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Child Abuse

Baker AJL, Brassard MR, Rosenzweig J.

Psychological maltreatment: Definition and reporting barriers among American professionals in the field of child abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Apr;114:104941. PMID: [33524643](#)
538 members of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (39% response rate) were only able to agree on 4 of 18 items as representing definite psychological maltreatment (PM) - threatening suicide in front of the child, saying "I hate you" to the child, ignoring the child when in extreme pain/distress, and not treating the child's suicide attempt. Harm from PM was underappreciated and many professionals were reluctant to make a child protection report. "A model definition of PM should be developed in order to increase reliability of identification of psychological maltreatment."

Walker-Descartes I, Hopgood G, Condado LV, Legano L.

Sexual Violence Against Children.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2021 Apr;68(2):427-436. PMID: [33678296](#)

General review article - "Sexual violence against children is a crime that has both short- and long-term consequences and interferes with their developmental trajectory and long-term quality of life. There is significant overlap in the mental health sequelae for child victims of sexual violence, which includes sex trafficking, sexual abuse, child marriages, and female genital mutilation." This entire journal issue "Ending the War against Children: the Rights of Children to Live Free from Violence" – [Table of contents, abstracts and pdfs.](#)

Wong G.

Forensic medical evaluation of children who present with suspected sexual abuse: How do we know what we know?

J Paediatr Child Health. 2019 Dec;55(12):1492-1496. PMID: [31774606](#)

"The past 40 years have seen significant changes in the way children's genital findings are interpreted in the context of suspected sexual abuse. Many findings previously thought to be diagnostic of sexual abuse are now recognised to be normal variants, caused by other medical conditions or have insufficient specificity...This review article addresses our current understanding of how to interpret genital findings in children."

Kellogg ND, Koek W, Nienow SM.

Factors that prevent, prompt, and delay disclosures in female victims of child sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Mar;101:104360. PMID: [31981932](#)
From interviews with 601 children and teens diagnosed with sexual abuse, "Young age (<11 years) at abuse onset was the strongest predictor of, and fear of consequences to self was the most common reason for, disclosure delay in both adolescent and pre-adolescent females. Severity of abuse, adult perpetrator, and self-blame predicted delays only in pre-adolescent females."

Baía PAD, Alberto IMM, Dell'Aglio DD.

Predictors of recantation after child sexual abuse disclosure among a Brazilian sample.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Mar 9;115:105006. PMID: [33711777](#)
For Brazilian criminal court cases of child sexual abuse with and without recantation, five significant predictors of recantations were: lack of support from the caregiver (odds ratio 15.90), disclosure to a single individual (13.75), parental offending (12.44), a long time interval between disclosure and reporting to authorities (8.64), and a higher number of formal interviews (1.50).

Johnson G, Green F, Clift H, Johnson CP.

Experimental modelling of imposed upper airway obstruction in infants and children.

Forensic Sci Med Pathol. 2020 Dec;16(4):622-632. PMID: [32902740](#)

Using infant and young child resuscitation dummies exposed to various methods of deliberate upper airway obstruction, "identification of one or more fingertip type bruises anywhere on an infant or child's face or scalp, should raise the index of suspicion that the individual may have been subject to deliberate upper airway obstruction."

Jackson DB, Testa A, Vaughn MG.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and School Readiness Among Preschool-Aged Children.

J Pediatr. 2021 Mar;230:191-197 PMID: [33242472](#)

From a national survey, “Although nearly one-half of children who had not been exposed to ACEs were on-track across all domains, only 1 in 5 children exposed to 3 or more ACEs were on-track across all domains. Follow-up analyses identified parenting stress and reduced positive parenting practices as significant mediators of this association.”

Lynøe N, Eriksson A.

Can Burnout Among Child Abuse Clinicians be Caused by Doubt that They are Doing the Right Thing?

Perm J. 2020 Dec;24:20.011. PMID: [33663689](#)

In this commentary on an article discussing burnout in child abuse clinicians, authors add the impact of moral distress – “Child abuse clinicians might think that what they are doing is making a difference, but they might also begin to doubt that it always results in a good difference, perhaps even bad consequences, and hence a responsibility crisis.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Hamby S, Elm JHL, Howell KH, Merrick MT.

Recognizing the cumulative burden of childhood adversities transforms science and practice for trauma and resilience.

