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Child Abuse

Gladieux M, Gimness N, Rodriguez B, Liu J.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Environmental Exposures on Neurocognitive Outcomes in Children: Empirical Evidence, Potential Mechanisms, and Implications.

Toxics. 2023;11(3). PMID: [36977024](#)

Authors review how the relationship between ACEs and environmental exposures (air pollution, lead exposure, second-hand smoke, other chemicals) interact to cause adverse outcomes in children's neurocognitive development. These cognitive outcomes include learning disabilities, lowered IQ, memory and attention problems, and overall poor educational outcomes.

Higgins DJ, Mathews B, Pacella R, et al.

The prevalence and nature of multi-type child maltreatment in Australia.

Med J Aust. 2023;218 Suppl 6:S19-s25. PMID: [37004183](#)

From a random phone survey of 8503 Australians aged 16 and older, 62.2% reported one or more of 5 child maltreatment types (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, or exposure to domestic violence). 22.8% reported one ACE, 39.4% 2 or more, and 3.5% all five, with exposure to domestic violence most often present in multi-type maltreatment. Multi-type maltreatment was more common for gender diverse participants (66.1%) and women (43.2%) than for men (34.9%). Family-related adverse childhood experiences - especially mental illness and alcohol or substance misuse - increased risk for multi-type child maltreatment.

Elklit A, Murphy S, Skovgaard C, Lausten M.

Physical violence against children with disabilities: A Danish national birth cohort prospective study.

European journal of psychotraumatology.

2023;14(1):2173764. PMID: [37052095](#)

Using a large Danish registry and following children until age 18, "We identified 12,830 cases of reported physical violence (2.25% of the population)

towards children and adolescents. Children with disabilities were overrepresented, as were boys and ethnic minorities. After controlling for risk factors, four disabilities had heightened risk for criminal violence: ADHD, brain injury, speech, and physical disabilities...parental history of violence, family break-up, out-of-home placement, and parental unemployment contributed especially to the violence. Having several disabilities increased the risk of violence."

Palmer L, Font S, Rebbe R, Putnam-Hornstein E.

Lifetime rates and types of subsequent child protection system contact following a first report of neglect.

PLoS One. 2023;18(4):e0283534. PMID: [37043442](#)

"An estimated 1 in 3 U.S. children will be the subject of a child protective services (CPS) investigation during their lifetime, typically for allegations of neglect." In this study of children born in California in 2000 who were first investigated by CPS for neglect allegations alone (no co-occurring abuse) and not permanently separated from their families of origin, "64% were re-referred to CPS by age 18 and 16% experienced a subsequent removal. Four out of five children initially investigated as infants had one or more subsequent CPS referrals during childhood...more than half of children re-referred were reported for allegations of physical or sexual abuse, indicating that abuse risk was either missed during the initial CPS investigation or escalated afterward. The failure to address maltreatment risks when children first present to the system is a complex problem with no easy solution."

Ferro RA, DiFatta R, Khan KN, et al.

When Adverse Childhood Experiences Present to a Statewide Child Psychiatry Access Program.

J Behav Health Serv Res. 2023 Jul;50(3):400-412. PMID: [37002438](#)

In a review of children referred by their pediatric primary care providers (PCP) to a state child psychiatry access program (CPAP), referred children who had ACEs were more often already receiving medication, receiving more than one medication, and had been given more than one mental health diagnosis. "Patients with ACEs for whom PCPs sought CPAP support were experiencing more clinically severe and complex mental health concerns."

Wood GJ, Smith JAS, Gall JA.

The optimal timing of forensic evidence collection following paediatric sexual assault.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2023;95:102499. PMID: [36889049](#)

In a review of 122 cases of pediatric sexual assault, with 562 forensic specimens collected, 27% were positive for foreign DNA, spermatozoa, semen or saliva. Foreign DNA and spermatozoa were much more likely to be found in the first 24 hours. "Foreign DNA was not identified beyond 48 h post assault and spermatozoa were not identified beyond 36 h. Saliva and semen were not identified beyond 24 h... Our results highlight the importance of collecting forensic specimens as a matter of urgency, regardless of age, within the first 48 h post assault."

Nash K, Minhas S, Metheny N, et al.

Association between childhood maltreatment and atopy in the UK: A population based retrospective cohort study.

EClinicalMedicine. 2022 Nov 14;53:101730. PMID: [36467451](#)

From a large UK study of children in general care practices who experienced maltreatment, and matched controls, those with maltreatment were 42% more likely to subsequently develop asthma, and 14% more likely to develop allergic skin, eye and nose conditions.

Barnea O, Cohen N, Hindi I, Katz C.

Noticing the unutilized resource of siblinghood: Key conclusions from a scoping review about siblings in out-of-home placements.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;141:106192. PMID: [37116451](#)

"Sibling bonds are often the most enduring relationship in an individual's life span. The out-of-home placement of siblings is widespread and may significantly influence children's journeys and wellbeing...the welfare system struggles to address a child as a part of a sibling group and an extensive and multilayered relational network; hence, siblinghood is an unutilized resource in out-of-home placements. Future directions for practice, policy and research are included and discussed."

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Kinney-Huang M, Leibovitz T, Harkness KL, Bowie CR.

Childhood Adversity, Cognition, and Response to Cognitive Remediation in Major Depressive Disorder.

