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Child Abuse

Gilchrist SA, Stanfield J, Tan MAM, et al.

Changes in Pediatric Non-accidental Trauma Emergency Department Visits During and Following the COVID-19 Lockdown.

Am Surg. 2023 May 8;31348231173951. PMID: [37155157](#)

Using data from a level 1 pediatric trauma registry, while there was a decline in pediatric non-accidental trauma (NAT) in 2020, compared with 2019 and 2021, the injury severity score also increased in 2020 compared to 2019 and 2021. "The pediatric population is at risk of more severe abuse during times of familial stress. We need increased awareness that periods of vulnerability to NAT exist."

Côté-Corriveau G, Luu TM, Lewin A, et al.

Hospitalization for child maltreatment and other types of injury during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;140:106186. PMID: [37060690](#)

From a review of injuries to children aged 0-4 years in Quebec area hospitals before and during the pandemic, while maltreatment and even unintentional injuries decreased during lockdown, there was a significant increase in injuries from falls involving another person and mechanical force injuries involving another person. "Hospitalizations for child maltreatment may have been misclassified as unintentional injuries involving another person during the pandemic. Children admitted for these types of unintentional injuries may benefit from closer assessment to rule out maltreatment."

Raffa BJ, Schilling S, Henry MK, et al.

Ingestion of Illicit Substances by Young Children Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

JAMA network open. 2023;6(4):e239549. PMID: [37083660](#)

Using data from 46 tertiary care children's hospitals, among 7659 children presenting with ingestions 2017-2021, mean age 2.2 years, there was a 25.6% immediate increase in overall ingestions at the onset of the pandemic compared with the

prepandemic period, which was attributed to cannabis, opioid, and ethanol ingestions. There was a 1.8% sustained monthly relative increase compared with prepandemic trends in overall ingestions due to opioids. There was no association between medicinal or recreational cannabis legalization and the rate of cannabis ingestion encounters. "Additional studies are needed...to identify interventions to prevent ingestions in face of such stress, such as improved parental mental health and substance treatment services, accessible childcare, and increased substance storage education."

Hect JL, Almast A, Simon D, Shoemaker S, McDowell MM. Prevalence, severity, and neurosurgical management of abusive head trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic.

J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2023;1-7. PMID: [37021756](#)

Of 2181 children seen 2018-2021 with traumatic head injuries at Children's Hospital Pittsburgh, the prevalence of abusive head trauma or the need for neurosurgery did not change during the pandemic, and there was no difference in terms of sex, age, or race. However, the mortality for abusive head trauma was 4.8 times higher during lockdown, returning to baseline afterwards. Primary contributor to mortality was ischemic brain injury (brain injury due to lack of oxygen, reflecting a more serious injury).

O'Hara MA, Valvano TJ, Kashyap M, et al.

Understanding Bilateral Skull Fractures in Infancy: A Retrospective Multicenter Case Review.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2023 May 1;39(5):329-334. PMID: [35413039](#)

For infants younger than 24 months with bilateral skull fractures seen at 13 institutions by child abuse pediatricians, of 235 cases, 141 were considered accidental and 94 abuse. "Bilateral simple linear fractures were more common in accidental cases, 79% versus 35%, whereas a complex fracture was more frequent in abuse cases, 55% versus 21%...diffuse intracranial hemorrhage was seen more in abuse cases (45%) than accidents (11%). Skin trauma was more common in abusive than accidental injury (67% vs 17%), as were additional fractures on skeletal survey (49% vs 3%)."

Biswas A, Krishnan P, Albalkhi I, Mankad K, Shroff M.
Imaging of Abusive Head Trauma in Children.
Neuroimaging Clin N Am. 2023;33(2):357-73. PMID:
[36965952](#)

“In this article, we describe relevant anatomy, mechanisms of injury, and imaging findings of abusive head trauma (AHT). We also briefly address certain mimics of AHT, controversies, pearls, and pitfalls. Concepts of injury, its evolution, and complex nature of certain cases are highlighted with the help of case vignettes.”

Bennett CV, Hollén L, Wilkins D, Emond A, Kemp A.
The impact of a clinical prediction tool (BuRN-Tool) for child maltreatment on social care outcomes for children attending hospital with a burn or scald injury.

Burns. 2023 Jun;49(4):941-950. PMID: [35987740](#)

“Burns are common childhood injuries and 10-20% are associated with maltreatment...Children with a BuRN-Tool-score ≥ 3 but no safety contact/referral, and those who had a contact/referral but no action taken, were significantly more likely than those scoring <3 to have new safety involvement within six months following the burn. The BuRN-Tool-score ≥ 3 has the potential to alert clinicians to maltreatment concerns.”

Adebiyi E, Pietri-Toro J, Awujoola A, Gwynn L.
Association of Adverse Childhood Experiences with Heart Conditions in Children: Insight from the 2019-2020 National Survey of Children's Health.

Children (Basel, Switzerland). 2023;10(3). PMID: [36980044](#)

From a national survey, there are “an estimated 780,000 (1.13%) children living with heart conditions in the U.S...several ACEs, including household economic hardship, parental/guardian's alcohol/drug abuse, severe mental health illness of parents/guardians, racial/ethnic discrimination, exposure to neighborhood violence, and accumulation of two or more ACEs, were significantly associated with heart diseases among children. Though two or more ACEs did not have a significant association with the severity of heart condition, it was significantly associated with caregiver reports of undesirable overall health status.”

