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Questions: Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Henry MK, Lindberg DM, Campbell KA, Wood JN.

Development, contributions, and future directions of a multicenter child abuse research network.

Curr Probl Pediatr Adolesc Health Care. 2024;101573. PMID: [38522960](#)

CAPNET is a multicenter child abuse pediatrics research network that currently collects detailed clinical data from child physical abuse evaluations from 11 leading pediatric centers across the US with over 4000 children evaluated annually. "Here we describe CAPNET's development, content, lessons learned, and potential future directions of the network."

McNamara CR, Kalinowski A, Horvat CM, et al.

New Functional Impairment After Hospital Discharge by Traumatic Brain Injury Mechanism in Younger Than 3 Years Old Admitted to the PICU in a Single Center Retrospective Study.

Pediatr Crit Care Med. 2024;25(3):250-8. PMID: [38088760](#)

Of 460 children younger than 3 years old admitted with TBI (traumatic brain injury) to the PICU at a level 1 trauma center between 2014 and 2019, those with abusive etiologies vs. accidental were "associated with greater odds of poor outcome in the follow-up period through to ~5 years post-discharge. New impairment [sensory, communication, and motor] occurred in multiple domains and only abusive head trauma patients further declined in Functional Status Scale scores over time."

Klebanov B, Friedman-Hauser G, Lusky-Weisrose E, Katz C.

Sexual Abuse of Children With Disabilities: Key Lessons and Future Directions Based on a Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(2):1296-314. PMID: [37306024](#)

Research studies show that "CWDs [children with disabilities] experience CSA [child sexual abuse] two to four times more often than children without disabilities, and that they suffer longer and harsher

abuse due to factors that complicate the identification of CSA of CWDs. This review highlights ...unique methodological strategies for addressing challenges in CSA and disability research."

Social aspects preventing or delaying the detection and treatment of CSA of CWDs

Underreporting to authorities
Systemic ignoring of reports and low conviction rates
Low accessibility to assistance services
Mistrust of testimonies given by CWDs in the legal system
Lack and inconsistency of national policies and guidelines
Lack of adapted and regulated sex education

King A, Pope E.

Dermatitis versus nonaccidental trauma: A systematic review of initial pediatric misdiagnoses.

Pediatr Dermatol. 2024;41(2):215-20. PMID: [38400817](#)

"Pediatric dermatitis and nonaccidental trauma (NAT) may have overlapping cutaneous [skin] presentations, posing a risk of misdiagnosis and subsequent emotional distress and further harm...Among 26 patients initially investigated as NAT (26.9% involving Child Protective Services), final diagnoses included irritant contact dermatitis (53.8%), phytophotodermatitis (30.8%), allergic contact dermatitis (7.7%), perianal infectious dermatitis (3.8%), and atopic dermatitis (3.8%). Three patients initially diagnosed with nontraumatic dermatitis were later found to be victims of physical (2/3) or sexual abuse (1/3). Effective history-taking and physical examinations should encompass a history of laxative use, contact with furocoumarin-containing plants/fruit [e.g. parsley, grapefruit, lime], parallel family/peer cutaneous presentations, caregiver involvement, financial burden, patient discomfort, birthmark assessment, and lesions aligning with diaper borders or toilet seats."

Chandra A, Goldstein J, Peters K, Roberts WO, Satin DJ.

Bias and Conflict of Interest in the Underreporting of Sexual Abuse in Competitive Sports: A Literature Review.

Current sports medicine reports. 2024;23(3):105-10. PMID: [38437495](#)

"The prevalence of sexual abuse in competitive sports is increasing worldwide and requires a united call to action...we report the results of a systematic literature review, identifying root causes of underreporting sexual abuse in competitive sports. We identify that biases and conflicts of interest work against effective reporting of abuse by athletes at the individual, organizational, and cultural levels. We offer conflict of interest and bias mitigation approaches."

Dodd K, Solomon C, Naughton M, Salmon PM, McLean S. **What Enables Child Sexual Abuse in Sport? A Systematic Review.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(2):1599-613. PMID: [37614195](#)

From a research review using a mapping systems-related approach, “Enabling factors for CSA [child sexual abuse] in sport were identified at multiple levels of the sporting system hierarchy. The results show that 24.1% of the enabling factors identified in the literature relate to the hierarchical level of the Athlete, teammates, opponents, and fans levels; and 52.9% relate to the level of Direct supervisors, management, medical, and performance personnel level. However, only 13% were identified at the combined top four hierarchical levels..the problem of CSA in sport is a systems issue, and future research is required to explore how these factors interact to enable CSA in sport.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Frank P, Batty GD, Pentti J, et al.

Impact of physical and sexual abuse on risk of hospitalisations for physical and mental illnesses: insights from two large prospective cohort studies.

Lancet Reg Health Eur. 2024;40:100883. PMID: [38495556](#)

Utilizing data from two large studies in UK and Finland, “we found that exposure to physical or sexual abuse in childhood or adulthood was associated with an increased risk of 22 health conditions requiring hospital treatment, including mental and behavioural disorders; diseases of the metabolic, haematologic, musculoskeletal, circulatory, and respiratory system; as well as infections. These associations were particularly strong in individuals who had experienced abuse during both childhood and adulthood.”

Klinger-König J, Erhardt A, Streit F, et al.

Childhood Trauma and Somatic and Mental Illness in Adulthood.

Dtsch Arztebl Int. 2024;121(1):1-8. PMID: [37876295](#)

From a large national German study, “Persons with childhood trauma were more likely to bear a diagnosis of all of the studied conditions: cancer (odds ratio [OR] = 1.10), myocardial infarction (OR = 1.13), diabetes (OR = 1.16), stroke (OR = 1.35), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (OR = 1.45), depression (OR = 2.36), and anxiety disorders (OR = 2.08).”

