

# ABUSE RESEARCH

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## Child Abuse

Barth J, Bermetz L, Heim E, Trelle S, Tonia T.

### The current prevalence of child sexual abuse worldwide: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Int J Public Health. 2013 Jun;58(3):469-83. PMID: [23178922](#)

In a review of studies from 24 countries, the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse ranged from 8-31% for girls (9% penetration) and 3-17% for boys (3% penetration).

Ortega HW, Vander Velden H, Kreykes NS, Reid S.

### Childhood death attributable to trauma: is there a difference between accidental and abusive fatal injuries?

J Emerg Med. 2013 Sep;45(3):332-7. PMID: [23797026](#)

From 12 years of child fatalities in two urban pediatric EDs, children dying of abusive injury compared to accidental injury were more likely to be younger, to have been seen for an injury within 2 months of their death, and to have had a high incidence of subdural hematomas [bleeding around the brain] (82% vs. 7.2%).

Barber I, Perez-Rossello JM, Wilson CR, et. al.

### Prevalence and relevance of pediatric spinal fractures in suspected child abuse.

Pediatr Radiol. 2013 Nov;43(11):1507-15. PMID: [23812002](#)

Of 751 children ages 0-4 years evaluated for suspected child abuse, 1.9% were found to have spinal fractures. In 35% of cases this was the only fracture found, and 71% were associated with intracranial injury.

Price M, Higa-McMillan C, Kim S, Frueh BC.

### Trauma experience in children and adolescents: an assessment of the effects of trauma type and role of interpersonal proximity.

J Anxiety Disord. 2013 Oct;27(7):652-60. PMID: [24064334](#)

Analysis of 1676 multi-ethnic Chicago children and adolescents followed over 8 years, examining the relationship between different types of trauma experiences and levels of various psychiatric symptoms.

Waterman JM, Nadeem E, Paczkowski E, et. al.

### Pre-placement risk and longitudinal cognitive development for children adopted from foster care.

Child Welfare. 2013;92(4):9-30. PMID: [24851473](#)

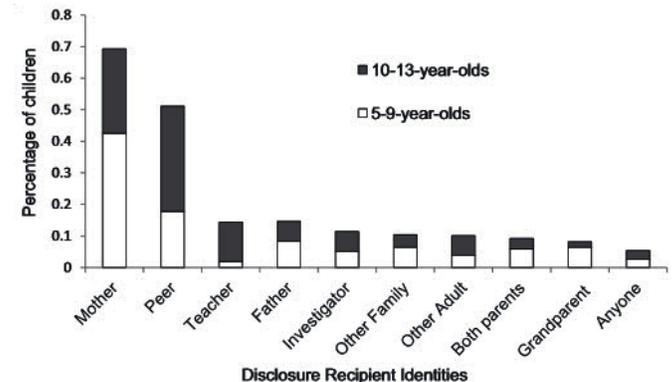
Overall, 82 children adopted from foster care had a rapid improvement in cognitive development over the first year post adoption, and by five years cognitive and achievement scores were in the average range.

Malloy LC, Brubacher SP, Lamb ME.

### "Because she's one who listens": children discuss disclosure recipients in forensic interviews.

Child Maltreat. 2013 Nov;18(4):245-51. PMID: [23897746](#)

British study with 204 suspected victims of child sexual abuse interviewed about disclosure.



## Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Probst DR, Wells-Di Gregorio S, Marks DR.

### Suffering compounded: the relationship between abuse history and distress in five palliative care domains.

J Palliat Med. 2013 Oct;16(10):1242-8. PMID: [24050391](#)

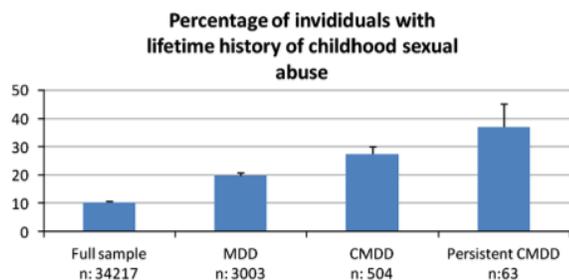
For 164 palliative care cancer outpatients, 28% reported a history of childhood or adult abuse. Those with an abuse history experienced significantly higher rates of physical problems, psychological symptoms, spiritual concerns, greater distress, and a diagnosis of major depression or generalized anxiety disorder.

Garcia-Toro M, Rubio JM, Gili M, et. al.

