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Questions: Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Guastaferrero K, Shipe SL.

Child Maltreatment Types by Age: Implications for Prevention.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;21(1). PMID: [38248485](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38248485/)

“To prevent maltreatment from occurring, it is important to better understand the landscape of experiences across all developmental stages...Across the four subtypes of maltreatment included in the present analysis, the 5-to-11 age group consistently had the highest prevalence rates between 2011 and 2020. Within this group, physical abuse was the most prevalent form of maltreatment, whereas neglect was the lowest.”

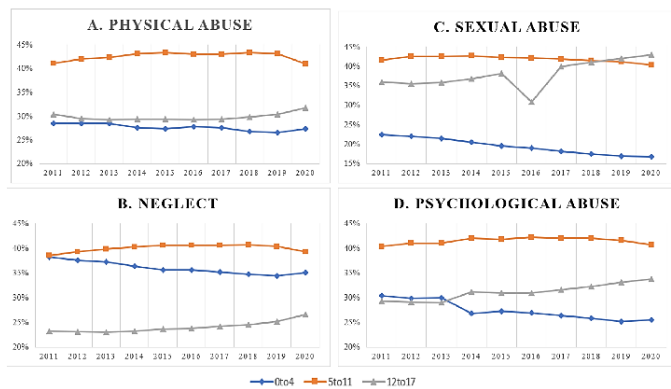


Figure 1. Prevalence of subtypes of maltreatment by age group between 2011 and 2020.

Durrance CP, Atkins DN.

Estimating the incidence of substance exposed newborns with child welfare system involvement.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;149:106629. PMID: [38232502](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38232502/)

“The rate of newborns with substance exposure has increased dramatically. As of 2016, federal law requires notification of all drug-exposed infants to child welfare agencies so that a plan of safe care can be developed and referrals to services can be offered...Between 2004 and 2017, approximately 13% of infants reported to child protective services were likely reported because of substance exposure at birth, and the rate of substance exposed

newborns with child welfare involvement increased from 3.79 to 12.90 per 1000 births, an increase of 240%, over this period. Understanding the extent of the substance use crisis for child welfare involvement is important for policymakers to support children and families.”

Willems A, Weston L, Robertson S.

Skin fragility disorder misdiagnosed as child abuse: a cautionary tale.

Med J Aust. 2024 Feb 5;220(2):71-73. PMID: [38129121](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38129121/)

“Many genuine skin diseases, may present with cutaneous stigmata that could be interpreted as non-accidental injury. Potential mimics for child abuse are broad and include genuine accidental trauma, coagulation disorders, connective tissue diseases, inflammatory disorders, artifactual skin findings, and disorders of skin fragility. It is important to keep an open mind as misdiagnosis of child abuse can result in significant distress for families as well as delay treatment for the underlying condition.” Authors discuss the diagnosis and appearance of different skin fragility disorders.

Shum M, Hsiao A, Teng W, Asnes A, Amrhein J, Tiyyagura G.

Natural Language Processing - A Surveillance Stepping Stone to Identify Child Abuse.

Acad Pediatr. 2024 Jan-Feb;24(1):92-96. PMID: [37652162](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37652162/)

Authors applied a natural language program algorithm in “silent mode” to all emergency department (ED) provider notes between July 2021 and December 2022 (n = 353) at 1 pediatric and 8 general EDs for infants with certain injuries identified through clinical guidelines as being suspicious for abuse. Authors found that adherence to recommended evaluation standards was accomplished in 63% of cases, and that those with public versus private insurance, females, and minority race/ethnicity were more likely to be reported to CPS, while those seen in a community vs. pediatric ED were less likely to be reported.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

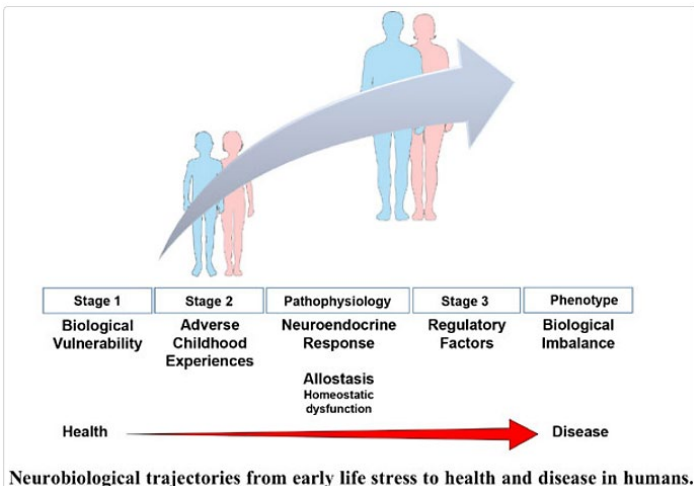
Sonu S, Mann K, Potter J, Rush P, Stillerman A.
Toward Integration of Trauma, Resilience, and Equity Theory and Practice: A Narrative Review and Call for Consilience.

Perm J. 2024 Mar 15;28(1):151-168. PMID: [38206776](#)
 “This narrative review explored 400 sources...tracing the evolution of trauma theory and practice from the 19th century to the present. It emphasizes research from 1970 to 2022, with a specific focus on adverse childhood experiences, everyday discrimination, sexual and gender minority stress, acculturative stress, and positive childhood experiences. This research reveals how experiences are a cause, catalyst, and key ingredient of health or of illness, disability, and disparities. The review also ...showcases innovative integrated models and applications.”

Key Concepts for Clinicians, Educators, Researchers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All brain and body functions are coordinated via regulation and affected by experience. • Brain network development (affecting cognition, emotional regulation, and physiologic regulation) is dynamic and lifelong but most important in early childhood. • Each person has a unique, cumulative set of experiences (positive & adverse) which are embodied. • Each person has multiple, intersecting identities that naturally change over time. • Overlapping social structures provide advantage or disadvantage, which may affect identity and outcomes. The experience of discrimination is common and has a dramatic adverse impact. • Adverse experiences remain disproportionately prevalent in oppressed and marginalized communities, a root cause of health disparity. • Activities which build on inborn regulatory processes (sleep, daily routine, movement, creative expression and more) are key to creating health and equity. • Each person is the expert on themselves. Embracing each person’s self-knowledge, autonomy, and agency can help clinicians build mutual, compassionate, positive relationships and facilitate optimal outcomes. • Meeting basic needs and safety are a priority. • These foundational concepts apply to all of us, not just patients, students, or research participants. Dedicated efforts to employ them personally and professionally can foster clinician well-being.

