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Child Abuse

Schermerhorn SMV, Muensterer OJ, Ignacio RC, Jr.
Identification and Evaluation of Non-Accidental Trauma in the Pediatric Population: A Clinical Review.

Children (Basel, Switzerland). 2024;11(4). PMID: [38671630](#)

“This review discusses those children most at risk for experiencing non-accidental trauma, and common initial presentations, to assist providers in the identification of potential victims. In addition, this review provides guidance on the recommended workup for these patients so that the full extent of associated injuries may be identified.”

Deutsch SA, Einspahr S, Almeida D, et al.

Variability in Occult Injury Screening Among Siblings/Household Contacts of Physical Abuse Victims.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2024 Jun 1;40(6):e54-e60. PMID:

[38227815](#)

Of 390 children under age 8 who were contacts of children with known physical abuse seen at one Level 1 pediatric ED, with 93.3% of contacts being biological siblings, despite national clinical guidelines, many evaluations were missing, incomplete and had lack of follow up. Some abnormal findings were concerning. “Reasons for deferred imaging included contact well appearance, caregiver concerns, and clinician disagreement with indications...Further study of factors impacting radiologic screening decisions is needed.”

Price MD, McDermott KM, An D, et al.

Pediatric Trauma Recidivism: A Statewide Risk Factor Analysis of the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC).

J Pediatr Surg. 2024 Apr 9;S0022-3468(24)00249-5. PMID:

[38705831](#)

“Of 574,472 children with at least one injury encounter, 29.6% experienced trauma recidivism. Age ≤ 2 years, public insurance, and self-inflicted injuries were associated with recidivism regardless of index treatment setting...unique risk factors for ED-to-inpatient recidivism were age >10 years

(adjusted odds ratio aOR 1.61), cyclist (aOR 1.31) or burn (aOR 1.39) mechanisms, child abuse (aOR 1.27), and assault (aOR 1.43). Among patients with at least one inpatient encounter, 6.3% experienced another inpatient trauma admission, 3.4% of which were fatal...Pediatric trauma recidivism is more common and morbid than previously estimated.”

Bernardin ME, Cutler KO.

Emergency Department Usage Patterns Among Pediatric Victims of Gun Violence and Physical Assault.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2024 Jun 1;40(6):415-420. PMID:

[38048545](#)

“This case-control study included youths aged 6 to 19 years who presented to a pediatric ED over a 3-year period due to a physical assault (PA) or their first known gunshot wound (GSW)...The PA and GSW groups used the ED for previous PAs, mental/behavioral health, sexual/reproductive health, sexual assault, and/or child abuse concerns on average 4 to 8 times as often as the control group. Previous ED visits for mental/behavioral health (odds ratio [OR] 5), sexual/reproductive health (OR 3), sexual assault (OR 9), and prior PA (OR 8) were predictive of a future ED visit for PA. Male sex (OR 6) and previous ED visits for PA (OR 5) were predictive of a future ED visit for GSW. Two percent of the PA group and 9% of the GSW group returned to the ED with a subsequent GSW in the following 16 to 40 months.”

Jones D, Orsi-Hunt R, Kim H, Jonson-Reid M, Drake B.

Life-course trajectories of children through the U. S foster care system.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;153:106837. PMID: [38788495](#)

“We used child maltreatment reports and foster care case records for all U.S. children born in FY2006 and placed in care between birth and age 15...Three typologies were identified: 1) early-entry-exit, 2) school-age-entry, and 3) late-entry. Early-entry-exit cases typically entered and left foster care before turning three, were frequently adopted, and had little ongoing system contact. School-age-entry children typically entered between ages 5-10, were in care for the shortest amount of time, and mostly exited to reunification. Late-entry children typically entered between ages 9-11, entered with substantial CPS history and remained in care into mid-adolescence.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Grummitt L, Baldwin JR, Lafoa'i J, Keyes KM, Barrett EL.
Burden of Mental Disorders and Suicide Attributable to Childhood Maltreatment.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2024 May 8:e240804. PMID: [38717764](#)

From 34 studies with 54 646 participants and applied to prevalence estimates of childhood maltreatment generated from 8503 Australians, "Childhood maltreatment accounted for a substantial proportion of mental health conditions, ranging from 21% for depression to 41% of suicide attempts. More than 1.8 million cases of depressive, anxiety, and substance use disorders could be prevented if childhood maltreatment was eradicated. Maltreatment accounted for 66 143 years of life lost, primarily through suicide, and 184 636 disability-adjusted life-years."

Cánepa ET, Berardino BG.

Epigenetic mechanisms linking early-life adversities and mental health.

Biochem J. 2024;481(10):615-42. PMID: [38722301](#)

"In this review, we summarize our current understanding of the epigenetic mechanisms involved in the mental health consequences derived from early-life exposure to malnutrition, maltreatment, and poverty, adversities with huge and pervasive impact on mental health. We also discuss the evidence about transgenerational epigenetic inheritance in mammals and experimental data suggesting that suitable social and pharmacological interventions could reverse adverse epigenetic modifications induced by early-life negative social experiences."

Harb F, Liuzzi MT, Huggins AA, et al.

Childhood Maltreatment and Amygdala-Mediated Anxiety and Posttraumatic Stress Following Adult Trauma.