Am Psychol. 2021 Feb-Mar;76(2):230-242. PMID: [33734791](#)

Review of 20 years of research on ACEs, leading to understanding of resilience, positive childhood experiences, and poly-strengths from the individual, family, and community. This entire journal issue is relating to ACEs – [Table of Contents with Abstracts](#).

Hays-Grudo J, Morris AS, Beasley L, et. al.

Integrating and synthesizing adversity and resilience knowledge and action: The ICARE model.

Am Psychol. 2021 Feb-Mar;76(2):203-215. PMID: [33734789](#)

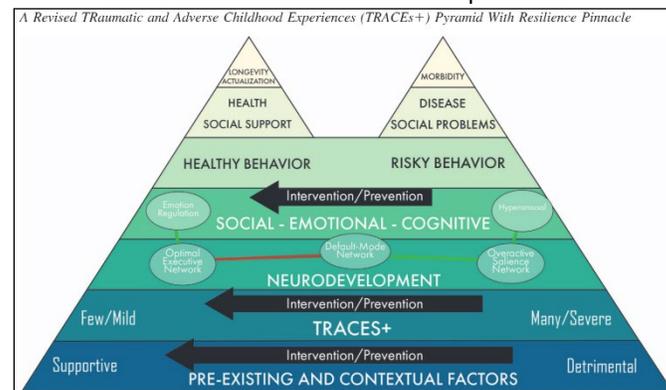
“The intergenerational and cumulative adverse and resilient experiences (ICARE) model posits that the negative consequences of ACEs result from biological and behavioral adaptations to adversity that alter cognitive, social, and emotional development. These adaptations often have negative consequences in adulthood and may be transmitted to subsequent generations through epigenetic changes as well as behavioral and environmental pathways. The ICARE model also incorporates decades of resilience research.”

Weems CF, Russell JD, Herringa RJ, Carrion VG.

Translating the neuroscience of adverse childhood experiences to inform policy and foster population-level resilience.

Am Psychol. 2021 Feb-Mar;76(2):188-202. PMID: [33734788](#)

“An integrative term, Traumatic and Adverse Childhood Experiences (TRACES) is proposed, alongside a revised adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) pyramid that emphasizes that a diversity of adverse experiences may lead to a common outcome and that a diversity of outcomes may result from a common adverse experience.”



Mosley-Johnson E, Campbell JA, Garacci E, et. al.

Stress that Endures: Influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Daily Life Stress and Physical Health in Adulthood.

J Affect Disord. 2021 Apr 1;284:38-43. PMID: [33582431](#)

From a national survey, “ACEs are associated with increased report of daily stress as an adult, reported physical symptoms as a result of stress, and reports of poor negative affect [mood] in adulthood.”

Yellowlees P, Coate L, Misquitta R, Wetzel AE, Parish MB.

The Association Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Burnout in a Regional Sample of Physicians.

Acad Psychiatry. 2021 Apr;45(2):159-163. PMID: [33409937](#)

Of 300 physicians surveyed as part of a larger group (6% of the total group), 46% scored positive to either of two burnout assessments. 49% reported 1 ACE and 9% 4+ ACEs. Those with 4+ ACEs had more than 2.5 times increased risk of burnout.

Lietzén R, Suominen S, Sillanmäki L, et. al.

Multiple adverse childhood experiences and asthma onset in adulthood: Role of adulthood risk factors as mediators.

J Psychosom Res. 2021 Feb 4;143:110388. PMID: [33639528](#)

Using health data from 21,902 Finnish adults, 34% reported 2+ ACEs, which was associated with 31% increased risk of adult asthma onset compared to 0 or 1 ACE. Adult factors that influenced this relationship were severe life events, smoking, allergic rhinitis, and obesity.

Campbell JA, Walker RJ, Garacci E, et. al.
Relationship between adverse childhood experiences and perceived discrimination in adulthood.

J Affect Disord. 2020 Dec 1;277:999-1004. PMID: [33065845](#)
 After adjusting for household dysfunction, financial strain, age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, marital status, and income, those adults out of 6,325 participants in a US national survey who reported ACEs, reported significantly higher perceived inequality in work, in home, in family relationships, and in perceived daily and lifetime discrimination.

Adolescents

O'Connor TG, Willoughby MT, Moynihan JA, et. al.
Early childhood risk exposures and inflammation in early adolescence.

Brain Behav Immun. 2020 May;86:22-29. PMID: [31059804](#)
 From an ongoing study of at-risk families, "Results indicated limited but reliable evidence of an association between early risk exposure and inflammation in adolescence. Specifically, caregiver depressive symptoms in early childhood predicted elevated CRP [inflammatory marker] almost a decade later, and the prediction was significant after accounting for socio-economic adversity, health behaviors and body mass index."

