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Child Abuse

Quiroz HJ, Yoo JJ, Casey LC, et. al.

Can we increase detection? A nationwide analysis of age-related fractures in child abuse.

J Pediatr Surg. 2021 Jan;56(1):153-158. PMID: [33153723](#)

From a national database of 39,000 children admitted for child abuse, 26% sustained fractures including 28% with multiples fractures and 27% with skull fractures. By age, infants had the highest rate of multiple fractures, skull fractures, and multiple rib fractures, while adolescents had more facial fractures and children 4-8 years had the highest rates of clavicular fractures. "Age-related fracture patterns exist and may be due to changing mechanism of abuse as a child grows."

Chahla S, Ortega H.

Intracranial Injury Among Children with Abuse-Related Long Bone Fractures.

J Emerg Med. 2020 Nov;59(5):735-743. PMID: [32682640](#)

From a national databank of 4345 children with abuse-related long bone fractures (LBF = arms and legs), intracranial injury (ICI = head injury) occurred in nearly 1 in 4 children under 3 years old. "Abuse-related LBF with skull fracture, rib fracture, head/neck bruising, or patient age < 1 year should prompt consideration for ICI with head imaging."

DeLago C, Schroeder CM, Cooper B, et. al.

Children who engaged in interpersonal problematic sexual behaviors.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Jul;105:104260. PMID: [31776010](#)

"Over one-third of inappropriate sexual contact experienced by children is initiated by other children." From a medical chart review, child initiators of interpersonal problematic sexual behaviors were 83% male, mean age was 10 years, 75% were related to the children with whom they engaged in sexual activity, 58% reported viewing sexually explicit media, and 47% experienced sexual abuse.

Taylor MA, Higginbotham JC.

Child Sexual Abuse Exam Results in West Alabama.

J Child Sex Abus. 2020 Jan;29(1):90-111. PMID: [31219778](#)

"Of 573 children evaluated in the West Alabama Child Medical Evaluation Program (WACMEP), most were victimized by a single, older male perpetrator who was known to the family, often related, and had unsupervised access to the child. One-fourth (24.1%) of the children had significant exam findings, including 7.5% with a STI [sexual transmitted infection]. Females were more likely to have significant findings including reporting vulvar pain or vaginal symptoms such as discharge, itching, or bleeding."

Sari NP, van IJendoorn MH, Jansen P, et. al.

Higher Levels of Harsh Parenting During the COVID-19 Lockdown in the Netherlands.

Child Maltreat. 2021 Jun 17:10775595211024748. PMID: [34134541](#)

For 206 Dutch parents of toddlers, levels of harsh parenting (shaking, calling names, and calling the child stupid) were significantly elevated during pandemic compared to pre-pandemic levels. "These results suggest that parental tolerance for children's disobedience is lower under the adverse circumstances of COVID-19 and, as a result, abusive parenting responses are more difficult to inhibit."

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Guarino H, Mateu-Gelabert P, Quinn K, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences Predict Early Initiation of Opioid Use Behaviors.

Front Sociol. 2021 May 13;6:620395. PMID: [34055961](#)

From an online survey of 539 New York City young adults aged 18-29 who reported non-medical use of prescription opioids or heroin in the past 30 days, 89% reported at least one ACE, and 46% reported 4+ ACEs. "Increasing number of childhood traumas was associated with increased odds of earlier initiation of multiple opioid misuse behaviors."

Cooke EM, Connolly EJ, Boisvert DL, Hayes BE.
A Systematic Review of the Biological Correlates and Consequences of Childhood Maltreatment and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Jun 9;15248380211021613.

PMID: [34105421](#)

Research review on the genetic, physiological, and neurological parameters of the effects of childhood maltreatment and ACEs.

Boynton-Jarrett R, Sponholtz TR, Rosenberg L, et. al.
Abuse in Childhood and Risk for Sleep Disruption in Adulthood in the Black Women's Health Study.

Sleep Med. 2021 Jul;83:260-270. PMID: [34049046](#)

Nearly 50% of almost 30,000 participants reported one or more measures of sleep disruption in adulthood. Higher severity of childhood physical or sexual abuse was associated with increased risk of sleep disruption and sleep apnea.

Cozier YC, Barbhuiya M, Castro-Webb N, et. al.
Association of Child Abuse and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in Black Women During Adulthood.

Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken). 2021 Jun;73(6):833-840. PMID: [32170851](#)

From the Black Women's Health Study, 101 cases of lupus were identified. "Both physical and sexual abuse during childhood were associated with statistically significant increases in SLE incidence."

Adolescents

Lewis QJ, Smith BD, Offiong A, Prioleau M, Powell TW.

When a house is never a home: Housing instability among youth affected by parental drug abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jun 9;118:105131. PMID: [34118586](#)

From interviews with 14 young adults who experienced housing instability due to parental drug use, impacts included frequent and unpredictable housing transitions that included multiple caregivers, repeated trauma exposures including abuse in foster care, and lasting effects including negative impact on school attendance and engagement.

Nascimento M, Dahllöf G, Cunha Soares F, et. al.

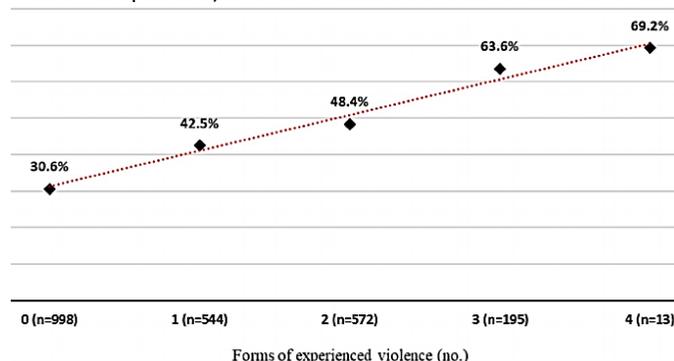
Self-reported symptoms of temporomandibular pain and jaw dysfunction in adolescents are associated with exposure to violence.

J Oral Rehabil. 2021 Jul;48(7):765-773. PMID: [33774844](#)

Of 2431 Brazilian adolescents, self-reported symptoms of jaw pain and jaw dysfunction were significantly associated with various forms of

violence, including IPV and bullying, in a dose-response fashion.

(Graph shows prevalence of adolescents with 3 or more jaw symptoms and extent of violence exposure.)



O'Connor KE, Sullivan TN, Ross KM, Marshall KJ.

"Hurt people hurt people": Relations between adverse experiences and patterns of cyber and in-person aggression and victimization among urban adolescents.

Aggress Behav. 2021 Jul;47(4):483-492. PMID: [33844292](#)

From surveys of 265 adolescents mean age 14.3 years, 96% African American, residing in three urban high-burden communities, "the adolescents who reported the highest frequencies of aggressive behavior were also the most victimized and traumatized."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Leppäkoski T, Vuorenmaa M, Paavilainen E.

Psychological and physical abuse towards four-year-old children as reported by their parents: A national Finnish survey.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jun 15;118:105127. PMID: [34139384](#)

From a large nationwide Finnish survey of parents of 4-year-olds, 44% of children had experienced at least one form of psychological abuse and 14% physical abuse. These forms of violence co-occurred in 25% of the reported cases. IPV and child maltreatment co-occurred in 19.6% of psychological abuse and 22.5% of physical abuse cases. Parental exposure to IPV was the risk factor most likely to predict an increased risk for both psychological abuse (4.01 times increased), and physical abuse (2.19 times increased) of children.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

McMillan TM, Aslam H, Crowe E, Seddon E, Barry SJE.

Associations between significant head injury and persisting disability and violent crime in women in prison in Scotland, UK: a cross-sectional study.

Lancet Psychiatry. 2021 Jun;8(6):512-520. PMID: [33992149](#)

Of 109 women representative of women in Scottish prisons, 78% reported a history of a significant head injury (SHI), of whom 40% had a subsequent significant disability, and of whom 84% reported repeated head injury in most cases from domestic abuse. Women with a history of SHI were 3.1 times more likely to have a history of violent offense, but this became non-significant when considering history of child abuse. Women with SHI were more likely to spend a longer time in prison than those without.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Wolf NM, Løkkegaard SS, Elklit A.

Psychological Distress and Attachment Insecurity of Stalked Mothers.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jul;36(13-14):6487-6511. PMID: [30569786](#)

From surveys of 196 Danish women experiencing stalking from a former abusive partner with whom they had children together, results indicated high exposure to psychological maltreatment during the victim-stalker relationship, harassing and violent stalking behaviors after relationship termination, and high levels of functional disabilities, PTSD, and other trauma-related symptoms. “Having children together with their stalker captures women in an ongoing situation of threat and interpersonal traumatization that differs from other forms of stalking in many respects.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Krienert JL, Walsh JA.

