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Child Abuse

Iretton R, Hughes A, Klabunde M.

A Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Meta-Analysis of Childhood Trauma.

Biological psychiatry Cognitive neuroscience and neuroimaging. 2024;9(6):561-70. PMID: [38311289](#)

Comparing multiple research studies relating to brain changes of children who have been maltreated, "Altered brain activity was revealed within 2 clusters in children with trauma histories compared to control children: the default mode/affective network/posterior insula and the central executive network. Our identified clusters were associated with tasks pertaining to cognitive processing, emotional/social stress, self-referential thought, memory, unexpected stimuli, and avoidance behaviors in youths who have experienced childhood trauma."

Niu L, Li Y, Bai R, Pagán JA, Zhang D, Diaz A.

Global prevalence of violence against children and adolescents during COVID-19: A meta-analysis.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106873. PMID: [38850751](#)

From a research review containing 25 studies with 66,637 participants, "Over one in five children and adolescents globally reported ever experiencing violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our findings highlight the urgent need for effective child protection policies and interventions, as well as multisectoral collaboration."

Pan EJ, Liu JC, Zha AC, Seballos SS, Falcone T, Phelan M, et al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Unhoused Children Increase Odds of Psychiatric Illness, Physical Illness, and Psychiatric Admission.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2024;17(2):363-72.

PMID: [38938936](#)

"Unhoused children with at least one additional ACE had higher odds of the following psychiatric disorders: depression (Odds Ratio = 5.2), anxiety (OR = 3.4), behavioral disorder (OR = 7.2), psychoses (OR = 6.0), bipolar disorder (OR = 19.8), suicidal ideation

(OR = 8.0), post-traumatic stress disorder (OR = 10.1), and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (OR = 4.1)...Unhoused children and adolescents with exposure to additional documented ACEs are more likely to have serious psychiatric and medical diagnoses compared to other unhoused children."

Wang Z, Tang Y, Ordway M, Cui N, Rong T, Deng Y, et al.

The time sensitive and dose-responsive association between parental corporal punishment and sleep disturbances in preschoolers: A prospective cohort study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106866. PMID: [38852431](#)

From a 3-year study of 29,668 Chinese children first followed at age 3.73 years, "There is a time-sensitive and dose-responsive association between corporal punishment and sleep disturbance among preschoolers, with greater risk of sleep disturbances for proximal and accumulative exposure of corporal punishment. Promoting positive parenting strategies and avoiding corporal punishment can be a promising strategy to prevent sleep disturbances in preschoolers."

Oppan KE, Otopri S.

Drug-Induced Undifferentiated Connective Tissue Disease in a Two-Year-Old Girl: A Manifestation of Factitious Disorder Imposed on Another (FDIA).

Cureus. 2024;16(5):e60607. PMID: [38894791](#)

"Factitious disorder imposed on another (FDIA), formerly known as Munchausen syndrome by proxy (MSBP), constitutes a form of child abuse wherein a caregiver fabricates or induces illness in a person under their care or supervision. Here, we present a case of a two-year-old girl with signs and symptoms suggestive of undifferentiated connective tissue disease (UCTD) and probable autoinflammatory disease, which was a manifestation of FDIA...Regardless of extensive medical interventions, including corticosteroids and immunosuppressive therapy, the patient's condition failed to improve until the caregiver was isolated from the patient. Upon questioning, the caregiver admitted to having administered pyrogenal, an immunomodulator, to induce symptoms. This case highlights the challenges and difficulties of diagnosing and managing FDIA-associated illnesses, drawing attention to the importance of considering this diagnosis in cases of unexplained or recurrent fever in children."

Geoghegan AR, Weiler WR, Yeung F, Cory EJ.
Development of a standardized peer review and oversight process in cases of suspected child physical abuse.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2024;104:102698. PMID: [38795664](#)
“The Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect program at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada developed a structured peer review process for cases of suspected physical abuse. Included in the process is an approach for the evaluation of institutional complaints received related to a child abuse pediatrician's medical opinion. This quality assurance process is presented so that other child abuse pediatricians and programs may replicate or adapt the protocol for their own local context.”

Pipes G, Dunleavy S, Brown J.
Female genital mutilation and cutting: a survey of child abuse pediatricians.

BMC Womens Health. 2024;24(1):348. PMID: [38886697](#)
In a survey of child abuse pediatrician members of the Helfer Society, “Most of the 65 respondents were aware that FGM/C [female genital mutilation/cutting] is illegal (92%) and agreed that it violated human rights (99%)...Only 21% of respondents felt comfortable discussing FGM/C with parents from countries with a high prevalence of FGM/C. Sixty-three percent were not aware of the federal law, and 74% were not aware of their own state's laws about FGM/C.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Liu Y, Qiu H, Tang F, Huang Z, Gao Y, Wang Y, et al.
Association of adverse childhood experiences with poor health condition among middle-aged and elderly US adults.

Psychiatry Res. 2024;338:115977. PMID: [38823165](#)
From a US national study with 195,472 participants, 53.8 % female, and mean age 65.0 years, compared to populations without ACE, ACE exposures were approximately 2 times more significantly associated with depression, frequent mental health problems, and subjective cognitive decline, with a smaller association with physical health problems, and with dose-response patterns...Our findings emphasize the importance of lifelong psychological screening and support for the ACE-exposed middle-aged and elderly population.”

