

# ABUSE RESEARCH

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## Child Abuse

Yang BZ, Zhang H, Ge W, et. al.

### **Child abuse and epigenetic mechanisms of disease risk.**

Am J Prev Med. 2013 Feb;44(2):101-7. PMID: [23332324](#)  
 DNA samples from 96 maltreated children who had been removed from home and 96 matched controls revealed that abused children had significantly increased numbers of methylated genes (methylation changes the function of a gene). "The gene set [of abused children] contained numerous markers of diseases and biological processes related to the health problems associated with early childhood adversity."

Senati M, Polacco M, Grassi VM, Carbone A, De-Giorgio F.

### **Child abuse followed by fatal systemic Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection.**

Leg Med (Tokyo). 2013 Jan;15(1):28-31. PMID: [22981176](#)  
 "Abused children have to be considered as potentially immunologically impaired patients; therefore, it is very important to screen them for opportunistic infections. Moreover, a history of unusual or recurring infections may indicate abuse, especially neglect or malnutrition."

D'Alessio SJ, Stolzenberg L.

### **Stepchildren, community disadvantage, and physical injury in a child abuse incident: a preliminary investigation.**

Violence Vict. 2012;27(6):860-70. PMID: [23393950](#)  
 In a review of child abuse incidents reported to police in 133 US cities in 2005, in cities with a high level of community disadvantage, stepchildren were much more apt than genetic children to suffer an intentional physical injury.

Thompson A, Bertocci G, Pierce MC.

### **Assessment of injury potential in pediatric bed fall experiments using an anthropomorphic test device.**

Accid Anal Prev. 2013 Jan;50:16-24. PMID: [23131474](#)  
 Using an anthropomorphic test device representing a 12-month-old child, the potential for injury was highest on a surface of linoleum over concrete. "The potential for severe head and extremity injuries was low for most evaluated surfaces.

However, results suggest that concussion and humerus fracture may be possible in these falls."

Goodpasture M, Everett VD, Gagliano M, Narayan AP, Sinal S.  
**Invisible children.**

N C Med J. 2013 Jan-Feb;74(1):90-4. PMID: [23530395](#)  
 Discussion of a series of severe child abuse cases all involving home-schooling, with an analysis of home-schooling system regulation deficits.

## Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Fagundes CP, Glaser R, Kiecolt-Glaser JK.

### **Stressful early life experiences and immune dysregulation across the lifespan.**

Brain Behav Immun. 2013 Jan;27(1):8-12. PMID: [22771426](#)  
 Review of the effects of childhood abuse on the immune system, with a model of vulnerability and lifelong health consequences.

Pérez-Fuentes G, Olsson M, Villegas L, et. Al.

### **Prevalence and correlates of child sexual abuse: a national study.**

Compr Psychiatry. 2013 Jan;54(1):16-27. PMID: [22854279](#)  
 From a US sample of over 34,000 adults, the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse (CSA defined as age 0-17) was 10.14% (24.8% men and 75.2% women). Those with a history of CSA had significantly higher rates of suicide attempts and diagnoses including depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and schizophrenia.

Colman I, Garad Y, Zeng Y, et. al.

### **Stress and development of depression and heavy drinking in adulthood: moderating effects of childhood trauma.**

Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 2013 Feb;48(2):265-74. PMID: [22684339](#)

From a National Canadian Health study with 3930 participants followed over time, a history of childhood trauma significantly increased the risk of both depression and heavy drinking in response to a stressful event.

Roberts AL, Lyall K, Rich-Edwards JW, et. al.  
**Association of maternal exposure to childhood abuse with elevated risk for autism in offspring.**

JAMA Psychiatry. 2013 May;70(5):508-15. PMID: [23553149](#)  
Using data from the Nurses' Health Study II, "We identify an intergenerational association between maternal exposure to childhood abuse and risk for autism in the subsequent generation. Adverse perinatal circumstances accounted for only a small portion of this increased risk."

Wise LA, Palmer JR, Rosenberg L.  
**Lifetime abuse victimization and risk of uterine leiomyomata in black women.**

Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2013 Apr;208(4):272.e1-272.e13. PMID: [23295977](#)  
From the Black Women's Health Study, childhood sexual abuse, not teen or adult abuse, was an independent risk factor for uterine fibroids.