Nicolaidis NC, Kanaka-Gantenbein C, Pervanidou P.
Developmental Neuroendocrinology of Early-Life Stress: Impact on Child Development and Behavior.

Curr Neuropharmacol. 2024;22(3):461-74. PMID: [37563814](#)
 “In this review article, we present the anatomical and functional components of the stress system, discuss the proper, in terms of quality and quantity, stress response, and provide an update on the impact of early-life stress on child development and behavior.”



Brenner I, Ginzburg K, Golan A, et al.
Peripartum dissociation, sense of control, postpartum posttraumatic stress disorder and emotional adjustment to motherhood in adult survivors of childhood maltreatment.
 Arch Womens Ment Health. 2024 Feb;27(1):127-136. PMID: [37851078](#)

For 295 pregnant patients 3 months after delivery, maternal experience of childhood maltreatment was associated with PTSD and dissociation, which in turn were risk factors for negative adjustment to motherhood and poor bonding.

Querdasi FR, Enders C, Karnani N, et al.
Multigenerational adversity impacts on human gut microbiome composition and socioemotional functioning in early childhood.
 Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2023 Jul 25;120(30):e2213768120. PMID: [37463211](#)

“In a sample of 450 mother-child dyads living in Singapore, we examined associations between three distinct adversity exposures experienced across two generations--maternal childhood maltreatment, maternal prenatal anxiety, and second-generation children's exposure to stressful life events--and the gut microbiome composition of second-generation children at 2 y of age. We found distinct differences in gut microbiome profiles linked to each adversity exposure...suggesting that the intergenerational transmission of adversity may have a lasting impact on children's mental health via alterations to gut microbiome functions...and the potential of the gut microbiome as a target for intervention.”

Wang W, Liu Y, Yang Y, Jiang W, Ni Y, Han X, Lu C, Guo L.
Adverse childhood and adulthood experiences and risk of new-onset cardiovascular disease with consideration of social support: a prospective cohort study.

BMC Med. 2023 Aug 8;21(1):297. PMID: [37553602](#)
 From a large study of Chinese adults, a dose-response relationship existed between the number of ACEs or AAEs (adverse adult experiences) and incident cardiovascular disease risk. “Moreover, a significant additive interaction between ACEs and AAEs was detected...The necessity of a comprehensive life-course health strategy targeting the prevention of adversity merits increased attention.” In this study AAEs were specified as experiencing the death of the child, lifetime discrimination, ever being confined to bed, ever being hospitalized for a month or longer, and ever leaving a job due to health conditions.

Eielsen HP, Ulvenes P, Hoffart A, et al.

Childhood trauma and outcome trajectories in patients with longstanding eating disorders across 17 years.

Int J Eat Disord. 2024 Jan;57(1):81-92. PMID: [37897047](#)

For patients with longstanding eating disorders in a 17-year follow-up study, “although there were significant changes over time, the majority of patients remained within similar symptom levels as they presented with at discharge from inpatient treatment. Exposure to childhood maltreatment was common within the sample. Childhood sexual abuse predicted poor long-term outcome, which highlights the importance of trauma informed care.”

Widom CS, Do HH, Lynch KS, Manly JJ.

Childhood Maltreatment and Dementia Risk Factors in Midlife: A Prospective Investigation.

Curr Alzheimer Res. 2023;20(9):636-647. PMID: [38155463](#)

For 807 mid-life adults followed since documented child abuse (ages 0-11 years old), “Compared to controls, individuals with histories of childhood maltreatment had a higher risk of low educational attainment, low social contact, smoking, and clinical depression, and a higher total number of dementia risk factors...Black maltreated participants had a greater risk for traumatic brain injury compared to Black controls. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect each predicted a higher number of dementia risk factors in mid-life.”

Henderson L.

Lifetimes of Vulnerability: Childhood Adversity, Poor Adult Health, and the Criminal Legal System.

J Health Soc Behav. 2023:221465231214830. PMID: [38158847](#)

This qualitative analysis of life history timelines of 42 formerly incarcerated people “reveals two pathways relating ACEs to poor health and legal system involvement: (1) violence and victimization and (2) drug use as a coping mechanism. Unaddressed mental health challenges in the aftermath of adversity emerged as an important precursor to both pathways. Prisons lack a meaningful consideration of these early life events and the social structures that result in the high rates of vulnerable people in its care.”

Adolescents

Thorne E, Babchishin KM, Fisico R, Healey L.

Sexing in Young Adults: A Normative Sexual Behavior.

Arch Sex Behav. 2024 Feb;53(2):593-609. PMID: [38082175](#)

“The current study examined the rates and characteristics of sexting among an online sample of 2,828 young adults aged 18-30, primarily from the U.S. and Canada. We found that most participants sext (81%), sext often (most report ≥ 11 sexts), and start young (most by 16-17 years of age). Common reasons for sexting echoed reasons for participating in other normative sexual behaviors, including that it was sexually arousing, they were asked and wanted to reciprocate, or they wanted to flirt. Sexual coercion was a gendered phenomenon, with 1 in 10 cisgender women and 1 in 50 cisgender men reporting having sent a sext due to being threatened. The body parts captured in cisgender men's sexts were more diverse, whereas cisgender women focused on their chest, underwear/genitalia, and stomach. Sexual orientation was also found to be a relevant factor, with different patterns in sexting experiences emerging across identities. The current study adds to the mounting evidence that sexting is a normative sexual behavior. Sexual education programs should provide youth with information on consent and safe sexting practices rather than follow an abstinence approach.”

Thulin EJ, Kusunoki Y, Kernsmith PD, et al.

Longitudinal Effects of Electronic Dating Violence on Depressive Symptoms and Delinquent Behaviors Across Adolescence.

