

ABUSE RESEARCH

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Child Abuse

Johnson SB, Riley AW, Granger DA, Riis J.

The science of early life toxic stress for pediatric practice and advocacy.

Pediatrics. 2013 Feb;131(2):319-27. PMID: [23339224](#)
 Review of how early life adversity causes changes in the neurologic, hormonal and immune systems, and how these alterations increase vulnerability to disease. "Pediatricians are in a unique position to contribute to the public discourse on health and social welfare by explaining how factors that seem distal to child health may be the key to some of the most intractable public health problems of our generation."

Parks S, Sugerman D, Xu L, Coronado V.

Characteristics of non-fatal abusive head trauma among children in the USA, 2003--2008: application of the CDC operational case definition to national hospital inpatient data.

Inj Prev. 2012 Dec;18(6):392-8. PMID: [22328632](#)
 Combining the definition of non-fatal abusive head trauma developed by an expert panel at the CDC with US hospital inpatient data, non-fatal abusive head trauma rate was highest among children aged less than 1 year, with a peak between 1—3 months of age. Rates were higher for boys and there was no variation across seasons.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Waite R, Shewokis PA.

Childhood trauma and adult self-reported depression.

ABNF J. 2012 Winter;23(1):8-13. PMID: [23387107](#)
 For almost 800 low income ethnic minority urban adults, 8 out of 10 adverse childhood experience categories were independently associated with self-report of depression.

Bick J, Naumova O, Hunter S, et. al.

Childhood adversity and DNA methylation of genes involved in the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis and immune system: whole-genome and candidate-gene associations.

Dev Psychopathol. 2012 Nov;24(4):1417-25. PMID: [23062307](#)
 Summary of human and animal research literature demonstrating alterations in key biological systems caused by abuse, the possible gene candidates for these changes, and future directions and perspectives from developmental psychology, molecular genetics, neuroendocrinology, and immunology.

Schafer MH, Ferraro KF.

Childhood misfortune and adult health: enduring and cascading effects on somatic and psychological symptoms?

J Aging Health. 2013 Feb;25(1):3-28. PMID: [23160525](#)
 Using data from the National Midlife Development survey, a history of childhood abuse was independently associated with increased physical and mental health complaints. At follow-up 10 years later effects were about the same – no intensification of effects but no waning, either.

Chapman DP, Liu Y, Presley-Cantrell LR, et.al.

Adverse childhood experiences and frequent insufficient sleep in 5 U.S. States, 2009: a retrospective cohort study.

BMC Public Health. 2013 Jan 3;13:3. PMID: [23286392](#)
 In a national survey across 5 states, and controlling for smoking status, frequent mental distress, body mass index and socio-economic variables, adult frequent insufficient sleep was associated independently with 6 out of 8 adverse childhood experiences.

Hadland SE, Werb D, Kerr T, et. al.

Childhood sexual abuse and risk for initiating injection drug use: a prospective cohort study.

Prev Med. 2012 Nov;55(5):500-4. PMID: [22954518](#)
 For 395 Canadian youth followed over 5 years, those with a history of childhood sexual abuse, even after controlling for multiple factors, were over two times more likely to start injected drug use.

Steinberg JR, Tschann JM.

Childhood adversities and subsequent risk of one or multiple abortions.

Soc Sci Med. 2013 Mar;81:53-9. PMID: [23312795](#)

Using a national data set, women with a history of childhood adversities were more likely to have had an abortion, and in particular adversities of parental mental health, childhood physical abuse, and childhood personal safety threats were associated with a history of multiple abortions.

Adolescents

Schönbucher V, Maier T, Mohler-Kuo M, et. al.

Disclosure of child sexual abuse by adolescents: a qualitative in-depth study.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Nov;27(17):3486-513. PMID: [22821848](#)

From interviews with 26 sexually victimized adolescents, less than 1/3 immediately disclosed abuse to another person, and both immediate and late disclosure in most cases was to a peer. More than 1/3 had never disclosed to a parent, with motives being lack of trust or not wanting to burden the parents. Authors suggest "prevention programs should aim at teaching adolescents how they can help a victim if they become a recipient of disclosure."

Hassija CM, Gray MJ.