Anto M, Shipley SC, Massey S, Szperka CL.
Adverse Childhood Experiences Are Associated With Seizures in Children: A Cross-sectional Analysis.

Neurol Clin Pract. 2023;13(2):e200136. PMID: [37064581](#)

From a national children's survey, 0.63% of participants had a current diagnosis of epilepsy or seizure disorder. “As the number of ACEs increased, odds of current epilepsy or seizure disorder

diagnosis increased by 1.14. Five different ACE exposures demonstrated a high association with a current diagnosis of epilepsy or seizure disorder: food/housing insecurity, witnessing domestic violence, household mental illness, neighborhood violence, and parent/guardian incarceration.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Pacella R, Nation A, Mathews B, et al.
Child maltreatment and health service use: findings of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study.

Med J Aust. 2023;218 Suppl 6:S40-s6. PMID: [37004185](#)

From a random phone survey of 8503 Australians aged 16 and older, respondents who had experienced child maltreatment were significantly more likely than those who had not to report a hospital admission during the preceding twelve months (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 1.39), particularly admission with a mental disorder (aOR, 2.4), six or more visits to general practitioners (aOR, 2.37) and consultation with a mental health nurse (aOR, 2.67), psychologist (aOR, 2.40), or psychiatrist (aOR, 3.02). People who reported three or more maltreatment types were generally most likely to report greater health service use.

Scott JG, Malacova E, Mathews B, et al.
The association between child maltreatment and mental disorders in the Australian Child Maltreatment Study.

Med J Aust. 2023;218 Suppl 6:S26-s33. PMID: [37004186](#)

From the same national adult Australian survey as above, 38.0% met criteria for a mental disorder. Participants who had experienced childhood maltreatment had increased risk of any mental disorder (odds ratio [OR] 2.82), generalized anxiety disorder (OR 3.14), major depressive disorder (OR 3.19) severe alcohol use disorder (OR 2.62), and post-traumatic stress disorder (OR 4.60). “Associations between experiences of child maltreatment and mental disorders were strongest for sexual abuse, emotional abuse and multi-type maltreatment. The strength of the associations did not differ by gender. Adjustment for childhood and current financial hardship and for current socio-economic status did not significantly attenuate the associations.”

Lawrence DM, Hunt A, Mathews B, et al.

The association between child maltreatment and health risk behaviours and conditions throughout life in the Australian Child Maltreatment Study.

Med J Aust. 2023;218 Suppl 6:S34-s9. PMID: [37004181](#)

From the same Australian adult national survey, “All five types of child maltreatment were associated with increased rates of all of the health risk behaviours and conditions that we considered...Sexual abuse and emotional abuse were associated with the highest odds of health risk behaviours and conditions. Cannabis dependence, self-harm, and suicide attempts were most strongly associated with child maltreatment. Experiencing more than one type of child maltreatment was associated with higher rates of health risk behaviours and conditions than experiencing one type of child maltreatment.”

Grummitt L, Barrett E, Kelly E, Newton N.

An Umbrella Review of the Links Between ACEs and Substance Misuse: Where Do We Go from Here?

Subst Abuse Rehabil. 2022 Nov 15;13:83-100. PMID: [36411791](#)

From a research review, “Results overwhelmingly demonstrated an elevated risk of substance misuse or disorder among adolescents and adults exposed to ACEs. Research on the mechanisms that explain this link highlights a multitude of potential intervention targets, with childhood stress propelling a cascade of effects across endocrine, neurobiological, immune, metabolic, and nervous systems, impacting psychosocial and cognitive functioning.” Authors note critical directions for future research, practice and public policy.

Broekhof R, Nordahl HM, Tanum L, Selvik SG.

Adverse childhood experiences and their association with substance use disorders in adulthood.

Addictive behaviors reports. 2023;17:100488. PMID: [37077505](#)

From a national Norwegian patient registry, “Adults with any history of ACEs have a 4.3-fold higher likelihood of developing a substance use disorder. Female adults had a 5.9-fold higher likelihood of developing an alcohol use disorder. Emotional neglect, sexual abuse and physical abuse were the strongest individual ACE predictors for this association. Male adults had a 5.0-fold higher likelihood of developing an illicit drug use disorder (for example stimulants such as cocaine, inhibitor such as opioids, cannabinoids and multiple drugs). Physical abuse, parental divorce and witnessed violence were the strongest individual ACE predictors for this association.”

Gao S, Assink M, Bi C, Chan KL.

Child Maltreatment as a Risk Factor for Rejection Sensitivity: A Three-Level Meta-Analytic Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;15248380231162979. PMID: [37036152](#)

From a research review, childhood abuse was significantly and positively related to rejection sensitivity later in life, stronger for emotional abuse than physical abuse, and stable across age and gender. “People with high levels of rejection sensitivity tend to anxiously expect, readily perceive, and overreact to social rejection...Intervention efforts tailored to the needs of individual victims may be more effective than general interventions offered to victims of all types of child maltreatment.”

Adolescents

Tiffany-Appleton S, Mickiewicz E, Ortiz Y, et al.

Adolescent Relationship Abuse Prevention in Pediatric Primary Care: Provider, Adolescent, and Parent Perspectives.

Acad Pediatr. 2022 Dec 27:S1876-2859(22)00633-7. PMID: [36584939](#)

From individual, semi-structured interviews with HCPs (health care providers), adolescents aged 11 to 15, and parents, “Participants identified a need for pediatric HCPs to involve younger adolescents and parents in universal, inclusive ARA [adolescent relationship abuse] prevention, and noted that HCPs require training, techniques, and resources around ARA...They suggested that ARA education be intentionally integrated into HCP and clinic workflows and recommended strategies to garner adolescent and parent buy-in to facilitate ARA-focused conversations.”

