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Child Abuse

Rebbe R, Martinson ML, Mienko JA.

The Incidence of Child Maltreatment Resulting in Hospitalizations for Children Under Age 3 Years.

J Pediatr. 2021 Jan;228:228-234. PMID: [32822739](#)

From linked data sets for all children born in Washington State 2000-2013, 2.1% of all hospitalizations of children <3 years were for maltreatment, with a high of 3.6% in 2012. More than ½ of these were related to neglect.

Mitchell IC, Norat BJ, Auerbach M, et. al.

Identifying Maltreatment in Infants and Young Children Presenting With Fractures: Does Age Matter?

Acad Emerg Med. 2021 Jan;28(1):5-18. PMID: [32888348](#)

From a research review, 75% of children less than 3 years of age presenting with rib fractures were abused; when motor vehicle collisions were excluded, 96% were abused. Of children <18 months, abuse was identified in 48% with upper arm fracture, and 25% with thigh fracture. Among children who were not in an independently verified incident, the authors strongly recommend routine evaluation for child abuse, including specialty child abuse consultation, for: 1) children aged less than 3 years old presenting with rib fractures and 2) children aged less than 18 months presenting with upper arm or thigh fractures.

Magee LC, Mahmoud MAH, Baldwin K, et. al.

Characteristics and Hospital Costs of Spica Cast Treatment of Non-accidental-related Diaphyseal Femoral Fractures in Children Before Walking Age.

J Pediatr Orthop. 2020 Nov/Dec;40(10):e932-e935. PMID: [32740177](#)

For 60 children under age 1 seen at a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center with a thigh fracture, 46.6% were either suspected or confirmed cases of non-accidental trauma (NAT). Children in the NAT group had a longer length of stay (78.9 hr vs. 36.7 hr) and \$24,726 higher hospital costs.

Kettner M, Birngruber CG, Niess C, et. al.

Mongolian spots as a finding in forensic examinations of possible child abuse-implications for case work.

Int J Legal Med. 2020 May;134(3):1141-1148. PMID: [32166386](#)

Authors classify the distribution and findings in various skin types for Mongolian spots, congenital skin conditions which may mimic bruising in suspected child abuse, and help identify which cases may need recurrent examination for unambiguous interpretation of findings.

Tiyyagura G, Emerson B, Gaither JR, et. al.

Child Protection Team Consultation for Injuries Potentially Due to Child Abuse in Community Emergency Departments.

Acad Emerg Med. 2021 Jan;28(1):70-81. PMID: [32931628](#)

A program that increased consultation of a regional child protection team with community emergency departments led to significant increases in consultations, skeletal surveys, and reports to CPS.

Walsh WA, Meunier-Sham J.

Using Telehealth for Pediatric, Adolescent, and Adult Sexual Assault Forensic Medical Examinations: An Integrative Review.

J Forensic Nurs. 2020 Oct/Dec;16(4):232-239. PMID: [32947441](#)

Review of synchronous "real-time or live" telehealth support and guidance during pediatric, adolescent, and adult sexual abuse/assault forensic examinations supports the use of this modality.

Ma J, Lee SJ, Grogan-Kaylor A.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Spanking Have Similar Associations with Early Behavior.

Problems. J Pediatr. 2021 Feb 3:S0022-3476(21)00106-2. PMID: [33548261](#)

From a study of 2380 families, ACEs and spanking at 3 years were unique risk factors for increased externalizing problems (such as anger) at 5 years, after controlling for multiple variables. The magnitude of the associations of ACEs and spanking with externalizing behavior were statistically indistinguishable. "Results support calls to consider physical punishment as a form of ACE."

Perkins NH, Rai A, Grossman SF.

Physical and Emotional Sibling Violence in the Time of COVID-19.

J Fam Violence. 2021 Feb 8:1-8. PMID: [33584003](#)

“This article examines the potential for family stress to place siblings at risk for engaging in physical and emotional sibling violence and how this is exacerbated in the time of COVID-19. Also discussed is the connection between sibling violence and other forms of family violence including IPV and parent-to-child abuse and neglect.”

Hash JB, Oxford ML, Ward TM, Fleming CB, Spieker SJ.

Sleep Patterns, Problems and Ecology among Toddlers in Families with a Child Protective Services Maltreatment Referral.

J Pediatr Nurs. 2020 Mar-Apr;51:85-91. PMID: [31945664](#)

Using data from 113 parent-toddler dyads with a maltreatment referral to CPS, behavioral sleep problems were common (about 1/3), including nighttime awakenings, at least a somewhat hard time falling asleep, and difficulty sleeping alone.