J Nerv Ment Dis. 2023;211(5):362-8. PMID: [36805563](#)

"Cognitive impairment is experienced by many individuals with major depressive disorder (MDD)

and is significantly related to sustained disability...of 39 individuals who completed cognitive remediation, childhood adversity (CA), repeated depressive episodes, and earlier age at diagnosis were associated with poorer cognition. We did not observe a difference in treatment response based on CA. Findings suggest that CA is an important variable to consider when examining the expression of depressive illness and areas for intervention."

Warhaftig G, Almeida D, Turecki G.

Early life adversity across different cell-types in the brain.

Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2023;148:105113. PMID: [36863603](#)

"In this review we will gather recent findings describing morphological, transcriptional and epigenetic alterations within neurons, glia and perineuronal nets and their associated cellular subpopulations. The findings reviewed and summarized here highlight important mechanisms underlying ELA [early life adversity] and point to therapeutic approaches for ELA and related psychopathologies later in life."

Nevarez-Brewster M, Aran Ö, Narayan AJ, et al.

Adverse and Benevolent Childhood Experiences Predict Prenatal Sleep Quality.

Adversity and resilience science. 2022;3(4):391-402. PMID: [36968335](#)

Of 164 pregnant individuals, "Higher levels of ACEs predicted poorer prenatal sleep quality throughout pregnancy, while higher levels of BCEs [benevolent childhood experiences] predicted better sleep quality throughout pregnancy. Examination of ACEs subtypes revealed that maltreatment predicted poor sleep quality, while household dysfunction was not significantly associated. Associations remained after covarying for socioeconomic status and current stressful life events."

Saadetine M, Faubion S, Kingsberg S, et al.

Adverse childhood experiences and sexual dysfunction in midlife women: Is there a link?

J Sex Med. 2023 Apr 27:qdad053. PMID: [37105936](#)

Of 1572 women with mean age of 53.2 years, 59% reported having at least 1 ACE. "When compared with no ACEs, a history of ≥ 4 ACEs significantly increased the odds of not being sexually active (odds ratio 1.83). Among sexually active women, the proportion of women with female sexual dysfunction increased sequentially as the number of ACEs increased...The sexual dysfunction in women with ACEs seems to be independent of other factors that potentially affect female sexual function in midlife."

Stewart A, Ko J, Salvesen von Essen B, et al.
Association of Mental Health Conditions, Recent Stressful Life Events, and Adverse Childhood Experiences with Postpartum Substance Use - Seven States, 2019-2020.
MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2023;72(16):416-20. PMID: [37079476](#)

In a survey of individuals in seven states with high opioid overdose mortality rates who were recontacted 9-10 months after giving birth in 2019, “Overall, 25.6% of respondents reported postpartum substance use, and 5.9% reported polysubstance use. The following conditions were associated with higher substance and polysubstance use prevalence in postpartum women: depressive symptoms, depression, anxiety, adverse childhood experiences, and stressful life events. Substance use prevalence was higher among women who experienced six or more stressful life events during the year preceding the birth (67.1%) or four adverse childhood experiences related to household dysfunction (57.9%)...Clinical and community- and systems-level interventions to improve postpartum health can include screening and treatment for depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders during the postpartum period.”

O'Leary E, Millar SR, Perry IJ, Phillips CM.
Association of adverse childhood experiences with lipid profiles and atherogenic risk indices in a middle-to-older aged population.
SSM - population health. 2023;22:101393. PMID: [37090689](#)
From a study of 1820 Irish adults, ACE history (reported by 23% of sample), in particular childhood exposure to household dysfunction, was associated with later-life non-optimal levels of triglycerides and HDL-C, and approximately twice the risk of pro-atherogenic risk indices (fatty deposits in arteries).

Rohr JC, Bourassa KA, Thompson DS, et al.
History of childhood physical abuse is associated with gut microbiota diversity among adult psychiatric inpatients.
J Affect Disord. 2023;331:50-6. PMID: [36933668](#)
Of 105 adult psychiatric inpatients, “history of childhood physical abuse was uniquely associated with abundance of distinct bacterial taxa associated with inflammation...This study did not account for dietary differences, though diet was highly restricted as all participants were psychiatric inpatients...These findings suggest that early childhood adverse events may have long-conferred systemic consequences. Future efforts may target the gut microbiota for the prevention and/or treatment of psychiatric and medical risk associated with traumatic life events.”

Adolescents

Nemeth JM, Glasser AM, Hinton A, et al.
Brain Injury Is Prevalent and Precedes Tobacco Use among Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness.
Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(6). PMID: [36982077](#)
Of 96 homeless youth, average age 22, minority race 84.4%, and minority gender/sexual orientation 26.0%, 87% of participants reported at least one exposure to blunt force head trauma and 65% to brain oxygen deprivation (strangulation, choking games). Intentional injury was more common than accidental. 60.4% were classified as having acquired brain injury (ABI) using the Brain Injury Severity Assessment. ABI occurred a median of 1 to 5 years before regular tobacco use, which was used by 70% of participants.