The Sexual Victimization of the Elderly: An Empirical Analysis of Officially Reported Incidents, 2007-2016.

Violence Vict. 2020 Aug 1;35(4):443-466. PMID: [32788332](#)

“Elderly Americans are projected to comprise more than 20% of the U.S. population. With a dramatic population increase anticipated, elder abuse and maltreatment has emerged as a focus of violence research. Elder sexual abuse is perhaps the least perceived, acknowledged, detected, and reported type of victimization...Intervention, policy needs, and prevention are discussed.”

Burnett J, Dyer CB, Heisler CJ.

Enhancing and evaluating the capacity of elder abuse fatality review teams to assist victim services.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2021 Mar-May;33(2):107-122. PMID: [34053411](#)

This evaluation of national Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams (EAFRTs) shows that “EAFRTs are growing nationally in numbers, have positive impacts on member elder abuse and victim services knowledge, skills and confidence, but experience challenges to impact evaluability and sustainability due to low funding and membership time, turnover and commitment. Recommendations for supporting newly developing and currently functioning EAFRTs are provided.”

Lichtenberg PA, Gross E, Campbell R.

A Short Form of the Lichtenberg Financial Decision Rating Scale.

Clin Gerontol. 2020 May-Jun;43(3):256-265. PMID: [30321125](#)

Authors report validity of a short form of the Lichtenberg Financial Decision Rating Scale to assess financial decision-making ability. “Training on the tool and automatic scoring and recommendations for next steps can be found at <https://olderadultnestegg.com>.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Hall SF, DeLaney MJ.

A Trauma-Informed Exploration of the Mental Health and Community Support Experiences of Transgender and Gender-Expansive Adults.

J Homosex. 2021 Jul 3;68(8):1278-1297. PMID: [31799893](#)

100 transgender and gender-expansive adults describe their experiences with mental health and community services, with recommendations for specific trauma-informed care.

Grossman AH, Park JY, Frank JA, Russell ST.

Parental Responses to Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Youth: Associations with Parent Support, Parental Abuse, and Youths' Psychological Adjustment.

J Homosex. 2021 Jul 3;68(8):1260-1277. PMID: [31774377](#)

For 129 transgender and gender nonconforming youth (TGNC) aged 15-21, initial parental responses were more positive towards transfeminine (42.0% mothers and 30.0% fathers) than transmasculine youth (26.0% mothers and 24.0% fathers). Support for all groups became more positive over time, however approximately 50% of all TGNC youth continued to experience stress related to parental rejection.

Race/Cultural Concerns

Palusci VJ, Botash AS.

Race and Bias in Child Maltreatment Diagnosis and Reporting.

Pediatrics. 2021 Jun 4:e2020049625. PMID: [34088760](#)

Authors review data supporting biased reporting and management of child abuse. "Implicit and explicit biases are drivers of disproportionate reporting and investigation. Racial bias can be checked through personal reflection and training, input from a diverse multidisciplinary team, assistance from an objective screening process, and case review by using deductive reasoning methods, such as those provided by child abuse pediatric consultation."

Goin DE, Gomez AM, Farkas K, et. al.

Occurrence of fatal police violence during pregnancy and hazard of preterm birth in California.

Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol. 2021 Jul;35(4):469-478. PMID: [33689194](#)

Using census tract data and controlling for multiple variables, there was a small increase in moderate and late preterm births (at 32-36 weeks) in areas with the occurrence of fatal police violence, higher for Black mothers.

Tajima EA.

First, Do No Harm: From Diversity and Inclusion to Equity and Anti-racism in Interpersonal Violence Research and Scholarship.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jun;36(11-12):4953-4987. PMID: [34107820](#)

"The article discusses a range of factors to consider at each stage of the research process as researchers seek to be inclusive, responsive to diversity concerns, and seek equity...Recommendations are

offered to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion when analyzing data, interpreting results, and writing up the study."

Britt AJ, Carlson NS, Joseph NT, Amore AD.

The Convergence of COVID-19 and Systemic Racism: An Evaluation of Current Evidence, Health System Changes, and Solutions Grounded in Reproductive Justice.

