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Child Abuse

Palusci VJ, Schnitzer PG, Collier A.

Social and demographic characteristics of child maltreatment fatalities among children ages 5-17 years.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;136:106002. PMID: [36621053](#)

1478 maltreatment-related deaths were identified from national data among children aged 5-17 during 2009-2018. "Higher proportions of older children were non-Hispanic white, had a history of chronic disease or disability, had problems in school, and had a history of mental health issues. Forty-three percent of the maltreatment deaths were due to homicide and 10% by suicide. Higher proportions (65%) of younger children (5-10 years old) died by homicide, compared to older children (35% among ages 11-17y). While 58% of deaths overall were related to neglect, 68% of deaths in older children were related to neglect, including 80% of suicides."

Raza F, Yeh HW, Goggin K, Connelly M, Sullivant S.

Rates of Positive Suicide Screens in the Emergency Department and Outpatient Clinics at a Tertiary Care Children's Hospital.

J Adolesc Health. 2023 Jan 14:S1054-139X(22)01019-9.

PMID: [36646562](#)

"Suicide screening results from healthcare encounters at one tertiary care children's hospital occurring between February 2019 and January 2020 were estimated for ambulatory clinics (OP), urgent care (UC) clinics, and the emergency department (ED)...Positive screens were found in 10.8% of visits overall. Rates of positive screens were 14.5% in the ED, 9.9% in OP, and 9.3% in UC. Rates of positive screens in outpatient clinics were highest in child abuse 33.4% and adolescent specialty 19.2%."

Ashworth E, Jarman I, McCabe P, et al.

Suicidal Crisis among Children and Young People: Associations with ACEs and Socio-Demographic Factors.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(2). PMID: [36674021](#)

"This is a case series study of children and young people (aged 8-16) experiencing suicidal crisis who

presented in a paediatric Emergency Department in England between March 2019 and March 2021 (n = 240). Results revealed a significant association between suicidal crisis and...those experiencing "household risk" and those experiencing "parental risk". Female sex, history of self-harm, mental health difficulties, and previous input from mental health services were also associated with repeat hospital attendances."

Vinchon M, Noulé N, Toubol A, Karnoub MA.

Spinal lesions caused by abusive trauma in young children.

Childs Nerv Syst. 2022 Dec;38(12):2349-2355. PMID:

[36512049](#)

Authors compared 12 cases of abusive spinal lesions (ASL) in children under age 3, compared to 338 cases of abusive head injuries without spinal lesions, and 18 cases of accidental spinal lesions. 10 of these ASL cases were due to fractures – 9 wedge fractures and one complete fracture which required emergency surgery to prevent paralysis. 2 cases were due to hemorrhage without fracture, one case of which resulted in complete paralysis and eventual death. "ASL affected girls more often and had a more severe clinical presentation; more than half of ASL involved the lumbar levels [back], which were unaffected in accidental traumas...Systematic MRI study of the spine is warranted in cases of child abuse."

Evangelist M, Thomas MMC, Waldfogel J.

Child protective services contact and youth outcomes.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;136:105994. PMID: [36630851](#)

Using data from the Fragile Families Study of children born in 20 US cities, "CPS contact was associated with an 88% increase in the probability of smoking, a 29% increase in externalizing behavior, a 27% increase in internalizing behavior, an 18% increase in the probability of being expelled, a 7.5% increase in a depression, a 6.9% increase in anxiety, a 6.2% reduction in happiness, a 6.0% increase in impulsivity, and a 5.5% increase in school troubles...Despite a federal mandate to improve child wellbeing, we found no evidence that contact with the child welfare system improves child outcomes. Rather, CPS contact was associated with worse mental health and developmental outcomes."

Garstang J, Dickens J, Menka M, Taylor J.

Improving professional practice in the investigation and management of intrafamilial child sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;137:106053. PMID: [36689782](#)

From an analysis of 25 English child protection reviews featuring intrafamilial child sexual abuse (CSA), “Half of perpetrators were known by services to have previously abused children, but issues with professional practice enabled them to continue. Most children did not disclose CSA verbally, showing challenging or sexualised behaviour; but professionals lacked knowledge and confidence on how to intervene without verbal disclosure, which limited safeguarding actions. Non-engagement by families with services was common, with some non-abusing parents complicit in abuse and deception. Significant neglect occurred in half the families, which diverted professional attention away from CSA...CSA is deliberate abuse of children involving considerable deception by perpetrators in contrast to some other types of child abuse. This difference in abuser behaviour makes child protection more difficult, particularly when professionals do not recognise and respond to children's non-verbal disclosures.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Korgaonkar MS, Breukelaar IA, Felmingham K, et al.

Association of Neural Connectome With Early Experiences of Abuse in Adults.

