Child Abuse

Peterson C, Xu L, Florence C, Parks SE.
Annual Cost of U.S. Hospital Visits for Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma.
 CDC estimates of national costs of abusive head trauma (AHT) for children 0-4 years for period 2006-2011: average medical cost (in 2012 dollars) per ED visit $2612, average cost per admission $31,901, and average total annual nationwide medical cost of AHT hospital visits $69.6 million.

King AJ, Farst KJ, Jaeger MW, Onukwube JJ, Robbins JM.
Maltreatment-Related Emergency Department Visits Among Children 0 to 3 Years Old in the United States.
Using data 2006-2011 for children aged 0-3, 0.1% of total ED visits were classified as maltreatment (most common physical abuse) and 1.2% as likely maltreatment (most common neglect).

Westrick AC, Moore M, Monk S, Greeno A, Shannon C.
Identifying Characteristics in Abusive Head Trauma: A Single-Institution Experience.
Pediatr Neurosurg. 2015;50(4):179-86. PMID: 26068322
Of 138 children (2006-2013) who suffered abusive head trauma at Vanderbilt Medical Center, 61% were Caucasian males and 86.3% were the youngest sibling; median age was 5 months with injuries 31% during summer and 63% on weekdays. 18% died, with median age 8.6 months.

Trautmann J, Alhusen J, Gross D.
Impact of deployment on military families with young children: A systematic review.
Nurs Outlook. 2015 Nov-Dec;63(6):656-79. PMID: 26183660
In a review of research articles on the effects of military deployment on young children since 9/11, “Deployment was associated with increased parent stress, child behavior problems, health care utilization, and child maltreatment.”

Taylor CM, Ross ME, Wood JN, et. al.
Using substantiated CPS reports for 112,325 US Army soldiers over multiple deployments 2001-2007, an increase was noted during deployment but also a previously unrecognized spike in the 6 months after homecoming.

Cozza SJ, Ortiz CD, Fullerton CS, et. al.
Types, Subtypes, and Severity of Substantiated Child Neglect in U.S. Army Communities.
Mil Med. 2015 Nov;180(11):1147-53. PMID: 26540706
Evaluating child neglect cases from 4 US Army installations, most common were lack of supervision 35.3%, emotional neglect 31.8%, failure to provide physical needs 26.2% and educational neglect 2.6%.

Pierce MC, Magana JN, Kaczor K, et. al.
The Prevalence of Bruising Among Infants in Pediatric Emergency Departments.
From a prospective, multi-center study of children <12 months presenting to emergency rooms with bruising, rates of bruising were 1.3% for younger than 5 months and 6.4% for 5-12 months. 83% of bruising was associated with a trauma chief complaint, and in only 0.2% with a medical chief complaint. 23% of bruised infants received an abuse evaluation, which increased to 50% for those < 5 months.
Martin S.
Journal Watch Review of Behavioral problems after early
life stress: Contributions of the hippocampus and amygdala.
J Am Psychoanal Assoc. 2015 Dec;63(6):1244-6. PMID:
26671867
Review of a human study which demonstrated a
positive correlation between early life stress,
decreased amygdala and hippocampal volumes
(parts of the brain having to do with learning,
memory, emotion and response to stress), and later
behavioral problems. Author correlates another
study showing that neonatal maternal separation in
rat pups lead to increased methylation and
diminished activity of a certain gene, which in turn
decreased the ability of the adult hippocampal
neural cells to grow into neurons.

Freisthler B, Wolf JP, Johnson-Motoyama M.
Understanding the Role of Context-Specific Drinking in
Neglectful Parenting Behaviors.
Alcohol Alcohol. 2015 Sep;50(5):542-50. PMID: 25810450
From a phone survey of 2152 parents of children 12
years or younger in 50 cities in California, frequency
of drinking with friends was associated with leaving
a child home alone, drinking with family associated
with unsafely monitoring their child, and drinking at
parties was associated with leaving a child alone in a
car.