### **Persistence of chronic major depression: a national prospective study.**

J Affect Disord. 2013 Oct;151(1):306-12. PMID: [23866303](#)

As part of a national study of over 34,000 Spanish adults, of those depressed at initial screening, only 11.52% continued to be depressed 3 years later. Risk factors for persistence of chronic depression included childhood sexual abuse.



**Fig. 1.** Relationship between history of childhood sexual abuse and probability of MDD, CMDD and persistent CMDD in the NESARC. Abbreviations: MDD: Major depressive disorder; CMDD: Chronic major depressive disorder.

Wager NM.

### **Sexual revictimization: double betrayal and the risk associated with dissociative amnesia.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2013;22(7):878-99. PMID: [24125087](#)

In a British web-based survey with 481 community respondents, 183 reported a history of childhood sexual abuse. Those who experienced “double betrayal”, meaning perpetration by a trusted person (often a caregiver) plus a negative response to disclosure, had a higher incidence of amnesia for the abuse and sexual revictimization in later life.

Kennedy SC, Tripodi SJ, Pettus-Davis C.

### **The relationship between childhood abuse and psychosis for women prisoners.**

Psychiatr Q. 2013 Dec;84(4):439-53. PMID: [23443760](#)

Of 159 randomly selected women incarcerated in North Carolina, women who experienced multi-victimization in childhood were 2.4 times more likely to report current symptoms of psychosis (audio/visual hallucinations and delusions). “...adjusting prison-based mental health services to address the relationship of childhood victimization and symptoms of psychosis may be a key factor in improving outcomes among this population.”

## Adolescents

Reed E, Miller E, Raj A, Decker MR, Silverman JG.

### **Teen dating violence perpetration and relation to STI and sexual risk behaviours among adolescent males.**

Sex Transm Infect. 2014 Jun;90(4):322-4. PMID: [24578579](#)

Among 134 adolescent males, 45% reported teen dating violence (TDV). TDV perpetration was significantly associated with self-reports of a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and having sex with an additional partner, but not with consistent condom use or not. Increased STI rates among female teen victims may be due to these findings, not necessarily the issue of condom use.

Newnham EA, Janca A.

### **Childhood adversity and borderline personality disorder: a focus on adolescence.**

Curr Opin Psychiatry. 2014 Jan;27(1):68-72. PMID: [24270475](#)

“Exposure to trauma, specifically sexual abuse, prior to and during puberty has specific implications for personality development and heightens risk for borderline personality disorder...Impulsivity, difficulties in emotion regulation, and suicidality may characterize adolescent expression of borderline personality disorder.”

Debeck K, Kerr T, Marshall BD, Simo A, Montaner J, Wood E.

### **Risk factors for progression to regular injection drug use among street-involved youth in a Canadian setting.**

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2013 Dec 1;133(2):468-72. PMID: [23910434](#)

Among 405 Canadian street youth who initiated injection drug use, a history of childhood physical abuse was one of the risk factors leading to progression to regular injecting.

## Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

McFarlane J, Maddoux J, Cesario S, et. al.

### **Effect of abuse during pregnancy on maternal and child safety and functioning for 24 months after delivery.**

Obstet Gynecol. 2014 Apr;123(4):839-47. PMID: [24785613](#)

For 24 women reporting abuse during pregnancy compared with 22 women reporting abuse outside of pregnancy and followed for 2 years, those abused during pregnancy reported significantly greater threats of abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, danger for murder and PTSD; their children displayed more behavioral problems during the entire 2 year follow-up.

## Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Collier R, Quinlivan JA.

**Domestic violence is a leading risk factor in default from colposcopy services.**

J Obstet Gynaecol Res. 2014 Jun;40(6):1785-90. PMID: [24888949](#)

In an Australian prospective study of 574 women with abnormal pap smears sent to colposcopy clinic [for more advanced testing for cervical cancer], those exposed to partner violence were more likely to default from colposcopy (26.2% vs. 7.4%) and more likely to be lost to follow-up (8.0% vs. 1.1%).

Siemieniuk RA, Krentz HB, Gill MJ.

**Intimate partner violence and HIV: a review.**

Curr HIV/AIDS Rep. 2013 Dec;10(4):380-9. PMID: [23943348](#)

IPV “is increasingly being recognized as an important predictor of poor outcomes for those living with HIV by affecting retention to care, mental health, adherence to therapy, frequency of follow-up; all of which lead to more hospitalizations and progression to AIDS.”

Montero I, Martín-Baena D, Escribà-Agüir V, et. al.

**Intimate partner violence in older women in Spain: prevalence, health consequences, and service utilization.**

J Women Aging. 2013;25(4):358-71. PMID: [24116995](#)

Of 1676 Spanish women over age 54, 29.4% experience lifetime IPV with an average duration of 21 years. “Abused women showed significantly poorer health and higher healthcare service utilization.”

