ABUSE RESEARCH
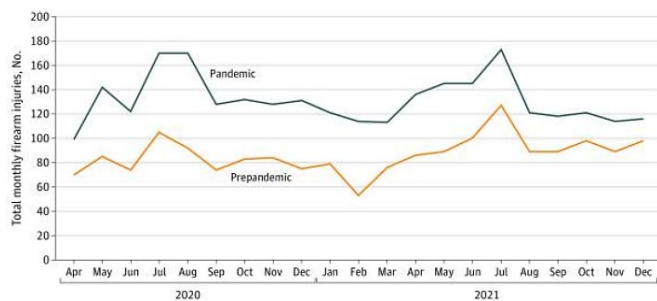
Child Abuse

Iantorno SE, Swendiman RA, Bucher BT, Russell KW.
Surge in Pediatric Firearm Injuries Presenting to US Children's Hospitals During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
JAMA Pediatr. 2023 Feb 1;177(2):204-206. PMID: 36534391
> Using administrative data from 49 tertiary pediatric US hospitals, rates of children with firearm injuries significantly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and remained elevated throughout 2021. Non-Hispanic Black children and those with public insurance had greater proportions of firearm-injured children during vs. before the pandemic. "There were no significant differences between cohorts by sex, household income, rurality, region, mortality, or intent. The COVID-19 pandemic was independently associated with increased monthly firearm injuries after controlling for all covariates."

Bach-Mortensen AM, Goodair B, Barlow J.
For-profit outsourcing and its effects on placement stability and locality for children in care in England, 2011-2022: A longitudinal ecological analysis.
Child Abuse Negl. 2023:106245. PMID: 37258367
> "The responsibility of local authorities in England to provide children in care with stable, local placements has become increasingly difficult due to the rising number of children in need of care and a shortage of available placements." This paper shows that local authorities who outsource children's social care to the private market "have the highest rates of placement disruptions and out-of-area placements."

Grossman ER, McClendon JE, Gielen AC, et al.
A review of state regulations for child care: Preventing, recognizing and reporting child maltreatment.
Child Care Health Dev. 2023;49(4):657-68. PMID: 36377347
> "We reviewed state regulations for all 50 states and the District of Columbia for child care centres and family child care homes 2021 and compared these regulations to eight national health and safety standards on child maltreatment…Three states (Colorado, Utah and Washington) had regulations for centres, and one state (Washington) had regulations for homes that at least partially met all eight national standards. Nearly all states had regulations requiring that caregivers and teachers are mandated reporters of child maltreatment and requiring that they be trained in preventing, recognizing and reporting child maltreatment. One state (Hawaii) did not have regulations consistent with any of the national standards for either centres or homes…Encouraging states to adopt regulations that meet national standards and exploring their impact on child welfare are important next steps."

Vega S, Huang JS, Kuelbs CL, Rebbe R, Putnam-Hornstein E.
A Longitudinal Study of Health Care Utilization Among Infants Investigated for Maltreatment.
Acad Pediatr. 2023 May 27:S1876-2859(23)00159-6. PMID: 37247840
> Of 3692 children investigated for maltreatment within the first year of life, compared to matched controls, children with infancy maltreatment had significantly more high-acuity health care visits. "These findings highlight this population's need for well-defined medical homes to ensure appropriate health care. Further understanding of the underlying reasons for this increased health care burden will help inform these efforts."

McDoniel ME, Bierman KL.
Exploring pathways linking early childhood adverse experiences to reduced preadolescent school engagement.
Child Abuse Negl. 2023 Aug;142(Pt 1):105572. PMID: 35216816
> Following 556 children from Headstart preschool classrooms, a path model linked early childhood ACES through poor kindergarten student-teacher relationship quality to elevated third grade internalizing problems, which, in turn, led to reduced fifth-grade school engagement.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Rokach A, Clayton S.
The Consequences of Child Abuse.
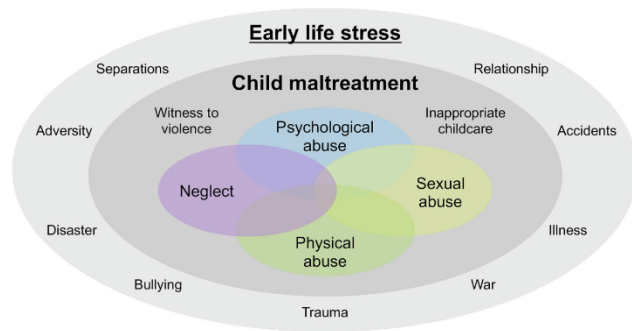Healthcare (Basel, Switzerland). 2023;11(11). PMID: 37297790

> "This review provides an overview of the consequences of early adverse experiences across various domains of life…sheds light on the implications of ACEs for health, socio-emotional and psychosocial well-being, relationships, personality, and cognitive functioning."

Nakama N, Usui N, Doi M, Shimada S.
Early life stress impairs brain and mental development during childhood increasing the risk of developing psychiatric disorders.
Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry. 2023;126:110783. PMID: 37149280

> "Our review provides the latest insights into the negative effects of childhood maltreatment on children's development and psychiatric disorders in adulthood."