Frankenberger DJ, Clements-Nolle K, Yang W.
The Association between Adverse Childhood Experiences
and Alcohol Use during Pregnancy in a Representative
Sample of Adult Women.
Womens Health Issues. 2015 Nov-Dec;25(6):688-95. PMID:
26227209
For 1987 adult pregnant woman, 6% reported
drinking alcohol during pregnancy. After controlling
for multiple factors including prepregnancy drinking,
increasing ACE scores were associated with higher
odds of alcohol use during pregnancy (1 ACE 2.92
times more likely, 2-3 ACE 3.52 and 4 or >4 ACEs
4.79).

Jacobs MB, Boynton-Jarrett RD, Harville EW.
Adverse childhood event experiences, fertility difficulties
and menstrual cycle characteristics.
J Psychosom Obstet Gynaecol. 2015;36(2):46-57. PMID:
25826282
From a self-report survey of 742 pregnant and non-
pregnant women from Louisiana aged 18-45, and
controlling for likely confounders including age,
race, BMI, education, tobacco use or income level,
women with high levels of childhood adversity,
compared to no adversity, were 2.75 times more
likely to experience infertility.

Adolescents
Schneiderman JU, Negriiff S, Peckins M, et. al.
Body mass index trajectory throughout adolescence: a
comparison of maltreated adolescents by maltreatment
type to a community sample.
In late adolescence, girls who had experienced
neglect or sexual abuse began to show higher BMI
than comparison girls.

Shao D, Gao QL, Li J, Xue JM, Guo W, Long ZT, Cao FL.
Test of the stress sensitization model in adolescents
following the pipeline explosion.
Compr Psychiatry. 2015 Oct;62:178-86. PMID: 26343483
For 670 Chinese adolescents who experienced a
pipeline explosion, especially for females, a history
of childhood emotional abuse increased the PTSD
symptoms for those with high explosion exposure.
Domestic Violence –
Effects on Children

Douglas EM, Hines DA.
Children’s Exposure to Partner Violence in Homes Where Men Seek Help for Partner Violence Victimization.
J Fam Violence. 2016 May;31(4):515-525. PMID: 27134344
For 611 men seeking help for abuse from their partner, 2/3 had children at home, and those children were exposed to multiple forms of partner violence at higher rates than a general population sample.

Robbins HA, Hurley EA, Liu L, Chao SM.
Multilevel correlates of broadly- and narrowly-defined intimate partner violence among pregnant women in Los Angeles.
In a Los Angeles survey of over 12,000 women who recently gave birth, IPV prevalence during pregnancy was 3.9% by narrow (physical or sexual abuse only) and 18.3% by broad (adding emotional abuse) definition. Both categories were associated with significantly increased odds of substance abuse and medical problems such as hypertension and premature labor.

Stover CS, Coates EE.
The Relationship of Reflective Functioning to Parent Child Interactions in a Sample of Fathers With Concurrent Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration and Substance Abuse Problems.
For 24 IPV abusive and substance using fathers with children aged 1-7, substance abuse and IPV perpetration severity were significantly more important variables contributing to child avoidant behavior and pair tension than the factor of fathers’ reflective ability.

Domestic Violence –
Physical Health

From a German study of 10,264 women stratified by age, the abuse factor most associated with health symptoms (especially gastrointestinal, psychological, and pelvic) was controlling behavior, often not included in screening.


Women presenting for an annual gynecologic exam, or for symptoms of vulvar itching, or symptoms of vulvar pain, all reported similar rates of sexual and physical abuse.


"Frequent requests for pregnancy and STI [sexually transmitted infection] testing and emergency contraception among young females seeking care may be an indicator of greater risk for recent RC [reproductive coercion], alone and in combination with IPV."


From interviews with 66 African-American and White women at reproductive health clinics, barriers to the concept of a planned pregnancy included lack of perception that they had reproductive control, male partner reproductive coercion and contraceptive sabotage, lack of understanding of benefits of a planned pregnancy, and perception of low risk of conceiving. “Because preconception intention and planning do not necessarily occur, decisions about the acceptability of a pregnancy are often determined after the pregnancy has already occurred.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health


64% of 164 women seeking protection orders reported significant PTSD symptoms. Risk factors for increased PTSD symptoms included a history of childhood sexual abuse and an increased level of present perceived danger.


As part of a European Study, of 1436 French adults “Being beaten up by a romantic partner (25.0%), having a child with serious illness (23.5%), and rape (21.5%) were associated with the highest risk of PTSD. The average duration of PTSD was 5.3 years.”