Daníelsdóttir HB, Aspelund T, Shen Q, et al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental Health Outcomes.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2024 Mar 6:e240039. PMID: [38446452](#)

A study of 25,252 adult Swedish twins “found that associations between ACEs and adult mental health outcomes remained after controlling for shared genetic and environmental factors, which was particularly evident after multiple ACEs or sexual abuse.”

Slavin AZ, Fischer IC, Pietrzak RH.

Differential associations of adverse childhood experiences and mental health outcomes in U.S. military veterans.

J Psychiatr Res. 2024;172:261-5. PMID: [38412789](#)

Using data from the National Health and Resilience in Veterans Study (NHRVS), which surveyed a nationally representative sample of 4069 U.S. veterans, childhood emotional neglect and sexual abuse were most consistently associated with major depressive, generalized anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorders, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors, even after adjustment for the number of ACEs endorsed. “Collectively, results of this study underscore the importance of assessing for specific ACEs--most notably childhood emotional neglect and sexual abuse--and treating these potentially unresolved childhood traumas in veterans.”

Watson CR, Eaton A, Campbell CI, et al.

Association of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resilience With Depression and Anxiety During Pregnancy.

Obstet Gynecol. 2024 May 1;143(5):707-710. PMID: [38422503](#)

Of 14,625 pregnancies, “17.0% had newly identified depression; 9.8% had newly identified depression symptoms; and 8.9% had newly identified anxiety during the pregnancy with no known preexisting diagnosis. We found that adverse childhood experiences and low resilience were independently associated with newly identified depressive disorders, depression symptoms, and anxiety disorders during pregnancy...the greatest odds of each outcome occurred in individuals with a combination of four or more adverse childhood experiences and low resilience: depression adjusted odds ratio (aOR) 6.43, depression symptoms aOR 9.49, and anxiety disorder aOR 4.79. Routine screening for adverse childhood experiences and resilience may identify individuals at risk of developing prenatal depression and anxiety, allowing faster resource linkage and potentially improved maternal and child outcomes.”

Fu C, Li C, Wan X, Yang Y, Zhang S, Hu J.

The Relationship Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Postpartum Depression: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;15248380241235639. PMID: [38516894](#)

This research review “revealed that ACE was a risk factor for PPD [post-partum depression] (odds ratio [OR] = 2.31)...emotional abuse was the ACE subtype most strongly related to the occurrence of PPD (OR = 2.95), followed by emotional neglect (OR = 2.87) and sexual abuse (OR = 2.81). In addition, family member incarceration (OR = 2.62), physical abuse (OR = 2.31), and physical neglect (OR = 2.15) also have strong effects on PPD. Early screening of ACE plays an important role in the prevention and intervention of PPD.”

Kisely S, Bull C, Trott M, et al.

Emergency department presentations for deliberate self-harm and suicidal ideation in 25-39 years olds following agency-notified child maltreatment: results from the Childhood Adversity and Lifetime Morbidity (CALM) study.

Epidemiology and psychiatric sciences. 2024;33:e18. PMID: [38532726](#)

Using linked Australian databases, children who had a suspected or substantiated maltreatment report from child protection were 2.69 to 2.80 times more likely to present to an emergency department at least once for deliberate self-harm or suicidal ideation or behavior when aged 25-39 years.

Sarkar S, Jackson B, Manzo LL, Jeon S, Poghosyan H.

Association between adverse childhood experiences and self-reported health-risk behaviors among cancer survivors: A population-based study.

PLoS One. 2024;19(3):e0299918. PMID: [38512934](#)

Of 4,126 adults with a history of cancer, 84.2% self-reported as White, 58.4% were women, and 76.6% were aged 65+ years. Nearly two-thirds of the sample (63.2%) self-reported at least one ACE. Experiencing ≥ 3 ACEs was associated with 145% increased odds of reporting at least one health-risk behavior such as cigarette smoking, binge alcohol drinking, or e-cigarette use. “These all can negatively impact cancer survivors' overall well-being. Early screening for ACE during oncologic visits can be a protective measure for preventing health-risk behaviors among cancer survivors.”

Adolescents

Kobulsky J, Schroeder K, Schuler B, Patrick EL, Lang Y, Wu J. **Developmental timing of child maltreatment in relation to obesity and substance use disorder in late adolescence.**

Psychology of violence. 2024;14(1):24-33. PMID: [38504668](#)

From a national survey of 1161 teens, “emotional maltreatment during adolescence was associated with obesity (odds ratio = 2.03) and substance use disorder (SUD OR = 2.00), and adolescent physical abuse with obesity (OR = 2.20). In girls, early childhood physical abuse was associated with SUD (OR = 2.35), and emotional maltreatment during adolescence with obesity (OR = 2.16) and SUD (OR = 3.21). Adolescent physical abuse and obesity were associated in boys (OR = 3.18)...Type and timing contribute to the effects of child maltreatment, contingent upon gender. Intervention focused on adolescent emotional maltreatment may reduce both SUD and obesity.”

Perino MT, Sylvester CM, Rogers CE, Luby JL, Barch DM. **Neighborhood Resource Deprivation as a Predictor of Bullying Perpetration and Resource-Driven Conduct Symptoms.**

J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2024 Mar 22:S0890-8567(24)00137-0. PMID: [38522614](#)

Of 306 midwestern children evaluated at age 3-6 years and followed until age 18, “Neighborhood resource deprivation was more strongly associated with bullying perpetration than generalized aggression, and remained significant when controlling for other known risk factors (parental arrests, domestic violence, stressors, traumas) and demographic factors...resource deprivation specifically led to increases in bullying perpetration...Children growing up in impoverished neighborhoods show significant increases in resource-driven conduct behaviors, yet interventions often target individual-level factors. These results highlight the need to target social inequity to reduce bullying perpetration.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Joseph NT, Prater LC, Modest AM.

Pregnancy-Associated Firearm Mortality in the U.S., 2008-2019.

