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Child Abuse

Saul J, Valle LA, Mercy JA, et. al; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CDC grand rounds: Creating a healthier future through prevention of child maltreatment.

MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2014 Mar 28;63(12):260-3. PMID: [24670927](#)

In 2012 1593 children were reported to have died as a result of maltreatment, and 6.3 million children were reported to CPS agencies re: suspected abuse. However, many cases are not reported. It is estimated that 13.8% of children are maltreated each year and 25.6% experience maltreatment at some point during childhood.

Kelly PA, Viding E, Wallace GL, et. al.

Cortical thickness, surface area, and gyrification abnormalities in children exposed to maltreatment: neural markers of vulnerability?

Biol Psychiatry. 2013 Dec 1;74(11):845-52. PMID: [23954109](#)

In comparing brain scans of 22 children with documented abuse and carefully matched non-maltreated children, subtle structural abnormalities were noted with reduced brain cortical thickness, reduced surface area, and reduced gyrations (brain "swirls"). Authors suggest these findings may be precursors of the selective reduced brain volume seen in adults with histories of childhood abuse.

De Leeuw M, Beuls EA, Jorens PG, Parizel PM, Jacobs W.

History of an abusive head trauma including a lucid interval and a retinal hemorrhage is most likely false.

Am J Forensic Med Pathol. 2013 Sep;34(3):271-6. PMID: [23896724](#)

Belgian forensic experts examined the histories of 47 children with abusive head trauma and concluded that a history of a "lucid interval" (where a child was unconscious and regained consciousness before deteriorating again) was only present with impact or blunt injuries and not present with shaking injuries, which they stated either produced an immediate effect or no effect on consciousness.

Trübner K, Schubries M, Beintker M, Bajanowski T.

Genital findings in boys suspected for sexual abuse.

Int J Legal Med. 2013 Sep;127(5):967-70. PMID: [23744277](#)

Discussion of injuries to boys' genitalia and the differentiation between accidental injury and sexual abuse.

Bass C, Glaser D.

Early recognition and management of fabricated or induced illness in children.

Lancet. 2014 Apr 19;383(9926):1412-21. PMID: [24612863](#)

"We describe the features of fabricated or induced illness, its effect on the child, and the psychosocial characteristics of caregivers and their possible motives."

Richards LM.

It is time for a more integrated bio-psycho-social approach to ADHD.

Clin Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2013 Oct;18(4):483-503. PMID: [23104966](#)

"The role of psychosocial factors in perpetuating and predisposing towards the development of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms has been neglected within the field of child mental health. Clinicians, when told that a child had a diagnosis of ADHD, have been found to underestimate the presence of psychosocial factors, and are less likely to ask about the possibility of neglect or abuse. This article details the considerable research showing links between ADHD symptoms and parental mental illness, child maltreatment, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)".

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Ehlert U.

Enduring psychobiological effects of childhood adversity.

Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2013 Sep;38(9):1850-7. PMID: [23850228](#)

Mini-review of the effects of childhood trauma and long-term consequences on stress-related hormonal

systems, the immune system and inflammation, and psychiatric and physical conditions.

LaNoue M, Graeber DA, Helitzer DL, Fawcett J.

Negative affect predicts adults' ratings of the current, but not childhood, impact of adverse childhood events.

Community Ment Health J. 2013 Oct;49(5):560-6. PMID: [22460928](#)

For 158 community members “not all individuals who experience ACE's [Adverse Childhood Events] follow a trajectory of poor outcomes, and not all individuals perceive the impact of ACE's as necessarily negative... Results indicated that, regardless of event severity and number of different types of adverse events experienced, high levels of negative affect [mood] were the strongest predictor of whether the adult impact of the adverse childhood events was rated as negative.”

Dannlowski U, Kugel H, Huber F, et. al.

Childhood maltreatment is associated with an automatic negative emotion processing bias in the amygdala.