Carnelius F, Denhag I.

The association between gender, sexual harassment, and self-compassion on depressive symptoms in adolescents.

Nord J Psychiatry. 2023;77(3):256-65. PMID: [35736792](#)

From a survey of 318 Swedish adolescents, “Both bullying and sexual harassment were associated with depressive symptoms, and gender patterns were observed. For boys, verbal harassment and bullying correlated with negative self-evaluation and somatic complaints. For girls, bullying correlated with all depressive symptoms. Higher levels of self-compassion were associated with less depression, and the correlation was especially strong among boys.”

Peck A, Provost S, East L, Hutchinson M.

Process mining the trajectories for adolescent-to-mother violence from longitudinal police and health service data.

J Adv Nurs. 2023 Apr;79(4):1540-1552. PMID: [35864079](#)

Of 775 Australian adolescents who had been issued a legal action for a family violence-related offence, 63% offended against mothers. “Many children and mothers were identifiable from police records in early childhood, at an average age of 35 months...dominant early childhood events were repeated exposure to parental intimate partner violence, parental drug and/or alcohol use, and neglect. During early adolescence, pathways towards adolescent-to-mother violence involved other offending, drug and/or alcohol use, and mental health service contact.”

Warner TD, Leban L, Pester DA, Walker JT.

Contextualizing Adverse Childhood Experiences: The Intersections of Individual and Community Adversity.

J Youth Adolesc. 2023 Mar;52(3):570-584. PMID: [36445650](#)

Among 13,267 youth, 51% female, 71% White, 61% and 73% were exposed to at least one individual and community ACE, respectively, while 15% of youth reported severe individual ACE exposure (≥ 3 ACEs) and 20% were exposed to severe (≥ 3) community ACEs. “All ACE exposures were associated with problem behaviors later in adolescence, but youth reporting both severe individual and community ACEs were especially at high risk for later violence, delinquency, and other health-risk behaviors...community adversity exacerbates the damaging effects of individual/family adversity and thus should be addressed in efforts to prevent ACEs and reduce their long-term harm.” Community ACEs in this study included high poverty area, poor schools, high unemployment, high crime, residential instability, insecurity (safety), low social cohesion, and low informal social control.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

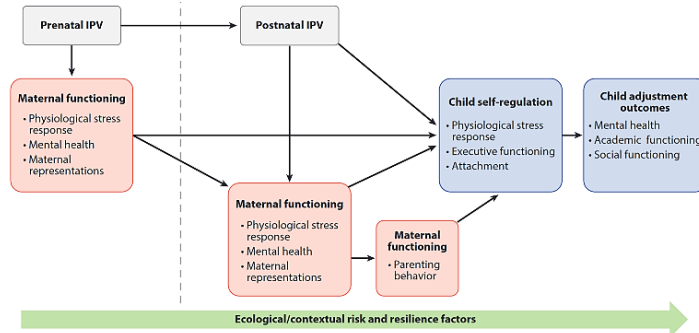
Bogat GA, Levendosky AA, Cochran K.

Developmental Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence on Children.

Annu Rev Clin Psychol. 2023 May 9;19:303-329. PMID: [36791766](#)

Authors review the research on this topic, including that IPV during pregnancy is a unique stressor affecting women’s conceptions of the unborn child and their sense of themselves as parents, and that

parenting and child self-regulation affect the relationship between IPV exposure and child outcomes.



Spearman KJ, Hoppe E, Jagasia E.

A systematic literature review of protective factors mitigating intimate partner violence exposure on early childhood health outcomes.

J Adv Nurs. 2023 May;79(5):1664-1677. PMID: [36938995](#)

From a research review of protective factors, buffering, resilience or mitigating factors in early childhood for young children who experienced IPV, individual-level protective factors for young children include emotional self-regulation, child temperament, and child self-esteem. Family-level protective factors were maternal physical and mental health; warm, responsive parenting; knowledge of child development; socioeconomic advantage; caregiver employment; and maternal education.”

Rajesh T, Jonsson KR, Jackisch J, Straatmann VS.

Changes in parents' mental health related to child out-of-home care placements: A Swedish national register study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;140:106149. PMID: [37011543](#)

In a study of Swedish parents and their children who had been placed in out-of-home care (OOHC), mothers showed highest mental health hospitalization rates at the year of placement (26.6%), and fathers one year after placement (13.4%). Authors discuss hypotheses underlying these findings, “including psychosocial gender differences and opportunities to seek care as means of reunification. There is an urgency to develop strategies to better support these parents throughout the process.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Ballan M, Freyer M, Romanelli M.

Occupational Functioning among Intimate Partner Violence Survivors with Disabilities: A Retrospective Analysis.

Occup Ther Health Care. 2021 Nov 2:1-23. PMID: [34726568](#)

In a record review from a disability-oriented domestic violence shelter, with residents experiencing disabilities such as developmental, mental health, and traumatic brain injury, while residents in general were able to accomplish ADL (activities of daily living such as feeding and dressing oneself), there were greater difficulties with IADL (instrumental activities of daily living such as money management, using transportation, and handling medications). “Descriptive results regarding unemployment, abusive relationship duration, and types of abuse experienced suggest the need for additional research. Occupational therapy practitioners possess specialized skills to help survivors with disabilities cope with the damaging effects of abuse, but their significant role in assisting this population has not been sufficiently explored or developed.”