Negative social reactions to assault disclosure as a mediator between self-blame and posttraumatic stress symptoms among survivors of interpersonal assault.

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Nov;27(17):3425-41. PMID: [22809819](#)

68 undergrads in Laramie, WY who had experienced interpersonal assault developed higher self-blame if there were negative social reactions after disclosure.

Noll JG, Shenk CE, Barnes JE, Haralson KJ.

Association of maltreatment with high-risk internet behaviors and offline encounters.

Pediatrics. 2013 Feb;131(2):e510-7. PMID: [23319522](#)

For 251 maltreated and non-maltreated girls aged 14-17 years, high risk online behaviors were associated with maltreatment, behavioral problems and low cognitive ability. 30% of the group reported having offline meetings with persons they met online. High-quality parenting but not parental control software decreased risk.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Campbell KA, Thomas AM, Cook LJ, Keenan HT.

Resolution of intimate partner violence and child behavior problems after investigation for suspected child maltreatment.

JAMA Pediatr. 2013 Mar 1;167(3):236-42. PMID: [23318576](#)

From a nationally representative longitudinal sample of households investigated for suspected child maltreatment and with caregiver-reported IPV, when a child protective services investigation proceeded and services were provided, in those households where the IPV resolved, there was a meaningful, sustained reduction in clinically significant child behavior problems.

Sarkar NN.

The cause and consequence of domestic violence on pregnant women in India.

J Obstet Gynaecol. 2013 Apr;33(3):250-3. PMID: [23550851](#)

In a survey of women attending clinics in New Delhi, 26.9% reported physical, 29% mental and 6.2% sexual abuse; 47% of the time perpetrated by the spouse, and 31% by his family members. Abused women were less likely to receive antenatal care or home visits by health workers, and had a two-and-a-half times increased risk of the baby dying before or shortly after birth.

Sabarwal S, McCormick MC, Silverman JG, Subramanian SV.

Association between maternal intimate partner violence victimization and childhood immunization in India.

J Trop Pediatr. 2012 Apr;58(2):107-13. PMID: [21705763](#)

After controlling for multiple socio-demographic variables, for 6947 women in India, exposure to past year IPV was associated with decreased likelihood of child immunization.

Ellonen N, Piispa M, Peltonen K, Oranen M.

Exposure to parental violence and outcomes of child psychosocial adjustment.

Violence Vict. 2013;28(1):3-15. PMID: [23520829](#)

Based on a Finnish child survey with 13,459 students, witnessing parental violence and personally experiencing violence were both detrimental to health, mental health, delinquent behavior, and relationship with parents.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Pallitto CC, García-Moreno C, Jansen HA, et.al.

Intimate partner violence, abortion, and unintended pregnancy: results from the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence.

Int J Gynaecol Obstet. 2013 Jan;120(1):3-9. PMID: [22959631](#)

Using pooled data from over 17,000 women in a WHO multi-country study, IPV was associated with 1.69 times increased risk of unintended pregnancy, and 2.68 times increased risk of abortion.

Powers RA, Simpson SS.

Self-protective behaviors and injury in domestic violence situations: does it hurt to fight back?

J Interpers Violence. 2012 Nov;27(17):3345-65. PMID: [22610835](#)

From interviews with 351 female inmates at a Baltimore detention facility, 57% of whom had experienced IPV recently prior to incarceration, during IPV incidents verbal protection strategies led to decreased injury while physical protection strategies led to increased injury.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Coker AL, Follingstad D, Garcia LS, et. al.

Association of intimate partner violence and childhood sexual abuse with cancer-related well-being in women.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2012 Nov;21(11):1180-8. PMID: [22946631](#)

From phone interviews with 553 recently diagnosed female cancer patients in Kentucky, lifetime and current IPV were associated with multiple measures of reduced well-being, higher perceived stress and more depressive symptoms. A history of childhood sexual abuse was associated with similar measurements.

Keeling J, Fisher C.

Women's early relational experiences that lead to domestic violence.

Qual Health Res. 2012 Nov;22(11):1559-67. PMID: [22910590](#)

15 female domestic abuse survivors talk in detail about the transition in their relationships from love to violence, with 3 major tactics used by abusers early on to engage and retain women: the princess effect, feeling vulnerable, and commitment.

