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Child Abuse

Helton JJ, Liechty JM.

Obesity prevalence among youth investigated for maltreatment in the United States.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Apr;38(4):768-75. PMID: [24035366](#)

From a national survey, 1-in-4 CPS-investigated children were obese compared with 1-in-6 children in the nation. The differences were most pronounced in children aged 2-5 years (28% CPS-involved obese vs. 10% nationally).

Osofsky JD, Chartrand MM.

Military children from birth to five years.

Future Child. 2013 Fall;23(2):61-77. PMID: [25518692](#)

Deployment is particularly stressful for the youngest children. Authors “describe the circumstances that are most likely to put young children in military families at risk, and review a number of promising programs to build resilience in young military children.” [Very practical article.]

Bunge MJ.

The positive role of religion and religious communities in child protection.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Apr;38(4):562-6. PMID: [24787392](#)

Introduction to this journal issue containing specific articles relating to child abuse/protection and Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism.

Miller TR, Steinbeigle R, Wicks A, et. al.

Disability-adjusted life-year burden of abusive head trauma at ages 0-4.

Pediatrics. 2014 Dec;134(6):e1545-50. PMID: [25404725](#)

The average disability-adjusted life-year burden of a 30-day child survivor of abusive head trauma was 7.6 years of lost life expectancy and 5.7 years lived with disability. The average burden several years after even mild abusive head trauma exceeded the burden of a severe burn.

Pechtel P, Lyons-Ruth K, Anderson CM, Teicher MH.

Sensitive periods of amygdala development: the role of maltreatment in preadolescence.

Neuroimage. 2014 Aug 15;97:236-44. PMID: [24736182](#)

From brain scans of adults who had experienced maltreatment, compared to controls, the peak time of sensitivity to abuse causing (amygdala) brain structural changes was age 10-11. “Exposure during this sensitive period resulted in steep dose-response function with maximal response to even modest levels of exposure.” [Note adult recall of maltreatment was only elicited from age 6 onward.]

Severity of Exposure to Maltreatment Across Age

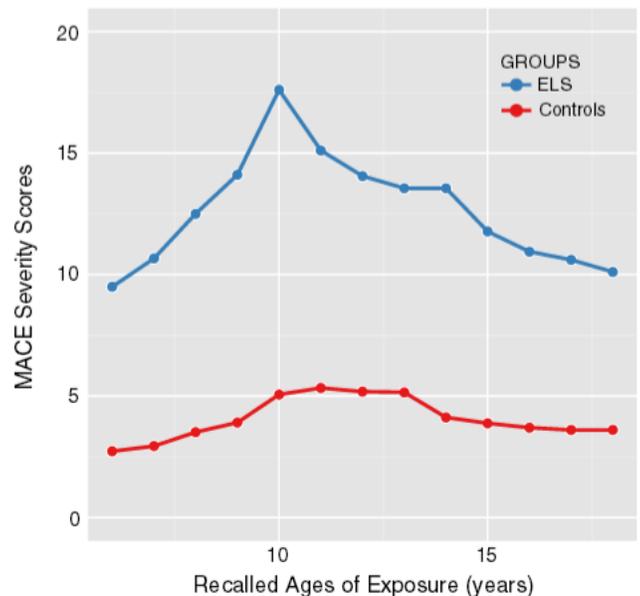


Fig. 1. Retrospectively reported severity of exposure to childhood maltreatment during different childhood ages in longitudinally-followed participants with early life stress versus healthy controls.

Valente LA, Dalledone M, Pizzatto E, et. al.

Domestic violence against children and adolescents: prevalence of physical injuries in a southern Brazilian metropolis.

Braz Dent J. 2015 Jan-Feb;26(1):55-60. PMID: [25672385](#)

For over 10,000 Brazilian children with abusive physical injuries, head and neck injuries corresponded to 58% of all injuries in 2010 and 65% in 2011.

Ryan MF.

Phthiriasis palpebrarum infection: a concern for child abuse.

J Emerg Med. 2014 Jun;46(6):e159-62. PMID: [24556565](#)
Case report [and reminder] of a child with a history of head lice having infestation of eyelashes and eyelids. Since head lice do not typically infest the eyes, on further evaluation the eye infection was caused by phthiriasis palpebrarum (pubic lice) leading to investigation of child sexual abuse.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Cong E, Li Y, Shao C, et. al.

Childhood sexual abuse and the risk for recurrent major depression in Chinese women.