J Midwifery Womens Health. 2021 May;66(3):298-303. PMID: [34114324](#)

"The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the direct ways that systemic racism influences social determinants of health leading to both the disproportionate burden of COVID and long standing poor perinatal outcomes for people of color. Addressing these pandemics requires a 2-pronged approach to meet the immediate perinatal needs of people of color during the pandemic while also building longer-term solutions to address underlying disparities.

Table 1. Addressing Changes in Provision of Perinatal Care During COVID-19

| Topic | Recommendation |
|---|--|
| Prenatal | |
| Social determinants of health | Screen at every visit for food insecurity, IPV, housing instability Compile COVID-19-specific resources for testing, food, housing, IPV |
| Digital divide | Screen for internet or phone access and evaluation of technology literacy Develop individual prenatal care plan taking into account medical need, access to technology, feasibility, and patient preference Prioritize in-person visits for those with barriers to participating in virtual care |
| Exposure reduction measures | Screen for exposure risk in home and work settings Provide education on mitigating transmission risk (ie, masks, hand washing, social distancing) Provide education on options for out of hospital birth, home prenatal or postpartum visits |
| Prenatal social support | Transition to virtual group prenatal care Make exceptions to allow one support person at important visits such as ultrasounds, taking into account current location-specific community acquired infection risk |
| Intrapartum | |
| Access to community-based birth and labor support | Improve access to and insurance coverage for out of hospital birth Allow hospital visitation for doulas as members of health care team Support transition to virtual doula support |
| Postpartum | |
| Breastfeeding | Support skin to skin, rooming in, and breastfeeding, even for SARS-CoV-2-positive birthing people if taking transmission precautions |
| Mental health | Screen and refer for perinatal mood disorders and social support systems Continue to screen for food insecurity, IPV, housing instability |
| Contraception access | Increase access to postplacental LARCs Prioritize sterilization procedures during hospitalization Prioritize in-person postpartum visits for clients desiring LARCs |

Copeland JL, Currie CL, Chief Moon-Riley K.
Physical Activity Buffers the Adverse Impacts of Racial Discrimination on Allostatic Load Among Indigenous Adults.
 Ann Behav Med. 2021 Jun 2;55(6):520-529. PMID: [32870255](#)

From a study of 150 Canadian Indigenous adults, a composite of seven biomarkers assessing neuroendocrine, cardiovascular, metabolic, and immune system function measured an “allostatic load” (AL). For those not very physically active, every 1 point increase in racial discrimination raised AL 1/3 of a point. However, in those who were sufficiently active there was no association between racial discrimination and AL. “Engagement in regular PA may attenuate the pernicious effects of discrimination on biological dysfunction.”

Sexual Assault

Thompson KM.
Beyond roofies: Drug- and alcohol-facilitated sexual assault.
 JAAPA. 2021 Jan 1;34(1):45-49. PMID: [33332834](#)

“Survivors of DAFSA crimes face significant constraints to reporting, including self-doubt, fear of recrimination, fear of punishment for the use of legal or illegal substances, or simply the lack of adequate memory of the assault. Many survivors can only offer statements such as ‘I just know something happened.’ Understanding and becoming sensitive to these preexisting barriers, understanding the limitations and best practices in testing and detection, and understanding the complications that these survivors face can make clinicians better, more sensitive, and more flexible healthcare providers.”

| TABLE 1. Substances commonly used in DAFSA | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Substance | How used | Effect | Signs and symptoms | Half-life or processing time |
| Alcohol | Alone, vehicle | CNS depressant | Confusion, memory loss, reduced inhibitions, loss of consciousness | 20 mg/dL per hour |
| Benzodiazepines | Alone, combination | Increase GABA inhibitory effect | Drowsiness, confusion, anterograde amnesia, loss of consciousness | Blood: 48 h Urine: 96 h (variable) |
| Muscle relaxants | Alone, combination | Various effects; mechanism of action often unclear | Sedation, dry mouth, dizziness | 18 hours |
| GHB | Alone, combination | CNS depressant | Drowsiness, deep sleep, hypotonia, increased sensuality, amnesia, loss of consciousness | Maximum detection in urine: 0-3 h |

Burton CW, Guidry JD.
Reporting Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault: A Mixed Methods Study of Concerns and Considerations Among College Women of Color.