Cultural Issues

Scannapieco M, Iannone MA.

Native American Indian child welfare system change: implementation of a culturally appropriate practice model across three tribal child welfare systems.

Child Welfare. 2012;91(3):157-72. PMID: [23444794](#)

“There are 565 federally recognized tribes in the US who are independent sovereign nations...with varying capacities to manage and administer child welfare programs”, and with no comprehensive database to document the extent of child abuse, neglect or foster care placement. However, known rates are significantly higher than other ethnic groups.

Lucero NM, Bussey M.

A collaborative and trauma-informed practice model for urban Indian child welfare.

Child Welfare. 2012;91(3):89-112. PMID: [23444791](#)

Culturally-informed family preservation practice model for Indian Child Welfare services.

Valentine SE, Bankoff SM, Pantalone DW.

Finding meaning after same-sex partner abuse: a content analysis of experiences of men with HIV.

Violence Vict. 2013;28(1):161-77. PMID: [23520838](#)

28 sexual minority HIV positive men were interviewed after their experiences of partner abuse. Most reported a sense of personal strength from surviving the abuse. While they also reported positive relationships with providers, they had little peer or family support and experienced ongoing social isolation.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Murphy K, Waa S, Jaffer H, Sauter A, Chan A.

A literature review of findings in physical elder abuse.

Can Assoc Radiol J. 2013 Feb;64(1):10-4. PMID: [23351969](#)

In a review of research articles on elder abuse injuries, 2/3 were to the upper extremity or facial region.

Dong X, Simon M, Evans D.

Elder self-neglect is associated with increased risk for elder abuse in a community-dwelling population: findings from the Chicago Health and Aging Project.

J Aging Health. 2013 Feb;25(1):80-96. PMID: [23223207](#)

From the Chicago Healthy Aging Project, elders reported for self-neglect were twice as likely to subsequently experience a variety of abuse including caregiver neglect and financial exploitation.

Russell SL, Fulmer T, Singh G, et. al.

Screening for elder mistreatment in a dental clinic population.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2012 Oct;24(4):326-39. PMID: [23016728](#)

Description of successful use in a busy dental clinic of an audio computer assisted self-interview that screened for elder abuse.

Strasser S, King P, Payne B, O'Quin K.

Elder abuse: what coroners know and need to know.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2013;25(3):242-53. PMID: [23627430](#)

From a survey of Georgia coroners, 54% knew "almost nothing" or "a little" about distinguishing signs of physical abuse from signs of aging, and 63% knew "almost nothing" or "a little" about mandatory elder abuse reporting laws; 49% indicated they rarely if ever had older adult cases referred to them.

Ballan MS, Freyer MB.

Self-defense among women with disabilities: an unexplored domain in domestic violence cases.

Violence Against Women. 2012 Sep;18(9):1083-107. PMID: [22996630](#)

Review of prevalence and types of IPV against women with disabilities, barriers to self-protection, and considerations for enhancing self-protection strategies.

Perpetrators

Rylands AJ, Hinz R, Jones M, et. al.

Pre- and postsynaptic serotonergic differences in males with extreme levels of impulsive aggression without callous unemotional traits: a positron emission tomography study using (11)C-DASB and (11)C-MDL100907.

Biol Psychiatry. 2012 Dec 15;72(12):1004-11. PMID: [22835812](#)

Brain scans of physically healthy male subjects showed a correlation between severity of childhood trauma and serotonin (brain chemical) system abnormalities, which in turn were associated with increasing levels of impulsive aggression.

Temporini H.

Child pornography and the internet.

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2012 Dec;35(4):821-35. PMID: [23107565](#)

Child pornography internet offenders "are a heterogeneous group, with different motivations and levels of risk." Risk factors for crossing over to contact sexual offense are discussed.

Police and Court Systems

Snow PC, Powell MB, Sanger DD.

Oral language competence, young speakers, and the law.

Lang Speech Hear Serv Sch. 2012 Oct;43(4):496-506. PMID: [22826371](#)

"High-risk young people (i.e., those who are subject to child protection orders because of suspected or confirmed maltreatment, and those who are engaged with the youth justice system) face an elevated risk for suboptimal language development but may need to draw on their language skills in high-stakes forensic interviews."

