

# ABUSE RESEARCH

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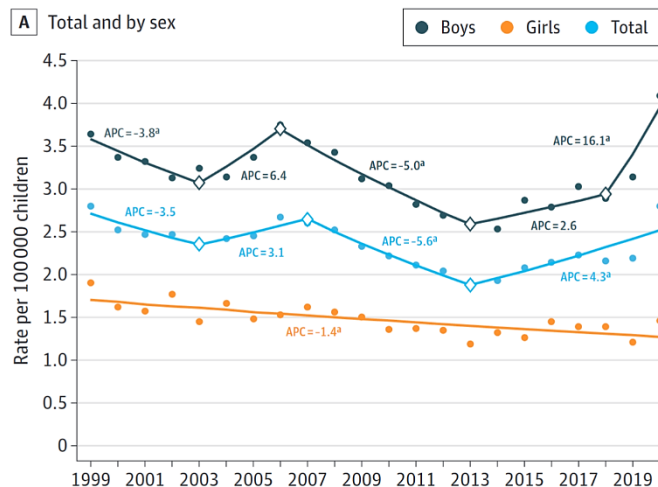
## Child Abuse

Wilson RF, Fortson BL, Zhou H, et al.

### Trends in Homicide Rates for US Children Aged 0 to 17 Years, 1999 to 2020.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Feb 1;177(2):187-197. PMID: [36534407](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36534407/)

This study included 38,362 homicide victims (69.4% male) from 1999-2020. The overall child homicide rate has increased annually since 2013, after downward trends 2007-2013, with a precipitous rise from 2019 to 2020. Homicide rates recently increased significantly for boys; children in the 6-10, 11-15, and 16-17 year-old age groups; Black and Hispanic children; and children in the south, rural, and urban areas. Homicide rates have decreased for girls, infants, 1-5 year-olds, Asian or Pacific Islander children, White children, and children in the Northeast. "Homicides of children 10 years or younger were most commonly precipitated by abuse/neglect, and perpetrated by parents/caregivers. Homicides of 11- to 17-year-olds were most commonly precipitated by crime and arguments and perpetrated by someone known to them, especially friends and acquaintances."



Esposito T, Caldwell J, Chabot M, et al.

### Childhood Prevalence of Involvement with the Child Protection System in Quebec: A Longitudinal Study.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022;20(1). PMID: [36612946](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36612946/)

In the first ever study of its kind in Canada, child protection involvement in Quebec over 17 years showed that "before reaching the age of 18 years, over 18% of children were reported to child protection at least once, one in every ten children (10.1%) in the province had a report that led to the finding of their security or development being compromised, and over 5% were placed outside the home...neglect was a primary concern in close to half (47.6%) of cases." These findings only captured initial incidents of involvement with child protection, not recurrent involvement.

Vermeulen S, Alink LRA, van Berckel SR.

### Child Maltreatment During School and Childcare Closure Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Child Maltreat. 2023 Feb;28(1):13-23. PMID: [35105228](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35105228/)

"Based on reports of childcare professionals and primary and secondary school teachers (N = 444) in the Netherlands, "The prevalence of emotional neglect was found to be three times higher during the lockdown...and was reflected in overall emotional neglect as well as for two main subtypes of emotional neglect: educational neglect and witnessing domestic violence. No significant differences were found for other types of child maltreatment. Most of the reported cases of maltreatment were already problematic before the lockdown and became worse during the lockdown."

Park WJ, Walsh KA.

### COVID-19 and the unseen pandemic of child abuse.

BMJ paediatrics open. 2022;6(1). PMID: [36645748](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36645748/)

In this editorial examining the effects of pandemic lockdown on children, authors discuss disparate data on abuse as well as results from a variety of counties that did and did not close schools, making the case for keeping schools open. "The desire for a sense of security may be a tempting bias towards emphasising the resilience of children, but it is ethically problematic to push children towards abuse in the name of public health. Suffering in silence is not resilience. In the face of uncertainty, protecting vulnerable children ought to be of the utmost priority. It is our view that the collateral damage of prolonged school closures for society's most vulnerable members is a powerful ethical consideration against any pandemic response."

# Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Najman JM, Scott JG, Farrington DP, et al.

## Does Childhood Maltreatment Lead to Low Life Success? Comparing Agency and Self-Reports.

J Interpers Violence. 2023 Jan;38(1-2):NP1320-NP1342.

PMID: [35466762](#)

From an Australian study of individuals from pre-birth to age 30, “Childhood maltreatment whether measured by agency report or self-report predicts overall low life success” – low life success was predicted by childhood maltreatment OR = 2.60, physical abuse OR = 2.37, sexual abuse OR = 2.85, emotional abuse OR = 2.53, and neglect OR = 2.36.

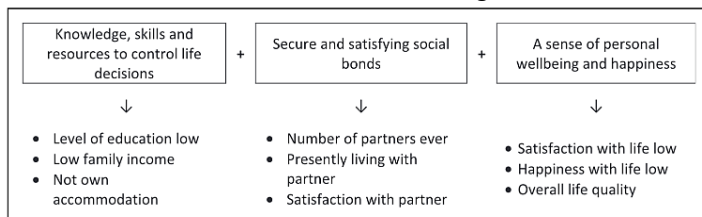


Figure 1. Components of Life Success.

