

# ABUSE RESEARCH

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## Child Abuse

Price JH, Khubchandani J.

### **Firearm Mortality Among Pre-school Age Children, 2010-2020.**

J Community Health. 2023 Jun;48(3):414-419. PMID: [36538204](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36538204/)

Of firearm deaths of preschool children aged 0-5, “Most deaths (two-thirds) were among males. Non-Hispanic Blacks comprised 56.4% of all deaths in 2020, a 172% increase from 2010. The rate for non-Hispanic Whites increased by 15.4% from 2010 to 2020. The majority of the deaths occurred in the South. Almost two-thirds (65.9%) of all firearm deaths were homicides, 30% were unintentional, and 4.1% were undetermined. Homicides were also the majority of deaths for non-Hispanic Blacks (64.9%), non-Hispanic Whites (60.8%), and Hispanics (81.3%). Sustained awareness campaigns should be implemented to make parents and guardians aware of the profound dangers of unlocked and loaded or unsafely stored firearms in the home. Child healthcare providers should counsel parents and guardians on firearm safety in households. Public health professionals should advocate for laws that can help protect children from firearm violence (e.g., Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Child Access Prevention laws, and Extreme Risk Protection Order laws).”

Swendiman RA, Scaife JH, Barnes KL, et al.

### **Hanging and Strangulation Injuries: An Institutional Review From a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center.**

J Pediatr Surg. 2023 Feb 28:S0022-3468(23)00176-8. PMID: [37002058](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37002058/)

A retrospective review was conducted that included all patients who presented after hanging or strangulation to a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center from 2011 through 2021. 128 patients met inclusion criteria. The median age was 13 years, 60.9% were male, and 75% were intentional injuries. Mortality was high (32%), and 25% of patients with

nonaccidental injuries had a documented prior suicide attempt.

Cameron H, Holland A, Wong T.

### **Understanding emergency placements for Nova Scotian children in foster care.**

Paediatr Child Health. 2023;28(2):75-7. PMID: [37151918](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37151918/)

“To cope with a critical lack of foster families, Nova Scotia's Department of Community Services uses rented private facilities staffed by subcontracted companies, known as ‘places of safety’. Similar models are used across the country, with places of safety intended to be used for emergency placements only. The mean length of stay in a place of safety was 255 nights in 2020. Male children are far overrepresented, as are Indigenous children. Despite the increasing use of places of safety, little is known about the impacts of these short-term and unhomelike environments.” Authors present advocacy priorities and directions for further research.

Cleveland RW, Deming RS, Helton G, Wilson CR, Ullrich CK.

### **Revisiting medical neglect concerns in children with life-threatening complex chronic conditions.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;141:106220. PMID: [37207521](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37207521/)

From interviews with 20 clinicians caring for children with life-threatening complex chronic conditions (LT-CCC), “Clinicians report that concerns for medical neglect in children with LT-CCCs often arise from a mismatch of medical expectations and the perception of familial ability to provide said medical care. Given the complex and delicate medical and psychosocial environments of care for children with LT-CCCs, these medical neglect concerns are more accurately described as Medical Insufficiency, a new term. By reframing this entity, we can reframe the dialogue surrounding this issue, and reconsider approaches to studying, preventing, and resolving it.”

## Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Vergunst F, Commisso M, Geoffroy MC, et al.  
**Association of Childhood Externalizing, Internalizing, and Comorbid Symptoms With Long-term Economic and Social Outcomes.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Jan 3;6(1):e2249568. PMID: [36622675](#)

For 3017 Quebec children aged 6-12 years in 1985, teacher-rated behavioral symptoms included no/low group (45.4%), high externalizing symptoms (29.2% - such as anger, aggression), high internalizing symptoms (11.7% - such as depression, anxiety), and comorbid (13.7% - both types). At follow-up at mean age 37 years, those in the externalizing group (compared to the no/low group) earned \$5904 less per year and were 2.0 times more likely to receive welfare. The high internalizing group earned \$8473 less per year and were 2.07 times more likely to receive welfare. The comorbid group earned \$15,031 less and were 3.79 times more likely to receive welfare. The internalizing group was also less likely to have an intimate partner, and the comorbid group was less likely to have an intimate partner or children living at home.

Huang Z, Jordan JD, Zhang Q.

**Early life adversity (ELA) as a risk factor for cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease (AD).**

Transl Neurodegener. 2023;12(1):25. PMID: [37173751](#)

"In this review, we scrutinize findings from human and animal studies focusing on the connection of ELA with cognitive impairment and AD... ELA, especially at early postnatal stages, increases susceptibility to cognitive impairment and AD later in life. In terms of mechanisms, ELA could lead to dysregulation of the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis [stress hormones], altered gut microbiome, persistent inflammation, oligodendrocyte dysfunction [brain cell connections], hypomyelination [brain cell function], and aberrant adult hippocampal neurogenesis [brain growth and repair]...we discuss several interventions [environmental enrichment, exercise, and nutritional supplements in animal models] that may alleviate adverse consequences of ELA."