JAMA network open. 2023;6(1):e2253082. PMID: [36701155](#)

647 Australian adults, mean age 33.3 years, who had experienced childhood abuse, received brain MRIs evaluating how different parts of the brain worked together. The experience of childhood abuse was found to be associated with physiologic changes in brain connectivity (the “connectome”) affecting the functioning of systems responsible for perceptual processing (the process of selecting, organizing, and interpreting information) and attention. This finding was independent of psychopathology/mood disorder.

Joshi D, Gonzalez A, Lin D, Raina P.

The association between ACEs and epigenetic age acceleration in the Canadian longitudinal study on aging.

Aging Cell. 2023:e13779. PMID: [36650913](#)

For 1445 Canadian study participants aged 45-85 years, cumulative ACE score, childhood exposure to parental separation or divorce, and emotional abuse

were each associated with higher “DNAm GrimAge” which estimates risk of accelerated mortality, after adjusting for other adversities and covariates.

Kivimäki M, Bartolomucci A, Kawachi I.

The multiple roles of life stress in metabolic disorders.

Nat Rev Endocrinol. 2023 Jan;19(1):10-27. PMID: [36224493](#)

“We review current evidence from basic sciences and epidemiology linking stress to the development and progression of metabolic disorders throughout life...stressors in the home, workplace and neighbourhood are associated with accelerated ageing and metabolic and immune alterations, both directly and indirectly via behavioural risks. The likelihood of developing clinical conditions, such as diabetes mellitus is increased in individuals with adverse childhood experiences or long-term (years) of severe stress at work or in private life. The increased risk of metabolic disorders is often associated with other stress-related conditions, such as mental health disorders, cardiovascular disease, and increased susceptibility to infections. Equally, stress can worsen prognosis in metabolic diseases.”
Excellent review with helpful tables and diagrams.

Table 3 | **Strength of association between indicators or proxy measures of stress and risk of three metabolic diseases from large epidemiological and clinical studies**

Stressor or proxy measure of stress	Hazard ratio		
	Obesity or overweight	Diabetes mellitus	Liver disease
Cushing syndrome	2.00	9.40	4.30
Adverse childhood experiences	1.39	1.52	2.76
Low occupational position	1.82	1.31	1.21
PTSD	1.31	1.49	ND
Workplace bullying	1.24	1.46	ND
Psychological distress	1.26	1.33	1.40
Job strain	1.30	1.16	ND
Long working hours	1.13	1.18	1.22
Effort–reward imbalance	1.09	1.24	ND
Stressful life events	1.07	1.18	ND

The hazard ratios are for being exposed (versus not being exposed) to various stressors.

Swedo EA, D'Angelo DV, Fasula AM, Clayton HB, Ports KA.

Associations of ACEs With Pregnancy and Infant Health.

Am J Prev Med. 2023 Jan 23:S0749-3797(22)00539-6. PMID: [36697281](#)

“The study used 2016-2018 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System population-based data from 5 states...Over 50% of respondents reported at least 1 adverse childhood experience and 13%-31% reported ≥3 adverse childhood experiences, depending on the state. Significant associations were identified in all adjusted models between adverse childhood experiences and unwanted pregnancy, smoking, physical abuse, and depression during pregnancy.”

Zhang L, Mersky JP, Lee CP.

Intergenerational Pathways Linking Mothers' ACEs and Children's Social-Emotional Problems.

Child Maltreat. 2023 Feb;28(1):107-118. PMID: [35068215](#)

“An analysis of data from a longitudinal investigation of low-income women in Wisconsin confirmed the connection between a mother’s exposure to childhood adversity and social-emotional problems in her offspring. Results showed that mothers’ mental health problems, experiences of adult adversity, and perceptions of father involvement fully mediated [was responsible for] the relationship between mothers’ ACEs and children’s social-emotional problems.”

Tschampl CA, Canuto M, De Jesús D, et al.

Adverse childhood experiences are associated with increased overdose risk in predominately Latinx adults seeking treatment for substance use disorders.

Front Psychiatry. 2022 Dec 15;13:987085. PMID: [36590627](#)

Of 148 primarily Latinx adults seeking treatment for substance use disorders, “ACE scores were high with 58% having experienced 4+ ACEs. Female gender was associated with a 24% higher ACE score than male gender...each additional ACE was associated with 1.3 times greater odds of overdose. Those reporting heroin use had 8.8 times greater odds of reporting overdose compared to those reporting no heroin use.”

Adolescents

Brown C, Beardslee J, Frick PJ, Steinberg LD, Cauffman E.

Perceived sleep quality predicts aggressive offending in adolescence and young adulthood.