J Interpers Violence. 2023:8862605231221281. PMID: [38158747](#)

“Higher exposure to electronic sexual coercion was predictive of increased depression. Increased exposure to electronic sexual coercion and electronic monitoring were both predictive of more delinquency [such as engaging in peer violence and substance use]...Electronic sexual coercion heightens the risk of depressive symptoms and delinquent behaviors in males and females beyond the risk presented by in-person forms of dating violence and should be accounted for in prevention and intervention programs.”

Miller E, Grace KT, Silverman JG, Decker MR, Alexander KA.

Preventing reproductive coercion in adolescence.

The Lancet Child & adolescent health. 2024;8(2):91-3. PMID: [37980919](#)

Commentary and brief review of the prevalence, manifestations, effects of, and prevention of reproductive coercion in adolescence. Authors recommend using a CUES (Confidentiality, Universal Education, Empowerment, and Support) evidence-based approach found at <https://ipvhealth.org/health-professionals/educate-providers/>

Okediji P, Troy D, Heron J, Kipping RR, Martin RM, Wright C. **Exploring the associations between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and adolescent cancer risk behaviours in the ALSPAC cohort.**

BMC Public Health. 2024;24(1):95. PMID: [38183020](#)

From a long-term national study, all adolescent cancer risk behaviors (tobacco smoking, alcohol consumption, obesity, unsafe sex, and physical inactivity) increased in prevalence as the adolescents grew older, except for obesity. Each additional adverse childhood experience was associated with a 0.25 unit increase in adolescent cancer risk behavior. Individually, parental substance misuse and parental separation demonstrated the strongest association with engagement in adolescent cancer risk behavior.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Chen Y.

The effects of child maltreatment and exposure to intimate partner violence on the co-occurrence of anxious/depressive symptoms and aggressive behavior.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;149:106655. PMID: [38244382](#)

Of 459 children involved with CPS, “The findings suggest the co-occurrence of anxious/depressive symptoms and aggressive behavior among CPS-involved children and demonstrate the negative effects of child maltreatment and IPV exposure on children over time. The findings pinpoint the necessity of...a lens of trauma-informed care for practice.”

Chen D, Xu B, Chen J.

The association between domestic violence exposure and cyberbullying behavior among secondary school students.

Frontiers in psychiatry. 2023;14:1302477. PMID: [38188055](#)

From a survey of 10,273 Chinese students from 12 secondary schools, domestic violence exposure had a significant positive association with cyberbullying behavior. However, both self-control and depression weakened this association.

Gressier F, Glangeaud-Freudenthal NMC, Essadek A, et al. **Impact of paternal psychiatric disorders on parents-baby separation after mother-baby unit care.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;149:106652. PMID: [38277874](#)

In a study of 787 fathers whose partner was hospitalized on a mother-baby unit for a severe maternal postpartum psychiatric episode, 25% of fathers also had a psychiatric disorder. Of the 8.77%

of babies who were separated from their parents at the end of the hospitalization, fathers were 8.35 times more likely to have an addictive disorder, and 5.76 times more likely to have a psychotic disorder.

Chen XY, Lo CKM, Chen Q, et al.

Intimate Partner Violence Against Women Before, During, and After Pregnancy: A Meta-Analysis.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024:15248380241226631. PMID: [38265064](#)

“Results showed the pooled prevalence estimates of IPV were 21.2% before pregnancy, 12.8% during pregnancy and 14.7% after childbirth. Although these findings suggest a reduction in IPV during pregnancy...The prevalence of IPV after childbirth increased from 12.8% within the first year to 24.0% beyond the first year. Taken together, we should not assume pregnancy protects women from IPV, as IPV tends to persist across a longer-term period.”

Jones BW, Quick-Graham L, Martin SL.

Perinatal Homicide in the United States.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231217044. PMID: [38160243](#)

“This review found that homicide is an important contributor to maternal mortality and is a leading cause of death during pregnancy and the postpartum period, especially if an individual is Black and under the age of 30. Future efforts must be made to standardize data collection efforts...The United States should examine maternal deaths through the entirety of the perinatal period and fully invest in violence prevention efforts.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Joksimovic N, Vallières F, Hyland P.

Gender differences in intimate partner violence: Risk factors and associations with suicide.

Psychol Trauma. 2024 Mar;16(3):470-477. PMID: [37104774](#)

From a survey of the general adult population of Ireland, “32.1% of the sample experienced lifetime IPV, with IPV more common among females...All IPV exposure was found to be associated with a significantly higher likelihood of experiencing multiple suicide-related phenomena for males and females...IPV is a major public social health issue affecting approximately one-in-three females and one-in-four males in Ireland and is strongly associated with suicide-related phenomena.”

Silver KE, Norton M, King K, et al.

Survival sex among a diverse sample of women with histories of intimate partner violence: Results from a domestic violence shelter.

Psychol Trauma. 2024 Mar;16(3):454-461. PMID: [36701537](#)

From a survey of 227 women (44% Black, 37.7% White, 10.6% Multiracial, 4.3% Latina, 1% Arab, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1.4% Indigenous or Aboriginal) residing in an Ohio DV shelter, “More than two-thirds of participants reported engaging in survival sex, and participants who did were more likely to have elevated rates of substance use, PTSD symptoms, ACEs, and IPV victimization. Most commonly, women reported engaging in survival sex for fear that the other person would take away valuable support or things they needed. Participants also reported engaging in survival sex for securing shelter, for money, for food, and to obtain drugs or alcohol. Notably, a sizable minority of women first engaged in survival sex as minors, suggesting overlap with the phenomenon of domestic minor sex trafficking. Engaging in survival sex may be commonly experienced by women residing in DV shelters and is associated with trauma history and post-traumatic stress symptoms.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Karr JE, Logan TK.

Post-Concussion Symptoms in Women With Head Injury Due to Intimate Partner Violence.

J Neurotrauma. 2024 Feb;41(3-4):447-463. PMID: [37485628](#)

The current study compared post-concussion symptom severity between women with and without IPV-related head injuries. Women were recruited from court jurisdictions in Kentucky, USA, after receiving a protective order for partner abuse. The sample included 268 women with no prior head injuries (mean age 31.8 years, 77.2% White) and 251 women with lifetime IPV-related head injuries (31.8, 88.0% White). Controlling for sociodemographic characteristics (i.e., age, race/ethnicity, education, unemployment, and rural/urban residence) and physical and sexual IPV severity, IPV-related head injury was independently significant, and accounted for significant cognitive, physical, emotional, and total symptoms. “Women with IPV-related head injuries may be at increased risk for unaddressed health problems spanning cognitive, physical, and emotional domains.”