Rehan ST, Khan Z, Shuja SH, et al.

**Association of adverse childhood experiences with adulthood multiple sclerosis.**

Brain and behavior. 2023:e3024. PMID: [37128143](#)

From a research review with 11 studies, "Results support a significant association between ACEs and the development of MS, and to developing symptoms earlier...Moreover, the severity of ACEs is also linked with increased relapse rates of MS."

Elsenburg LK, Bengtsson J, Rieckmann A, Rod NH.  
**Childhood adversity and risk of type 2 diabetes in early adulthood: results from a population-wide cohort study of 1.2 million individuals.**

Diabetologia. 2023 Jul;66(7):1218-1222. PMID: [37076640](#)

From a large Danish registry, childhood adversity was significantly associated with increased risk of type 2 diabetes in early adulthood (16-38 years), for both men (Hazard ratio 2.41) and women (HR 1.58).

Bahanan L, Ayoub S.

**The association between adverse childhood experiences and oral health: A systematic review.**

J Public Health Dent. 2023 Jun;83(2):169-176. PMID: [36916213](#)

From a research review of 4 available studies, increasing ACEs were associated with increasing poor dental health as assessed by last dental visit, last cleaning, number of filled teeth, number of extracted teeth, and number of remaining teeth.

Cheng X, Dong X, Liu J, Qu S, Xu H, Yao Y, et al.

**Adverse childhood experiences and sleep duration among U.S. 65 years and older: results from the 2020 BRFSS.**

J Affect Disord. 2023;336:35-41. PMID: [37230260](#)

Among the 42,786 participants (55.8 % female) included in this analysis, 50.5 % reported at least one ACE, and 7.3 % reported 4 or more ACEs. Adjusting for confounding factors, experiencing ACEs was associated with short (Odds ratio 2.03) and long (OR 1.78) sleep duration. Older adults who experienced sexual abuse as children were 146% more likely to report short sleep and 99% more likely to report long sleep. There was a dose-response gradient between ACE scores and sleep duration. Reporting  $\geq 4$  ACEs had increased risk for short (OR 3.10) and long (OR 2.13) sleep duration compared to respondents reporting no ACEs.

Arnold R, Ahmed F, Clarke A, et al.

**The relationship between parental adverse childhood experiences and the health, well-being and development outcomes of their children: a systematic review.**

Public Health. 2023;219:146-53. PMID: [37186980](#)

In a research review that included 124,043 parents and their children, "Offspring of parents exposed to ACEs had a higher risk of a range of negative health, well-being and developmental outcomes. This relationship differs according to the number and type of parental ACEs...These findings indicate that screening for parental ACEs by health visitors, midwives and other health or social care staff may identify an at-risk population of infants, children and adolescents and improve child outcomes."

Bravo P, Kim Y, Xerxa Y, et al.

**Maternal history of maltreatment and offspring's emotional and behavioral problems in adolescence: Do family factors contribute to the intergenerational risk transmission?**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;141:106228. PMID: [37172532](#)

From a large Dutch study of 4912 adolescents and their mothers, adolescents of mothers with a personal history of childhood maltreatment were significantly more likely to report internalizing (such as depression) and externalizing (such as anger) problems, which was linked with poorer family functioning and harsh parenting.

Goodrich KM, Trott A, Rodríguez MN, Waller M, Lillioth E.

**The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Problem Gambling in New Mexico.**

J Prev (2022). 2023 Jun;44(3):309-324. PMID: [36759431](#)

From a racially mixed sample of 13,217 New Mexico adults, participants who reported problem gambling had increased odds of also reporting childhood exposure to adults with mental health issues (Odds ratio 1.34), living with incarcerated household members (OR 1.75), how often adults hit each other (OR 1.10) and how often anyone at least 5 years older forced them to have sex (OR 1.42).

Garcia-Grossman IR, Cenzer I, Steinman MA, Williams BA.  
**History of Incarceration and Its Association with Geriatric and Chronic Health Outcomes in Older Adulthood.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Jan 3;6(1):e2249785. PMID: [36607638](#)

Of US community dwelling adults over age 50, 7.6% reported a history of prior incarceration. After adjusting for multiple variables, a history of incarceration was associated with all geriatric syndromes evaluated, including cognitive, mobility, vision, and hearing impairment, urinary incontinence, and impairment of the activities of daily living. Incarceration was also associated with increased risk of chronic lung disease, mental health conditions, and heavy alcohol use.

## Adolescents

Hertz M, Heim Viox M, Massetti GM, et al.

**Adverse Childhood Experiences Among US Adolescents Over the Course of the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Pediatrics. 2023 Jun 1;151(6):e2022060799. PMID: [37158017](#)

From a national survey of adolescents aged 13-18, among 506 respondents of two survey waves (Fall 2020, Spring 2021), 27.2% experienced violence or abuse, 50.9% experienced a household challenge, and 34.9% experienced a community ACE by Wave

1. By Wave 2, 17.6% experienced 1 new ACE, 6.1% experienced 2 new ACEs and 2.7% experienced 4 or more new ACEs. Those with  $\geq 4$  ACEs by Wave 1 were 2.71 times as likely as those with none to report a new ACE at Wave 2. "Nearly one-third of adolescents experienced a new ACE between survey waves. Prevention and trauma-informed approaches in clinical, school, and community settings may be helpful."