Xiao D, Wang T, Huang Y, et. al.

Gender differences in the associations between types of childhood maltreatment and sleep disturbance among Chinese adolescents.

J Affect Disord. 2020 Mar 15;265:595-602. PMID: [32090782](#)

For 153,547 Chinese adolescents, 21.6% reported sleep disturbance. “A significant dose-response relationship was found between cumulative childhood maltreatment experiences and sleep disturbance,” more so for girls.

Langevin R, Cossette L, Hébert M.

Emotion Dysregulation in Sexually Abused Preschoolers: Insights from a Story Completion Task.

J Child Sex Abus. 2020 May-Jun;29(4):468-489. PMID: [31621527](#)

From a story task of 62 sexually abused and 65 non-abused preschoolers, those with an abuse history showed “fewer demonstrations of empathy, help, and comfort, and less coherent and resolved stories...strongest in the stories involving fear. These findings suggest the presence of emotion dysregulation among sexually abused preschoolers, but also insecure attachment, and a sense of betrayal, isolation, and powerlessness.”

Marchant R, Carter J, Fairhurst C.

Opening doors: suggested practice for medical professionals for when a child might be close to telling about abuse.

Arch Dis Child. 2021 Feb;106(2):108-110. PMID: [33234531](#)

Useful, short read on what to say or not say if a child is about to tell about abuse. [Full text](#)

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Shreffler KM, Joachims CN, Tiemeyer S, et. al.

Childhood Adversity and Perceived Distress from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Advers Resil Sci. 2021 Jan 28:1-4. PMID: [33527096](#)

Of 101 women, higher ACE scores were associated with increased loneliness, which in turn was associated with increased distress during the pandemic. “Those who had greater adversity during childhood may be less likely to have the social connectedness needed to reduce distress.”

Medeiros GC, Prueitt WL, Minhajuddin A, et. al.

Childhood maltreatment and impact on clinical features of major depression in adults.

Psychiatry Res. 2020 Nov;293:113412. PMID: [32950785](#)

Of 663 adults in a medication study for moderate to severe depression, those with childhood maltreatment had higher rates of panic/phobic, cognitive, and anhedonic (inability to feel pleasure) symptoms; and poorer clinical presentation including earlier onset, more severe symptoms, more suicidality, and worse quality of life and functioning. “Clinical presentation was worse in participants who reported multiple types of childhood maltreatment.”

Leza L, Siria S, López-Goñi JJ, Fernández-Montalvo J.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and substance use disorder (SUD): A scoping review.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2021 Jan 29;221:108563. PMID: [33561668](#)

From a research review, “The main conclusions of the studies were that there is a higher prevalence of ACEs in the population with SUD [substance use disorder] than in the general population, and a positive association between ACEs and the development and severity of SUD.”

Guina J, Audu AK, Cameron J, et. al.

Prevalence of Traumas and PTSD Among Individuals Adjudicated Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity.

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2021 Feb 12:JAAPL.200062-20. PMID: [33579733](#)

Of 107 adults judged Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, “Most insanity acquittees experienced trauma (86%, averaging 11 events) and ACEs (76%, averaging 3 types). PTSD prevalence was 25%, with 97% of cases being previously undiagnosed. These results suggest that insanity acquittees have high levels of trauma, ACEs, and PTSD.”

Pierce J, Hassett AL, Schneiderhan JR, et. al.
Centralized pain and pain catastrophizing mediate the association between lifetime abuse history and self-reported pain medication side effects.

Reg Anesth Pain Med. 2020 Apr;45(4):293-300. PMID: [31988267](#)

Of 3118 patients with chronic pain, 15% reported a lifetime history of abuse. Patients with an abuse history, particularly abuse that occurred in both childhood and adulthood, reported more pain medication side effects, centralized pain and catastrophizing. "This suggests that individuals who experience abuse may develop a heightened physiological sensitivity to stimuli, as well as a tendency to interpret stimuli negatively."

Gewirtz-Meydan A, Lahav Y.

Sexual Dysfunction and Distress Among Childhood Sexual Abuse Survivors: The Role of PTSD.

J Sex Med. 2020 Nov;17(11):2267-2278. PMID: [32814666](#)

For 792 Israeli men and women, almost half of whom reported childhood sexual abuse (CSA) in an online survey, "A history of CSA predicted elevated PTSD symptoms, which in turn, were related to elevated sexual dysfunction and distress. Clinical interventions for CSA survivors should incorporate various treatment approaches to alleviate both PTSD and sexual dysfunction and distress."

