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Child Abuse

Foster JM, Hagedorn WB.

Through the eyes of the wounded: a narrative analysis of children's sexual abuse experiences and recovery process.

J Child Sex Abus. 2014;23(5):538-57. PMID: [24819252](#)

As part of a counseling intervention, sexually abused children described their thoughts, feelings and beliefs re: memories of the abuse, the disclosure and subsequent events, and the healing journey. Recommendations are provided for counseling professionals.

Weder N, Zhang H, Jensen K, et. al.

Child abuse, depression, and methylation in genes involved with stress, neural plasticity, and brain circuitry.

J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2014 Apr;53(4):417-24.e5. PMID: [24655651](#)

Comparing the genome of 94 maltreated vs. 96 healthy non-traumatized children, three methylated genes were significant predictors of depression. [Methylation is a biochemical "epigenetic" change to DNA that may occur after maltreatment.] "Although epigenetic changes are frequently long lasting, they are not necessarily permanent." Interventions to reverse negative outcomes are briefly discussed and include "attachment-focused interventions, enrichment opportunities, and treatment to address both child and parent psychopathology".

Risk factors for recurrent injuries in victims of suspected non-accidental trauma: a retrospective cohort study.

BMC Pediatr. 2014 Aug 31;14:217. PMID: [25174531](#)

Using a pediatric Medicaid database, of 1361 children with suspected non-accidental trauma (NAT), a similar event recurred in 27% within 1 year and 40% within 2 years. Risk factors for a recurrent NAT event included rural residence, age <30 months, and having a relatively minor initial injury such as a dislocation, open wound, or superficial injury.

Martindale J, Swenson A, Coffman J, et. al.

Recurrent concerns for child abuse: repeated consultations by a subspecialty child abuse team.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Jul;38(7):1259-66. PMID: [24726050](#)

From a database of 20 US academic center child abuse subspecialty teams, repeat consultations for suspected non-accidental trauma occurred in 3.5%. "Themes identified among the subset of patients suspected of repeated abuse included return to the same environment, failure to comply with a safety plan, and abuse in foster care."

Franke I, Pingen A, Schiffmann H, et. al.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)-related posterior rib fractures in neonates and infants following recommended changes in CPR techniques.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Jul;38(7):1267-74. PMID: [24636360](#)

Using databases from 3 German children's hospitals, "The results of this study suggest rib fracture after the use of the "two-thumbs" CPR technique is uncommon. Thus, there should be careful consideration of abuse when these fractures are identified, regardless of whether CPR was performed and what technique used. The discovery of rib fractures in an infant who has undergone CPR without underlying bone disease or major trauma warrants a full child protection investigation."

Ross AH, Juarez CA.

A brief history of fatal child maltreatment and neglect.

Forensic Sci Med Pathol. 2014 Sep;10(3):413-22. PMID: [24464796](#)

A review of "common diagnostic characteristics and patterns of non-accidental injuries and neglect as a result of nutritional deprivation."

Kostolitz AC, Hyman SM, Gold SN.

How ineffective family environments can compound maldevelopment of critical thinking skills in childhood abuse survivors.

J Child Sex Abus. 2014;23(6):690-707. PMID: [25116865](#)

Child abuse survivors may experience neurobiological deficits in executive functioning (higher-order critical thinking skills). This may be compounded by "being raised in emotionally impoverished families that lack cohesion, organization, flexibility, self-expression, and moral and ethical values and fail to provide opportunities for effective learning."

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Tietjen GE, Buse DC, Fanning KM, et. al.

Recalled maltreatment, migraine, and tension-type headache: results of the AMPP study.

Neurology. 2015 Jan 13;84(2):132-40. PMID: [25540306](#)

From a large national study of adults with migraine or tension-type headaches, after adjusting for depression and anxiety, childhood emotional maltreatment and increasing numbers of childhood adversities remained significant risk factors for migraine.

Schneeberger AR, Muenzenmaier K, Castille D, et. al.

Use of psychotropic medication groups in people with severe mental illness and stressful childhood experiences.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2014;15(4):494-511. PMID: [24678974](#)

Of 183 adults with severe mental illness, an association was found between increased history of childhood abuse and need for higher doses of antipsychotic medication and mood stabilizers.

Maniglio R.

The impact of child sexual abuse on the course of bipolar disorder: a systematic review.