Manifold BM.

Dead women: What they can teach us about murder in the Republic of Ireland.

Med Leg J. 2022 Sep;90(3):161-162. PMID: [35634991](#)

“The Republic of Ireland has seen a substantial increase in cases of female homicide in recent years...Despite the outrage little research exists on the subject beyond the newspaper headlines and media reporting. In a review of 240 cases of female homicide over a 30-year period from 1991–2021 using newspapers and court reports, many patterns emerge regarding the causes of death and motives behind the killings.” Ages ranged from 13 to 88 years, and deaths occurred as a result of stalking, harassment, domestic abuse, the breakdown of a marriage/relationship, financial gain, and deteriorating mental health. In nearly all of the cases perpetrators were people known to them – husbands, partners, ex-partners, sons, grandsons and friends. The most common cause of death was strangulation, followed by stabbing and then blunt force trauma. There were 9 cases of fire – 8 to conceal the crime and one arson, 2 drownings, one caustic soda, and one poisoning. In victims aged 20-50 years, the predominant motive was jealousy and fear of the victim leaving, whereas in the older age groups motives were more likely to be financial or due to mental illness. “How we interpret the clues these women leave behind may help to save another woman’s life in future.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Hing N, Mainey L, O'Mullan C, et al.

Seeking Solace in Gambling: The Cycle of Gambling and Intimate Partner Violence Against Women Who Gamble.

J Gamb Stud. 2023 Jun;39(2):795-812. PMID: [35670931](#)

From interviews with 24 women who were experiencing IPV and gambling, “The combination of push factors from the IPV and pull factors from gambling venues resulted in the women’s prolonged and harmful use of electronic gaming machines, while exacerbating the frequency and severity of their partner’s violence.”

Themes	Sub-themes
Patterns of gambling and IPV	Ongoing coercive control prior to gambling Situational violence in response to gambling
Push factors from the IPV that motivated women’s gambling	Physical escape from IPV Psychological escape from IPV Hope of regaining control over their lives Cope with loneliness and trauma after leaving the relationship
Pull factors that attracted women to gambling venues	Social accessibility of EGM venues Venues do not interrupt EGM play Geographic and temporal accessibility of EGM venues The addictive nature of EGMs

Hing N, O'Mullan C, Mainey L, Nuske E, Breen H.

Intimate partner violence linked to gambling: cohort and period effects on the past experiences of older women.

BMC Womens Health. 2023;23(1):165. PMID: [37024892](#)

From interviews with women aged 50+ years who had experienced IPV linked to gambling, “women’s experiences of IPV included gendered attitudes, traditional views of marriage, silence surrounding IPV, reticence to disclose the abuse, and little understanding of problem gambling. These influences deterred women from questioning their partner’s gambling, and to instead keep the gambling and abuse hidden. Many women did not recognise abuse linked to gambling as IPV, since gambling was considered a normal, harmless pastime. Having a gambling problem exacerbated violence and coercive control by male partners as traditional gender norms supported male authority over their female partner. Era effects included a lack of IPV and gambling services, gendered service responses, failure to prioritise the women’s safety, and no consideration by services of the role of gambling in the abuse.”

Halldorsdottir S.

In the jaws of death: Surviving women's experience of male intimate terrorism.

J Adv Nurs. 2023 Apr;79(4):1426-1436. PMID: [36625094](#)
IPV survivors describe being in the “jaws of death”.
“The violence got worse over time from the entrapment phase where the men were obsessed with the women and monitored them, to the silencing phase, and the death phase where the women felt as shadows of themselves. The women also described the awakening and recovery phases. The men's intense psychological aggression, marital rape and attempts to strangle them, were the gravest aspects of intimate terrorism and what contributed to them eventually feeling psychologically 'more than dead'.”

Lambert M, Sheldrake E, Deneault AA, et al.

Depressive Symptoms in Individuals With Persistent Postconcussion Symptoms: A Systematic Review.

JAMA Netw Open. 2022 Dec 1;5(12):e2248453. PMID: [36574246](#)

From a research review, those experiencing persistent post-concussion symptoms were 4.56 times more likely to also experience depressive symptoms. “There are several important clinical and health policy implications of the findings. Most notably, the development of strategies for effective prevention and earlier intervention to optimize mental health recovery following a concussion should be supported.”

Sexual Assault

McMahon S, Cusano J, Macri L, Chen A.

Development of the Services, Policies and Programs Audit Tool to Address Campus Sexual Violence.

Health Educ Behav. 2023 Jun;50(3):310-317. PMID: [36000321](#)

“There is a need for campuses to continually assess their provision of resources and services to improve the climate and well-being of students. Conducting a periodical scan of resources is one way for IHE [institutions of higher education] to assess their adherence to best practices. The current study describes the Services, Policies and Programs Audit (SPPA) tool...the position of the person who completes the tool impacts the scoring, with those who are more familiar with CSV services scoring higher. This aligns with other research indicating that it is important not only to have resources on campus to address CSV, but also to ensure that the campus community is aware of them.”

Hoxmeier JC, O'Connor J, McMahon S.

Sexual Violence Among Sorority Women: Victimization Experiences, Contexts, and Disclosure.