Huang CC, Tan Y, Cheung SP, Hu H.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Psychological Well-Being in Chinese College Students: Effect of Mindfulness.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Feb 9;18(4):1636. PMID: [33572110](#)

For 1871 Chinese college students, there was a significant negative association between ACEs and psychological well-being (PWB), and a strong and positive association between mindfulness and PWB. In addition, mindfulness was partially able to decrease the negative effects of ACEs on PWB.

Adolescents

Meeker EC, O'Connor BC, Kelly LM, et. al.

The impact of adverse childhood experiences on adolescent health risk indicators in a community sample.

Psychol Trauma. 2021 Mar;13(3):302-312. PMID: [33539157](#)

Of 1532 high school students, and after controlling for age, gender, and race, youth with multiple ACEs reported 3 to 15 times the odds of a range of negative health experiences, including mental health symptoms, getting into fights, substance use, carrying a weapon, and suicide attempts.

Herbert A, Heron J, Barter C, et. al.

Risk factors for intimate partner violence and abuse among adolescents and young adults: findings from a UK population-based cohort.

Wellcome Open Res. 2021 Jan 21;5:176. PMID: [33553678](#)

From a UK study of 3279 adolescents, "Overall, 29% of males and 41% of females reported IPVA [Intimate Partner Violence/Abuse] victimisation, with 20% and 25% reporting perpetration, respectively...History of anxiety, self-harm, anti-social behaviour, cannabis or illicit (non-cannabis) drug use, or risky sexual behaviour among males and females were associated with a 50% increase in likelihood of IPVA (victimisation or perpetration).

Dunn HK, Pearlman DN, Montgomery MC, Orchowski LM.

Predictors of Sexual Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration Among Men: A Prospective Analysis.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Feb 4;886260521989735. PMID: [33538217](#)

From a national longitudinal survey, "Boys who believed they would gain peer respect by having sex, and boys who reported getting drunk in the last 12 months, regardless of how often, were significantly more likely to report sexual IPV in young adulthood compared to boys who did not endorse either of these factors."

Simmons CA, Clay JA, Swanson K.

Information to Help Stalking Victims on College and University Websites: It's Not Easy to Find.

Violence Vict. 2020 Feb 1;35(1):108-125. PMID: [32015072](#)

From a review of a sample of 20% of college and university websites, one-fourth posted no information about stalking, and in the rest the information was difficult to find and focused on reporting. Definitions, training, and other victim-focused resources were rarely included.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Anderberg D, Moroni G.

Exposure to intimate partner violence and children's dynamic skill accumulation: evidence from a UK longitudinal study.

Oxf Rev Econ Policy. 2021 Jan 30;36(4):783-815. PMID: [33633496](#)

IPV "exposure during pre-school years has a quantitatively important negative effect on socio-emotional skills among toddlers and negatively affects cognitive and social skills after the age of three."

Auger N, Low N, Lee GE, Ayoub A, Luu TM.

Pregnancy Outcomes of Women Hospitalized for Physical Assault, Sexual Assault, and Intimate Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Feb 3;886260520985496. PMID: [33535860](#)

Using data from over 2 million Canadian births, “We identified women who were hospitalized for physical assault, sexual assault, and assault with documented intimate partner violence before and during pregnancy...Compared with no exposure, violence before or during pregnancy was associated with the future risk of placental abruption (damage) (Relative Risk 1.49), hemorrhage before delivery (RR 1.43), stillbirth (RR 1.83), preterm birth (RR 1.70), and low birthweight (RR 1.78).”

Hutchens BF, Kearney J.

Risk Factors for Postpartum Depression: An Umbrella Review.

J Midwifery Womens Health. 2020 Jan;65(1):96-108. PMID: [31970924](#)

From a research review of risk factors for postpartum depression (PPD), “The most common risk factors identified were high life stress, lack of social support, current or past abuse, prenatal depression, and marital or partner dissatisfaction. The 2 strongest risk factors for PPD were prenatal depression and current abuse.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Casper ST, O'Donnell K.

The punch-drunk boxer and the battered wife: Gender and brain injury research.

Soc Sci Med. 2020 Jan;245:112688. PMID: [31830739](#)

In boxing, brain injury and its consequences have been examined from 1928 on, while the question of brain injury in IPV was first examined only after 1990. “This study in historical sociology has used this comparative case study to untangle some of the gendered assumptions...women were expected to experience assault as an acute episode followed by chronic emotional disturbance. Boxers, usually men and in contrast, were denied chronic emotional disturbance and permitted brain injury as a consequence...the gender politics of biomedicine, which underpins our analysis of different populations with similar exposures, has far-reaching consequences for how the problem of brain injury is conceptualized in clinical practice, policy, law, and criminal justice.”