Biol Psychiatry Glob Open Sci. 2024;4(4):100312. PMID: [38711866](#)

In this brain scan study of 152 adult trauma survivors, mean age 32.6 years and 57.2% women, a history of childhood abuse was associated with increased amygdala [an emotion area of the brain] connectivity, and was significantly associated with increased anxiety, but not PTSD or depression, after an adult traumatic event. "Amygdala-precuneus connectivity may be an underlying neural mechanism by which childhood abuse increases risk

for anxiety following adult trauma. Specifically, this heightened connectivity may reflect attentional vigilance for threat or a tendency toward negative self-referential thoughts. Findings suggest that childhood abuse may contribute to longstanding upregulation of attentional vigilance circuits, which makes one vulnerable to anxiety-related symptoms in adulthood."

Dalechek DE, Caes L, McIntosh G, Whittaker AC.

Anxiety, history of childhood adversity, and experiencing chronic pain in adulthood: A systematic literature review and meta-analysis.

Eur J Pain. 2024 Jul;28(6):867-885. PMID: [38189218](#)

This research review "indicated a significant association between ACEs, anxiety, and chronic pain experiences in adults...For ACE prevalence, the majority reported experiencing sexual abuse (50%), followed by physical abuse (46%). Other ACEs included emotional abuse (33%), emotional neglect (25%), and physical neglect (23%)...participants who experienced ACEs are around twice as likely to present chronic pain during adulthood...ACEs and anxiety influence chronic pain experience in adults."

Rodríguez MN, Colgan DD, Leyde S, et al.

Trauma exposure across the lifespan among individuals engaged in treatment with medication for opioid use disorder: differences by gender, PTSD status, and chronic pain.

Substance abuse treatment, prevention, and policy. 2024;19(1):25. PMID: [38702783](#)

"The study found a high prevalence of lifetime trauma among people in MOUD [medication treatment for opioid use disorder]...Participants were self-identified as women (n = 157), men (n = 144), and non-binary (n = 2). Fifty-seven percent self-reported chronic pain, and 41% scored above the screening cut-off for PTSD. Women reported significantly more intimate partner violence (85%) and adult sexual assault (57%), while men reported more physical assault (81%) and witnessing trauma (66%). Men and women experienced substantial childhood physical abuse, witnessed intimate partner violence as children, and reported an equivalent exposure to accidents as adults. The number of traumatic events predicted PTSD symptom severity and PTSD diagnostic status. Participants with chronic pain, compared to those without chronic pain, had significantly more traumatic events in childhood (85% vs 75%)."

Bull C, Trott M, Najman JM, et al.

Associations between child maltreatment and hospital admissions for alcohol and other substance use-related disorders up to 40 years of age: Results from the Childhood Adversity and Lifetime Morbidity study.

Addiction. 2024 Jul;119(7):1253-1263. PMID: [38634806](#)

Using linked data for a large Australian group of individuals followed from childhood to age 40, 10% had a history of agency-reported or substantiated child maltreatment (CM) notifications before age 15. These individuals had higher adjusted odds of being admitted for alcohol use disorder (2.86 for reported and 3.38 for substantiated CM), and for substance use disorder (3.34 for reported and 2.98 for substantiated CM) by age 40.

Visioli C, Tondo L, Miola A, et al.

Early sexual or physical abuse in female and male mood disorder patients.

J Psychiatr Res. 2023;167:125-31. PMID: [37866326](#)

Of 684 patients diagnosed with a mood disorder and followed at various mood disorder centers for several years, “Early history of sexual (16.2%) or physical abuse (11.9%) was prevalent; 5.15% reported both. Both types of abuse were much more prevalent with BD [bipolar disorder] than MDD [major depressive disorder]. Sexual abuse was associated with younger illness-onset and somewhat younger menarche [menstruation] in females; both abuse-types were associated with familial mood disorders, especially BD...Prevalence of suicidal behavior ranked: double abuse (48.5%) > physical (32.1%) > sexual (30.3%) abuse, and with BD > MDD (OR = 2.31)...abuse may facilitate early appearance of BD but also may result from the actions of abusive BD family members.”

Adolescents

Briere J, Runtz M, Rodd K.

Child and Adolescent Exposure to Sexual Harassment: Relationship to Gender, Contact Sexual Abuse, and Adult Psychological Symptoms.

J Interpers Violence. 2024;39(13-14):2981-96. PMID: [38281113](#)

“In contrast to adults, there is considerably less research on childhood or adolescent exposure to sexual harassment (CAESH), its lasting psychological correlates, and whether such experiences should be included in definitions of childhood sexual abuse. The current study examined the prevalence and symptomatic sequels of unwanted flirting, being

‘checked out’ sexually, unwanted sexual attention, sexual comments, propositions, and related noncontact behaviors that occurred before age 18... in a diverse online sample of 528 individuals. CAESH was very common, with over 95% of women and 64% of men reporting at least one experience of noncontact sexual harassment before age 18...This expanded definition was associated with significantly more anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress relative to contact childhood sexual abuse alone. These results suggest that CAESH is a significant source of symptoms, and support the emerging perspective that childhood sexual abuse may be best understood as including both contact and noncontact events.”

Coronado H, Bonilla GS, Shircliff K, et al.

Considering the associations of adverse and positive childhood experiences with health behaviors and outcomes among emerging adults.

J Exp Child Psychol. 2024;244:105932. PMID: [38718679](#)

“Participants (N = 165) were undergraduate college students (18-25 years of age) from one institution in Texas who reported frequent alcohol and/or cannabis use (≥ 3 times in the past week). A significant positive association was found between ACEs and cannabis use. There were also significant negative associations found between PCEs and pain interference and intensity. PCEs did not moderate any of the associations between ACEs and health behavior and health-related outcomes (i.e., cannabis use, alcohol use, sleep disturbance, sleep-related impairment, pain intensity, and pain interference). Findings suggest that PCEs may be unlikely to serve as a strong enough protective factor during early life to decrease risk for suboptimal health and health behaviors during emerging adulthood among individuals who report a greater accumulation of ACEs.”

