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Child Abuse

Hoehn EF, Overmann KM, Fananapazir N, et.al.

Improving Emergency Department Care for Pediatric Victims of Sexual Abuse.

Pediatrics. 2018 Dec;142(6). pii: e20181811. PMID: [30413558](#)

Using a best practice algorithm derived from published guidelines, targeted clinician education, and integration of an electronic order set, evaluation and management of pediatric patients seen in the ED for sexual abuse improved from 57% to 87%. Failure to test for hepatitis and syphilis constituted the majority of nonadherent care.

Pfeiffer H, Crowe L, Kemp AM, et. al.

Clinical prediction rules for abusive head trauma: a systematic review.

Arch Dis Child. 2018 Aug;103(8):776-783. PMID: [29622594](#)

From a research review, 3 different predictive tools for childhood abusive head trauma in the hospital setting are analyzed, each being relevant for a different stage in the diagnostic process, and intended more to act as a prompt to seek further information or consultation.

Dorfman MV, Metz JB, Feldman KW, et. al.

Oral injuries and occult harm in children evaluated for abuse.

Arch Dis Child. 2018 Aug;103(8):747-752. PMID: [29102964](#)

"Among 2890 child abuse consultations, 3.3% had oral injuries. Skeletal surveys were obtained for 84%, and 25% of these identified occult fractures. Seventy-five per cent had neuroimaging; 38% identified injuries. Forty-one per cent of children with oral injuries had retinal examinations; 24% of exams showed retinal haemorrhages. Children with oral injury are at high risk for additional occult abusive injuries. Young children with unexplained oral injury should be evaluated for abuse."

Högberg U, Andersson J, Högberg G, Thiblin I.

Metabolic bone disease risk factors strongly contributing to long bone and rib fractures during early infancy: A population register study.

PLoS One. 2018 Dec 19;13(12):e0208033. PMID: [30566429](#)

In a review of Swedish children born 1997-2014 diagnosed with a fracture at 0-1 years of age, of those that occurred during the first 6 months, diagnosis of vitamin D deficiency/rickets/disorders of calcium metabolism were more likely to be found in long bone fracture and rib fracture.

Mulder TM, Kuiper KC, van der Put CE, Stams GJM, Assink M.

Risk factors for child neglect: A meta-analytic review.

Child Abuse Negl. 2018 Mar;77:198-210. PMID: [29358122](#)

In a research review, most risk factors for child neglect were found at the parental level, such as a history of antisocial behavior/criminal offending, psychiatric problems, physical problems, or experiences of abuse in own childhood, not significantly different for mothers and fathers. Child mental, physical, and/or behavioral problems were also found to increase the risk for child neglect.

Parmeter J, Tzioumi D, Woolfenden S.

Medical neglect at a tertiary paediatric hospital.

Child Abuse Negl. 2018 Mar;77:134-143. PMID: [29353717](#)

In this review of medical neglect cases at an Australian Children's Hospital, medical neglect constituted 4.1% of all referrals to the child protection unit. 87% were children with chronic medical conditions, and communication difficulties with parents were a factor in all cases.

Serrano RM, Schamberger M, Parent JJ.

Takotsubo cardiomyopathy secondary to non-accidental trauma presenting as an "unwitnessed" arrest.

Cardiol Young. 2019 Mar;29(3):442-444. PMID: [30714546](#)

Case report of a 7 month-old who expired due to non-accidental trauma, and who prior to death evidenced Takotsubo ("Broken Heart Syndrome"), in which a surge of stress hormones after trauma can cause temporary and reversible heart failure.

Bush NR, Edgar RD, Park M, et. al.

The biological embedding of early-life socioeconomic status and family adversity in children's genome-wide DNA methylation.

Epigenomics. 2018 Nov;10(11):1445-1461. PMID: [30351206](#)

Of 178 community kindergarten children, separate patterns of DNA modification through methylation were found relating to family income, parental education, and family psychosocial adversity.

Clemens V, Berthold O, Witt A, et. al.

Child maltreatment is mediating long-term consequences of household dysfunction.

Eur Psychiatry. 2019 May;58:10-18. PMID: [30743239](#)

From a national German survey, ACEs linked to household dysfunction were associated with increased risk for all subtypes of child maltreatment: household member mental illness (Odds Ratio for child maltreatment 4.95-5.55), substance misuse (OR 5.32-6.98), violence against the mother (OR 4.43-10.26), incarceration (OR 6.11 – 14.93), and parental separation (OR 3.37-4.87).