Stubbs A, Szoeki C.

The Effect of Intimate Partner Violence on the Physical Health and Health-Related Behaviors of Women.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Feb 5:1524838020985541. PMID: [33541243](#)

From a research review, “The pool of findings analyzed in this review clearly show that all forms of IPV are significant public health issues, with serious physical health consequences that extend beyond the acute setting...Chronic disease including cardiovascular disease and hypertension, cancer, STIs, drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, diabetes, and elevated cortisol have been shown to occur at greater rates in women affected by IPV. Additionally, these women are less likely to engage in screening tests such as cervical cancer testing and have poorer outcomes in conditions such as HIV.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Idriss MM.

Abused by the Patriarchy: Male Victims, Masculinity, "Honor"-Honor-Based Abuse and Forced Marriages.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Feb 25:886260521997928. PMID: [33631999](#)

Discussion of patriarchal family "honor"-based violence/abuse and forced marriages on men and boys who do not conform to cultural norms of masculinity, based on case files from a UK refuge charity. These men and boys share similarities and differences with violence against women and girls in similar circumstances, including the involvement of mothers as primary and secondary perpetrators.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Fraga Dominguez S, Valiquette J, Storey JE, Glorney E.

Elder Abuse Detection and Intervention: Challenges for Professionals and Strategies for Engagement From a Canadian Specialist Service.

J Forensic Nurs. 2020 Oct/Dec;16(4):199-206. PMID: [32925515](#)

“This article provides a brief overview of elder abuse, followed by an outline of current detection and intervention efforts used by healthcare providers in community and hospital settings.”

Piña-Escudero SD, Chodos A, Weinstein CA, et. al.
Subjective cognitive decline and elder mistreatment in Mexican community-dwelling older adults.
Arch Gerontol Geriatr. 2021 Jan-Feb;92:104242. PMID: [33010789](#)

For 386 Mexican community-dwelling older adults, any type of elder mistreatment was 2.23 times more likely if the elder had signs of cognitive decline, such as language, memory or attention problems.

Dos Santos RC, Menezes RMP, Souto RQ, et. al.
Frailty Syndrome: A Risk Factor Associated With Violence in Older Adults.

J Forensic Nurs. 2020 Jul/Sep;16(3):130-137. PMID: [32840339](#)
In this study of Brazilian elders, frailty syndrome was associated with increased risk of elder abuse. Frailty syndrome includes loss of muscle mass with associated weakness, slowing, decreased energy, lower activity, and when severe, weight loss.

LGBTQ Concerns

Bender AK, Lauritsen JL.
Violent Victimization Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations in the United States: Findings From the National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017-2018.

Am J Public Health. 2021 Feb;111(2):318-326. PMID: [33351656](#)
"Total violence rates were 2 to 9 times higher among LGB persons compared with heterosexuals. For some forms of violence (e.g., rape and sexual assault, violence with serious injuries, and multiple offender violence) there were notably high disparities between bisexuals and heterosexuals."

Race/Cultural Concerns

Graham LM, Ranapurwala SI, Zimmer C, et. al.
Disparities in potential years of life lost due to intimate partner violence: Data from 16 states for 2006-2015.

PLoS One. 2021 Feb 17;16(2):e0246477. PMID: [33596226](#)
"Nearly 290,000 years of potential life were lost by partner and corollary victims as a result of IPV in 16 states during the decade of study. Female intimate partners died 5.1 years earlier than males. Racial/ethnic minorities died nine or more years earlier than their White counterparts."

Biggers A, Spears CA, Sanders K, Ong J, Sharp LK, Gerber BS.
Promoting Mindfulness in African American Communities.
Mindfulness (N Y). 2020 Oct;11(10):2274-2282. PMID: [33584869](#)

"African Americans report higher rates of chronic stress compared to non-Hispanic Whites. Mindfulness meditation is a well-established and studied strategy to reduce stress and potentially improve health outcomes. However, the practice of mindfulness meditation is largely underutilized in African American communities...we discuss reasons for low representation, and cultural adaptations in African American communities."

Sexual Assault

Abavi R, Branston A, Mason R, Du Mont J.
An Exploration of Sexual Assault Survivors' Discourse Online on Help-Seeking.