J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2023;64(2):320-8. PMID: [35665505](#)

Of 1216 justice-involved male youth followed between ages 13-24, “Increases in sleep problems are associated with increases in offending, particularly aggressive/person-related offenses, for both adolescents and young adults. This holds true even after controlling for time-varying anxiety, substance use, and violence exposure...Improving sleep quality may be critical for reducing aggressive behavior in at-risk adolescents and young adults. Interventions that address sleep quality, and not just quantity, may be particularly beneficial.”

Fernet M, Hébert M, Brodeur G, Guyon R, Lapierre A.

Youth's Experiences of Cyber Violence in Intimate Relationships: A Matter of Love and Trust.

J Child Sex Abus. 2023:1-22. PMID: [36662508](#)

From a survey and semi-structured interviews with Canadian youth aged 14-25 years, “youth reported that controlling, monitoring, harassing behaviors, especially [cyber] credentials sharing, constitute proof of love and trust rather than manifestations of cyber dating violence. The results support the relevance of developing tailored interventions based on attachment and romantic beliefs, which appears to be a promising avenue for preventing various forms of DV.”

Robin M, Schupak T, Bonnardel L, et al.

Clinical Stakes of Sexual Abuse in Adolescent Psychiatry.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(2). PMID: [36673831](#)

Of French adolescent patients aged 13-17 years with psychiatric hospitalization over a 4-year period, in 28.5% sexual assault was mentioned in the medical record and was associated with a five-times longer hospital stay, increased suicide attempts with higher number of abuse experiences, and increased medical severity when the named aggressor was an adult. “The number of hospitalizations is positively correlated with the number of reported abuses, as well as with the intrafamilial and adult status of the perpetrator. An early age of onset, repeated abuse, and the intrafamilial nature of the abuse are associated with a longer time to disclosure.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Winfield A, Hilton NZ, Poon J, Straatman AL, Jaffe PG.

Coping Strategies in Women and Children Living with Domestic Violence: Staying Alive.

J Fam Violence. 2023:1-13. PMID: [36685751](#)

Interviews with 30 Canadian mothers who experienced severe or potentially life-threatening domestic violence and 5 adults who experienced domestic violence in childhood revealed five major themes: ongoing communication, appeasing the abuser, soothing activities, exposure reduction, and fostering independence. “Mothers and their children worked together to reassure each other, keep each other safe, and made plans to leave their abuser. Safety planning for the mother-child dyad could build on children's existing coping strategies and recognize and support children's desire to protect their mother and themselves effectively and safely according to their developmental stage.”

Hornor G.

Intimate Partner Violence and Children: Essentials for the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

J Pediatr Health Care. 2023 Jan 20;S0891-5245(22)00356-X.
PMID: [36682969](#)

“This continuing education article will discuss IPV and its impact on children from conception to adolescence while exploring implications for practice.”

BOX 3. Mental health and behavioral impact of intimate partner violence exposure

Impacts

Internalizing

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Withdrawal
- Somatic complaints (headaches, stomachaches, fatigue, etc.)
- Poor sleep
- School avoidance
- Disordered eating (overeating or anorexia)
- Suicidal ideation and behaviors

Externalizing

- Attention problems (mimic attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
- Poor academic performance
- Aggression
- Unruly behaviors
- Bullying behaviors
- Difficulty forming and maintaining relationships with peers
- High-risk behaviors
 - Substance use
 - Sexual behaviors (early initiation of sex, multiple partners, no/inconsistent birth control use)

Note. Adapted from [Rome & Miller \(2020\)](#).

Kahovec AE, Haselschwerdt ML.

Legal System Disclosure Experiences of Young Adult Children Exposed to Domestic Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2023 Jan;38(1-2):NP1343-NP1366.
PMID: [35466757](#)

Of 25 young adults exposed to father-mother-perpetrated DV during their childhood, half of the participants had no legal system disclosure.

“Escalation of violence was a key factor that drove legal system disclosure, but other factors including how the young adults and their communities perceived their fathers, the match between the youth's goals for disclosure and the outcomes upon disclosing, along with family privacy norms and family boundaries were influential in guiding decision making over time...our findings unpack the conditions under which youth choose to (not) disclose, the factors influencing these decisions, and how the responses and reactions from legal support systems inform future disclosure decisions.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

McKinlay AR, Simon YR, May T, Fancourt D, Burton A.

How did UK social distancing restrictions affect the lives of women experiencing intimate partner violence during the COVID-19 pandemic? A qualitative exploration of survivor views.