Miller QC, Widom CS.
Factors influencing adult cognitive appraisals of childhood sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106909. PMID: [38925010](#)
For 1196 adults with documented cases of childhood maltreatment and matched controls, “Over half of the sample (52%) reported childhood sexual experiences, yet only 44% considered those experiences sexually abusive...Participants who reported more severe abuse, more frequent abuse, younger age at the onset of abuse, and intrafamilial and both intra- and extrafamilial abuse (vs. extrafamilial abuse) were more likely to consider their experiences abusive...Understanding factors that determine adult cognitive appraisals of childhood sexual experiences as abusive can inform clinical interventions for maltreated populations.”

Montgomery BK, Zheng A, Erickson KL, Bordeaux JS.
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) association with Melanoma.

Arch Dermatol Res. 2024;316(7):381. PMID: [38850430](#)
From a CDC national study, “Individuals exposed to ACEs are at increased odds of receiving a melanoma diagnosis. ACEs range from people whose parents divorced in childhood (odds ratio 1.64) to people who were physically hurt by their parents (2.41).”

Table 1 Individual ACEs odds of melanoma diagnosis

ACE	OR	p	CI
lived with anyone depressed, mentally ill, suicidal	1.71	< 0.001***	1.5027 to 1.9476
live with alcoholic	2.28	< 0.001***	2.0628 to 2.5159
lived with anyone who abused drugs	1.60	< 0.001***	1.3408 to 1.9032
lived with anyone who served time in prison	1.10	0.440	0.8643 to 1.3986
divorced parents	1.64	< 0.001***	1.4760 to 1.8308
parents beat each other up	1.90	< 0.001***	1.6675 to 2.1636
physically hurt by parent	2.41	< 0.001***	2.1806 to 2.6546
parents swear at you, insult you, put you down	2.16	< 0.001***	1.9762 to 2.3562
touched sexually	2.25	< 0.001***	1.9580 to 2.5911
made to touch someone sexually	2.01	< 0.001***	1.6941 to 2.3936
forced to have sex	2.10	< 0.001***	1.6910 to 2.6128

Ravichandran S, Sood R, Das I, et al.
Early life adversity impacts alterations in brain structure and food addiction in individuals with high BMI.

Scientific reports. 2024;14(1):13141. PMID: [38849441](#)
From evaluations and brain scans of 114 adults with obesity, high levels of early life adversity (ELA) showed a strong association between food addiction and dysregulation in reward brain areas and inhibition of control brain areas. Thus ELA may “increase vulnerability to develop food addiction and obesity in adulthood.” Results could be buffered “by the neuroprotective effects of resilience”.

Teunissen TAM, Lagro-Janssen ALM, Akkermans RP, et al.
Sex differences in the association between (sexual) abuse and lower urinary tract symptoms.
Neurourology and urodynamics. 2024;43(5):199-206. PMID: [38530000](#)

From a Dutch population-based survey, "In men more than in women, a history of any type of abuse is associated with LUTS [lower urinary tract symptoms such as feelings of urgency, leaking urine, need to urinate frequently, etc.], regardless of whether the abuse occurred during childhood or adulthood...Patients, in particular male patients, presenting with LUTS should therefore be asked about sexual abuse in the past."

Lortye SA, Will JP, Rameckers SA, et al.
Types of childhood maltreatment as predictors of posttraumatic stress disorder severity and complex posttraumatic stress disorder in patients with substance use disorders.
European journal of psychotraumatology. 2024;15(1):2367179. PMID: [38934350](#)

Of 209 substance-use treatment-seeking adults with PTSD, childhood sexual and especially emotional abuse (EA) were associated with the severity of PTSD and complex PTSD. "Since EA does not constitute an A-criterion [for PTSD], it is generally more overlooked in PTSD treatment. Its impact should therefore be underlined, and clinicians should be attentive to EA in their treatment."

Miller HH, Jenkins L, Putzeys S, Kaminski S, Woodall M.
Bullying Victimization and Adverse Childhood Experiences: Retrospective Reports of Relative Impact on Emotional Distress.
Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2024;17(2):481-93. PMID: [38938969](#)

From an online survey of 576 diverse adults, "When ranked against other ACEs...nearly 30% of participants ranked bullying victimization as having the most negative impact on their levels of emotional distress...experiencing additional ACEs seems to exacerbate distress caused by bullying and cyber bullying victimization...bullying victimization may be just as detrimental as other types of ACEs that occur in childhood."

Sasaki N, Watanabe K, Kanamori Y, et al.
Effects of expanded adverse childhood experiences including school bullying, childhood poverty, and natural disasters on mental health in adulthood.
Scientific reports. 2024;14(1):12015. PMID: [38797740](#)
In a national survey of 28,617 Japanese community-dwelling adults that included 15 ACEs including childhood poverty, school bullying, and natural

disasters, about 75% had one or more ACEs, and 14.7% had 4 or more ACEs. Those with ACEs over 4 showed adjusted odds ratio = 8.18 for severe psychological distress. For bullying, the impact on psychological distress in adulthood was relatively high in all age groups.

Adolescents

Wang SS, Walsh K, Li JJ.
A prospective longitudinal study of multidomain resilience among youths with and without maltreatment histories.
Dev Psychopathol. 2024;36(2):750-64. PMID: [36794372](#)
"The majority of children with maltreatment histories do not go on to develop depression in their adolescent and adult years. These individuals are often identified as being 'resilient', but this characterization may conceal difficulties that individuals with maltreatment histories might face." From a long-term national study, "Youths with maltreatment histories in the 'low' depression trajectory reported lower romantic relationship satisfaction, more exposure to intimate partner and sexual violence, more alcohol abuse/dependency, and poorer general physical health compared to individuals without maltreatment histories in the same 'low' depression trajectory in adulthood. Findings add further caution against labeling individuals as 'resilient' based on a just single domain of functioning (low depression), as childhood maltreatment has harmful effects on a broad spectrum of functional domains."