Violence Vict. 2020 Feb 1;35(1):126-140. PMID: [32015073](#)
From a review of 1179 narratives posted online assessing barriers to seeking help after sexual assault, "Internal barriers included feeling overwhelmed and avoidance-based coping. External barriers included availability of services, suitability of services, and therapist-caused harms. Stigma was the only barrier that was experienced both internally and externally."

Alix S, Cossette L, Cyr M, Frappier JY, Caron PO, Hébert M.
Self-Blame, Shame, Avoidance, and Suicidal Ideation in Sexually Abused Adolescent Girls: A Longitudinal Study.
J Child Sex Abus. 2020 May-Jun;29(4):432-447. PMID: [31692417](#)

For 100 sexually abused adolescent girls, shame at initial visit predicted PTSD symptoms 6 months later, whereas self-blame predicted later depressive symptoms. Avoidant coping at initial visit and depression 6 months later predicted suicidal ideation. "Interventions designed for sexually abused adolescent girls should target shame, self-blame, and avoidance coping to foster recovery in this vulnerable population."

Human Trafficking

Todres J, Diaz A.
COVID-19 and Human Trafficking-the Amplified Impact on Vulnerable Populations.

JAMA Pediatr. 2021 Feb 1;175(2):123-124. PMID: [32955557](#)
"The COVID-19 pandemic has created circumstances that may increase the risk of trafficking, inhibit identification of those who are trafficked and those who survive trafficking, and make it harder to deliver comprehensive services to support survivors' recovery."

Hornor G.

Child Labor Trafficking Essentials for Forensic Nurses.

J Forensic Nurs. 2020 Oct/Dec;16(4):215-223. PMID: [32947440](#)

“In this article child labor trafficking is discussed in terms of definition, epidemiology, history, risk factors, consequences, identification, and implications for practice.”

Recknor F, Gordon M, Coverdale J, Gardezi M, Nguyen PT.

A Descriptive Study of United States-Based Human Trafficking Specialty Clinics.

Psychiatr Q. 2020 Mar;91(1):1-10. PMID: [31748955](#)

Authors “identify and describe medical and mental health specialty clinics that work exclusively with trafficked adults, with the goal of assisting organizations and health care providers in program development and to improve clinical outcomes. A patient-centered, comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and trauma informed approach to clinical care is recommended.”

Houston-Kolnik JD, Soibatian C, Shattell MM.

Advocates' Experiences With Media and the Impact of Media on Human Trafficking Advocacy.

J Interpers Violence. 2020 Mar;35(5-6):1108-1132. PMID: [29294657](#)

“The present study identifies specific misperceptions of human trafficking in the media, highlights advocates' opinions of this misinformation, and discusses advocates' strategies to counteract inaccurate media”, including “engaging in informative conversations, utilizing social media to educate, and promoting media messages of survivor agency.”

Perpetrators

Cotti C, Foster J, Haley MR, Rawski SL.

Duluth versus cognitive behavioral therapy: A natural field experiment on intimate partner violence diversion programs.

J Exp Psychol Appl. 2020 Jun;26(2):384-395. PMID: [31599627](#)

“In one program (Duluth), efforts are focused on protecting women from male aggression through a psychoeducational program, regardless of the offender's sex. In the other program (cognitive behavioral therapy [CBT]), efforts are focused on improving intrahousehold behaviors and communication skills through counseling. Our experimental results found that the IPV recidivism rate, measured as reconvictions for IPV, was 11 percentage points higher for offenders randomly assigned to a Duluth treatment program (14 percentage points higher among males)...we discuss theories for plausible psychological, sociological,

psychophysiological, and neurological mechanisms responsible for this outcome.”

Police and Court Systems

Couture-Carron A, Zaidi AU, Ammar NH.

Battered Immigrant Women and the Police: A Canadian Perspective.

Int J Offender Ther Comp Criminol. 2021 Jan 7:306624X20986534. PMID: [33412956](#)

From interviews with 90 Canadian battered immigrant women, “while the women who called the police were demographically similar to those who did not call, the women who called reported much greater levels of physical abuse. Findings indicate that general fear of the police and fear of police being racist or culturally insensitive continue to be important reasons why women do not call the police. Notably, the majority of women who had contact with the police reported the encounter as positive.”

Peterson L, Rolls Reutz JA, Hazen AL, Habib A, Williams R.

Kids and Teens in Court (KTIC): A Model for Preparing Child Witnesses for Court.