Am J Prev Med. 2024 Mar 6:S0749-3797(24)00077-1. PMID: [38458269](#)

“Women aged 15-44 years who died by suicide (intentional self-harm) and homicide where a firearm was involved were included. Pregnancy-associated deaths were defined as those that occurred during pregnancy or within 1 year of pregnancy...Twenty-two percent (n=388) and 11% (n=212) of firearm homicides and suicides, respectively, were pregnancy associated...Among pregnancy-associated homicides and suicides, deaths occurred more frequently during pregnancy (63.4% and 40.3%). Pregnancy-associated homicides more frequently occurred in the victim's home (51.5% vs 46.7%) and was related to ongoing conflict or violence between a current or former partner (61.6% vs 51.9%). Pregnancy-associated suicides more frequently occurred in those who experienced intimate partner violence within a month of death than non-pregnancy-associated suicide (4.2% vs 1.3%).”

Keegan G, Hoofnagle M, Chor J, et al.

State-Level Analysis of Intimate Partner Violence, Abortion Access, and Peripartum Homicide: Call for Screening and Violence Interventions for Pregnant Patients.

J Am Coll Surg. 2024 May 1;238(5):880-888. PMID: [38329176](#)

“Despite representing 4% of the global population, the US has the fifth highest number of intentional homicides in the world. Peripartum people represent a unique and vulnerable subset of homicide victims...Peripartum was defined as currently pregnant or within 1-year postpartum...There were 496 peripartum compared with 8,644 non-peripartum homicide victims. The peripartum group was younger (27.4 vs 33.0). Intimate partner violence causing the homicide was more common in the peripartum group (39.9% vs 26.4%). Firearms were used in 63.4% of homicides among the peripartum group compared with 49.5% in the comparison group...Increasing rates of peripartum homicide occur in states with policies that are restrictive to abortion access.”

Powell M, Pilkington R, Varney B, et al.

The burden of prenatal and early life maternal substance use among children at risk of maltreatment: A systematic review.

Drug Alcohol Rev. 2024 May;43(4):823-847. PMID: [38548385](#)

From a research review, “Maternal substance use prevalence ranged from 2.4% to 40.6%. Maternal substance use was highest among infants referred

to child protection at birth (40.6%) and children in out-of-home care (10.4% to 37.2%). Prevalence was higher when studies defined substance use more broadly and when maternal substance use was ascertained from both child and mother records. Supportive, coordinated responses to maternal substance use are needed from health and child protection services, spanning alcohol and other drug treatment, antenatal and postnatal care.”

Gates K, Chahin S, Damashek A, et al.

The Relation of Maternal Psychosocial Risk Factors to Infant Safe Sleep Practices.

Matern Child Health J. 2024 Jun;28(6):1061-1071. PMID: [38460074](#)

“Sleep-related infant deaths are a common and preventable cause of infant mortality in the United States...The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published safe sleep guidelines to minimize the number of sleep-related infant deaths; however, many families face barriers to following these guidelines.” From telephone interviews with 274 midwestern new mothers, “depression and stress impacted mothers' engagement in following the safe sleep guidelines. Specifically, higher levels of maternal depression predicted greater likelihood of co-sleeping, regardless of mothers' race. Higher levels of maternal stress also predicted lower engagement in safe sleep behaviors for White mothers only. Early interventions to address stress and depression may help to increase maternal adherence to the AAP's safe sleep guidelines.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Wallace C, Smirl JD, Adhikari SP, et al.

Neurovascular coupling is altered in women who have a history of brain injury from intimate partner violence: a preliminary study.

Front Glob Womens Health. 2024;5:1344880. PMID: [38495125](#)

In a small ultrasound study of brain blood flow in women with a history of IPV-caused brain injury, there were “subtle but significant disruptions to neurovascular coupling [the link between neuron activity and cerebral blood flow]”, that was also affected by symptoms of depression and anxiety. “Future studies should examine cerebrovascular function at the acute and subacute stages after IPV episodes to shed additional light on this experience and its outcomes.”

Karr JE, White AE, Leong SE, Logan TK.

The Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory: Psychometric Properties and Symptom Comparisons in Women With and Without Brain Injuries Due to Intimate Partner Violence.

Assessment. 2024:10731911241236687. PMID: [38481383](#)

From an online survey comparing 93 women who experienced IPV without brain injury, and 112 women with IPV-related brain injury, the count of hypoxic-ischemic brain injury events (HI-BI = strangled or choked, nearly drowned, smothered, or other situation causing inability to breathe) was independently predictive of total, cognitive and vestibular (dizziness, balance) scores on the Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory; not so with simple count of traumatic brain injury events (physical impact to the head/brain). “The association between HI-BI count and cognitive and vestibular symptoms may indicate the importance of studying repetitive nonfatal strangulation as an injury mechanism in this population.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Bloemen EM, Tietz S, Lindberg DM, et al.

Elder abuse geriatrics: describing an important new medical specialist.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2024 Apr 11:1-17. PMID: [38602348](#)

Authors suggest a new field of elder abuse geriatrics, a corollary to the well-established field of child abuse pediatrics. “Providers working in this field require specialized training and have a specialized scope of practice that includes forensic evaluation, evaluation of cognition and capacity, care coordination and advocacy for victims of abuse, and collaboration with protective services and law enforcement. Here we describe the training, scope of practice, ethical role, and best practices for elder mistreatment medical consultation. We hope this will serve as a starting point for this new and important medical specialty.

Stephens C, Stanyer A, Anderson R, Bishop A.

Changing policy landscape around elder abuse in England and Wales.

Bmj. 2024;384:q463. PMID: [38418091](#)

Authors discuss UK elder abuse from the standpoint of recent increases in predatory marriages and abuse of lasting powers of attorney, complicated by new digital authorization issues, and the need for a stronger role for healthcare professionals in recognition of these predatory practices.

Sexual Assault

Wegrzyn A, Greeson MR, Rice J.