Karr JE, Leong SE, Logan TK.

Head Injury Due to Intimate Partner Violence: Injury Characteristics, Subacute Symptoms, and Receipt of Care.

J Neurotrauma. 2024 Feb;41(3-4):464-474. PMID: [37485600](#)

Using data from the same Kentucky study above, and comparing women survivors of IPV based on whether they experienced a head injury due to IPV (255 women) or a head injury not due to IPV (118), women with IPV-related head injuries reported a higher number of lifetime head injuries (3 vs. 1), and a higher number of head injuries involving loss of consciousness, but lower rates of hospitalization (IPV-related = 56.1% vs. non-IPV-related = 73.7%) and formal rehabilitation (3.2% vs. 9.4%) following head injury. Women with IPV-related head injuries had greater lifetime severity of physical IPV and sexual IPV, and endorsed all symptoms at greater rates than women with non-IPV-related head injuries, including physical (e.g., headaches: odds ratio = 3.15, dizziness: OR = 2.65), cognitive (e.g., trouble problem solving: OR = 2.66, inattention: OR = 2.39), and emotional symptoms (e.g., depression: OR = 7.39, anxiety: OR = 4.60). “Women with self-reported IPV-related head injuries represent an underserved population that is often unevaluated following injury and may have many unmet care needs.”

Karr JE, Leong SE, Ingram EO, Logan TK.

Repetitive Head Injury and Cognitive, Physical, and Emotional Symptoms in Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.

J Neurotrauma. 2024 Feb;41(3-4):486-498. PMID: [37694581](#)

Using data from the same Kentucky study above, cumulative head injuries were independently related to worse physical symptoms (e.g., headaches, dizziness, sleep problems), whereas cognitive and emotional symptoms were, in part, attributable to cumulative physical and emotional trauma due to IPV. Participants with loss of consciousness (LOC) had more severe cognitive, physical, emotional, and total symptoms severity. However, there was no cumulative effect of LOC in that participants with 1 LOC episode did not differ from participants with 2 + LOC episodes.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Zhang H, Bao Y, Baek D, et al.

Healthcare costs for legally adjudicated elder mistreatment victims in comparison to non-mistreated older adults.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2024 Jan;72(1):236-245. PMID: [38112382](#)

“We examined healthcare costs in 114 individuals who experienced EM [elder maltreatment] and 410 matched controls. Total Medicare Parts A and B healthcare costs were similar between cases and controls in the 12 months prior to initial EM detection (\$11,673 vs. \$11,402), but cases had significantly higher total healthcare costs during the 12 months after initial mistreatment identification (\$15,927 vs. \$10,805).”

Gassoumis ZD, Martinez JM, Yonashiro-Cho J, et al.

Comprehensive Older Adult and Caregiver Help (COACH): A person-centered caregiver intervention prevents elder mistreatment.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2024 Jan;72(1):246-257. PMID: [37791406](#)

Of 80 family caregivers of older adults, a randomized, controlled, pilot study of a first-of-its-kind coaching intervention reduced the experience of elder maltreatment among older adults with chronic health conditions, including dementia (0% elder mistreatment in intervention group vs. 23.1% in control group).

Sexual Assault

Holland KJ, Cipriano AE, Howard Valdivia RL, Pinchevsky GM.

Analyzing the shifting state of college sexual violence compelled disclosure policies: National trends, empirical findings, and implications.

Am Psychol. 2023;78(9):1098-109. PMID: [38166275](#)

“Following federal and state law, institutions of higher education (IHE) have implemented mandatory reporting (MR) policies, requiring some employees to report sexual violence they learn about to university officials regardless of victim/survivor consent (i.e., compelled disclosure). Proponents argue that MR policies are beneficial (e.g., provide survivors with support), while critics argue that MR policies that limit survivor autonomy can be harmful...The majority of IHEs designated all or nearly all employees as mandatory reporters...The content of MR policies mostly offered minimal instructions for employees (e.g., to whom to report) and rarely mandated trauma-informed responses (e.g., how to respond to disclosures)...our findings further indicate that current MR policies focus on compliance over victim/survivor support.”

Cusano J, Wood L, Ast RS, McMahon S, Steiner JJ, Spector C.
Help-seeking among college survivors of dating and sexual violence: a qualitative exploration of utilization of university-based victim services.

J Am Coll Health. 2024;72(1):101-8. PMID: [35113768](#)

Interviews with 33 dating and sexual violence survivors at a large, Mid-Atlantic University who both did and did not utilize university-based victim services showed factors that contribute to a reluctance to seek services. “Upon disclosing to a friend, victim services users and non-users received drastically different reactions which shaped their subsequent healing and disclosure trajectories...Many victim services non-users described barriers...including an overall lack of awareness of the types of services, a lack of knowledge regarding the eligibility criteria for seeking such services as well as the process of utilizing services, and a lack of clarity regarding the potential out-come(s) of victim services utilization.” Non-users were concerned about confidentiality and anonymity, especially regarding parental notification; and they did not believe reporting a victimization experience would result “in any type of justice”.

Madjlessi J, Loughnan S.

Male Sexual Victimization by Women: Incidence Rates, Mental Health, and Conformity to Gender Norms in a Sample of British Men.

Arch Sex Behav. 2024;53(1):263-74. PMID: [37851161](#)

“Male sexual victimization by women is often neglected within psychological research...A sample of 1124 heterosexual British men completed an online survey...71% of men experienced some form of sexual victimization by a woman at least once during their lifetime. Sexual victimization was significantly associated with anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.”

Grigoreva AD, Rottman J, Tasimi A.

When does "no" mean no? Insights from sex robots.

Cognition. 2024;244:105687. PMID: [38154450](#)

“We found that people’s moral judgments of sexual assault varied based on the mental capacities displayed by the victim, the victim’s social function, ontological type [human or robot], and the presence of a transactional context [paid or not paid]. The effect of these factors was evident even when the victims were not human but only human-like such as AI-powered humanoid sex robots. In addition to offering insight into people’s moral considerations regarding sexual assault, this research sheds light on people’s emerging intuitions about human-robot morality.”