Clayton HB, Kilmer G, DeGue S, et al.

**Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, and Bullying Victimization Among High School Students -Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021.**

MMWR Suppl. 2023;72(1):66-74. PMID: [37104527](#)

"In 2021, 8.5% of US high school students reported physical TDV [teen dating violence], 9.7% sexual TDV, 11.0% sexual violence by anyone, 15.0% bullying on school property, and 15.9% electronic bullying victimization during the past 12 months; 8.5% also reported experiencing forced sex in their lifetime." Disparities were observed for females, racial and ethnic minority students, and sex and gender minority students.

Khetarpal SK, Tiffany-Appleton S, Mickiewicz EE, et al.

**Sexual Health and Relationship Abuse Interventions in Pediatric Primary Care: A Systematic Review.**

J Adolesc Health. 2023 Apr;72(4):487-501. PMID: [36623966](#)

In this research review of healthy relationship/adolescent relationship abuse (ARA) interventions for pediatric primary care, 17 interventions targeting a variety of topics (e.g., sexually transmitted infections, contraception, ARA), largely focused on screening/counseling, and were reported as being effective in changing adolescent health or practice-level outcomes. "Future work should consider ARA-specific prevention interventions, including parents in interventions, and strategies for implementation, dissemination, and scaling."

Kellum CE, Kemp KM, Mrug S, Pollock JS, Seifert ME, Feig DI.

**Adverse childhood experiences are associated with vascular changes in adolescents that are risk factors for future cardiovascular disease.**

Pediatr Nephrol. 2023 Jul;38(7):2155-2163. PMID: [36622441](#)

Of 86 Alabama adolescents, for those with 1+ ACE compared to 0 ACE, while ambulatory and sleep blood pressure readings were similar, those with 1+ ACE showed increased vascular stiffness, a risk factor for future cardiovascular disease. "Adolescence could present an opportunity for early detections/interventions to mitigate adverse cardiovascular outcomes in adulthood."

Budden T, Hafizuddin A, Dimmock JA, et al.

### Support needs and experiences of young people living in families with mental illness.

J Adolesc. 2023 Jun;95(4):784-796. PMID: [36808749](#)

Interviews with 25 Australian adolescents mean age 13.6 years who lived with a family member with mental illness revealed lived experiences (i.e., increased responsibilities, missing out, and stigmatization), and support experiences, needs, and preferences (i.e., respite, shared experiences with like-minded others, education, and flexibility).

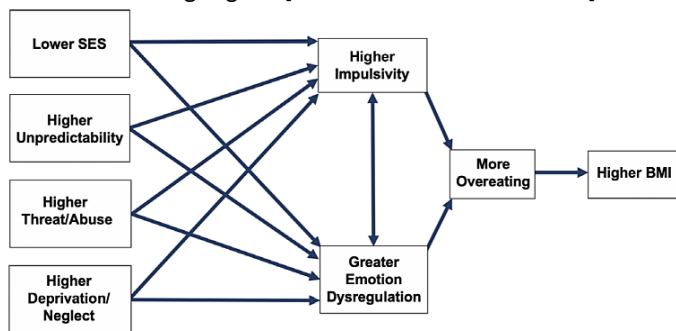
to be related to intimate partner problems (IPP - which include divorce, breakups, arguments, jealousy, conflict, discord, and violence). IPP-related female suicides, compared to non-IPP female suicides, were more likely to be among younger women, who were pregnant or postpartum, and who had more depression, substance abuse and previous interpersonal trauma. These suicides were also more likely to occur at the victim's home during the evening and night, by firearm and hanging.

## Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

### Doom JR, Young ES, Farrell AK, Roisman GI, Simpson JA. Behavioral, cognitive, and socioemotional pathways from early childhood adversity to BMI: Evidence from two prospective, longitudinal studies.

Dev Psychopathol. 2023;35(2):749-65. PMID: [35545317](#)

Authors analyze how two different studies of high-risk family groups identified the importance of various childhood life factors influencing impulsivity and emotional dysregulation, leading to overeating and weight gain. [SES = socioeconomic status]



## Domestic Violence – Physical Health

### Kim J, Wretman CJ, Radtke SR, Fraga Rizo C, Macy RJ. Characteristics of and Circumstances Associated With Female Intimate Partner Problem-Included Suicides: Analysis of Data From the National Violent Death Reporting System (2003-2019).

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231173436. PMID: [37212358](#)

An analysis of the US National Violent Death Reporting System revealed 23.1% of female suicides

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

### Toccalino D, Moore A, Cripps E, et al. Exploring the intersection of brain injury and mental health in survivors of intimate partner violence: A scoping review. Front Public Health. 2023 Mar 2;11:1100549. PMID: [36935693](#)

A research review reported significantly higher mental health (MH) difficulties in IPV survivors with BI (brain injury) than in those without BI. “Brain injury and MH are highly prevalent among IPV survivors; however, little research discusses the implication for healthcare. Future research should explore healthcare-related needs and experiences to inform policy and practice and better represent the diversity of IPV survivors.”