BMC Public Health. 2023;23(1):123. PMID: [36653799](#)

Interviews with 18 UK IPV survivors revealed themes regarding the effects of lockdown: “(1) Lockdown meant being confined to a place where abuse was escalating; (2) Barriers to accessing support, including ‘cancelled’ services and missed opportunities to intervene during interactions in lockdown with frontline workers; (3) Increased feelings of fear, isolation, and loss of control, particularly during the early stages of the pandemic from the combination of abuse and pandemic-related changes to daily life; (4) Some forms of support were more accessible during the pandemic, such as provision of online psychological support and social groups, as participants also accessed new forms of support for the first time, in some cases sparked by posts and content on social media about abuse awareness; (5) For some, psychosocial wellbeing transformed during the pandemic, with several participants using the word “freedom” when reflecting on their experience of simultaneously escaping abuse and living through the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Testa A, Lee J, Neumann A, Jackson DB.

Physical intimate partner violence and oral health problems during pregnancy.

J Am Dent Assoc. 2023 Jan 25;S0002-8177(22)00735-8.
PMID: [36707273](#)

Using data from 7 US sites 2016-2020, “Women who experienced physical IPV during pregnancy had elevated rates of oral health problems during pregnancy compared with women who did not experience IPV, including painful, red, or swollen gingivae [gums]; toothache; and mouth, teeth, or gingivae injury.”

Elvin-Nowak YMS, Backman-Enelius MM, Jonas WC, et al.
Intimate partner violence and negative health consequences: A cross-sectional study among women in a regional sample in Sweden.

Scand J Public Health. 2023 Jan 16:14034948221148056.

PMID: [36645153](#)

Of 2239 Swedish women surveyed at 35 midwifery clinics, “25.1% reported having been subjected to IPV at some point during their life and 8.7% during the previous year. The most common ongoing exposure was psychological violence, which was reported by 6.6% of the women. Women living with IPV reported poorer self-rated general health and more recurring health symptoms and depression than unexposed women.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Boucaud-Maitre D, Cesari M, Tabue-Teguo M.
Foster families to support older people with dependency: a neglected strategy.

Lancet Healthy Longev. 2023;4(1):e10. PMID: [36610444](#)

“Integration of care services for older people to promote healthy aging strongly relies on primary and community care. In this context, foster families for older people might represent an interesting but still poorly developed and explored strategy to address the unmet clinical and social needs and to prevent nursing home admissions for people aged 60 years or above...The effectiveness of this model should be explored, especially by comparing it to existing alternatives (eg, nursing homes, residential care facilities, community-based care, and home-based care). Analysis of the direct and indirect costs of the model should also be conducted. Another possible point of concern to be addressed resides in the training of the carers in foster families...Furthermore, foster families might also promote intergenerational solidarity and potential job creation.”

Sexual Assault

Chalmers K, Parameswaran R, Dussault N, et al.
Impact of Sexual Assault Survivor Identity on Patient Care in the Emergency Department.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;38(3-4):3244-78. PMID: [35658735](#)

“315 sexual assault advocates responded to the survey. Less than 10% indicated that ED staff often or always convey disbelief or blame to survivors. Almost 75% of advocates indicated that they often or always observe ED staff showing empathy to survivors. Disparities were found in provider attitudes. Over 75% of advocates observed that survivors' mental health status or substance use impacted belief from providers. Patients who were intoxicated when assaulted, had psychiatric disorders, were Black, Hispanic/LatinX, or indigenous, or were not cis-females were more likely to experience disbelief. Patients who were white and/or cis-gender females were more likely to be pressured by ED staff to complete the forensic exam and/or report to the police...Given that post-assault ED interactions are critical turning points in survivors' future medical processes, disparities in ED care may be linked to larger disparities in healing from trauma.”

Reynaud E, Vuillermoz C, Léon C, Roland N, El Khoury F.
Association between the experience of sexual violence and insomnia in a national sample of French adults.

Sleep Med. 2023;101:228-32. PMID: [36436324](#)

From a large national French survey of adults, “The weighted prevalence of insomnia was 13.5%, with women more affected than men (17.9% vs 9.6%). The prevalence of lifetime experience of sexual violence was around 3 times higher among those who suffer from insomnia (12.3%) compared to those who do not (4.5%). Sexual violence could explain the substantial sex-difference in insomnia. Our findings reiterate the importance of systematically screening for sexual violence among patients suffering from sleep disorders to propose adequate trauma-informed interventions.”

Stappenbeck CA, Jaffe AE, Blayney JA, et al.
An event-level evaluation of women's self-medicated drinking: The role of sexual assault severity, affect, and drinking motives.

Psychol Trauma. 2023;15(1):110-20. PMID: [35617256](#)

From a daily diary study of community women aged 21-30, “Becoming intoxicated to downregulate negative emotion was common and this pathway was particularly strong for women who reported more severe SA [sexual assault] histories. Although women with more severe SA histories were generally more likely to drink more, they were not likely to do so as a way to enhance positive experiences.”

Tyler KA.