Tindberg Y, Janson S, Jernbro C.
Unintentional Injuries Are Associated with Self-Reported Child Maltreatment among Swedish Adolescents.
Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(7). PMID: [37047879](#)
Of 4741 Swedish adolescents surveyed, with a 78.5% response rate, statistically significant associations were reported between experiences of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, neglect, and witnessing partner violence during childhood, and unintentional injuries requiring health- or dental care during the last year (aOR between 1.39-1.77). A linear association was seen for degree of victimization and number of episodes of unintentional injuries that required care in the last year, as well as lifetime hospitalizations. “Healthcare professionals need to pay particular attention to children and adolescents who repeatedly seek healthcare services due to injurious events.”

de Vries TR, Arends I, Oldehinkel AJ, Bultmann U.
Direct and indirect associations between childhood adversity and emotional and behavioral problems at age 14: A network analytical approach.
Dev Psychopathol. 2023;1-12. PMID: [37039154](#)
Applying network analysis to a Dutch adolescent survey, “We found that bullying victimization, peer rejection, parental mental health problems, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse were the only AEs [adverse experiences] directly contributing to risk of emotional problems. Parental divorce and emotional abuse were the only AEs directly contributing to risk of behavioral problems.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Tutty LM, Lorraine Radtke H, Nixon KL.

"He Tells People That I Am Going to Kill My Children": Post-Separation Coercive Control in Men Who Perpetrate IPV.

Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231166408. PMID: [37006166](#)

346 Canadian women documented coercive controlling tactics used by their ex-partners (86.4% identified at least one). "Abusive partners used numerous strategies to coercively control their ex-partners by stalking/harassing them, using financial abuse, and discrediting the women to various authorities. Considerations for future research are presented."

Einiö E, Metsä-Simola N, Aaltonen M, et al.

Partner violence surrounding divorce: A record-linkage study of wives and their husbands.

Journal of marriage and the family. 2023;85(1):33-54. PMID: [37063457](#)

Using linked Finnish databases, "The risk of crime victimization for partner assault was already elevated from 2 to 3 years before divorce, peaked in the year prior to divorce, and then mainly leveled off 1-2 years after divorce. Hospital data show that the time of the greatest risk was from 6 to 12 months before divorce, when divorce is usually filed for. Women with younger children experienced elevated risks of physical violence shortly before divorce and remained at higher risk of menace than women without children for a year after divorce."

Rao MG, Stone J, Glazer KB, Howell EA, Janevic T.

Postpartum hospital use among survivors of intimate partner violence.

Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM. 2023;5(4):100848. PMID: [36638867](#)

"As many as 20% of pregnant individuals may experience IPV, and IPV during pregnancy has been associated with an increased risk for adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes, making pregnant individuals an especially vulnerable population... >50% of pregnancy-associated suicides and >45% of pregnancy-associated homicides are associated with IPV and these often occur during the postpartum period." Looking at 30-day hospital use after delivery for NY City individuals 2016-2018, "The incidence of a postpartum ED visit was significantly higher among individuals with an IPV diagnosis than among those without (odds ratio [OR] 2.8), and this was true after sequentially adjusting for

demographic and structural determinants of health, comorbidities and pregnancy complications, psychosocial factors, and obstetrical complications. "Screening for risk factors such as IPV throughout the perinatal period, including at delivery admission and during the postpartum period, is imperative for comprehensive obstetrics care."

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Donaldson AE, Hurren E, Harvey C, Baldwin A, Solomon B. Front-line health professionals' recognition and responses to nonfatal strangulation events: An integrative review.

J Adv Nurs. 2023 Apr;79(4):1290-1302. PMID: [36811201](#)

From a research review, "The findings identified three main themes: an overall failure by health professionals to recognize nonfatal strangulation, a failure to report the event and a failure to follow up on victims after the event. Stigma and predetermined beliefs around nonfatal strangulation, along with a lack of knowledge about signs and symptoms, were the salient features in the literature. Lack of training and fear of not knowing what to do next are barriers to providing care to victims of strangulation. Failure to detect, manage and support victims will continue the cycle of harm through the long-term health effects of strangulation."

Kafka JM, Moracco KE, Graham LM, et al.

Intimate Partner Violence Circumstances for Fatal Violence in the US.

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 May 1;6(5):e2312768. PMID: [37163268](#)

"Researchers often study intimate partner homicide (IPH) but may overlook other IPV-related deaths. Family, children, or new dating partners can be killed in corollary homicides. A perpetrator of IPV may be killed as a result of law enforcement response to IPV (ie, legal intervention) or may die by suicide after committing homicide (ie, homicide-suicide). Additionally, IPV could contribute to suicide in the absence of other fatalities (ie, single suicide). We sought to provide the most complete assessment available of IPV's contribution to the burden of violent deaths in the US...This cross-sectional study found that IPV contributed to more violent deaths in the US than previously reported; nearly 1 in 10 violent deaths had IPV circumstances."

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Kim S, Warren E, Jahangir T, et al.

Characteristics of Intimate Partner Violence and Survivor's Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights From Subreddits Related to Intimate Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231168816. PMID: [37102576](#)

From a sample of IPV Reddit posts, “36% of the posts (n = 108) constituted self-reported IPV by survivors, of which 40% regarded current/ongoing IPV, and 14% contained help-seeking messages. A majority of the survivors' posts reflected psychological aggression, followed by physical violence. Notably, 61.4% of the psychological aggression involved expressive aggression, followed by gaslighting (54.3%) and coercive control (44.3%).” Survivors' top three needs during the pandemic were hearing similar experiences, legal advice, and validating their feelings/reactions/thoughts/actions. Such information will be useful for IPV surveillance, prevention, and intervention.