Phillips AR, Halligan SL, Lavi I, et al.
A Scoping Review of Factors Associated With the Mental Health of Young People Who Have "Aged Out" of the Child Welfare System.
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(3):1780-98. PMID: [37776530](#)
"Young people who grow up in care and then exit care around the age of 18 are a particularly vulnerable group, at increased risk for mental health problems...This review highlights...pre-care maltreatment, care-related experiences, psychological factors, social support, education, and adult functioning (e.g., housing, finances, employment). We found mixed and inconsistent findings across research studies. The strongest evidence-base is around the influence of social support...We discuss potential directions for future empirical research, both in terms of methodology and factors investigated."

Suhail Usmani S, Mehendale M, Yousif Shaikh M, et al.
Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Non-suicidal Self-Injury in Youth: A Systematic Review.

Alpha Psychiatry. 2024;25(2):150-64. PMID: [38798814](#)

From a research review, "Increasing ACE score, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, parental neglect and substance use, parental separation or dysfunctional family, and death of a close family member had statistically significant correlation with NSSI [non-suicidal self-injury, such as cutting]...Non-suicidal self-injury is an impairing diagnosis with far reaching psychiatric manifestations and repercussions...Effective treatment of NSSI in those with ACEs with psychotherapy significantly improves outcomes and prevents suicide in youth."

Moussaoui D, Farrell OG, Grover SR.

Is it time to agree upon a standardised approach to the assessment of contributing factors and impacts of adolescent pelvic pain?

J Obstet Gynaecol. 2024;44(1):2359126. PMID: [38813795](#)

"Pelvic pain evaluation in adolescents should include a multi-factorial assessment of contributing factors, such as childhood adversity and coping strategies, and impacts of pelvic pain on quality of life, mental health and sleep, using validated instruments in this age group. Future research should focus on the development of consensus amongst researchers as well as input from young women to establish a standardised international approach to clinical trials involving the investigation and reporting of pelvic pain in adolescents."

Smith H, Wilson M, Donovan B, et al.

Factors associated with unintended pregnancy and contraceptive practices in justice-involved adolescent girls in Australia.

PLoS One. 2024;19(6):e0304825. PMID: [38889164](#)

Of 118 Australian sexually active justice-involved girls aged 14-17, "Over one quarter (26%, 30/118) reported a past unintended pregnancy, 54 did not use any contraception at their last sexual encounter, and 17 reported LARC [long-acting reversible contraception] use...lifetime ecstasy use was associated with both unintended pregnancy (adjusted odds ratio 3.795) and non-contraception use (aOR 4.562). A history of physical abuse was also associated with both any contraception (aOR 3.024) and LARC use (aOR 4.892). Identifying as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, education/employment status and geographic location appeared to have no association."

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Muir C, Kedzior SGE, Barrett S, et al.

Co-design workshops with families experiencing multiple and interacting adversities including parental mental health, substance use, domestic violence, and poverty: intervention principles and insights from mothers, fathers, and young people.

Res Involv Engagem. 2024;10(1):67. PMID: [38926798](#)

"Clustering and co-occurring of family adversities, including mental health problems, substance use, domestic violence and abuse, as well as poverty can increase health and behavioural risks for children, which persist throughout the life course...This study aimed to develop intervention principles based on reflections from mothers, fathers, and young people who experience multiple and interacting adversities...The intervention principles highlighted that: (1) to reduce isolation and loneliness parents and young people wanted to be connected to services, resources, and peer support networks within their local community, particularly by a knowledgeable and friendly community worker; (2) to address feelings of being misunderstood, parents and young people wanted the development of specialised trauma informed training for practitioners and to have the space to build trusting, gradual, and non-stigmatising relationships with practitioners; and (3) to address the needs and strengths of individual family members, mothers, fathers, and young people wanted separate, tailored, and confidential support."

Kimber M, McTavish J, Shouldice M, et al.

Recognizing and responding to children with suspected exposure to intimate partner violence between caregivers.

Paediatr Child Health. 2024;29(3):174-88. PMID: [38827374](#)

This position statement from the Canadian Paediatric Society presents an evidence-informed approach for the safe recognition and response to children and youth who are suspected of being exposed to IPV (CEIPV). "The identification of children and youth who have been exposed to intimate partner violence (IPV) can be challenging due to the non-specific behaviours sometimes associated with such exposure, and the stigma and secrecy that often characterize IPV. Also, responding safely to children and youth with suspected CEIPV can be complicated by the need to consider the safety and well-being of a non-offending caregiver."

Table 1. Impairments associated with children's exposure to intimate partner violence (CEIPV)

Domains of functioning	Possible impairments
Mental health (7,8,12–14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emotional and behavioural problems (e.g., eating disorders, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder)
Physical health (2,15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under-immunizationEarly onset of smoking, alcohol, and substance useEarly and unintended pregnancies
Relationships (8,16–23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Other forms of child maltreatmentBullying perpetration or victimization, or bothTeen dating violence perpetration or victimization, or bothIPV victimization or perpetration (or both) in adulthood

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Akaber SM, Nguyen E, Carr G, Spearman R, Shadduck S. **Implementation and outcomes of a statewide TBI screening program for underserved populations.**

Int J Qual Health Care. 2024 Jun 10;36(2):mzae047. PMID: [38809751](#)

“The purpose of this paper is to describe the implementation and outcomes of a unique traumatic brain injury (TBI) screening initiative serving the community, with a focus on underserved populations. Idaho's definition of underserved populations includes people living in rural/frontier areas, people experiencing homelessness or intimate partner violence, people with co-occurring disorders, and people with cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds...Those who screened as likely experiencing a TBI received resources for care and follow-up telephone calls...Targeting underserved populations proved valuable in identifying TBI cases. The collaborative and interprofessional approach of this screening is unique and highlights the potential to address complex health issues effectively.”