Friedman SH, McEwan MV.

Treated Mental Illness and the Risk of Child Abuse Perpetration.

Psychiatr Serv. 2018 Feb 1;69(2):211-216. PMID: [29089007](#)

Of 416 New Zealand parents admitted to an acute psychiatric facility for serious mental illness and treated, subsequent violence toward a child was lower than that of other parents in the same community (5% vs. 14%).

Lee-Kelland R, Finlay F.

Children who abuse animals: when should you be concerned about child abuse? A review of the literature.

Arch Dis Child. 2018 Aug;103(8):801-805. PMID: [30018068](#)

“Animal abuse by children is common, with 3-44% of children being reported to abuse animals at some point during their childhood. Much of this behaviour may be regarded as an extension of exploratory behaviour in a younger child.” Children who abuse animals are 2-3 times more likely to be directly abused themselves, especially if they are >10 years old. Animal abuse is less common in girls compared with boys, and there is some suggestion that child abuse may be more likely in these cases.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

England-Mason G, Casey R, Ferro M, et. al.

Child maltreatment and adult multimorbidity: results from the Canadian Community Health Survey.

Can J Public Health. 2018 Aug;109(4):561-572. PMID: [29981095](#)

From a large Canadian survey of 23,946 adults, childhood exposure to IPV, physical abuse and sexual abuse were each independently predictive of increased odds of multiple medical conditions as an adult, including chronic physical conditions, pain conditions, and mental disorders. There was also a

dose-response relationship between number of childhood abuse types and adult health conditions.

Ports KA, Holman DM, Guinn AS, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Presence of Cancer Risk Factors in Adulthood: A Scoping Review of the Literature From 2005 to 2015.

J Pediatr Nurs. 2019 Jan - Feb;44:81-96. PMID: [30683285](#)

This review highlights the growing body of research connecting ACEs to cancer risk factors, particularly alcohol, obesity, and tobacco, with fewer studies investigated the links between ACEs and chronic inflammation or infectious agents. No included publications investigated associations between ACEs and environmental carcinogens, hormones, immunosuppression, radiation, or ultraviolet radiation. “Mitigating the impact of ACEs may provide innovative ways to effect comprehensive, upstream cancer prevention.”

Bürgin D, O'Donovan A, d'Huart D, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Telomere Length a Look Into the Heterogeneity of Findings-A Narrative Review.

Front Neurosci. 2019 May 22;13:490. PMID: [31191214](#)

Analysis of the sometimes conflicting findings in research relating ACEs and telomere length (TL) – a measure of cellular aging. “Overall, the studies indicated a negative association between ACEs and TL, although many papers presented mixed findings and about a quarter of eligible studies found no association.”

Campbell JA, Farmer GC, Nguyen-Rodriguez S, et. al.

Relationship between individual categories of adverse childhood experience and diabetes in adulthood in a sample of US adults: Does it differ by gender?

J Diabetes Complications. 2018 Feb;32(2):139-143. PMID: [29217352](#)

Of 48,526 adults across 5 states, four categories of ACEs were associated with increased risk of adult diabetes, with no difference in gender – sexual abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse, and having a parent with mental illness.

Stein MB, Campbell-Sills L, Ursano RJ, et. al.

Childhood Maltreatment and Lifetime Suicidal Behaviors Among New Soldiers in the US Army.

J Clin Psychiatry. 2018 Mar/Apr;79(2). pii: 16m10900. PMID: [28541647](#)

Of 38,237 US soldiers reporting for basic training, 1 in 5 was classified as experiencing childhood maltreatment. “Childhood maltreatment is strongly associated with suicidal behavior among new soldiers, even after adjusting for intervening mental disorders. Focus on childhood maltreatment might reveal avenues for risk reduction.”

Adolescents

Ybarra ML, Thompson RE.

Predicting the Emergence of Sexual Violence in Adolescence.

Prev Sci. 2018 May;19(4):403-415. PMID: [28685211](#)

Following 6 waves of adolescent national data collection, average age of first sexual violence perpetration was 15-16 years. Prior exposure to parental spousal abuse and current exposure to violent pornography were each strongly associated with the emergence of attempted rape. "Prevention programming that targets aggressive behaviors and violent scripts in inter-personal relationships is needed well before the age of 15 years."

Rueness J, Myhre MC, Strøm IF, et. al.

The mediating role of posttraumatic stress reactions in the relationship between child abuse and physical health complaints in adolescence and young adulthood.