Hum Brain Mapp. 2013 Nov;34(11):2899-909. PMID: [22696400](#)

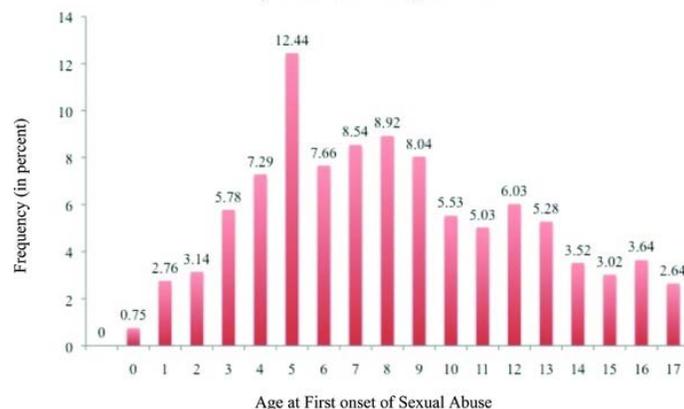
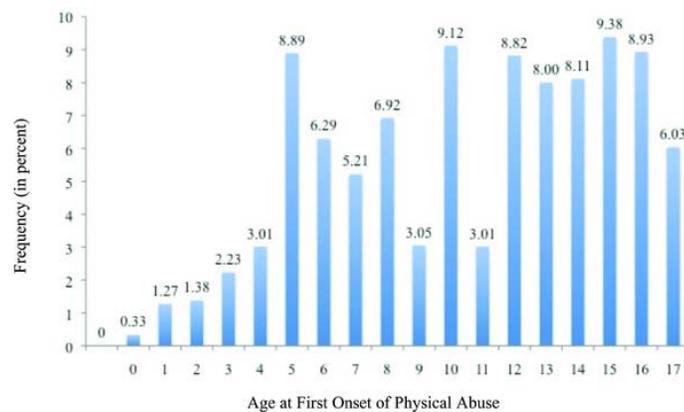
In 150 psychologically healthy subjects, those with a history of childhood maltreatment showed detectable changes in part of the brain that became hyper-responsive to negative facial cues. This is also a finding in major depression and authors hypothesize that these childhood-induced changes may increase the risk of depression in later life.

Dunn EC, McLaughlin KA, Slopen N, Rosand J, Smoller JW.
Developmental timing of child maltreatment and symptoms of depression and suicidal ideation in young adulthood: results from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health.

Depress Anxiety. 2013 Oct;30(10):955-64. PMID: [23592532](#)

Using data from a large national study, while childhood maltreatment was associated with adult depression and suicidality, age of exposure was important. “Respondents first exposed to physical abuse during preschool had a 77% increase in the odds of depression and those first exposed to sexual abuse during early childhood had a 146% increase in the odds of suicidal ideation compared to respondents maltreated as adolescents.”

These following graphs show percentage age distribution of first physical and sexual abuse by a parent or adult caregiver (not a dating partner).



Adolescents

Draucker CB, Mazurczyk J.

Relationships between childhood sexual abuse and substance use and sexual risk behaviors during adolescence: An integrative review.

Nurs Outlook. 2013 Sep-Oct;61(5):291-310. PMID: [23810256](#)

In a research review, “there was considerable evidence that CSA [childhood sexual abuse] was related to the use of a variety of substances, a myriad of sexual behaviors, pregnancy, and STIs among adolescents.”

Post M, Hanten G, Li X, et. al.

Dimensions of trauma and specific symptoms of complex posttraumatic stress disorder in inner-city youth: a preliminary study.

Violence Vict. 2014;29(2):262-79. PMID: [24834747](#)

Of 65 inner city youth, 49% met criteria for PTSD, with higher rates for females. “Our findings suggest that Domestic trauma may result in more emotional numbing/avoidance symptoms than other types of trauma...[whereas] Community trauma may result in more intrusions and hyperarousal symptoms rather than emotional numbing.”

Beard JW.

Adolescents and child maltreatment.