Noel-London K, Ortiz K, BeLue R.
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) & youth sports participation: Does a gradient exist?

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Mar;113:104924. PMID: [33461113](#)
 "ACE exposure in adolescents is associated with reduced odds of sport participation. While sport is traditionally seen as an intervention for youth to build resilience, it may be prudent to consider targeted interventions that encourage sport participation in youth who experience ACEs."

Adhia A, Gordon AR, Roberts AL, et. al.
Childhood Gender Nonconformity and Intimate Partner Violence in Adolescence and Young Adulthood.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):NP3130-NP3152
 PMID: [29683080](#)
 "We identify gender nonconformity as an important risk indicator for IPV victimization and perpetration among young adult males, independent of sexual orientation. Findings highlight the vulnerability of boys and men who do not conform to societal gender norms."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Heazell A, Budd J, Smith LK, et. al.
Associations between social and behavioural factors and the risk of late stillbirth - findings from the Midland and North of England Stillbirth case-control study.

BJOG. 2021 Mar;128(4):704-713. PMID: [32992405](#)
 From a survey at 14 UK maternity units, "There was an increased risk of late stillbirth associated with unemployment (adjusted odds ratio 2.32) and women who declined to answer the question about domestic abuse (aOR 4.12)."

Vass A, Haj-Yahia MM.
"Pay Attention to Me": Children's Subjective Perceptions of the Process of Leaving Home With Their Mothers to Shelters for Battered Women.

Violence Against Women. 2021 Mar;27(3-4):295-319. PMID: [31928323](#)

Table 1. Children's Perceptions of Violence Toward the Mother, the Manner of Leaving for the Shelter, and Circumstances of Leaving the Home and the Community.

Main theme	Subthemes
Perceptions of violence toward the mother	1. Identification with mother: mother-victim, father-aggressor 2. Identifying with father: anger toward the mother 3. Ambivalence: symmetrical identification with both parents 4. Attributing the cause of violence to an external factor
Perceptions of the manner of leaving for the shelter	1. Suddenness and lack of preparation 2. Uncertainty as to where and for how long they were going 3. Unwillingness: no one asked whether they agreed to go 4. Confidentiality: forbidden to tell anyone that they were going
Circumstances of leaving the home and the community	1. "Something bad will happen to mother": escaping to the shelter 2. "Mother will have some freedom": escaping to gain freedom and space 3. "Father will learn a lesson": the mother's need for revenge 4. "I don't know why": lack of understanding/knowledge why they were leaving

Stylianou AM, Ebright E.
Providing Coordinated, Immediate, Trauma-Focused, and Interdisciplinary Responses to Children Exposed to Severe Intimate Partner Violence: Assessing Feasibility of a Collaborative Model.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):NP2773-NP2799.
 PMID: [29642770](#)
 Description of Child Trauma Response Team (CRTT) designed to provide a coordinated, immediate, trauma-informed, and interdisciplinary response to children, adolescents, and their impacted family members who are exposed to severe IPV. This successful pilot project included key stakeholders from law enforcement, the district attorney's office, a nonprofit victim service organization, and the city office providing funding.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Gallegos AM, Trabold N, Cerulli C, Pigeon WR.

Sleep and Interpersonal Violence: A Systematic Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Apr;22(2):359-369. PMID: [31131736](#)

“Overall, the current review identified that sleep disturbance is widely prevalent among individuals exposed to IPV and strongly associated with IPV and related morbidity across a variety of study designs and study populations...when working with survivors routinely assessing for sleep disturbance can guide clinical referrals that are likely to adversely affect their health, well-being, and capacity to cope. Conversely, clinicians treating sleep disturbance must be aware of potential IPV concerns.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Ptacek J.

Hidden Dramas of Masculinity: Women's Perspectives on Intimate Violence in Different Social Classes.

Violence Against Women. 2021Apr;27(5):666-687. PMID: [32965183](#)

Interesting article – “Drawing from in-depth interviews with 60 women, what kinds of masculinity do abusive men present in public? How do these public masculinities contrast with the masculinities they embody in private?...If the kinds of abuse that men commit appear similar across social classes, the masculinities they present are shaped by social class, and the ways that women feel trapped are also affected by class status.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Elder Abuse and Women's Health: ACOG Committee Opinion, Number 824.

