the attention of social service and law enforcement but may discourage trafficked persons from seeking help, thereby limiting the ability of health care professionals to establish trust and provide needed care.”

**Cultural Issues**


From interviews with 59 international migrant women experiencing IPV, they reported “Lack of social support from family and friends, poor knowledge of immigration laws and available services, as well as cultural views and economic dependence on the partner inflicting the abuse... Support from a range of sectors including health, social services, and immigration is warranted.”
Silva-Martínez E.  
From interviews with immigrant Spanish-speaking Latinas in the Midwest experiencing IPV, multiple sides of “el silencio” are discussed, with reasons for maintaining the silence or breaking it.

Finfgeld-Connett D.  
Qualitative Systematic Review of Intimate Partner Violence among Native Americans. Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2015;36(10):754-60. PMID: 26514253
From a review of qualitative research reports of IPV among Native Americans, “IPV appears to be grounded within a history of upheaval and loss, and is entrenched and repressed within families. Victims are reluctant to seek assistance, and when they do, they often experience barriers within the service system…service providers are urged to establish trust…and to leverage cultural strengths.”

Yuvarajan E, Stanford MS.  
From an online survey and interviews with 75 male and 11 female Christian clergy, hostile sexism was a strong predictor of negative attitudes toward rape victims.

Gilgun JF, Anderson G.  
When mothers asked for help from their pastors after learning that their husbands had possibly sexually abused children in their families, some pastors were helpful and knowledgeable, some appeared bewildered, and others were hostile. “This article will sensitize pastors and other pastoral counselors to issues that child sexual abuse raises.”

Perpetrators

From an analysis of 5 peer-to-peer file sharing networks, 3/10,000 worldwide internet users were sharing child exploitation material (CEM) in a given month, varying by country. 9.5% of persons arrested for internet CEM sharing had sexually offended against children offline.

Timko C, Valenstein H, Stuart GL, Moos RH.  
Substance abuse and batterer programmes in California, USA: factors associated with treatment outcomes. Health Soc Care Community. 2015 Nov;23(6):642-53. PMID: 25470658
From data collected from 241 substance use disorder programs (SUDPs) and 235 batterer intervention programs, completion rates in SUDPs were higher when clients could obtain substance- and violence-related help at one location, and violence-prevention care was integrated.

Rhoades KA, Leve LD, Eddy JM, Chamberlain P.  
Predicting the transition from juvenile delinquency to adult criminality: Gender-specific influences in two high-risk samples. Crim Behav Ment Health. 2016 Dec;26(5):336-351. PMID: 25916547
For 142 youths referred from the juvenile justice system for chronic delinquency, “for men, juvenile justice referrals alone predicted risk of any first adult arrest as well as arrest for felony arrest specifically. For women, family violence, parental divorce and cumulative childhood risk factors, but not juvenile justice referrals, were significant predictors of adult arrest. Each additional childhood risk factor increased the risk of adult arrest by 21%.”

Figure 2. Level of victim blame, victim sympathy, and possibility of incident being avoided.
Police and Court Systems


For offending women [such as using drugs or sex work] who have been sexually assaulted, the shame and fear of not being a credible victim was amplified due to their illegal activity. This was associated with some not feeling the police would believe or help them.

Providers


"Factors that support and inhibit recovery [from childhood sexual abuse] are examined...Discussion underlines the valuable role of psychotherapy in helping children and adolescents in their healing process".


Principles of trauma-informed care and practice for mental health nurses supporting women who have experienced sexual violence include: promoting safety; role-modelling interpersonal relationships that heal; understanding culture; advocating for consumer control, choice and autonomy; understanding trauma and its impact; sharing power, inspiring hope and supporting recovery; integrating care; and sharing power and governance."


For 17 adult male survivors of child sexual abuse, negative gender stereotypes contributed to the majority waiting until adulthood to disclose their abuse.