Jones MS, Kevorkian SS, Lehmann PS, et al.

Adverse childhood experiences, gender, and suicidality among Florida high school students: Examining intervening mechanisms.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;153:106834. PMID: [38704885](#)

From a survey of 23,078 Florida high school students, “For male and female youth, ACEs are associated with heightened depression symptoms and reduced self-control, and both of these factors partially explain the previously established relationship between ACEs and suicidality.”

Kouri NA, Simon VA, Partridge T.

Dissociation As a Mechanism of Risk for Interpersonal Victimization Among Adolescent Girls.

J Interpers Violence. 2024:8862605241248431. PMID: [38708878](#)

“Childhood interpersonal violence exposure is associated with repeated victimization in adolescence and adulthood. Research suggests dissociation, a psychological phenomenon characterized by alterations and disruptions to consciousness, memory, and perceptions of the environment, and out-of-body experiences, increases the risk of revictimization. Self-report data from a longitudinal study of 92 violence-exposed adolescent girls from a large, urban area were analyzed...across 3.5 years...Concurrent and previous dissociation significantly accounted for polyvictimization at later visits. Polyvictimization did not significantly predict future dissociation symptoms. The results from this study provide support for dissociation's unique contribution to polyvictimization among violence-exposed girls, making it an important target for clinical assessment and treatment.”

Armoon B, Mohammadi R, Griffiths MD.

The Global Prevalence of Non-suicidal Self-injury, Suicide Behaviors, and Associated Risk Factors Among Runaway and Homeless Youth: A Meta-analysis.

Community Ment Health J. 2024 Jul;60(5):919-944. PMID: [38451378](#)

From a research review, “results showed that among runaway and homeless youth, lifetime prevalence rates were 42% for non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI), 38% for suicidal ideation, and 27% for suicide attempts. Lifetime prevalence of NSSI and suicide behaviors was higher among adolescent minors (aged 12-17 years) compared to young adults (aged 18-24 years). Also, NSSI and suicide behaviors were associated with having a childhood history of physical and sexual abuse. Developing an impactful community-based suicide prevention campaign...Peer groups and mentorship programs would provide invaluable support for young individuals.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Fusco R, Kulkarni S, Pless J.

"He gets mad that I'm sober": Experiences of substance use coercion among postpartum women in recovery.

J Subst Use Addict Treat. 2024:209407. PMID: [38782092](#)

“Women who abstain from substance use during pregnancy often relapse in the postpartum period. Given the high overlap between substance use and intimate partner violence, these women may be in relationships that make recovery more challenging...The study conducted qualitative interviews with 30 women with substance use disorders [SUDs] who had given birth within the past six months...Analysis of the impact of IPV on substance use revealed four themes: 1) sabotaging sobriety, 2) making substance use a condition of the relationship, 3) portraying her as a "bad mom," and 4) furthering social isolation...women with SUDs have specific vulnerabilities that partners may exploit as a way of exerting control.”

Thunberg S, Arnell L.

"I Put Her in the Baby Stroller and Left": The Escape Route From Violence to a Domestic Violence Shelter for Mothers and Children.

Violence Against Women. 2024:10778012241251971. PMID: [38695097](#)

From interviews with 14 Swedish mothers who left IPV situations, “the escape was often planned, but the planning horizon varies. In many cases, the mothers' social network served as a stepping-stone during the escape, before they continued by moving to a domestic violence shelter. Implications for policy and practice are offered.”

Martínez-Vázquez S, Peinado-Molina RA, et al.

Prevalence and Associated Factors of Perinatal Suicide Risk in Spanish Women.

Archives of suicide research. 2024:1-16. PMID: [38747527](#)

For 908 Spanish perinatal women, the prevalence of suicidal ideation was 19.3%, and suicide attempt 2.4%. Risk factors were anxiety (adjusted odds ratio 1.08), experiencing intimate partner violence (aOR 1.59), and postpartum depression (aOR of 3.00). Protective factors were perceived social support (aOR of 0.97), along with skin-to-skin contact with the baby during childbirth (aOR 0.50).

Yu H, Shen Q, Bränn E, et al.

Perinatal Depression and Risk of Suicidal Behavior.

JAMA Netw Open. 2024 Jan 2;7(1):e2350897. PMID: [38194232](#)

“In this nationwide study, women with perinatal depression were at an increased risk of suicidal behavior, particularly within the first year after diagnosis with persistent risk elevations throughout the 18 years of follow-up, highlighting the need for vigilant clinical monitoring of this vulnerable group.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Bauer M, Hollenstein C, Lieb JM, et al.

Longitudinal visibility of MRI findings in living victims of strangulation.

Int J Legal Med. 2024 Jul;138(4):1425-1436. PMID: [38561435](#)

“Twenty strangulation victims participated in this study and underwent one (n = 8) or two (n = 12) MRI scans...Most of the findings were detected in the thyroid and the muscles of the neck...Subjects who showed findings in the initial scan also demonstrated comparable results in the second scan, which was performed on average 8.4 days after the incident. Our results show that even up to 12 days after the incident, the criminal proceeding of strangulation cases may greatly profit from the information provided by an MRI examination of the neck in addition to the standard clinical forensic examination.”

Izzy S, Grashow R, Radmanesh F, et al.

Long-term risk of cardiovascular disease after traumatic brain injury: screening and prevention.