Strine TW, Edwards VJ, Dube SR, et. al.  
**The mediating sex-specific effect of psychological distress on the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and current smoking among adults.**

Subst Abuse Treat Prev Policy. 2012 Jul 13;7:30. PMID: [22788356](#)  
Data from 7210 Kaiser-Permanente members in San Diego revealed that adverse childhood experiences were significantly related to smoking in women, but not in men. "These findings suggest that for women, current smoking cessation strategies may benefit from understanding the potential role of childhood trauma."

Zollman G, Rellini A, Desrocher D.  
**The mediating effect of daily stress on the sexual arousal function of women with a history of childhood sexual abuse.**

J Sex Marital Ther. 2013;39(2):176-92. PMID: [23252641](#)  
In this controlled study of 62 women with and without a history of childhood maltreatment, for those with a childhood abuse history, perceived daily stress was much more likely to interfere with sexual functioning.

## Adolescents

Hines DA, Armstrong JL, Reed KP, Cameron AY.  
**Gender differences in sexual assault victimization among college students.**

Violence Vict. 2012;27(6):922-40. PMID: [23393954](#)  
Discussion of different risk factors predicting college student sexual assault by gender, such as sexual orientation, time partying, or being a stalking victim.

Walsh K, DiLillo D, Klanecky A, McChargue D.  
**Posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms: a mechanism in the relationship between early sexual victimization and incapacitated/drug-or-alcohol-facilitated and forcible rape.**  
J Interpers Violence. 2013 Feb;28(3):558-76. PMID: [22929343](#)  
Incapacitated/drug-or-alcohol facilitated rape (IR/DAFR) is a particularly prevalent experience for college women. This study of 714 undergraduate women suggests that child or adolescent sexual abuse leads to PTSD, which in turn increases the likelihood of drugs/alcohol and IR/DART.

Roberts AL, Rosario M, Corliss HL, et. al.  
**Sexual orientation and functional pain in U.S. young adults: the mediating role of childhood abuse.**  
PLoS One. 2013;8(1):e54702. PMID: [23355890](#)  
From a large national database, young adults who identified as "mostly heterosexual" or bisexual were at higher risk of functional pain (pain without known pathology) at multiple physical sites compared to homosexual or heterosexual youth. A history of childhood abuse added to risk of functional pain.

## Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Howell KH, Miller LE, Graham-Bermann SA.  
**Evaluating preschool children's attitudes and beliefs about intimate partner violence.**  
Violence Vict. 2012;27(6):941-56. PMID: [23393955](#)  
From a pilot study of 92 preschool children exposed to IPV, most reported at least one maladaptive attitude or belief about violence. "Clinicians may need to address both children's individual adjustment following violence exposure as well as their attitudes and beliefs concerning the acceptability of violence in interpersonal relationships."

Malta LA, McDonald SW, Hegadoren KM, et. Al.  
**Influence of interpersonal violence on maternal anxiety, depression, stress and parenting morale in the early postpartum: a community based pregnancy cohort study.**  
BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2012 Dec 15;12:153. PMID: [23241428](#)  
In this Canadian study of 1319 women followed during pregnancy and until 4 months postpartum, a history of childhood maltreatment was independently associated with postpartum depression, while both childhood maltreatment and IPV were associated with low parenting morale.

Jaffe AE, Cranston CC, Shadlow JO.

**Parenting in females exposed to intimate partner violence and childhood sexual abuse.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2012;21(6):684-700. PMID: [23194141](#)

Study and discussion of the effects of childhood sexual abuse or adult IPV on a woman's parenting style and abilities.

## Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Trimble DD, Nava A, McFarlane J.

**Intimate Partner Violence and Antiretroviral Adherence Among Women Receiving Care in an Urban Southeastern Texas HIV Clinic.**

J Assoc Nurses AIDS Care. 2013 Jul-Aug;24(4):331-40. PMID: [23790276](#)

Of 272 HIV-infected Texan women seen in a large HIV clinic, 52% experienced recent IPV. Those experiencing recent IPV were significantly less likely to adhere to treatment, and more likely to have detectable viral loads.

Hegarty KL, O'Doherty LJ, Chondros P, et. al.

**Effect of type and severity of intimate partner violence on women's health and service use: findings from a primary care trial of women afraid of their partners.**

J Interpers Violence. 2013 Jan;28(2):273-94. PMID: [22929341](#)

Of 386 Australian women attending 52 general practices and who reported fear of their partners in the past year, 31.6% reported poor or fair health, 36.6% had seen a psychologist, and 34.3% had had 5 or more general practitioner visits; but only 14.7% had contacted IPV services.