Sexual Assault Response Team Goals and Motivations for Development.

J Interpers Violence. 2024:8862605241235913. PMID: [38470067](#)

“Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) are community-based, multidisciplinary interventions that strive to coordinate the response to sexual assault. SARTs consist of sexual assault responders (e.g., rape crisis advocates, police, forensic examiners/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, and prosecutors).” A national survey of 172 SARTs on underlying SART goals revealed “the importance of improving the accessibility and quality of services, improving the treatment of survivors, and increasing responder collaboration.”

Carretier E, Jourdan M, Duchesne S, et al.

Disclosure of sexual abuse by adolescents treated in a psychiatry department.

Encephale. 2024 Mar 23:S0013-7006(24)00043-5. PMID: [38523028](#)

In this single center study of 139 French adolescents seen in a psychiatry department and receiving a mandated report of sexual abuse, “Girls accounted for almost all the adolescents who disclosed (95.7%). First abuse occurred around the age of 12 years and was first disclosed to a health professional a mean of 3.5 years later; 47.5% were admitted for inpatient care during their follow-up. The most common diagnoses were depression, eating disorders, PTSD, and other anxiety disorders. Before disclosing to a health professional, most of these adolescents had already talked about it, mainly to a family member (69.8%) or peers (24.7%).”

Travis KJ, Huang AJ, Maguen S, et al.

Military Sexual Trauma and Menopause Symptoms Among Midlife Women Veterans.

J Gen Intern Med. 2024;39(3):411-7. PMID: [37957529](#)

Of 232 female veterans mean age 55.95 years, and after adjusting for age, race, ethnicity, education, body mass index, and menopause status, “military sexual trauma was associated with the presence of vasomotor symptoms [hot flashes] (odds ratio 2.44), vaginal symptoms (OR 2.23), clinically significant depressive symptoms (OR 3.21), anxiety (OR 4.78), and probable PTSD (OR 6.74). Results did not differ when military sexual assault and harassment were disaggregated, except that military sexual assault was additionally associated with moderate-to-severe insomnia (OR 3.18).”

Yancey JR, Carson CN, McGlade EC, Yurgelun-Todd DA.
A Literature Review of Mental Health Symptom Outcomes in U.S. Veterans and Servicemembers Following Combat Exposure and Military Sexual Trauma.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(2):1431-47. PMID: [37313717](#)

While “MST [military sexual trauma] and CE [combat exposure] uniquely predicted posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms, MST was more related to depressive symptoms and suicidality than CE, and CE appeared to be more related to alcohol use and other externalizing behaviors. Gender also played a significant role...more research into these presentations could better inform assessment and treatment. Important methodological gaps in the literature are also discussed.”

Human Trafficking

Juraschek E, Legg A, Raghavan C.

The Reconsecration of the Self: A Qualitative Analysis of Sex Trafficking Survivors' Experience of the Body.

Violence Against Women. 2024;10778012241239948. PMID: [38505932](#)

“We qualitatively explored the mind-body relationship among 79 female sex trafficking survivors. Survivors reported long-term negative alterations in feelings about the body, sex, and physical touch post-trafficking and these negative outcomes did not differ across women who self-perceived as consenting and women who self-perceived as forced. Implications for future research are presented, particularly on measuring dehumanization, which contributes to extensive harm even in the absence of physical aggression.”

Mueller TF, Nagral S.

Organ trafficking - a continuing challenge.

Nat Rev Nephrol. 2024 May;20(5):267-268. PMID: [38409368](#)

“Organ trafficking is defined as the removal of organs by means of coercion, payment or deceit. It overlaps with the practices of trafficking of persons for the purpose of organ removal and of transplant tourism wherein patients travel abroad for the purpose of purchasing organs from poor and vulnerable people...Many people who sell their kidney — whether under coercion or willingly as a consequence of their financial situation — are substantially worse off, both medically and financially, after selling their kidneys; data on long-term outcomes for those donors are non-existent...the WHO (World Health Organization) estimates that current transplant activities meet

less than 10% of global needs...The term ‘organ trafficking’ conjures up visions of sinister underground gangs stealing kidneys in secret locations; however, it often involves mainstream institutions and collusion by health-care workers including those with expertise in transplantation.”
Authors make suggestions for reforms.

LGBTQ Concerns

Parker VL, Liechty JM, Cantoni NP.

Associations Between Trauma and Health Behaviors and Outcomes Among Sexual Minoritized Adults: A Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;15248380241233270. PMID: [38415318](#)

“In this scoping review trauma was associated with several health behaviors and conditions, including alcohol use, cigarette smoking, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, warranting further research and full systematic review. SM [sexual minority] adults experience health disparities compared to heterosexual adults; since this may be due in part to greater trauma victimization experienced among SM individuals, the mechanisms between trauma and health require further investigation.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Graham JK, Jenkins D, Iris K, Knudsen M, Kelley C.

The Toxic Stress of Racism and Its Relationship to Frailty.

Clin Nurs Res. 2024;10547738241233050. PMID: [38454542](#)

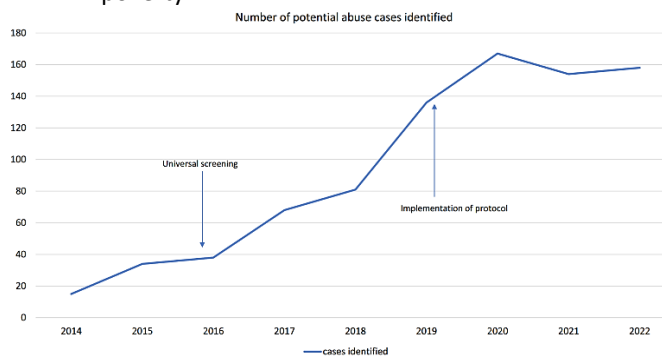
Of 1,744 cases representing hospitalized adults with COVID-19, 52% Hispanic, 56% male, with mean age 62 years, “The mean age of Hispanic cases was younger than non-Hispanic cases. Serum CRP [a marker of inflammation] was significantly higher in the Hispanic cases, with a high degree of association. In addition, higher CRP levels were significantly associated with the need for mechanical ventilation. No significant relationships were found between CRP and age, body mass index, or comorbidity burden. Findings challenge the assumption that the disproportionate morbidity and mortality suffered by the Hispanic population due to COVID-19 was due to age, BMI, or comorbidities such as metabolic syndrome or heart disease. CRP in the Hispanic population should be further investigated to understand its relationship to chronic stress, frailty, and risk for COVID-19 in this population.”