### Carthy N, Best D, Divers A. The Process of Leaving Abuse: Midlife and Older Male Experiences of Female-Perpetrated Intimate Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231173431. PMID: [37199370](#)

“Leaving an abusive relationship is a difficult process for all survivors. For men, this can be particularly challenging due to the current knowledge and support for survivors being heavily influenced by a feminist discourse, despite a growing body of research that examines men's experiences.” From interviews with 12 midlife and older men who had experienced female IPV, “The men in our study found it difficult to comprehend their experience as abuse and this is negatively reinforced by ineffective services and stereotypical beliefs about abuse. However, informal support through friends and family is a powerful tool in supporting men to leave abusive relationships. More work is needed to increase awareness of male survivors and ensure that services, including legal systems, are inclusive.”

# Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

El-Qawaqzeh K, Hosseinpour H, Gries L, et al.

## **Dealing with the elder abuse epidemic: Disparities in interventions against elder abuse in trauma centers.**

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2023 Jun;71(6):1735-1748. PMID:

[36876983](#)

Of 727,975 hospitalized trauma patients age 60+ years, 0.2% were reported for abuse. Patients with an abuse report were younger (72 vs 75), more likely to be females, Hispanic, Black, suffer from dementia and functional disability, have a positive admission drug screen, and have a higher injury severity score. "Perpetrators were members of the immediate/step/extended family in 91% of cases. Among patients with an abuse report, 75% had abuse investigations initiated. Of these, 23% resulted in a change of caregiver at discharge."

Burnes D, Pillemer K, Rosen T, Lachs MS, McDonald L.

## **Elder abuse prevalence and risk factors: findings from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging.**

Nat Aging. 2022;2(9):784-95. PMID: [37118505](#)

From a large Canadian survey of older adults, "Past-year prevalence of any elder abuse (EA) was 10.0%. Older adults with greater vulnerability related to physical, cognitive and mental health, childhood maltreatment and shared living were at higher EA risk, while social support was protective against EA. Older adults identifying as Black or reporting financial need were at heightened EA risk."

Makaroun LK, Rosland AM, Mor MK, et al.

## **Frailty predicts referral for elder abuse evaluation in a nationwide healthcare system-Results from a case-control study.**

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2023 Jun;71(6):1724-1734. PMID:

[36695515](#)

"Frailty may increase susceptibility to and consequences of EA for older adults, making healthcare system detection more likely." In this case-controlled study of veterans aged 60+ years evaluated by SW for suspected elder abuse (EA), and after adjusting for illness, elders with frailty were 3.6 times more likely to be referred for EA evaluation.

# Sexual Assault

Stewart ML, Shackel R, Freedman E, Templeton DJ.

## **Adult Sexual Assault Patients' Experience of the Physical Examination Component of the Medical Forensic Examination.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023 Mar 19:15248380231158606.

PMID: [36935572](#)

"Some patients find the examination empowering and reassuring, restoring a sense of bodily control; however, for others it is an intrusive, violating experience that they endure...more research on patients' self-reported experience, including specific aspects of the examination and the experience of male and gender nonconforming victim-survivors, is needed...It may also be time to assess the impacts of certain aspects of the forensic examination, rethink standard evidence collection processes, and consider enabling more acceptable options for victim-survivors including self-collection of intimate samples."

de Heer BA, Jones LC.

## **Tonic Immobility as a Defensive Trauma Response to Rape: Bridging Public Health and Law.**

Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231174347. PMID:

[37203155](#)

"There is widespread scientific evidence that validates tonic immobility (TI) as part of the trauma response in victims of rape...Yet, legal and policy definitions of consent do not fully recognize TI during the incident as evidence of nonconsent. Using a systematic review of U.S. law and policy regarding sexual violence and consent, this paper analyzes the substantial legal reform of rape law and definitions of consent, suggesting ways to further integrate TI into existing law and legal practices to improve public health approaches and justice responses for victims."

Carlisle ZT, Schmitz RM.

## **"I am a Man. How Could I Possibly Have Been Raped?' Men Making Sense of Their Experiences With Sexual Violence".**

J Interpers Violence. 2023:8862605231174500. PMID:

[37222535](#)

29 college men survivors related how they make sense of their experiences of sexual assault, revealing how they "struggled to understand their victimization experiences within cultural frameworks that exclude men as victims". Participants noted "epiphanies" to process their unwanted sexual encounter, in addition to altering their sexual behavior after experiencing sexual violence. "Findings can inform programing and interventions to be more inclusive of supporting men as victims".

Draughon Moret J, Choe L, Anderson JC.