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Howard LM, Oram S, Galley H, Trevillion K, Feder G.

**Domestic violence and perinatal mental disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis.**

PLoS Med.2013;10(5):e1001452. PMID: [23723741](#)

In a systematic review of the medical literature, "High levels of symptoms of perinatal depression, anxiety, and PTSD are significantly associated with having experienced domestic violence."

Chuang CH, Cattoi AL, McCall-Hosenfeld JS, et. al.

**Longitudinal association of intimate partner violence and depressive symptoms.**

Ment Health Fam Med. 2012 Jun;9(2):107-14. PMID: [23730335](#)

For 1420 Pennsylvanian women followed over time, exposure to IPV significantly increased the likelihood of depressive symptoms two years later.

## Cultural Issues

Carbone-Lopez K.

**Across racial/ethnic boundaries: investigating intimate violence within a national sample.**

J Interpers Violence. 2013 Jan;28(1):3-24. PMID: [22859711](#)

Using data from the National Violence Against Women Survey, inter-racial couples had the highest rates of verbal aggression and control tactics, while mono-ethnic couples had the highest rates of physical abuse.

Lacey KK, McPherson MD, Samuel PS, et. al.

**The impact of different types of intimate partner violence on the mental and physical health of women in different ethnic groups.**

Interpers Violence. 2013 Jan;28(2):359-85. PMID: [22929348](#)

Abused women from a national survey were more likely to report alcohol or substance use, depressive symptoms, and poor physical health. However, the effects of different types of abuse differed by ethnicity.

## Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Mysyuk Y, Westendorp RG, Lindenberg J.

**Added value of elder abuse definitions: a review.**

Ageing Res Rev. 2013 Jan;12(1):50-7. PMID: [22561470](#)

Article highlights the difficulties for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers on "how to define elder abuse."

Norris D, Fancey P, Power E, Ross P.

**The critical-ecological framework: advancing knowledge, practice, and policy on older adult abuse.**

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2013;25(1):40-55. PMID: [23289416](#)

Literature review, focus groups with stakeholders, and interviews with six national experts form the basis of an analysis on the differences between family violence and older adult abuse, with gaps and future research for elder abuse identified.

Phillips LR, Ziminski C.

### **The public health nursing role in elder neglect in assisted living facilities.**

Public Health Nurs. 2012 Nov;29(6):499-509. PMID: [23078421](#)

From a database of citations against assisted living facilities in Arizona, citations for neglect were related to numerous poor outcomes, including injury, emergency department visits, and relocation. The role of public health nurses in working with these facilities is discussed.

Phillips LR, Guo G, Kim H.

### **Elder mistreatment in U.S. residential care facilities: the scope of the problem.**

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2013;25(1):19-39. PMID: [23289415](#)

Comparison of abuse citations in Arizona assisted living facilities with large numbers of substantiated mistreatment complaints. "Elder mistreatment is seriously under-identified, even by state inspectors."

Rudnick JD Jr, Teaster PB.

### **Elder abuse and neglect: a survey of clergy awareness, knowledge, and intervention preferences.**

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2013;25(4):323-38. PMID: [23768415](#)

In a survey of 300 Protestant clergy members in Kentucky with a 53% response rate, 56% did not know that Kentucky is an "any person" mandatory reporting state. Untrained clergy also indicated a willingness to provide therapy to victims despite reporting that they did not feel qualified to do so.

## Perpetrators

Donley S, Habib L, Jovanovic T, et. al.

### **Civilian PTSD symptoms and risk for involvement in the criminal justice system.**

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2012;40(4):522-9. PMID: [23233474](#)

From a survey of 4,113 civilians at an urban hospital in Atlanta, both trauma exposure and PTSD remained strongly associated with increased risk of involvement in the criminal justice system, even after adjustment for multiple risk factors. "Trauma and PTSD have important implications for public safety and recidivism."

O Ciardha C, Ward T.

### **Theories of cognitive distortions in sexual offending: what the current research tells us.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2013 Jan;14(1):5-21. PMID: [23258799](#)

Article discussed theories to explain the role of distorted cognition (beliefs or behaviors that aren't rational) in initiating and maintaining sexual offending.

Ornstein P, Rickne J.

### **When does intimate partner violence continue after separation?**

Violence Against Women. 2013 May;19(5):617-33. PMID: [23743350](#)

This Swedish study concludes that the likelihood of stalking increases linearly with the number of controlling behaviors exhibited during the relationship.