Human Trafficking

Raj A.

Streamlining healthcare delivery for sex-trafficked adolescents.

Curr Probl Pediatr Adolesc Health Care. 2023;101553. PMID: [38161099](#)

“Given the inconsistent engagement with the medical system that trafficked youth can experience, there is growing advocacy promoting streamlined provision of specialized services. One innovative example includes the Adolescent Protection Collaborative (APC) launched at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2021...conceptualized to serve the overlapping populations of youth impacted by sex trafficking victimization and child welfare involvement...the APC brought together a child abuse pediatrician, adolescent medicine physician, and social worker to provide coordinated, real-time care during each clinic visit.”

Greenbaum J, Torres MIM, Nguyen PT, et al.

Strategies for healthcare professionals to identify and assist migrant children at risk of labour exploitation or trafficking.

BMJ paediatrics open. 2024;8(1). PMID: [38272540](#)

“The goal of this paper is to provide guidance to clinicians on identifying and assisting migrant paediatric patients at risk of being exploited in the work sector, including conducting a risk assessment and making decisions about mandatory reporting...recommendations serve to prioritise the best interests of vulnerable working migrant children and youth.”

Box 1 Direct questions about possible exploitation and labour trafficking include:

In your current work, or your past work, did you ever have any of these experiences?

- ⇒ Felt unsafe at work?
- ⇒ Missed school because of work (did not attend some days/weeks, or were not enrolled in school).
- ⇒ Worked without getting the payment you thought you would get?
- ⇒ Worked a job that was different from what you were promised or told it would be?
- ⇒ Been physically or sexually assaulted by another employee or a supervisor/manager/boss?
- ⇒ Had your boss/supervisor yell at you, insult you and/or make you feel bad?

LGBTQ Concerns

Blackburn AM, Katz BW, Oesterle DW, Orchowski LM.

Preventing sexual violence in sexual orientation and gender diverse communities: A call to action.

European journal of psychotraumatology. 2023;15(1):2297544. PMID: [38197295](#)

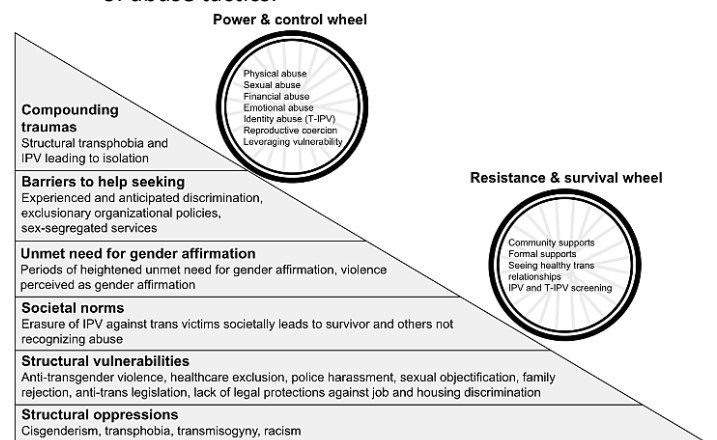
“This narrative review provides an overview of the prevalence of sexual violence in the SOGD [sexual orientation and gender diverse] communities, delineates risk factors for sexual victimization, and reviews and evaluates existing prevention efforts. We outline specific recommendations for ensuring that prevention efforts meet the needs of the SOGD communities.”

Marrow E, Malik M, Pantalone DW, Peitzmeier S.

Power and control, resistance and survival: A systematic review and meta-synthesis of the qualitative literature on intimate partner violence against transgender individuals.

Soc Sci Med. 2023;342:116498. PMID: [38227997](#)

“We offer a novel theoretical model that demonstrates how abusers can leverage structural discrimination and vulnerabilities against trans victims, regardless of the abuser's own identities. We identify individual power and control tactics abusers use, including identifying a category of IPV that we term leveraging vulnerability, which involves abusers weaponizing their own vulnerabilities to avoid accountability. Reducing IPV in trans communities requires expanding current IPV theory to include...recognition of a wider range of abuse tactics.”



Race/Cultural Concerns

Johnson JD.

Black Pregnancy-Related Mortality in the United States.

Obstet Gynecol Clin North Am. 2024;51(1):1-16. PMID:

[38267121](#)

“The maternal mortality rate for non-Hispanic Black birthing people is 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births compared with 26.6 deaths per 100,000 live births for non-Hispanic White birthing people...the leading causes of death for non-Hispanic Black people were preeclampsia/eclampsia and postpartum cardiomyopathy [heart failure], with rates noted to be five times that of non-Hispanic White people...Those who provide care to Black patients should increase their understanding of racism's impact and take steps to center the experiences and needs of Black birthing people.”

Dmowska A, Fielding-Singh P, Halpern J, Prata N.

The intersection of traumatic childbirth and obstetric racism: A qualitative study.

Birth. 2024 Mar;51(1):209-217. PMID: [37849421](#)

Of 30 mothers who identified as women of color (37% Black, 40% Latina, and 23% Asian) who gave birth in the US and self-identified as having experienced a traumatic childbirth, “Mothers reported obstetric racism as core to their traumatic birth experiences. This racism manifested through practitioners' use of gendered and racialized stereotypes, denying and delegitimizing mothers' needs. Mothers shared key consequences of the obstetric racism they experienced, including postpartum anxiety and depression, increased medical mistrust, and decreased desire for future children.”

Habersham L, George J, Townsel CD.

Substance Use in Pregnancy and Its Impact on Communities of Color.

Obstet Gynecol Clin North Am. 2024;51(1):193-210. PMID:

[38267128](#)

“Stigma toward pregnant and postpartum people who use drugs is common and seeks to define addiction as a moral weakness rather than a chronic medical illness that requires resources and treatment. More concerning is the additive impact of substance use and racial discrimination, whose intersections present particularly challenging circumstances. In this article, the authors review the history of substance use in the United States and focus on 3 substances of abuse [marijuana, cocaine, and opioids] that illustrate the inequity faced by pregnant person of color who use drugs.”

Boley S, Sidebottom A, Stenzel A, Watson D.