### **Psychosocial Health Factors Among Men Reporting Recent Sexual Assault.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2023;19(2):88-99. PMID: [37205615](#)

For 69 men who had sought care for sexual assault within the previous 3 months, “Men in our sample were highly fearful of acquiring HIV, initiated HIV PEP, and completed or were actively taking HIV PEP at the time of data collection despite high rates of mental health symptoms [including 64% symptoms of depression and 70% symptoms of PTSD] and physical side effects. These findings suggest that forensic nurses need not only to be prepared to provide comprehensive counseling and care to patients about HIV risk and prevention options, but also to address the unique follow-up needs of this population.”

Ellis AE, Martino S, Simiola V, et al.

### **Training Male Sexual Abuse Survivors as Peer Leaders to Deliver Motivational Interviewing and Trauma-Informed Affirmative Care.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2023;32(4):494-512. PMID: [37080178](#)

“This paper provides a description and evaluation of training male sexual abuse survivors to deliver Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Motivational Interviewing with Trauma-Informed Affirmative Care (MI-AC) online to sexual and gender minority (SGM) men with sexual assault histories and depression...These interventions have the potential to expand the reach of limited services for this population as well as reduce their depression and assist in SGM men with histories of sexual abuse entering into formal mental health services.”

## Human Trafficking

Kubin L, Fogg N.

### **Human trafficking: What the pediatric nurse needs to know.**

J Pediatr Nurs. 2023;70:126-8. PMID: [37173067](#)

General review article.

#### **Risk factors for human trafficking**

Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. There are certain factors that place some individuals at higher risk for becoming a trafficking victim. The following conditions may make children more vulnerable to trafficking:

- history of trauma, addiction, or abuse
- low socioeconomic, unstable living conditions, or homelessness
- member of historically discriminated population (people of color, LGBTQ+)
- immigrants (legal or undocumented)
- interaction with foster care, gangs (especially females), or juvenile justice system
- history of being bullied or low self-esteem
- lack of strong support networks
- physical or cognitive impairment ([Blue Campaign, 2023](#); [Polaris, 2023b](#))

## LGBTQ Concerns

Díaz-Faes DA, Pereda N, Gámez-Guadix M.

### **The role of adverse childhood experiences in suicide among sexual minority undergraduate students.**

Death studies. 2023;1-9. PMID: [37203223](#)

Of 924 Spanish undergraduate students, comparing sexual minority to heterosexual participants, “Sexual minority participants reported a significantly higher ACE score (mean 2.70 vs. 1.85)...They also reported a higher prevalence and risk of suicide attempts (33.3% vs. 11.8%)...sexual minority status, emotional abuse and neglect, bias attack, having a household member with mental health problems, bullying and cyberbullying, were significantly associated with suicide attempts.”

Alcock M, Hilario CT, MacLennan DS.

### **An Account From a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) on Caring for a Transgender Survivor: A Case Report.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2023;19(2):140-3. PMID: [37205621](#)

“This case report explored an encounter of a SANE providing care for a transgender survivor and highlighted how unconscious patterns of behavior and communication, such as misgendering, can cause harm...highlights the importance of acknowledging and undermining nursing approaches that can (re)traumatize sexual assault survivors and explores ways in which SANEs can help to shift views of gender with the goal of providing better care for gender minority populations.”

## Race/Cultural Concerns

Schubiner H, Jackson B, Molina KM, et al.

### **Racism as a Source of Pain.**

J Gen Intern Med. 2023 May;38(7):1729-1734. PMID: [36737536](#)

“Numerous studies indicate that Black Americans have more severe pain, pain-related disability, and other pain-related outcomes (e.g., disturbed sleep) compared to their White counterparts. This inequity is due in part to the well-replicated finding that Black Americans are less likely to be screened for pain, referred for pain management, and adequately treated than White Americans...We propose that racism is an overlooked but preventable source of, or exacerbating factor for, chronic pain and its consequences, and we advance a framework offering innovative pathways for research, treatment, advocacy, and policy.”

Shah NS, Ning H, Petito LC, et al.

**Associations of Clinical and Social Risk Factors With Racial Differences in Premature Cardiovascular Disease.**

Circulation. 2022 Jul 19;146(3):201-210. PMID: [35607988](#)

In a large study of Black and White adults followed for almost 40 years, Black women were 2.44 times more likely and Black men 1.59 times more likely to have premature cardiovascular disease than White participants. This significantly higher risk was statistically explained by adjustment for prior factors – for women clinical (87% such as BMI, waist circumference, blood pressure, blood sugar and lipid levels), neighborhood (32% such as racial composition, poverty level), and socioeconomic (23% such as education, employment, financial status) factors, and for men clinical (64%), socioeconomic (50%), and lifestyle (34% such as smoking, alcohol, exercise) factors.

Zierath R, Claggett B, Hall ME, et al.

**Measures of Food Inadequacy and Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Black Individuals in the US.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Jan 3;6(1):e2252055. PMID: [36689225](#)

From a study of 3024 Black adults followed a median of 13.8 years, economic food insecurity (defined as receiving food stamps or self-reported not enough money for groceries), but not proximity to unhealthy food options, “was associated with risk of incident cardiovascular disease independent of socioeconomic factors, traditional cardiovascular risk factors, diet quality, perceived stress, and other health behaviors. Economic food insecurity was also associated with markers of inflammation. Economic food insecurity may be a promising potential target for the prevention of CVD.”