Eid K, Torkildsen Ø, Aarseth J, et al.

## Abuse and revictimization in adulthood in multiple sclerosis: a cross-sectional study during pregnancy.

J Neurol. 2022 Nov;269(11):5901-5909. PMID: [35780399](#)

Of 106 Norwegian pregnant women with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) from a national registry, those with MS reported increased rates of adult abuse (26% vs. 20%), lifetime emotional abuse (21% vs. 13%), and lifetime sexual abuse (10% vs. 6%). In addition, women with MS were 2.37 times more likely to report rape as an adult, and 2.23 times more likely to report adult revictimization after child abuse. The risk of abuse during pregnancy was the same for those both with and without MS.

Teigen PK, Hagemann CT, Fors EA, et al.

## Chronic vulvar pain in gynecological outpatients.

Scand J Pain. 2022 Jul 11;23(1):97-103. PMID: [35822705](#)

From a questionnaire answered by 762 women at a Norwegian gynecology outpatient clinic, 17.1% reported chronic vulvar pain (CVP) during the past year (pain in the vulvar area exceeding three months of duration, with a reported prevalence of 7-8% in the general population). Those with CVP were 2.0 times more likely to report child sexual abuse.

Kapoor E.

## Childhood adversity and gynecological conditions.

Case Rep Womens Health. 2022 Aug 12;36:e00438. PMID: [36589638](#)

Author reviews the research linking increased menopausal symptoms and increased rates of gynecologic surgeries with increased ACE scores, possible physiological explanations/mechanisms, and calls for increased education of medical professionals about this link “so that women can be screened for ACEs in the relevant clinical situations and be offered appropriate counseling, support, and mental health resources” to make more informed choices about treatment, including having surgery.

Legendre M, Sabourin S, Bégin C.

## Childhood sexual abuse and food addiction severity in a clinical sample of individuals with overweight or obesity.

Eat Weight Disord. 2022 Dec;27(8):3737-3742. PMID: [35994206](#)

Of 187 adults presenting with eating and weight disorders, of all of the interpersonal traumas, childhood sexual abuse was associated with the highest risk (about 2 times higher) of food addiction. In addition, “The relationship with the abuser, the type of sexual abuse, and the number of abuses are relevant factors” in food addiction.

# Adolescents

Grossberg A, Rice T.

## Depression and Suicidal Behavior in Adolescents.

Med Clin North Am. 2023 Jan;107(1):169-182. PMID: [36402497](#)

“Depression commonly onsets in adolescence, affecting approximately 1 in 4 female adolescents and 1 in 10 males in the United States. Adolescent depression is a significant risk factor for suicide, the cause of over a third of all American adolescent deaths. Adolescent depression is introduced with a focus on important risk factors, including non-suicidal self-injury, ACEs, and substance abuse. Protective factors and contemporary special topics of the COVID-19 pandemic and social media use are reviewed. Therapeutic options and clinical barriers are highlighted.”

**Box 1**  
Evaluation and screening recommendations to assess for adolescent depression and suicidality

Adolescent Depression and Suicidality Screening Recommendations:

- Assess peer relationships, including bullying
- Assess family relationships
- Ask about romantic relationships
- Screen for nicotine, cannabis, and alcohol use
- Ask about social media use
- Inquire about the presence of isolation
- Inquire about the effects of COVID-19 on mood
- Ask family psychiatric history
- Evaluate for prior suicide attempts
- Screen for non-suicidal self-injury

Test Offer S, Alexander E, Barbara K, et al.

### The association between childhood trauma and overweight and obesity in young adults: the mediating role of food addiction.

Eat Weight Disord. 2022 Dec;27(8):3257-3266. PMID: [35907144](#)

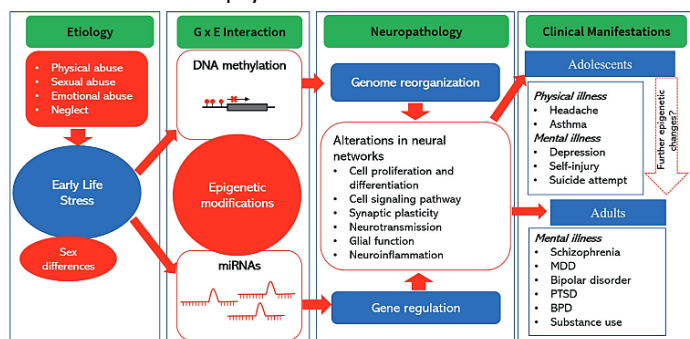
Of 512 UK young adults, “experiences of childhood trauma are associated with the development of overweight and obesity during early adulthood and up to half of this relationship can be attributed to food addiction, which is likely used as a maladaptive coping mechanism in response to trauma. Young adults living with overweight and obesity who report experiences of childhood trauma may benefit from the support of clinical and counselling psychologists to improve their understanding of the underlying psychosocial factors that influence their eating behaviours.”

Ochi S, Dwivedi Y.