Racial Disparities in Opioid Administration Practices Among Undifferentiated Abdominal Pain Patients in the Emergency Department.

J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2024 Feb;11(1):416-424.

PMID: [36795292](#)

Of 7309 patients seen for abdominal pain in 3 EDs in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, “After adjusting for confounders, patients who identified as non-Hispanic Black (OR: 0.64) or Hispanic (OR: 0.78) were less likely to be given opioids during their ED encounter when compared to non-Hispanic White patients. Similarly, NH Black patients (OR: 0.62) and Hispanic patients (OR: 0.66) were less likely to receive a discharge opioid prescription.”

Sheehy S, Brock M, Palmer JR, et al.

Perceived Interpersonal Racism in Relation to Incident Coronary Heart Disease Among Black Women.

Circulation. 2024 Feb 13;149(7):521-528. PMID: [38235551](#)

For 48,305 participants in the Black Women's Health Study with 22 years of follow-up, participants who reported experiences of racism in employment, housing, or involving the police had an age-adjusted hazard ratio of 1.35 for coronary heart disease. However, perceived interpersonal racism in daily life (e.g. “people act as if they think you are dishonest”) was not significantly associated with heart disease.

Stewart CE, Nañez A, Ayoola-Adeola M, Chase D.

Reducing health disparities in endometrial cancer care in 2024.

Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol. 2024;36(1):18-22. PMID:

[37902961](#)

“Racial disparities in endometrial cancer care have been identified along the cancer continuum including risk, diagnosis, access to treatment, and overall survival. The mortality gap in endometrial cancer is one of the top five widest Black-White mortality gaps among all cancer diagnoses in the United States...the aim of this review is to identify actionable areas of improvement. To mitigate racial disparities, we must acknowledge that Black patients are at higher risk of high-risk subtypes of endometrial cancer, and their presentation can vary from what is considered typical for the most common type of endometrial cancer...has an impact on how providers approach a work-up for Black vs. White patients.”

Baker NS, VanHook C, Ziminski D, et al.

What's missing? Violently injured Black men's narratives around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;149:106644. PMID: [38237241](#)

Of ten Black male firearm violence survivors, all experienced at least one of the original 10 ACEs. However, "Three themes arose from the interviews: youth incarceration, family separation and loss, and housing transition. Men at risk for violent injury experience ACEs beyond those measured in the current instrument."

Bird CM, Kate Webb E, Cole SW, et al.

Experiences of racial discrimination and adverse gene expression among black individuals in a level 1 trauma center sample.

Brain Behav Immun. 2024;116:229-36. PMID: [38070623](#)

Conserved Transcriptional Response to Adversity (CTRA) is a physiological pattern of genes in circulating immune cells responding to increased sympathetic nervous system activity (high chronic stress). The CTRA pattern upregulates genes involved in inflammation, and downregulates genes involved in responding to infections. This is one of the ways chronic stress affects the immune system. In this study of 94 Black individuals who had a recent traumatic injury, and after controlling for many variables, those with a history of high levels of lifetime discrimination showed a significant increase in CTRA in the six months after injury. "Thus, racial discrimination appeared to lead to a more sensitized biological profile which was further amplified by the effects of a recent traumatic injury." [Might this physiological change be happening in children as well?]

Rattani A, Mian Z, Farahani S, Ridge M, Uzamere T, Bajwa M.
A systematic review of barriers to pursuing careers in medicine among Black premedical students.

J Natl Med Assoc. 2024 Jan 23:S0027-9684(23)00110-4.

PMID: [38267334](#)

From a research review, "Most papers corroborated common barriers, such as financial/socioeconomic burdens, lack of access to preparatory materials and academic enrichment programs, lack of exposure to the medical field, poor mentorship/advising experiences, systemic and interpersonal racism, and limited support systems. Common facilitators of interest and interventions included increasing academic enrichment programs, improving mentorship and career guidance quality and availability, and improving access to and availability of resources as well as exposure opportunities."

Perpetrators

Larsson J, Bjureberg J, Zhao X, Hesser H.

The inner workings of anger: A network analysis of anger and emotion regulation.

J Clin Psychol. 2024 Feb;80(2):437-455. PMID: [37975317](#)

Using data from 538 adults seeking treatment for anger, mean age 39.8 years and 55% female, a network analysis was performed. "Two clusters emerged: one consisting primarily of cognitive components of anger, and another of behavioral. Across networks, anger nodes were strongly interconnected, and anger rumination and anger suppression were especially influential. Several direct links were found between specific emotion regulation strategies and cognitive components of anger [such as mindfulness], whereas most strategies were only indirectly related to angry behavior. Cognitive reappraisal showed no direct link with any of the anger nodes. Our findings reveal potential pathways by which different emotion regulation strategies may influence different types of anger, which could serve as therapeutic targets."

Police and Court Systems

Dalve K, Ellyson AM, Bowen D, et al.

Suicide-related behavior and firearm access among perpetrators of domestic violence subject to domestic violence protection orders.

Preventive medicine reports. 2024;37:102560. PMID: [38268616](#)

"We examined the association of respondent suicide-related behaviors with firearm possession and weapon use in DV among a sample of granted DV protection order [DVPO] petitions in King County, Washington (WA), United States from 2014 to 2020 (n = 2,537)...Overall, respondent suicide-related behavior was commonly reported by petitioners (46 %). Approximately 30 % of respondents possessed firearms...Respondents with a history of suicide-related behavior were 1.33 times more likely to have used firearms or weapons to threaten/harm in DV compared to those without a history of suicide-related behavior (44.1 % vs. 33.8 %)...History of suicide-related behavior may be a marker for firearm-related harm to the victim-survivor. Evaluations of DVPO firearm dispossession should consider both firearm-related injury of the victim-survivor and suicide of the respondent."

Sacco MA, Ricci C, Fragomeni G, et al.
Reconstruction of Trauma Dynamics Due to Ligature Strangulation by Using a Dynamometer: A Technical Report.
 Cureus. 2023 Nov 18;15(11):e48982. PMID: [38111449](#)

“Asphyxiation caused by violence, particularly through ligature strangulation, necessitates the application of a force that is characterized by a point of application, direction, and intensity. These properties can be quantified through the use of a dynamometer, which is composed of a graduated scale and a spring...The primary challenge in this case was to establish the attempted murder scientifically, as the offender claimed that there had been no intent to kill, but instead an attempt to frighten the victim...The information yielded by the dynamometer was subsequently submitted as scientific evidence in Court, serving to substantiate the intent to commit homicide and substantiate the credibility of the victim's testimony.”