Obstet Gynecol. 2021 Mar 1;137(3):e89-e93. PMID: [33595254](#)

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Committee Opinion – “Elder abuse, a violation of

human rights, is defined as a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate actions, which causes harm, risk of harm, or distress to an individual 60 years or older. As many as 1 in 10 older adults have been victims of elder abuse... Early identification and prompt referral should be part of the preventive health care visit for women aged 60 years and older.”

Burnes D, Kirchin D, Elman A, et. al.

Developing standard data for elder abuse multidisciplinary teams: A critical objective.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2020 Aug-Oct;32(4):377-384. PMID: [32552620](#)

Authors note “tremendous range in both the extent and nature of data collection” across multidisciplinary teams responding to elder abuse, and suggest that a standardized data collection strategy would benefit stakeholders such as daily operations, funding and research.

Van Royen K, Van Royen P, De Donder L, Gobbens RJ.

Elder Abuse Assessment Tools and Interventions for use in the Home Environment: a Scoping Review.

Clin Interv Aging. 2020 Sep 28;15:1793-1807. PMID: [33061330](#)

From an evaluation of elder abuse assessment tools and interventions that can be used by formal and informal caregivers in the home environment, authors concluded that they need further testing for validity and reliability, lacked attention to the needs of vulnerable older persons such as those with dementia, and argued for including elders and caregivers into further tool and intervention development.

Ejaz FK, Rose M, Reynolds C, Bingle C, Billa D, Kirsch R.

A Novel Intervention to Identify and Report Suspected Abuse in Older, Primary Care Patients.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2020 Aug;68(8):1748-1754. PMID: [32227650](#)

This Texas healthcare system embedded APS specialists into primary care clinics serving large Medicare populations. The specialists conducted trainings, were available in person and by phone for consultation, and served as liaisons between the clinics and APS. The most common type of abuse found was self-neglect (68%).

LGBTQ Concerns

Drabble LA, Eliason MJ.

Introduction to Special Issue: Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBTQ+ Health and Well-Being.

J Homosex. 2021 Mar 21;68(4):545-559. PMID: [33439789](#)

Highlighted information from this special journal issue on pandemic impacts include: “pre-COVID mental health disparities predispose LGBTQ+ people to poorer outcomes; that technological communication aids are essential in maintaining some sense of community; that substance use is perceived by sexual minority women as a means of coping with fears, stress, loneliness, and boredom...that community support is still a critical need, particularly among those who are sheltering at home with families of origin...the importance of addressing structural inequities; ensuring access to competent and affirming healthcare; and including vulnerable communities in disaster response and planning.” [Table of Contents and abstracts](#)

Callan A, Corbally M, McElvaney R.

A Scoping Review of Intimate Partner Violence as It Relates to the Experiences of Gay and Bisexual Men.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Apr;22(2):233-248. PMID: [33205700](#)

“Across studies, gay and bisexual men were observed to experience IPV similarly to heterosexual couples involving psychological, physical, and sexual violence. However...distinctive features of violence included sexual orientation outing, unprotected sexual intercourse, homophobia, internalized homophobia, and difficulties accessing minority men-focused services.”

Brooks D, Wirtz A, Celentano D, et. al.

Gaps in science and evidence-based interventions to respond to Intimate Partner Violence among Black gay and bisexual men in the U.S.: A Call for An Intersectional Social Justice Approach.

Sex Cult. 2021 Feb;25(1):306-317. PMID: [33716496](#)

“The field of IPV has traditionally focused on cisgender heterosexual white woman as victims and cisgender white men as perpetrators, which has historically impacted the availability and quality of IPV services for other populations. This narrative critique of the IPV movement calls for an intersectional social justice and health equity approach.”

Messing JT, Thomas KA, Ward-Lasher AL, Brewer NQ.

A Comparison of Intimate Partner Violence Strangulation Between Same-Sex and Different-Sex Couples.