Chan A, Feller MD, Dawson K, et al.

Protocolized abuse screening to decrease provider bias and increase capture of potential events.

Injury epidemiology. 2024;11(1):11. PMID: [38549120](#)

At one institution, screening for physical and sexual abuse was implemented for children under age 18, and subsequently a rigorous, objective evaluation protocol focusing on the mechanism of injury and exam findings was instituted to decrease provider bias. Comparing the three time periods, (pre-screening, universal screening, and protocol screening), “Universal screening significantly increased the number of cases identified. The demographic profile of potential victims by race significantly changed over the reporting periods with an increased number of white children identified, consistent with state demographics. The proportion of publicly insured patients trended down with universal screening and protocol implementation, despite a significant increase in the number of children publicly insured in the state during this time. These single institutional results lend support to objective, evidence-based protocols to help eliminate bias surrounding race and poverty.”



Goh AH, Altman MR, Canty L, Edmonds JK.

Communication Between Pregnant People of Color and Prenatal Care Providers in the United States: An Integrative Review.

J Midwifery Womens Health. 2024 Mar-Apr;69(2):202-223.

PMID: [37961941](#)

“Inadequate communication between prenatal care providers and pregnant people of color continues to exist...Two overarching themes emerged from our analysis: racism/discrimination and unmet information needs...Factors included provider behaviors, language barriers, structural barriers, provider type, continuity of care, and fear. Outcome themes were disrespect, trust, decision-making power, missed appointments, and satisfaction with care. Lastly, culturally congruent care, provider training, and workforce development were categorized as recommendations.”

Borowsky PA, Yoon K, Eroraha A, et al.

General surgery textbooks and surgical disparities.

J Natl Med Assoc. 2024;116(2 Pt 1):145-52. PMID: [38245468](#)

From a review of 13 General Surgery Textbooks, “General Surgery textbooks do not provide readers with scientifically thorough understanding of health disparities. Teaching more comprehensive conceptions, including systemic causes and the role of racism, may prevent reflexive association of minority patients with poor outcomes. Future editions should include these details where disparities are discussed in an independent, comprehensive section.”

Binda DD, Kraus A, Gariépy-Assal L, et al.

Anti-racism curricula in undergraduate medical education: A scoping review.

Med Teach. 2024;1-11. PMID: [38431914](#)

Authors analyze study characteristics and anti-racism curriculum components (instructional design, assessment, outcomes) available for undergraduate medical education.

Perpetrators

Truss L, de Roos MS.

Personality Attributions in the Context of Stalking of Ex-Intimates or Others: A Victim's Perspective.

Int J Offender Ther Comp Criminol. 2024;306624x241240703.

PMID: [38509797](#)

This study surveyed 100 victims of stalking recruited through the National Stalking Helpline, and correlated victims’ descriptions of stalker personality traits and status (ex-romantic partner or not) with stalker motivations and behaviors.

Paulino M, Edens JF, Moniz M, Moura O, Rijo D, Simões MR.

Personality assessment inventory (PAI) in forensic and correctional settings: A comprehensive review.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2024;103:102661. PMID: [38461694](#)

“The goal of this paper is to conduct a thorough review of the PAI's [Personality Assessment Inventory] utility in forensic settings, by focusing on the relevant forensic constructs assessed by the PAI (e.g., personality disorders, psychosis, substance abuse, aggression, recidivism risk, and response distortion), as well as its application to offender and inmate populations, intimate partner violence contexts, family law cases, and forensic professionals. Overall, the PAI continues to gather international recognition and its relevance and usefulness in forensic settings is generally accepted and acknowledged.”

Rumpf T, Horn S, Vogt C, et al.

Leaking in Intimate Partner Homicide: A Systematic Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;15248380241237213. PMID: [38551126](#)

From a research review, authors discuss warning signs that may precede intimate partner homicide (IPH) which they characterize as “leaking”. “Leaking comprises all offense-related statements, behaviors, or actions that express the perpetrator's thoughts, fantasies, ideas, interests, feelings, intentions, plans, or positive evaluations of an own violent act or previous similar offenses prior to the own attack...several behaviors that are in line with our definition of leaking and were categorized into five broader categories: (a) homicide announcements, (b) previous severe acts of violence, (c) suicidal behavior, (d) planning activities, and (e) interest in similar offenses/offenders...more systematic research is needed to understand its potential role in future risk analyses procedures and prevention of IPH.”

Police and Court Systems

Bruzelius E, Underhill K, Askari MS, et al.

Punitive legal responses to prenatal drug use in the United States: A survey of state policies and systematic review of their public health impacts.

Int J Drug Policy. 2024;126:104380. PMID: [38484529](#)

“By 2022, two states had adopted policies explicitly authorizing criminal prosecution, and five states allowed pregnancy-specific and drug use-related involuntary civil commitment. Prenatal drug use was grounds for substantiating child abuse in 22 states and terminating parental rights in five states...Most included studies reported null associations or suggested increases in adverse outcome following punitive policy adoption...current evidence indicates that punitive policies are not associated with public health benefits, and therefore constitute ineffective policy.”

Deutsch SA, O'Brien E.