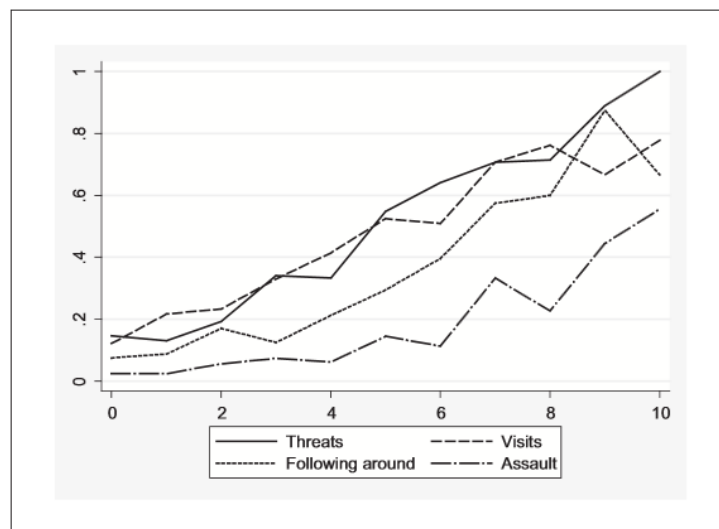


Figure 1. Probability of stalking or postseparation assault by the total number of control behaviors used during the relationship.

## Police and Court Systems

Vittes KA, Webster DW, Frattaroli S, Claire BE, Wintemute GJ.

### **Removing guns from batterers: findings from a pilot survey of domestic violence restraining order recipients in California.**

Violence Against Women. 2013 May;19(5):602-16. PMID: [23759665](#)

Results of interviews with 17 DV victims from a pilot study of San Mateo and Butte counties where Sheriff Detectives cross-referenced gun databases and DV victim declarations to ensure that all firearms were removed after a restraining order was issued. The partners of all 17 victims possessed firearms, ranging from 1 to 27.

Berger O, McNeil DE, Binder RL.

**PTSD as a criminal defense: a review of case law.**

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2012;40(4):509-21. PMID: [23233473](#)

Analysis of the use of a PTSD diagnosis as a basis for criminal defense.

Wright CV, Johnson DM.

**Encouraging legal help seeking for victims of intimate partner violence: the therapeutic effects of the civil protection order.**

J Trauma Stress. 2012 Dec;25(6):675-81. PMID: [23184312](#)

For 106 female shelter residents followed over time, PTSD symptoms and sexual revictimization significantly decreased from baseline to 6 months post-shelter for women who had protective orders compared to those who did not.

## Providers

Chatigny C.

**Devising work schedules for a collective: favouring intergenerational collaboration among counsellors in a shelter for female victims of conjugal violence.**

Work. 2011;40 Suppl 1:S101-10. PMID: [22112666](#)

In response to a request from a consortium of Canadian shelters that were experiencing worker stress, difficulties in management and high employee turnover, a team of specialists made a series of recommendations which eliminated turnover for at least the next two years.

Hansen K, Höfling V, Kröner-Borowik T, Stangier U, Steil R.  
**Efficacy of psychological interventions aiming to reduce chronic nightmares: a meta-analysis.**

Clin Psychol Rev. 2013 Feb;33(1):146-55. PMID: [23186732](#)

This paper analyzes various successful methods using imagery for treatment of nightmares.

Shorey RC, Tirone V, Nathanson AM, et. al.

**A preliminary investigation of the influence of subjective norms and relationship commitment on stages of change in female intimate partner violence victims.**

J Interpers Violence. 2013 Feb;28(3):621-42. PMID: [22929339](#)

Investigation of several factors contributing to women's decision to stay or leave, including subjective norms of their social network.

Sprague S, Madden K, Dosanjh S, et. al.

**Intimate partner violence and musculoskeletal injury: bridging the knowledge gap in orthopaedic fracture clinics.**

BMC Musculoskelet Disord. 2013 Jan 15;14:23. PMID: [23316813](#)

Review article for Canadian Orthopedic Surgeons.

Della Rocca GJ, Sprague S, Dosanjh S, et. al.

**Orthopaedic surgeons' knowledge and misconceptions in the identification of intimate partner violence against women.**

Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2013 Apr;471(4):1074-80. PMID: [23283672](#)

In a survey of US and Canadian Orthopedic Surgeons, 16% felt "the victims must be getting something out of the abusive relationship"; 20% that "some women have personalities that cause the abuse"; and 40% that "the battering would stop if the batterer quit abusing alcohol." 51% had identified an IPV victim in the past year, however only 4% screened for IPV. In an accompanying interview, the author suggests training a nurse to screen and advise abused women, and refers to the statement by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons on this subject at:

<http://www.aaos.org/about/papers/advistmt/1030.asp>

Ivanoff CS, Hottel TL.