Providers

Arbour M, Walker K, Houston J.
Trauma-Informed Pedagogy: Instructional Strategies to Support Student Success.
 J Midwifery Womens Health. 2024 Jan-Feb;69(1):25-32.
 PMID: [37358392](#)

“Now more than ever, innovative teaching strategies are needed to support students, reduce the risks of burnout, and increase diversity in the workforce. One strategy is to adopt a trauma-informed pedagogy...founded on core assumptions of trauma-informed care and thus supports student success by recognizing that the student cannot be separated from their own life experiences... Empathetic behavior from teachers also increases student learning motivation, making it easier for students to actively engage in learning thereby reducing their distress.” Authors “offer concrete educational strategies that faculty members and educational programs can employ to increase the success of a diverse student body.”

Joustra A, Quinn L, Walker V.
Recognition, prevention and management of 'digital harm'.
 Arch Dis Child Educ Pract Ed. 2024 Jan 24:edpract-2023-326160. PMID: [38267196](#)

“For children and young people, their online life is as real to them as their in-person life. Health professionals urgently need to update their knowledge and awareness of the positive and negative impacts of the myriad of online content and how this is viewed and used by children and

young people. Digital harm can contribute to multiple clinical presentations and paediatricians must ask about online life in consultations and be able to provide holistic digital safety advice, while recognising serious digital harm requiring safeguarding input.”

Box 1 HEADSSS assessment

Home: Does the child neglect family activities for their device? Does their mood change if the device is removed from them?
Education: Do they get told off for using their device at school? Is screen time interfering with homework? Is there evidence of cyberbullying at school?
Activities: Do they have a healthy range of non-digital activities and exercise?
Drugs: Have they been approached online by a drug dealer, or shared or received inappropriate drug-related content online?
Sexual relationships: Have there been inappropriate contacts online that may have been sexual in nature? Has the child sent or received explicit content? Is there a possibility of online sexual abuse, grooming or exploitation?
Social care: Is there any social care history as a direct result of a digital harm event?
Safety: Has a child's physical safety ever been at risk due to events that initiated online? Do they have adequate privacy settings?
Social media: Has social media ever caused you to have a low mood? Do you think social media has a positive or negative impact on your life?

Table 2 Red and amber flags

Red flags—urgent safeguarding input	Amber flags—not immediate safety concerns but may be contributing to the presenting complaint
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Receiving or sending explicit images ▶ Suspected grooming, talking to or planning to meet strangers ▶ Suspected online radicalisation ▶ Online content resulting in self-harm, suicidal ideation or eating disorders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Excessive screen time ▶ Inadequate privacy settings ▶ Viewing inappropriate content, unsupervised internet access without restrictions ▶ Poor body image

Prevention

Skowron EA, Nekkanti AK, Skoranski AM, et al.
Randomized trial of parent-child interaction therapy improves child-welfare parents' behavior, self-regulation, and self-perceptions.
 J Consult Clin Psychol. 2024 Feb;92(2):75-92. PMID: [38059943](#)

In this randomized trial of parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT), “Significant PCIT effects emerged on (a) increased positive parenting, reduced negative parenting and disruptive child behavior (small-to-medium intention-to-treat effects and medium-to-large per-protocol effects); (b) gains in parent inhibitory control on the stop-signal task (small-to-medium effects); (c) gains in parent-reported emotion regulation and (d) positive, affirming self-perceptions (small-to-medium effects), relative to the control group.”

Kahhalé I, Barry KR, Hanson JL.

Positive parenting moderates associations between childhood stress and corticolimbic structure.

PNAS Nexus. 2023 Jun 13;2(6):pgad145. PMID: [37325028](#)

“Behavioral and neuroimaging data were analyzed from 482 youth (39% female and 61% male, ages 10-17)...youth-reported positive parenting [e.g. expressions of warmth and support] buffered against the association between childhood stress and youth behavioral problems...We also found that youth-reported positive parenting buffered against the association between childhood stress and decreased hippocampal volumes...Our work identifies positive parenting as a resilience factor...on problem behaviors and brain development.”

Ballard PJ, Arnold TJ, Vidrascu EM, et al.

Pathways to opioid use and implications for prevention: voices of young adults in recovery.

Substance abuse treatment, prevention, and policy. 2024;19(1):8. PMID: [38238852](#)

From interviews with 30 young adults in recovery from opioid use disorder, “the most endorsed risk factors pertained to emotions (emotional neglect and emotional abuse) followed by sexual abuse, physical abuse, and physical neglect...challenging experiences during adolescence, such as unaddressed mental health, social, and emotional needs, which were often reported as reasons for opioid initiation and use...Implications include the need for universal prevention strategies that include emotion-focused interventions and supports alongside...strategies to regulate prescriptions; the potential utility of more emotion-focused items being included on screening tools; and more voices of young people in recovery.”

O'Súilleabháin PS, D'Arcy-Bewick S, Fredrix M, et al.

Self-Acceptance and Purpose in Life Are Mechanisms Linking Adverse Childhood Experiences to Mortality Risk.

Psychosom Med. 2024 Feb-Mar 01;86(2):83-88. PMID: [37982544](#)

From a large US midlife survey, ACEs significantly increased mortality risk, and lack of self-acceptance and purpose in life accounted for part of this association. “Given that self-acceptance and purpose may change through intervention, these factors may be useful targets for individuals with ACEs that could lead to a longer life.”

McMinn LE, Kloess JA, Stephenson Z.

Empowering Young People with Special Educational Needs to Recognize and Report Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: A Mixed-Methods Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;15248380231217047. PMID: [38164801](#)

“Young people with special educational needs (SEN), such as intellectual disability and/or autism, are particularly vulnerable to child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). This systematic literature review consolidates findings in respect to how young people with SEN are currently being taught about CSEA in the UK...qualitative studies identified the following themes: (a) beliefs and stereotypes about CSEA, vulnerability, and risk have led to young people with SEN being misinformed and misunderstood, and (b) anxiety about the topic of sex and abuse creates polarized views regarding CSEA education in adult guardians of young people with SEN...The findings of this review encourage providers of CSEA awareness education to be mindful of not endorsing harmful stereotypes, and to involve parent-carers as much as possible.”