Lancet Neurol. 2023 Oct;22(10):959-970. PMID: [37739576](#)

“Several studies have shown that people without pre-existing comorbidities [health conditions] who sustain a TBI [traumatic brain injury] have a significantly higher risk of developing chronic cardiovascular disease, than people without TBI...A better understanding of cardiovascular disease risk after TBI combined with a proactive, targeted screening programme might mitigate long-term morbidity and mortality in individuals with TBI, and improve their quality of life.”

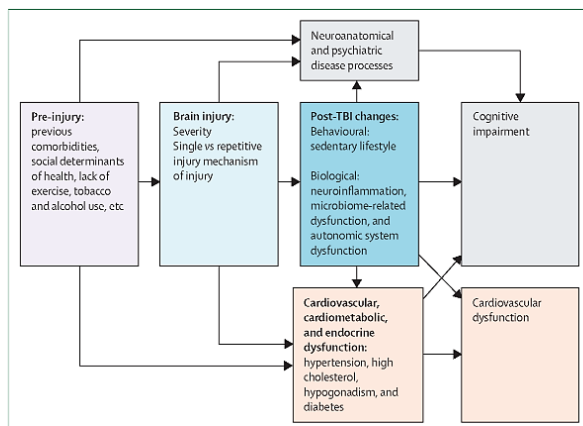


Figure 2: Potential mechanisms underlying how pre-injury factors and brain injury could lead to cognitive and cardiovascular dysfunction

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

O'Briant D, Clements PT.

Telemental Health Assessment and Implications for Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Settings.

J Psychosoc Nurs Ment Health Serv. 2024:1-6. PMID: [38768384](#)

“Violence and abuse in rural America are exacerbated by limited access to support services for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) due to family connections with people in positions of authority, geographic isolation, transportation barriers, stigma of abuse, lack of available shelters and affordable housing, poverty as a barrier to care, and other challenges. Victims of abuse who live in small communities may be well-acquainted with local health care providers and often voter-elected law enforcement officers. Individuals may fear being seen walking into a mental health clinic, with subsequent (and reality-based) fear that deter them from seeking help. Thus, advances in technology are becoming a much-needed option...telehealth visits can potentially extend the reach of the limited number of primary care and mental health providers to those who are significantly in need of services.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Duffy A, Connolly M, Browne F.

Older people's experiences of elder abuse in residential care settings: A scoping review.

J Adv Nurs. 2024 Jun;80(6):2214-2227. PMID: [38041574](#)

This research review “revealed a range of abusive experiences encountered by older people living in residential care settings, including psychological, physical, financial, neglect and sexual abuse. The common attributes of residents vulnerable to abuse...included advanced age, physical or cognitive impairments, social isolation, and dependency on others for assistance with daily activities of living...organizational neglect was apparent through the absence of effective safeguarding measures in the included studies. The findings revealed the insufficient implementation of safeguarding measures increases the risk of abuse among residents.”

Lewis SD, Connolly MT, Kimball PF, et al.

Self-neglect co-occurs with and is a risk factor for elder mistreatment: An analysis of Maine Adult Protective Services Administrative Data.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2024 Jun;72(6):1913-1915. PMID: [38393747](#)

“Self-neglect (not defined as elder mistreatment) comprises 50% of APS investigations and 65% of substantiated APS cases.” From four years of Maine APS data “Self-neglect frequently co-occurs with elder mistreatment. A first allegation of self-neglect, substantiated or not, is associated with a shorter time to elder mistreatment...While causality cannot be presumed—limitation in all retrospective analyses—elder mistreatment and self-neglect share risk factors: cognitive impairment, physical disability, lack of social support, and social isolation...These findings have important implications for prevention, policy, and practice.”

Kane D, Gill N, Walshe J, Fallon C, Flood K, Eogan M.

Sexual assault of the older person: Attendances to the Republic of Ireland's sexual assault treatment unit network.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2024 Apr;103:102683. PMID: [38669956](#)

Of 7 years of data from the Irish sexual assault treatment unit network, 0.93% of attendances were people over age 65, including 59 females and 1 male. Forensic examinations were performed in 81.7 %, with the majority seeking assistance within 7 days (80 %). Comparison of older (≥65 years) and younger (<65 years) attendees revealed older individuals were more uncertain whether a sexual assault had occurred (35.5 % vs. 14.4 %) but more likely to report the incident to the police (78.3 % vs. 64.3 %)...Older individuals were significantly more likely to be assaulted in their own home (33.3 % vs. 21.5 %) or in 'other-indoors' settings (e.g. nursing home/hospital) (43.3 % vs. 23.4 %)...In our subset analysis of 19 cases, 73.7 % occurred in healthcare facilities, 63.2 % had dementia, and 42.1 % were care dependent. Genital injuries were present in 44.4 % of patients and extra-genital injuries in 22.2 %... Unique patterns are evident in sexual assault experienced by older people, underscoring the necessity for tailored interventions and effective support systems...frequently involving individuals with dementia and requiring care assistance.”

Sexual Assault

Kane D, Kennedy KM, Eogan M.

The prevalence of genital injuries in post-pubertal females presenting for forensic examination after reported sexual violence: a systematic review.

Int J Legal Med. 2024 May;138(3):997-1010. PMID: [37971512](#)

From a research review, “Reported injury prevalence rates varied widely. Details pertaining to forensic examinations included in each study, such as grade of the examiner, type of examination, location of examination, and time interval from assault to examination also varied widely. Injury prevalence was highest in studies where enhanced visualization techniques were utilized. This systematic review demonstrates that there is no universally agreed standard for documenting genital injuries in cases of sexual violence and highlights the need for standardized approaches and guidelines for assessing, documenting, and reporting these injuries.”