Am J Community Psychol. 2020 Mar;65(1-2):35-43. PMID: [31506959](#)

“This article describes the development and recent formative evaluation of a court preparation program that provides psychoeducation and utilizes components of evidence-based trauma treatment approaches, such as relaxation and in vivo exposure, to support child witnesses and reduce the risk of retraumatization.”

Providers

Kosiak K, Contreras IM, Stoeber J, Toohey J, Novaco RW.

Organization-Based Factors Bearing on Provider Screening and Referral Practices for Women Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Feb 17:886260521991894. PMID: [33594898](#)

“The major findings of our study are that organization-based barriers to IPV screening are strongly associated with deficits in screening practices, beyond what can be attributed to provider-based barriers, and that an organization's tangible provisions for IPV screening and referrals are incrementally associated with whether screening is done routinely and whether community referral resources are used.”

Tarzia L, Bohren MA, Cameron J, et. al.

Women's experiences and expectations after disclosure of intimate partner abuse to a healthcare provider: A qualitative meta-synthesis.

BMJ Open. 2020 Nov 27;10(11):e041339. PMID: [33247027](#)

From a research review, "Our findings strongly align with the principles of woman-centred care, indicating that women value emotional connection, practical support through action and advocacy and an approach that recognises their autonomy and is tailored to their individual needs." CARE model.



Abbate Ford O, Khurana B, Sinha I, Carty MJ, Orgill D.

The Plastic Surgeon's Role in the COVID-19 Crisis: Regarding Domestic Violence.

Cureus. 2021 Jan 12;13(1):e12650. PMID: [33585136](#)

"We provide a review of the increasing prevalence of IPV during the COVID-19 pandemic and its pertinence to plastic surgery consultation in the emergency room. This article aims to increase providers' confidence in recognizing IPV-suspicious injuries and propose an educational, interactive tool for discussing IPV with patients."

Patterson D, Resko S.

Factors Associated With Knowledge Retention 3 Months After a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Blended Learning Course.

J Forensic Nurs. 2020 Jul/Sep;16(3):138-145. PMID: [32732528](#)

Of participants in a blended (online and in-person) educational course for sexual assault forensic examiners, there was an overall small knowledge loss at 3 months, but more so for those who had taken a prior online only course, and also those who were interested in becoming forensic examiners because of a personal sexual assault experience.

McClure N, Nelson B, Anderson M, Donnell C, Knox D.

Child Abuse Response Simulation for Advanced Practice Nursing Students.

Clin Nurse Spec. 2020 Jul/Aug;34(4):157-161. PMID: [32541601](#)

Description of a simulated 1:1 patient encounter with a standardized patient acting as the mother of an infant with a leg injury that reportedly resulted from a

fall from the couch. "All students demonstrated empathy, acknowledged the mother's emotions, and communicated the concern for abuse. Additionally, all students explained the x-ray findings, need for hospital admission, and referral to investigative agency for further evaluation."

Donovan E, Santer M, Morgan S, Daker-White G, Willcox M.

Domestic abuse among female doctors: thematic analysis of qualitative interviews in the UK.

Br J Gen Pract. 2021 Feb 25;71(704):e193-e200. PMID: [33558329](#)

From interviews with female UK doctors who had left a domestic abuse (DA) relationship: "The internalised stigma of DA affected participants' sense of identity and belonging as a doctor, causing social and professional isolation. Many participants felt that the acute stress of DA had an impact on their work, yet often felt unable to take time off. Barriers to seeking help included lack of confidentiality, especially where the abusive partner was also a doctor (sometimes accusing the victim-survivor of mental illness or threatening to report them to the General Medical Council). Participants found peer support helpful, as well as consulting health professionals who were empathic towards them. After they had left the abusive relationship victim-survivors felt better equipped to support patients going through DA."

Goad E.

Working alongside people with intellectual disabilities who have had difficult experiences: Reflections on trauma-informed care within a service context.

J Intellect Disabil. 2021 Feb 22:1744629520987717. PMID: [33615861](#)

"People with intellectual disabilities are more likely to experience adverse childhood experiences than those in the general population." This article details one organization's journey to create a comprehensive trauma-informed care program tailored to their client's needs.

Voth Schrag RJ, Wood LG, Wachter K, Kulkarni S.

Compassion Fatigue Among the Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault Workforce: Enhancing Organizational Practice.

Violence Against Women. 2021 Feb 17:1077801220988351. PMID: [33596785](#)

For 520 IPV/SA service providers in the Southwestern US, risk factors for occupational stress and compassion fatigue included microaggressions (racist, heterosexist, disability-focused, sexist), younger age, recent life stress, direct practice, and workload.