Yampolskaya S, Chuang E.

Effects of mental health disorders on the risk of juvenile justice system involvement and recidivism among children placed in out-of-home care.

Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2012 Oct;82(4):585-93. PMID: [23039356](#)

Of 5720 children investigated for maltreatment and placed in out-of-home care during a one year period in Florida, presence of a mental health disorder or absence of a caregiver were each significantly associated with subsequent juvenile justice involvement.

Providers

Guruge S.

Intimate partner violence: a global health perspective.

Can J Nurs Res. 2012 Dec;44(4):36-54. PMID: [23448074](#)

Review of the global problem of IPV including health consequences, costs, prevalence, and risk factors, with implications for nursing as well as practice and collaboration recommendations.

Terr LC.

Treating childhood trauma.

Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am. 2013 Jan;22(1):51-66. PMID: [23164127](#)

Review of childhood trauma treatment modalities and complications for psychiatrists.

Cummings M, Berkowitz SJ, Scribano PV.

Treatment of childhood sexual abuse: an updated review.

Curr Psychiatry Rep. 2012 Dec;14(6):599-607. PMID: [23011785](#)

Review of psychosocial interventions, pharmacotherapy, and early preventative interventions for treatment of children and adolescents with sexual abuse. Also discussed are short and long term consequences.

Timko C, Valenstein H, Lin PY, et. al.

Addressing substance abuse and violence in substance use disorder treatment and batterer intervention programs.

Subst Abuse Treat Prev Policy. 2012 Sep 7;7:37. PMID: [22958624](#)

In a survey of directors of California substance use disorder treatment programs (SUDPs) and batterer intervention programs (BIPs), BIPs were much more likely to have a formal and comprehensive policy requiring assessment and monitoring of substance abuse, whereas SUDPs were much less likely to assess or monitor their clients for violence perpetration. SUDP clients in general also had fewer resources and more complex psychological and medical needs.

Lutgendorf MA, Thagard A, Rockswold PD, Busch JM, Magann EF.

Domestic violence screening of obstetric triage patients in a military population.

J Perinatol. 2012 Oct;32(10):763-9. PMID: [22301524](#)

In an anonymous self-report survey given to a pregnant military population presenting for emergency care, 22.6% reported lifetime prevalence of DV, 4.1% physical abuse in the past year, and 2.8% abuse since becoming pregnant. 91.8% were not offended and 88.8% felt DV screening should be routine.

Johnson NL, Johnson DM.

Correlates of Readiness to Change in Victims of Intimate Partner Violence.

J Aggress Maltreat Trauma. 2013 Jan;22(2):127-144. PMID: [23565046](#)

From 223 women residing in battered women's shelters, readiness to change (including seeking mental health treatment) was predicted by more PTSD symptoms, more overall distress, and more social support.

Prevention

Selph SS, Bougatsos C, Blazina I, Nelson HD.

Behavioral interventions and counseling to prevent child abuse and neglect: a systematic review to update the US Preventive services task force recommendation.

Ann Intern Med. 2013 Feb 5;158(3):179-90. PMID: [23338775](#)

Analysis of research studies to reduce child abuse and neglect showed positive results for 1) risk assessment and behavioral interventions in pediatric clinics as well as 2) early childhood home visitation.

Hardt NS, Muhamed S, Das R, Estrella R, Roth J.

Neighborhood-level hot spot maps to inform delivery of primary care and allocation of social resources.

Perm J. 2013 Winter;17(1):4-9. PMID: [23596361](#)

Neighborhood "hotspot" density maps, data sharing and mapping of indicators such as teen births, low birth weight, DV incidents, child maltreatment reports, unexcused school absences, and juvenile justice referral had a galvanizing effect in one community on government and community partners, who created a family resource center and staffed a mobile clinic in response to disparities.

Freeman SA, Rosenbluth B, Cotton L.

Teen dating abuse: recognition and interventions.

NASN Sch Nurse. 2013 Mar;28(2):79-82. PMID: [23600090](#)

Description of Start Strong, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, an initiative to prevent teen dating abuse through collaboration with schools, the community, and social marketing.

Researchers

Decker MR, Frattaroli S, McCaw B, et. al.