J Transcult Nurs. 2021 Jul;32(4):370-381. PMID: [32666892](#)
 Of 87 self-identified college women of color, roughly half had experienced sexual assault, and about 1/3 IPV. “Participants identifying as Latinx/Hispanic or Black/African American reported the greatest experiences of structural stressors [such as racism and sexism] and also felt there was not always a potential safety gain with reporting IPV and/or SA.”

Ward LG.
Trauma-Informed Perinatal Healthcare for Survivors of Sexual Violence.
 J Perinat Neonatal Nurs. 2020 Jul/Sep;34(3):199-202. PMID: [32697536](#)

“Because of the nature of perinatal healthcare, the inherent vulnerability, lack of privacy, and lack of control, it can be particularly difficult to address trauma-related concerns in this context. However, this is precisely why it is critical to do so. With awareness, clinicians can modify procedures to promote safety, privacy, comfort, and a sense of control while decreasing the risk of distress.”

Parr NJ.
Sexual Assault and Co-Occurrence of Mental Health Outcomes Among Cisgender Female, Cisgender Male, and Gender Minority U.S. College Students.

J Adolesc Health. 2020 Nov;67(5):722-726. PMID: [32402795](#)
 From a large national survey of college students, “sexual assault in the college setting is associated with substantially increased odds of co-occurring depression, anxiety, nonsuicidal self-injury, and suicide ideation, regardless of gender identity.”

Steine IM, Skogen JC, Hysing M, et. al.
Sexual harassment and assault predict sleep disturbances and is partly mediated by nightmares: Findings from a national survey of all university students in Norway.

J Sleep Res. 2021 Jun 15:e13338. PMID: [34130358](#)
 From a large survey of Norwegian university students, for both genders, sexual harassment was negatively associated with sleep duration, with the strongest associations being found for "rape" and "attempted rape". The odds of insomnia increased as a function of cumulative harassment exposure, and sleep disorders were associated with frequency of nightmares.

Bhuptani PH, Messman TL.
Self-compassion and Shame Among Rape Survivors.
 J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jun 9:8862605211021994. PMID: [34107808](#)

From anonymous online surveys of 305 college women who reported experiencing rape, self-compassion was negatively associated with rape-related shame, which in turn was positively associated with PTSD and depression. “A large body of research indicates that shame is a powerful predictor of a more persistent, or long-lasting course of PTSD and depression...improving self-compassion may be another approach to reduce shame among rape survivors by promoting self-kindness and mindfulness and decreasing isolation.”

Human Trafficking

Yaklin S, Rolin D.

Recognizing the Risk Factors, Signs, and Symptoms of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in Mental Health Clinical Practice.

J Psychosoc Nurs Ment Health Serv. 2020 Nov 1;58(11):21-28. PMID: [33119118](#)

“This educational article offers an overview of the definitions of sex trafficking, and the risk factors, prevalence, and health consequences of DMST [domestic minor sex trafficking]. It also summarizes what is known about how those at-risk for DMST and DMST victims interact with the mental health care system. Mental health professionals provide a crucial point of contact with these populations and must strive to prevent, identify, and respond to DMST and at-risk youths.”

Clay-Warner J, Edgemon TG, Okech D, Anarfi JK.

Violence predicts physical health consequences of human trafficking: Findings from a longitudinal study of labor trafficking in Ghana.

Soc Sci Med. 2021 Jun;279:113970. PMID: [33984690](#)

Following labor trafficking victims in Ghana, “while psychological violence has a strong effect on the number of physical health complaints in the period immediately after exit from trafficking, sexual violence experienced while being trafficked is most predictive of physical health complaints later in the reintegration period...Our research also suggests the importance of monitoring the physical health of trafficking survivors beyond the immediate post-trafficking period and of providing on-going access to healthcare.”

Perpetrators

Sheridan L, Bendlin M, House P.

Stalkers: Specialists Versus Generalists.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jun 9;8862605211023501. PMID: [34107810](#)

This dataset covered 404 individuals who were identified by the Western Australia Police Force as the offender for a stalking offence. The majority of stalkers offended in other ways against the index victim and also offended against others via a broad range of offences, with more than half having broken restraining orders. “For many stalkers, stalking forms part of a wider pattern of antisocial activity.”

Gerke J, Lipke K, Fegert JM, Rassenhofer M.