Bipolar Disord. 2013 Jun;15(4):341-58. PMID: [23346867](#)

In a review of 18 research articles including 2996 adults and youths with bipolar disorder, childhood sexual abuse was strongly associated with PTSD, and moderately strongly with suicide attempts, alcohol and/or drug abuse, early age of onset of bipolar disorder, and more psychotic symptoms.

Banducci AN, Hoffman E, Lejuez CW, Koenen KC.

The relationship between child abuse and negative outcomes among substance users: psychopathology, health, and comorbidities.

Addict Behav. 2014 Oct;39(10):1522-7. PMID: [24976457](#)

Of 280 inpatients treated for substance use, higher rates of childhood trauma were associated with higher rates of psychiatric disorders and worse substance dependencies.

Kim JH, Martins SS, Shmulewitz D, et. al.

Childhood maltreatment, stressful life events, and alcohol craving in adult drinkers.

Alcohol Clin Exp Res. 2014 Jul;38(7):2048-55. PMID: [24961735](#)

From a national survey with over 22,000 adults, a history of childhood maltreatment increased alcohol craving associated with past year stressful life events.

Biskin RS, Frankenburg FR, Fitzmaurice GM, Zanarini MC.

Pain in patients with borderline personality disorder.

Personal Ment Health. 2014 Aug;8(3):218-27. PMID: [25044742](#)

Over a 16 year period, 290 patients with borderline personality disorder were more likely to experience pain and rate their pain as more severe than patients with other personality disorders. Predictors of pain severity included older age, depression, and severity of childhood abuse.

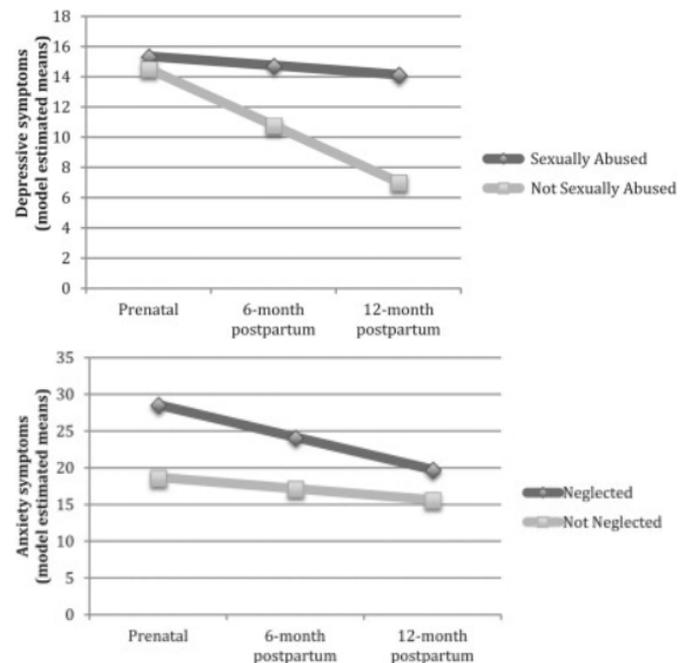
Adolescents

Madigan S, Wade M, Plamondon A, et. al.

Course of depression and anxiety symptoms during the transition to parenthood for female adolescents with histories of victimization.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Jul;38(7):1160-70. PMID: [24862921](#)

Symptom course of depression and anxiety in 55 pregnant adolescents with and without a history of abuse/neglect.



Coohy C, Dirks-Bihun A, Renner LM, Baller R.

Strain, depressed mood and suicidal thoughts among maltreated adolescents in the United States.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Jul;38(7):1171-9. PMID: [24813253](#)

“Almost one-fourth of maltreated adolescents report they have thought about killing themselves in the last two weeks.” Of 572 maltreated teens, suicidality was significantly related to depressed mood and poorer relationship with peers.

Stensland SØ, Thoresen S, Wentzel-Larsen T, Dyb G.
Interpersonal violence and overweight in adolescents: the HUNT Study.

Scand J Public Health. 2015 Feb;43(1):18-26. PMID: [25391788](#)

From a national study of over 10,000 Norwegian adolescents, and after controlling for multiple variables, "A robust and significant relationship between interpersonal violence and increased BMI for both genders was found."

Toscano SE.

"My situation wasn't that unique": The experience of teens in abusive relationships.

J Pediatr Nurs. 2014 Jan-Feb;29(1):65-73. PMID: [24041463](#)

For teens interviewed about high school dating violence, "Control is established by creating a sense of responsibility and is maintained by angry outburst, threats to self, and guilt...including techno vigilance." These girls kept hoping for the "the ideal romance'," and continued to care and have concern for their abuser who was described as "troubled."