Child torture victimization: Review of criminal statutes and medico-legal issues.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;151:106750. PMID: [38492536](#)

“In this discussion piece, medico-legal issues relevant to intrafamilial child torture case prosecution are reviewed. The impact of the established medical definition on jurisdictional legal approaches and unique case challenges related to longitudinal nature of abuse, frequent psychological injury, and victim-perpetrator dynamics are

explored in depth...existing child torture statutes and case outcomes were compared with focus on perpetrator, victim, socio-environmental, and community influence on legal outcome.

Prosecutorial challenges facing jurisdictions lacking child torture statutes are discussed with emphasis placed on the critical role played by the medical community to support diagnosis of physical and emotional impacts to the child. Finally, the process by which states can establish a jurisdictional torture statute are suggested.”

Maple E, Kebbell M.

"DV Fatigue": Work Stress and Officers' Attitudes and Performance at Domestic and Family Violence Incidents.

Violence Against Women. 2024;10778012241239944. PMID: [38506076](#)

“A self-report instrument was created to measure stress, attitudes, and performance of domestic and family violence (DFV) first responders in an Australian state. DFV-related stress negatively impacted officers' attitudes and self-assessed performance. Higher DFV stress was predicted by the frequency and severity of DFV incidents, and the absence of lived experience. Negative attitudes were predicted by a shorter length of service and lower severity, and poorer performance by a longer length of service and lower perceived social support. Males reported higher stress and poorer performance than females. The findings reveal systemic issues that inhibit effective police response, emphasizing the need to address negative attitudes and ‘DV fatigue’.”

Nørgaard Madsen L, Mikkelsen EN.

Unpacking Police Endorsement of Myths Surrounding Intimate Partner Violence Against Women: Formation and Implications.

Violence Against Women. 2024;10778012241238243. PMID: [38465647](#)

From interviews with Danish police trainees, patrol officers, and police detectives, “police officers begin to believe in the myths to cope with negative emotions arising from repeated exposure to IPV against women victims, who do not behave according to expected norms of being cooperative, responsible, and innocent. This makes police officers meet victims with skepticism, low spirit, and hopelessness, making them refrain from initiating further criminal investigations, opening criminal cases, and pursuing arrests.”

Kochel TR, Phillips SW.

The Views of Police Officers Toward Gun Legislation and Public Health Policies Driven by Firearm Safety Concerns.

J Community Health. 2024 Jun;49(3):415-428. PMID: [38066220](#)

“We surveyed police from three US jurisdictions to establish a baseline understanding of officers' views about potential gun legislation and identify possible resistance and implementation barriers of firearms laws. The findings suggest that those responsible for enforcing new laws show limited or mixed support for the same. Officers were most supportive of laws that increase the presence of trained gun owners within certain contexts and ensure that individuals with criminal backgrounds or mental health concerns do not have access to firearms. Most officers support prohibiting gun ownership following conviction of a domestic violence offense. However, officers generally opposed gun legislation banning assault weapons, large capacity magazines, and internet ammunition purchases. Finally, officers with the Buffalo Police Department--which recently had experienced an active-shooter event--were more supportive of almost all types of legislation. Respondents expressing greater concern about officer safety related to firearms were supportive of several types of firearm legislation.”

Providers

Wang X, Matone M, Garcia SM, et al.

A Social Network Analysis of a Multi-sector Service System for Intimate Partner Violence in a Large US City.

J Prev (2022). 2024 Jun;45(3):357-376. PMID: [38431922](#)

“About one in four women in the US report having experienced some form of intimate partner violence (IPV) during their lifetime and an estimated 15.5 million children live in families in which IPV occurred in the past year. Families of young children with IPV experiences often face complex needs and require well-coordinated efforts among service providers...This study used social network analysis (SNA) to understand the interconnectedness of 43 agencies serving this population across various service domains spanning IPV, legal, maternal and child health, and public benefit programs...Overall inter-agency connectedness was low, with many siloed agencies and a lack of shared knowledge of community resources. Understanding current collaborations, silos, and centrality of agencies is an effective public health tool for allocating scarce resources to efficiently improve the system serving families experiencing IPV.”

Ullman SE.

Conducting Virtual Interviews With Sexual Assault Survivors and Their Informal Supports During COVID-19 and Beyond.

J Interpers Violence.2024;39(7-8):1398-420. PMID: [37864415](#)

“The current paper describes the author's experience conducting virtual interviews with sexual assault survivors and their informal supports (e.g., family, friend, partner) during the COVID-19 pandemic...pivoting using face-to-face interview methods to doing virtual interviews with this population is presented and critically analyzed. Potential advantages and drawbacks of various methods and adaptations for doing virtual interviews are described to facilitate future research using virtual methods...Issues related to access (e.g. age, gender, race, ability, poverty) to interview participation are also noted as in need of more consideration. Finally, the impact on interviewers of doing this work in virtual versus face-to-face contexts is discussed.”

Stevenson MC, Ravipati VM, Schaefer CT.

Effects of COVID on Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Among Nurses: The Mediating Role of Compassion Fatigue.

Child Maltreat. 2024;10775595241240755. PMID: [38544477](#)

Of 244 registered nurses (83% White; 87% women) during the pandemic, job-related COVID stressors (exposure to COVID patient death and suffering, COVID-related family income loss, and frequent direct care of COVID patients); and among nurses who were also parents, nurses' self-reported parental burnout, influenced nurses' negative attitudes toward reporting suspected child abuse. “Nurses working on the frontlines of child maltreatment detection as mandated reporters are more important than ever, especially at a time when COVID may keep social workers out of homes and children out of classrooms. Protecting nurses from COVID stressors is vital to prevent compassion fatigue and, in turn, to protect children from abuse.”

Katz C, Attrash-Najjar A, Varela N, et al.

What was missed in child protection responses during COVID-19? Perceptions of professionals from various countries.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;106710. PMID: [38431452](#)

From focus groups with 47 international professionals who work with children, this detailed and thoughtful article delineates gaps in policies and practices for child protection responses during the pandemic, and suggests “multiple avenues to better comprehend children's rights and needs and learn how to better respond to future crises”.