Jasthi DL, Lappen JR, Garber S, et al.

**Associations between adverse childhood experiences and obstetric outcomes in a predominantly Black-identifying and low-income pregnant population.**

Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM. 2023:101008. PMID: [37156467](#)

192 pregnant persons age 18+ and English speaking from one medical center were referred to a mental healthcare manager because of elevated psychosocial risks identified by screening tools or provider concerns April 2018 to May 2021. 91.7% self-identified as Black or African American and 94.8% had public insurance (used as a proxy for low income). Adverse childhood experience score  $\geq 4$  was reported by 47.4% and score  $\geq 6$  by 26%. “High and very high adverse childhood experience score may be associated with chronic health conditions that predate pregnancy and can alter obstetrical outcomes.”

## Perpetrators

Ybarra ML, Strøem IF, Goodman KL, Mitchell KJ.

**Event Characteristics of Sexual Violence Perpetration Against Romantic Partners Versus Non-Romantic Partners.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023:8862605231171411. PMID: [37191333](#)

From a US online survey of 786 male and female young adults aged 19 to 27 years, 60% of sexual assault, 40% of attempted rape, 42% of rape, and 67% of coercive sex were perpetrated against a romantic partner, defined as a current or ex-boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse, or domestic partner. “Those who perpetrated against romantic partners were more likely than those who targeted non-romantic partners to report that it occurred because they were feeling sad or angry. They were also more likely to say that the other person was completely responsible for what happened. Making the other person feel guilty was the most common tactic for both groups. The most frequently endorsed reason for perpetrating sexual violence was ‘feeling really horny’, although feeling ‘good’ or being drunk/high were also common reasons. Afterward, many said they felt guilty or ashamed and were worried about the other person's feelings. Fear of getting caught was universally absent. Findings support the importance of building emotion regulation and emotional awareness skills in sexual violence prevention programming.”

## Police and Court Systems

Alsinai A, Reygers M, DiMascolo L, et al.

**Use of immigration status for coercive control in domestic violence protection orders.**

Front Sociol. 2023;8:1146102. PMID: [37188152](#)

From interviews with a random sample of immigrant women seeking a protective order for IPV in Washington state, “narratives included threats [from abusive partners] to contact authorities to interfere with an ongoing immigration process, deportation threats, and threats that would separate families. In many cases, petitioners indicated that immigration-related threats prevented them from leaving the violent partner, seeking help, or reporting the abuse. We also note barriers for victims...including a lack of familiarity with US protections and laws, and restrictions on authorizations to work...Policy should respond to anticipate these threats in the immigrant community.”

Berens KA, Anderson SF, Harvey MB, et al.

**Categorizing Complainant-Accused Relationships in Cases of Child Sexual Abuse: The Distinctive Nature of Community Connections.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2023;32(4):513-31. PMID: [36974376](#)

From a Canadian database of 4237 cases of child sexual abuse, cases involving community connections, compared to non-relative family connections, were more likely to involve male children, older children, multiple children, and higher frequencies of abuse, longer durations, and longer delays.

Cené CW, Buys E, Clark JW, Foley K, True V, Kiger J, et al.

**Better Together: A Descriptive Analysis of a Medical-Legal Partnership in Western North Carolina.**

N C Med J. 2022;83(5):375-81. PMID: [37158547](#)

Authors describe a medical-legal partnership in rural North Carolina, where over a 24 month period 629 cases were referred from a health center for legal services, mainly relating to domestic violence/family law and housing. "These data highlight the benefits of collaboration between health professionals and lawyers in advancing equity by addressing unmet social needs."

## Providers

Chhabra N, Hernandez S, Christian E, Rizvanolli L.

**Previous exposure to violence among emergency department patients without trauma-related complaints.**

Am J Emerg Med. 2023;68:92-7. PMID: [36958095](#)

From a survey of 222 ED patients aged 19 to 88 without trauma-related complaints at a US urban public hospital, "43.7% reported directly witnessing violence during their lifetime, 69.4% being personally victimized by violence, and 55.4% personally knowing someone killed by a violent act. Of those personally victimized, 47.4% occurred within the preceding 3 years and 20.1% within 3 months. Lifetime victimization was reported in the following domains: slapping, hitting, or punching (45.9%); robbings or muggings (33.8%); physical threats (28.8%); verbal or emotional abuse (27.5%); being shot at (18.0%); uncomfortable physical touch (15.3%); forced entry while home (14.4%); sexual assault, molestation, or rape (13.5%); or being attacked with a knife (13.5%)." As both lifetime and recent exposure to community violence was common among adult ED patients, authors recommend broader adoption of a trauma-informed care framework and efficient ED trauma screening tools.

Bragge P, Wright B, Grundy E, et al.