NASN Sch Nurse. 2014

Mar;29(2):71-4. PMID: [24707655](#)

Review of child abuse and the health and behavior problems associated with maltreated adolescents for school nurses.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Reynolds RM, Labad J, Buss C, et. al.

Transmitting biological effects of stress in utero: implications for mother and offspring.

Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2013 Sep;38(9):1843-9. PMID: [23810315](#)

Review of the effects of maternal stress on the intrauterine environment “which may lead to permanent changes in structure and physiology, thus 'programming' the fetus to risk of ill health in later life.”

Nongrum R, Thomas E, Lionel J, Jacob KS.

Domestic violence as a risk factor for maternal depression and neonatal outcomes: a hospital-based cohort study.

Indian J Psychol Med. 2014 Apr;36(2):179-81. PMID: [24860221](#)

In this Indian study of 150 pregnant women, “Domestic violence was associated with antenatal and postnatal depression, spouse's insistence of a boy baby, medical complications during pregnancy, preterm delivery, and lower birth-weight.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

As-Sanie S, Clevenger LA, Geisser ME, Williams DA, Roth RS.

History of abuse and its relationship to pain experience and depression in women with chronic pelvic pain.

Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2014 Apr;210(4):317.e1-8. PMID: [24412745](#)

Of 273 women presenting to a referral center for evaluation of chronic pelvic pain, abuse categories were not associated with pain severity, however adolescent or adult sexual abuse predicted greater pain-related disability and depression.

Colarossi L, Dean G.

Partner violence and abortion characteristics.

Women Health. 2014;54(3):177-93. PMID: [24580133](#)

From a chart review of 6564 women with a history of IPV at a family planning or abortion appointment, compared to women without IPV history, were more likely to have had problems with birth control, repeat abortions and miscarriages. Women experiencing current IPV were more likely to request an abortion at a later gestational age.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Suvak MK, Taft CT, Goodman LA, Dutton MA.

Dimensions of functional social support and depressive symptoms: a longitudinal investigation of women seeking help for intimate partner violence.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2013 Jun;81(3):455-66. PMID: [23398492](#)

For 388 women seeking help for DV, depression levels decreased over the following 4.5 years if women had a “‘perceived availability of people one can do things with’ – not availability of material aid or availability of someone to talk about one’s problems...interventions should consider ways to get survivors connected to informal social networks.”

Forbes D, Lockwood E, Phelps A, et. al.

Trauma at the hands of another: distinguishing PTSD patterns following intimate and nonintimate interpersonal and noninterpersonal trauma.

J Clin Psychiatry. 2014 Feb;75(2):147-53. PMID: [24345958](#)

Of 1012 adults from an Australian national survey, survivors of intimate interpersonal trauma (as opposed to stranger interpersonal trauma or non-personal trauma such as disasters) experienced particularly severe intrusive memories and reminders.

Weaver TL, Griffin MG, Mitchell ER.

Symptoms of posttraumatic stress, depression, and body image distress in female victims of physical and sexual assault: exploring integrated responses.

Health Care Women Int. 2014;35(4):458-75. PMID: [24215653](#)

For 73 predominantly African American victims of IPV, injury severity and degree of trust violation were significantly associated with body image distress, which was correlated with degree of PTSD symptoms and which was a unique predictor of depression.

Sutherland MA, Fantasia HC, McClain N.

Abuse experiences, substance use, and reproductive health in women seeking care at an emergency department.

J Emerg Nurs. 2013 Jul;39(4):326-33. PMID: [22088770](#)

Of 145 adult women seen in an ED in the southeastern US, 42.8% reported childhood sexual abuse, 34.7% IPV physical violence during the past year, 46% harmful drinking patterns in the past year and 50% substance use in the past 3 months.

Sexual Assault

Gutner CA, Casement MD, Stavitsky Gilbert K, Resick PA.

Change in sleep symptoms across Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure: a longitudinal perspective. Behav Res Ther. 2013 Dec;51(12):817-22. PMID: [24184428](#)

For 171 female rape victims with PTSD, therapy treatments over time improved sleep, but 9 months after treatment patients still experienced difficulty with sleep quality, nightmares and insomnia. "Overall, sleep symptoms do not remit and may warrant sleep-specific treatments."