Comparison of Sorority and non-Sorority Women: Risks for Different Sexual Assault Types.

J Child Sex Abus. 2023;1-19. PMID: [36688494](#)

From a survey of sorority and non-sorority college women at a large Midwestern university, “sorority women experienced coercive and incapacitated sexual assault more so than non-sorority women though there was no significant difference for physically forced sexual assault. Sorority women also reported engaging in more sexual risk behaviors, which was in turn associated with all three sexual assault types.”

Human Trafficking

Prakash J, Oriola B, Kurtzer T, Stoklosa H.

"Praying for Freedom": A Story of Labor Trafficking during Pregnancy.

Am J Obstet Gynecol MF. 2023;100873. PMID: [36693496](#)

“This study presented the story of a labor-trafficked person navigating the healthcare system throughout her pregnancy to shed light on an important presentation of labor trafficking in women’s healthcare settings...In addition to sharing one survivor’s story, this article presents a trauma-informed approach to setting up socioculturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate, and inherently empowering conversations within healthcare settings to assess for exploitation and connect victims to resources.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Stephenson R, Washington C, Darbes et al.

Sexual Relationship Violence Among Young, Partnered Sexual Minority Men in the United States.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605221149091. PMID: [36636966](#)

For 318 young sexual minority US men aged 15 to 24 years who were in relationships with other males, approximately one-in-five participants reported experiencing any form of IPV and 6% reported sexual IPV in their current relationship. Participants who reported sexual minority-specific familial rejection (Adjusted Odds Ratio (aOR) = 2.33), and housing insecurity (aOR = 7.22) reported higher odds of sexual IPV in their relationship.

Race/Cultural Concerns

MacIntyre MM, Zare M, Williams MT.

Anxiety-Related Disorders in the Context of Racism.

Curr Psychiatry Rep. 2023;1-13. PMID: [36645562](#)

“Anxiety-related disorders were the most significant mediator for daily discrimination and suicidal thoughts, above both depression and substance use.” Authors summarize the research on different categories of racism vs. different types of anxiety-related disorders, including obsessive-compulsive, generalized, specific phobia, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, and PTSD. “Considering racism with respect to these disorders is critical to providing effective treatment options and care for communities of color.”

Raj A, Chatterji S, Johns NE, Yore J, Dey AK, Williams DR.

The associations of everyday and major discrimination exposure with violence and poor mental health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Soc Sci Med. 2023;318:115620. PMID: [36587480](#)

From a survey of 2114 California adults collected in March 2021, “One in four Californians (26.1%) experienced everyday discrimination in public spaces, due most often to race/ethnicity and gender...everyday discrimination was significantly associated with past year physical violence (single form Adjusted Odds Ratio [AOR] 5.0; multiple forms AOR 2.6), past year sexual violence (multiple forms AOR 2.5), and mental health symptoms (e.g., severe symptoms, multiple forms AOR 3.3). Major experiences of race-based discrimination (reported by 10.0% of Californians) were associated with past year sexual violence (AOR 2.0) and severe mental health symptoms (AOR 2.7). Non-race-based major discrimination (reported by 23.9% of Californians) was also associated with violence and mental health outcomes. Everyday discrimination, more than major experiences of discrimination, was associated with higher risk for violence and poor mental health outcomes during the pandemic.”

Raza MM, Venkatesh KP, Kvedar JC.

Promoting racial equity in digital health: applying a cross-disciplinary equity framework.

NPJ digital medicine. 2023;6(1):3. PMID: [36631555](#)

Authors propose applying a previously-described framework to evaluate structural racism to three areas within digital medicine: artificial intelligence (AI) applications, wearable devices, and telehealth.

Baptist AP, Apter AJ, Gergen PJ, Jones BL.

Reducing Health Disparities in Asthma: How Can Progress be Made.

J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2023 Jan 21:S2213-2198(23)00073-9. PMID: [36693539](#)

“In the United States, Black individuals have an asthma hospitalization rate that is 6x higher than that for White individuals, and an asthma mortality rate nearly 3x higher. This article will discuss the current state of health disparities in asthma in the United States...The types of asthma interventions (including case workers, technological advances, mobile asthma clinics, and environmental remediation) that have and have not been successful to decrease disparities will be reviewed. Finally, current resources and future actions are summarized in a table and in text, providing information that the allergist can use to make an impact on asthma health disparities in 2023.”

Torjesen I.

How do I deal with a racist patient?