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Jaremka LM, Belury MA, Andridge RR, et. al.

Interpersonal stressors predict ghrelin and leptin levels in women.

Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2014 Oct;48:178-88. PMID: [25032903](#)

Of 50 women, those who were experiencing interpersonal stressors but not other stressors were found to have abnormal levels of ghrelin and leptin, two gut hormones associated with appetite regulation, leading to potential risk for weight gain and obesity.

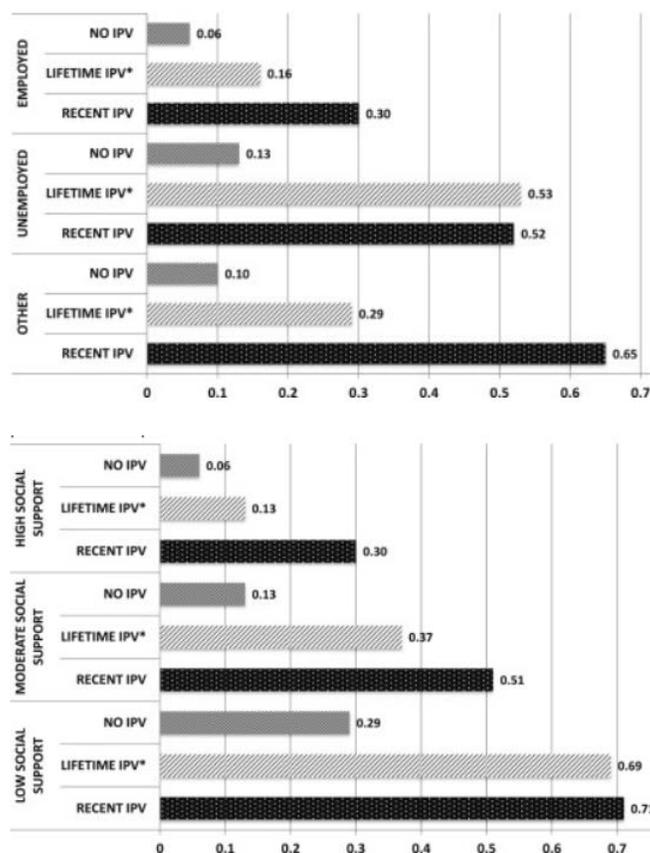
Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Dougé N, Lehman EB, McCall-Hosenfeld JS.

Social support and employment status modify the effect of intimate partner violence on depression symptom severity in women: results from the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey.

Womens Health Issues. 2014 Jul-Aug;24(4):e425-34. PMID: [24837397](#)

Graphs show probability of moderate depressive symptoms by employment and social support. [Employment "other" = student, retired, disabled, homemaker; "recent IPV" = past 12 months]



Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Vandeweerd C, Corvin J, Coulter M, et. al.

A preliminary investigation of risks for adverse outcomes of relationship seeking on social network sites (SNS): a descriptive study of women over 50 seeking relationships on MySpace in Hillsborough County, Florida.

J Women Aging. 2014;26(2):127-45. PMID: [24713052](#)

Of 45 ethnically diverse women in Florida aged 50+, 85% met with someone from online "seeking relationships". They reported experiencing adverse events from these interactions including financial exploitation (40%), threats (55%), and physical harm (38%).

Dong X.

Elder abuse: research, practice, and health policy. The 2012 GSA Maxwell Pollack award lecture.

Gerontologist. 2014 Apr;54(2):153-62. PMID: [24270215](#)

Review of elder abuse epidemiology, policy, legislation, and research gaps by a Congressional National Health and Aging Policy Fellow.

Leddy MA, Farrow VA, Schulkin J.

Obstetrician-gynecologists' knowledge, attitudes, and practice regarding elder abuse screening.

Womens Health Issues. 2014 Jul-Aug;24(4):e455-64. PMID: [24981403](#)

From a survey of fellows and junior fellows of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, few always screened for elder abuse and 81% had never reported a case of elder abuse. Younger males compared to younger females and older males were much less likely to screen.

Sexual Assault

Larsen ML, Hilden M, Lidegaard Ø.

Sexual assault: a descriptive study of 2500 female victims over a 10-year period.

BJOG. 2015 Mar;122(4):577-84. PMID: [25315463](#)

Of 2541 women seen at a Danish sexual assault center over a 9 year period, 2/3 were aged 15-24, 75% had met the perpetrator before, 70% reported to the police, and 27% sustained an anogenital lesion. Women were more likely to report to the police when they were assaulted by a stranger, or when they sustained a physical injury or an anogenital lesion.