Driver M.

Enacting an "Empowerment Approach" After Sexual Assault: The Views and Beliefs of Forensic Nurse Examiners and Crisis Support Workers.

J Forensic Nurs. 2024;20(2):E11-e9. PMID: [38345526](#)

“Sexual violence is a profoundly disempowering experience. It is essential that survivors are offered access to comprehensive medical care, psychological support, and follow-up in a way that offers them a high level of choice and control...This study sought to explore how UK crisis support workers and forensic nurse examiners conceive how they enact an ‘empowerment approach’ in a sexual assault referral center.”

Chen Y, Shen Q, Lichtenstein P, et al.

Incidence Trajectories of Psychiatric Disorders After Assault, Injury, and Bereavement.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2024 Apr 1;81(4):374-385. PMID: [38231519](#)

Looking at 3 groups of Swedish individuals free of a previously diagnosed psychological disorder prior to either assault (median age 22), injury (19) or bereavement (60), there was an elevated risk of any psychological disorder subsequently for assault (first year hazard ratio HR 4.55, subsequent years 2.50), injury (HR 3.31 and 1.69), and bereavement (HR 2.81 and 1.42). The greatest HR was for PTSD after sexual assault. “The risk elevation observed immediately after these events motivates early clinical surveillance and mental health services for these vulnerable populations.”

Vizcaíno-Cuenca R, Romero-Sánchez M, Carretero-Dios H. **Making Visible the Myths About Cyber-Sexual Violence Against Women: An Analysis of Social Reactions Toward Victims on Twitter.**

J Interpers Violence. 2024;39(13-14):2881-903. PMID: [38243759](#)

“We analyzed 4,048 replies to 18 cyber-sexual violence experiences reported on Twitter...Strikingly, most of the analyzed reactions appeared to deny and downplay the importance of sexually aggressive behaviors perpetrated against women online, suggesting that these beliefs could influence the underreporting of cyber-sexual violence...while Twitter can serve as a useful "loudspeaker" for victims, it is also a mechanism by which myths about cyber-sexual violence can be supported and disseminated.”

Human Trafficking

Cano E, Mateu A, Bertomeu A, Xifró A, Barbería E, Aguilar I. **Medicolegal assessment of human trafficking victims. Descriptive study of a series of forensic cases in Catalonia (Spain).**

Med Clin (Barc). 2024 May 13:S0025-7753(24)00240-9. PMID: [38744574](#)

In a retrospective study of 57 victims in judicial cases opened for an alleged crime of human trafficking registered in Catalonia Spain, “The majority were women (71.9%). The average age was 30.5 years. All the victims were foreigners, mostly from Latin America (45.5%). The exploitation was mainly sexual (61.4%). Mental health problems were very common in all victims at the time of the assessment (87.5%).”

LGBTQ Concerns

Canan SN, Denniston-Lee J, Jozkowski KN. **Descriptive Data of Transgender and Nonbinary People's Experiences of Sexual Assault: Context, Perpetrator Characteristics, and Reporting Behaviors.**

LGBT Health. 2024 May-Jun;11(4):317-325. PMID: [38100176](#)

From an online survey of 230 trans/non-binary (NB) adults in the United States in 2016 and 2017, “Eighty percent of the sample had experienced sexual assault; 62% reported experiencing completed penetrative behaviors (rape) and 37% reported repeat victimization—assault during both childhood and adulthood. Most participants indicated that their perpetrator was male (80%) and

the plurality described perpetrators as dating partners (34%) or acquaintances (34%). Approximately 8% characterized the event as a hate crime. Most trans/NB people reported their experience to a friend (64%), dating partner (50%), and/or therapist (35%). Only 6% reported their sexual assault to the police, and 20% stated that they have never told anyone...We recommend that prevention and support services address both the high rates of sexual assault and the low rates of reporting to police and other support services.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Webb EK, Carter SE, Ressler KJ, Fani N, Harnett NG. **The neurophysiological consequences of racism-related stressors in Black Americans.**

Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2024 Jun;161:105638. PMID: [38522814](#)

“The present narrative review synthesizes peripheral (neuroendocrine and inflammation markers), psychophysiological (heart-rate variability, skin conductance), and neuroimaging (structural and functional) findings that demonstrate unique associations with racism-related stress...Ultimately, the neurophysiological effects of racism-related stress may confer biological susceptibility to stress and trauma-related disorders.”

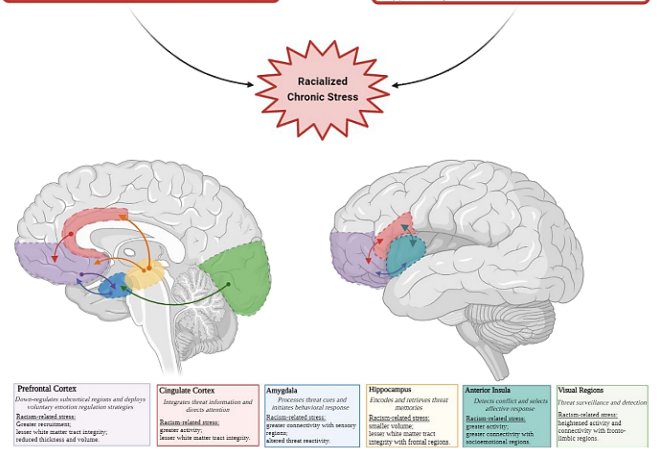
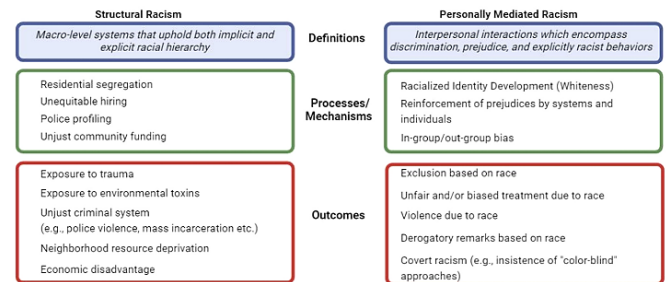


Fig. 3. Racism-related stressors are associated with alterations in neural circuits underlying threat and social processing. For each color-coded region, the related functions are highlighted, and the effects of racism related stress are listed in the color corresponding box below.