Winter JJ, Rodríguez-Acevedo KL, Dittrich M, Heller EA.
Early life adversity: Epigenetic regulation underlying drug addiction susceptibility.
Mol Cell Neurosci. 2023;125:103825. PMID: 36842544

> "Early life adversity is causally relevant to adult psychiatric disease and may contribute to the risk of addiction. Here we review recent pre-clinical evidence showing that early life exposure to stress and/or drugs regulates changes in behavior, gene expression, and the epigenome that persist into adulthood…The effects of early life adversity are sex-, brain-region, and exposure-specific. The type of early life adversity often informs adult drug addiction susceptibility in both men and women. Underlying molecular mechanisms include regulation of genome-wide neuronal epigenetic modifications and gene expression."

Oltean LE, Şoflău R, Miu AC, Szentágotai-Tătar A.
Childhood adversity and impaired reward processing: A meta-analysis.
Child Abuse Negl. 2023;142(Pt 1):105596. PMID: 35346502

> From a research review, "results suggest that multidimensional reward processing impairments are a consistent marker of childhood adversity, and may represent mechanisms underlying the increased risk of psychopathology." Reward processing encompasses the response to rewarding stimuli, the ability to learn from reward, the anticipation of future rewards, and engagement in goal-directed behavior towards rewards.

Mackle T, Colodro-Conde L, de Dassel T, et al.
"Echoes of a dark past" is a history of maternal childhood maltreatment a perinatal risk factor for pregnancy and postpartum trauma experiences? A longitudinal study.
BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2023;23(1):397. PMID: 37248446

> Of 262 pregnant women completing an online survey mid-pregnancy and 8 weeks after delivery, those who reported having at least one ACE relating to abuse or neglect were 6.7 times more likely to report a perinatal trauma (defined as a very frightening or distressing event that may result in psychological harm). For those who reported a perinatal trauma and PTSD symptoms, symptoms were more severe in those who also reported ACEs. "Awareness of maternal exposure to childhood adversity/maltreatment is critical to providing trauma-informed approaches in the perinatal setting. Our study suggests that routine screening for ACEs in pregnancy adds clinical value."

Allen MEC, Goslawski MM, Taple BJ, et al.
The association between adverse childhood experiences and perinatal depression symptom trajectories.
Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM. 2023:101039. PMID: 37247667

> Of 1270 pregnant persons referred to a mental healthcare program, and after controlling for risk factors, 10.3% of those with 4+ ACEs experienced a worse depression trajectory during pregnancy vs. 4.3% of those with a low ACE score. ACE score did not influence depression rates after delivery.

Porthan E, Lindberg M, Härkönen J, et al.
Childhood trauma and fear of childbirth: findings from a birth cohort study.
Arch Womens Ment Health. 2023 Aug;26(4):523-529. PMID: 37243781

> In a retrospective self-report study of 2556 Finnish pregnant women, childhood emotional abuse, emotional neglect, and a greater total burden of childhood trauma, but not childhood physical abuse, physical neglect or sexual abuse, increased the risk for fear of childbirth.

Adolescents

Katz CC, Okpych NJ, Charles P, Wall E, Courtney ME.
Prevalence and Predictors of Intimate Partner Violence Among Youth With Foster Care Histories.
J Interpers Violence. 2023:8862605231175910. PMID: 37300333

> From a study of California transitioning foster youth, "Findings suggest that approximately one-fifth (20.4%) of CalYOUTH respondents had experienced some form of IPV at age 23, with emotional abuse and bidirectional violence being the most commonly reported types of IPV. Females reported emotional abuse, as well as bidirectional violence, at nearly double the rates of their male counterparts. Self-identified sexual minority youth (SMY; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning) were more likely to report IPV victimization, IPV perpetration, and bidirectional violence than their non-SMY peers. Youth with histories of emotional abuse, caregiver IPV victimization, sexual abuse in foster care, placement instability, substance use, anxiety, and incarceration were also at heightened risk of IPV involvement."

Newby-Kew A, Horner-Johnson W.
Healthy and Respectful Relationship Education: Differences by Disability Status and Associations With Sexual Abuse.
J Sch Health. 2023;93(7):565-72. PMID: 36815452

> "Education about healthy and respectful relationships (HRR) is a key component of comprehensive sexual health curricula and is supposed to be universally provided in Oregon." In this survey of 10,992 Oregon 11th grade students, "Students with disabilities were 41% more likely than students without disabilities to say they had never been taught in school about HRR. Experiences of sexual abuse victimization were more common for all students who did not receive HRR education (34.1% vs 21.6% among students with disabilities; 16.2% vs 7.5% among students without disabilities).