Sorsa M, Bryngeirsdottir HS, Paavilainen E.

"Going Forward Like a Grandmother in the Snow": Personal Survival Strategies, Motherhood, and Nature as Resources for Mothers Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(7). PMID: [37048003](#)
Finnish IPV survivors describe their personal survival strategies.



Taccini F, Mannarini S.

An Attempt to Conceptualize the Phenomenon of Stigma toward Intimate Partner Violence Survivors.

Behavioral sciences (Basel, Switzerland). 2023;13(3). PMID: [36975219](#)

In this research review, external and internal stigma against IPV survivors can affect their psychological well-being, their safety, and hinders their help-seeking process. “Stereotypes appear to refer to myths of domestic violence/IPV that are shared by the general population and consist of blaming survivors, minimizing violence, justifying the perpetrator, and considering IPV as corresponding only to physical abuse. Additionally, prejudices appear to correspond to feelings of blame, shame, and fear in IPV survivors, perpetrators, and the general population...the general population seems to blame IPV survivors for the violence they experienced, and survivors can internalize this blame—self-stigma.”

Bailey R, Dugard J, Smith SF, Porges SW.

Appeasement: replacing Stockholm syndrome as a definition of a survival strategy.

European journal of psychotraumatology. 2023;14(1):2161038. PMID: [37052112](#)

“Stockholm syndrome or traumatic bonding has been used in mainstream culture, legal, and some clinical settings to describe a hypothetical phenomenon of trauma survivors developing powerful emotional attachments to their abuser...We propose replacing Stockholm syndrome with 'appeasement', a term to describe how survivors may appear emotionally connected with their perpetrators to effectively adapt to life-threatening situations by calming the perpetrator. We believe the term appeasement will demystify the reported survivor experiences and will, in the eyes of the public, victims, and survivors, provide a science-based explanation for their narratives of survival that may initially appear to be contradictory.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Bayne A, Mumford EA, Lancaster C, Sheridan-Johnson J.

Technology-facilitated abuse among Americans age 50 and older: a latent class analysis.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2023;1-23. PMID: [37006131](#)

Of 1011 U.S. adults ages 50 and older, 63.8% of respondents reported some experience of technology-facilitated abuse during their lifetime. Authors discuss socio-economic characteristics, perpetrator relationship, and resulting harms associated with these experiences, to inform research, prevention, and intervention activities.

Elman A, Gottesman E, Makaroun LK, et al.
Adult Protective Services Perspectives on Responding to Elder Abuse During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Journal of applied gerontology. 2023;7334648231166276.
PMID: [37083117](#)

From focus groups and interviews with elder abuse stakeholders about challenges during the pandemic, “Participants identified challenges faced by APS (e.g., clients less willing to engage with APS, inability to perform necessary job tasks remotely, and low staffing levels) as well as strategies APS used in response (e.g., increasing collaboration with other community-based programs and service providers, enabling remote court hearings through technology and in-person facilitation, and ensuring staff had access to personal protective equipment). These findings may inform APS planning for future large-scale societal disruptions.”

Sexual Assault

Yang D, Cordone A, Sun WW, et al.
Emergency department visits in Connecticut for survivors of sexual assault before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Am J Emerg Med. 2023;67:97-9. PMID: [36842427](#)
Of sexual assault (SA) patients at 3 Connecticut EDs before and during the pandemic, “The majority were female, White, and presented within 120 h of SA. There was a two times proportional increase in ED presentations for SA during the pandemic. While there was no difference in medical care, there were fewer sexual assault advocates called (58% called pre-pandemic, only 18% called early pandemic). Consideration needs to be assessed for how to best support these patients when there are limitations on the presence of others.”

Williamson J.
Sexual Assault Labels, Compassion for Others, Self-Compassion, and Victim Blaming.
Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231168635. PMID: [37078142](#)

“Two studies examined whether label preferences (survivor, victim, neither/other/both) and past assault experience (assaulted or not assaulted) are related to compassion for others, self-compassion, rape myth acceptance, and cognitive distortions surrounding rape. Findings indicate that a preference for a victim label is related to more negative outcomes (e.g., propensity to victim-blame, less compassion for others) compared to those advocating for a survivor label or falling into a neither/other/both category. Furthermore, those

who experienced sexual assault have significantly lower self-compassion compared to those who do not experience sexual assault. Implications for the impact of labels are discussed.”

McMahon S, Connor RA, Frye V, Cusano J, Johnson L.
The presence, action, and influence of bystanders who witness sexual harassment against medical students.
Med Teach. 2023 Mar 30:1-6. PMID: [36997163](#)

Using data from a larger campus study, more than one-third of 584 medical students “experienced some form of sexual harassment [SH] by a faculty/staff member. Bystanders were present for more than half of these incidents, yet they rarely intervened. When bystanders intervened, people were more likely to disclose an incident than not. There are many missed opportunities for intervention, and given the profound impact that SH has on the well-being of medical students, continued work is needed to determine effective intervention and prevention methods.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Moschella-Smith EA, Potter SJ, Mumford EA.
Academic and Career Outcomes Following Sexual Assault in Early Adulthood: A Comparison of LGBQ+ and Heterosexual Women.