### Dissecting early life stress-induced adolescent depression through epigenomic approach.

Mol Psychiatry. 2023 Jan;28(1):141-153. PMID: [36517640](#)

Authors discuss the evidence for common epigenetic changes caused by early life stress, including DNA methylation, histone modification, and the regulation of noncoding RNAs; the commonalities and differences in epigenetic profiling between adolescents and adults; the changes that are sex-dependent as well as by type of early life stress; and the subsequent impact on adolescent psychiatric disorders.



## Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Gilliam HC, Howell KH, Paulson JL, Napier TR, Miller-Graff LE. **Pregnancy complications and intimate partner violence: The moderating role of prenatal posttraumatic stress symptoms.**

J Trauma Stress. 2022 Oct;35(5):1484-1496. PMID: [35765157](#)

Of 137 IPV-exposed pregnant women, mean age 27.29 years, 66.9% African American, and controlling for socioeconomic status, gestational age, and childhood trauma, more frequent sexual IPV and higher levels of PTSD were associated with more pregnancy complications.”

Alhusen JL, Lyons G, Laughon K, Hughes RB.

### IPV during the perinatal period by disability status: Findings from a United States population-based analysis.

J Adv Nurs. 2022 Jun 30;10.1111/jan.15340. PMID: [35773949](#)

From a large study including 24 participating states 2018-2020, “respondents with disabilities had about 2.6 times the odds of experiencing IPV before pregnancy, and about 2.5 times the odds of experiencing IPV during pregnancy, compared with those without disabilities...and thus are at increased risk for adverse maternal, neonatal and infant health outcomes...Findings highlight the need to screen women with disabilities for IPV during the perinatal period as well as the importance of providing them appropriate, accessible information, resources and referrals.”

Gower T, Jouriles EN, Rosenfield D, McDonald R.

### Physical and psychological IPV: Relations with child threat appraisals and internalizing and externalizing symptoms.

J Fam Psychol. 2022 Oct;36(7):1106-1116. PMID: [35771501](#)

Of 531 children aged 7-10 years and their mothers, “physical and psychological IPV had additive effects on child threat appraisals [perceived potential degree of harm, and perceived vulnerability] and child reports of disruptive behavior problems...Notably, psychological IPV was also associated with child threat appraisals, anxiety symptoms, and disruptive behavior problems even in the absence of physical IPV.”

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Holmes SC, King KC, Gonzalez A, et al.

### Associations among IPV, PTSD, and Disordered Eating among Women IPV Survivors Residing in Shelter.

J Interpers Violence. 2023 Jan;38(1-2):NP2135-NP2158. PMID: [35536767](#)

Of 212 IPV survivors residing in a shelter, 67.9% met criteria for probable PTSD, 20.3% met criteria for a probable eating disorder, and 18.4% met probable criteria for both. “Implications highlight the need for attention to disordered eating within this population.”

Barber C.

### Providing the right support and care for male victims of domestic abuse.

Br J Nurs. 2023;32(1):20-8. PMID: [36626263](#)

“Men who experience domestic abuse continue to feel stigmatised and ignored by a discourse and framework that are still largely female oriented and driven. The article proposes approaches to support men who experience domestic abuse.”

#### KEY POINTS

- Although much has been written about domestic abuse, this has mostly been from the standpoint of the female as the victim/survivor and the male as the perpetrator
- Out of 2.36 million people who experience domestic abuse around one third are men, or just over 1% of the UK population
- About 25% of those who identify themselves as being LGBTQ+ experience domestic abuse
- Much of the existing resources that are accessed by men revolve around telephone outreach and online information and support groups
- Key to the role of the nurse is validating men's experiences, asking the right questions and listening to the answers without judgement

## Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Schaffer O, Xie F, Cheng D, et al.

### Trends in concussion mechanism of injury during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Journal of the neurological sciences. 2022;445:120538. PMID: [36608628](#)

From a review of medical records at a New York Health Concussion Center comparing 2019 to 2020, there were 48% fewer visits during the COVID-19 pandemic period compared to the 2019 control period. There was a decreased proportion of pediatric patients (15% control, 6% pandemic). Fewer concussions were related to team sports (21% vs. 5%), and a greater proportion were caused by bicycle accidents (4% vs. 8%) and assault/domestic violence (3% vs. 9%).

Patch M, Anderson JC, Alexander KA, et al.

### Didn't put a label on it: Examining intimate partner strangulation within a diagnostic framework.

J Adv Nurs. 2022 Jul 21:10.1111/jan.15380. PMID: [35864083](#)

“In-depth interviews with women after an emergency department visit for non-fatal intimate partner strangulation, concurrent with medical records reviews, were conducted between March 2018 and January 2019...Interviews reflected participants did not have a sense of long-term health risks from their strangulation beyond addressing emotional trauma...Medical record clinical impressions and final diagnoses included

domestic violence, domestic abuse or sexual assault, but not specifically strangulation.” Nurses are strongly encouraged to become clinical practice leaders and policy advocates to improve documentation and patient education.

Turkstra LS, Salanki K, MacIntyre E, et al.