**What Happens Next? Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in the Community.**

The Journal of head trauma rehabilitation. 2023;38(3):279-82. PMID: [36121684](#)

"Community-based prevention and support of TBI are particularly challenging and under-researched aspects of TBI management. Ongoing cognitive, emotional, and other effects of TBI are not immediately obvious in community settings such as schools, workplaces, sporting clubs, aged care facilities, and support agencies providing homelessness or domestic violence support. This is compounded by a lack of guidance and support materials designed for nonmedical settings. Connectivity Australia, a not-for-profit organization promoting TBI awareness, research, and support, responded to this need by conducting a national survey." [Survey results](#)

Mercer L, Cookson A, Simpson-Adkins G, van Vuuren J.

**Prevalence of adverse childhood experiences and associations with personal and professional factors in health and social care workers: A systematic review.**

Psychol Trauma. 2023. PMID: [37141025](#)

From a very detailed research review, "ACEs among health and social care workers were frequently reported and occurred more often than in the general population. They were also associated with several personal and professional outcomes, including poor physical and mental health, and workplace stress. Understanding staff ACE characteristics can help organizations to consider ways to support staff."

Bromley H, Davis SK, Morgan B, Taylor-Dunn H.

**The Professional Quality of Life of Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocates: A Systematic Review of Possible Risk and Protective Factors.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231171187. PMID: [37199481](#)

"Professionals employed within the field of domestic and sexual violence (DV/SV) are known to experience both positive and negative psychological impacts because of the nature of their work...This group is known to face challenges that are specific to their working practices including scarce resources and frequent exposure to traumatic material...An array of risk and protective factors emerged including communication competence, support from co-workers, office resources, and occupational stigma. A gap in the current evidence base was identified regarding the role that personal strengths may play in the well-being of those employed within the DV/SV sector."



Whitt-Woosley A, Sprang G.

### Analysis of implementation drivers of secondary traumatic stress (STS)-informed organizational change and experiences of STS and burnout in child welfare.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;141:106194. PMID: [37178529](#)

From a study of 382 US child welfare professionals, “The findings of this study provide support for a bifocal approach to addressing secondary traumatic stress in the workplace, where organizations equip workers with adaptive coping skills to individually manage their indirect exposures and subsequent responses, and enact their own strategies to create healthy, trauma-informed environments for their workers...organizations have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure supportive environments that address the threats of indirect trauma inherent in their work, and attempt to mitigate the harmful effects of such exposures.”

## Prevention

Bolkan C, Teaster PB, Ramsey-Klawnsnik H.

### The Context of Elder Maltreatment: an Opportunity for Prevention Science.

Prev Sci. 2023 May 5:1–15. PMID: [37145180](#)

“With rapidly growing population aging, by 2030 one in six people worldwide will be aged 60 or older, and approximately 16% will experience at least one form of maltreatment (World Health Organization, 2021). Rigorous prevention and intervention research has significantly lagged in proportion to the magnitude of this problem. The goal of this paper is to raise awareness of the context and complexities of EM, provide an overview of current intervention strategies based on a scoping review, and discuss opportunities for further prevention research, practice, and policy.”

Mikton C, Beaulieu M, Burnes D, et al.

### High time for an intervention accelerator to prevent abuse of older people.

Nat Aging. 2022;2(11):973-5. PMID: [37118090](#)

“Currently, there are no evidence-based interventions to prevent and respond to abuse of older people. We propose to create, within the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021–2030, an intervention accelerator to speed up the development of effective interventions for abuse of older people in community and institutional settings within low-, middle- and high-income countries”, which includes 1. Combating ageism (a major reason that the issue receives inadequate attention); 2. Generating more and better data on prevalence of

abuse of older people, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and on risk and protective factors; 3. Developing and scaling up effective and cost-effective interventions; 4. Making an investment case for addressing abuse of older people; and 5. Raising funds for the field.

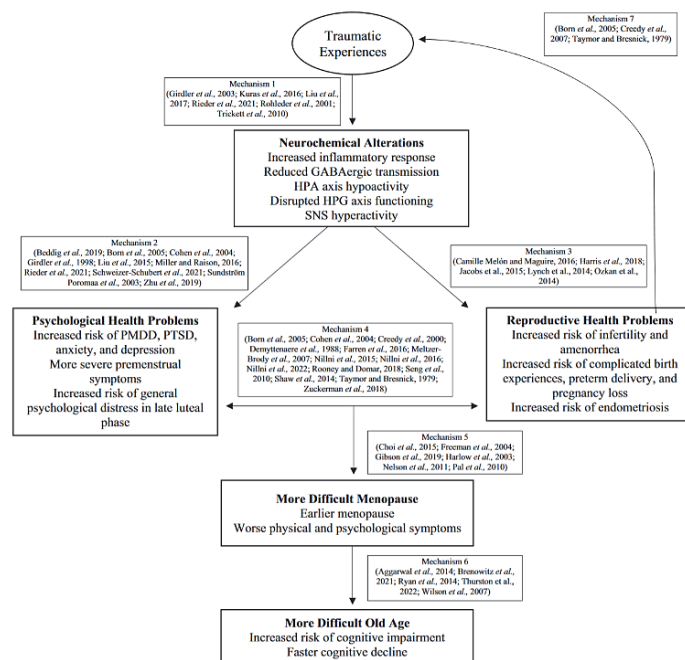
## Researchers

Hillcoat A, Prakash J, Martin L, et al.