Violence Against Women. 2023;29(6-7):1168-82. PMID: [35989673](#)

From a survey of 901 adults, “LGBQ+ women were more likely to report negative impacts on academic and career goals (e.g., changed course of study) and transitions (e.g., switched jobs) following SA [sexual assault] victimization than heterosexual women...Our findings highlight the need for services and resources dedicated to LGBQ+ victims of SA, particularly in educational and workplace settings.”

Chang CJ, Fischer IC, Depp CA, et al.
A disproportionate burden: Prevalence of trauma and mental health difficulties among sexual minority versus heterosexual U.S. military veterans.

J Psychiatr Res. 2023;161:477-82. PMID: [37086703](#)
Of 4069 veterans, sexual minority veterans (5.3%) were “more likely to report childhood sexual abuse (odds ratio [OR] = 2.82), military sexual trauma (OR = 2.29), adverse childhood experiences, current and lifetime drug use disorder (ORs = 3.66 and 2.41, respectively), current alcohol use disorder (OR = 1.62), current and lifetime PTSD (ORs = 2.03 and 1.55, respectively), non-suicidal self-injury (OR = 3.19), and future suicide intent (OR = 2.65).”

Valentine SE, Smith AM, Miller K, Hadden L, Shipherd JC.
Considerations and complexities of accurate PTSD assessment among transgender and gender diverse adults.
Psychol Assess. 2023;35(5):383-95. PMID: [36656725](#)

From interviews with 44 adult trans women (38%), trans men (25%), nonbinary people (23%), and other TG diverse (TGD) identities (14%), mean age 37 years, all of whom reported trauma exposure, and 49% of whom met PTSD diagnostic criteria, PTSD accuracy was more problematic “when symptoms were linked to discrimination-based traumatic events, suggesting the importance of understanding contextual factors of index events. We offer a framework for understanding unique challenges to the assessment of PTSD among TGD people and provide recommendations for improving assessment.”

Chan A, Pullen Sansfaçon A, Saewyc E.
Experiences of discrimination or violence and health outcomes among Black, Indigenous and People of Colour trans and/or nonbinary youth.

J Adv Nurs. 2023 May;79(5):2004-2013. PMID: [36534267](#)
From an online survey of Canadian Trans and Nonbinary youth aged 14-25 years, 25.7% identified as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). BIPOC adolescents “reported significantly higher prevalence of suicide attempts (24.9% vs. 19.5%) and violence victimization compared to white trans/nonbinary youth. They had significantly higher odds of self-harm and foregone health care when experiencing discrimination by ethnicity or culture.”

Human Trafficking

Winks KMH, Cerda F, Rood CJ, Quas JA.
Frontline Medical Professionals' Ability to Recognize and Respond to Suspected Youth Sex Trafficking.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2023;39(4):219-25. PMID: [36626238](#)
From a survey of Southern California medical first responders (firefighters, paramedics) and ED professionals on response to a variety of “high risk adolescent” vignettes, only 1% of first responders and 12% of ED clinicians recognized possible sex trafficking. In addition, 46% of first responders explicitly said that responding further was outside of their job responsibilities, while only 2% of ED professionals indicated this.

Race/Cultural Concerns

Lawrence WR, Jones GS, Johnson JA, et al.
Discrimination Experiences and All-Cause and Cardiovascular Mortality: Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis.

Circulation Cardiovascular quality and outcomes. 2023:e009697. PMID: [37017086](#)

In this large multiethnic study with nearly 2 decades of follow-up, experiences of discrimination were linked to higher all-cause and especially cardiovascular mortality, with stronger associations for Black participants.

Rainer T, Lim JK, He Y, et al.
Structural Racism in Behavioral Health Presentation and Management.

Hosp Pediatr. 2023 May 1;13(5):461-470. PMID: [37066672](#)
“Nia is a first-grade student with a history of trauma who was brought in by ambulance to the pediatric emergency department for ‘out of control behavior’ at school. This is the first of multiple presentations to the emergency department for psychiatric evaluation, stabilization, and management throughout her elementary and middle school years. At times, clinical teams used involuntary emergency medications and physical restraints, as well as hospital security presence at the bedside, to control Nia’s behavior. Nia is Black and her story is a case study of how structural racism manifests for an individual child. Her story highlights the impact of adultification bias and the propensity to mislabel Black youth with diagnoses characterized by patterns of negative behaviors, as opposed to recognizing normative reactions to trauma or other adverse childhood experiences—in Nia’s case, poverty, domestic violence, and Child Protective Services involvement.”

Green J, Satyen L, Toumbourou JW.
Influence of Cultural Norms on Formal Service Engagement Among Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231162971. PMID: [37073947](#)
Based on a research review including 20 different cultural groups, “cultural norms that influence formal service engagement regarding IPV were identified: (1) gender roles and social expectations, (2) community recognition and acceptance of abuse, (3) honor-based society, (4) the role of religion, and (5) cultural beliefs and attitudes toward formal services. These findings have important implications for responses to family violence, particularly concerning family violence education for non-Anglo-Saxon ethnically diverse communities and best-practice strategies to improve the cultural relevancy of formal service providers.”

Abboud S, Zubi M, Shalabi I, Taha N, Velonis A, Patil C.
Intimate partner violence prevention amongst Arab American young adults in Chicago: Implications for intervention development.