Eur J Psychotraumatol. 2019 May 13;10(1):1608719. PMID: [31143411](#)

Of 506 Norwegian adolescent and young adult victims of child abuse and matched controls, PTSD had a notable, significant mediating effect on the relationship between child abuse and physical health complaints. "Health professionals should be aware of the important role that PTSD may have in maintaining or exacerbating physical health problems in child abuse victims."

Henschel MM, Grant BJ.

Exposing School Employee Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Shedding Light on a Sensitive Issue.

J Child Sex Abus. 2019 Jan;28(1):26-45. PMID: [29924695](#)

Of 361 published school employee sexual misconduct cases in the United States, "offenders were most often male and general education teachers, with approximately a quarter identified as athletic coaches. Offenders' average age was 36 years, while the average age of victims was 15. More than half of incidents took place at school or school-related events [and] most often involved physical contact; however, technology (i.e., cell phones, computers, cameras/video recorders, and storage devices) played an important role in three out of four cases...over half of offenders were placed on administrative leave or resigned immediately following their arrest and almost all were convicted of their crimes."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Martin-de-Las-Heras S, Velasco C, Luna-Del-Castillo JD, et. al.

Maternal outcomes associated to psychological and physical intimate partner violence during pregnancy.

PLoS One. 2019 Jun 13;14(6):e0218255. PMID: [31194820](#)

Of 779 consecutive Spanish mothers receiving pregnancy care at 15 public hospitals, 21.0% reported psychological IPV which was associated significantly with urinary tract infection, vaginal infection, and a 2.2 times increased rate of spontaneous preterm labor. Physical IPV, reported by 3.6%, was associated with a 2.6 times increased risk of antenatal hospitalization. Lack of kin support was associated with a 4.7 times increased risk of spontaneous preterm labor.

Kjerulff Madsen F, Holm-Larsen CE, Wu C, et. al.

Intimate partner violence and subsequent premature termination of exclusive breastfeeding: A cohort study.

PLoS One. 2019 Jun 10;14(6):e0217479. PMID: [31181090](#)

Of 1128 Tanzanian pregnant women with live singleton births, those who experienced IPV during the pregnancy were almost 3 times more likely to terminate exclusive breastfeeding by 6 months.

Tho Nhi T, Hanh NTT, Hinh ND, et. al.

Intimate Partner Violence among Pregnant Women and Postpartum Depression in Vietnam: A Longitudinal Study.

Biomed Res Int. 2019 Apr 24;2019:4717485. PMID: [31179324](#)

Of 1337 Vietnamese women in a ongoing study, there were "strong and statistically significant associations between partner violence and postpartum depression."

Greene CA, Chan G, McCarthy KJ, et. al.

Psychological and physical intimate partner violence and young children's mental health: The role of maternal posttraumatic stress symptoms and parenting behaviors.

Child Abuse Negl. 2018 Mar;77:168-179. PMID: [29358121](#)

In this study of high-risk families, maternal experience of psychological and physical IPV led to maternal restrictive/punitive parenting style, which in turn influenced children's behavioral issues. "Findings highlight the importance of supporting parents in recovering from the sequelae of their own traumatic experiences, as their ensuing mental health symptoms and parenting behaviors may have a significant impact on their children's emotional health."

Kita S, Umeshita K, Tobe H, Hayashi M, Kamibeppu K.
Intimate Partner Violence, Negative Attitudes Toward Pregnancy, and Mother-to-Fetus Bonding Failure Among Japanese Pregnant Women.

Violence Vict. 2019 Jun 1;34(3):536-547. PMID: [31171733](#)
Of 636 Japanese women, IPV before or during pregnancy was associated with negative attitudes toward the fetus in the third trimester and lack of mother-fetal bonding.

Fellin LC, Callaghan JE, Alexander JH, et. al.

Empowering young people who experienced domestic violence and abuse: The development of a group therapy intervention.

Clin Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2019 Jan;24(1):170-189. PMID: [30156129](#)

A group-based therapeutic intervention for young people who have lived with domestic violence and abuse was created across 4 countries. Key strategies included incorporating their existing strategies for coping, helping them to recognize their own strengths and to challenge their own perceptions that they were trapped in dysfunctional styles of relating, creating clear boundaries and a reciprocal climate of respect, offering creative and embodied activities as alternatives to verbal disclosure, clarity that they could choose when and how to participate or not, and acknowledgment of the complexity and ambivalence of their relational and emotional experiences.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Thurston RC, Barinas-Mitchell E, von Känel R, et. al.