### Trauma and female reproductive health across the lifecycle: motivating a research agenda for the future of women's health.

Hum Reprod. 2023 May 12:dead087. PMID: [37172265](#)

“We present a set of interlinked working hypotheses proposing relationships between traumatic events and reproductive and mental health that can define a research agenda to better understand reproductive outcomes from a trauma-informed perspective across the lifecycle...and propose several neuroendocrinological mechanisms by which traumatic experiences might increase the risk of adverse health outcomes in these domains.”



GABA: γ-aminobutyric acid  
HPA: hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal  
HPG: hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal  
SNS: sympathetic nervous system  
PMDD: premenstrual dysphoric disorder  
PTSD: posttraumatic stress disorder

Wizentier MM, Stephenson BJK, Goodman MS.  
**The measurement of racism in health inequities research.**  
Epidemiol Rev. 2023 May 5;mxad004. PMID: [37147182](#)

“In this review, we conduct a descriptive examination of the measurement of racism in the health inequities epidemiological literature.”  
Authors examine the study design, methods used for analysis, types of measures used, number of measures used, phase of research, viewpoint, components of structural racism measures, and potential methods that have demonstrated potential for future work.

## Other of Interest

Besera G, Goldberg H, Okoroh EM, et al.  
**Attitudes and Experiences Surrounding Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in the United States: A Scoping Review.**  
J Immigr Minor Health. 2023 Apr;25(2):449-482. PMID: [36542264](#)

From a research review, “Findings suggest that women and men from FGM/C-practicing countries living in the United States generally oppose FGM/C, that women with FGM/C have significant physical and mental health needs, and have found US healthcare providers to lack understanding of FGM/C.”

Bourassa KJ, Caspi A, Brennan GM, et al.  
**Which Types of Stress Are Associated With Accelerated Biological Aging? Comparing Perceived Stress, Stressful Life Events, Childhood Adversity, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.**  
Psychosom Med. 2023 Jun 1;85(5):389-396. PMID: [37053097](#)

Studying 955 participants from the Dunedin Longitudinal Study, “Higher levels of all four measures of stress were significantly associated with accelerated aging...comparable to associations for smoking and low education, two established risk factors for accelerated aging. People with high levels of perceived stress, numerous adverse childhood experiences (4+), high stressful life event counts, or posttraumatic stress disorder were aging an additional estimated 2.4 months, 1.1 months, 1.4 months, and 1.4 months per year, respectively.”

Gaffey AE, Gathright EC, Fletcher LM, Goldstein CM.  
**Screening for Psychological Distress and Risk of Cardiovascular Disease and Related Mortality.**  
J Cardiopulm Rehabil Prev. 2022 Nov 1;42(6):404-415. PMID: [36342683](#)

From a research review that summarized 658,331 patients, adults reporting high psychological distress

showed a 28% greater risk of incident cardiovascular disease (i.e. atrial fibrillation, acute coronary syndrome, coronary heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, and heart failure hospitalization within 3 years). “Rapid screening for psychological distress is a helpful and efficient approach to understanding the CVD risk profile of an individual.”

Hargrave AS, Sumner JA, Ebrahimi R, Cohen BE.  
**Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a Risk Factor for Cardiovascular Disease: Implications for Future Research and Clinical Care.**  
Curr Cardiol Rep. 2022 Dec;24(12):2067-2079. PMID: [36306020](#)

“Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may be an important risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD). We explore the literature linking PTSD to CVD, potential mechanisms, interventions, and clinical implications...Screening for and treating PTSD, as we do for traditional CVD risk factors, is likely an important addition to cardiovascular care...Therefore, this review is a call to action for medical providers to embed trauma-informed practices into their cardiovascular care, including expressing the same concern for mental health effects on CVD as they do when discussing smoking, uncontrolled diabetes, or elevated blood pressure with their patients.”

Gowland RL, Caffell AC, Quade L, et al.  
**The expendables: Bioarchaeological evidence for pauper apprentices in 19th century England and the health consequences of child labour.**  
PLoS One. 2023;18(5):e0284970. PMID: [37195937](#)

“The large-scale employment of children during the rapid industrialisation of the late 18th and early 19th centuries in England is well documented. During this period, the removal of pauper children from workhouses in cities to work as apprentices in rural mills in the North of England was commonplace...The excavation of a rural churchyard cemetery in the village of Fewston, North Yorkshire, yielded the skeletal remains of 154 individuals, including an unusually large proportion of children aged between 8 to 20 years.” Results of testing showed evidence of “diet low in animal protein, severe growth delays and pathological lesions indicative of early life adversity, as well as respiratory disease, which is a known occupational hazard of mill work. This study has provided unique insights into the harrowing lives of these children; born into poverty and forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions.”