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Adams AE, Bybee D, Tolman RM, Sullivan CM, Kennedy AC.

**Does job stability mediate the relationship between intimate partner violence and mental health among low-income women?**

Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2013 Oct;83(4):600-8. PMID: [24164531](#)

For 503 Michigan women followed for 7 years from a state study, IPV significantly decreased job stability both during abuse and for at least 3 years afterwards. Both IPV and decreased job stability had significant effects on depression and anxiety.

## Sexual Assault

**Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women. ACOG Committee Opinion no. 592: Sexual assault.**

Obstet Gynecol. 2014 Apr;123(4):905-9. PMID: [24785635](#)

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology committee guidelines on screening and management of sexual assault.

Barglow P.

**Numbing after rape, and depth of therapy.**

Am J Psychother. 2014;68(1):117-39. PMID: [24818460](#)

Author discusses the post-rape symptom of intense numbing and the suitability of different intervention therapies, as this symptom may be an important variable in predicting trauma recovery.

Walsh K, Nugent NR, Kotte A, et. al.

**Cortisol at the emergency room rape visit as a predictor of PTSD and depression symptoms over time.**

Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2013 Nov;38(11):2520-8. PMID: [23806832](#)

For 323 female victims of recent sexual assault, prior assault history and cortisol level at time of assault both independently and interactively predicted PTSD and depression symptoms over 6 months follow-up.

Imhoff LR, Liwanag L, Varma M.

**Exacerbation of symptom severity of pelvic floor disorders in women who report a history of sexual abuse.**

Arch Surg. 2012 Dec;147(12):1123-9. PMID: [23248015](#)

Of 1781 adult women referred to a center for pelvic floor disorders, 12.0% reported prior sexual abuse or assault (SAA) [at any age]. While SAA patients with either fecal incontinence or constipation had the same physical findings as those without SAA history, they experienced significantly increased symptom severity and diminished quality of life.

Bradley CS, Nygaard IE, Torner JC, et. al.

**Overactive bladder and mental health symptoms in recently deployed female veterans.**

J Urol. 2014 May;191(5):1327-32. PMID: [24316095](#)

Of 1702 recently deployed female veterans, 22% report overactive bladder. Symptoms were significantly associated independently with each of: PTSD, anxiety, depression and sexual assault.

Hiquet J, Gromb-Monnoyeur S.

**Men victim of sexual assault of concern into the first Emergency Medical Unit for Victims of Assaults in France.**

J Forensic Leg Med. 2013 Oct;20(7):836-41. PMID: [24112332](#)

Description of the distinctive barriers and needs of male sexual assault victims in France, and plans for improving staff training, dedicated shelters, victim support and a population awareness campaign.

Lincoln C, Perera R, Jacobs I, Ward A.

**Macroscopically detected female genital injury after consensual and non-consensual vaginal penetration: a prospective comparison study.**

J Forensic Leg Med. 2013 Oct;20(7):884-901. PMID: [24112341](#)

Comparing 41 women presenting after reporting sexual assault to 81 women with recent intercourse presenting for routine care, women presenting without consent were 19.5 times more likely to sustain at least one genital injury, and abrasions and bruises were seen exclusively in this group.

## Human Trafficking

Hodge DR.

**Assisting victims of human trafficking.**

Soc Work. 2014 Apr;59(2):111-8. PMID: [24855860](#)

Article for social workers on strategies to facilitate identification, exit from trafficking, and the restoration of wellness.

Rafferty Y.

**Child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation: a review of promising prevention policies and programs.**

Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2013 Oct;83(4):559-75. PMID: [24164528](#)

After a review of the subject, "This article highlights promising policies and programs designed to prevent child trafficking and CSE [commercial sexual exploitation] by combating demand for sex with children, reducing supply, and strengthening communities."

Peled E, Parker A.

**The mothering experiences of sex-trafficked women.**

Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2013 Oct;83(4):576-87. PMID: [24164529](#)

Exploration of the conflicts of 8 women who gave birth while experiencing sex-trafficking.

Stevens AJ.

**The invisible soldiers: understanding how the life experiences of girl child soldiers impacts upon their health and rehabilitation needs.**

Arch Dis Child. 2014 May;99(5):458-62. PMID: [24397926](#)

"There are estimated 120,000 girl child soldiers worldwide...This review provides an overview of how the duties and life experiences of girl soldiers, including gender-specific abuses, impacts upon their [physical, mental and reproductive] health and concludes with a summary of recommendations as to their rehabilitation needs."