McKnight ER, Gardner SM, Cottrill AC, Levy CB, Bonny AE.
Trauma and Resilience in Adolescents and Young Adults With Opioid Use and Eating Disorders.
Clin Pediatr (Phila). 2023:99228231181742. PMID: 37326039

> Among 90 adolescents seeking outpatient treatment for either opioid use disorder (OUD) or feeding and eating disorder (FED), reported ACEs were high in both groups compared to a national average (80.0% of OUD and 34.0% of FED reported 4+ ACEs compared with 16% national average). The prevalence of emotional neglect, household mental illness, and peer victimization/isolation/rejection was similar between groups. Patients with OUD endorsed substantially fewer resilience factors compared with those with FEDs.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Whitten T, Tzoumakis S, Green MJ, Dean K.
Global Prevalence of Childhood Exposure to Physical Violence within Domestic and Family Relationships in the General Population: A Systematic Review.
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023:15248380231179133. PMID: 37300288

> "The global pooled prevalence of childhood exposure to physical domestic and family violence as a victim or witness was 17.3% and 16.5%, respectively. Prevalence estimates were highest in West Asia and Africa (victim = 42.8%; witness = 38.3%) and lowest for the Developed Asia Pacific region (victim = 3.7%; witness = 5.4%). Males were 25% more likely than females to be the victim of physical domestic and family violence during childhood, while both were equally likely to have witnessed it. These findings suggest that childhood exposure to domestic and family violence is relatively common, affecting around one-in-six people by 18 years of age globally."

Johnson L.
Intimate Partner Violence, Child Custody, and Financial Issues Among Female Suicide Decedents With Known Intimate Partner Problems: National Violent Death Reporting System, 2018.
Womens Health Issues. 2023 May 26:S1049-3867(23)00096-8. PMID: 37246042

> Using national data on violent deaths from 2018, of women who were experiencing IPV and committed suicide, child custody issues but not financial stress was a contributing factor. "Suicide prevention and intervention efforts should recognize child custody issues as a risk factor, particularly when coupled with IPV."

Orr C, Fisher C, Bell M, et al.
Exposure to family and domestic violence is associated with lower attendance and higher suspension in school children.
Child Abuse Negl. 2023 Aug;142(Pt 1):105594. PMID: 35459527

> Combining a study of Australian schoolchildren grades 1-10 with administrative data, "Exposure to FDV [family and domestic violence] is associated with an increased odds of poor school attendance and school suspension. Evidence-based and innovative strategies are needed to support children who are exposed to FDV. This involves responding in ways that does not cause further trauma to children; a restorative and trauma-informed approach is vital."

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Andoh JE, Mehta SK, Chen EM, et al.
Domestic Violence-Related Ocular Injuries Among Adult Patients: Data from the Nationwide Emergency Department Sample, 2008-2017.
Ophthalmic Epidemiol. 2023:1-9. PMID: 37345877

> Using US nationwide ED data, ocular (eye) injuries related to DV had an incidence of 1.09 per 100,000 adult population, with 84.5% female. Most ED visits presented to metropolitan teaching (55.4%), non-trauma (46.7%), and south regional (30.5%) hospitals. The most common ocular injury was bruising of the eye and surrounding area (61.1%). The hospital admission rate was 5.2% with a mean hospital stay of 2.9 days. The inflation-adjusted mean cost for medical services was $38,540 per encounter. The likelihood of hospital admission increased for patients aged ≥60 years old, on

Medicare, and with open eyeballs or fractures of the bones surrounding the eye socket.

Nash K, Minhas S, Metheny N, et al.
Exposure to Domestic Abuse and the Subsequent Development of Atopic Disease in Women.
J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2023;11(6):1752-6.e3. PMID: 37295857

> From a UK database, 967 women exposed to IPV were identified, and over time were 40-70% more likely than those unexposed to IPV to develop atopy (asthma, eczema, and allergic eye/nose problems).

Thomsen AH, Leth PM, Hougen HP, Villesen P.
Intimate partner homicides in Denmark 1992-2016.
Forensic Sci Int Synerg. 2023;6:100337. PMID: 37332324

> Of 1417 homicides during the study period, 26.5% were IPV homicides of which 79.3% were females. Female victims were killed by more varied methods, with more severe injuries, were followed by suicide in 26.5% and with multiple homicide victims in 8.1%.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Coleman JN, Hellberg SN, Hopkins TA, et al.
Situating reproductive coercion in the sociocultural context: An ecological model to inform research, practice, and policy in the United States.
J Trauma Dissociation. 2023;24(4):471-88. PMID: 37199335

> "This paper is intended to offer a primer to historical, sociocultural, community, interpersonal, and individual processes that may interact to shape reproductive decision-making and its effect on individual health outcomes. We emphasize the importance of conceptualizing reproductive coercion within the broader sociocultural and community context, and the potential implications for reproductive and sexual health research, clinical care, and policy in the United States."

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Brown A, Kim SJ.
Detecting elder abuse in dermatology: A clinical and practical review.
J Am Acad Dermatol. 2023;88(6):1345-53. PMID: 36775102

> "Dermatologists can play a crucial role in identifying certain types of elder mistreatment, especially physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Nonetheless, many dermatologists report insufficient training in the diagnosis of elder abuse as well as appropriate interventions. This review article aims to assess recent clinical, screening, and practical developments surrounding elder abuse… Like all other clinicians, dermatologists have a legal, moral, and ethical obligation to report suspicion of mistreatment and help suffering patients."