Thakral A, Mudika Mosuka E, Fried P, et al.

COVID-19 pandemic related racial/ethnic disparities in the foster care system in the United States.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;153:106841. PMID: [38749148](#)

Of over 1 million children entering and exiting the US foster care system between 2017 and 2022, “The pandemic adversely affected all children in foster care. Entry rates disproportionately increased for AIAN [American Indian/Alaska Native] children. Disparities in exit rates persisted for AIAN and Hispanic children.”

Shapiro JP, Pino EC, Goodridge A, et al.

Disparities in Child Welfare Referrals for Patients Seen in a Pediatric ED for Unintentional Ingestions.

Acad Pediatr. 2024;24(4):686-91. PMID: [38253175](#)

One US pediatric ED “identified 129 pediatric encounters for unintentional ingestions...17.1% were referred to CPS for neglect...both ingestion of an illicit drug and arrival to the PED by ambulance were associated with higher odds of referral to CPS...Hispanic patients had higher odds of referral to CPS than White patients (adjusted odds ratio (aOR) = 17.2). There was not a statistically significant association between Black race and referral to CPS.”

Tynes BM, Maxie-Moreman A, Hoang TH, et al.

Online Racial Discrimination, Suicidal Ideation, and Traumatic Stress in a National Sample of Black Adolescents.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2024 Mar 1;81(3):312-316. PMID: [38170489](#)

From a national survey of 525 Black adolescents mean age 14.8 years, half female, there was an association between online racial discrimination and PTSD symptoms, which in turn were associated with suicidal ideation. “No differences by gender or age were found. No significant direct association between online racial discrimination and suicidal ideation was found...These risk factors are important to consider in continuing studies of the cause of suicidal ideation for US Black adolescents.”

Boyd DT, Gale A, Quinn CR, et al.

Do We Belong? Examining the Associations Between Adolescents' Perceptions of School Belonging, Teacher Discrimination, Peer Prejudice and Suicide.

Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities. 2024;11(3):1454-64. PMID: [37184811](#)

Of 4229 Black youth from a US national study, “as Black adolescents' sense of school belonging decreased, they were 35% more likely to be at risk for suicidal ideation and attempts. Findings from our study support the assertion that the school microsystem plays a substantial role in modifying the risk of suicidal behavior among Black youth.”

Lebrun-Harris LA, Sandel M, Sheward R, et al.

Prevalence and Correlates of Unstable Housing Among US Children.

JAMA Pediatr. 2024 May 20:e241159. PMID: [38767882](#)

“In 2022, 17.1% of children living in US households, representing more than 12.1 million children, experienced 1 or more forms of unstable housing: 14.1% lived in households that were unable to pay mortgage/rent, 2.9% moved frequently, and 2.5% experienced lifetime homelessness...Prevalence of unstable housing varied across states (range, 12.0%-26.6%). Unstable housing was highest among American Indian or Alaska Native children (27.9%), Black or African American children (30.4%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander children (27.6%)...This study found that 1 in 6 US children experienced unstable housing, varying by state and sociodemographic factors. The prevalence is likely underestimated because the sample excluded children who are currently institutionalized or experiencing homelessness.”

Perpetrators

Knipe D, Vallis E, Kendall L, et al.

Suicide Rates in High-Risk High-Harm Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse in England and Wales.

Crisis. 2024 May;45(3):242-245. PMID: [37606346](#)

Of 3,475 British high risk IPV perpetrators referred for treatment and support, median age 32 years, 92% male, the male suicide rate was 461 per 100,000 person years, at least 10 times higher than many other high-risk groups. (For comparison, the US male suicide rate in 2021 was 22.8, and for high risk groups age 75+ 42.2, and American Indian/Alaska Native 43.4.)

Pineda D, Galán M, Martínez-Martínez A, et al.

Personality Comparison between Lethal and Non-lethal Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators and Their Victims.

Prev Sci. 2024 May;25(4):567-577. PMID: [38006460](#)

From testing and interviews with 293 male Spanish IPV perpetrators, and comparing those who committed femicide and those who did not, those who killed their partner were more likely to be “less emotionally stable (i.e. high neuroticism), with a lower interest in having social interactions with other people or more interested in their own thoughts and feelings (i.e. low extraversion) while also presenting a tendency towards bizarrely, as well as being more aggressive or less empathic (i.e. high psychoticism).”

Police and Court Systems

Downing NR, Scafide KN, Ali Z, Hayat MJ.

Visibility of inflicted bruises by alternate light: Results of a randomized controlled trial.