## Cultural Issues

Drabble L, Trocki KF, Hughes TL, Korcha RA, Lown AE.

**Sexual orientation differences in the relationship between victimization and hazardous drinking among women in the National Alcohol Survey.**

Psychol Addict Behav. 2013 Sep;27(3):639-48. PMID: [23438246](#)

Using national survey data, female sexual minority groups reported significantly higher rates of lifetime abuse victimization compared to heterosexual women, and had significantly higher odds of hazardous drinking.

## Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Hoover RM, Polson M.

**Detecting elder abuse and neglect: assessment and intervention.**

Am Fam Physician. 2014 Mar 15;89(6):453-60. PMID: [24695564](#)

Review of detection and management of elder abuse and neglect, including in the instance of cognitive impairment.

Ellis JM, Teresi JA, Ramirez M, et. al.

**Managing resident-to-resident elder mistreatment in nursing homes: the SEARCH approach.**

J Contin Educ Nurs. 2014 Mar;45(3):112-21. PMID: [24548656](#)

Description of an educational program to inform nursing and care staff of the recognition and management of resident-to-resident elder mistreatment.

Ziminski CE, Wigglesworth A, Austin R, Phillips LR, Mosqueda.

**Injury patterns and causal mechanisms of bruising in physical elder abuse.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2013 Apr-Jun;9(2):84-91. PMID: [24158129](#)

In a review of injuries to adults reported to Adult Protective Services, the most common bruising locations were lateral/anterior arms (34.3% - 8 times more likely when reported being grabbed), head and neck (14.9%, 7.71 times more likely when reported being choked and 13.53 when being punched), and posterior torso (10.4%).

## Perpetrators

Carvalho J, Quinta-Gomes A, Nobre PJ.

### **The sexual functioning profile of a nonforensic sample of individuals reporting sexual aggression against women.**

J Sex Med. 2013 Jul;10(7):1744-54. PMID: [23668395](#)

In a survey of 161 male Portuguese college students, 22% reported sexual aggression against women. Aggressors were significantly more likely to have more difficulties with sexual embarrassment, and erectile and orgasmic performance concerns.

## Police and Court Systems

Weiss KJ, Curcio Alexander J.

### **Sex, lies, and statistics: inferences from the child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome.**

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2013;41(3):412-20. PMID: [24051595](#)

Discussion of expert testimony and admissibility in court of child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome (stages: secrecy, helplessness, entrapment and accommodation, delayed disclosure and retraction).

## Providers

Macy RJ, Rizo CF, Ermentrout DM.

### **Characteristics, needs, and help seeking of partner violence victims mandated to community services by courts and CPS.**

Am J Orthopsychiatry. 2013 Oct;83(4):588-99. PMID: [24164530](#)

Women referred to service agencies either from CPS or court-mandated were characterized by more severe IPV experiences and more serious mental health needs than women who had historically sought services voluntarily. This paper suggests an appropriate support program for them.

Faugno D, Waszak D, Strack GB, Brooks MA, Gwinn CG.

### **Strangulation forensic examination: best practice for health care providers.**

Adv Emerg Nurs J. 2013 Oct-Dec;35(4):314-27. PMID: [24176831](#)

Non-lethal strangulation "is often not reported and missed by the health care provider because of lack of visible injury." This paper explains best practices for health care providers about assessment and documentation, including forms.

Kelly L, Sharp N, Klein R.

### **Finding the Costs of Freedom: How women and children rebuild their lives after domestic violence. 2014**

<http://cwasu.org/dbimsgs/CostsofFreedomReportcompressed.pdf>

Comprehensive British report following 100 women over 3 years, detailing subsequent issues and needs of women and their children who have left an abusive relationship, with recommendations. 90% experienced post-separation abuse.

Fuentes CM.

### **Nobody's child: the role of trauma and interpersonal violence in women's pathways to incarceration and resultant service needs.**

Med Anthropol Q. 2014 Mar;28(1):85-104. PMID: [24285625](#)

The US has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and the rate of women's incarceration is significantly outpacing men's. In-depth interviews with incarcerated North Carolina women revealed "the centrality of trauma, particularly in the form of interpersonal violence, in incarcerated women's lives. In the absence of positive resources (e.g., counseling, family/friend support), women's attempts to cope with trauma increase their risks for incarceration as well as further trauma."

Tsui V.

### **Male victims of intimate partner abuse: use and helpfulness of services.**

Soc Work. 2014 Apr;59(2):121-30. PMID: [24855861](#)

"Male victims face many interpersonal and societal obstacles. Feeling uncomfortable when requesting assistance, men in IPA situations are affected by a masking factor that causes them to hide their situation...Although men are eligible, services may not be perceived as being available or helpful."