Nyarko-Odoom A, Lisha NE, Yank V, et al.
Elder Mistreatment Experienced by Older Caregiving Adults: Results from a National Community-Based Sample.
J Gen Intern Med. 2023;38(7):1709-16. PMID: 36717433

> Of 1898 community-dwelling adults over age 60, 14% reported serving as caregivers for other adults, including 8% who considered themselves to be the primary caregiver. Among these older caregivers, 38% reported experiencing emotional, 32% financial, and 6% physical mistreatment after age 60. Those who served as primary rather than secondary caregivers for other adults had an over two-fold increased odds of emotional mistreatment. "Efforts to prevent or mitigate elder mistreatment should put more emphasis on vulnerable older caregivers."

Sexual Assault

Turgumbayev M, Shopabayev B, Dzhansarayeva R, et al.
An examination of associations between sexual assault and health problems, depression or suicidal ideation in a large nationally representative cohort of male and female 20-30-year-olds.
Crim Behav Ment Health. 2023;33(3):196-212. PMID: 36884372

> Using data from an adolescent and adult health survey, "Sexual assault at some time and of whatever kind, although more commonly reported by women than men (23% vs 5%), is associated with serious physical and mental health problems during their 20s and 30s." These problems included serious medical conditions such as heart disease and cancer, depression, and suicidal ideation.

Wiener SJ, Porter JJ, Paydar-Darian N, et al.
Emergency Care Utilization for Mental and Sexual Health Concerns Among Adolescents Following Sexual Assault: A Retrospective Cohort Study.
J Adolesc Health. 2023 Jun 8:S1054-139X(23)00209-4. PMID: 37294253

> From an ED database of patients aged 11-18 years seen for sexual assault, compared to a similar group seen for injury, "ED return visit rates in the sexual assault and control groups were 7.9% versus 4.1% for suicidality, 1.8% versus 1.4% for sexually transmitted infection, 2.2% versus 0.8% for pelvic infection, and 1.7% versus 1.0% for pregnancy, respectively.

Bhuptani PH, López G, Peterson R, Orchowski LM.
Online Social Reactions to Disclosure of Sexual Victimization via #MeToo and Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
J Interpers Violence. 2023:8862605231176792. PMID: 37272010

> Of 195 individuals who disclosed their experience online via the hashtag #MeToo, symptoms of PTSD were positively associated with the level of assault severity reported by the survivor, as well as receipt of online social reactions to disclosure via #MeToo that made fun, insulted, or said something to hurt the survivor. Online social reactions that involved turning away from the survivor or providing unsupportive acknowledgment of the experience, or with the receipt of positive online social reactions, were unrelated with PTSD symptoms. "Online disclosure of sexual victimization and its impact needs to be attended to in clinical and research settings."

Moschella EA, Quilter C, Potter SJ.
Comprehensive policies for victims of sexual assault returning to the campus classroom: Lessons from university sports-related concussion policies.
J Am Coll Health. 2023;71(4):1241-9. PMID: 34242541

> SRC (sports-related concussion) and SA (sexual assault) policies at the 50 United States public flagship universities were analyzed. "Compared to SA polices, SRC policies offer more comprehensive academic accommodations and physical and mental health resources. Comprehensive policies for student SA survivors, like those available for students who suffer SRCs, would improve student health and academic outcomes and increase SA survivors' likelihood of graduating college, thereby reducing individual and societal human capital losses."

Gepshtein Y, Burton CW.
Victim-Centered Care Among College Women of Color: A Qualitative Study.
J Forensic Nurs. 2023 Apr-Jun 01;19(2):100-107. PMID: 37205616

> From focus groups of 87 college women of color, "Participants were concerned about uncertain outcomes of their interaction with organizations and authorities that are set to help victims…Three priority theoretical elements were identified: what hurts, namely, distrust, uncertain outcomes, and silencing of experiences; what helps, namely, support, autonomy, and safety; and desired outcomes, namely, academic progress, supportive social networks, and self-care."

Human Trafficking

Jarrell KL, Pulvino C, Kimmel A, et al.
A Case of Human Trafficking in Appalachia and What Emergency Physicians Can Learn from It.
West J Emerg Med. 2023;24(3):463-8. PMID: 37278774

> "Appalachian states comprise three of the top 10 states for human trafficking with Mississippi, Georgia, and Ohio ranking second, fourth, and fifth, respectively…We present a case of an ED patient being trafficked in Appalachia as an educational stimulus and discuss several unique aspects of trafficking in rural communities, including lack of awareness, prevalence of familial trafficking, high rates of poverty and substance use, cultural differences, and a complex highway network system. The lack of data, appropriate resources, and training for healthcare professionals also poses distinct issues. We propose an approach to identify and treat victims of human trafficking in the ED, with a focus on rural EDs."