Trueland J. When fear becomes the barrier to care. Nurs Stand. 2015 Sep 9;30(2):18-20. PMID: 26350845

“A pilot clinic run by Barts Health NHS Trust in London offers cervical screening and psychological support to women who have experienced rape or sexual assault but are reluctant to go to a doctor.”


“Reproductive coercion is behavior that interferes with a woman’s decision making regarding reproductive health. It may consist of contraception sabotage and/or pressure to either carry a pregnancy to term or to have an abortion. Reproductive coercion may coexist with intimate partner violence and be associated with higher rates of unintended pregnancy.”


Review of legal and regulatory issues relating to mandatory reporting of various forms of abuse, including professional self-policing and failure to report.


Review of nursing care of children with abusive injury in pediatric intensive care, including physical, psychological, emotional, social and developmental needs of such children and their families.


“EDs introducing a CDR [clinical decision rule] must ensure that all staff are aware of the tool, how it was developed and validated, and it should be clearly written and formatted. This is particularly important in departments with a high turnover of staff or many junior staff.” In this study, the rule was used more strictly by junior clinicians, but used more in an advisory capacity by senior clinicians.
Hoytema van Konijnenburg EM, Diderich HM, et. al.  
Comparing policies for children of parents attending hospital emergency departments after intimate partner violence, substance abuse or suicide attempt.  
In the Netherlands, after adults are seen in a hospital ED after IPV, substance abuse or a suicide attempt, if children are in the home, the family is referred to the equivalent of CPS. This study compared the family being referred to CPS vs. pediatric outpatient evaluation. CPS identified more maltreatment than pediatric staff, but referrals to services were similar and parents were positive about both interventions.

Eustace J, Baird K, Saito AS, Creedy DK.  
Midwives' experiences of routine enquiry for intimate partner violence in pregnancy.  
Barriers to Australian midwives inquiry about IPV included feeling unsupported and unprepared to ask, worries about encouraging women to disclose without clear processes and resources to support them, damage to rapport-building, time pressures, and presence of a partner at appointments – “frustration and fear”.

Hornor G, Bretl D, Chapman E, et. al.  
Corporal Punishment: Evaluation of an Intervention by PNP's.  
Of 747 pediatric nurse practitioners, prior to an intervention almost 40% endorsed spanking as sometimes necessary.

Silveira FS, Boyer W.  
Vicarious resilience in counselors of child and youth victims of interpersonal trauma.  
Discussion of the concept of vicarious optimism, hope and resilience for counselors who bear witness to clients' strengths.

Nolan CR.  
Bending without breaking: A narrative review of trauma-sensitive yoga for women with PTSD.  
Review of research on trauma-sensitive yoga to decrease PTSD/depression/anxiety, particularly as an adjunct for individuals who are non-responsive to cognitive-based psychotherapies.

Prevention

Green AE, Trott E, Willging CE, et. al.  
The role of collaborations in sustaining an evidence-based intervention to reduce child neglect.  
Child Abuse Negl. 2016 Mar;53:4-16. PMID: 26712422  
This article discusses the importance of collaboration of stakeholders to sustain evidence-based child neglect interventions, including “shared vision, building on existing relationships, academic support, problem solving and resource sharing, and maintaining collaborations over time.”

Armstead TL, Rambo K, Kearns M, Jones KM, Dills J, Brown P.  
CDC's DELTA FOCUS Program: Identifying Promising Primary Prevention Strategies for Intimate Partner Violence.  
Description of a CDC program to fund 10 state DV coalitions for 5 years to implement and evaluate programs and policies to prevent IPV “by influencing the environments and conditions in which people live, work and play.”

Casillas KL, Fauchier A, Derkash BT, Garrido EF.  
Implementation of evidence-based home visiting programs aimed at reducing child maltreatment: A meta-analytic review.  
Child Abuse Negl. 2016 Mar;53:64-80. PMID: 26724823  
In a review of research on home visitation programs to prevent child maltreatment, “several implementation factors, including training, supervision, and fidelity monitoring, had a significant effect on program outcomes, particularly child maltreatment outcomes...Implications of the study's results for those interested in implementing home visitation programs are discussed.”