Psychol Med. 2012 Feb;42(2):409-17. PMID: [21835095](#)
Similar to Western studies and after controlling for major variables, this Chinese study of women with recurrent major depression showed 3.26 times increased risk with a history of childhood sexual abuse in a graded fashion – non-genital touching 2.47, genital touching 2.77, and intercourse 13.35.

Widom CS, Czaja S, Dutton MA.

Child abuse and neglect and intimate partner violence victimization and perpetration: a prospective investigation.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Apr;38(4):650-63. PMID: [24325940](#)
For 497 children with documented childhood maltreatment followed into middle adulthood and compared to a matched control group, neglect was associated with increased risk of perpetrating physical injury to a partner; abused/neglected females but not males were more likely to report being physically injured by their partner.

Stephenson KR, Pulverman CS, Meston CM.

Assessing the association between childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual experiences in women with sexual difficulties.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Jun;27(3):274-82. PMID: [24948536](#)
Of 238 women experiencing sexual difficulties, childhood sexual abuse “appears to exert a medium-sized statistical effect on sexual function, and a large-sized effect on sexual satisfaction.”

Carr A, Dooley B, Fitzpatrick M, et. al.

Adult adjustment of survivors of institutional child abuse in Ireland.

Child Abuse Negl. 2010 Jul;34(7):477-89. PMID: [20605635](#)
Of 247 adult survivors of Irish institutional abuse with a mean age of 60, over 80% reported psychological disorders - especially anxiety, mood and substance use disorders.

Coelho R, Viola TW, Walss-Bass C, et. al.

Childhood maltreatment and inflammatory markers: a systematic review.

Acta Psychiatr Scand. 2014 Mar;129(3):180-92. PMID: [24205846](#)
In a review of research articles, childhood maltreatment was associated with adult increased levels of the inflammatory markers CRP, fibrinogen and proinflammatory cytokines.

Schrepf A, Markon K, Lutgendorf SK.

From childhood trauma to elevated C-reactive protein in adulthood: the role of anxiety and emotional eating.

Psychosom Med. 2014 Jun;76(5):327-36. PMID: [24933013](#)
For 687 adults as part of a national study, childhood trauma was significantly associated with elevated CRP (inflammatory marker) and elevated body mass index. Increased anxiety and compensatory emotional eating were significant contributing factors.

Peltzer K, Pengpid S, Samuels TA, et. al.

Prevalence of overweight/obesity and its associated factors among university students from 22 countries.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2014 Jul 21;11(7):7425-41. PMID: [25050651](#)
From a study population of over 15,000 university students from 22 countries, 22% were overweight or obese. Childhood physical abuse was a significant risk factor for overweight/obesity for both male and female students.

Adolescents

Clark CJ, Spencer RA, Everson-Rose SA, et. al.

Dating violence, childhood maltreatment, and BMI from adolescence to young adulthood.

Pediatrics. 2014 Oct;134(4):678-85. PMID: [25201793](#)
From a national longitudinal survey with 9295 adolescents, partner violence independently predicted increases in body mass index over time in women. Exposure to childhood sexual abuse magnified the weight increase associated with IPV exposure.

Oshri A, Handley ED, Sutton TE, Wortel S, Burnette ML.
Developmental trajectories of substance use among sexual minority girls: associations with sexual victimization and sexual health risk.

J Adolesc Health. 2014 Jul;55(1):100-6. PMID: [24534358](#)
 Chicago sexual minority girls reported more sexual victimization than heterosexual girls. Unwanted sexual experiences “emerged as a robust predictor” of increased number of partners, sexually transmitted infections, and alcohol and marijuana use.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Pavey AR, Gorman GH, Kuehn D, Stokes TA, Hisle-Gorman E.
Intimate partner violence increases adverse outcomes at birth and in early infancy.

J Pediatr. 2014 Nov;165(5):1034-9. PMID: [25128162](#)
 Comparing and linking databases within the Military Health System, IPV exposure during pregnancy was associated with 52% increased risk of low birth weight babies and 24% increased risk neonatal hospitalization.

Abdollahi F, Abhari FR, Delavar MA, Charati JY.
Physical violence against pregnant women by an intimate partner, and adverse pregnancy outcomes in Mazandaran Province, Iran.

J Family Community Med. 2015 Jan-Apr;22(1):13-8. PMID: [25657606](#)
 Of 1461 Iranian women followed during pregnancy, 14.1% reported physical IPV during pregnancy. These women experienced 1.9 times increased risk of premature rupture of membranes, and 2.9 times increased risk of low birth weight babies.