LGBTQ Concerns

Roy V, Fournier C, Thibault S, Tudeau M, Dumont-Blais A.
Factors Shaping Gay Men's Experience of Intimate Partner Violence: An Ecological View.
J Homosex. 2023:1-25. PMID: 37272893

> "This study sheds new light on mechanisms whereby these factors affect the IPV experience, namely the risk of being victimized; the recognition of IPV victimization; and the response to the IPV experienced. These mechanisms are discussed along with heterosexism-related factors, and implications for research and practices are suggested."
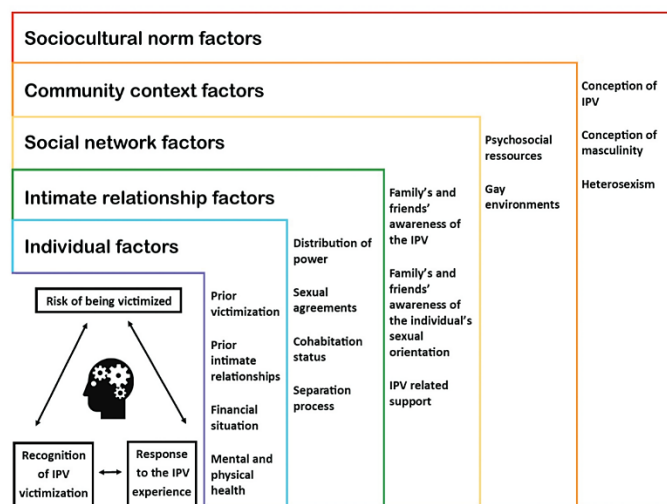

Figure 2. Ecological models of factors related to gay men's IPV experience.

Race/Cultural Concerns

Diyaolu M, Ye C, Huang Z, et al.
Disparities in detection of suspected child abuse.
J Pediatr Surg. 2023 Feb;58(2):337-343. PMID: 36404182

> From a national trauma databank, suspected child abuse victims (SCA) accounted for 1% of child patients. Of these, 51% were White, 33% Black, 1% Asian, 0.3% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 2% American Indian, and 12% other race. Black patients were disproportionately overrepresented, composing 12% of the US population, but 33% of SCA patients. Although White SCA patients were more severely injured and had higher in-hospital mortality (9% vs. 6%), Black SCA patients were hospitalized longer (7.2 vs. 6.2 days) despite controlling for severity. "Black children were disproportionately identified as potential victims of abuse…also subjected to longer hospitalizations, despite milder injuries. Further studies are needed to better understand the etiology of the observed trends."

Daniels KP, M DT, Chae DH, Allen AM.
Black Mothers' Concern for Their Children as a Measure of Vicarious Racism-Related Vigilance and Allostatic Load.
J Health Soc Behav. 2023:221465231175942. PMID: 37332176

> From a community sample of Black women in the San Francisco Bay area, racism-related vigilance as it relates to their children was positively associated with allostatic load (i.e., worse health), "underscoring how intersections between race, gender, and parenthood result in susceptibility to unique forms of health-harming stress."

James KF, Okoye N.
Practical Strategies to Overcome Racial Bias in Nursing.
Nurs Womens Health. 2023;27(3):173-8. PMID: 37172614

> "Because nurses represent the largest health care profession in the United States, they are in a unique position to mitigate the effects of racial bias in health care. To do so, it is imperative that nurses be proactive in uncovering and addressing their own biases, and learn about racial bias and its associated health inequities, so that they can advocate for their patients and colleagues when witnessing racism and racial bias."

BOX 2 — REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS FOR NURSES

- What is the racial makeup of the people in my life? Why?
- Would I have treated that patient differently if they were my own race? Why?
- What patients/families am I uncomfortable caring for? Why?
- When do I complain about or request a change in my patient assignment? Why?
- In what situations am I quick to get the Department of Family and Child Protective Services involved? In what situations is their involvement a last resort? Why? Is this fair?
- In what scenarios have I gone "above and beyond" in providing care for a patient/family? Why?
- If I or my sibling/friend were treated this way, how would I feel?
- Who do I order urine drug tests for? Why? Is this fair?

Norris DM, Primm A.
Burnout and Moral Injury Among Black Psychiatrists and Other Black Mental Health Professionals.
Psychiatr Serv. 2023:appips20220522. PMID: 37287228

> "The authors offer preventive strategies to support the mental health, well-being, and longevity of Black mental health professionals." Issues addressed include racism, burnout, blocked opportunities, tokenism, "minority tax" (the expectation to be involved in every initiative focused on diversity in an institution), moral injury, microaggressions, and racial battle fatigue (the layering of stressful work situations in professional environments over time).

Perpetrators

Kloess JA, van der Bruggen M.
Trust and Relationship Development Among Users in Dark Web Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Networks.
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;24(3):1220-37. PMID: 34875932

> "The increased potential and speed of the Internet has changed the nature of sexual crimes against children. It enables individuals with a sexual interest in children to meet, interact, and engage in illegal activities. The literature review presented here aims to provide an overview of the current knowledge and understanding of trust and relationship development among users of online networks that are dedicated to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children…Our findings reveal that the engagement in interpersonal communication and interactions with like-minded others serves various functions, including validation, normalization, and support, as well as access to expert advice, information, and material."

Orchowski LM, Oesterle DW, Berry-Cabán CS, et al.
An Application of the Confluence Model of Sexual Aggression Among Young Adult Male Soldiers.
J Interpers Violence. 2023;38(13-14):8263-85. PMID: 36843432

> Anonymous surveys were completed by 326 male soldiers between the ages of 18 and 24 at a large military installation in the Southeastern US. Men's likelihood to engage in sexual aggression (men's perceived likelihood to persist with sexual activity despite a partner's resistance) were related to characteristics of impersonal sex and hostile masculinity (sexual dominance, hostility toward women, adversarial sexual beliefs, rape myth acceptance, and acceptance of interpersonal violence).