Trauma exposure and endothelial function among midlife women.

Menopause. 2018 Apr;25(4):368-374. PMID: [29206773](#)
For 272 nonsmoking women aged 40-60 years without clinical cardiovascular disease (CVD), “A greater number of traumatic exposures were associated with poorer endothelial function [health of blood vessels]. Relations were not explained by demographics, CVD risk factors, mood/anxiety, or a history of childhood abuse. Women with greater exposure to trauma over life maybe at elevated CVD risk.”

Grossi PK, Bueno CH, de Abreu Silva MÁ, et. al.
Evaluation of Sexual, Physical, and Emotional Abuse in Women Diagnosed with Temporomandibular Disorders. Int J Prosthodont. 2018 November/December;31(6):543–551. PMID: [30192351](#)

Of 40 Brazilian women seen in a clinic for temporomandibular disorders (TMD = jaw pain/decreased mobility), compared to matched controls, “emotional abuse from a partner, more than physical and sexual abuse, was an important risk factor for TMD, even when controlling for education level, income, age, ethnicity, marital status and occupation...Emotional abuse, as well as physical and sexual violence, should be assessed routinely in women suffering from chronic TMD.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

McLeod DA, Sharp SF, Gatlin L, Jones MS.

No Idle Threat: Coercive Control and Enacted Violence in the Pre-Prison Relationships of Incarcerated Women.

Violence Vict. 2019 Jun 1;34(3):452-473. PMID: [31171728](#)

“Incarcerated women experience significant levels of control, manipulation, threats, and demands from their partners in relation to personal activities, financial resources, interpersonal interactions, illegal activities, and other areas. Moreover, findings show these threats and demands to be aggressively enforced and directly related to physical and sexual violence against these women, as well as threats to the safety and security of their family, friends, and children.”

Cultural Concerns

Vaughn MG, Salas-Wright CP, Huang J, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Immigrants to the United States.

J Interpers Violence. 2017 May;32(10):1543-1564. PMID: [26112971](#)

From a national survey, “With the exception of neglect, the prevalence of ACEs were markedly higher among native-born Americans and second-generation immigrants compared with first-generation immigrants.”

Nagaraj NC, Vyas AN, McDonnell KA, DiPietro L.
Understanding Health, Violence, and Acculturation Among South Asian Women in the US.

J Community Health. 2018 Jun;43(3):543-551. PMID: [29218541](#)

Of 535 South Asian women living in the US, acculturation status was a key factor in the effect of childhood violence as well as key adult health indicators.

Table 2 Acculturation levels of study participants (N= 535)

Acculturation	N (%)
High American high South Asian (integration)	330 (61.7)
Low American high South Asian (separation)	76 (14.2)
High American low South Asian (assimilation)	53 (9.9)
Low American low South Asian (marginalization)	5 (0.09)

Burns BM, Merritt J, Chyu L, Gil R.

The Implementation of Mindfulness-Based, Trauma-Informed Parent Education in an Underserved Latino Community: The Emergence of a Community Workforce.

Am J Community Psychol. 2019 Jun;63(3-4):338-354. PMID: [31177534](#)

“A mindfulness-based, trauma-informed parent intervention, Safe, Secure and Loved™ (SSL), designed to strengthen nurturing parenting and children's resilience, was implemented in an underserved Latino community...the commitment and cultural expertise of the volunteer promotora community acted as the major leadership driver.”

Mancera BM, Mungal AS, De Santis J, Provencio-Vasquez E.
Reflections of Men of Mexican Origin: A Grounded Theory Study of Intimate Partner Violence Risk Factors.

Am J Mens Health. 2018 Sep;12(5):1784-1798. PMID: [30014754](#)

“This study is important to men’s health because it explored the factors that can contribute to IPV but more importantly how these MMO [men of Mexican origin] overcame IPV.” Includes insightful quotes from 56 men in focus groups.

Sexual Assault

Cochran CB.

An Evidence-Based Approach to Suicide Risk Assessment After Sexual Assault.

J Forensic Nurs. 2019 Jun;15(2):84-92. PMID: [30985545](#)

“The study consisted of the implementation of three interventions including (a) use of an evidence-based suicide risk assessment tool, (b) establishment of a nursing protocol to standardize the community resource referral process, and (c) education of the

clinic's nursing staff. These interventions provided the nursing staff with a standardized method to identify each client's suicide risk while also referring them to appropriate aftercare services.”