Katz C, Cohen N, Attrash-Najjar A, et al.

The remote work of child protection professionals during COVID-19: A scoping review and thematic analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;106759. PMID: [38548559](#)

This research review investigated how remote work impacted child protection professionals (CPPs) and child protection work during the pandemic, and how CPPs handled this alternative work style. "The findings of this review may be used to inform future strategies for child protection during a pandemic. They also provide an opportunity to rethink the relationship child protection work has with technology to systematically reform current and future protection policies and practices, including outside of a pandemic."

Paterson R, Boller E, Kim Y, Hammond K, Diemer K.

What can veterinary professionals do? Measuring the effect of one domestic violence training pilot program on veterinary professionals' capacity to recognize, respond, and refer human victims of domestic violence.

Front Vet Sci. 2024;11:1254373. PMID: [38414653](#)

65 Australian veterinary professionals participated in a Vet-3R training program (Recognize-Respond-Refer), to "facilitate multi-agency collaboration to prevent and respond to domestic violence (DV) in situations where animals may be directly or indirectly involved". After training there was a significant increase in self-reported ability to respond appropriately to suspicions of DV. "Veterinary professionals may be an underutilized intervention point for DV victim-survivors with animals."

Pearce HL, Spielman B, Weatherwax C, Pairis-Garcia M.

A novel corporate-community partnership model provides safe housing for pets of domestic violence victims.

J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2024;1-7. PMID: [38452481](#)

Of 13 dogs and 6 cats belonging to 13 owners who experienced IPV and were referred to a pet safekeeping program, "Seven dogs and 1 cat were placed into foster housing. Most pets were intact. One pet had medical concerns at intake (cardiac disease and seizures). Five pets were returned to their owners after an average stay of 5.3 weeks. Two pets were rehomed to new owners...This paper will aid veterinarians and community partners to understand the challenges and pet types they are likely to encounter and how best to assist."

Chiang L, Miedema S, Saul J, et al.

Successful child sexual violence prevention efforts start with data: how the Violence Against Children and Youth Survey helped curb the tide of child sexual violence in 20 countries.

BMJ paediatrics open. 2024;8(1). PMID: [38479727](#)

"Sexual violence in childhood is a public health and human rights issue with long-term consequences across the lifetime of the affected individuals as well as consequential societal and economic impacts. VACS [violence against children and youth surveys] have documented the prevalence and epidemiological patterns across more than 24 countries, providing governments and key child protection partners with critical data that can catalyse multi-sectoral action. The countries that have repeated VACS have seen marked improvement in prevalence of violence, demonstrating that violence is preventable, not inevitable."

Collins ME, Hall M, Chung PJ, et al.

Spending on public benefit programs and exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;106717. PMID: [38433038](#)

"Nationally, 5.7 % of children had exposure to ≥ 4 ACEs. After adjustment for children's race and ethnicity, total spending on benefit programs was associated with lower exposure to ≥ 4 ACEs. Increased spending in each individual benefit category was also associated with decreased cumulative ACEs exposure...Investments in public benefit programs may not only decrease poverty but also have broad positive effects on near- and long-term child well-being beyond the programs' stated objectives. Findings support federal and state efforts to prioritize families' economic stability as part of a public health model to prevent ACEs."

Suarez GL, Burt SA, Gard AM, Klump KL, Hyde LW.

Exposure to community violence as a mechanism linking neighborhood disadvantage to amygdala reactivity and the protective role of parental nurturance.

Dev Psychol. 2024;60(4):595-609. PMID: [38386381](#)

In a study of 354 sets of twins of families from disadvantaged neighborhoods, "exposure to community violence was related to increased amygdala reactivity [emotional reactivity]...parenting behavior appeared to modulate these effects, such that high parental nurturance buffered the effect of exposure to community violence on amygdala reactivity...and highlight the role parents can play in protecting youth from the neural effects of exposure to adversity."

Prevention

Raney JH, Weinstein S, Ganson KT, et al.

Mental Well-Being Among Adversity-Exposed Adolescents During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

JAMA network open. 2024;7(3):e242076. PMID: [38477919](#)

Of 4515 racially and ethnically diverse American teens, mean age 13.3 years, comparing survey results 2016-2018 to Covid 2021, “in-person schooling and several coping behaviors (caring for one's body, exercising, and engaging in healthy behaviors) were associated with significantly higher positive affect and lower perceived stress during the COVID-19 pandemic among adolescents with high ACEs. Adolescents with high ACEs demonstrated especially greater mental health scores when they reported in-person schooling. Future studies should build on these findings to identify clinical and school-based mental health protective factors for adolescents with high ACE risk.”

O'Connor J, Smith L, Woerner J, Khan A.

Protective Factors for Sexual Violence Perpetration Among High School and College Students: A Systematic Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(2):1073-87. PMID:

[37199485](#)

“This review summarizes existing research on protective factors for perpetration of SV among high school and college students...Key protective factors identified include empathy, impulse control, social support, parental factors, peers, church attendance/religiosity, and school connections.”

Yoon C, Joseph T, Moussa G, Voss T, Ledoux T, Johnston C.

Associations of positive childhood experiences with binge-eating disorder characteristics and intuitive eating among college students.

Appetite. 2023 Oct 5;191:107073. PMID: [37802219](#)

“College students in the low PCEs [positive childhood experiences] category (0-4 PCEs) had 1.37-1.92 times the prevalence of binge-eating disorder characteristics and had 3.89 points lower intuitive eating score than those in the high PCEs category (9-10 PCEs).”

Chai L.

Perceived Community Belonging as a Moderator: Effects of Childhood Abuse on Health and Well-Being Among Middle-Aged and Older Canadians.