Beymer MR, Rabbitt MP.

The Association Between Food Insecurity and Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Army Soldiers.

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241253024. PMID: [38804534](#)

“Food insecurity in the military ranges between 25% and 33%, significantly higher than the 10.5% for civilians.” After controlling for a variety of factors, “marginally food insecure respondents had 2.05-fold greater adjusted odds of reporting any IPV victimization when compared to highly food secure respondents...Interactions by soldier's military rank, birth sex, and race and ethnicity were not statistically significant...By addressing both food insecurity and IPV, the military has the potential to increase the overall well-being of its service members and their dependents.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Bruno L, Strid S, Ekbrand H.

Men's Economic Abuse Toward Women in Sweden: Findings From a National Survey.

Violence Against Women. 2024;10778012241257248. PMID: [38845339](#)

From a nationally representative survey of 6611 Swedish women, “Economic abuse...is increasingly recognized as a distinct type of intimate partner violence...A main finding is that motherhood significantly increases the risk of exposure. Furthermore, women report economic abuse from ex-partners (25%) to a much greater extent than from current partners (8%).”

Rose J, McCallum T, Tsantefski M, Rathus Z.

Healthcare and legal systems responses to coercive control: an embodied performance of one woman's experience.

Health Sociol Rev. 2024;1-18. PMID: [38820239](#)

Authors describe a short play performed at a DV Conference, “We followed the trajectory of coercive control from the beginning of an intimate relationship to the time of separation. We showed how the process of coercive control escalates from love bombing, reproductive coercion, isolation, and technology-facilitated abuse until a point of police intervention. As Kate told her story, the conference audience witnessed the barriers and challenges faced by survivors of coercive control, and the emotional, financial, and psychological impacts that are intensified in geographically remote environments. They watched Kate navigate health and other systems meant to help women experiencing domestic and family violence, but that ultimately failed to deliver.”

Bock JE, Daruwala SE, Tucker RP, et al.

Honor Endorsement and Increased Firearm Purchasing Behavior and Intentions During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Psychol Rep. 2024;332941241255323. PMID: [38802302](#)

“Having firearms in one’s home is associated with increased risk for domestic violence and suicide.” From surveys of 2483 mostly adult white males, honor-based masculinity norms (emphasizing reputation defense, toughness, and an absolute intolerance of disrespect) was the strongest motivator for protective firearm purchase and ownership during the pandemic.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Lees Haggerty K, Ojelabi O, Campetti R, et al.

Developing a model for providing feedback to reporters of elder abuse.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2024;1-19. PMID: [38828526](#)

“Lack of feedback about reports made to Adult Protective Services (APS) is an important barrier to elder mistreatment reporting...The quality of assistance to people who are abused improves when the professionals who are best positioned to identify mistreatment are sincerely invested in improving the person’s life and health. Feedback to mandated reporters may foster significant advancement in supporting those affected by mistreatment.” Through analysis of state administrative policies and stake-holder focus groups, authors propose a model to facilitate APS decisions on sharing information.

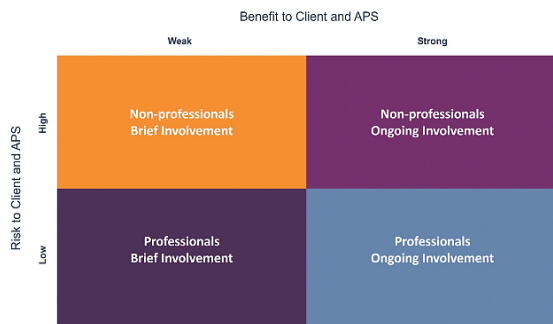


Figure 1. Decision making model for APS to reporter Communication.

Segal M.

Protecting older consumers in the digital age: a commentary on ChatGP.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2024;1-6. PMID: [38836695](#)

“The ChatGPT-based chatbot can be trained to identify suspicious offers and provide older consumers with helpful advice and information. It

can also be utilized to detect signs of fraud and notify the older people. The chatbot can additionally offer older people a list of trusted and reliable service providers. Moreover, the chatbot can swiftly and accurately identify suspicious language patterns and alert users when a conversation takes an alarming turn. This proactive approach would aid in identifying potential scams or fraudulent offers before they become problematic. Lastly, involving older people at all stages of chatbot research and development is crucial to ensure the creation of an unbiased and ethical system that supports older individuals and prevents their exclusion from the technological advancements meant to assist them... community organizations and senior centers can play a vital role in offering ongoing support and assistance to older individuals as they navigate the digital landscape.”

Sexual Assault

Jonsdottir SD, Thordardottir EB, et al.

Sexual violence in the workplace and associated health outcomes: a nationwide, cross-sectional analysis of women in Iceland.

The Lancet Public health. 2024;9(6):e365-e75. PMID: [38821683](#)

From a survey of 15,812 Icelandic women, “Exposure to sexual violence was associated with an increased prevalence of probable depression (prevalence ratio [PR] 1.50), general anxiety (PR 1.49), social phobia (PR 1.62), self-harm (PR 1.86), suicidal ideation (PR 1.68), suicide attempts (PR 1.99), binge drinking (PR 1.10), sleep problems (PR 1.41), physical symptoms (PR 1.59), and sick leave (PR 1.20)...The findings suggest a need for targeted interventions to promote workplace safety and to mitigate adverse health implications among people who have experienced workplace sexual violence.”