Straus MA, Michel-Smith Y.
Mutuality, severity, and chronicity of violence by Father-Only, Mother-Only, and mutually violent parents as reported by university students in 15 nations.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Apr;38(4):664-76. PMID: [24252745](#)
 In a survey of 11,408 university students from 15 nations (including US and Canada), 14% reported physical violence between their parents, with 25% Father-Only, 22% Mother-Only, and 52% Both-Assaulted. 82% of students reporting parental violence also reported chronicity of the violence.

Thornberry TP, Matsuda M, Greenman SJ, et. al.
Adolescent risk factors for child maltreatment.
 Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Apr;38(4):706-22. PMID: [24075569](#)
 For 1,000 7th and 8th graders followed to age 31, the more domains of risk they had experienced in adolescence (such as family structure, exposure to family violence, education, precocious transitions like sexual activity), the more likely they were to abuse their own children.

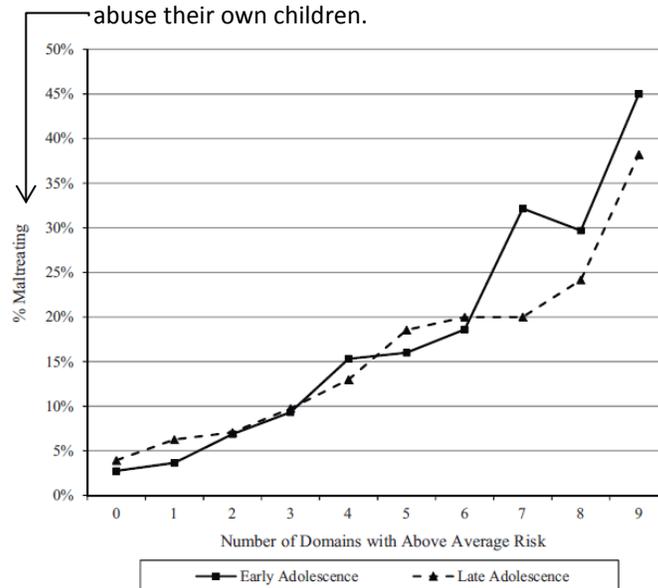


Fig. 1. Cumulative risk for maltreatment during early adolescence and late adolescence.

Bartlett JD, Raskin M, Kotake C, et. al.
An ecological analysis of infant neglect by adolescent mothers.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Apr;38(4):723-34. PMID: [24405556](#)
 Of 383 adolescent mothers with substantiated cases of neglect against their first born children, risk factors included lower income, partner IPV and use of mental health services.

Gage AJ, Silvestre EA.
Maternal violence, victimization, and child physical punishment in Peru.

Child Abuse Negl. 2010 Jul;34(7):523-33. PMID: [20605631](#)
 From a national Peruvian study of 12,601 married women living with their biological children, “Mothers were at substantially increased risk of using physical punishment if they were victims of parental physical violence in childhood, intimate partner violence in the current union, and physical violence by someone other than the current partner.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Dong X, Simon M, Beck T, Evans D.

Decline in cognitive function and elder mistreatment: findings from the Chicago Health and Aging Project.

Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2014 Jun;22(6):598-605. PMID: [24821287](#)

From an ongoing study of Chicago elders, every one point decline in global cognitive function was associated with increased risk for elder maltreatment.

Human Trafficking

McNiel M, Held T, Busch-Armendariz N.

Creating an interdisciplinary medical home for survivors of human trafficking.

Obstet Gynecol. 2014 Sep;124(3):611-5. PMID: [25162264](#)

“How to” description of a multi-disciplinary trauma-informed medical home for survivors of human trafficking.

Goldenberg SM, Silverman JG, Engstrom D, et. al.

Exploring the Context of Trafficking and Adolescent Sex Industry Involvement in Tijuana, Mexico: Consequences for HIV Risk and Prevention.

Violence Against Women. 2015 Apr;21(4):478-99. PMID: [25648946](#)

Interviews in Tijuana explore factors influencing vulnerability to coerced adolescent sex industry entry and their impacts on HIV risk and prevention.

Reid JA.

Risk and resiliency factors influencing onset and adolescence-limited commercial sexual exploitation of disadvantaged girls.

Crim Behav Ment Health. 2014 Dec;24(5):332-44. PMID: [24619596](#)

From interviews with mainly African-American women, risk factors for adolescent commercial sexual exploitation included sexual victimization, younger age at first alcohol/drug use, being a victim of IPV and sense of stigmatization of sexual self. Educational attainment differentiated those adolescents who quit (over 2/3 had at least a high school education) vs. those who persisted into adulthood (only 13% had a high school education).