### What Is the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in Fracture Clinic Patients?

Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2023 Jan 1;481(1):132-142. PMID: [36200843](#)

From a survey of 146 Canadian women, mean age 52 years, seen at a fracture clinic, “Previous-year prevalence of physical IPV was 7%, and lifetime prevalence was 28%. Previous-year prevalence of TBI was 8%, and lifetime prevalence was 49%...screening for IPV identified proportionately more patients with TBI than screening for TBI, but the reverse was not true.” Given that the fracture clinic may be the first healthcare contact for women with IPV and TBI, especially mild TBI associated with IPV, authors recommend educating frontline staff on how to identify IPV and TBI, implementing brief screening and referral, and supporting effective communication with patients with TBI-related cognitive and communication challenges.

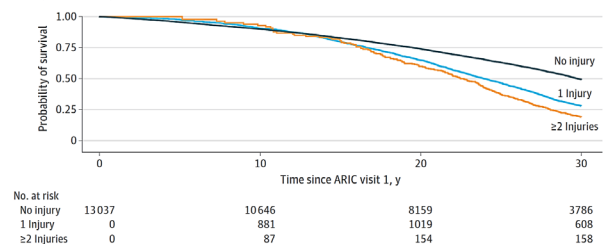
Elser H, Gottesman RF, Walter AE, et al.

### Head Injury and Long-term Mortality Risk in Community-Dwelling Adults.

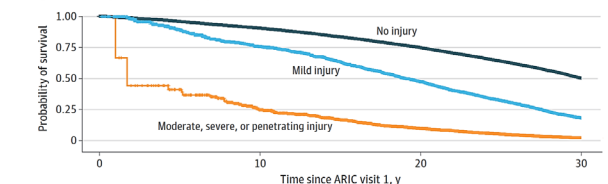
JAMA Neurol. 2023 Jan 23:e225024. PMID: [36689218](#)

In a large ongoing study of adults in 4 US states, followed for 27.0 years, head injuries occurred in 18.4% (identified both by self-report and hospital diagnosis), most of which were classified as mild. “Head injury was associated with decreased long-term survival time in a dose-dependent manner,” including number of instances as well as severity. “This finding was consistent within subgroups defined by race and sex.”

C Probability of survival by number of head injuries



D Probability of survival by head injury severity



# Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Williams B.

## **Understanding the effects of adverse childhood experiences on older people.**

Nurs Older People. 2023 Jan 30;35(1):37-42. PMID: [36475401](#)

“This article gives an overview of the long-term mental and physical effects of adverse childhood experiences and discusses how childhood trauma may manifest in older people. The author also discusses how nurses and unpaid family carers may themselves have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences and how this may affect their caring role.”

Atkinson E, Roberto KA.

## **Global Approaches to Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Elder Abuse Prevention: A Scoping Review.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;15248380221145735. PMID: [36636948](#)

Authors summarize global research on elder abuse prevention, including primary prevention (agism, education, and intervention), secondary prevention (developing and evaluating screening tools, identifying and reporting abuse, and barriers to detecting and reporting abuse), and tertiary prevention (professional response to cases of abuse, intervention methods, and impact of policy), as well as gaps in research.

# Sexual Assault

Carlsson AC, Owen U, Rajan G.

## **Sexual violence, mental health, and suicidality-Results from a survey in cooperation with idea-driven organizations and their social media platform followers.**

Health Sci Rep. 2022 Dec 2;6(1):e973. PMID: [36479393](#)

From an online survey of 4831 adults, “Of the participants exposed to penetrating sexual violence, 49% stated that they had or had been diagnosed with depression, compared with 16% in the group not exposed to sexual violence.” Similar findings were found for anxiety (45% versus 12%), fatigue syndrome (28% vs. 9%), post-traumatic stress disorder (30% vs. <0.1% ), and suicide attempts (29% versus 3%). “More participants in the group exposed to sexual violence had grown up in families with alcohol problems, suicide attempts, or where

they have witnessed violence...Steps should be taken to adapt the national suicide prevention strategy to the association between sexual violence and suicide attempts.”

Maier SL.

## **Rape Victim Advocates' Perceptions of the #MeToo Movement: Opportunities, Challenges, and Sustainability.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023 Jan;38(1-2):NP336-NP365. PMID: [35416073](#)

41 rape victim advocates “credit the movement for: empowering survivors to disclose their experience, possibly due to reduced stigma surrounding sexual victimization given the number of disclosures; providing support through social media from other survivors; and increasing societal awareness of the prevalence of sexual victimization. Those interviewed fault the movement for: giving the false perception that since so many survivors are stepping forward then reports must be fabricated; pressuring victims to support the movement through disclosure, and criticizing those who do not disclose; and hindering survivors' ability to escape media and social media coverage of sexual victimization.”

Lue N, Nwadiuko J, Parmar P, Zeidan A.

## **Trends in Sexual Assault Against Detainees in US Immigration Detention Centers, 2018-2022.**

Jama. 2023;329(4):338-9. PMID: [36692571](#)

“Of 129 facilities included, 70.3% reported allegations over a 44-month period. A total of 922 sexual assault allegations were reported to ICE facility administration. Alleged perpetrators included facility staff (29.5%), other detainees (66.4%), and nondetainee inmates (4.1%). Of these allegations, 12.8% were substantiated. Substantiation rates were the highest among nondetainee inmate perpetrators (29.7%) and lowest among facility staff perpetrators (3.3%)...This study found that overall trends in reported sexual assault allegations in ICE facilities were stable between 2018 and 2022, although allegations against facility staff significantly increased. The latter finding could reflect true increases in the incidence of sexual assault by staff or increased reporting. A low percentage were substantiated. The ICE website provides little clarity on the process of substantiation, and previous investigations have demonstrated ICE's failure to report and investigate allegations.”