Police and Court Systems

Myhill A, Hohl K, Johnson K.
The 'officer effect' in risk assessment for domestic abuse: Findings from a mixed methods study in England and Wales.
Eur J Criminol. 2023;20(3):856-77. PMID: 37304041

> "This paper presents findings from a mixed methods study in England and Wales…reveals an 'officer effect' whereby victims' responses to the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour-Based Violence (DASH) risk assessment are influenced by the specific officer that completes the assessment. Specifically, this officer effect is strongest in relation to questions intended to capture elements of controlling and coercive behaviour, and least apparent in relation to identifying physical injuries. We further present findings from field observations and interviews with first response officers that corroborate and help explain the officer effect."

Quas JA, Mukhopadhyay S, Winks KMH, et al.
Successful Criminal Prosecutions of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Abuse of Minors: A Comparative Analysis.
Child Maltreat. 2023;28(3):500-16. PMID: 37232445

> "We compared appellate opinions in two types of successfully prosecuted criminal cases: sex trafficking and sexual abuse of adolescent victims. In the trafficking opinions, victims were rarely described as disclosing on their own or as knowing their trafficker before the victimization. The opinions also often alluded to the trafficking victims' uncooperativeness and delinquency history, and frequently mentioned electronic evidence and prosecution experts. The sexual abuse opinions, in contrast, tended to suggest that victims' own disclosures initiated the case, perpetrators were known and trusted adults, and caregiver support during the case was common."

Randour ML, González D, Schurr EM, Conforti S.
Pet Protection Orders for Domestic Violence Survivors: Are They Being Used?
Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231176197. PMID: 37282608

> "This study examines if and how pet protection orders have been used by domestic violence survivors in the 36 states and the District of Columbia in which they have been enacted…Only one state, New York, keeps track of the number of protection orders that have been issued that include pets."

Providers

Beauchamp AM, Kalra A, Scroggins H, et al.
Identifying violence against persons at a safety-net hospital: Evidence from the first 6 months of implementation.
Health Serv Res. 2023 Aug;58(4):800-806. PMID: 35502497

> At the Parkland ED, the largest safety-net provider of services for minority and underinsured and uninsured patients in Dallas, Texas, during the first 6 months of 2021, "65,563 unique patients with 95,555 encounters occurred. Seventy-one percent (n = 67,535) were screened for violence against persons and, of those, 2% screened positive (n = 1349). Of the patients who screened positive, 1178 (87%) were referred to and 806 (60%) received care at victim services. Implementing screening did not increase the length of stay at ED. Systematic implementation of comprehensive violence screening at a safety-net system can result in robust identification and timely referrals to victim services."

Clery MJ, Olsen E, Marcovitch H, et al.
Safe Discharge Needs Following Emergency Care for Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and Sex Trafficking.
West J Emerg Med. 2023;24(3):615-21. PMID: 37278786

> "Safe disposition following experience or disclosure of IPV and GBV [gender-based violence] in the ED is difficult, and social work staff have limited bandwidth to assist with navigation of accessing community-based resources…This hospital instituted an ED observation unit (EDOU) to support GBV survivors with safe disposition. Then, through the EDOU protocol, with an average 24.3 hours of an extended ED observation, 70.7% were able to achieve safe disposition, with 33% discharged to a family/friend and 31% discharged to a shelter."

Lewis L, Augustson C, De Vries G, et al.
An Exploration of Australian Online Government Portals for Women Experiencing DV During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231179209. PMID: 37282576

> "This study identified 23 Australian government online portals for women seeking support and help for domestic violence during the pandemic. Compared to legal and police portals, specifically designed portals had a higher quality standard. None of the legal and police portals provided more than two pages of information…Most contained information on erasing browser history, with the majority having a quick exit button…women were encouraged to 'think technology', not only from the viewpoint of e-safety but also because perpetrators could use technology to victimize. Additionally, our theme 'getting assistance' advised that safety plans can mitigate the impact of domestic violence, and counseled that liaising with legal, police, and specialist domestic violence services helps safeguard well-being whether you choose to stay in your home or leave."

DiGiovanni SS, Hoffmann Frances RJ, Brown RS, et al.
Pediatric Trauma and Posttraumatic Symptom Screening at Well-child Visits.
Pediatric quality & safety. 2023;8(3):e640. PMID: 37250613

> This article describes an interdisciplinary behavioral and medical health team implementation of screening children for trauma at well-child visits, screening for PTSD in those with positive trauma screens, and increasing referrals to behavioral health. "It is feasible to screen and respond to trauma during well-child visits. Screening method and training implementation changes can improve screening and response to pediatric trauma and PTSD."

Lechner M, Hagedorn S.
Increasing Access to Medical Forensic Care for the Pediatric Patient.
J Forensic Nurs. 2023 Apr-Jun 01;19(2):75-80. PMID: 37205613

> "About one in every four girls and one in every 13 boys in the United States experience sexual abuse. In order to best serve these patients and families, the forensic nurse examiner team from a large urban Level 1 trauma center partnered with the local child advocacy center to provide ready access to educated, competent pediatric examiners who provide developmentally appropriate medical forensic care in a child-friendly environment…as part of a coordinated, co-located, highly functional multidisciplinary team. These services are provided free of charge and regardless of timeline from abuse. This partnership removes several key barriers to this care."