Dudgeon A, Evanson TA.

### **Intimate partner violence in rural U.S. areas: what every nurse should know.**

Am J Nurs. 2014 May;114(5):26-35; quiz 36, 48. PMID: [24727408](#)

Review of challenges facing rural women experiencing IPV, including: geographic and social isolation; traditional gender roles; religious beliefs supporting strong family commitment; thinly-spread law enforcement, social services and transportation; lack of employment opportunities; and common presence of weapons in the home.

Samios C, Abel LM, Rodzik AK.

### **The protective role of compassion satisfaction for therapists**

**who work with sexual violence survivors: an application of the broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions.**

Anxiety Stress Coping. 2013;26(6):610-23. PMID: [23570527](#)

For 61 therapists who work with trauma survivors, positive reframing led to greater positive emotions and compassion satisfaction, which helped decrease the negative effects of secondary traumatic stress.

## Prevention

Letourneau EJ, Eaton WW, Bass J, Berlin FS, Moore SG.  
**The need for a comprehensive public health approach to preventing child sexual abuse.**

Public Health Rep. 2014 May;129(3):222-8. PMID: [24790251](#)

Per the authors, child sexual abuse prevention has shown to be “policy resistant” – the tendency for interventions to be defeated by the system’s response to the intervention itself - found if the issue is “complex, poorly understood, and engenders strong emotional and defensive responses.” Suggestions to overcome this resistance are offered.

Prowse KM, Logue CE, Fantasia HC, Sutherland MA.  
**Intimate partner violence and the CDC's best-evidence HIV risk reduction interventions.**

Public Health Nurs. 2014 May-Jun;31(3):215-33. PMID: [24099558](#)

Examination of 5 CDC interventions for HIV risk reduction involving IPV.

Dworkin SL, Treves-Kagan S, Lippman SA.  
**Gender-transformative interventions to reduce HIV risks and violence with heterosexually-active men: a review of the global evidence.**

AIDS Behav. 2013 Nov;17(9):2845-63. PMID: [23934267](#)

Analysis of research on promising “gender-transformative” programs to shift norms of masculinity to be more gender equitable, which may prevent partner violence and reduce STI/HIV risk.

Jakobsson A, von Borgstede C, Krantz G, Spak F, Hensing G.  
**Possibilities and hindrances for prevention of intimate partner violence.**

Int J Behav Med. 2013 Sep;20(3):337-43. PMID: [22622818](#)

Stakeholders in a mid-sized Swedish town, representing healthcare, social welfare, police, industry leaders, municipal administrators and politicians, came together to address prevention of IPV. Hindrances were conceptualized as societal beliefs and attitudes, shame, silence, gender inequality, the counteracting influence of the media, and lack of resources.

## Researchers

Wherry JN, Corson K, Hunsaker S.

**A short form of the trauma symptom checklist for young children.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2013;22(7):796-821. PMID: [24125083](#)

Good validation was found for a shortened version of the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children (32 items down from 90).

Honig RG, Barron JW.

**Restoring institutional integrity in the wake of sexual boundary violations: a case study.**

J Am Psychoanal Assoc. 2013 Oct;61(5):897-924. PMID: [23963185](#)

Description of the institutional trauma and recovery process from sexual boundary violations by a faculty member at an institute.

## Other of Interest

Singhi P, Saini AG, Malhi P.

**Child maltreatment in India.**

Paediatr Int Child Health. 2013 Nov;33(4):292-300. PMID: [24070123](#)

Description of particularly prevalent child maltreatment in resource-poor settings in India, where 1/5 of the world’s total child population resides, including “feticide, infanticide, abandonment, child labour, street-begging, corporal punishment and battered babies”.

O'Connor M.

**Sexual violence in armed conflict: the least condemned of war crimes.**

J Law Med. 2014 Mar;21(3):528-42. PMID: [24804525](#)

Various international armed conflicts have differing levels of sexual violence, but “precipitating factors may be improved by strong military discipline, improved gender balance in armed forces, better political awareness by combatants of the aims of a campaign and pre-deployment ethical training.”

Ramage AE, Laird AR, Eickhoff SB, et. al.

**A coordinate-based meta-analytic model of trauma processing in posttraumatic stress disorder.**

Hum Brain Mapp. 2013 Dec;34(12):3392-9. PMID: [22936519](#)

Pooling numerous study results, authors propose a model of PTSD effects on brain imaging in order to better detect differences between groups and between PTSD treatments.