Koon-Magnin S, Mancini C.

### **Faculty and Staff Perceptions of Title IX Mandatory Reporting Policies at Two Institutions.**

Violence Against Women. 2023;29(2):347-69. PMID: [35075924](#)

Authors investigated perceptions and experiences re: Title IX mandatory reporting by employees (n = 166) at two postsecondary institutions. "Findings indicate that most employees are aware of their reporting duties, likely to comply, have received training, and support mandated reporting. Additionally, we find significant sociodemographic differences in perceptions of mandatory reporting. Those who have had a direct experience reporting have mixed reactions to the process. We discuss research and policy implications."

## Human Trafficking

O'Brien JE, Jensen T, Mitchell K, White K.

### **Commercial Sexual Exploitation Outcomes in a Community Sample of Youth.**

J Adolesc Health. 2023 Jan;72(1):51-58. PMID: [36224063](#)

From a national adolescent survey, 430 youth who had experienced commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), "had higher levels of injection drug use, more police stops, more emergency room visits, and lower relationship satisfaction than their nonexploited peers...Youth receiving drug treatment, experiencing delinquency, or being seen in emergency medical settings may benefit from CSE screening."

### **ICD-10-CM codes infrequently used to document human trafficking in 2019 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample.**

Am J Emerg Med. 2023;64:37-42. PMID: [36435008](#)

"Human trafficking (HT) was rarely documented as an external cause of morbidity in 989 hospitals' ED visits from a nationally representative sample in 2019...Efforts to enhance the utility of ICD-10-CM HT codes for surveillance and documentation must first address ED personnel training on identification and response to HT. In doing so, ED personnel also need to address ethical concerns (e.g. stigma, confidentiality, risk of patient harm) and allow for informed consent among trafficked patients in order to be scaled up responsibly."

## LGBTQ Concerns

Srivastava A, Rusow J, Schrage SM, et al.

### **Digital Sexual Violence and Suicide Risk in a National Sample of Sexual Minority Adolescents.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;38(3-4):4443-58. PMID: [35942940](#)

"From an online sample of sexual minority adolescents (aged 14-17) recruited from across the United States (n = 970)...9.1% of participants reported being threatened to have their sexually explicit media posted without their consent, while 6.5% reported their sexually explicit media had been posted without their consent. Threat to post sexually explicit media without consent was associated with higher odds of reporting suicidal ideation (odds ratio [OR] = 1.88), suicide plan (OR = 2.12), suicide attempt (OR = 3.56), and self-harm (OR = 1.96); while nonconsensual actual posting of sexually explicit media was associated with higher odds of reporting suicidal ideation (OR = 1.82) and suicide attempt (OR = 2.20). All models controlled for age, assigned sex at birth, sexual identity, and race and ethnicity."

## Race/Cultural Concerns

Patchin JW, Hinduja S.

### **Cyberbullying Among Asian American Youth Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

J Sch Health. 2023 Jan;93(1):82-87. PMID: [36221854](#)

Using data from 3 unique national surveys of teens, "More youth have experienced cyberbullying since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Asian American youth most likely to report increased victimization. In 2021, 23.2% of youth reported experiencing cyberbullying compared to 17.2% in 2019 and 16.7% in 2016. Among Asian American youth, 23.5% said they were cyberbullied because of their race in 2021, compared to 7.4% in 2019 and 13.9% in 2016."

James-Conterelli S, Dunkley D, McIntosh JT, et al.

### **The impact of systemic racism on health outcomes among Black women: Recommendations for change.**

Nurse Pract. 2023;48(2):23-32. PMID: [36700792](#)

"This article explores the lasting effects of systemic racism on the health outcomes of Black women across the lifespan. A case study and specific strategies are presented to examine how clinicians, educators, and policymakers can work with Black women to mitigate and eliminate health inequities."



Lord BD, Harris AR, Ambs S.

**The impact of social and environmental factors on cancer biology in Black Americans.**

Cancer Causes Control. 2023 Mar;34(3):191-203. PMID: [36562901](#)

“This review provides an overview of the current literature on how socioenvironmental factors within neighborhoods contribute to more aggressive tumor biology, specifically in Black U.S. women and men, including the impact of environmental pollutants, neighborhood deprivation, social isolation, structural racism, and discrimination. We also summarize commonly used methods to measure deprivation, discrimination, and structural racism at the neighborhood-level in cancer health disparities research. Finally, we offer recommendations to adopt a multi-faceted intersectional approach to reduce cancer health disparities and develop effective interventions to promote health equity.”

Eakin CM, Lai T, Cohen JG.