Westmarland N, Alderson S.

The health, mental health, and well-being benefits of rape crisis counseling.

J Interpers Violence. 2013 Nov;28(17):3265-82. PMID: [23926218](#)

A "Taking Back Control" tool that measured the impact of rape crisis counseling over time piloted in 5 rape crisis centers in Northern England showed the benefit of counseling, especially in improved self-empowerment and decreased flashbacks and panic attacks.

Mont JD, White D.

Barriers to the effective use of medico-legal findings in sexual assault cases worldwide.

Qual Health Res. 2013 Sep;23(9):1228-39. PMID: [23935160](#)

In an analysis of handling of sexual assault worldwide, "We found that a lack of competence in handling sexual assault cases, contempt for women who have been victimized, and corruption among some forensic examiners, police, scientists, and legal personnel often have shaped the collection, processing, analysis, and use of medico-legal evidence." Recent initiatives and future research directions are discussed.

Cultural Issues

Nowotny KM, Graves JL.

Substance use and intimate partner violence victimization among White, African American, and Latina women.

J Interpers Violence. 2013 Nov;28(17):3301-18. PMID: [23946141](#)

From an ongoing national multi-ethnic survey, while African American women experienced higher rates of substance use, substance use for them did not increase as a consequence of IPV, as it did for White or Latina women.

Edwards KM, Sylaska KM.

The perpetration of intimate partner violence among LGBTQ college youth: the role of minority stress.

J Youth Adolesc. 2013 Nov;42(11):1721-31. PMID: [23233160](#)

In a study of 391 LGBTQ college youth asked about partner violence, LGBTQ issues added to IPV stress with findings such as physical abuse being related to identity concealment.

Kenny MC, Wurtele SK.

Child sexual behavior inventory: a comparison between Latino and normative samples of preschoolers.

J Sex Res. 2013;50(5):449-57. PMID: [22456487](#)

The mothers of 188 Latino preschool children filled out a Child Sexual Behavior Inventory (CSBI) to establish normative data, which provided substantially different results in certain areas than the standard CSBI norms.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Sooryanarayana R, Choo WY, Hairi NN.

A review on the prevalence and measurement of elder abuse in the community.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2013 Oct;14(4):316-25. PMID: [23878148](#)

In a review of worldwide literature on elder abuse of elders living at home or at a relative's house, the highest prevalence was reported in Spain with 44.6% suspected abuse. Psychological abuse and financial exploitation were the most common types of maltreatment reported worldwide.

Perpetrators

Siegel JP.

An expanded approach to batterer intervention programs incorporating neuroscience research.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2013 Oct;14(4):295-304. PMID: [23978773](#)

“This article reviews findings that have informed the treatment of disorders that are strongly represented among perpetrators of intimate violence, such as addiction, posttraumatic stress disorder, mood, anxiety, and personality disorders. The article argues for an expanded perspective that recognizes the relationships among childhood trauma, emotional regulation impairment, and intimate partner violence.”

Stuart GL, Moore TM, Elkins SR, et. al.

The temporal association between substance use and intimate partner violence among women arrested for domestic violence.

J Consult Clin Psychol. 2013 Aug;81(4):681-90. PMID: [23647284](#)

For female IPV perpetrators, women were 10.58 times more likely to perpetrate physical violence on a drinking day, and 5.22 times more likely to be victimized by physical violence on a drinking day.

Police and Court Systems

Wray AM, Hoyt T, Gerstle M.

Preliminary examination of a mutual intimate partner violence intervention among treatment-mandated couples.

J Fam Psychol. 2013 Aug;27(4):664-70. PMID: [23750516](#)

Pilot study of a 12 week mandated intervention for couples with mutual IPV showed that 1 year later couples who completed had lower recidivism rates, with couples in which both partners completed evidencing the best outcomes.