Mothers as perpetrators and bystanders of child sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jul;117:105068. PMID: [33878645](#)

Of 2531 German adults in a national survey, 6.6% reported a history of childhood sexual abuse. 6.6% of reported perpetrators were female with the mother being more often cited than the father in male perpetration; and of bystanders to childhood sexual abuse, the biological mother was named most frequently (24.6%).

Police and Court Systems

Nesca M, Au W, Turnbull L, et. al.

Intentional injury and violent death after intimate partner violence. A retrospective matched-cohort study.

Prev Med. 2021 May 11:106616. PMID: [33989677](#)

Using multiple databases 2004-2016 for adult females in Manitoba, Canada, the risk of intentional injury was 8.5 per 1000 women among non-victims of IPV and 55.8 per 1000 women among IPV victims. The risk with IPV was 3.8 times increased for intentional injury and 4.6 times for violent death. “IPV victims experienced half the risk of subsequent intentional injury if the accused received a probation sentence. Our findings suggest that Justice involvement represents an opportunity for intersectoral collaborative prevention of subsequent intentional injury among IPV victims.”

Jouriles EN, Rancher C, Vu NL, McDonald R.

Police Involvement in Intimate Partner Violence and Children's Anxiety Symptoms.

J Interpers Violence. 2020 Oct;35(19-20):3791-3805. PMID: [29294773](#)

For 117 mothers and their children aged 7-10 years recruited from domestic violence shelters, police involvement in IPV incidents were associated with increased child anxiety levels both one month after leaving the shelter and 6 months later, despite controlling for degree of IPV severity, “suggesting that police involvement in IPV may unintentionally contribute to children’s adjustment difficulties...As responders to incidents of IPV, police can play a valuable role in fostering the physical and psychological health of the children in these families.”

Walton D, Brooks R, Li J.

The Use of Victim Video Statements in Family Violence Cases Increases the Rate of Early Guilty Pleas.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jul;36(13-14):6098-6116. PMID: [30541371](#)

In this New Zealand study comparing IPV cases that proceeded to a court hearing, victim video statements resulted in 44% early guilty pleas compared with 30% for those with written statements.

George SS, Denne E, Stolzenberg SN.

Blaming Children: How Rape Myths Manifest in Defense Attorneys' Questions to Children Testifying About Child Sexual Abuse.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jun 16;8862605211023485. PMID: [34134556](#)

“Individuals who endorse rape myths perceive victims as less credible and more responsible for rape and perpetrators as less responsible. Studies also show that rape myths hinder successful adjudication of rape cases by influencing juries' assessments of perpetrator guilt.” From an analysis of cross-examination of 122 children aged 6 to 17, “A total of 10% of all defense attorneys' lines of questioning referenced a rape myth, and attorneys asked 77% of children at least one rape myth line of questioning...defense attorneys use rape myths strategically to undermine children's credibility in CSA trials, but they adapt (adult) rape myths in ways that are plausible in the CSA context. Policies formed to prevent the prejudicial impact of rape myths at sexual assault trials involving adults (e.g., rape shield laws) may not adequately prevent their impact in CSA trials. Prosecutors, therefore, should address rape myths at CSA trials.”

Providers

Akbari AR, Alam B, Ageed A, Tse CY, Henry A.

The Identification and Referral to Improve Safety Programme and the Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 May 25;18(11):5653. PMID: [34070518](#)

In 2007 the Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) UK program was introduced into primary care to educate providers about recognition and management of patients with IPV. Collected data show that practices with IRIS had a threefold increase in identification of IPV and sevenfold increase in referrals, while also being cost-effective.

Molinaro ML, Evans M, Regnault TRH, de Vrijer B.

Translating developmental origins of health and disease in practice: health care providers' perspectives.

J Dev Orig Health Dis. 2021 Jun;12(3):404-410. PMID: [32631476](#)

23 Canadian health care providers from a variety of health disciplines expressed excitement over the potential health benefits of “developmental origins of health and disease” (DOHaD) counselling, but also indicated barriers. “All health care providers expressed concerns on how and when to introduce the concept of DOHaD when counselling patients and called for the development of practice guidelines. Counselling on DOHaD needs to be framed in a way that is empowering, minimising the potential of coercion and guilt. More interaction and collaboration are needed between health care providers and researchers to identify strategies to support knowledge translation generated from DOHaD research into practice settings.”