**Alarming trends and disparities in high-risk endometrial cancer.**

Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol. 2023 Feb 1;35(1):15-20. PMID: [36239552](#)

“In this review we highlight the endometrial cancer survival disparity between black and white women. The lack of progress made in endometrial cancer treatment, particularly of high-risk histologic subtypes, disproportionately affects black women who are more likely to be diagnosed with these aggressive tumor types. Even when accounting for high-risk histology, various factors across the spectrum of care may influence the survival disparities between black and white women, including timely access to guideline-concordant care, clinical trial enrollment, and systemic racism that impacts cancer outcomes.”

Banks DE, Duello A, Paschke ME, Grigsby SR, Winograd RP.

**Identifying drivers of increasing opioid overdose deaths among black individuals**

Harm reduction journal. 2023;20(1):5. PMID: [36639769](#)

From a series of focus groups with key local community stakeholders, “opioid overdose death among Black individuals is driven by unmet needs for safety, security, stability, and survival (The 4Ss). A lack of The 4Ss was reflective of healthcare and social service barriers perpetuated by systemic racism. Participants’ unmet 4S needs are associated with health and social consequences that perpetuate overdose and detrimentally impact recovery efforts. Participants identified cultural and relationship-based strategies that may address The 4Ss and mitigate overdose in Black communities.”

## Perpetrators

Letourneau EJ, Roberts TWM, Malone L, Sun Y.

**No Check We Won't Write: A Report on the High Cost of Sex Offender Incarceration.**

Sex Abuse. 2023;35(1):54-82. PMID: [35318871](#)

From a summary of publicly available information, “the annual cost to incarcerate adults convicted of sex crimes against children in the United States approaches \$5.4 billion. This estimate does not include any costs incurred prior to incarceration (e.g., related to detection and prosecution) or post-release (e.g., related to supervision or registration). Nor does this estimate capture administrative and judicial costs associated with appeals, or administrative costs that cannot be extricated from other budgets...We believe information on the substantial funding dedicated to incarceration will be useful to U.S. federal, state, and local lawmakers and to international policymakers as they consider allocating resources to the development, evaluation and dissemination of effective prevention strategies aimed at keeping children safe from sexual abuse in the first place.”

## Police and Court Systems

Avicenna F, Yudianto A, I'Tishom R, Wungu CDK.

**Effect of machine-washing semen-stained fabrics on the persistence of human spermatozoa DNA: A systematic review of five articles.**

Leg Med (Tokyo). 2023;60:102179. PMID: [36450204](#)

“Biological evidence of sexual violence, such as semen, can change due to fabric washing. This can be due to attempts by the perpetrator to eliminate evidence or because the victim feels ashamed of sexual violence.” From a research review that “observed the effect of machine-washing factors on the persistence of human spermatozoa DNA, such as water temperature, washing duration, detergent type, washing repetition, and duration of fabric storage before washing...fabric washing insignificantly affects spermatozoa DNA persistence, and DNA might persist after multiple washes.”

Wells JM, Walker VP.

### **"Do No Harm": Promoting Anti-Racist Policing in Pediatric Emergency Departments Through 20 Practice Change Considerations.**

Health Promot Pract. 2023;15248399221145160. PMID: [36648067](#)

“We propose assessment and evaluation of current security and police encounters within pediatric EDs. We call for institution of policies that mitigate biases, address medical mistrust, distinguish clinical from criminal aggression, and minimize punitive contact with police. We outline a multitiered, patient-centered approach to disruptive and violent acts that prioritizes prevention, early intervention, and de-escalation strategies with a goal of reducing the perceived need for policing presence in pediatric EDs.”

Johnson ID, Lewis R.

### **Victim-Survivors' Prioritization of Reasons for Non-Reporting Adult Sexual Assaults to Law Enforcement.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;38(3-4):4293-316. PMID: [35876021](#)

From an online survey of 95 Alaska adults who had experienced sexual assault and did not report, the reasons that were more commonly endorsed changed when measuring prioritization of reasons (primary, secondary, and tertiary) rather than simple endorsement. There were few subgroup differences due to racial/ethnic identity.

Figure 2. Reasons for non-reporting of adult experiences with sexual assault to law enforcement that were included as one of victim-survivors' top three reasons for non-reporting.

1. Afraid of harm from perpetrator or their family
2. Nothing happened with prior report
3. Too ashamed
4. Police would not believe me
5. Police would not have helped
6. Drinking or drugs when assaulted
7. Perpetrator was partner
8. Bad experience with police
9. Afraid of others finding out
10. Could not remember details of assault
11. Afraid of negatively affecting family or community
12. Believed it was too private or personal
13. Did not trust police
14. Reported to someone other than police
15. Did not think it was a crime
16. Did not think it was sexual assault per Alaska law
17. Family or community would view as traitor
18. Dealt with it myself
19. Did not want to do forensic exam
20. Did not like police
21. Too much trouble
22. Worried about own CJ involvement
23. Silence is the norm
24. Did not want perpetrator in trouble with police
25. Someone persuaded me not to
26. No police in community
27. Did not know who assailant was
28. Someone in my family dealt with it
29. Did not want to travel

Brady PQ, Zedaker SB, McKay K, Scott D.