Casanueva C, Fraser JG, Gilbert A, et. al.

Evaluation of the Miami Child Well-Being Court model: safety, permanency, and well-being findings.

Child Welfare. 2013;92(3):73-96. PMID: [24818431](#)

A court model “makes evidence-based clinical intervention and integration of the treating clinician's ongoing assessment and perspective central in the dependency court process.” Of 33 participating parent-child pairs, none had a new report of maltreatment, there was a significant reduction in children’s developmental delays, and improved quality of the parent-child relationship.

Providers

Larkin H, Felitti VJ, Anda RF.

Social work and adverse childhood experiences research: implications for practice and health policy.

Soc Work Public Health. 2014 Jan 2;29(1):1-16. PMID: [24188292](#)

Review of adverse childhood experiences studies (ACEs) with subsequent adult health risk behaviors and principal causes of death in the US, and how effective social work practices that prevent ACEs could support the achievement of national health policy goals with significant cost savings.

Ramachandran DV, Covarrubias L, Watson C, Decker MR.

How you screen is as important as whether you screen: a qualitative analysis of violence screening practices in reproductive health clinics.

J Community Health. 2013 Oct;38(5):856-63. PMID: [23645349](#)

From interviews with providers in urban Baltimore reproductive health clinics, there was substantial variation in screening practices as well as referral and follow-up, despite the existence of a screening tool. “Factors that appeared to undermine consistent and successful screening implementation included lack of a common goal for screening, lack of clarity in staff roles, a gap in on-site support services, as well as lack of time and confidence.”

Leppäkoski T, Flinck A, Paavilainen E.

Assessing and enhancing health care providers' response to domestic violence.

Nurs Res Pract. 2014;2014:759682. PMID: [24864205](#)

Finnish researchers describe the challenges of instituting training interventions re: IPV for healthcare providers. “Changes happen slowly, and administrative support is needed to sustain such changes. Therefore, this paper offers recommendations to improve health care providers' response to DV. Moreover, there is a great need for evaluating the training programme used.”

Higginbotham N, Lawson KA, Gettig K, et. al.

Utility of a child abuse screening guideline in an urban pediatric emergency department.

J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2014 Mar;76(3):871-7. PMID: [24553563](#)

After an abuse algorithm for children under one year of age with fractures was introduced into a Texas pediatric trauma center ED, “screening was no longer associated with socioeconomic status of the patient's family, although final determination of child abuse still was.”

Singh V, Petersen K, Singh SR.

Intimate Partner Violence Victimization: Identification and Response in Primary Care.

Prim Care. 2014 Jun;41(2):261-281. PMID: [24830608](#)
General review article on identification and management of IPV for primary health care providers.

Prevention

Christensen MC.

Using theater of the oppressed to prevent sexual violence on college campuses.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2013 Oct;14(4):282-94. PMID: [24056799](#)

Review of the use of theater for social change as a prevention intervention for IPV on college campuses.

Researchers

Lincoln AK, Arford T, Prener C, Garverich S, Koenen KC.

The need for trauma-sensitive language use in literacy and health literacy screening instruments.

J Health Commun. 2013;18 Suppl 1:15-9. PMID: [24093341](#)

“The authors' aim is not only to call attention to the use of triggering language in existing literacy and health-related assessments and research instruments, but also to advocate that others take similar steps toward embracing more sensitive language by removing or replacing words that may cause unnecessary stress, anxiety, or pain to those who are at increased risk of retraumatization.”

Other of Interest

Berkowski M, MacDonald DA.

Childhood trauma and the development of paranormal beliefs.

J Nerv Ment Dis. 2014 Apr;202(4):305-12. PMID: [24647210](#)

From a survey of 198 undergraduates, a significant correlation was found between childhood trauma and paranormal beliefs. Authors suggest these beliefs may be explained by fantasy-proneness and avoidant coping style relating to the trauma.

Usta J, Feder G, Antoun J.

Attitudes towards domestic violence in Lebanon: a qualitative study of primary care practitioners.