J Gerontol Soc Work. 2024;1-18. PMID: [38466950](#)

From a national Canadian survey of those 55 years or older, “women who experienced either childhood physical or sexual abuse reported poorer self-rated general and mental health, as well as lower life satisfaction, compared to those without such histories. The most pronounced effects were observed among women who experienced both

types of abuse...Notably, among women, a strong sense of community belonging lessened the negative effects of both types of childhood abuse on all examined outcomes...They illuminate the crucial role of gerontological social workers and scholars in promoting community integration and support.”

Researchers

Espinosa Dice AL, Lawn RB, Ratanatharathorn A, et al.

Childhood maltreatment and health in the UK Biobank: triangulation of outcome-wide and polygenic risk score analyses.

BMC Med. 2024;22(1):135. PMID: [38523269](#)

Using outcome-wide analyses (OWA) for two different datasets from the large UK biobank – self-reported (“observational OWA”) and polygenic risk (“genetic OWA”), authors correlated various maltreatment types and a wide variety of health outcomes and behaviors.

Lê-Scherban F, Wang A, Courts KA, et al.

A Short Adverse Experiences Measure Among Mothers of Young Children.

Pediatrics. 2024 Apr 1;153(4):e2023063882. PMID: [38449423](#)

“Screening for parental adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in pediatric settings can be burdensome because of the questionnaire's length and sensitive nature. Rapid screening tools may help address these challenges. We evaluated a 2-item short ACE measure developed for adults in a cross-sectional sample of mothers of young children in an urban pediatric emergency department...A 2-item ACE measure assessing mother's childhood emotional abuse and household substance use had sensitivity 88% and specificity 90% compared with 4+ ACEs on the full questionnaire.”

Davies RL, Rice K, Rock AJ.

Development and validation of the Informal Supporter Readiness Inventory (ISRI).

PLoS One. 2024;19(3):e0296770. PMID: [38466646](#)

“This scale assesses the readiness of informal supporters to intervene or provide support in situations of intimate partner violence (IPV)...[and] offers an important advancement in IPV research by highlighting the multifaceted nature of informal supporter intervention.”

Løkkegaard SS, Vang ML, Elklit A.

When multidisciplinary clinical practice and research meet: Quality development in the Danish Children Centers.

Clin Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2024;13591045241238274.

PMID: [38486496](#)

“Collaboration between clinical practice and research is often warranted. Extended periods of collaboration integrating research and practice is however rare. This article is about a series of joint research projects through the course of 8 years involving the Danish Center of Psychotraumatology and five regional centres dedicated to combating the sequelae of child abuse across Denmark. We describe the development of a standardized assessment battery and how this work evolves, analyses of administrative data, what happens after the assessment, the impact of working with child abuse on employees, profiles of abuse that vary by gender, national conferences and training programs, and international collaboration.”

Toth SL, Cerulli C, Manly JT.

The long and winding road: Pathways from basic research to implementation and evaluation.

Dev Psychopathol. 2024;1-11. PMID: [38454781](#)

“We share our transdisciplinary efforts to use developmental psychopathology as a foundational theory from which to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions for populations who experienced early adversity.” Per Wikipedia: “Developmental psychopathology is the study of the development of psychological disorders with a life course perspective...in an effort to identify genetic, environmental, and parenting factors that may influence the longitudinal trajectory of psychological well being.”

Howarth E, Feder G, Barter C, Powell C.

Harmonising outcome measurement for child focused domestic abuse interventions. Reflections on the development and implementation of a core outcome set.

Frontiers in psychiatry. 2024;15:1296437. PMID: [38528980](#)

For children exposed to IPV, “There is huge inconsistency in the definition and measurement of important endpoints. This yields a body of evidence that is difficult to make sense of, defeating the ends for which it was produced - to improve the response to children and families who have experienced abuse. Development of Core Outcome Sets (COS) is seen as a solution to this problem, by establishing consensus across key stakeholder groups regarding a minimum standard for outcome measurement in trials...we make recommendations to researchers and COS guideline developers to support this broader application of COS methodology.”

Other of Interest

Ghandour RM, Hirai AH, Moore KA, et al.

School Readiness Among United States Children: Results From the 2022 National Survey of Children's Health.

Acad Pediatr. 2024 Mar 4:S1876-2859(24)00068-8. PMID:

[38447819](#)

“In 2022, 63.6% of 3- to 5-year-old children were HRTL [healthy and ready to learn]. The proportion of children ‘on track’ ranged from just over two thirds for early learning skills and motor development to 88.9% for health. One million children, or 9.0%, needed support in multiple domains.” Child, family, and community factors were involved in being HRTL and variously included issues of participation in early childhood education, special health care needs status/type, male sex, reading/singing/storytelling by family members, adverse childhood experiences, parental mental health and education, food insufficiency, outdoor play, household language, neighborhood amenities, rural residence, medical home access.

Vergel P, La Parra-Casado D, Vives-Cases C.

Examining Cybersexism in Online Gaming Communities: A Scoping Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(2):1201-18. PMID:

[37243440](#)

“In this scoping review, we have aimed to assess cybersexism’s main characteristics, its consequences for gamer women, its triggers and predictors, and related prevention and mitigation policies provided by the existing research... Cybersexism and its manifestations are a reality that conditions gamer women, provoking avoidance and ultimately withdrawal from gaming and, therefore, creating inequality, impairing full digital citizenship, and widening the digital gender gap.”

Wu L, Chen KB.

Examining the Effects of Gender Transfer in Virtual Reality on Implicit Gender Bias.

Hum Factors. 2024;66(5):1504-19. PMID: [36574504](#)

“Forty participants were embodied in avatars of different genders and experienced sexual harassment scenarios in VR [virtual reality]...Gender transfer through embodiment while encountering different sexual harassment scenarios helped reduce implicit gender bias. There was a tendency for individuals to increase bias for the gender of the avatar in which they embodied. The current research provided promising evidence that a virtual environment system may be used as a potential training tool.”