Bmj. 2023;380:o2856. PMID: [36627122](#)

One option - be clear, factual, and specific. “If asked to support a colleague who has experienced racist behaviour from a patient, first open with a statement the patient can’t disagree with—‘I can see you’re in discomfort and I’d like to make sure we help you this morning so you can get home to your family.’ Be factual and specific about the incident. Rather than describing the behaviour with a judgment-loaded word like ‘offensive’ or ‘racist,’ repeat their words back to them—‘Mr. Smith, you shouted at Dr Patil not to touch you, and you say you want a white doctor.’ This can help avoid hostility or escalation, particularly in care settings where safety is critical. Explain how you feel about the incident—‘I am upset to hear this as Dr. Patil deserves to be treated with respect.’ Talk through the consequences—‘If you insist on a white doctor, you may have a long wait ahead and you may need to go elsewhere for specialist care. Many of our best clinicians are from across the world.’ Some providers will also decline care after a second incident of racist behaviour. Set out your expectations, and use their name—‘Mr. Smith, for you to get the care you need today, you will need to be respectful of hospital staff.’ Explain the positive effects—‘This will mean that we can give you the best standard of care, from the most qualified clinicians, and we can get you home and well as quickly as possible.’ Always make sure you report the incident afterwards, and get support for yourself if you need it.”

Perpetrators

Sánchez C, Mota C, Carreño J, Gómez ME.

Factors That Influence, Exacerbate, Contribute or Promote Violence in Couples.

Healthcare (Basel, Switzerland). 2023;11(2). PMID: [36673649](#)

From 50 sessions of group psychotherapy with patients whose relationships faced violent problems, “The identified factors were the lack of autonomy in one of the partners, unresolved internal factors, external factors and factors caused by their interaction; symmetrical and asymmetrical violence, subjugation of one before the other, intergenerational violence, family violence during childhood, and normalisation of violence. Isolating factors to understand relationship problems at risk of manifesting violence opens the possibility of effective, specific and preventive treatments of family and intimate partner violence.”

Taverna E, Marshall AD.

Development and validation of the Moral Outcomes of Relationship Aggression Scale: A measure of moral distress following intimate partner violence perpetration.

Aggress Behav. 2023 Jan;49(1):33-48. PMID: [36037395](#)

“Research with military veterans has established that distress may arise in response to perpetrating violent behaviors that violate individuals’ moral beliefs. To date, no studies have similarly examined IPV perpetrators.” Authors describe development and validation of a “Moral Outcomes of Relationship Aggression Scale, which includes 15 self-report items that assess cognitions about whether one considers their actions to be wrong, about oneself being changed due to their actions, and distressing moral emotions about one’s actions.”

Police and Court Systems

Romain Dagenhardt DM, Heideman A, Freiburger TL.

Examining the Impact of Jail Sanctions on Recidivism for Domestic Violence Probationers.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605221145708. PMID: [36631953](#)

Of 347 probation review hearings in a Midwestern domestic violence court, authors found that jail sanctions [adding jail time penalties] did not impact likelihood of recidivating but did result in significantly shorter periods of time until recidivating. “The findings also signify the importance of addressing substance abuse issues in the prevention of recidivism.”

Westera N, Gentle M, Powell M, Zajac R.
Police Investigators' Perceptions of the Challenges Associated With Interviewing Adult Sexual Assault Complainants.

Violence Against Women. 2023;29(2):276-99. PMID: [36285474](#)

“Here, we assessed the specific challenges inherent in conducting interviews with adult sexual assault complainants, by conducting in-depth interviews with 21 experienced investigators from both Australia and New Zealand. The challenges that investigators identified fell into three broad themes: meeting the evidential needs of sexual assault investigations, establishing credibility, and managing complainant vulnerabilities. We discuss how the investigative interview process might be modified in line with these challenges.”

Providers

Marra J.

Care of Diverse Families: Foster Care and Adoption.

FP essentials. 2023;524:7-13. PMID: [36626712](#)

At any one time, more than 400,000 US children are in foster care. Although 59% are eventually reunited with their parents, some end up in other situations, including adoption which can be open, closed, and kinship. Approximately 1% of adoptees are from other countries. Approximately one-quarter of adoptions are transracial/transethnic. Adoptions by LGBTQIA+ are common. “Parents planning adoption should talk to the physician who will care for the child to review the child's health records, and continue with routine care after adoption. For international adoptions, numerous infectious disease tests are required before and after the child's arrival in the United States. Adoptees also should undergo developmental evaluation and screening for adverse childhood experiences and mental health issues.”

Zarnello L.

Implementing trauma-informed care across the lifespan to acknowledge childhood adverse event prevalence: best clinical practices.

Nurse Pract. 2023;48(2):14-21. PMID: [36700790](#)

“The aim of this article is to provide a general overview of trauma-informed care and to review current best-practice recommendations and models of care, thereby providing nurse practitioners with practical ways to empower a trauma-informed approach to care in their daily practice setting.”

Neuner F.

Physical and social trauma: Towards an integrative transdiagnostic perspective on psychological trauma that involves threats to status and belonging.