Wilson JM, Goodman LA.

"A Community of Survivors": A Grounded Theory of Organizational Support for Survivor-Advocates in Domestic Violence Agencies.

Violence Against Women. 2021 Feb 2;1077801220981143.

PMID: [33529567](#)

"Half of today's domestic violence (DV) advocates are survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) or other forms of abuse...survivor-advocates identified three dimensions of organizational support that contribute to well-being: acknowledging their trauma-related needs, fostering belonging, and honoring strengths...validating their identities as survivors."

Gregory A, Taylor AK, Pitt K, Feder G, Williamson E.

". . . The Forgotten Heroes": A Qualitative Study Exploring How Friends and Family Members of DV Survivors Use Domestic Violence Helplines.

J Interpers Violence. 2019 Nov 25;886260519888199. PMID:

[31762395](#)

"DV helplines have an important role in helping informal supporters of survivors... Calls can be triggered by disclosures, abuse escalation, witnessing incidents, feeling overwhelmed, and media highlighting of DV. Informal supporters respond to survivors, and experience impacts, in differing ways, often associated with their gender and their relationship with the survivor. Frequently, they feel a sense of responsibility and a desire to rescue the survivor, often calling a helpline to reduce feelings of helplessness and to seek a "magic" solution... Helpline workers feel that informal supporters would benefit from opportunities to reduce isolation, have their predicament acknowledged, and learn from peers."

Sinko L, James R, Hughesdon K.

Healing After Gender-Based Violence: A Qualitative Metasynthesis Using Meta-Ethnography.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Feb 12;1524838021991305.

PMID: [33576327](#)

From a research review, "Key findings included the recovery journey as a nonlinear, iterative experience that requires active engagement and patience. Healing was composed of (1) trauma processing and reexamination, (2) managing negative states, (3) rebuilding the self, (4) connecting with others, and (5) regaining hope and power. "Shifts" or "turning points" are also mentioned which catalyzed healing prioritization."

Wohl A, Kirschen GW.

Reading the Child Within: How Bibliotherapy Can Help the Victim of Child Sexual Abuse.

J Child Sex Abus. 2020 May-Jun;29(4):490-498. PMID:

[31448980](#)

Description of the use, theoretical basis, and readily-useable strategies for implementing bibliotherapy, the use of storytelling as part of the healing process for traumatized children and adults.

Prevention

Hudson-Flege MD, Grover HM, Meçe MH, et. al.

Empathy as a moderator of sexual violence perpetration risk factors among college men.

J Am Coll Health. 2020 Feb-Mar;68(2):139-147. PMID:

[30570441](#)

From a longitudinal study of 544 college men, "Empathy was found to be a significant moderator of six out of the 10 sexual violence risk factors tested, such that high levels of empathy were associated with lower sexual violence perpetration rates among high-risk males."

Researchers

Lang J, Kerr DM, Petri-Romão P, et. al.

The hallmarks of childhood abuse and neglect: A systematic review.

PLoS One. 2020 Dec 8;15(12):e0243639. PMID: [33290423](#)

"Based on the most commonly reported high-quality research findings we propose that the hallmarks of exposure to child maltreatment are: Increased risk of psychopathology; Increased risk of obesity; Increased risk of high-risk sexual behaviours, Increased risk of smoking; and Increased risk of child maltreatment in children with disabilities. Research gaps include a lack of focus on complexity and resilience. Little can be concluded about directions of causality or mechanisms. Adequately powered prospective studies are required to move the field forward."

Kafka JM, Moracco KE, Young BR, et. al.

Fatalities related to intimate partner violence: towards a comprehensive perspective.

Inj Prev. 2021 Apr;27(2):137-144. PMID: [32839248](#)

In re-looking at the Violent Death Reporting System data in North Carolina 2010-2017, if researchers only include intimate partner homicides, they may miss over 60% of IPV-related deaths. This analysis showed that IPV contributes to more than 1 in 10 violent deaths. "Of the IPV-related violent deaths we identified, 39.3% were victims of intimate partner homicide, 17.4% corollary victims, 11.4% suicides in a homicide-suicide event, 29.8% suicides in a suicide-only event and 2.0% legal intervention deaths."

Cullen P, Dawson M, Price J, Rowlands J.

Intersectionality and Invisible Victims: Reflections on Data Challenges and Vicarious Trauma in Femicide, Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Research.