Transforming the healthcare response to intimate partner violence and taking best practices to scale.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2012 Dec;21(12):1222-9. PMID: [23210490](#)

While a variety of programs show promise in the healthcare response to IPV, results of a symposium to use implementation science to determine best practices concluded that "optimal implementation and dissemination strategies are not clear", due to the need to integrate screening with support services, the variety of assessed outcomes, and often limited research follow-up periods.

Perroud N, Paoloni-Giacobino A, Prada P, et. al.
Increased methylation of glucocorticoid receptor gene (NR3C1) in adults with a history of childhood maltreatment: a link with the severity and type of trauma.

Transl Psychiatry. 2011 Dec 13;1:e59. PMID: [22832351](#)
 Swiss researchers found significant methylation (a biochemical change) to the NR3C1 gene involved in the stress hormone system in adults with a variety of childhood maltreatments. They suggest that “peripheral blood might therefore serve as a proxy for environmental effects on epigenetic processes”. (Epigenetics = changes to expression of DNA caused by environment and life experiences.)

Wathen CN, MacGregor JC, PreVAiL Research Network, et. al.
Priorities for research in child maltreatment, intimate partner violence and resilience to violence exposures: results of an international Delphi consensus development process.

BMC Public Health. 2012 Aug 21;12:684. PMID: [22908894](#)
 An international group of experts convened to establish evidence-based research priorities for IPV and child maltreatment which were: examine key elements of promising or successful intervention programs especially with regard to resilience, integrate violence questions into national and international surveys, and investigate methods for collecting and collating datasets to link data with interventions for particular groups.

Healey L, Humphreys C, Howe K.
Inclusive domestic violence standards: strategies to improve interventions for women with disabilities?

Violence Vict. 2013;28(1):50-68. PMID: [23520832](#)
 Article outlines “a set of internationally transferrable standards for inclusive practice with women with disabilities affected by domestic violence.”

Other of Interest

Carlyle BC, Duque A, Kitchen RR, et. al.
Maternal separation with early weaning: a rodent model providing novel insights into neglect associated developmental deficits.

Dev Psychopathol. 2012 Nov;24(4):1401-16. PMID: [23062306](#)
 Using a mouse model of early weaning and maternal separation to investigate the concept of neglect, offspring showed behavioral deficits such as hyperactivity, anxiety, attentional deficits, and a variety of biochemical changes.

Cordero MI, Poirier GL, Marquez C, et. al.
Evidence for biological roots in the transgenerational transmission of intimate partner violence.

Transl Psychiatry. 2012 Apr 24;2:e106. PMID: [22832906](#)
 Male rats that were exposed to stressful experiences in their youth, when adults, became highly aggressive against their female partners. Offspring of these males showed increased aggression toward females even though they did not have any exposure to violence and had no interaction with their fathers. The females showed anxiety and depression-like behaviors.

Grantham D.
Capitol Hill hears case for behavioral health prevention.

Behav Healthc. 2013 Jan-Feb;33(1):31-4. PMID: [23479845](#)
 Practical, comprehensive summary given in Washington of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their effect on health, with suggestion to use ACEs as an indicator for preventive services.



Patient's perception	Provider's perception	Treatment result:
PROBLEM: I feel anxious. SOLUTION: I smoke to get through the day.	PROBLEM: Smoking addiction SOLUTION: Treatment and abstinence	Patient unable to quit until underlying problem (anxiety) is addressed.
PROBLEM: My childhood memories are terrifying. SOLUTION: Drink to numb, forget them.	PROBLEM: Alcohol dependency. SOLUTION: Twelve-step treatment program.	Patient relapses when terrifying memories return.
PROBLEM: Being thin makes me a target for sexual abuse. SOLUTION: Stay safe by using extra weight to disguise my body.	PROBLEM: Morbid obesity SOLUTION: Medically supervised weight loss.	Loss of weight renews patient's fear of assault. Patient rapidly regains weight.
PROBLEM: No one really cared about me when I was young. SOLUTION: Having sex proves that someone cares about me.	PROBLEM: Multiple sexual partners increases health risks. SOLUTION: Change behavior	Behavior continues until patient learns to give and accept love in healthy relationships, separate from sex.