Forkus SR, Raudales AM, Kiefer R, Contractor AA, Weiss NH. Posttraumatic stress symptoms and risky alcohol use: The roles of negative social reactions to sexual assault disclosure and trauma-related shame.

Psychol Trauma. 2024;16(4):596-602. PMID: [36480383](#)

Of 235 adults who experienced sexual assault, mean age 35.45 years, 70.5% women, 83.8% white, “Negative social reactions and trauma-related shame, separately, and sequentially, explained the relation between PTS severity and RAU [risky alcohol use]...it may be valuable to assess and neutralize negative social reactions to reduce trauma-related shame and subsequent RAU.”

Recalde-Esnoz I, Prego-Meleiro P, Montalvo G, Del Castillo H. **Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault: A Systematic Review.** Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(3):1814-25. PMID: [37650508](#)

From a research review of drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA), “assailants are men, who mostly know victims before the assault. The victims are young women under 30 years old. Alcohol is the drug involved in most DFSA cases, prevailing a voluntary use. Most assaults occur in private spaces, particularly the aggressors' own homes...the available studies overrepresent proactive DFSA and underestimate opportunism, the most common *modus operandi* involved in DFSA cases.”

Simonaggio C, Rubini E, Facci G, et al. **Victims of drug facilitated sexual assault aged 13-24: a cross sectional study on the pool of users of a sexual violence relief centre in Northern Italy.**

Int J Legal Med. 2024;138(4):1593-602. PMID: [38374288](#)
Of 973 Italian patients aged 13-24 seen for sexual assault, 228 (23%) experienced Drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA). “Six out of ten adolescents knew their aggressor, at times a partner (10%) or an acquaintance (43%). In 12% of cases violence was perpetrated by a group of people. Almost 90% of young victims described alcohol consumption, while 37% reported drug use at the time of the assault...Given the large use of psychoactive substances among adolescents, it is imperative to implement harm reduction strategies alongside educational activities aimed at fostering awareness about consent. Health personnel should be trained to manage the needs of victims of DFSA clinically and forensically.”

Human Trafficking

Tomsett B, Álvarez-Rodríguez J, Sherriff N, et al. **Tools for the identification of victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery in remote services: A systematic review.** Journal of health services research & policy. 2024;13558196241257864. PMID: [38849123](#)

Authors review research on tools developed for the identification of victims of abuse using remote technology, such as tablet/laptop/mobile phone, headset, touch-screen, etc. during remote consultations. “When such tools supplement (rather than replace) face-to-face approaches, this may result in overall higher rates of screening and victim identification.” Challenges included lack of research on remote screening for trafficking, issues around

privacy and safety, and the inability of computerized tools to provide empathy and emotional support.

Twis MK, Cimino AN, Plunk M. **Beyond Victim Identification: A Practitioner's Guide to Designing a Youth Anti-Sex Trafficking Advocacy Program.** Soc Work Public Health. 2024;39(6):548-60. PMID: [38916471](#)

“In this article, the authors provide social work practitioners and other advocates with best practice guidelines for how to design and evaluate anti-sex trafficking advocacy programs for children and youth. These guidelines include considerations related to direct services with clients, community partnerships, and organizational capacity, as well as recommendations for how to begin and then evaluate programming.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Solberg MA, Carr KD, Peters RM. **Adverse Childhood Experiences and Health Outcomes Among Sexual and Gender Minorities: A Systematic Review.** Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2024;17(2):627-39. PMID: [38938948](#)

From a research review, “The frequency of reporting at least one ACE among SGMs [sexual and gender minorities] ranged from 51.4 to 91.6%, while the frequency of reporting four or more ACEs ranged from 18.1 to 60.7%. SGMs reported a higher frequency of ACEs than non-SGM. ACEs were associated with poorer mental and physical health outcomes, as well as increased risky behavior among SGMs...current studies did not include data regarding ongoing stigma and adversities that may further contribute to their negative health outcomes.”

Daigle LE, Felix SN, Muñoz RB, et al. **Examining the Risks of Multiple Types of Interpersonal Victimization for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming College Students.** J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241254139. PMID: [38804546](#)

From a national college student assessment, “TGNC [transgender and gender non-conforming] college students reported experiencing a greater amount of all seven types of victimization [violent victimization, sexual victimization, intimate partner violence victimization, stalking, bullying, microaggression, and discrimination] compared to cisgender college students...More work is needed to provide tailored prevention programming for TGNC college students.

Metheny N, Tran NK, Scott D, et al.

Intimate partner violence is related to future alcohol use among a nationwide sample of LGBTQIA+ people: Results from The PRIDE Study.

Drug Alcohol Depend. 2024;260:111342. PMID: [38820909](#)

From a long-term study of LGBTQIA+ people, 24.7% of respondents reported experiencing past-year IPV in 2021, which was significantly associated with next year increased score on an alcohol use screening tool. "These patterns were mirrored in each IPV sub-type, were not attenuated when accounting for relationship characteristics, and were heterogeneous across gender identity groups...These results provide evidence of a temporal relationship between IPV and alcohol use in LGBTQIA+ communities, suggesting that efforts to prevent and mitigate IPV may help reduce alcohol use disparities in this population."

Rafael RMR, Silva NL, Depret DG, et al.

Childhood Parental Neglect, Abuse and Rejection Among Transgender Women: A Cross-Sectional Study in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241259018. PMID:

[38867520](#)

Of 139 transgender women from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 60.43% reported childhood emotional abuse, 57.55% childhood physical abuse, 44.60% childhood sexual abuse, and parental rejection (eviction) 32.37%. "The harmful effects of childhood abuse on the mental and physical health of people in the transgender population are of concern, particularly considering the cumulative effect produced by the co-occurrence of such events and their harmful lifetime effects."