J Adv Nurs. 2023 Apr;79(4):1589-1602. PMID: [35894101](#)
 Chicago-area Arab American young adults indicated high exposure to psychological and physical dating violence victimization (76.3% and 47.2%) and perpetration (62.2% and 27%). “Participants supported the adaptation and development of a youth-centered IPV prevention intervention that is community-based, culturally informed, and inclusive of multiple Arab community stakeholders.”

Mayne GV, Namazi M.
Social Determinants of Health: Implications for Voice Disorders and Their Treatment.

American journal of speech-language pathology. 2023;32(3):1050-64. PMID: [37059074](#)
 “Voice is a critical medium of human communication and social interaction; therefore, partial or total loss of voice may have profound implications for quality of life and safety. Problems with the voice can also lead to severe functional and occupational impairment for professionals who rely heavily on vocalization, such as singers, teachers, lawyers, and actors.” Functional voice disorders are caused by improper use of the vocal apparatus that may arise from tension or stiffness of the vocal cords or other structures, and may result in such conditions as vocal fatigue/voice “loss”, coarseness, and hoarseness. Authors discuss social determinants of health, ACEs, stress, and trauma with regards to functional voice disorders.

Table 1. Healthy People 2030’s (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2020) social determinants of health.

Domain	Examples
Economic stability	Employment Food insecurity Housing instability Income Job opportunities Poverty
Education access & quality	Early childhood development and education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early life stress • Early life socioeconomic status • Relationships with parents and caregivers • Access to early education programs Language and literacy High school graduation Enrollment in higher education
Healthcare access & quality	Access to health services Access to primary care Health literacy
Neighborhoods & built environments	Access to healthy food Access to physical activity opportunities Crime and violence Environmental conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polluted air • Contaminated water • Extreme heatHousing quality
Social & community context	Civic participation Discrimination Incarceration Racism Relationships and social support

Falusi O, Chun-Seeley L, de la Torre D, et al.
Teaching the Teachers: Development and Evaluation of a Racial Health Equity Curriculum for Faculty.

MedEdPORTAL 2023;19:11305. PMID: [36999061](#)
 “Medical faculty are increasingly expected to teach about the impact of racism on health and to model the principles of health equity. However, they often feel ill-equipped to do so, and there is limited literature on faculty development on these topics. We developed a curriculum for faculty education on racism and actions to advance racial health equity.”
[Access to article and training materials](#)

Perpetrators

Lai K, Jameson JT, Russell DW.
Prevalence and correlates of destructive behaviors in the US Naval Surface Forces from 2010-2020.

BMC psychology. 2023;11(1):103. PMID: [37029407](#)
 From a study of US Navy Operational Reports 2010-2020, domestic violence perpetrators were both men and women, but predominantly men. Sexual assault offenders were overwhelmingly male, and were three times more likely to be senior in rank. Suicidality was found more in personnel aged 25 and younger. Females were overrepresented in terms of suicidal ideation and attempts, while males accounted for more suicidal completion.

Starrett EJ, Sperry K, Galliher RV.
The Art of Seduction: Male Endorsement of Coercive and Willful Sex Tactics.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231168825. PMID: [37086104](#)
 From an anonymous 2019 US online survey of 387 males, mean age 35 years, approximately 25% of participants reported using or endorsing coercive sexual tactics from vignettes taken from the popular and widely endorsed book the Art of Seduction, 2003. “The core syntax throughout the book illustrates the reader as ‘the seducer’ and the target of their seduction as their ‘victim’. ‘Victims’ are also referred to as ‘prey’ and a ‘target’ ‘for the kill’, and a predatory mentality is praised and encouraged...Several demographic factors and experiences related to higher endorsement of the coercive tactics, including past or present involvement in a fraternity, knowing a sexual assault perpetrator, affiliating with a religion, and frequent pornography viewing.”

Police and Court Systems

Jones ACT, Repke A, Batastini AB, et al.

The power of presentation: How attire, cosmetics, and posture impact the source credibility of women expert witnesses.

J Forensic Sci. 2023 May;68(3):962-971. PMID: [37016533](#)

Mississippi jury-eligible adults were shown 16 different conditions of a woman expert which varied in attire, cosmetic use, and posture. Women experts were seen as marginally more credible when wearing a skirt suit than a pant suit. "Female expert attractiveness and participant sexist attitudes accounted for the most variability in credibility scores. Credibility of women expert witnesses may be impacted by irrelevant peripheral cues."

Providers

Bhui K, Butch I.

The trouble with trauma and triggering.

Lancet Psychiatry. 2023 Apr 17:S2215-0366(23)00112-8.

PMID: [37080220](#)

Authors believe that "Asking and learning about adverse experiences and life events is crucial." They comment on the possibility that asking doesn't happen because the asker is either too uncomfortable or is concerned about "triggering" the patient, and that askers need to "develop the skills to manage their responses and potential vicarious trauma." They also note that "Trigger warnings are useful, if carefully placed and worded, but they should be designed not to overstate fears of re-traumatisation."