Brown C, Serpe C, Brammer S.

The Experiences of Domestic Violence Shelter Workers and Their Perceptions of Shelter Services: A Preliminary Study.

Violence Vict. 2020 Aug 1;35(4):539-561. PMID: [32788335](#)

From surveys of 98 shelter workers, “94% indicated that through their work, they have had a positive influence on shelter residents. Moreover, 68% agreed that shelters are successful with providing services that will aid women in becoming self-sufficient, and 94% would like to see shelters have a greater impact on helping women find the pathway to economic independence.” 36% reported compassion fatigue and 39% secondary trauma, with 51% feeling frustrated by their work. Challenges in the provision of services included lack of funding, housing, and mental health and communal living issues.

Prevention

Tao J, He K, Xu J.

The mediating effect of self-compassion on the relationship between childhood maltreatment and depression.

J Affect Disord. 2021 May 23;291:288-293. PMID: [34062396](#)

For 4189 Chinese college students, depression was significantly positively correlated with each of the different types of childhood maltreatment, but the quality of self-compassion negatively impacted this correlation.

Bledsoe M, Captanian A, Somji A.

Special Report from the CDC: Strengthening social connections to prevent suicide and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs): Actions and opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

J Safety Res. 2021 Jun;77:328-333. PMID: [34092325](#)

“Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, and at least half of the top 10 leading causes of death have been associated with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). A number of established risk factors for suicide and ACEs may have been exacerbated by the pandemic, including loneliness and the lack of connectedness...Local, city, and state government, community organizations, and public health and medical practitioners should consider the adaptation and development of existing and new programming, resources, and activities that support and strengthen social connection.”

Kenny MC, Helpingstine C, Long H.

College students' recollections of childhood sexual abuse prevention programs and their potential impact on reduction of sexual victimization.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Jun;104:104486. PMID: [32294564](#)

Of 1502 students from an ethnically and racially diverse university in the Southeast US, those who had not participated in a childhood sexual abuse prevention program were significantly more likely to be abused than those who did participate, regardless of the program or location, and those participating in US programs were significantly more likely to disclose abuse.

Assini-Meytin LC, Fix RL, Letourneau EJ.

Child Sexual Abuse: The Need for a Perpetration Prevention Focus.

J Child Sex Abus. 2020 Jan;29(1):22-40. PMID: [31900076](#)

“The current paper describes the scope of the problem of child sexual abuse, highlights problems with an over-reliance on after-the-fact interventions, and describes promising perpetration-focused CSA prevention interventions. While most existing preventive efforts focus on teaching children to protect themselves from incurring sexual harm, perpetration prevention efforts may hold more promise by addressing the onset of harmful behavior.”

Demeusy EM, Handley ED, Manly JT, Sturm R, Toth SL.

Building Healthy Children: A preventive intervention for high-risk young families.

Dev Psychopathol. 2021 May;33(2):598-613. PMID: [33757620](#)

The Building Healthy Children home-visiting preventive intervention with at risk young mothers and their infants evidenced less harsh and inconsistent parenting, and less behavioral and self-regulatory difficulties in their children.

Yoon S, Howell K, Dillard R, et. al.

Resilience Following Child Maltreatment: Definitional Considerations and Developmental Variations.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Jul;22(3):541-559. PMID: [31405362](#)

Authors describe various definitions of resilience following child abuse, and the importance of different manifestations at various ages. Results of this review detailing the strategies for understanding, assessing, and promoting resilience within a developmental context could provide guidance for intervention services.

Lee KDM, Edwards KM, Banyard VL, et. al.

Youth Strategies for Positive Bystander Action in Situations of Dating and Sexual Violence: Implications for Measurement and Programming.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jul;36(13-14):NP7653-NP7674. PMID: [30767597](#)

889 high school youth from schools across New England completed a bystander-focused violence prevention curriculum and subsequently wrote a bystander plan of action. Their responses indicated that “measures of bystander behavior for high school students need to look different from established measures for older age groups. Furthermore, bystander programming may be more effective if more thoughtful attention is given to how youth see helping in situations of DV and SV as connected to other problematic behaviors.”