Renley BM, Argenyi MS, Mereish EH, Watson RJ.

Experiences of stress and social safety among sexual and gender minority youth by disability status.

Disability and health journal. 2024;17(3):101614. PMID:

[38521733](#)

Of 9418 US sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth aged 13-17 years, "Compared to SGM youth without a disability, SGM youth across all disability categories (physical, developmental, psychiatric) had greater odds of LGBT- and disability-based victimization, greater average stress, as well as lower levels of school safety...also had greater odds of dating violence compared to SGM youth without a disability...SGM youth with disabilities may be in particular need of targeted programs that address both disability and sexual/gender identities."

Race/Cultural Concerns

Lindsay S, Li Y, Cao P.

Exploring racial disparities and inequalities among children and youth with acquired brain injury: a systematic review.

Disabil Rehabil. 2024;1-15. PMID: [38842140](#)

From a research review encompassing 838,052 children and youth with acquired brain injuries (ABI) across two countries, "The following themes were noted in the studies in our review: (1) racial disparities in accessing care (i.e., diagnosis, hospital admission, length of stay, rehabilitation treatment); (2) racial disparities in ABI-related health outcomes (i.e., functional outcomes and mortality rates); and (3) factors affecting racial disparities (i.e., sources in injury, insurance and expenditures, and intersectionality)...Our findings reveal the concerning racial disparities among children and youth with ABI."

Waterman EA, Edwards KM, Mullet N, et al.

Rates of Recent Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Indigenous Children.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2024;17(2):295-305.

PMID: [38938960](#)

Of 177 US Indigenous children aged 10-14, "18.6% of Indigenous children reported no ACEs, 37.2% reported one to three, and 44.2% reported four or more in the past six months. Importantly, children who reported no ACEs reported greater cultural connection than children who reported one to three ACEs. Depressive symptoms were higher among children who reported one to three and four or more ACEs compared to children who reported no ACEs."

Mishkin K, Flax C.

Evaluation of Implicit Bias Training in Continuing Medical and Nursing Education to Address Racial Bias in Maternity Health Care Settings.

Public Health Rep. 2024;139(1_suppl):37s-43s. PMID:

[38646821](#)

After implicit bias training at 2 clinical sites in Cleveland, Ohio, participant interviewees noted that "low staff-to-patient ratios, lack of racial and ethnic diversity in leadership, inadequate training on implicit bias, and lack of institutional consequences for poor behavior exacerbated bias in maternity care. Interviewees reported having heightened awareness of bias and feeling more empowered after the training to advocate for themselves and patients to prevent and mitigate bias in the hospital."

Clark S, Cohen A, Welch SB, et al.

Guidance on Conversations About Race and Racism in Pediatric Clinical Settings.

Pediatrics. 2024 Jul 1;154(1):e2023063767. PMID: [38903051](#)

“We developed guidance on conversations about race and racism in pediatric clinical settings, endorsed by an expert panel. These recommendations give pediatric clinicians aspects to consider before, during, and after conversations.”



Perpetrators

Sutton S, Finkelhor D.

Perpetrators' Identity in Online Crimes Against Children: A Meta-Analysis.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(3):1756-68. PMID: [37609835](#)

From a research review of perpetrators against children online, the overall proportion of offenders under the age of 18 as a proportion of all identified offenders was 44%, while the overall proportion of acquaintance and family offenders was 68%. “This meta-analysis confirms that most perpetrators of online crimes against children are not strangers to their victims and a large portion of perpetrators are juveniles. Prevention education needs to focus more on inappropriate behavior from anyone in addition to the dangers about communicating with strangers.”

Reutens S, Karystianis G, Withall A, Butler T.

Characteristics of domestic violence perpetrators with dementia from police records using text mining.

Frontiers in psychiatry. 2024;15:1331915. PMID: [38812490](#)

Searching New South Wales police data 2005-2016, <1% of DV events involved a perpetrator with dementia. “The most common abuse types were assault (49.7%) and verbal abuse (31.6%). Spouses were the largest group of victims (50.8%) followed by children (8.8%). Physical abuse was common, occurring in 82.4% of events, but injuries were relatively mild. Although weapons were infrequently used, they were involved in 5% of events, mostly by POIs [persons of interest] aged 75 years and older. Similarly, the POIs were mainly aged 75+ years (60%), however the proportion of those aged <65 was relatively high (20.8%) compared to the reported prevalence of dementia in that age group...This highlights the need to proactively

discuss the potential for violence as part of the holistic management and support family members, particularly those caring for people with young-onset dementias.”

Rojczyk P, Heller C, Seitz-Holland J, et al.

Intimate partner violence perpetration among veterans: associations with neuropsychiatric symptoms and limbic microstructure.

Frontiers in neurology. 2024;15:1360424. PMID: [38882690](#)

“Veterans with psychiatric disorders and/or mTBI [mild traumatic brain injury] exhibit higher odds of engaging in IPV perpetration. Further, the more severe the symptoms of PTSD, depression, or TBI, and the greater the war zone-related stress, the greater the frequency of IPV perpetration. Moreover, we report a significant association between psychological aggression against an intimate partner and microstructural alterations in the right amygdala-hippocampus complex [part of the brain relating to emotional regulation]. These findings suggest the possibility of a structural brain correlate underlying IPV perpetration that requires further research.”

Police and Court Systems

Martin GM, Beaulieu I.