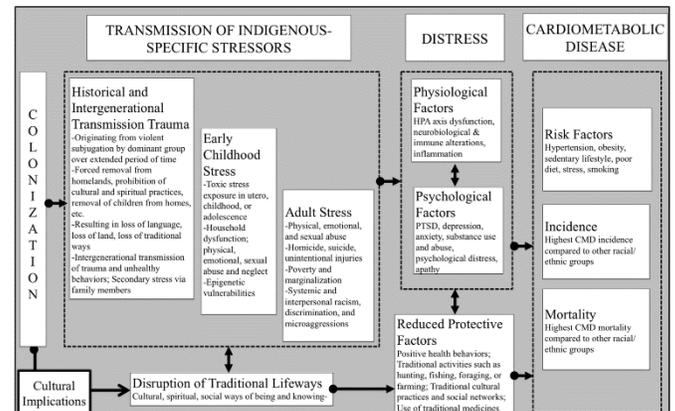
J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):2887-2905. PMID: [29566602](#)

From an analysis of police reports (2011-2013), “Strangulation was reported significantly more often in different-sex (9.8%) than in female and male same-sex couple cases (5.2% and 5.3%, respectively). Injury, however, was reported more frequently in same-sex than in different-sex couples. Regardless of couple configuration, timely identification of strangulation and subsequent referral to medical and social service providers is essential for preventing repeated strangulation, life-threatening injury, and the long-term health effects of strangulation.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Lewis ME, Volpert-Esmond HI, Deen JF, Modde E, Warne D.
Stress and Cardiometabolic Disease Risk for Indigenous Populations throughout the Lifespan.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Feb 13;18(4):1821. PMID: [33668461](#)



Duong HT, Monahan JL, Mercer Kollar LM, Klevens J.
Examining Sources of Social Norms Supporting Child Corporal Punishment Among Low-Income Black, Latino, and White Parents.

Health Commun. 2021 Mar 8:1-10. PMID: [33685307](#)

From focus groups relating to corporal punishment with low-income Black, Latino, and White parents across five states, both Black and White parents perceived positive corporal punishment experiences during their own childhoods, while Latino parents viewed these experiences negatively and distanced themselves from their country-of-origin practices. Black parents related to norms based on identification with parents in their racial/ethnic group, while White parents did so with parents sharing the same generation.

Hampton-Anderson JN, Carter S, Fani N, et. al.
Adverse childhood experiences in African Americans: Framework, practice, and policy.

Am Psychol. 2021 Feb-Mar;76(2):314-325. PMID: [33734797](#)

“Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) disproportionately impact African Americans because of profound subjection to historical-systemic oppression in addition to personal and intergenerational trauma exposure... We review the evidence base for culturally informed, preventive-interventions, as well as strategies capitalizing on cultural strengths that are salient in the African American community.”

Vil NMS, Sperlich M, Fitzpatrick J, Bascug E, Elliott J.
"I Thought It Was Normal:" Perspectives of Black Nursing Students From High-Risk IPV Communities on Causes and Solutions to IPV in the Black Community.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar 8;886260521997939. PMID: [33685276](#)

Black nursing students from high-risk communities “identified five major causes of IPV in Black communities: (a) weakened family structure, (b) IPV is normalized (c) community lacks IPV knowledge, (d) mistrust of formal resources, and (e) mental health. They also identified 10 solutions to IPV in Black communities: (a) counseling, (b) peer support groups, (c) use of technology, (d) resources to create self-sufficiency, (e) education, (f) culturally specific resources, (g) reduce stigma, (h) public service announcements, (i) substance abuse treatment, and (j) IPV screenings.”

Stein SF, Grogan-Kaylor AC, Galano MM, et. al.
Contributions to Depressed Affect in Latina Women: Examining the Effectiveness of the Moms' Empowerment Program.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):NP2298-NP2323. PMID: [29577843](#)

This 10-week group intervention addressing the unique problems associated with IPV exposure, mental health, and parenting among Spanish-speaking Latinas resulted in significant reductions in depressive symptoms.

Nguyen HV, Schacht RL, Yang JP, George WH, Pantalone DW.
Asian American Women's Victimization History and In-The-Moment Responses to Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):NP3080-NP3103. PMID: [29673304](#)

“Between 20% and 50% of Asian American women report experiencing partner violence (PV). Furthermore, nearly half of PV victims experience their first assault between the age of 18 and 24 years, suggesting that Asian American college

women may be particularly at risk of PV. Experiencing childhood abuse (CA) may impair women's capacity to perceive risk during a potential PV situation, increasing their risk for revictimization.”

Sexual Assault

Banvard-Fox C, Linger M, Paulson DJ, Cottrell L, Davidov DM.
Sexual Assault in Adolescents.

Prim Care. 2020 Jun;47(2):331-349. PMID: [32423718](#)
 Comprehensive review article with lists of resources.