Ohayi SR, Ezugwu EC.

Prevalence and pattern of genital injuries among adolescent rape victims attending Enugu State University Teaching Hospital, South East Nigeria.

J Obstet Gynaecol. 2019 Feb;39(2):190-194. PMID: [30257575](#)

Of 78 Nigerian adolescents seen with allegations of rape, mean age 14.1, the prevalence of genital injuries was 44.9%, with laceration being the commonest injury, while the hymen was the most affected site (35.7%). Being a virgin at the time of the rape was significantly associated with the presence of genital injury. “This suggests that the absence of genital injury is not sufficient evidence to rule out the possibility of rape.”

Khan AJ, Li Y, Dinh JV, Donalson R, Hebenstreit CL, Maguen S.
Examining the impact of different types of military trauma on suicidality in women veterans.

Psychiatry Res. 2019 Apr;274:7-11. PMID: [30776710](#)

Female veterans have significantly higher suicide rates than civilian counterparts. Of 403 female veterans with a mailed survey, ages 24-70 years, 16% reported current suicidal ideation (SI). “Rates of endorsement for military stressors were as follows: 43% being wounded, 34% loss of someone close, 36% perceived life threat, 30% witnessing a killing or injury, 4% seeing injured or dead bodies, 4% killing in combat, 65% military sexual harassment, and 33% military sexual assault. Life threat and sexual harassment had the strongest associations with SI compared to other military stressors.”

Freysteinson WM, Mellott S, Celia T, et. al.

Body Image Perceptions of Women Veterans With Military Sexual Trauma.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2018 Aug;39(8):623-632. PMID: [29648911](#)

Discussion with a small group of female veterans with military sexual trauma on visible vs. invisible scars, “uncovered that viewing self in a mirror was depicted as viewing a stranger. Being with others, including family, was described as wearing a fake face. The phrase I am broken defined intimate relationships which were non-existent or strained. Shame permeated all body image structures.”

Human Trafficking

Hornor G, Quinones SG, Bretl D, et. al.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: An Update for the Forensic Nurse.

J Forensic Nurs. 2019 Jun;15(2):93-102. PMID: [31116177](#)
 “Studies indicate that most child victims are seen by a healthcare provider while being trafficked and that many victims receive care at a pediatric hospital within 1 year of their identification as a victim. Here we focus on risk factors commonly experienced by victims, recruitment strategies used by traffickers, indicators to identify child victims, and intervention and educational strategies.”

Greenbaum VJ, Titchen K, Walker-Descartes I, et. al.

Multi-level prevention of human trafficking: The role of health care professionals.

Prev Med. 2018 Sep;114:164-167. PMID: [29981790](#)
 “As clinicians, HCPs [health care professionals] may deliver tailored interventions to patients and families to address individual- and relationship-level risk factors for HT in the health care setting. As educators, advocates, and researchers, HCPs may collaborate across sectors to implement community- and society-level prevention strategies.”

Table 2
 Educational resources for human trafficking.

Organization	Website
Office on trafficking in persons SOAR to health and wellness training	https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/soar-to-health-and-wellness-training
HEAL trafficking	https://healtrafficking.org/
Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans (PATH)	http://www.doc-path.org/
Futures without violence	https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/
National Human Trafficking Resource Center	https://humantraffickinghotline.org/nhtrc-hhs-online-trainings
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal	https://www.unodc.org/cld/en/v3/htms/index.html

Mostajabian S, Santa Maria D, Wiemann C, et. al.

Identifying Sexual and Labor Exploitation among Sheltered Youth Experiencing Homelessness: A Comparison of Screening Methods.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2019 Jan 28;16(3). pii: E363. PMID: [30696049](#)

For youth experiencing homelessness and interacting with healthcare, a specific human trafficking assessment tool was found to be more accurate than a standard psychosocial assessment tool in identifying trafficked youth. “Youth reported that mistrust of the system, fear of involving the police if reported, not wanting to interact with the

mental healthcare system, and stigma are barriers to disclosing human trafficking.”

Murray A, Smith L.

Implementing Evidence-Based Care for Women Who Have Experienced Human Trafficking.

Nurs Womens Health. 2019 Apr;23(2):98-104. PMID: [30853510](#)

General nursing review article.