Panel: Triggering responses

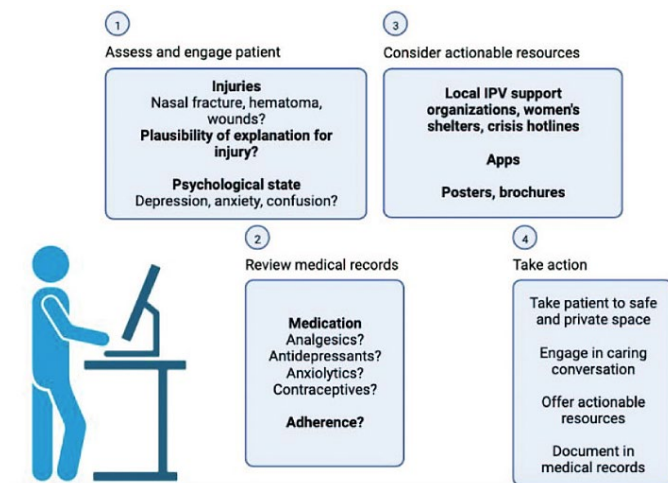
- No reaction at all: if adversity is common, it is not out of the ordinary
- Surprise and startle that are transient
- Dysphoria or experience of anxiety and depression that is transient or fluctuating; although recalling traumatic experiences is distressing, some people are unable to recall the experiences and autobiographical memory is disrupted, a common consequence of trauma
- More sustained experiences of dysphoria that warrant therapeutic input
- A response that amounts to an emotional crisis that requires support or a more specific intervention until the person feels able again to return to their life or usual situation, perhaps with awareness of therapeutic needs or recall of forgotten moments in their lives

Mikhael V, Ghabi R, Belahmer A, et al.

Intimate partner violence: Defining the pharmacist's role.

Can Pharm J (Ott). 2023;156(2):63-70. PMID: [36969310](#)

"Easily accessible and knowledgeable, pharmacists may be able to identify IPV survivors, assess the immediate danger, and refer a survivor appropriately. This is especially true if the pharmacist has already built a relationship of trust with the IPV survivor. Furthermore, pharmacies are places where people can buy daily necessities and thus likely are accessible for IPV survivors who are being monitored by their abusers. Pharmacies also offer private and safe spaces for caring conversations and display options for actionable resources."



Feldstein DA, Barata I, McGinn T, et al.

Disseminating child abuse clinical decision support among commercial electronic health records: Effects on clinical practice.

JAMIA Open. 2023;6(2):o0ad022. PMID: [37063409](#)

Electronic health record (EHR)-embedded child abuse clinical decision support (CA-CDS) tools were embedded into two different medical systems with different EHRs after both groups of clinicians expressed similar desires for such a system, and there was an initial training period. At follow-up, one group had rapid uptake and a positive impression, and the other group did not. "When disseminating CA-CDS into different hospital systems and different EHRs, it is critical to recognize how limitations in the functionality of the EHR can impact the success of implementation. The importance of collecting, interpreting, and responding to provider feedback is of critical importance."

Novick J.

Hairdos and Help-seeking: Mandatory Domestic Violence Training for Salon Workers.

Am J Law Med. 2022;48(4):435-46. PMID: [37039758](#)

“States including Arkansas, Illinois, Tennessee and Washington enacted laws that mandate domestic violence training for salon workers and other beauty professionals...However, they do not require any affirmative action on the part of the salon worker if the client discloses that he or she is experiencing domestic violence. This paper investigates how the legislation uses the historically close relationship between hairdressers and their clients in order to achieve a unique way of reaching domestic violence victims, as well as the drawbacks to the legislative structure and atypical public health approach.”

Riebel M, Weiner L.

Feasibility and Acceptability of Group Compassion-Focused Therapy to Treat the Consequences of Childhood Maltreatment in People With Psychiatric Disorders in France.

J Nerv Ment Dis. 2023;211(5):393-401. PMID: [37040141](#)

In this small French pilot study, 8 adult patients with a history of childhood maltreatment with difficult-to-treat psychiatric disorders participated in a 12-session group CFT (compassion-focused therapy). Adherence to therapy was 75% and attendance 88.3%, and all participants reported high satisfaction. Posttreatment, self-compassion significantly increased, and depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic scores decreased.

Prevention

Keane K, Evans RR.

Exploring the Relationship Between Modifiable Protective Factors and Mental Health Issues Among Children Experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences Using a Resilience Framework.

J Child Adolesc Trauma. 2022 Jul 14;15(4):987-998. PMID: [36439658](#)

Using data from a 2019 National Survey of Children’s Health survey within the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child resilience framework, authors were able to confirm that for children with 4+ ACEs, who had an increased risk of mental health issues, the two factors of self-regulation and a supportive parent/caregiver relationship significantly protected against mental health conditions. “Interventions that teach children skill-based self-regulation and parent/caregiver co-regulation while providing safe and supportive

environments can build self-regulation to overcome ACEs.”

Lett E, Hyacinthe MF, Davis DA, Scott KA.

Community Support Persons and Mitigating Obstetric Racism During Childbirth.

Ann Fam Med. 2023 Apr 5:2958. PMID: [37019478](#)

Of 806 Black birthing people, 89.3% had a community support person (CSP) present with no hospital affiliation or alignment. The presence of CSPs were associated with fewer acts of obstetric racism across all 3 domains of a validated instrument, the Patient-Reported Experience Measure of Obstetric Racism.

Pond R, Gillmore C, Blanchard N.