Gynecologic problems	Chronic pelvic pain Dyspareunia Dysmenorrhea Vaginismus Disturbances of sexual desire, arousal, and orgasm May seek little to no prenatal care/have Pap smears Early adolescent or unintentional pregnancy History of STI >50 intercourse partners Prostitution
Substance use	Alcohol and illicit drug use, 4 to 5× rate of general population Tobacco use, 2× as likely
Increased somatic complaints	Disproportionately use health care services Lower pain threshold Chronic and diffuse pain, especially abdominal or pelvic pain Gastrointestinal disorders
Mental health	Symptoms of posttraumatic stress Depression Anxiety Eating disorders
Miscellaneous	Self-neglect Victimized repeatedly Physically sedentary, 2× as likely Severe obesity, 2× as likely

Human Trafficking

Einbond J, Diaz A, Cossette A, et. al.
Human Trafficking in Adolescents: Adopting a Youth-centered Approach to Identification and Services.

Prim Care. 2020 Jun;47(2):307-319. PMID: [32423716](#)
 “Primary care providers who adopt youth-centered approaches have an opportunity to remove obstacles to safety and treatment of human trafficking survivors who already have remained invisible for too long.” Youth-centered approaches designed and described in two programs include focus on immediacy and relationships, sustained by privacy and choice.

Perpetrators

Dressing H, Dölling D, Hermann D, et. al.

Child Sexual Abuse by Catholic Priests, Deacons, and Male Members of Religious Orders in the Authority of the German Bishops' Conference 1946-2014.

Sex Abuse. 2021 Apr;33(3):274-294. PMID: [31822196](#)

From a review of all personnel files of 38,156 German Catholic clerics from 1946-2014, 4.4% were alleged to have committed sexual abuse, and 3677 children or adolescents were identified as victims. These results are similar to those from comparable US studies.

Police and Court Systems

Hefner MK, Baboolal AA, Fleury-Steiner RE, Miller SL.

Mediating Justice: Women's Perceptions of Fairness in the Civil Protection Order Process.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Apr;36(7-8):3331-3352. PMID: [29768991](#)

From interview with 19 women who sought civil POs through Family Court in Delaware, “the power asymmetry victims experience in abusive relationships is replicated by the legal institution and court structure in terms of not having access to attorneys, not receiving guidance and advocacy, and, at times, experiencing insensitive treatment... which shape their perceptions of fairness in the PO process and outcomes.”

Yuan L, Chen X, Liu Z, et. al.

Identification of the perpetrator among identical twins using next-generation sequencing technology: A case report. Forensic Sci Int Genet. 2020 Jan;44:102167. PMID: [31605960](#)

Description of a genetic analysis laboratory technique to distinguish the perpetrator between identical twins.

Providers

Lyons M, Brewer G.

Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence during Lockdown and the COVID-19 Pandemic.

J Fam Violence. 2021 Feb 26:1-9. PMID: [33654343](#)

From a review of social media posts from women experiencing IPV during the pandemic, four themes evolved: 1) use of Covid-19 by the abuser, including using the pandemic as an excuse for escalating abuse, isolation, increased surveillance and coercive control, and desire to purchase a weapon; 2) disruption of services available from support

services for IPV as well as counseling for perpetrators; 3) disruption of plans to leave; and 4) factors increasing intensity of abuse and distress, such as financial pressures, substance use, and presence of at-risk children and pets.

Maternowska C, Shackel RL, Carlson C, Levtoy RG.

The global politics of the age-gender divide in violence against women and children.

Glob Public Health. 2021 Mar;16(3):354-365. PMID: [32835618](#)

“Those working at the intersection of violence against women (VaW) and violence against children (VaC)...reveal key differences and tensions between the two fields, including in collection and use of research and evidence, core conceptual frameworks, and the development, funding and implementation of policy and practice. Potential opportunities for future synergies are highlighted.”

Dichter ME, Makaroun L, Tuepker A, et. al.

Middle-aged Women's Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence Screening and Disclosure: "It's a private matter. It's an embarrassing situation".

J Gen Intern Med. 2020 Sep;35(9):2655-2661. PMID: [32514900](#)

“Barriers to disclosure of IPV to a healthcare provider included as follows: (a) feelings of shame, stigma, and/or embarrassment about experiencing IPV; (b) screening context not feeling comfortable or supportive, including lack of comfort with or trust in the provider and/or a perception that screening was conducted in a way that felt impersonal and uncaring; and (c) concerns about privacy and safety related to disclosure. Provider demonstrations of care, empathy, and support facilitated disclosure and feelings of empowerment following disclosure.”

Lippy C, Jumaral SN, Nnawulezi NA, et al.