Clin Psychol Rev. 2023;99:102219. PMID: [36395560](#)

“Since the diagnosis of PTSD is restricted to events that involve threats to the physical or sexual integrity of a person, such as accidents and physical and sexual violence, these theories are not well suited to explain the psychopathological consequences of severe violations of one's social integrity, such as emotional abuse and bullying. However, it is evident that social threats contribute to a broad range of mental disorders and increase symptom severity in patients with posttraumatic stress disorder...Implications for treatment and further directions for research are discussed.”

Roebuck BS, Sattler PL, Clayton AK.

Violence and posttraumatic change (PTC).

Psychol Trauma. 2023;15(1):18-26. PMID: [35084917](#)

From a study of 435 diverse Canadian survivors of a variety of violent crimes, participants resisted the language of posttraumatic growth, and felt that the perception of “change” rather than growth was more responsive to their experience.

Frederickson A, Kern A, Langevin R.

Perinatal (Re)experiencing of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse: An Integrative Review.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2023;32(1):78-93. PMID: [36201288](#)

From a research review, pregnant “CSA [childhood sexual abuse] survivors (re)experienced PTSD symptoms as a result of (1) aspects of their medical care (vaginal examinations, male medical providers, lack of control, and restraint), (2) physical sensations during pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding, and (3) sex of the child (worries over child becoming an abuser/abused, male genitalia). CSA survivor's PTSD symptoms of intrusion, dissociation, avoidance, and hyperarousal were significantly greater throughout the perinatal period compared with individuals without CSA or with other traumas...Findings point to the relevance of adopting trauma-informed practices with CSA survivors during their perinatal period.”

Prevention

Calistro YT, Worthington K.

Strategies to Help CWS-Involved Parents Complete Substance Use Treatment and Protect their Children in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i journal of health & social welfare. 2022;81(12 Suppl 3):37-42. PMID: [36660281](#)

“Children in foster care because of parental SUD [substance use disorder] are less likely to be reunified with their parents. Experiences in foster care may cause long-term negative health consequences for the children. Early identification and engagement of parents in SUD treatment can improve outcomes for parents and children. The child welfare and SUD treatment systems in Hawai'i are not set up to work together to maximize the likelihood that parents will complete treatment and families will stay together. This article recommends evidence-based interventions including recovery coaches, peer partners, and Family Drug Courts (FDCs).”

Godbout N, Paradis A, Rassart CA, Sadikaj G, et al.

Parents' history of childhood interpersonal trauma and postpartum depressive symptoms: The moderating role of mindfulness.

J Affect Disord. 2023 Mar 15;325:459-469. PMID: [36623567](#)

For a randomly selected sample of 843 couples who recently welcomed a new child, more experience of childhood interpersonal trauma was associated with higher levels of postpartum depression, but this association was weaker in parents with higher dispositional mindfulness.”

Cramm L, Elgar FJ, Pickett W.

Corporal punishment bans and adolescent suicide rates: An international ecological study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;137:106022. PMID: [36640589](#)

“We used population-level administrative and mortality data from 97 countries spanning the years 1950 to 2017...National policies that permitted corporal punishment in all settings (homes, schools, daycares, and alternative care) were associated with a higher relative risk (RR) for suicide in females aged 15-19 (RR = 2.07), as were policies allowing corporal punishment in schools specifically (RR = 2.01). Partial bans of corporal punishment and bans of school corporal punishment showed lagged effects on suicide rates, the benefits of which peaked after 12 years for females aged 15-19 and after 13 years for males aged 15-19.”

Wang Y, Ahn H, Rose RA, Williams K.

Effects of school connectedness on the relationship between child maltreatment and child aggressive behavior: A mediation analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;136:106021. PMID: [36638638](#)

Using data from a fragile families study, “interventions targeted at improving school connectedness among adolescents involved in the child welfare system may promote positive outcomes by reducing aggressive behaviors among youth growing in fragile families. On-going trainings are needed for schoolteachers and social workers to better engage adolescents with child maltreatment at school.”

Jeung J, Hessler Jones D, Frame L, et al.

A Caregiver-Child Intervention for Mitigating Toxic Stress ("The Resiliency Clinic"): A Pilot Study.

Matern Child Health J. 2022 Oct;26(10):1959-1966. PMID: [35947275](#)

A pilot study group intervention designed to promote supportive caregiving, caregiver/child self-regulation and co-regulation, and to teach evidence-based stress management tools was offered to 101 eligible families, of whom about 1/3 enrolled and completed a median of 3 out of 6 group sessions. “Caregivers reported high satisfaction and benefits including stress management tools and connection with staff and other parents...Despite logistical challenges, group visits constitute a feasible and acceptable approach for a subset of families who can attend regular meetings and want to connect with peers. Future program iterations will seek to address participation barriers and expand the intervention’s capacity to promote early relational health.”