### **The Darker the Skin, the Greater the Disparity? Why a Reliance on Visible Injuries Fosters Health, Legal, and Racial Disparities in Domestic Violence Complaints Involving Strangulation.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605221145726. PMID: [36695177](#)

From an analysis of 133 standardized strangulation assessments by police officers who responded to family violence complaints, while racial/ethnic differences did not emerge for symptoms of disrupted airflow, compared to cases involving White/Asian survivors, officers were less likely to identify external injuries on Black survivors' neck, chin, and chest/shoulders. “The reliance on external injuries for justice is misguided given that assault injuries may be less visible among victims of color due to increased melanin in the skin.”

## Providers

Vega S, Nienow SM, Huang MZ, Stover LB.

### **Medical Child Welfare Task Force: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Identifying Medical Child Abuse.**

Pediatrics. 2023 Feb 1;151(2):e2022058926. PMID: [36655381](#)

“The Medical Child Welfare Task Force was developed to formalize education and collaboration around medical child abuse. The support of institutional leadership and involvement of multiple medical disciplines that commonly encounter these patients was vital to the implementation and long-term success of the endeavor...education was provided to clinicians in a variety of forums. Moreover, we leveraged the electronic medical record to streamline our ability to monitor cases of medical child abuse and communicate the concerns and plan of care to other providers, both within and outside of our health system.”

Mazzeo G, Bendixen R.

### **Community-Based Interventions for Childhood Trauma: A Scoping Review.**

OTJR (Thorofare N J). 2023 Jan;43(1):14-23. PMID: [35485320](#)

In a research review of occupational therapy-related interventions to reduce trauma/PTSD such as play and art therapy, yoga, and equine-facilitated interventions, “Occupational therapists working in community settings appear to be underutilized in the treatment of children who have experienced trauma. Future studies should examine occupational therapists' potential to work alongside mental health providers in the community to optimize functional outcomes for traumatized children.”



Davis L, Aylward A, Buchanan R.

### Trauma-Informed Yoga: Investigating an Intervention for Mitigating Adverse Childhood Experiences in Rural Contexts.

Educ Stud. 2022;58(4):530-59. PMID: [36654845](#)

Through a seven-week, twice weekly intervention of trauma-informed yoga for high school students in a rural Montana community, participants experienced statistically significant reductions in anxiety, depressive symptoms, and salivary cortisol levels; and an improvement in sleep duration.

“Importantly, participant qualitative feedback indicated significant benefits in focus, relaxation, and overall well-being.”

Choi K, Boudreau AA, Dunn EC.

### Raising the bar for measuring childhood adversity.

The Lancet Child & adolescent health. 2023;7(2):81-3. PMID: [36265505](#)

“Awareness about the harmful effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) has increased in the past decade among paediatric providers and researchers. Hundreds of observational studies have documented the prevalence and consequences of childhood adversity...However, substantial challenges in how to screen for, respond to, and address ACEs remain unresolved, raising the possibility that screening can do more harm than good. To mitigate these harms, we offer four recommendations to consider when deploying adversity screening: clarity is needed on what ACE scores do (and do not) measure; there needs to be capacity to deploy ACE screening tools safely and effectively; paediatric providers and health-care systems need to deploy screening at the right time and interpret screening results with context; and emerging evidence about the science of ACE measurement, including its limitations, should be used as the basis for action. A key criticism of ACE screening is the lack of widely available evidence-based interventions for clinical response.”

## Prevention

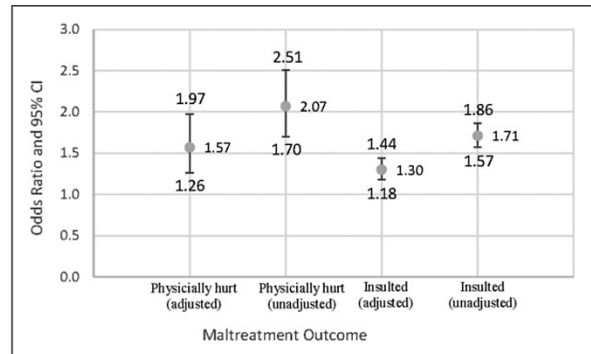
Ma M, Orsi R, Brooks-Russell A.

### Is Household Unemployment Associated With Increased Verbal and Physical Child Abuse During the COVID Pandemic?

Child Maltreat. 2023 Feb;28(1):7-12. PMID: [35445620](#)

Of 7,555 students from 51 schools in Colorado that participated in a survey administered from October to December 2020, having a parent or other adult in the home with a job loss was associated with higher

odds of emotional or physical abuse. “The findings are consistent with child maltreatment prevention strategies focused on alleviating economic hardship.”



**Figure 1.** Association between parent/adult’s unemployment and child abuse during COVID-19 pandemic. The adjusted ORs were adjusted for sex, grade, race/ethnicity, sex orientation, mother’s education, food/house insecurity during pandemic, receiving food donation during pandemic, and urbanicity.

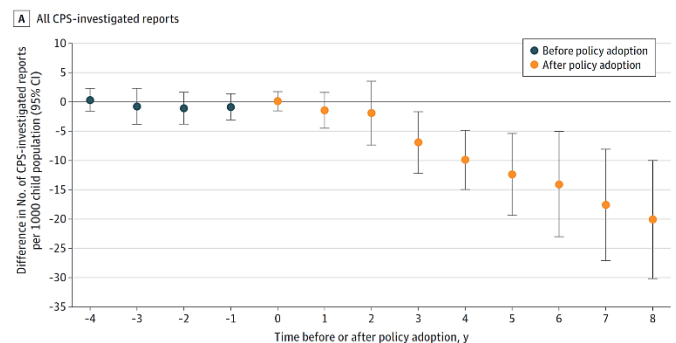
Austin AE, Shanahan ME, Frank M, et al.