Tark J, Kleck G.

Resisting rape: the effects of victim self-protection on rape completion and injury.

Violence Against Women. 2014 Mar;20(3):270-92. PMID: [24686123](#)

"Results indicate that most self-protection actions, both forceful and non-forceful, reduce the risk of rape completion, and do not significantly affect the risk of additional injury." [This journal issue focuses on multiple articles relating to physical self-defense and firearm protection in relation to sexual assault.]

Chandler JA, Mogyoros A, Rubio TM, Racine E.

Another look at the legal and ethical consequences of pharmacological memory dampening: the case of sexual assault.

J Law Med Ethics. 2013 Winter;41(4):859-71. PMID: [24446944](#)

Authors evaluate issues relating to medication for trauma, including the possibility of becoming a less effective witness, and ethical questions about a physician's obligation to discuss potential legal consequences of memory dampening treatment.

Griffin MJ, Wardell JD, Read JP.

Recent sexual victimization and drinking behavior in newly matriculated college students: a latent growth analysis.

Psychol Addict Behav. 2013 Dec;27(4):966-73. PMID: [23528195](#)

Of college freshman who had experienced sexual victimization (SV) in high school, recent SV before entering college was associated with greater overall levels of alcohol use and higher levels of binge drinking that when SV was less recent. [And alcohol use is associated with increased risk of college SV.]

Zinzow HM, Thompson M.

A longitudinal study of risk factors for repeated sexual coercion and assault in U.S. College men.

Arch Sex Behav. 2015 Jan;44(1):213-22. PMID: [24567167](#)

Of 795 college men surveyed at the end of each of their 4 years in college, 30% reported at least one incident of sexual coercion and assault. Of this group, 68% engaged in repeated assault. Repeat offenders engaged in acts of higher severity that began at an earlier age, held more sexually aggressive beliefs, and manifested higher rates of antisocial traits.

Morgan L, Brittain B, Welch J.

Medical care following multiple perpetrator sexual assault: a retrospective review.

Int J STD AIDS. 2015 Feb;26(2):86-92. PMID: [24695016](#)

Multiple perpetrator sexual assault victims reported higher rates of stranger assaults, rape at more anatomical sites, and were more likely to sustain injuries than single perpetrator sexual assault. Only half of victims showed up for follow-up visit and only 1/3 completed HIV prophylaxis. Follow up was more likely if an anogenital injury was present.

Brenner I, Ben-Amitay G.

Sexual revictimization: the impact of attachment anxiety, accumulated trauma, and response to childhood sexual abuse disclosure.

Violence Vict. 2015;30(1):49-65. PMID: [25774414](#)

For 60 Israeli women with a history of childhood sexual abuse, 70% reported adult sexual revictimization. Revictimization rates were significantly higher among women who had received negative response following initial abuse disclosure compared to a positive response and even compared to not disclosing.

Gotovac S, Towson S.

Perceptions of sexual assault victims/survivors: the influence of sexual history and body weight.

Violence Vict. 2015;30(1):66-80. PMID: [25774415](#)

For college students enrolled in pre-professional health care programs reading versions of a woman reporting a rape, "study participants' anti-fat attitudes were correlated with victim blaming attitudes. Male participants held the attacker significantly less responsible than did female participants if the victim/survivor had several previous sexual partners."

Murdoch M, Polusny MA, Street A, et. al.

Sexual assault during the time of Gulf War I: a cross-sectional survey of U.S. service men who later applied for Department of Veterans Affairs PTSD disability benefits.

Mil Med. 2014 Mar;179(3):285-93. PMID: [24594463](#)

In a survey of male veterans from Gulf War I, 18-21% reported sexual assault. "The 9-month cumulative incidence of sexual assault in this particular population exceeded the lifetime cumulative incidence of sexual assault in U.S. civilian women."

Human Trafficking

Greenbaum J; Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation: health care needs of victims.

Pediatrics. 2015 Mar;135(3):566-74. PMID: [25713283](#)

Article from the American Academy of Pediatrics reviewing child sex trafficking and the role of the pediatrician.

Budiani-Saberi D, Columb S.

A human rights approach to human trafficking for organ removal.

Med Health Care Philos. 2013 Nov;16(4):897-914. PMID: [23743564](#)

Review of organ removal as a human rights and trafficking issue.