Joh-Carnella N, Livingston E, Kagan-Cassidy M, et al.
Understanding the roles of the healthcare and child welfare systems in promoting the safety and well-being of children.
Frontiers in psychiatry. 2023;14:1195440. PMID: 37324821

> Canadian healthcare providers and child welfare workers were interviewed about their efforts to protect children. "Healthcare providers spoke about positive experiences making reports, factors impacting reporting decisions, areas for improvement (e.g., difficulties communicating, lack of collaboration, and disruption of therapeutic alliance), training, and professional roles. For interviews with child welfare workers, identified themes included healthcare professionals' perceived expertise and understanding the role of child welfare…Our core finding was a reported lack of communication between the groups of professionals. Other identified barriers in collaboration included a lack of understanding of each other's roles, hesitation for healthcare providers making reports, as well as legacies of harm and systemic inequities in both institutions. Future research should build on this examination…to identify sustainable solutions for increased collaboration."

Maier SL.
Keepers of Trauma: Rape Victim Advocates' Secondary Traumatic Stress, Burnout, and Coping Techniques.
Violence Against Women. 2023:10778012231182414. PMID: 37350094

> "This qualitative research explores rape victim advocates' secondary traumatic stress (STS), burnout, and coping strategies. Data reveal that the hardest parts of advocates' work include feeling like they cannot help survivors, hearing survivors' stories, and seeing the failings of the CJ and legal systems. Most advocates (81%) experience STS…Most advocates (71%) confirm that #MeToo and coverage in the news, social media, or television contribute to their STS. Fewer advocates (34%) experience burnout, which is attributed to workload. Advocates cope by reaching out to others (colleagues, friends, and family) and exercising."

Prevention

Smith-Clapham AM, Childs JE, Cooley-Strickland M, et al.
Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Interpersonal Violence Within Marginalized Communities: Toward a New Prevention Paradigm.
Am J Public Health. 2023;113(S2):S149-s56. PMID: 37339424

> "The COVID-19 pandemic increased the likelihood that survivors of domestic violence remain in isolation with their perpetrators. The devastating impact was even greater for marginalized communities, especially for people of color…change must be enacted at individual, community, and national levels to accommodate the additional burden of the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for future disasters and pandemics."

BOX 1— Common Types of Interpersonal Violence in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Types of Interpersonal Violence	How It Has Heightened During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Isolation	This form of psychological mistreatment involves minimizing or restricting access to other people[12] (e.g., prohibiting family and friend visits). The abusive person may control who may visit (or be socialized with) as a means of control and manipulation. They might not curtail their own social or employment activities and hold the rest of the household to a more stringent standard.[16]
Psychological and emotional abuse	The perpetrator may fake being sick with COVID-19 and threaten to infect the survivor, leading to their extended isolation. Or the perpetrator could fake having contracted COVID-19 and pretend to spread it to the survivor.[13]
Coercion, threats, and intimidation	The perpetrator can use COVID-19 mandates, news and media stories, and research to increase the survivor's fear of leaving the house and becoming sick or infecting others. Job losses could keep survivors isolated at home.[3,4] A perpetrator may prohibit family members' access to COVID-19 vaccines or boosters (by, e.g., citing false medical or religious justifications), thus potentially limiting independence, employment, education, travel, and entertainment access for survivors.
Economic abuse	Perpetrators may threaten to cut funding or medical support to survivors. Job losses could prevent survivors from amassing savings or resources to leave home, perpetrators could make survivors borrow money for them from family or friends or keep them from working by consistently exposing them to COVID-19.[12] Women have been disproportionately affected by pandemic-related unemployment.[15]
Child neglect and abuse	Children are at a higher risk for maltreatment, as families may not have the funds or resources to buy food or essential medications.[1] Adults may take out their frustration and anger on their children in violent ways. Children lack typical protective or escape outlets, such as attending in-person school or worship services.[1,15]
Immigration status–based abuse by coercion and threats	Partners may threaten survivors who are immigrants with being deported or destroy critical documents if they become sick, need medical care or hospitalization,[17] or seek public health resources.
Sexual abuse	Reduced or lack of access to contraceptives or birth control is a sexual violence–related risk factor that could result in forced unwanted pregnancies stemming from coercion or rape,[16,19] especially if the woman feared seeking medical help during the COVID-19 pandemic and governmental distribution of contraceptives has limited women's access.[21,22]
Technological abuse	Those who have traditionally accessed in-person services may not have had access to technological devices or may have lacked privacy in the home while online.[15] Abusive parties may have weaponized this lack of privacy with strategies such as surveillance and ghostwriting, thus resulting in technological abuse.[12,16,23]
Physical abuse	Physical abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic increased, as it normally does following natural disasters.[1] The stay-at-home mandates and closed businesses correspond with an increase in substance use and untreated mental health symptoms, leading to more physical abuse. Pharmacies, marijuana dispensaries, illicit drug dealers, and liquor stores remained opened during the stay-at-home mandates.[15]

Brier ZMF, Burt KB, Legrand AC, Price M.
An examination of the heterogeneity of the relationships between posttraumatic stress disorder, self-compassion and gratitude.
Clin Psychol Psychother. 2023;30(3):566-74. PMID: 36508309

> From an online survey of 1424 trauma-exposed individuals, mean age 31.5 years and 55.3% female, factors of self-compassion and gratitude were important protective factors for PTSD symptoms in all PTSD symptom clusters, but especially alterations in cognition and mood.