Sexual Assault

Henriksen L, Schei B, Vangen S, Lukasse M.

Sexual violence and mode of delivery: a population-based cohort study.

BJOG. 2014 Sep;121(10):1237-44. PMID: [24939396](#)

From a large national Norwegian study, women who reported a history of rape were more likely to have an elective caesarean section, and those exposed to moderate sexual violence had a higher risk of emergency caesarean section.

Campos EA, Pitta DR, Costa FA, Campos VM, Yela D, Fernandes A.

DNA extraction from filter-paper spots of vaginal samples collected after sexual violence.

Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2014 Jul;126(1):23-7. PMID: [24792405](#)

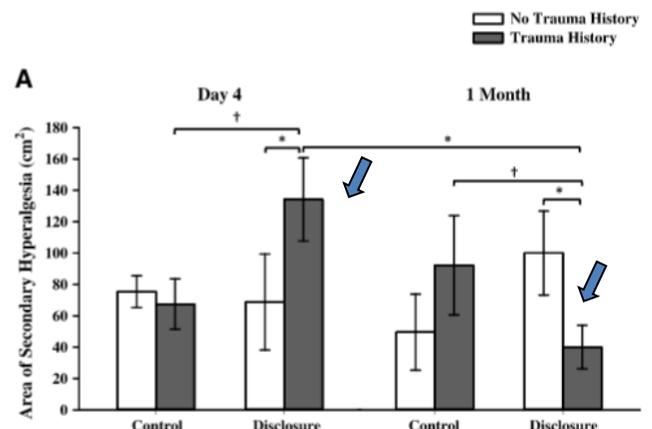
Vaginal samples collected on filter paper after sexual assault, when stored appropriately for up to 3 years, provided adequate genetic DNA material.

You DS, Creech SK, Vichaya EG, et. al.

Effect of written emotional disclosure on secondary hyperalgesia in women with trauma history.

Psychosom Med. 2014 Jun;76(5):337-46. PMID: [24911979](#)

Female college students were asked to write about their worst traumatic event compared to a neutral topic. Trauma survivors who wrote about their trauma experienced increased surface area and intensity of pain to a skin test with capsaicin (solution of hot peppers). However one month after disclosure, surface area and pain from repeat skin test was quite significantly less. Results suggest expressive writing may reduce sensitization processes contributing to the development of chronic pain.



Cultural Issues

Anderson ML, Kobek Pezzarossi CM.

Violence against Deaf women: effect of partner hearing status.

J Deaf Stud Deaf Educ. 2014 Jul;19(3):411-21. PMID: [24296466](#)

For deaf female undergraduates experiencing IPV, the hearing status of their partner did not influence rates of psychological or physical abuse, but sexual abuse was 6.6 times more likely from deaf than from hearing partners.

Oliffe JL, Han C, Maria ES, et. al.

Gay men and intimate partner violence: a gender analysis.

Sociol Health Illn. 2014 May;36(4):564-79. PMID: [24641108](#)

Interviews with gay Canadian men on their experiences with IPV.

Choi YJ.

Determinants of clergy behaviors promoting safety of battered Korean immigrant women.

Violence Against Women. 2015 Mar;21(3):394-415. PMID: [25680803](#)

“Clergy's Korean cultural values, age, and length of residence in the United States influence their responses to domestic violence.” Authors suggest developing a collaborative working relationship between Korean clergy and DV advocates as well as providing clerical training on knowledge, beliefs and skills re: DV.

Perpetrators

Corral C, Calvete E.

Early maladaptive schemas and personality disorder traits in perpetrators of intimate partner violence.

Span J Psychol. 2014 Jan;17:E1. PMID: [24553172](#)

Of 119 Spanish men convicted of IPV perpetration, the majority manifested personality disorders – the top three being narcissistic (24.6%), obsessive-compulsive (21.9%) and paranoid (17.5).

Watkins LE, Maldonado RC, DiLillo D.

Hazardous alcohol use and intimate partner aggression among dating couples: the role of impulse control difficulties.

Aggress Behav. 2014 Jul-Aug;40(4):369-81. PMID: [24464403](#)

Of 73 heterosexual dating couples, “the interaction between impulse control difficulties and hazardous alcohol use significantly predicted physical aggression severity”.

Ahmed AG.

Dysfunctional anger and sexual violence.