Finkel R, Finkel ML.

The 'dirty downside' of global sporting events: focus on human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Public Health. 2015 Jan;129(1):17-22. PMID: [25553921](#)

Review of the health effects of sex trafficking and lack of available good research on the issue of sex trafficking relating to large public sporting events.

Cultural Issues

Stewart A.

Abuse, danger, and security in transnational marriages: polity and community in India and the United Kingdom.

Violence Against Women. 2013 Oct;19(10):1263-81. PMID: [24105259](#)

U.K. legal and policy developments relating to the protection of women in transnational marriages from violence within families and communities.

Perpetrators

Sullivan CP, Elbogen EB.

PTSD symptoms and family versus stranger violence in Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Law Hum Behav. 2014 Feb;38(1):1-9. PMID: [23646917](#)

From a national study of over 1,000 veterans, anger symptoms predicted higher odds of family violence, and PTSD flashback symptoms predicted higher odds of stranger violence at one year follow-up.

Winder B, Gough B, Seymour-Smith S.

Stumbling into sexual crime: the passive perpetrator in accounts by male internet sex offenders.

Arch Sex Behav. 2015 Jan;44(1):167-80. PMID: [24917484](#)

Interviews with seven convicted internet sex offenders about the commencement of internet activity, how they managed their identities, how they distanced themselves both from the label of sex offender and personal accountability, and the progression to more illicit online materials.

Police and Court Systems

Srinivas T, DePrince AP.

Links between the police response and women's psychological outcomes following intimate partner violence.

Violence Vict. 2015;30(1):32-48. PMID: [25774413](#)

For 236 female IPV survivors, unmet expectations from police response were significantly associated with greater subsequent PTSD symptom severity.

Carr WA.

The impact of personality disorders on legally supervised community treatment: a systematic literature review.

Community Ment Health J. 2014 Aug;50(6):664-72. PMID: [24068584](#)

This review article looks at the available research on various personality disorders and engagement with and outcomes from court-mandated community treatment programs.

Butler E, Jacquin K.

Effect of criminal defendant's history of childhood sexual abuse and personality disorder diagnosis on juror decision making.

Personal Ment Health. 2014 Aug;8(3):188-98. PMID: [24753498](#)

For 385 college students acting as mock jurors regarding written trial summaries for a child sexual abuse trial with a female alleged victim and male defendant, a guilty rating was much more likely if the defendant had a personal history of childhood sexual abuse and/or a diagnosis of borderline or antisocial personality disorder.

Boccaccini MT, Murrie DC, Turner DB.

Jurors' views on the value and objectivity of mental health experts testifying in sexually violent predator trials.

Behav Sci Law. 2014 Jul-Aug;32(4):483-95. PMID: [25043830](#)

Of 161 jurors who rendered opinions in 14 sex offender trials after hearing testimony from psychologists and psychiatrists, most reported that the expert witnesses helped them make better decisions and felt that experts using risk assessment instruments could make more accurate predictions than those who did not. They attributed disagreements among experts to case complexity as opposed to bias.

Providers

Muskett C.

Trauma-informed care in inpatient mental health settings: a review of the literature.

Int J Ment Health Nurs. 2014 Feb;23(1):51-9. PMID: [23363398](#)

Review of trauma-informed care for mental health settings, including "best practice is to apply 'universal trauma precautions' to all; that is, nurses routinely using practices that are growth promoting and recovery focused and less likely to retraumatize those already exposed to significant interpersonal trauma."

Tutty LM, Ogden C, Giurgiu B, Weaver-Dunlop G.

I built my house of hope: abused women and pathways into homelessness.

Violence Against Women. 2013Dec;19(12):1498-517. PMID: [24424578](#)

Interviews with 62 Canadian women who experienced homelessness as a result of leaving abusive partners, including the effect of homelessness on themselves and their children.

McFarlane J, Symes L, Maddoux J, Gilroy H, Koci A.

Is length of shelter stay and receipt of a protection order associated with less violence and better functioning for abused women?

J Interpers Violence. 2014 Oct;29(15):2748-74. PMID: [24664248](#)

For 300 abused women, seeking shelter or justice services resulted in improved outcomes 4 months later, regardless of length of stay at the shelter or receipt or no receipt of a protective order.

Kilroy SJ, Egan J, Maliszewska A, Sarma KM.

"Systemic trauma": the impact on parents whose children have experienced sexual abuse.