Violence Against Women. 2023;29(6-7):1123-43. PMID: [35979617](#)

From a large, single campus survey, “Results showed sorority women were more likely than unaffiliated women to report experiencing some types of SV [sexual violence], consuming alcohol prior to victimization, and to identify their perpetrator as a hookup/casual partner. More women, regardless of affiliation, informally disclosed their victimization compared to formally reporting; many did not tell anyone because they did not think it was serious enough. The findings point to implications for harm reduction, bystander intervention, and primary prevention programming, as well as institutional policy to address SV.”

Marcantonio TL, Hunt ME, Schisler E.

Assessing Sorority Women's Perceptions of Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assaults That Occur Within College Campus Greek Organizations.

J Child Sex Abus. 2023;32(3):359-78. PMID: [36912376](#)

From a survey of 235 women associated with Greek life at 2 southern universities, “women perceived barriers to reporting sexual assault across intrapersonal (e.g. feeling afraid/shame), interpersonal (e.g. sorority sisters would ostracize them), organizational (e.g. reporting would jeopardize Greek life), community (e.g. reporting on campus/police is challenging) and societal levels (e.g. victim blame culture)...Collaboration between Greek organizations, campus Fraternity and Sorority advisors, and sexual assault prevention advocates could help to provide a supportive environment for women when sexual assaults occur.”

Human Trafficking

Kachelski C, Hansen J, Moffatt ME, et al.

Comparative healthcare use by adolescents screening positive for sexual exploitation.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023 May 3;141:106201. PMID: [37146540](#)

Of adolescents aged 12-18 seen at a tertiary pediatric health care system, those who screened positive for commercial sexual exploitation, compared to those who did not, were significantly more likely to have sought health care less frequently, and to be seen more in acute care and primary care for inflicted injuries, mental health, and reproductive health.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Balkaran K, Linton J, Doupe M, Roger K, Kelly C.
Research on Abuse in Home Care: A Scoping Review.
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231165922. PMID:
[37078630](#)

This research review looked at “(1) prevalence and types of abuse in home care, (2) abuse in the context of living with dementia, and (3) working conditions and abuse. Analysis from the intervention studies suggest that not all organizations have specific policies and practices to prevent abuse, and no existing interventions to protect the well-being of clients were identified. Findings from this review can inform up-to-date practice and policymaking to improve the health and well-being of home care clients and workers.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Bohicchio L, Porsch L, Zollweg S, Matthews AK, Hughes TL.
Health Outcomes of Sexual Minority Women Who Have Experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences.
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231162973. PMID:
[3670743](#)

“Sexual minority women (SMW; e.g., lesbian, bisexual) report higher rates of almost every negative physical health (e.g., asthma, arthritis, cardiovascular disease), mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety), and substance use outcome compared to heterosexual women...SMW are significantly more likely than heterosexual women to report every type of ACE and a higher total number of ACEs...Our findings provide strong evidence that ACEs are an important risk factor for multiple negative mental health and substance use outcomes among SMW.”

Abern L, Diego D, Krempasky C, Cook J, Maguire K.
Prevalence of Sexual Assault in a Cohort of Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals.
J Gen Intern Med. 2023 Apr;38(5):1331-1333. PMID:
[36357726](#)

From an online survey 2017-2018 of 996 transgender individuals, with mean age 28 years, 89% non-Hispanic White, 47% had experienced sexual assault. Of those who had been assaulted, 362 (46%) were transmasculine and 72 (34%) were transfeminine.

Callan A, Corbally M, McElvaney R.
A commentary on the challenges for nurses in identifying and responding to IPV amongst gay and bisexual men.
J Adv Nurs. 2023 Apr;79(4):e21-e29. PMID: [35909093](#)

This commentary highlights challenges for nurses in supporting gay and bisexual men who experience IPV, including issues such as homophobic remarks and heteronormative practices in health care. These practices may mitigate against the identification of individuals who may be experiencing “coerced sexual risk-taking, homophobia, and sexual orientation outing...The potential for discrimination against sexual minority patients may be offset by improving training, education, and offering recommendations for nurses in how to identify IPV and how to assess risk.”

Open-ended communication	Avoid commenting on a patient's gender identity or appearance Obtain permission to document the patient's sexual orientation on records Reassure patients that they will not be judged and all information is kept confidential Mirror the patient's language to describe their sexual orientation, gender pronouns and relationship status Do not assume the patient is in a monogamous relationship and acknowledge the diverse set of relationship types
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Race/Cultural Concerns

Bishop-Royse J, Saiyed NS, Schober DJ, et al.
Cause-Specific Mortality and Racial Differentials in Life Expectancy, Chicago 2018-2019.
Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities. 2023:1-7.
PMID: [36973497](#)

In Chicago in 2018, the average life expectancy (ALE) for non-Hispanic Blacks was 71.5 years, 9.1 fewer years than for non-Hispanic Whites (80.6 years). Among females, the racial difference in ALE was 8.21 years, mainly due to cancer and heart disease; for males, it was 10.53 years, mainly due to homicide and heart disease.

Nguyen TT, Merchant JS, Criss S, et al.
Examining Twitter-Derived Negative Racial Sentiment as Indicators of Cultural Racism: Observational Associations With Preterm Birth and Low Birth Weight Among a Multiracial Sample of Mothers, 2011-2021.
J Med Internet Res. 2023;25:e44990. PMID: [37115602](#)

Using A random 1% sample of publicly available tweets from January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2021, Twitter-derived negative state-level racial sentiment toward racially minoritized groups was associated with a higher risk of preterm birth and low birth weight among the total population and specific racially minoritized groups.