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2014 Jun;37(2):231-8. PMID: [24877709](#)

The role of dysfunctional anger in sexual fantasies, sexual offending, and sexual recidivism.

Seto MC, Ahmed AG.

Treatment and management of child pornography use.

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2014 Jun;37(2):207-14. PMID: [24877707](#)

“This article distinguishes motivations to use child pornography and different types of child pornography offenders and provides a brief overview of the assessment, diagnosis, and management options available.”

Griffiths DM, Fedoroff P.

Persons with intellectual disabilities and problematic sexual behaviors.

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2014 Jun;37(2):195-206. PMID: [24877706](#)

Special consideration in the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities.

Police and Court Systems

Calton J, Cattaneo LB.

The effects of procedural and distributive justice on intimate partner violence victims' mental health and likelihood of future help-seeking.

Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2014 Jul;84(4):329-40. PMID: [24999519](#)

Of 142 victims of IPV seeking help from the criminal justice system, “victims who perceived higher levels of procedural justice experienced higher levels of quality of life, lower levels of depression, and higher levels of intention to use the court system again.” Objective justice (whether any consequences resulted from the case and victims received what they requested) did not relate to these factors.

Meffert SM, Henn-Haase C, Metzler TJ, et. al.

Prospective study of police officer spouse/partners: a new pathway to secondary trauma and relationship violence?

PLoS One. 2014 Jul 2;9(7):e100663. PMID: [24987848](#)

71 new police officers and their spouse/partner (s/p) were followed over one year. S/p perception of officer symptoms of PTSD was significantly associated with s/p developing secondary traumatic stress as well as total couple violence.

Providers

Macy RJ, Ogonnaya IN, Martin SL.

Providers' perspectives about helpful information for evaluating domestic violence and sexual assault services: a practice note.

Violence Against Women. 2015 Mar;21(3):416-29. PMID: [25680804](#)

From a statewide survey of North Carolina DV and sexual assault agency directors, "four information types were repeatedly ranked among the most important to collect to understand whether services helped victims: victims' satisfaction with services, victims' progress toward meeting their goals, changes in the extent of violence and/or trauma that victims experienced, and changes in victims' knowledge."

Gottlieb L, Hessler D, Long D, Amaya A, Adler N.

A randomized trial on screening for social determinants of health: the iScreen study.

Pediatrics. 2014 Dec;134(6):e1611-8. PMID: [25367545](#)

In an emergency room setting of a randomized study looking at patients disclosing information, rates of reporting on more sensitive issues (household violence and substance abuse) were significantly higher in electronic format with a tablet vs. face-to-face interview with a researcher.

Karlsson ME, Bridges AJ, Bell J, Petretic P.

Sexual violence therapy group in a women's correctional facility: a preliminary evaluation.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Jun;27(3):361-4. PMID: [24797176](#)

Incarcerated women with a history of sexual trauma experienced a significant reduction in symptoms of PTSD, depression and anxiety after a trauma therapy group treatment.

Thomaes K, Dorrepaal E, Draijer N, et. al.

Treatment effects on insular and anterior cingulate cortex activation during classic and emotional Stroop interference in child abuse-related complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

Psychol Med. 2012 Nov;42(11):2337-49. PMID: [22436595](#)

In this Dutch study of adults with child abuse-related complex PTSD, successful treatment with a 6 month psycho-educational and cognitive behavioral group program led to brain function changes toward normalization from abuse-related abnormalities. [This is one of a handful of articles showing that the physiological changes of childhood maltreatment may have elements of reversibility.]

Honor G.

Childhood Trauma Exposure and Toxic Stress: What the PNP Needs to Know.

J Pediatr Health Care. 2015 Mar-Apr;29(2):191-8. PMID: [25697767](#)

Practical review article on child trauma exposure with suggestions for how to ask children/caregivers about abuse and neglect, including corporal punishment, with provider checklists for suspicious behaviors.

Lynne EG, Gifford EJ, Evans KE, Rosch JB.

Barriers to reporting child maltreatment: do emergency medical services professionals fully understand their role as mandatory reporters?

N C Med J. 2015 Jan;76(1):13-8. PMID: [25621471](#)

From a web-based anonymous survey of emergency medical services professionals in North Carolina, reasons for failing to report child abuse included they believed another authority would file the report, including the hospital (52.3%) or police (27.7%); 47.7% were uncertain they had witnessed abuse; and 41.4% were uncertain about what should be reported.

Svensson B, Eriksson UB, Janson S.

Exploring risk for abuse of children with chronic conditions or disabilities--parent's perceptions of stressors and the role of professionals.