BOX 1 THE ABCD MODEL OF TREATMENT

Assessment

Signs and symptoms to look for include

- Physical: broken bones, concussions, vaginal/anal tearing, malnutrition, communicable disease, substance use, poor eye contact
- Psychological/emotional: posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, hopelessness, self-destructive behaviors, Stockholm syndrome, suicidal ideation

Some questions to ask include

- Have you been physically harmed in any way?
- Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?

Buy-In

Consider if you are getting buy-in from the individual. For example, is he or she answering questions, making eye contact, agreeing to receive help?

Case Management

Providing intensive case management includes

- Prioritizing the victim’s needs (e.g., safety, housing, food, clothing)
- Planning implementation (e.g., find housing, find counseling services)
- Monitoring the plan
- Evaluating the plan and revising as needed

Diversion Programming

Elements of diversion programming can include

- Residential trauma treatment
- Alcohol and drug treatment
- Education services
- Social support services
- Legal advocacy

Source: Williamson, Purdue, Belton, and Burns (2012).

Perpetrators

Scurich N, John RS.

The dark figure of sexual recidivism.

Behav Sci Law. 2019 Mar;37(2):158-175. PMID: [30900348](#)

Authors discuss the “dark figure of sexual recidivism”, which they describe as a large disparity in recidivism when defined as a new legal charge or conviction for a sex crime vs. actually committing a new sex crime. They question the utility of recidivism studies that rely exclusively on official crime statistics.

Kåven AS, Maack JK, Flåm AM, Nivison M.

"It's My Responsibility, But..." A Qualitative Study of Perpetrators' Understanding of Child Sexual Abuse.

J Child Sex Abus. 2019 Feb-Mar;28(2):240-258. PMID: [30307798](#)

From interviews with 8 child sexual abuse perpetrators, "Negative childhood events such as poly-victimization, poor social skills, loneliness, and insecure sexual identity were reported as predisposing elements. Abuse was sustained due to a strong conviction of not being responsible for doing anything wrong. Respondents conveyed few salient inhibitors for the abuse, though not wanting to physically harm the child was often cited as important."

Police and Court Systems

Davis RC, Wells W.

DNA testing in sexual assault cases: When do the benefits outweigh the costs?

Forensic Sci Int. 2019 Jun;299:44-48. PMID: [30954627](#)

From analysis of 1200 sexual assault cold cases from Denver, "nearly 40% of cases in which there was a DNA match failed to result in an arrest primarily because victims were uncooperative or their testimony was judged to be unreliable. Once an arrest had been made, however, the conviction rate exceeded 90%. We estimate that Denver's sexual assault DNA testing program cost roughly \$16,000 per conviction...well worth the investment."

Ekroos RA, Shannon SE.

Forensic Medical Examinations: Imagining Justice.

J Forensic Nurs. 2019 Jun;15(2):71-77. PMID: [30893245](#)

Exploration of the discrepancies, assumptions and possible benefits of a forensic examination of persons suspected of committing a sexual offense, in addition to forensic examination of the victim.

Goldman S, Goyal D.

Knowledge Regarding Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and the Feasibility of Using a Smartphone Application: A Pilot Study.

J Forensic Nurs. 2019 Jun;15(2):103-109. PMID: [30985544](#)

103 law enforcement officers reported little training in recognizing commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), but knowledge increased significantly after an intervention of a smart phone app to help identify these individuals. 85% of participants preferred the CSEC information in the form of an app versus printed materials.

Providers

Huntley AL, Potter L, Williamson E, et. al.

Help-seeking by male victims of domestic violence and abuse (DVA): a systematic review and qualitative evidence synthesis.

BMJ Open. 2019 Jun 11;9(6):e021960. PMID: [31186243](#)

In a review of research, barriers to help-seeking for males experiencing DVA included fear of disclosure, challenge to masculinity, commitment to relationship, diminished confidence/despondency, and invisibility/perception of services. "A consistent element of appropriate professional response is that men appear to prefer to disclose and discuss DVA with a female professional."

Box 1 Recommendations for policy and practice

- ▶ Service provision for male victims needs to be more publicly advertised.
- ▶ Images and wording of publicity need to represent different types of masculinity and sexuality.
- ▶ Service provision needs to be more inclusive and better tailored to more effectively address the needs of different sociodemographic groups.
- ▶ Ensuring confidentiality and building trust in service provision is essential for male victims of domestic violence and abuse (DVA).
- ▶ Continuity of contact (care) is an essential feature of services for male victims.
- ▶ Services should aim to give all people seeking support for DVA a choice of professional personnel in terms of gender or sexuality.