Lived experiences of resilience for women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse: A systematic review of qualitative studies.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;140:106152. PMID: [37028256](#)

This research review about lived experiences of resilience processes used by women who had been subjected to childhood sexual abuse included distancing oneself from sexual abuse; building healthy interpersonal, community, and cultural connections; drawing on spiritual belief systems; reframing the sexual abuse; placing blame with the perpetrator; reclaiming self-worth; taking control of one's life; and pursuing meaningful goals. For some, it involved forgiveness of self and others, reclaiming one's sexuality, and/or fighting against diverse forms of oppression.”

Frank M, Daniel L, Hays CN, et al.

Association of Food Insecurity With Multiple Forms of Interpersonal and Self-Directed Violence: A Systematic Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231165689. PMID: [37009984](#)

From a research review, food insecurity was significantly associated with IPV, suicide, suicidality, peer violence, bullying, youth dating violence, and child maltreatment. “Results highlight the potential for programs and policies that address food insecurity to function as primary prevention strategies for multiple forms of violence and underscore the importance of trauma-informed approaches in organizations providing food assistance.”

Researchers

Cross LM, Warren-Findlow J, Bowling J, Reeve CL, Isseel LM.
**A pilot study of the adverse childhood experiences-
 dimensions questionnaire (ACE-DQ): Associations with
 depression.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;140:106158. PMID: [36996592](#)
 Of 450 participants in a study that compared the original ACE questionnaire with ACE-DQ that includes dimensions of frequency and timing of events and perception of impact, authors believe that the original ACE index may overestimate outcomes such as depression, the full ACE-DQ may be too burdensome to fill out, but that simply adding perception of impact for each ACE to a simple ACE screener may reflect a more accurate measure for screening and research purposes.

Milner JS, Crouch JL, Ammar J, Jensen A.
**Effect sizes and effect size benchmarks in family violence
 research.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;139:106095. PMID: [36989983](#)
 “Scholarly journals increasingly request that authors include effect size (ES) estimates when reporting statistical results. However, there is little guidance on how authors should interpret ESs...Some of the challenges to developing ES benchmarks in any scholarly discipline are discussed. For professionals who are not well informed about ESs, the present review is designed to increase their understanding of ESs and what ES benchmarks tell them (and do not tell them) with respect to understanding the meaningfulness of family violence research findings.

Sullivan TP, Chiamonte D, Clark DA, Swan S.
**Intimate Partner Violence Fear-11 Scale: An Item Response
 Analysis.**

Psychology of violence. 2023;13(2):161-70. PMID: [37065535](#)
 Authors describe the validation of a fear scale for IPV, which was also moderately to strongly correlated with depression symptoms, PTSD symptoms, and physical violence.

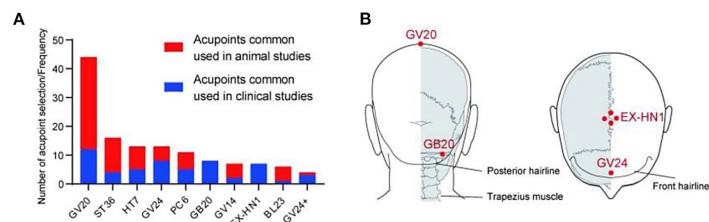
Items

1. I watched what I did to try to avoid setting off my partner.
2. I avoided talking to people that might make my partner jealous.
3. I tried hard not to make my partner angry.
4. I was afraid of my partner.
5. My partner scared me sometimes.
6. I did what my partner told me to do to avoid making him angry.
7. Sometimes, I got scared of what my partner might do to me.
8. I think my partner could really hurt me one of these days.
9. I would have liked to leave my relationship, but I was worried about what my partner would do to me.
10. I felt safe that my partner would not hurt me (reverse coded).
11. People who are close to me worried that my partner would hurt me.

Other of Interest

Tang X, Lin S, Fang D, Lin B, Yao L, Wang L, Xu Q, Lu L, Xu N.
**Efficacy and underlying mechanisms of acupuncture
 therapy for PTSD: evidence from animal and clinical studies.**
 Front Behav Neurosci. 2023 May 2;17:1163718. PMID: [37200784](#)

“As a major public health problem, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has a substantial impact on individuals and society. The total excess economic burden of PTSD in the US is estimated to be more than \$232.2 billion a year. Acupuncture is widely used in patients with PTSD, and an increasing number of studies have been undertaken to assess acupuncture for the treatment of individuals with PTSD.” In this review, authors discuss the efficacy and biological mechanisms of acupuncture in comparison to psychological treatment and pharmacotherapy, and the most commonly used acupoints and methods. “Acupuncture may be effective in treating PTSD by regulating the structure and components of several brain areas, regulating the neuroendocrine system, and involving signaling pathways...findings indicate that acupuncture has promising potential for treating PTSD.”



Bryant RA, Dawson KS, Azevedo S, et al.
**Augmenting trauma-focused psychotherapy for PTSD with
 brief aerobic exercise: a randomised clinical trial.**

Lancet Psychiatry. 2023 Jan;10(1):21-29. PMID: [36436532](#)
 In this clinical trial, adults with PTSD were randomized to 9 weekly treatments of PTSD exposure therapy including 10 minutes of aerobic exercise, vs. 10 minutes of stretching. At 6 months, the exercise group showed a moderate effect size of decreased PTSD symptoms more so than the stretching group. “Brief aerobic exercise has the potential to augment long-term gains of exposure therapy for PTSD...in modulating the extinction learning process. This strategy might offer a simple and affordable means to augment treatment gains for exposure therapy in people with PTSD.”