Bower KM, Geller RJ, Jeffers N, McDonald M, Alhusen J. **Experiences of racism and perinatal depression: Findings from the pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system, 2018.**

J Adv Nurs. 2023 May;79(5):1982-1993. PMID: [36630188](#)
Of 7328 non-Hispanic Black respondents with a recent live birth in 2018, “Respondents who reported feeling upset due to the experience of racism in the year prior to delivery had over two-fold higher odds (OR 2.37) of experiencing depression during pregnancy compared to respondents who did not report feeling upset due to the experience of racism, adjusted for maternal age, educational attainment, marital status, pre-pregnancy insurance type, region, and pre-pregnancy depression.”

Brumbaugh JE, Vohr BR, Bell EF, et al. **Early Life Outcomes in Relation to Social Determinants of Health for Children Born Extremely Preterm.**

J Pediatr. 2023;113443. PMID: [37105408](#)
Of 7438 children born extremely prematurely (14-18 weeks early), 73% had a least 1 risk-associated social determinant of health (SDOH – defined by 3 things in this study - maternal education, insurance, and race). Children born to mothers with public/no insurance were more likely to be readmitted than those born to privately insured mothers. Neurodevelopmental impairment was twice as likely (aOR 2.36) and death 5 times as likely (aOR 5.22) for infants with 3 risk-associated SDOH compared with those with none.

Bent-Goodley T, Zonicle A, Romero-Chandler S. **Perceptions, Help-Seeking, and High-Risk Domestic Violence in Black Communities.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231168814. PMID: [37102585](#)
“While Black women compose 14% of the U.S. population, they represent 31% of domestic violence fatalities and are three times more likely than White women to be killed by an intimate partner.” This 2020 study was conducted with 128 participants in six geographically diverse U.S. cities including rural, urban, and suburban communities. “The findings reaffirmed and presented new information about the perceptions of domestic violence, the impact of inadequate and negative systems' responses, the lack of cultural responsiveness and poor police interactions, and the calculated decision-making that survivors in the Black community use to determine who to tell, how to tell, and where to go in use of adapted help-seeking strategies. Implications are provided as to how to address these issues.”

Bent-Goodley T, Romero-Chandler S, Zonicle A. **Black Communities' Perspectives on High-Risk Domestic Violence.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231159918. PMID: [37029725](#)
“This article provides information from 128 focus group participants from diverse Black communities on their perceptions of what constitutes high-risk domestic violence. The findings affirm some current high-risk indicators, such as stalking, strangulation, use of threats, access to a weapon, and isolation. In addition, the findings provide new thoughts on what these communities identified as high-risk domestic violence, including public violence, repeated violence with no consequences, escalation of arguments, disconnection from the community, and being a member of a marginalized group. Implications for practice, policy, education, and protocol development are provided.”

Perpetrators

Fritz M, Soravia SM, Dudeck M, Malli L, Fakhoury M. **Neurobiology of Aggression-Review of Recent Findings and Relationship with Alcohol and Trauma.**

Biology (Basel). 2023;12(3). PMID: [36979161](#)
“This article provides an overview of recent advances in understanding the translational neurobiological basis of aggression and its intricate links to alcoholism and trauma, focusing on behavior. It does so by shedding light from several perspectives, including in vivo imaging, genes, receptors, and neurotransmitters and their influence on human and animal behavior.”

Clemens V, Fegert JM, Kavemann B, et al. **Epidemiology of intimate partner violence perpetration and victimisation in a representative sample.**

Epidemiology and psychiatric sciences. 2023;32:e25. PMID: [37073832](#)
From a 2021 German population study, 50.2% female, mean age 49.5 years, “A significant proportion of persons in Germany reporting IPV are both perpetrator and victim for each IPV form...Major risk factors for IPV perpetration only were male gender and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) while major risk factors for IPV victimisation only comprised of female gender, low household income, and ACEs. In the perpetration and victimisation group, gender differences were less significant; older age and lower household income did increase the likelihood of combined perpetration and victimisation.”

Police and Court Systems

Sharman LS, Fitzgerald R, Douglas H.

Medical evidence assisting non-fatal strangulation prosecution: a scoping review.

BMJ Open. 2023;13(3):e072077. PMID: [36972965](#)

This research review analyzed medical procedures helpful in prosecution of non-fatal strangulation, which often leaves little or no externally visible injuries, including common imaging studies, documentation of internal and external injuries, subjective complaints, the experiencing of the assault including written verbatim quotes, and use of alternate light sources for finding evidence of skin injury.

Melchior SE, Nielsen MKK, Oropeza AR, et al.

Detection of scopolamine in urine and hair in a drug-facilitated sexual assault.

Forensic Sci Int. 2023 Jun;347:111678. PMID: [37030199](#)

“Given the high potency of scopolamine and its rapid metabolism, analysis in blood and urine may not be sufficient for drug detection, especially following a single-dose administration in drug-facilitated sexual assault cases...This case report provides novel insight into the concentration in hair following a single exposure of scopolamine.”

Providers

Chan B, Sachs CJ.

Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence.

Emerg Med Clin North Am. 2023;41(2):369-80. PMID: [37024170](#)

General review article for emergency medical personnel. “More than 1 in 3 women (35.6%) and more than 1 in 4 men (28.5%) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Clinicians play an integral role on the screening, identification, and management of these issues.”

Salazar GA, Palma JA, Box M, Brar D.

Evaluation and management of intimate partner violence in the emergency department.