The Impact of Mandatory Reporting Laws on Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.

J Fam Violence. 2020;35:255-267 (2020). [Full text](#)

From a brief online survey given to 2462 callers to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, “Mandatory reporting [MR] laws reduce help-seeking for over a third of survivors, provider warnings about MR often reduce survivors’ ability to receive the support they seek, and reports when triggered make the situation worse for most survivors. Significant differences emerged by gender identity and race/ethnicity, emphasizing unique contexts for trans and gender non-conforming survivors and survivors of color. We provide policy and practice implications given these unintended harms of MR laws for IPV survivors.”

Sawyer S, Coles J, Williams A, Williams B.
Paramedics as a New Resource for Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):NP2999-NP3018.
PMID: [29673303](#)

Stakeholders created a “comprehensive, consensus-based guideline for paramedics to recognize and refer IPV patients to care and support” in one page that includes how to recognize, respond, refer, and record. In addition, they provide sample conversation:

- To broach the subject first assure the patient's confidentiality, For example you might say
"I'd like to ask a question but before I do I just want you to you know that your answers will be confidential and we won't be overheard"
- Fear and safety questions are a good way to begin a conversation. You can use your own words if you wish. An example question might be:
"I'm wondering if what you are experiencing today might be related to feeling unsafe because someone is doing something to hurt or frighten you (or your children)" or
"I'm wondering if your injuries were caused by someone who wanted to hurt or frighten you"
- You can leave a short pause allowing the patient to talk if they wish to, if they don't talk show them that you are concerned for them, for example you might say:
"I'm concerned for your wellbeing and safety"br "I want to make sure you are feeling safe"
Or you could offer support:
"If you'd like I can assist you to speak to someone who can offer confidential support or advice about this, would you like to do that?"
- If the patient discloses abuse or states they would like you to assist them validate and reassure them before providing a referral. It's important that they feel that you believe them and you are supportive and non-judgemental, for example you might say:
"Thank you for telling me this, it must have been difficult" and/or "Everyone has the right to feel safe and I will do what I can to support you"

Chan KL, Chen Q, Chen M.
Prevalence and Correlates of the Co-Occurrence of Family Violence: A Meta-Analysis on Family Polyvictimization.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Apr;22(2):289-305. PMID: [31068102](#)

“Longitudinal studies show that, when a family reported intimate partner violence, the odds of child abuse and neglect within the same family at a later stage was 3.64. Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder were two significant correlates associated with family polyvictimization.”

Messing JT, Campbell J, AbiNader MA, Bolyard R.
Accounting for Multiple Nonfatal Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment.

J Interpers Violence. 2020 Dec 5:886260520975854. PMID: [33280504](#)

An updated Danger Assessment (DA) that included an item to ask about multiple strangulation or loss of consciousness due to strangulation predicted near-fatal violence at 7-8 months follow-up significantly better than the original DA.

Narayan AJ, Lieberman AF, Masten AS.
Intergenerational transmission and prevention of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Clin Psychol Rev. 2021 Feb 28;85:101997. PMID: [33689982](#)

“This article provides an initial roadmap for research, practice, and policy efforts to more sharply focus on mechanisms underlying intergenerational transmission of ACEs and better inform translational efforts to prevent ACEs in children...National efforts to prevent ACEs in children would be enhanced by a better understanding of the risk pathways between parental ACEs and PTSD in addition to parental current depression, substance abuse, and IPV.”

Rog DJ, Reidy MC, Manian N, Daley TC, Lieberman L.
Opportunities for psychologists to enact community change through adverse childhood experiences, trauma, and resilience networks.

Am Psychol. 2021 Feb-Mar;76(2):379-390. PMID: [33734802](#)
“The emergence of multisector, community-based networks organized to address ACEs and trauma and foster resilience, or "ATR networks" ...this article describes the structure, operation, and accomplishments of these networks.”

Cavanaugh SM, Branas CC, Formica MK.
Community-Engaged and Informed Violence Prevention Interventions.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2021 Apr;68(2):489-509. PMID: [33678301](#)

“Community-based interventions to prevent violence are similar to other public health approaches in that they target a broad range of settings and sectors and emphasize collaboration...The evaluation of community-based interventions is challenging owing to the length of time required to see an impact, an obscured cost-benefit relationship, and the limited feasibility of conducting randomized controlled trials.”