Child Care Health Dev. 2013 Nov;39(6):887-93. PMID: [23461758](#)

From in-depth interviews with 15 parents of children with chronic conditions or disability, "The gradual shift in responsibility [of child's care from professional to family member] also seemed to generate an emotionally closed environment and reinforce the taboo on talking about abuse, which in turn hindered preventive measures.

Sareen J.

Posttraumatic stress disorder in adults: impact, comorbidity, risk factors, and treatment.

Can J Psychiatry. 2014 Sep;59(9):460-7. PMID: [25565692](#)

Concise overview of PTSD assessment and management with "clinical pearls".

Sar V, Alioğlu F, Akyüz G.

Experiences of possession and paranormal phenomena among women in the general population

J Trauma Dissociation. 2014;15(3):303-18. PMID: [24228817](#)

In this study of 628 Turkish women, 20.2% of whom reported at least 1 type of paranormal phenomena and 2.1% reported possession, both types of experiences were reported more commonly in women with a history of childhood trauma.

Prevention

Finkelhor D, Vanderminden J, Turner H, Shattuck A, Hamby S.
Youth exposure to violence prevention programs in a national sample.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Apr;38(4):677-86. PMID: [24630440](#)

From a national sample of children 5-17, 65% had ever been exposed to a violence prevention program. For younger children, those receiving higher quality programs experienced lower levels of peer victimization and perpetration and also were more likely to disclose to authorities.

Berglas NF, Constantine NA, Ozer EJ.

A rights-based approach to sexuality education: conceptualization, clarification and challenges.

Perspect Sex Reprod Health. 2014 Jun;46(2):63-72. PMID: [24785652](#)

From a consensus of 21 US and international sexuality educator experts, came four essential program elements: “an underlying principle that youth have sexual rights; an expansion of programmatic goals beyond reducing unintended pregnancy and STDs; a broadening of curricula content to include such issues as gender norms, sexual orientation, sexual expression and pleasure, violence, and individual rights and responsibilities in relationships; and a participatory teaching strategy that engages youth in critical thinking about their sexuality and sexual choices.”

Sarnquist C, Omondi B, Sinclair J, et. al.

Rape prevention through empowerment of adolescent girls.

Pediatrics. 2014 May;133(5):e1226-32. PMID: [24733880](#)

1978 adolescent Kenyan girls were taught empowerment, de-escalation and self-defense skills in 6 2-hour sessions. 10 months later there was a significant decrease in sexual assault rates and an increase in sexual assault disclosure leading to improved support. 52.3% used skills they had learned to stop an assault.

Chan KL, Zhang Y.

Female victimization and intimate partner violence after the May 12, 2008, Sichuan earthquake.

Violence Vict. 2011;26(3):364-76. PMID: [21846023](#)

This study of 186 Chinese women revealed that all types of family violence, including psychological and physical violence, increased after a major earthquake. Authors recommend that “violence prevention be considered as part of the intervention during natural disasters.”

Researchers

DiMauro J, Carter S, Folk JB, Kashdan TB.

A historical review of trauma-related diagnoses to reconsider the heterogeneity of PTSD.

J Anxiety Disord. 2014 Dec;28(8):774-86. PMID: [25261838](#)

Considering that PTSD can arise from multiple sources, such as combat, natural disaster, life-threatening accidents and sexual assault, “We consider the possibility that PTSD is not a single, unified construct and what this means for future research and clinical applications.”

Other of Interest

Taherkhani S, Negarandeh R, Simbar M, Ahmadi F.

Iranian Women's Experiences with Intimate Partner Violence: A Qualitative Study.

Health Promot Perspect. 2014 Dec 30;4(2):230-9. PMID: [25649136](#)

Interesting concept of “neglect” brought by authors who interviewed Iranian women experiencing IPV. Women most commonly complained of physical, sexual and especially emotional neglect (lack of engagement with or interest in the woman, children or household) which was found to be a precursor to overt violence.

Blosnich JR, Dichter ME, Cerulli C, Batten SV, Bossarte RM.

Disparities in adverse childhood experiences among individuals with a history of military service.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2014 Sep;71(9):1041-8. PMID: [25054690](#)

From a national survey identifying adults with and without a history of military service, in the all-volunteer era, men with military service had a higher prevalence of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) in all 11 categories, especially twice the rate of forced sex before the age of 18, than men without military service. In the draft era, the only difference among men was household drug use, less in men with a history of military service. Fewer differences were observed among women in the all-volunteer vs. the draft eras.