Researchers

Postmus JL, Hoge GL, Breckenridge J, Sharp-Jeffs N, Chung D.
Economic Abuse as an Invisible Form of Domestic Violence: A Multicountry Review.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2020 Apr;21(2):261-283. PMID: [29587598](#)

From a research review of economic abuse, “there remains a lack of consistency about definitions within the United States and globally, as there is no agreed upon index with which to measure economic abuse. As such, the purpose of this article is to review and analyze the global literature focused on either economic or financial abuse to determine how it is defined and what measures are used to capture its prevalence and impact.”

Soglin LF, Ragavan MI, Li JC, Soglin DF.

A Validated Screening Instrument for Identifying Intimate Partner Violence in South Asian Immigrant Women.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jul;36(13-14):NP7027-NP7044.

PMID: [30646792](#)

Description of a validated 14-item screening tool addressing the unique cultural factors associated with IPV in South Asian immigrant women in the US.

South Asian Violence Screen Questions

1. My husband/partner makes me feel like I should always obey him.
2. My husband/partner tells me that if I divorce or leave him, it would be a failure on my part.
3. My husband/partner has punished me by threatening to deport me.
4. My husband/partner has punished me by hitting, slapping, kicking, or otherwise physically hurting me.
5. My husband/partner makes me feel worthless.
6. I am the last person to eat during meals.
7. My husband or partner has punished me by burning me or threatening to burn me.
8. My husband/partner does not allow me to have control over money.
9. My husband/partner yells at me when he thinks housework is not done properly.
10. My husband/partner forces me to have marital relations when I do not want to.
11. My husband/partner has threatened to ruin my reputation or shame my family.
12. My husband/partner's *family* keeps my jewelry and valuables with them and does not give me access to them.
13. My husband/partner's *family* has made me feel worthless.
14. My husband/partner's *family* has punished me by hitting, slapping, kicking, or otherwise physically hurting me.

O'Brien JE, Brewer KB, Jones LM, Corkhum J, Rizo CF.

Rigor and Respect: Recruitment Strategies for Engaging Vulnerable Populations in Research.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jun 9;8862605211023497. PMID: [34107811](#)

"Unfortunately, many vulnerable populations remain underinvestigated due to difficulty reaching, engaging, and safely including such populations in research. While most researchers assert the importance of including vulnerable populations in research, few actively and successfully recruit them. ...A candid account of challenges, successes, and lessons learned is offered in service of building methodological techniques for recruitment that both honor participant experiences while championing methodological rigor."

Other of Interest

Geller LB, Booty M, Crifasi CK.

The role of domestic violence in fatal mass shootings in the United States, 2014-2019.

Inj Epidemiol. 2021 May 31;8(1):38. PMID: [34053458](#)

Of fatal mass shootings between 2014 and 2019, defined as four or more people killed by gunfire excluding the perpetrator, 59.1% were DV-related. The case fatality rate associated with DV-related mass shootings was 83.7% vs. 63.1% in non-DV-related mass shootings. "

Kohli A, Agastya NLP, Cislighi B, Schulte MC.

Special Symposium: Social and gender norms and violence against children: exploring their role and strategies for prevention.

Glob Public Health. 2021 Jun;16(6):815-819. PMID: [34024252](#)

"The authors find that understanding how geographic location, social cohesion, group roles and identities, age and gendered expectations inform whether, when and which children experience violence, who perpetrates it, and how individuals and communities respond to it... advancing our understanding of norms in relation to violence against children is critical to effective programming and learning."

Cronin M.

Anarcha, Betsey, Lucy, and the women whose names were not recorded: The legacy of J Marion Sims.

Anaesth Intensive Care. 2020 Nov;48(3_suppl):6-13. PMID: [33249851](#)

"In 1849, Sims developed a repeatable surgical solution for obstetric fistula, a debilitating condition caused by prolonged, obstructed labour, which damages the vaginal wall, resulting in permanent leakage via the vagina from either the bowel or bladder and sometimes both. Obstetric fistula rendered women social pariahs, unable to engage fully in either domestic or public life...There are several commemorative statues of him, he has been afforded the title of the 'father of modern gynaecology'." However, he was "only able to create a reliably repeatable surgical solution through ongoing experimentation on enslaved women. One of these women, Anarcha, was operated on at least 30 times without the use of anaesthesia over a four-year period."

(Only known representation of Anarcha, Lucy and Betsy from a painting done by Robert Thom, for "Great Moments in Medicine" series.)