**Comprehensive training in suspected child abuse and neglect for dental students: a hybrid curriculum.**

J Dent Educ. 2013 Jun;77(6):695-705. PMID: [23740906](#)

Authors propose expanding the dental school curriculums to include protocols and training to screen and report suspected child abuse and neglect.

Brown JL.

**Responsibilities and risks when radiologists evaluate patients for child abuse.**

AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2013 May;200(5):948-9. PMID: [23617473](#)

Review article for radiologists on reporting reasonable suspicion of child abuse, required in all states.

## Prevention

De Grace A, Clarke A.

**Promising practices in the prevention of intimate partner violence among adolescents.**

Violence Vict. 2012;27(6):849-59. PMID: [23393949](#)

An investigation of current prevention practices for adolescent IPV revealed one program that included all prior identified 9 principles of effective prevention programs. "Safe Dates" serves as a model which can be further refined to be effective across diverse groups.

Oscós-Sánchez MÁ, Lesser J, Oscós-Flores LD.  
**High school students in a health career promotion program report fewer acts of aggression and violence.**

J Adolesc Health. 2013 Jan;52(1):96-101. PMID: [23260841](#)  
Disadvantaged Latino high school students who participated in a health career promotion program reported fewer acts of aggression and violence compared with those in a culturally tailored character development program.

Freisthler B.  
**Need for and Access to Supportive Services in the Child Welfare System.**

GeoJournal. 2013 Jun 1;78(3):429-441. PMID: [23788827](#)  
Mapping of child support services in LA county showed that living in and around “resource rich” support service zip codes was associated with fewer child maltreatment referrals and foster care entries.

## Researchers

Tonmyr L, Jack SM, Brooks S, et. al.  
**Utilization of the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect by child welfare agencies.**

Chronic Dis Inj Can. 2012 Dec;33(1):29-37. PMID: [23294919](#)  
Analysis of how senior Canadian child welfare decision makers utilized surveillance data, including determining resource allocation, understanding trends, and validating findings at their own agencies. “The study participants indicated considerable appreciation of the data and also provided ideas for improvements across the surveillance cycle.”

Burke JG, Hess S, Hoffmann K, et. al.  
**Translating community-based participatory research principles into practice.**

Prog Community Health Partnersh. 2013 Summer;7(2):115-22. PMID: [23793242](#)  
Description of process and findings from research workshops jointly held for academic and community members to promote community engagement in IPV research.

Wager NM.  
**Respondents' experiences of completing a retrospective web-based, sexual trauma survey: does a history of sexual victimization equate with risk for harm?**

Violence Vict. 2012;27(6):991-1004. PMID: [23393958](#)  
In a follow-up of a British web-based survey of sexual trauma, higher levels of benefit from participating in the survey “did not always compensate for greater levels of distress.” Authors suggest more ethically sensitive research design.

## Other of Interest

Wirtz AL, Glass N, Pham K, et. al.  
**Development of a screening tool to identify female survivors of gender-based violence in a humanitarian setting: qualitative evidence from research among refugees in Ethiopia.**

Confl Health. 2013 Jun 12;7(1):13. PMID: [23758886](#)  
From interviews with 37 female refugees from six conflict countries living in camps in Ethiopia, women had experienced psychological and social violence; rape, gang rape, sexual coercion, and other sexual violence; abduction; and physical violence via domestic violence or opportunistic violence occurring during transit. Barriers to reporting included stigma in health settings and the wider community, lack of awareness of services, and inability to protect children while mothers sought services.

Brooks R.  
**"Asia's missing women" as a problem in applied evolutionary psychology?**

Evol Psychol. 2012 Dec 20;10(5):910-25. PMID: [23253795](#)  
“In many parts of Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, women and children are so undervalued, neglected, abused, and so often killed, that sex ratios are now strongly male biased...evidence from India, China and elsewhere [is] that grossly male-biased sex ratios lead to increased crime, violence, local warfare, political instability, drug abuse, prostitution and trafficking of women.”

**Figure 1.** Childhood sex ratios in eight countries responsible for the largest number of missing women and girls, compared with the childhood sex ratio for the rest of the world (dashed line)