Emerg Med Pract. 2023 Apr 20;25(Suppl 4):1-37. PMID: [37083217](#)

“Emergent medical needs must be balanced with concerns for the patient's emotional well-being and the need for advocacy and social services. This supplement reviews best practices and evidence-based recommendations for the evaluation and

management of patients who have experienced IPV, with a focus on the considerations for traumatic injuries in these patients...A team-based, patient-centered, and trauma-informed approach to patients who have experienced IPV is paramount.”

Hoffman RM, Ryus C, Tiyyagura G, Jubanyik K.

Intimate partner violence screening during COVID-19.

PLoS One. 2023;18(4):e0284194. PMID: [37093791](#)

From a retrospective chart review of adults presenting to a tertiary care ED, comparing prepandemic 2019 to pandemic in 2020 with visitor restriction, nursing-initiated IPV screening for IPV increased by 50%, and screening positive increased by 37.5%. “These findings suggest that nurse-initiated IPV screening should continue to be performed with the patient privately, even after COVID-19 related visitor restrictions are removed.”

Kunes JA, Ulrich MN, Orr CE, Cannada LK, Russo CM.

Intimate Partner Violence in the Orthopaedic Patient Population: What Surgeons Need to Know.

JBJS Rev. 2023;11(4). PMID: [37079704](#)

“Musculoskeletal injuries are among the most common presentations of these patients to a health care setting. Historically, practices surrounding IPV in orthopaedics have been inconsistent, and many orthopaedic surgeons and trainees underestimate the proportion of their patients who are affected...studies have found an approximately 30% past-year prevalence of IPV among women in orthopaedic clinics using direct questioning... Patients experiencing IPV are subject to worse health outcomes relating to orthopaedic injury, worse general quality-of-life, and decreased likelihood of regaining full function after injury compared with patients with no IPV experience.”

Lennon T, Ruddy J, Badesch B, et al.

Pediatric Residents' Outpatient Firearm Screening and Safety Counseling Practices (Or Lack Thereof): A Retrospective Chart Review.

Health Promot Pract. 2023;15248399231164909. PMID: [36995124](#)

“The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children and adolescents be universally screened for access to firearms and exposure to violence.” Based on a chart review of patients aged 10-25 years seen by pediatric residents at 2 primary care clinics, 24% of patients had exposure to violence or a history of suicidal ideation. Less than 1% of patients were screened for firearm access or exposure to firearm violence, and only 6% were provided risk reduction counseling or any type of firearm safety counseling.

Welles CC, Tong A, Brereton E, et al.

Sources of Clinician Burnout in Providing Care for Underserved Patients in a Safety-Net Healthcare System.

J Gen Intern Med. 2023 May;38(6):1468-1475. PMID: [36376633](#)

“Burnout is a common occupational syndrome among healthcare team members and has adverse effects on both clinician well-being and patient healthcare outcomes. Healthcare team members from safety-net healthcare systems (SNHS) may be particularly susceptible, because of the unique and challenging experiences associated with providing high-quality care with limited resources to those who experience health disparities...(1) limited resources, (2) barriers to building trust with patients, (3) administrative requirements, (4) compassion fatigue, and (5) advocacy as a counterbalance to burnout...policy-level interventions to increase funding to SNHS, creation of peer-support and wellness programs, and support for advocacy efforts may help mitigate burnout.”

Selwyn CN, Lathan EC, Platt T, Minchew L.

How Healthcare Providers Reconcile Bad Things Happening to Good Patients: The Role of Just World Beliefs in Attitudes toward Trauma-Informed Care.

J Trauma Dissociation. 2023;1-15. PMID: [36987779](#)

“The uptake of trauma-informed practices such as trauma screening and referral among health-care providers remains relatively low. The current study sought to assess the roles of health-care providers’ personal histories of ACEs and personal beliefs in the just world hypothesis in understanding their attitudes toward trauma-informed care.” Of 180 advanced nursing students, those with higher ACE scores were less likely to believe in a just world, and as such were more likely to endorse trauma-informed care.

Prevention

Crichton KG, Spencer S, Shapiro R, McPherson P, Izsak E, McDavid LM, et al.

Timely Recognition of Abusive Injuries (TRAIN): Results from a Statewide Quality Improvement Collaborative.

Pediatric quality & safety. 2023;8(2):e637. PMID: [37051406](#)

Authors describe how the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Breakthrough Series Collaborative Model, in which partnerships between organizations facilitate learning from each other and experts, led to significantly decreased infant abusive re-injury rates in 6 Ohio children’s hospitals.

Greene HM, Letson MM, Spencer SP, et al.

Recognizing Nonaccidental Trauma in a Pediatric Tertiary Hospital: A Quality Improvement Imperative.

Pediatric quality & safety. 2023;8(2):e644. PMID: [37051404](#)

Authors describe how they standardized the nonaccidental trauma (NAT) workup and improved NAT evaluation completion for children <7 months with concerning injuries in the pediatric emergency department and inpatient settings at an urban, tertiary care children's hospital to 100% compliance, up from 31%.

Bunting L, McCartan C, Davidson G, et al.

The influence of adverse and positive childhood experiences on young people's mental health and experiences of self-harm and suicidal ideation.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;140:106159. PMID: [37028255](#)

From a survey of 1299 Irish adolescents, the prevalence rate of common mood and anxiety disorders was 16%, self-harm 10%, and suicidal ideation 12%. ACEs and PCEs (positive childhood experiences) both independently predicted common mood and anxiety disorders, self-harm and suicidal ideation. Every additional ACE increased the likelihood of all of these disorders, and every additional PCE reduced them.