### Association of State Expansion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Eligibility With Rates of Child Protective Services-Invigated Reports.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Jan 23:e225348. PMID: [36689239](#)

In an analysis of CPS-investigated reports from 2006 to 2019 for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, “state expansion of SNAP eligibility through elimination of the asset test and increases in the income limit may contribute to decreases in rates of CPS-investigated reports,” for both Black and White children. “Although there were a few years between policy adoption and decreases in CPS-investigated reports for both policies, the magnitude of these decreases increased with greater time since policy adoption, indicating both sustained and accumulating benefits over time.”

**Figure 3.** Association of State Elimination of the Asset Test and Increases in the Income Limit for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Eligibility With Rates of Child Protective Services (CPS)-Invigated Reports (2006-2019)



Logan-Greene P, Bishop AS, Kim BE, Nurius PS.  
**Protective Factors Against Aggression and Antisocial Attitudes Among Probation Youth with Childhood Adversity Histories.**

Prev Sci. 2023 Jan;24(1):161-172. PMID: [36478337](#)  
Of 5378 youth on probation, "childhood maltreatment was the most salient form of adversity for increasing both aggression and antisocial attitudes. All protective factors (self-regulation, future orientation, positive parenting, prosocial connections) were associated with reduced aggression and antisocial attitudes, and muted the impact of childhood adversity on both outcomes."

## Researchers

AbiNader MA, Graham LM, Kafka JM.  
**Examining Intimate Partner Violence-Related Fatalities: Past Lessons and Future Directions Using U.S. National Data.**

J Fam Violence. 2023:1-12. PMID: [36685752](#)  
Among homicides in the United States, intimate partners kill almost 50% of female and 10% of male victims. Intimate partner violence (IPV) also contributes to an estimated 6% of suicides. Thus, researchers must investigate the context and circumstances of IPV-related fatalities to inform effective prevention strategy development. There are two primary national fatality databases that can be used to examine such factors: the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS, homicide and suicides); and the Uniform Crime Reporting-Supplementary Homicide Reports (UCR-SHR, homicides). These datasets...are limited by variations in data quality. This critical review summarizes opportunities and challenges when examining IPV-related fatalities using these national datasets."

Grace KT, Miller E.  
**Future directions for reproductive coercion and abuse research.**

Reprod Health. 2023 Jan 2;20(1):5. PMID: [36593505](#)  
Authors review the present state of knowledge on reproductive coercion and abuse (RCA), and describe areas for future exploration, including "evolving interpretations of pregnancy intention in the setting of fewer options for abortion, RCA in people with disabilities and multiple levels of marginalization, including sexual and gender minorities; intersections between RCA and economic abuse in the context of efforts at

economic justice; and community-centered approaches to intervention and prevention."

Alhawaymel FM, Kalmakis KA, Chiodo LM, et al.  
**Adverse Childhood Experiences and Chronic Diseases: Identifying a Cut-Point for ACE Scores.**

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(2). PMID: [36674405](#)  
"The aim of this study is to clarify a cut-point at which ACEs are significantly associated with negative chronic health outcomes...analyses were performed on a sample of 10,047 adults. The results showed that a cut-point of four or more ACEs was significantly associated with increased rates of chronic disease. Participants with at least one chronic disease were almost 3 times more likely (OR = 2.8) to be in the high ACE group. A standardized cut-point for ACE scores will assist in future research examining the impact of high ACEs across cultures to study the effect of ACEs on health."

## Other of Interest

Storer HL, Mitchell B, Willey-Sthapit C.  
**"Safety Is Elusive:" A Critical Discourses Analysis of Newspapers' Reporting of Domestic Violence During the Coronavirus Pandemic.**

Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012221150277. PMID: [36659859](#)  
"This paper explores representations of safety within newspapers' reporting of DV during the pandemic. The sample included newspaper articles (n = 31) from U.S. newspapers...These articles depicted limited courses of action for DV survivors and represented safety as unattainable. Safety was constructed in four ways: homes are unsafe, social services are overburdened, government failures, and the elusiveness of safety."

Straus LD, An X, Ji Y, et al.  
**Utility of Wrist-Wearable Data for Assessing Pain, Sleep, and Anxiety Outcomes After Traumatic Stress Exposure.**  
JAMA Psychiatry. 2023 Mar 1;80(3):220-229. PMID: [36630119](#)

Of 2021 adults seen in 27 emergency departments after a traumatic event (usually a motor vehicle accident) and who agreed to wear a monitoring wrist device, reduced 24-hour activity identified individuals with greater pain severity, and biomarkers also showed high predictive value in those who had good recovery for pain, sleep, and anxiety. "Wrist-activity biomarkers may have utility as screening tools for adverse pain, sleep, and anxiety symptom outcomes after trauma exposure."