J Forensic Sci. 2024 May;69(3):880-887. PMID: [38323488](#)

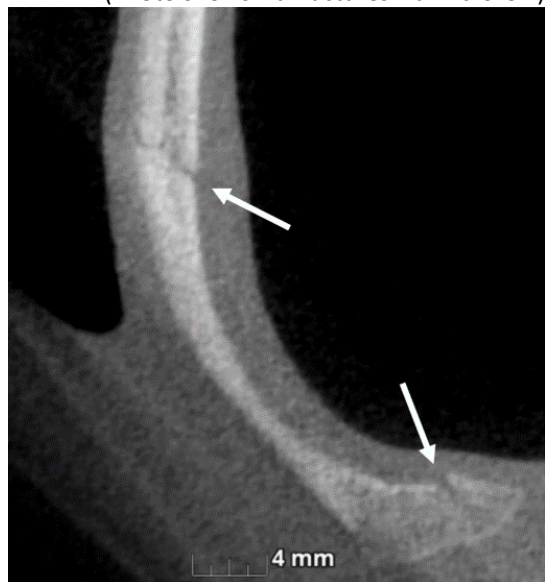
“Bruises were induced using controlled application of a paintball to the upper arm on 157 healthy adults across six skin color categories...Each bruise was examined up to 21 times over 4 weeks using white light and 10 combinations of wavelengths...Results revealed 415 nm with yellow filter resulted in an almost 0.5-point increase in bruise visibility score across all skin colors...The use of alternative light source is supported by the data and results in improved bruise visibility during medical forensic examinations.”

Primeau C, Norman DG, Baier W, et al.

Micro-CT in a forensic examination of a fatal child abuse case: A case report.

Sci Justice. 2024 May;64(3):297-304. PMID: [38735666](#)

“This case report details how micro-CT imaging was merged with the gold standard of histopathology for visualisation of trauma...The resulting presentation provided additional clarity to jury members regarding the location, severity, frequency, and timings of the injuries...Micro-CT has been predominantly used for industrial applications...and characterisation of different materials...The higher dose of radiation and the limitation of sample size renders micro-CT only usable for post-mortem imaging of human material...particularly for fatal cases of child abuse, micro-CT has proved especially useful for visualising the more subtle fractures.”
(Photo shows rib fractures via micro-CT.)



Atreya A, Ateriya N, Menezes RG.

The eye in forensic practice: In the dead.

Med Leg J. 2024;258172241230210. PMID: [38690614](#)

“Post-mortem examination of the eye provides valuable forensic information yet is often overlooked.” Eye-related changes can help establish time of death, cause of death in strangulation or abusive head trauma, a source for toxicology, and as a window into age-related or systemic disease that may impact other findings.

Providers

Colton J, Misra R, Woznick E, Wiedermann R, Huh A.

Reaching the Unreachable: Intensive Mobile Treatment, an Innovative Model of Community Mental Health Engagement and Treatment.

Community Ment Health J. 2024 Jul;60(5):839-850. PMID: [38485797](#)

“In this paper we introduce the Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) model...to engage individuals who were ‘falling through the cracks’ of the mental health, housing, and criminal justice systems. People who are referred to IMT often have extensive histories of trauma...We detail the structure of the program as we practice it at our non-profit agency and outline the psychodynamic concepts that inform our work with challenging populations...we are able to both mitigate and tolerate risk in participants with difficult-to-manage behaviors. This is typically a long-term, non-linear process...with long-term, trusting therapeutic relationships, participants can change and grow over time. We also...identify several challenges and areas for program growth.”

Schreidah CM, Robinson LN, Pham DX, Balaji D, Tinsley MS.

The Case for Advocacy Curricula and Opportunities in Medical Education.

Acad Med. 2024 May 1;99(5):482-486. PMID: [38166320](#)

“Given that medical student advocacy continues to grow and has shown measurable successes in the past, the authors believe that these efforts should be rewarded and expanded upon. The authors examine historical examples of medical student advocacy to suggest ways in which advocacy can be integrated into core medical school curricula and activities. They call attention to opportunities to support students' development of knowledge and skills to facilitate legislative change, expansion of interprofessional collaborations and credit, and curricular updates to promote social and health equity.”

Gupta A, Thompson JC, Ringel NE, et al.

Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination in Obstetrics and Gynecology: A Systematic Review.

JAMA network open. 2024;7(5):e2410706. PMID: [38717770](#)

From a research review, the prevalence of sexual harassment (range ob/gyn physicians 27.6% to female gynecologic oncologists 70.9%), workplace discrimination (range female gynecologic oncologists 57.0% - 67.2%, male gynecologic oncologists 38.5%), and bullying (female gynecologic oncologists 52.8%) was frequent among OB-GYN respondents. OB-GYN trainees commonly experienced sexual harassment (69.1%), which included gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention, and sexual coercion. The proportion of OB-GYN clinicians who reported their sexual harassment to anyone ranged from 8.4% - 12.5% compared with 32.6% of OB-GYN trainees. Mistreatment during their OB-GYN rotation was indicated by 25.1% of medical students. Perpetrators of harassment included physicians (30.1%), other trainees (13.1%), and operating room staff (7.7%). "Various interventions were used and studied, which were associated with improved recognition of bias and reporting...However, no significant decrease in the frequency of sexual harassment was found with any intervention."

Icekson T, Kaye-Tzadok A, Zeiger A.

Childhood Maltreatment and Adult Work Absenteeism: Work Meaningfulness as a Double-Edged Sword.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2024;21(4). PMID: [38673362](#)

"We recruited 320 helping professionals from a variety of social and mental health settings, one third of whom reported experiencing CM [child maltreatment]...CM was positively correlated with work absenteeism. Furthermore, among those with CM experiences, greater work meaningfulness was associated with higher absenteeism rates. Our findings highlight the possibility that work meaningfulness may operate as a double-edged sword, and the importance of better understanding the challenges that high-functioning survivors of CM face within organizational contexts."