Giovanelli A, Mondi CF, Reynolds AJ, Ou SR.
Evaluation of Midlife Educational Attainment Among Attendees of a Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program in the Context of Early Adverse Childhood Experiences.
JAMA network open. 2023;6(6):e2319372. PMID: 37347483

> For 989 Chicago children entering the Child-Parent Center preschool Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in the 1980s, compared to a group using usual early childhood services, those who attended the intervention program were significantly more likely than the control group to attain a bachelor's degree or higher and an associate's degree or higher, with rates similar to students without ACEs. "These results build on research suggesting that youths at higher risk can benefit most from intervention, and support ECE as a tool for reducing ACE-related disparities."

Huang CX, Halfon N, Sastry N, Chung PJ, Schickedanz A.
Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Health Outcomes.
Pediatrics. 2023 Jul 1;152(1):e2022060951. PMID: 37337829

> From a large national study over time, "Positive childhood experiences [PCEs] were independently associated with lower risks of fair or poor adult health, adult mental health problems, and developing any physical or mental health condition at any given age after adjusting for ACEs." PCEs for this study included "(1) comfort confiding in at least 1 parent about things that were bothering them, (2) perception that at least 1 parent understood their problems, (3) rating of their relationship with their parents, (4) happiness at school, (5) comfort with friends, and (6) perception of their neighbors' helpfulness."

Johnston T, Seinfeld S, Gonzalez-Liencres C, et al.
Virtual reality for the rehabilitation and prevention of intimate partner violence - From brain to behavior: A narrative review.
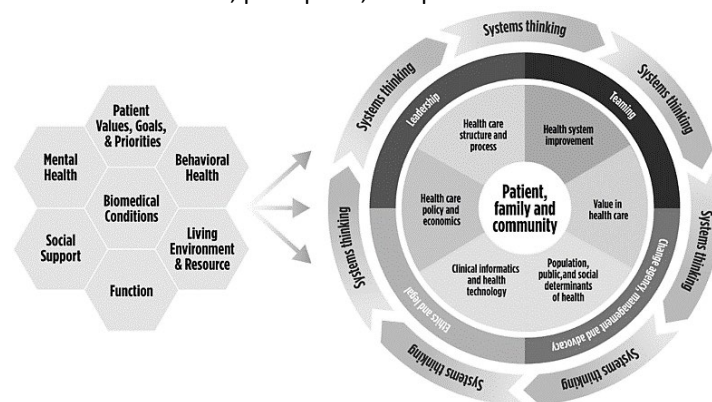Frontiers in psychology. 2022;13:788608. PMID: 37342425

> "Accumulated experimental evidence demonstrates that virtual embodiment, which results in the illusion of owning a virtual body, has a large impact on people's emotional, cognitive, and behavioral responses. This narrative review discusses work that has investigated how embodied perspective - taking in virtual reality has been used as a tool to reduce bias, to enhance recognition of the emotional state of another, and to reduce violent behaviors, in particular in the realm of IPV."

Researchers

Williams BC, Hayer R, Henderson DD, et al.
A 7-Domain Framework That Can Bridge Clinical Care, Health Systems Science, and Health Equity: Lessons From the H&P 360.
Acad Med. 2023;98(6):664-71. PMID: 36652503

> "The H&P 360 is a reconceptualized history and physical (H&P), which clinical medical students have reported reveals clinically relevant information not elicited by the traditional H&P, informs care planning, promotes interprofessional team care, and enhances patient rapport. In addition to the traditional checklist focused on patients' medical conditions, the H&P 360 includes prompts for gathering limited but critical information in 6 other domains directly relevant to patients' overall health-patient values, goals, and priorities; mental health; behavioral health; social support; living environment and resources; and function…The authors invite discussion and experimentation around the use of the 7-domain framework in teaching, assessment, and curriculum development and point to resources for clinical educators for teaching and measuring the effects of the H&P 360 on learners, preceptors, and patients."

Zhen-Duan J, Colombo D, Alvarez K.
Inclusion of Expanded Adverse Childhood Experiences in Research About Racial/Ethnic Substance Use Disparities.
Am J Public Health. 2023;113(S2):S129-s32. PMID: 37339415

> "The expansion of the ACE framework to include expanded ACEs is a way to address a critical gap in the original ACE study—namely, a focus on how social and structural inequalities further shape adversity…These expanded ACEs include experiencing poverty, discrimination, bullying, community violence, migration-related stressors, and foster care involvement. Expanded ACEs are mainly community-level stressors and differ from traditional ACEs, which focus on family-level adversity." Authors urge the field to shift to using expanded ACEs, especially for research on substance use.