Gubbels J, van der Put CE, Stams GJM, Prinzie PJ, Assink M.
Components associated with the effect of home visiting programs on child maltreatment: A meta-analytic review.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Apr;114:104981. PMID: [33571741](#)

From a research review, “In general, home visiting programs can prevent child maltreatment only to a small extent. However, implementing specific components and techniques can improve program effectiveness” – such as improving parental expectations of the child or parenthood in general, parental responsiveness or sensitivity to a child’s needs, and programs using video-based feedback.

Prevention

Researchers

Esopenko C, Meyer J, Wilde EA, et. al.

A global collaboration to study intimate partner violence-related head trauma: The ENIGMA consortium IPV working group.

Brain Imaging Behav. 2021 Apr;15(2):475-503. PMID: [33405096](#)

“Exposure to intimate partner violence can impact cognitive and psychological functioning, as well as neurological outcomes. These seem to be compounded in those who suffer a brain injury as a result of trauma ...the goal of the Enhancing NeuroImaging Genetics through Meta-Analysis (ENIGMA) Consortium IPV Working Group is to develop a global collaboration that includes researchers, clinicians, and other key community stakeholders...we provide suggestions for behavioral surveys, cognitive tests, neuroimaging parameters, and genetics that could be used by investigators in the early stages of study design.”

Biegon A.

Considering Biological Sex in Traumatic Brain Injury.

Front Neurol. 2021 Feb 10;12:576366. PMID: [33643182](#)

Authors note what is presently known about the effects of biological sex and hormonal status on TBI outcomes, and outline needed future research.

Messing JT, AbiNader MA, Pizarro JM, et. al.

The Arizona Intimate Partner Homicide (AzIPH) Study: a Step toward Updating and Expanding Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide.

J Fam Violence. 2021 Feb 25:1-10. PMID: [33654342](#)

Authors describe their efforts to update IPV homicide research by gathering data from multiple sources at a state level, in contrast to and complementary of, reports generated at the city or county level. Gaps in research are noted.

Other of Interest

Adhia A, Lyons VH, Moe CA, Rowhani-Rahbar A, Rivara FP.

Nonfatal use of firearms in intimate partner violence: Results of a national survey.

Prev Med. 2021 Mar 2:106500. PMID: [33667471](#)

From an online survey of 958 US adults who had experienced IPV and extrapolated nationally, “we estimated that 9.8% of US adults - or nearly 25 million - have experienced nonfatal firearm abuse by an intimate partner. Participants reported that “the most common behaviors included the partner

displaying a firearm (67.5%) and threatening to shoot the victim (63.0%). The majority (80.5%) of perpetrators were male, and 49.2% of respondents had a child at home at the time of abuse. The most common consequences of firearm abuse were concerns for safety (86.2%) and feeling fearful (82.7%). Additionally, 43.1% of respondents reported physical injury, and 37.4% missed days of work or school.”

Randour ML, Smith-Blackmore M, Blaney N, et. al.

Animal Abuse as a Type of Trauma.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Apr;22(2):277-288. PMID: [31043145](#)

“It is the responsibility of both animal service and human service professionals to be aware of animal abuse occurrence, understand its significance, and promote appropriate professional and policy responses to it....Strong associations were found between domestic violence, child abuse, and animal abuse; animal abuse, whether witnessed or committed, is a form of trauma. Severe animal abuse is a predictor for severe domestic violence...Knowledge of the link also has influenced a number of court cases deciding parental rights.”

Campbell AM, Thompson SL, Harris TL, Wiehe SE.

Intimate Partner Violence and Pet Abuse: Responding Law Enforcement Officers' Observations and Victim Reports From the Scene.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):2353-2372. PMID: [29502502](#)

“IPV victims residing in homes with a suspect who has a history of pet abuse often describe ‘extremely high-risk’ environments. With nearly 80% reporting concern that they will eventually be killed by the suspect, victims in these environments should be considered at significant risk of suffering serious injury or death...significantly more likely to have had at least one prior unreported IPV incident with the suspect (80%) and to have ever been strangled (76%) or forced to have sex with the suspect (26%).”

Riggs DW, Taylor N, Fraser H, Donovan C, Signal T.

The Link Between Domestic Violence and Abuse and Animal Cruelty in the Intimate Relationships of People of Diverse Genders and/or Sexualities: A Binational Study.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Mar;36(5-6):NP3169-NP3195. PMID: [29683079](#)

Of 503 people living in either Australia or the UK, 1/5 of those who had experienced IPV reported that animal cruelty had been perpetuated by the violent or abusive partner, associated with greater psychological distress and lower levels of social support.