A randomized controlled trial of a multi-dose bystander intervention program using peer education theater.  
Health Educ Res. 2015 Aug;30(4):554-68. PMID: 26135957  
A college bystander-related intervention “indicated three doses of the intervention during the first semester of college resulted in better outcomes than the one-time intervention during summer orientation alone.”
Comparing Online with Face-to-Face HELPP Intervention in
Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence.
An online intervention for women experiencing IPV
that included information on health, safety, legal
support and resources was shown to be feasible,
acceptable, and effective in decreasing anxiety,
depression and anger, and increasing personal and
social support.

Researchers

UNESCO
The Concept and Measurement of Violence Against Women
and Men 2017
https://oapen.org/search?identifier=623150
Free downloadable book – “sets new standards and
guidelines to influence the measurement of
violence” so that measurement can frame policy.

Chiang LF, Kress H, Sumner SA, et. al.
Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS): towards a global
surveillance system.
“This report provides information about the history,
implementation, ethical protections, utility, results,
limitations, and future directions of the VACS work”,
to create a global surveillance system of child abuse.

Center for Policy Research & NRCDV
Building Evidence for Domestic Violence Services and
Interventions: A Framing Paper Jan 2017
eFramingPaper.PDF
Brief summary and critique of the current state of
evidence on core DV victim services, identification
of key challenges and strategies, and outline of
areas of opportunity for future research.

Randall D, Childers-Buschke K, Anderson A, Taylor J.
An analysis of child protection 'standard operating
procedures for research' in higher education institutions in
the United Kingdom.
BMC Med Ethics. 2015 Sep 29;16(1):66. PMID: 26419912
After a review of standard operating procedures
from 83 institutions for research conduct among
vulnerable groups, assessment was that “The
policies that are meant to support and guide
research practice, so that children are protected,
are in the most part non-existent or poorly
developed.”

Other of Interest

Wilgus SJ, Packer MM, Lile-King R, Miller-Perrin CL, Brand BL.
Coverage of child maltreatment in abnormal psychology
textbooks: Reviewing the adequacy of the content.
Psychol Trauma. 2016 Mar;8(2):188-97. PMID: 26010115
The present study reviewed the childhood
maltreatment information in 10 undergraduate
abnormal psychology textbooks, and found
significant deficiencies. Authors make specific
recommendations. See teachtrauma.com

Wright PJ, Tokunaga RS.
Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification
of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against
Women.
Arch Sex Behav. 2016 May;45(4):955-64. PMID: 26585169
Using data from 187 college men, frequency of
exposure to men's lifestyle magazines and reality TV
programs that objectify women, and pornography,
predicted stronger attitudes supportive of violence
against women.

Thielen FW, Ten Have M, de Graaf R, et. al.
Long-term economic consequences of child maltreatment: a
population-based study.
PMID: 27154047
From Danish researchers – “child maltreatment
occurs frequently and is associated with substantial
excess costs in adulthood. The mean annual
adjusted excess costs range between €869 and
€2893 per abused person, depending on the type
of child maltreatment...the annual societal costs at
population level range between €88 million and
€395 million per one million individuals aged
between 18 and 65 years.” Costs were substantially
smaller depending on level of "mastery" — the
extent to which an individual believes they are able
to control or influence outcomes in their lives – a
potential source of intervention. [Note significant
cost/impact of emotional abuse alone.]

| Table 4 | Adjusted annual excess costs of child maltreatment per one
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>million population costs$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of abuse</td>
<td>Exposure rates %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple abuse</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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$ Adjusted for all other forms of abuse, parental anxiety, parental depression and demographies

$ 95% CIs based on 1000 bootstrap replications