Sexual Misconduct: What Does a 20-Year Review of Cases in Quebec Reveal about the Characteristics of Professionals, Victims, and the Disciplinary Process?

Sex Abuse. 2024;36(5):511-45. PMID: [37079276](#)

From a 20-year search of a legal database in Quebec, “The search yielded 296 decisions including 249 male and 47 female members from 22 professional orders, and involving 470 victims. Results indicate that male professionals approaching mid-career accounted for a greater proportion of cases of sexual misconduct. Moreover, physical and mental health professionals were overrepresented in cases, as were female adult victims. Acts of sexual misconduct concerned mostly sexual touching and intercourse and occurred during consultations...Of the 92.0% of professionals found guilty of at least one count of sexual misconduct, two thirds eventually returned to practice. Following the guilty verdict, few faced rehabilitative measures. Recommendations are provided for the prevention of sexual recidivism and the accompaniment of victims of sexual misconduct throughout the disciplinary process.”

Morgan C, Klein C.

How online data informs forensic mental health evaluations of sexual behavior: An overview.

Behav Sci Law. 2024;42(3):186-204. PMID: [38459739](#)

“Online sexual offenses will clearly prompt forensic evaluators to consider the role of the Internet in these offending behaviors. The Internet may also be relevant in forensic evaluations of contact sexual offending including informing on history of mixed or cross-over offending, and Internet-facilitated contact offenses...Early guidelines for the review of Internet-data in forensic mental health evaluations have been proposed and support the Internet as a useful source of collateral data in the conduct of forensic evaluations of sexual behavior.”

Providers

Gerson R, Corwin DL, Durette L.

Re-Imagining Child Welfare to Support Children and Families.

Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am. 2024;33(3):369-79. PMID: [38823810](#)

“Youth in foster care can have complex psychiatric and behavioral presentations related to the psychiatric manifestations of complex trauma, discontinuity of caregiving and treatment providers, implicit and systemic biases, and experiences of interrupted or ineffective mental health care. Diagnosis and treatment planning for foster youth should be trauma-informed, recognizing the ways that complex trauma and the foster care system itself can contribute to misdiagnosis, overdiagnosis, and unnecessary polypharmacy. Trauma-informed, evidence-based mental health interventions and family involvement are key to providing youth in foster care with safety and stability to heal from trauma and achieve mental wellness.”

Sitzman C, Quincy B.

The role of primary care in improving health outcomes in young foster children.

Jaapa. 2024;37(7):19-24. PMID: [38857363](#)

“Children removed from their biological families because of abuse, neglect, and/or violence have increased healthcare needs and are susceptible to poor health outcomes compared with children who are not in the child welfare system. Developmental delays occur in about 75% of children in foster care. Up to 80% of children entering out-of-home care have at least one physical health problem and more than 40% experience educational challenges. In most US states, newly removed children are

required to have a medical evaluation shortly after placement in a foster or kinship family...This article provides guidance for physician associates/assistants who provide care to children in foster care.” [Bright Futures Guidelines](#)

TABLE 1. Sample resources for foster and kinship families

Books

- *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma*, Bessel van der Kolk, MD
- *The Connected Parent: Real-Life Strategies for Building Trust and Attachment*, Karen Purvis, PhD, and Lisa Qualls
- *Raising Kids with Big, Baffling Behaviors: Brain-Body-Sensory Strategies That Really Work*, Robyn Gobbel, MSW
- *What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience & Healing*, Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD, and Oprah Winfrey
- *The Deepest Well*, Nadine Burke Harris, MD

Movies and videos

- How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime, www.youtube.com/watch?v=95ovIJ3dsNk
- Healing From Toxic Stress with Nadine Burke Harris, MD, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ta5tbuFvKHY
- Bruce D. Perry, MD, PhD: Social & Emotional Development in Early Childhood, www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkJwFRAwDNE
- Dr. Bruce Perry—Early Brain Development: Reducing the Effects of Trauma, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp6fZrzgiHg
- Trust-Based Parenting Preview, www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGqwz8L6JBo

Websites

- Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, https://child.tcu.edu/blog_6_books_parents/#sthash.BRGchGWb.dpbs
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Violence prevention: adverse childhood experiences, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html
- ACEs and toxic stress: Frequently asked questions, <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/aces-and-toxic-stress-frequently-asked-questions>
- Empowered to Connect, <https://empoweredtoconnect.org>
- PACES Connection, www.pacesconnection.com

Podcasts

- The Adoption Wise Podcast, <https://adoptionwise.org/listen>
- The TBRI podcast, <https://child.tcu.edu/podcast/#sthash.AyFxDzJJ.dpbs>
- The Baffling Behavior Show with Robyn Gobbel, <https://robbygobbel.com/podcast>

Evans DP, Pawcio J, Wyckoff K, Wilkers L.

“And then the person sort of just drops off the radar...”: barriers in the transition from hospital to community-based care among survivors of intimate partner violence in Metropolitan Atlanta.

Frontiers in public health. 2024;12:1332779. PMID: [38841664](#)

“Our findings highlight the multi-level barriers IPV survivors face in accessing community-based care following medical care, the limitations of existing hospital-CBO [community-based organization] coordination, and opportunities for improvement from the perspectives of CBO staff. Participants identified silos and inconsistent communication/relationships between hospital and CBOs as major barriers to care connections. They also suggested warm handoffs and a Family Justice Center to support care connection.”

Harding KB, Di Ruggiero E, Gonzalez E, et al.
Supporting Ontario public health units to address adverse childhood experiences in pandemic recovery planning: A priority-setting exercise.