Fernández-González L, Orue I, González-Cabrera J, et al.

The Protective Role of Dispositional Mindfulness on Cyber Dating Abuse: A 6-Month Longitudinal Study.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231162885. PMID: [36987389](#)

Of 501 Spanish high school students, cyber dating abuse perpetrators with higher dispositional mindfulness predicted a decrease in perpetration over time. “Mindfulness-based interventions can be a valuable tool in preventing cyber aggression that occurs in adolescent dating relationships.”

Researchers

Ridley-Merriweather KE, Hoffmann-Longtin K, Owusu RK.

Exploring How the Terms "Black" and "African American" May Shape Health Communication Research.

Health Commun. 2023;38(6):1120-6. PMID: [34706614](#)

“This essay examines the histories and meanings of "Black" and "African American" as identity labels...We describe how each moniker is used and perceived, broadly and in health contexts. Finally, we call for more research into the effects of mislabeling and propose a plan for researchers' next steps.”

Brunton R, Harris KM.

Development and Psychometric Evaluation of the IPV Internalized Stigma Scale.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231162653. PMID: [37073944](#)

Authors describe the development and evaluation of the IPV internalized stigma scale (IPVIS). The 11 item scale showed no differences with regard to age, sex, residence, ethnicity or partner status; and correlated with measures of depression, anxiety, and social health.

Items

- Q2. Experiencing domestic violence has ruined my life
- Q6. I feel inferior to others who don't have an abusive partner
- Q10. Because I am powerless, my partner makes (or did make) most decisions for me
- Q17. People think that I am weak because I stay (or stayed) in an abusive relationship
- Q14 People take me less seriously because of my abusive relationship
- Q15. People often look down on me because I won't (or didn't) leave my abusive partner
- Q16. People aren't interested in getting close to me because of my abusive relationship
- Q19. I don't socialize as much as I used to because I'm worried people will find out about my abusive relationship
- Q20. Negative stereotypes about domestic violence keep me isolated from the world
- Q21. I avoid social situations to protect my family from embarrassment
- Q25. I will never have a good and fulfilling life because of my domestic violence relationship

Chatterji S, Boyer C, Sharma V, et al.

Optimizing the Construction of Outcome Measures for Impact Evaluations of Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Interventions.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231162887. PMID: [37032608](#)

In re-analyzing multiple IPV intervention studies, "Results indicate that traditional binary indicators masked some of the more subtle intervention effects, and the use of the new indicators allowed for a better understanding of the impacts of the interventions. Conclusions on whether a program is perceived 'to work' are highly influenced by the IPV outcomes that the investigators choose to report, and how they are measured and coded. Lack of attention to outcome choice and measurement could lead to prematurely abandoning strategies useful for violence reduction, or missing essential insights into how programs may or may not affect IPV."

Other of Interest

Zwald ML, Van Dyke ME, Chen MS, et al.

Emergency Department Visits for Firearm Injuries Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States.

MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2023;72(13):333-7. PMID: [36995967](#)

The rates of firearm homicide and firearm suicide in 2021 were the highest recorded since 1993 and 1990, with the US firearm homicide rate increased by nearly 35% during the pandemic. "Compared with 2019, the average number of weekly ED visits for firearm injury was 37% higher in 2020, 36% higher in 2021, and 20% higher in 2022. A comprehensive approach is needed to prevent and respond to firearm injuries, including strategies that engage community and street outreach programs, implement hospital-based violence prevention programs, improve community physical environments, enhance secure storage of firearms, and strengthen social and economic supports."

Timmer-Murillo SC, Schroeder ME, Trevino C, et al.

Comprehensive Firearm Violence Survivor Care: A Review.

JAMA Surg. 2023 May 1;158(5):541-547. PMID: [36947025](#)

Firearm violence is a public health crisis placing significant burden on individuals, communities, and health care systems. After firearm injury, there is increased risk of poor health, disability, and psychopathology. The newest 2022 guidelines from the American College of Surgeons require that all trauma centers screen for risk of psychopathology and provide referral to intervention.

Box 2. Actionable Steps for Clinician and Trauma Centers Working With Patients of Firearm Injury

Trauma-Informed Care

- Clinician: implement universal trauma precautions within patient interaction to reduce retraumatization
- Trauma center: create policy for trauma-informed care training of staff (eg, security, social work, emergency department) and health care professionals interacting with firearm injury patients

Posttrauma Mental Health Care

- Clinician: consider the role of mental health in patient's recovery and evaluate risk factors (eg, repeat injury, perceived life threat) in determining level/need and urgency of referral
- Trauma center: develop and implement screening protocol of mental health risk and reinjury risk
- Trauma center: establish interdisciplinary ambulatory follow-up or build relationships with community trauma-informed mental health clinics for patients of firearm injury

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention

- Clinician: advocate for hospital engagement in violence prevention and intervention programming; build community relationships with stakeholders addressing violence
- Trauma center: conduct needs assessment of violence-related injury patients to determine scope of programming
- Trauma center: provide resource allocation (ie, financial, fundraising, personnel) to violence prevention programming within hospital and in the community

Integrated Multidisciplinary Follow-up

- Clinician: build interdisciplinary teams with social work, psychology, physical therapy and hospital-based violence interruption personnel
- Trauma center: provide space and programmatic support for interdisciplinary clinic follow up
- Trauma center: track patient-reported outcomes to inform ongoing programming and document outcomes