Icekson T, Kaye-Tzadok A, Zeiger A.

Job Burnout Among the Helping Professions: The Roles of Childhood Maltreatment, Attachment Styles and Perceived Supervisor Support.

Clin Psychol Psychother. 2024;31(2):e2975. PMID: [38650098](#)

From the same study group above, "Childhood maltreatment (CM) history was positively related to both avoidant and anxious attachment styles in adulthood. Higher anxious attachment style was found to be related to higher levels of job burnout.

Highly avoidant professionals perceived their supervisors as less supportive, reporting higher levels of workplace burnout. CM survivors, who work in the helping professions, should be aware of relational vulnerabilities as a possible source of burnout. Organizations should foster supportive supervision and leadership to protect relationally vulnerable employees from job burnout."

Prevention

Bacchus LJ, Colombini M, Pearson I, et al.

Interventions that prevent or respond to intimate partner violence against women and violence against children: a systematic review.

The Lancet Public health. 2024;9(5):e326-e38. PMID: [38702097](#)

"30 unique interventions from 16 countries were identified, with 20 targeting both IPV and VAC [violence against children]. Key mechanisms for reducing IPV and VAC in primary prevention interventions included improved communication, conflict resolution, reflection on harmful gender norms, and awareness of the adverse consequences of IPV and VAC on children. Therapeutic programmes for women and children who were exposed to IPV facilitated engagement with IPV-related trauma, increased awareness of the effects of IPV, and promoted avoidance of unhealthy relationships....Our findings strengthen evidence in support of efforts to address IPV and VAC through coordinated prevention and response programmes. However, response interventions for both IPV and VAC are rare and predominantly implemented in high-income countries."

Gautschi J, Lätsch D.

The effectiveness of interventions to prevent and reduce child maltreatment in high-income countries: An umbrella review.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;153:106845. PMID: [38761720](#)

"44 publications were included in the umbrella review. We did not find that any type of intervention had a clear, consistent, and robust track record of preventing or reducing the occurrence of child abuse and neglect...However, positive effects for particular interventions in specific settings did emerge. Research methodologies showed several and often severe problems. We suggest several measures to improve the quality of research and call on practitioners to be persistent in developing more effective interventions to reduce child maltreatment."

Johnson AM, Cole BS.

Self-Defense Training to Reduce Violence Against Women and Girls: An Integrative Review.

J Am Psychiatr Nurses Assoc. 2024;10783903241254308. PMID: [38794955](#)

From a research review on the outcome of women and girls defense training, "Key findings included strong evidence for women's self-defense training to reduce attempted rape, completed rape, and nonconsensual sexual contact, as well as emerging evidence for reduction in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, among other positive outcomes. Further research is needed in more diverse populations at risk for violence and to identify key characteristics of effective interventions, including optimal content and dose."

Researchers

Perrins SP, Vermes E, Cincotta K, et al.

Understanding forms of childhood adversities and associations with adult health outcomes: A regression tree analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;153:106844. PMID: [38761717](#)

Using data from 11,545 participants in a national study plus supervised machine learning, CDC researchers "sought to identify childhood adversities that warrant consideration as expanded ACEs...Four expanded ACEs--basic needs instability, lack of parental love and affection, community stressors, and mother's experience with physical abuse during childhood--significantly interacted with general health, depressive symptom severity, anxiety symptom severity, and violent crime victimization in adulthood. Basic needs instability and/or lack of parental love and affection emerged as correlates across multiple outcomes...and warrant further consideration in ACEs assessments."

Morton L, Cogan N, Kolacz J, et al.

A new measure of feeling safe: Developing psychometric properties of the Neuroception of Psychological Safety Scale (NPSS).

Psychol Trauma. 2024 May;16(4):701-708. PMID: [35849369](#)

"Psychological safety is increasingly recognized as central to mental health, wellbeing and posttraumatic growth." This paper establishes the neuroception of psychological safety scale (NPSS), informed by Polyvagal Theory and combining psychological, physiological and social components. "The NPSS is a novel measure of psychological safety which can be used across a range of health and social care settings...will help shape new

approaches to evaluating trauma treatments, relational issues and mental health concerns."

Richmond J, Anderson A, Cunningham-Erves J, et al.

Conceptualizing and Measuring Trust, Mistrust, and Distrust: Implications for Advancing Health Equity and Building Trustworthiness.

Annu Rev Public Health. 2024 May;45(1):465-484. PMID: [38100649](#)

"Trust is vital to public confidence in health and science, yet there is no consensus on the most useful way to conceptualize, define, measure, or intervene on trust and its related constructs (e.g., mistrust, distrust, and trustworthiness)...We summarize key definitions and conceptual frameworks and offer guidance to scholars aiming to measure these constructs. We also review how trust-related constructs are associated with health outcomes, describe interventions in this field, and provide recommendations for building trust and institutional trustworthiness and advancing health equity."

Other of Interest

Boddy J, Harris C, O'Leary P, et al.

Intersections of Intimate Partner Violence and Natural Disasters: A Systematic Review of the Quantitative Evidence.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;15248380241249145. PMID: [38770897](#)

"The review found an association between IPV and disasters, across disaster types and countries. However, more research is needed to explore the nuances and gaps within the existing knowledge base. It was unclear whether this relationship was causal or if natural disasters heightened existing risk factors. Further, it is inconclusive as to whether disasters create new cases of IPV or exacerbate existing violence. The majority of studies focused on hurricanes and earthquakes. These gaps represent the need for further research...increasing stakeholders' ability to strengthen community capacity and reduce IPV when natural disasters occur."