Sexual Assault


Of 13,001 US service women, 10.5% reported recent sexual harassment and 2.9% recent sexual assault, both of which were associated with poorer mental health, physical health, difficulties in work/activities, and demotion. “Sexual trauma represents a potential threat to military operational readiness and draws attention to the importance of prevention strategies and services to reduce the burden of sexual trauma on military victims.”


For 199 veterans, controlling for a variety of factors including combat experience, deployment-related sexual trauma was an independent risk factor for suicidal ideation.
O’Donovan A, Cohen BE, Seal KH, et al. 
*Elevated risk for autoimmune disorders in Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder.*
Prevalence of autoimmune disorders in male and female veterans was increased with diagnosis of PTSD. Military sexual trauma for both sexes was also independently associated with increased autoimmune risk.

McMahon S. 
*Participation in High School Sports and Bystander Intentions, Efficacy to Intervene, and Rape Myth Beliefs.*
From a survey of 3588 recent high school graduates, “The results indicate that only some minor differences exist between varsity athletes and non-athletes on some of the bystander intention and rape myth acceptance subscales, and no differences exist for bystander efficacy.”

CDC
*Updated Guidelines for HIV Prophylaxis after Nonoccupational Exposure 2016*

**Human Trafficking**

*Human trafficking and health: a cross-sectional survey of NHS professionals’ contact with victims of human trafficking.*
BMJ Open. 2015 Aug 20; 5(8): e008682. PMID: 26293659
From a British survey of multiple clinical disciplines, 13% of healthcare providers reported previous contact with a patient they knew or suspected of having been trafficked; this was 20.5% in the maternity services. However they reported very low levels of training, knowledge, and confidence in management.

Stoklosa H, Grace AM, Littenberg N. 
*Medical education on human trafficking.*
AMA J Ethics. 2015 Oct 1; 17(10): 914-21. PMID: 26496054
Review of human trafficking and need for increased medical education on this topic.

Chung RJ, English A. 
*Commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of adolescents.*
“This review describes the current state of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of adolescents in the United States and globally, the legal and health implications of this severe form of abuse, and the roles that pediatric and adolescent healthcare providers can play in addressing this issue.”
Case study analysis of 49 female minor sex traffickers from federal, state and local cases (Arizona) showed that females received significantly lower prison and probation sentences than male co-defendants. The features of five specific types of female traffickers are discussed.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

CDC Elder Abuse Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Recommended Core Data Elements 2016

Elder justice: Preventing and intervening in elder mistreatment.
Nurs Outlook. 2015 Sep-Oct;63(5):610-3. PMID: 26598770
Policy Statement from the American Academy of Nursing on policy regarding elder abuse, including recommendations for prevention, recognition, treatment, education, training, and research.

Fisher JM, Rudd MP, Walker RW, Stewart J. Training Tomorrow's Doctors to Safeguard the Patients of Today: Using Medical Student Simulation Training to Explore Barriers to Recognition of Elder Abuse.
In a British medical student simulation training on elder abuse, “Students held a low index of suspicion for elder abuse and were overly optimistic regarding the etiology of the individual's injuries. Students lacked the confidence to raise concerns about possible elder abuse, believing that certainty was required before doing so. There was widespread confusion about nomenclature.”

Cultural Issues

Of 66 low income women from reproductive health clinics in Western Pennsylvania, 53% of African American (AA) and 20% of white women reported reproductive coercion. “AA women identified relationship transiency and impending incarceration as potential motivations for men to secure a connection with a female partner via pregnancy.”

From a Canadian study of young urban drug using indigenous people, 92% had experienced childhood maltreatment and 71% foster care. Factors associated with higher resilience included having grown up in a family that often/always lived by traditional culture, or spoke traditional language.

Perpetrators

Dev Psychobiol. 2015 Sep;57(6):705-18. PMID: 25213098
50 adolescent males aged 12-18 at a maximum-security correctional facility were assessed as to HPA axis (stress hormone system) and HPG axis (sex hormone system). These axes have been thought to behave inversely – high stress hormones leading to lower sex hormones. However for these individuals, especially those with a higher history of childhood maltreatment, the axes were coupled – high testosterone levels were associated with high cortisol stress hormones.