Macy RJ, Martin SL, Nwabuzor Ogbonnaya I, Rizo CF.

What Do Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Service Providers Need to Know About Survivors to Deliver Services?

Violence Against Women. 2018 Jan;24(1):28-44.

PMID: [27777332](#)

From a survey of 80 program directors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault agencies, the information felt to be the most helpful at intake includes survivors' goals, experiences of violence and trauma, and health status.

Sprague S, Swaminathan A, Slobogean GP, et. al.

A scoping review of intimate partner violence educational programs for health care professionals.

Women Health. 2018 Nov-Dec;58(10):1192-1206. PMID:

[29252143](#)

In a review of studies on IPV education for health care professionals, "Effective programs often reported the use of online training components, delivery by an IPV educator/expert or physician/surgeon, the inclusion of a treatment protocol and resources for patients and HCPs, and included more than five training sessions lasting no more than one hour each."

Rivas C, Vigurs C, Cameron J, Yeo L.

A realist review of which advocacy interventions work for which abused women under what circumstances.

Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2019 Jun 29;6:CD013135.

PMID: [31254283](#)

313 page review with multiple findings and suggestions for future research.

Forsdike K, O'Connor M, Castle D, Hegarty K.

Exploring Australian psychiatrists' and psychiatric trainees' knowledge, attitudes and preparedness in responding to adults experiencing domestic violence.

Australas Psychiatry. 2019 Feb;27(1):64-68. PMID: [30047793](#)

From an online survey of 216 Australian psychiatrists, 47% had received less than 2 hours of training in DV.

Slane A, Martin J, Rimer JR, et. al.

Professionals' Perspectives on Viewing Child Sexual Abuse Images to Improve Response to Victims.

Can Rev Sociol. 2018 Nov;55(4):579-596. PMID: [30358134](#)

"This article is about professional experience, decision making, training, and collaboration around a particularly difficult professional experience, namely exposure to viewing CSAIO [child sexual abuse images online]."

Gunn J, Huebner CG, McCoy K.

Perceptions of Adult Women on Losing Their Mothers at an Early Age: Implications for Nursing Care During Childbirth.

MCN Am J Matern Child Nurs. 2018 May/Jun;43(3):126-132.

PMID: [29489528](#)

"The nurse has the opportunity to improve care for women who lost their mothers before the age of 18 years. During pregnancy, childbirth, and childrearing, the woman may feel sad and anxious without the guidance of her mother. Special ways of caring may be instituted to provide her comfort such as allowing and encouraging her to bring a special item of her mother's to procedures and events so that she may feel connected with her, [or] allowing someone to stand in for her mother."

Prevention

Wurtele SK, Mathews B, Kenny MC.

Keeping Students Out of Harm's Way: Reducing Risks of Educator Sexual Misconduct.

J Child Sex Abus. 2019 Feb-Mar;28(2):160-186. PMID:

[30040590](#)

Authors propose standards of practice to prevent sexual abuse in schools by altering the environment and reducing opportunities for offending. "The seven standards include safe screening and hiring practices for staff, codes of conduct, ensuring safe

environments, staff-student communication policy (including electronic communication), training staff, parents and students, monitoring and supervision, along with reporting questionable conduct."

Steiner RJ, Sheremenko G, Lesesne C, et. al.

Adolescent Connectedness and Adult Health Outcomes.

Pediatrics. 2019 Jul;144(1). PMID: [31235609](#)

From an ongoing national study of adolescents, having high levels of both school and family connectedness was associated with 48% to 66% lower odds of health risk behaviors and experiences in adulthood such as emotional distress and suicidal ideation, physical violence victimization and perpetration, and drug misuse.

Kavan MG, Saxena SK, Rafiq N.

General Parenting Strategies: Practical Suggestions for Common Child Behavior Issues.

Am Fam Physician. 2018 May 15;97(10):642-648. PMID:

[29763275](#)

"Effective strategies for influencing a child's behavior include positive reinforcement to increase appropriate behavior, extinction (planned ignoring) for most low-level problematic behaviors, and time-out from reinforcement for more problematic behaviors. Written contracting provides parents the opportunity to communicate with their children about important behaviors and strengthens the commitment of each party to improve behavior. Physicians should discourage physical or corporal punishment because it is related to negative parent-child relationships, increased aggressiveness, antisocial behavior, lower cognitive ability, lower self-esteem, mental health problems, and increased risk of physical abuse."

Anthony RE, Paine AL, Shelton KH.