Felter J, Chung HL, Guth A, DiDonato S.

Implementation and Outcomes of the Trauma Ambassadors Program: A Case Study of Trauma-Informed Youth Leadership Development.

Child & adolescent social work journal : C & A. 2023:1-17. PMID: [36624742](#)

“The purpose of this article is to describe the implementation and outcomes of the Trauma Ambassador (TA) Program, a pilot youth leadership program guided by a community-university partnership that utilized a TIC [trauma-informed care] approach in an underserved East North Philadelphia neighborhood. Fourteen youth engaged in interactive trainings to build their understanding of trauma and to develop practical tools to support encounters with individuals with trauma histories.” Focus groups and individual interviews “identified a myriad of ways that youth and their community might benefit from a program like the one described...as TAs recognized their own trauma and were motivated to help others who may have trauma histories.”

Researchers

Bosk EA.

Creating a parallel process: A new methodological framework for conducting Trauma-Informed Evaluation and Research (TIER) in mental health settings.

Eval Program Plann. 2023;97:102229. PMID: [36645954](#)

“Extensive research has made clear the need to implement TIC [trauma-informed care] in community-based mental health treatment...This work proposes a new methodological framework (TIER) and offers specific strategies for conducting trauma-informed evaluation and research based on SAM-SHA’s principles for TIC. These strategies include: 1) establishing emotional safety for clients by ensuring assessments are conducted face to face with one person; 2) promoting transparency by providing regular feedback on each assessment for every client; 3) increasing trustworthiness by linking client feedback to the core goals of the intervention; 4) facilitating collaboration by jointly planning the process for assessment; 5) empowering clients by recording any disagreement they may have with assessment findings; and 6) incorporating peer support in the planning phase.”

Edwards KM, Orchowski LM, Espelage DL, Temple JR.

What Is Not in the Methods Section: Challenges, Successes, and Lessons Learned From Conducting School-Based Interpersonal Violence Prevention Research.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;38(3-4):4507-32. PMID: [35861274](#)

“The purpose of this paper is to outline challenges, successes, and lessons learned from conducting school-based IV [interpersonal violence] prevention research...Specifically, we focus on the importance of researchers (1) doing research on the school/school district prior to reaching out about potential partnerships; (2) establishing relationships with school partners that are characterized by being present, trustworthiness, and respect as well as the prioritization of school partners' ideas over one's research agenda; (3) working collaboratively with school partners to conceptualize and fund school-driven ideas; (4) preparing for pushback, often from parents/caregivers; and (5) embracing reciprocity (i.e., do things to support your school partners that may not directly benefit you). Additional considerations for recruitment, enrollment, and retention; program implementation and data collection; and dissemination are discussed.”

Day PG, Woods SB, Gonzalez L, Fernandez-Criado R, Shakil A. **Validating the TeenHITSS to Assess Child Abuse in Adolescent Populations.**

Fam Med. 2023;55(1):12-9. PMID: [36656882](#)

“The findings of this study suggest that TeenHITSS is a valid and reliable tool to screen for physical and sexual abuse in children ages 13 years and older in clinical settings, and can help health care providers detect adolescent abuse and initiate intervention and prevention of future abuse.”

Steele B, Neelakantan L, Jochim J, et al.

Measuring Violence Against Children: A COSMIN Systematic Review of the Psychometric and Administrative Properties of Adult Retrospective Self-report Instruments on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380221145912. PMID: [36695372](#)

Authors review 77 adult retrospective child abuse and neglect measures. “The measures with the most robust evidence available across multiple contexts are the: ACE and ACE-IQ; FBQ and FBQ-U; CTQ and CTQ-SF; and ICAST-R. This review shows the strengths and weaknesses of retrospective violence against children measures.”

Other of Interest

Morgan R, Asiimwe L, Ager AL, et al.

Rehabilitation services must include support for sexual and gender-based violence survivors in Ukraine and other war and conflict-affected countries.

Health Policy Plan. 2023 Jan 20:czad005. PMID: [36658716](#)

“While data remains limited, in 3 November 2022, 7 million people in Ukraine were reported to need GBV [gender-based violence] prevention and response services. Services offered by the government and civil society include: a coordination centre of free legal aid, online and mobile platforms, chat-bots, hotlines, assistance centres, shelters, crisis rooms and mobile brigades. Rehabilitation services to support women and girls who have experienced SGBV [sexual GBV] during times of conflict and war, however, remain limited. We must make sure that our understanding of rehabilitation extends beyond providing physical modalities or recovery after surgery, and that SGBV survivors are not excluded from necessary care.”