J Interpers Violence. 2015 Sep;30(15):2659-82. PMID: 25326011
From a New Zealand study of 845 women who had experienced physical violence by their partner, only 19% ever reported physical violence against their partner outside of a male initiated violent episode. Women’s initiation of violence was strongly associated with alcohol, drug use, and personal history of childhood exposure to maternal DV.

“This model explains how violence fits within the context of perpetrators’ lives, and examines what is different when violence is removed.”


In analyzing 224 individual cases of residential burglary with sexual incidents, rather than the premise that such opportunities arose while carrying out regular burglaries, instead sexual burglars acted opportunistically to select targets which were easy to break into and where the victim was alone.


Succinct article with multiple included resources.


12 child sexual abuse survivors were interviewed about their experiences with breast, cervical and colon cancer screening, with recommendations for providers on compassionate care.


From interviews with pregnant women with a history of childhood sexual abuse, “Women experienced re-enactment of abuse through pain, loss of control, encounters with strangers and unexpected triggers. Many of these experiences were specific to the woman, often unpredictable and not necessarily avoidable. Maternity care was reminiscent of abuse for women irrespective of whether they had disclosed to midwives and was not necessarily prevented by sensitive care.”


Description of the development of an online educational module “Addressing Past Sexual Assault in Clinical Settings”.

(Canadian resources but general principles apply)
Module: http://dveducation.ca/sexualassault/
Core competencies: http://www.dveducation.ca/downloads/Sexual-Assault-Competencies.pdf

Blue Shield California Foundation
Domestic violence survivors' empowerment and mental health: Exploring the role of the alliance with advocates. 
For 370 help-seeking women in DV programs, stronger alliance with program advocates were associated with reduced symptoms of both depression and PTSD, through empowerment in the domain of safety.

Gilroy H, McFarlane J, Nava A, Maddoux J. 
Community resource use among abused immigrant women: baseline data analysis for a 7-year prospective study. 
For 106 abused immigrant women in Texas, “The most frequently noted service needed was counseling (33.0%) followed by legal services (22.3%) and social services (12.6%). Law enforcement was the most commonly used service (59.4%) and the most difficult to receive (48.5%).”

Researchers

Cronholm PF, Forke CM, Wade R, et. al. 
Adverse Childhood Experiences: Expanding the Concept of Adversity. 
“Current knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) relies on data predominantly collected from white, middle-/upper-middle-class participants and focuses on experiences within the home. Using a more socioeconomically and racially diverse urban population, Conventional and Expanded (community-level) ACEs were measured...” Expanded ACEs included witnessed violence (40.5%), felt discrimination (34.5%), unsafe neighborhood (27.3%), experienced bullying (8.0%), lived in foster care (2.0%).

Figure 1. Overlapping exposure to Conventional and Expanded Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Prevention

CDC 
Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities 2016 

CDC 
Stop SV: A Technical Package to Stop Sexual Violence 2016 

Other of Interest

Kamath SS. 
Journey of a Girl Child in India During Health and Disease. 
Indian Pediatr. 2015 Oct;52(10):835. PMID: 26499002
From the National President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, “There are 1076 women per 1000 men in Europe and 1029 women per 1000 men in North America, but there are only 914 women per 1000 men in India...There are now 48 fewer girls per 1000 boys than there were in 1981...These numbers reflect neglect and mistreatment of the girl child in India.”

Kendall T, Albert C. 
Experiences of coercion to sterilize and forced sterilization among women living with HIV in Latin America. 
J Int AIDS Soc. 2015 Mar 24;18:19462. PMID: 25808633
Of 285 women living with HIV in 4 South American countries, 23% reported sterilization pressure from medical providers, including coercion with misinformation, denying medical services, and forced sterilization during caesarean delivery.

Gao Y, Shi L, Smith KC, Kingree JB, Thompson M. 
Physical Aggression and Mindfulness among College Students: Evidence from China and the United States. 
For samples of college students in both the US and China, the trait of mindfulness (natural mindfulness) was negatively associated with hostility, verbal, physical and anger aggression. Authors suggest future research on whether mindfulness training would lower aggression.