J Fam Violence. 2021 Feb 3;1-10. PMID: [33551548](#)

Authors reflect on their role as abuse researchers in presenting a complete and accurate picture of the issues: “There are substantial limitations in accessibility and completeness of data...those groups who are most marginalized and vulnerable to violence are often also the most invisible...two groups emerge—those who are not counted and those who are undervalued.” Authors also discuss the effects of their work on researchers themselves leading to vicarious trauma. “The response to publishing our work and our media commentary takes a toll, particularly in the face of relentless abuse and trolling...we strongly recommend...measures to better support the safety and well-being of femicide and homicide researchers.”

Other of Interest

Döring N, Walter R.

Media Coverage of Child Sexual Abuse: A Framework of Issue-Specific Quality Criteria.

J Child Sex Abus. 2020 May-Jun;29(4):393-412. PMID: [31697189](#)

Authors describe quality criteria for child sexual abuse reporting: (1) thematic framing, (2) non-sensational reporting, (3) use of appropriate terms, (4) inclusion of stakeholders, (5) non-stereotypical reporting, (6) inclusion of prevention/intervention, (7) ethical treatment of survivors in interviews, (8) lawful reporting, (9) balance of survivors' and alleged perpetrators' interests and (10) disclosure and reflection of official sources.

Kivisto AJ, Porter M.

Firearm Use Increases Risk of Multiple Victims in Domestic Homicides.

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2020 Mar;48(1):26-34. PMID: [31753965](#)

“Domestic homicides account for more than one in four homicides in the United States and frequently involve multiple victims...firearms were used in 54.1 percent of domestic homicides. Firearm use was associated with a 70.9 percent and 38.7 percent increased incidence of additional victimization in domestic and nondomestic homicides, respectively...males were nearly three times more likely to have multiple victims in domestic homicides involving a firearm.”

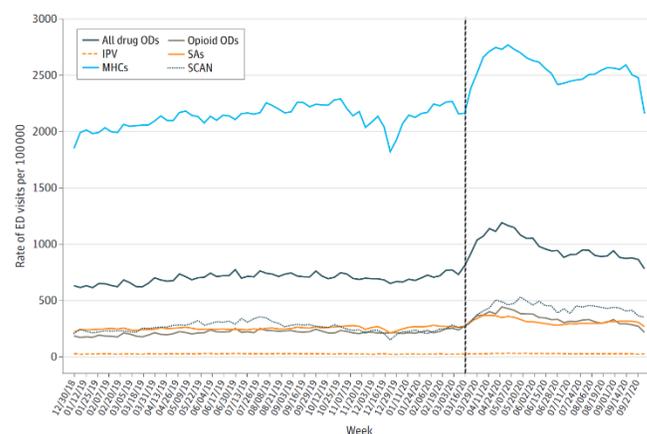
Holland KM, Jones C, Vivolo-Kantor AM, et. al.

Trends in US Emergency Department Visits for Mental Health, Overdose, and Violence Outcomes Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2021 Feb 3;e204402. PMID: [33533876](#)

While the absolute number of ED visits for multiple measures of mental health, overdose, and violence initially decreased after lockdown, ED visit **rates** increased beginning the week of March 22 to 28, 2020 and were significantly higher in 2020 compared with 2019 for all outcomes except IPV...Of importance...visits for these outcomes were likely of sufficient severity that treatment at an ED was a necessary risk during the pandemic, despite stay-at-home orders advising people to avoid public spaces.”

Figure 2. Rate of Emergency Department (ED) Visits for All Drug and Opioid Overdoses (ODs), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Suicide Attempts (SAs), Mental Health Conditions (MHCs), and Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) per 100 000 ED Visits in the US, December 30, 2018, to October 10, 2020



Herrenkohl TI, Scott D, Higgins DJ, Klika JB, Lonne B.

How COVID-19 Is Placing Vulnerable Children at Risk and Why We Need a Different Approach to Child Welfare.

Child Maltreat. 2021 Feb;26(1):9-16. PMID: [33025825](#)

“Perhaps, in all of the tragedy of our current situation globally, there is potential for change, and to use the disruptions to ‘service as usual’ as an opportunity to reinvent our approaches...Let us use this time of uncertainty to consider how to build on these early program and policy successes, while also beginning the process of (re)building child welfare systems around a voluntary, universal model of family supports that provides rapid and timely assessment and engagement of families so that they receive the right services, through non-stigmatizing platforms, when they need them.”

Calhoun A.

Medical Education Must Start Teaching About Racism.

Yale J Biol Med. 2021 Mar 31;94(1):143-146. PMID: [33795990](#)

Thoughtful, eye-opening and reflective article, worth a read. [Full text.](#)