Br J Gen Pract. 2014 Jun;64(623):e313-20. PMID: [24868068](#)

While primary care Lebanese physicians felt they could play an important role in addressing DV, “yet they had concerns related to personal safety, worry about losing patients, and opposing the norms of a largely conservative society. Several physicians justified DV or blamed the survivor rather than the perpetrator for triggering the violent behaviour. Moreover, religion was perceived as sanctioning DV.”

Chu T, Keller AS, Rasmussen A.

Effects of post-migration factors on PTSD outcomes among immigrant survivors of political violence.

J Immigr Minor Health. 2013 Oct;15(5):890-7. PMID: [22976794](#)

For 875 immigrant survivors of political violence resettled in the US, PTSD symptoms caused by pre-migration experiences such as rape were significantly worsened by post-migration financial and legal insecurity.

McEwen FS, Moffitt TE, Arseneault L.

Is childhood cruelty to animals a marker for physical maltreatment in a prospective cohort study of children?

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Mar;38(3):533-43. PMID: [24268376](#)

Of 2232 British twins followed from age 5 to 12, 9% were cruel to animals. While animal cruelty was associated with child maltreatment (3.32 times more likely), many of these children had not been maltreated. Maltreatment was more predictable if animal cruelty was persistent or child was older.

Sorenson SB, Shi R, Zhang J, Xue J.

Self-presentation on the Web: agencies serving abused and assaulted women.

Am J Public Health. 2014 Apr;104(4):702-7. PMID: [24524489](#)

In an analysis of a 10% sample of 3774 national agencies servicing women victims of violence, “Victims (94%) and donors (68%) were the primary intended audiences. About one half used social media and one third provided cues to action. Almost all (96.4%) of the Web pages were rated ‘fairly difficult’ to ‘very confusing’ to read, and 81.4% required more than a ninth-grade education to understand.”

[Highly recommend this article for agencies with a web presence.] See tables for details →

Table 2 – Website Home Pages

Characteristic	%
Intended audience	
Victims and survivors	94
Women	94
Children	54
Elderly	11
Men	15
Other ^a	14
Donors	68
Potential workers	62
Employees	30
Volunteers	49
Educators and researchers	33
Allies for change ^b	30
Policy makers	18
Potential abusers	6
Services	
Shelter	44
Knowledge	36
Legal advice	33
Counseling	31
Safety tips or plan	22
Prevention education	20
Financial assistance	10
Accompaniment	9
Marketing	
Credentialing	94
Logo	80
Mission statement	79
Announcements	81
Agency events	67
News ^c	66
Funder acknowledgment	26
Donations	
Donate button	65
Needed resources list	18

^aLesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning: 8%; African Americans: 7%; Hispanics: 6%; immigrants: 6%; military affiliates: 2%.

^bFamily and friends, for example.

^cAgency news (26%) and general news (14%).

^aEnables users to view content in another language.

^bInteraction tools to communicate with agency staff, viewers, etc.

^cHotline number: 68%; main line: 23%; TTY/TDD (teletypewriter/telecommunications device for the deaf): 9%.

^dBlog: 9%; YouTube: 8%; Flickr: 2%; Google Plus: 2%.

^eRich Site Summary (RSS) feed: 7%; Web badges: 0%; Web widgets: 0%.

Table 3 – Usability Characteristics

Category	%
Language	
English	100
Spanish	23
Translation button ^a	6
Navigation	
Navigation bar	95
Site map	15
Search mechanism	24
Internal hyperlink(s)	18
External hyperlink(s)	21
Escape button	32
Display	
Multimedia	80
Photographs	77
Video	12
Changeable display	3
Mobile version	1
Interactivity^b	
Contact information	98
Telephone number ^c	87
Contact-us button	70
E-mail address	30
Fax number	25
Social media	53
Facebook	47
Twitter	23
E-mail list	21
Other ^d	17
Social tools ^e	7
Online (real-time) chat support	3
Leave-comment option	3