Adverse Childhood Experiences of Children Adopted from Care: The Importance of Adoptive Parental Warmth for Future Child Adjustment.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2019 Jun 22;16(12). pii:

E2212. PMID: [31234480](#)

For 374 British children adopted from care, 42% of the children had experienced 4+ ACEs. Mood and behavioral problems were significantly higher than the UK general population, but these outcomes were lessened by adoptive parental warmth.

Researchers

Websdale N, Ferraro K, Barger SD.

The domestic violence fatality review clearinghouse: introduction to a new National Data System with a focus on firearms.

Inj Epidemiol. 2019 Feb 25;6:6. PMID: [31245255](#)
 “Here we describe US Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams and the planning and development of a National Clearinghouse for Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews. Among other things, the National Clearinghouse will centrally record and harmonize reviews across the US through standardized reporting templates and protocols for gathering de-identified intimate partner homicide case information.”

Katz C, Hamama L.

The Sibling Relationship in the Context of Child Maltreatment: What Do We Know? What Are the Directions for the Future?

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2018 Jul;19(3):343-351. PMID: [27439717](#)
 Review of existing knowledge and identification of research priorities relating to sibling relationships in the context of child maltreatment.

Other of Interest

Bunting L, Davidson G, McCartan C, et. al.

The association between child maltreatment and adult poverty - A systematic review of longitudinal research.

Child Abuse Negl. 2018 Mar;77:121-133. PMID: [29346067](#)
 “From the available evidence, there was a relatively clear relationship between child maltreatment and poorer economic outcomes such as reduced income, unemployment, lower level of job skill and fewer assets, over and above the influence of family of origin socio-economic status.”

Levitt L.

Animal maltreatment: Implications for behavioral science professionals.

Behav Sci Law. 2018 Nov;36(6):766-785. PMID: [30306628](#)
 Thorough review of animal maltreatment, correlations with human maltreatment, and changes in policy and attitudes toward companion animals including FBI data collection on animal abuse. “Finally, but not insignificantly, scientific developments in recent decades have illuminated the complexity of the cognitive abilities and emotional responses of animals. Awareness of the

depth of their suffering creates ethical obligations to respond to animal maltreatment in a serious, thoughtful manner, that is, to consider animal maltreatment a worthy field of study irrespective of its connection to interpersonal violence.”

Flach RMD, Deslandes SF.

Cyber dating abuse or proof of love? The use of apps for surveillance and control in affective-sexual relations.

Cad Saude Publica. 2019 Jan 21;35(1):e00060118. PMID: [30673058](#)
 Authors analyzed 40 Android and iOS apps used to monitor and control intimate partners. Descriptions of the apps stated “a promise of total and unlimited control with the purpose of ensuring ‘peace of mind’, ‘safety/security’, and ‘harmony’ in the intimate relationship. Such surveillance uses rhetorical arguments that refer to ‘proof of love’, ‘care’, and ‘protection’ as justifications for monitoring and controlling the other.” Only 2 apps formally addressed legality and notified the phone owner of the presence of the app on the phone.

Tokunaga RS, Aune KS.

Cyber-Defense: A Taxonomy of Tactics for Managing Cyberstalking.

J Interpers Violence. 2017 May;32(10):1451-1475. PMID: [26082443](#)
 From a survey of cyberstalking victims recruited from undergrad students and the general community, the most common responses were ignore/avoidance, active technological disassociation, and help seeking.

Table 2. Frequencies of Encounters With Cyberstalking Behaviors.

Cyberstalking Behavior	Frequency of Reports	Percent Frequency
Sending tokens of affection	48	94.1
Sending exaggerated messages of affection	37	72.5
Sending excessively disclosive messages	33	64.7
Sending excessively “needy” or demanding messages	32	62.7
Pretending to be someone he or she was not	21	41.2
Sending pornographic/obscene images or messages	17	33.3
Sending sexually harassing messages	15	29.4
Attempting to disable your computer	15	29.4
Exposing private information about you to others	14	27.5
Sabotaging your private or social reputation	14	27.5
Sending threatening written messages	13	25.5
Sabotaging your work/school reputation	8	15.7
Obtaining private information without permission	8	15.7
Using your computer to get information on others	6	11.8
Taking over your electronic identity or persona	6	11.8
Altering your electronic identity or persona	5	9.8
Sending threatening pictures or images	5	9.8
Directing others to you in threatening ways	4	7.8
Bugging your car, home, or office	0	0.0