Researchers

Bressler CJ, Malthaner L, Pondel N, et al.

Identifying Children at Risk for Maltreatment Using Emergency Medical Services' Data: An Exploratory Study.

Child Maltreat. 2024 Feb;29(1):37-46. PMID: [36205182](#)

Using natural language processing to query Emergency Medical Services (EMS) electronic health records (EHR) to identify variables associated with child maltreatment, 11 variables in the EMS records were associated with child abuse: Sexual, abuse, chronic condition, developmental delay, unconscious on arrival, criminal activity/police, ingestion/inhalation/exposure, and <2 years old. “A future direction of this work includes developing a tool that screens EMS EHRs for households at risk for maltreatment.”

Holper L, Cerullo E, Mokros A, Habermeyer E.

Predictive and incremental validity of the Static-99, Static-99R, and STABLE-2007 for sexual recidivism: A diagnostic test accuracy network meta-analysis (DTA-NMA).

Psychol Assess. 2024;36(2):134-46. PMID: [38059959](#)

“This work represents the first meta-analysis to compare Static-99, Static-99R, STABLE-2007, and their combinations in one analysis. Static-99R demonstrated the highest specificity in predicting the risk of sexual recidivism, indicating a potential advantage in detecting true nonrecidivists. The findings are discussed, considering the current recommendations for assessing the risk of sexual recidivism in the criminal justice system.”

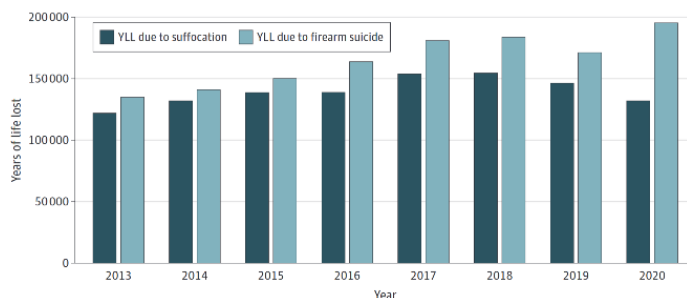
Other of Interest

Garcia S, Entrup P, Hall OT, Deaner M, Thomas A, Lim R.
Years of Life Lost to Firearm Suicide Among Young People in the US.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Nov 1;177(11):1230-1232. PMID: [37669072](#)

“Firearm suicide takes the lives of thousands of US youths annually, and firearm-related injuries increased during the COVID-19 pandemic...suicide is the second leading cause of death of individuals aged 10 to 14 years...and among the top 3 leading causes of death among young people aged 10 to 24 years...From 2013 to 2020, incident deaths due to suicide of young people totaled 49,545 (79% male and 21% female) and years of life lost from suicide was 2,892,553. Race and ethnicity data could not be collected with current methods...The top 3 leading causes of suicide [for this group] include firearms, suffocation, and poison.

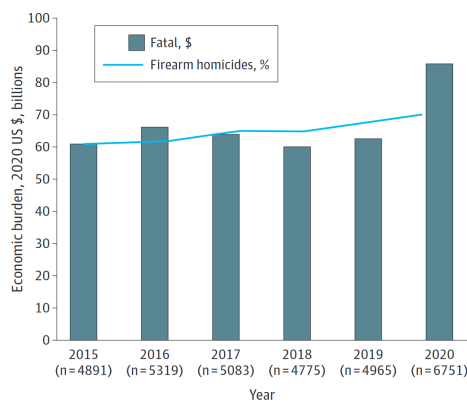
Figure. Years of Life Lost (YLL) Due to Suffocation and Firearm Suicide Among Individuals Aged 10 to 24 Years, 2013 to 2020



Peterson C, Parker EM, D'Inverno AS, Haileyesus T.
Economic Burden of US Youth Violence Injuries.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Nov 1;177(11):1232-1234. PMID: [37721766](#)

“This economic evaluation’s findings indicate that the economic burden of youth violence [aged 10-24 years], including medical care, lost productivity, reduced quality of life from injury morbidity, and avoidable mortality, reached \$122 billion in 2020, dominated by male firearm homicides. Prevention strategies can reduce this substantial burden. A limitation of this study is that the economic burden is underestimated because property damage and criminal justice costs were not included, and nonfatal costs addressed only the first year following an injury. Highlighting the economic burden of youth violence is essential to inform decision-making about the value of targeted prevention strategies.”



Brown A, Harkin D, Tanczer LM.

Safeguarding the "Internet of Things" for Victim-Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence.

Violence Against Women. 2024:10778012231222486. PMID: [38166524](#)

“Smart, Internet-connected devices--the so-called "Internet of Things" (IoT)--pose significant threats to victim-survivors of domestic and family violence (DFV). IoT systems have been used to abuse, harass, monitor, intimidate, and gaslight victim-survivors.” Authors present findings from an abusability analysis of 13 IoT devices, including home security cameras, online “assistants”, personal fitness monitors, and home lighting and appliance smart devices. “Our results suggest ways IoT devices can be modified at low cost to alleviate opportunities for misuse...it is imperative that government authorities, industry bodies, and IoT practitioners urgently conceptualize DFV as a key IoT issue and factor it into safety-by-design frameworks, codes of practices, and other forms of security guidelines.”

Adam-Troian J, Bélanger JJ.

"Consumed by creed": Obsessive-compulsive symptoms underpin ideological obsession and support for political violence.

Aggress Behav. 2024 Jan;50(1):e22124. PMID: [37961930](#)

“Across four ideological samples in the US (Environmental activists, Republicans, Democrats, and Muslims, N total = 1114), we found direct effects between OCD [obsessive-compulsive disorder] symptom severity and radical intentions, as well as indirect effects of OCD via obsessive passion. Even after controlling for potential individual difference (e.g., adverse childhood experiences, loss of significance, and substance abuse), these relationships remained robust, implying that OCD plays a significant role in the formation of violent ideological intentions and opening new avenues for the treatment and prevention of violent extremism.”