J Child Sex Abus. 2014;23(5):481-503. PMID: [24818809](#)

Interviews with Irish parents revealed "what factors facilitate or hinder parents from supporting their child to the best of their ability, given that parental support is a crucial moderating factor in children's recoveries."

Louwers EC, Korffage IJ, Affourtit MJ, et. al.

Accuracy of a screening instrument to identify potential child abuse in emergency departments.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Jul;38(7):1275-81. PMID: [24325939](#)

The majority of potentially abused children were identified in 3 Dutch emergency departments through use of a new "Escape" screening instrument.

1. Is the history consistent?	Yes	No
2. Was seeking medical help unnecessarily delayed?	Yes	No
3. Does the onset of the injury fit with the developmental level of the child?	Yes/N. A.	No
4. Is the behavior of the child, his or her carers and their interaction appropriate?	Yes	No
5. Are findings of the head-to-toe examination in accordance with the history?	Yes	No
6. Are there other signals that make you doubt the safety of the child or other family members? *If Yes describe the signals in the box 'Other comments' below.	Yes*	No
Other comments		

Prevention

Univ. of Cambridge Violence Research Centre and WHO.
Global Strategies to Reduce Violence by 50% in 30 Years.
April 2015
<http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/VRCconferences/conference/violencereductionreport>

National Network to End Domestic Violence
2014 US DV Census Report
<http://nnedv.org/projects/census/4481-domestic-violence-counts-census-2014-report.html>

Banja JD.
Preventing sexual attacks in healthcare facilities: risk management considerations.
J Healthc Risk Manag. 2014;33(3):5-12. PMID: [24549696](#)
Review of sexual attacks occurring in health facilities and analysis of patient safety recommendations.

Researchers

McClinton Appollis T, Lund C, de Vries PJ, Mathews C.
Adolescents' and adults' experiences of being surveyed about violence and abuse: a systematic review of harms, benefits, and regrets.
Am J Public Health. 2015 Feb;105(2):e31-45. PMID: [25521894](#)

Review of 30 studies looking at effects of being surveyed about violence and abuse. For adults, 4-50% reported harms, 23-100% reported benefits, and 1-6% reported regrets. There are gaps in research about adolescents.

Moreau C, Boucher S, Hébert M, Lemelin J.
Capturing sexual violence experiences among battered women using the revised sexual experiences survey and the revised conflict tactics scales.

Arch Sex Behav. 2015 Jan;44(1):223-31. PMID: [25119389](#)
Comparison of two instruments to assess IPV sexual violence with 138 women using shelter services. 26.1 % of women reported at least one incident involving pornography and 9.4 % had been forced to engage in sexual activities with other individuals. Women who reported experiences associated with pornography were 12-20 times more likely to be victims of severe sexual violence on the two measures.

Other of Interest

Hague G.
Learning from each other: the Special Cell and domestic violence activist responses in different contexts across the world.
Violence Against Women. 2013 Oct;19(10):1224-45. PMID: [24144561](#)

Overview of a world-wide selection of criminal justice-focused activist responses to violence against women.

Boyle P.
How youth-serving organizations enable acquaintance molesters.
J Interpers Violence. 2014 Oct;29(15):2839-48. PMID: [24860082](#)

"An examination of abuse scandals reveals common patterns of behavior among paid and volunteer staff in organizations that did not enact comprehensive, proactive strategies: Faith in the organization blinded staff to the likelihood of abuse; organizations kept workers ignorant about the extent of the abuse problem; when abuse accusations arose, staff gave the benefit of the doubt to the adult; when abuse accusations were confirmed, staffers did not know how to respond; and not knowing how to respond, staff prioritized the protection of the organization."

Lanning KV, Dietz P.
Acquaintance molestation and youth-serving organizations.
J Interpers Violence. 2014 Oct;29(15):2815-38. PMID: [24860081](#)

Companion article to above, with review of "nice guy" organizational acquaintance child molesters, the child grooming process, and important protection practices for organizations.

Shakeshaft C.
Response to "Acquaintance molestation and youth-serving organizations" by Kenneth V. Lanning and Park Dietz.
J Interpers Violence. 2014 Oct;29(15):2849-54. PMID: [24811287](#)

Commentary to above articles applying the same principles to schools.

Böhm B, Zollner H, Fegert JM, Liebhardt H.
Child sexual abuse in the context of the Roman Catholic Church: a review of literature from 1981-2013.
J Child Sex Abus. 2014;23(6):635-56. PMID: [24911986](#)

Review of information about child sexual abuse within the Catholic Church across North American and Europe.