Health research policy and systems. 2024;22(1):68. PMID: [38872217](#)

Through a survey, Canadian public health units identified and prioritized initiatives or activities that Public Health Ontario (PHO) could undertake to support work towards ACEs-informed pandemic recovery plans.

- 1 New provincial ACEs community of practice
- 2 Toolkit of ACEs knowledge exchange resources
- 3 Literature review on increasing awareness of ACEs
- 4 Guidance on ACEs data
- 5 ACEs recovery dashboard
- 6 Research on ACEs and the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program
- 7 Literature review on factors associated with the ACEs program success
- 8 Literature review on ACEs pandemic "data story"
- 9 Guidance on ACEs and recovery planning
- 10 Collaboration with Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario
- 11 Provincial ACEs survey
- 12 Host PHO events to create awareness about ACEs
- 13 Literature review on fostering ACEs collaborations

Gilroy H, Anderson K, Berry DM, et al.
Stress and Trauma Among Nurses in Development (STAND): A Descriptive Study.

Issues Ment Health Nurs. 2024;1-10. PMID: [38843035](#)

From a survey of 248 Texas undergraduate nursing students, "The nursing students reported a higher number of adverse childhood experiences and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms than the general population. Additionally, mental health symptoms and burnout symptoms increased over time...Understanding the prevalence and impact of stress, trauma, and ACEs among nursing students is crucial for several reasons. First, their well-being and mental health directly impact their ability to provide safe and effective patient care. Secondly, unaddressed stress and trauma can contribute to burnout, compassion fatigue, and attrition rates...there is a critical need for comprehensive investigations that shed light on the prevalence rates of trauma and ACEs among nursing students and their potential effects on mental health, academic performance, and professional longevity."

Prevention

Caulfield NM, Fergerson AK, Buerke M, Capron DW.
Considering the Impact of High School Sexual Education on Past Sexual Victimization and Rape Myth Acceptance in a College Sample.

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241257599. PMID: [38872339](#)

"Most US high school students receive abstinence-based or abstinence-plus education, which uses unstandardized protocols and often lacks information about sexual consent." From an online survey of 664 southern US undergraduates, "those who received comprehensive sexual education were more likely to understand sexual consent and were less likely to endorse past sexual victimization. In contrast, students without comprehensive sexual education reported lower satisfaction with their sexual education and greater acceptance of rape myths...this research highlights the importance of implementing comprehensive sexual education, including consent education, in high schools."

DeFazio C, Moyers-Kinsella SI, Claydon EA, et al.
A Scoping Review of Bystander-Based Sexual Violence Prevention Training for College Students in Fraternities and Sororities.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2024;21(6). PMID: [38929043](#)

"Greek-affiliated students (fraternity and sorority members) are at a higher risk of sexual assault than their peers; however, few bystander trainings consider the specific needs of this population, and program adaptations for this high-risk group may be needed...this review...revealed best practices, including the importance of peer leaders, interactive sessions, and tailored content to Greek culture, as well as barriers such as a lack of engagement and an inadequate session length. The review underscores the need for tailored interventions to effectively address the unique cultural characteristics and high-risk nature of Greek-affiliated students."

Fang Z, Liu X, Zhang C, Lachman JM, Qiao D.
Parenting Interventions That Promote Child Protection and Development for Preschool-Age Children with Developmental Disabilities.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;25(3):2128-42. PMID: [37978829](#)

This review investigated the effectiveness of parenting interventions to reduce violence against preschool-age children with developmental disabilities. "Parenting programs improved child behavior, parental mental health, parenting practices, parental self-efficacy, parent-child interaction, child language skills, and child social skills post-intervention. No studies provided data on the actual occurrence of violence against children."

Researchers

Dube SR.

Adverse childhood experiences research: The path forward.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106899. PMID: [38875867](#)

“The overall objective of this paper is to provide a history of the original ACEs measure, its use in the development of population surveillance, and how the ACE measures galvanized knowledge dissemination related to the burden and health outcomes associated with child maltreatment. Implications of ACE measures in global contexts and future directions are discussed.”

Fraley HE, Ramos de Oliveira C, Aronowitz T, Burton CW.

Trauma-Informed Research With Emerging Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence.

Clin Nurs Res. 2024;33(5):429-36. PMID: [38685710](#)

“Sensitive topics such as dating and sexual violence are especially complex, with emerging adults the highest risk group for all forms of sexual violence and an especially hard-to-reach population for inclusion in research. Impacts of trauma, including physiological and psychological, complex needs of survivors, and potential for revictimization during interactions when participating in research must be considered...the purpose of this paper is to discuss the complexities of conducting research with emerging adult survivors of sexual violence and to explore evidence-based approaches that can safely include this vulnerable population through the application of trauma-informed approaches.”

Brandford A, Fernander A, Rayens MK.

Reliability and Validity of the Perceived Racism Scale- Racism on the Job Subscale-in a Sample of Black Nurses.

J Nurs Meas. 2024;32(2):157-64. PMID: [38538042](#)

“This study demonstrated that the Racism on the Job subscales are psychometrically sound measures of workplace racism among Black nurses.”

Danzi BA, Knowles EA, Kelly JT.

Improving posttraumatic stress disorder assessment in young children: comparing measures and identifying clinically-relevant symptoms in children ages six and under.

Sci Rep. 2024 Aug 19;14(1):19179. PMID: [39160235](#)

This study compared a DSM-5 measure to an ICD-11 measure in young children (ages 1-6) exposed to a natural disaster. The measures identified similar rates of PTSD in children; however, diagnostic agreement between the measures was low (31-36%). Both PTSD measures were associated with actual and perceived life threat, functional impairment, and comorbid psychopathology...

Across age ranges, increased clinginess post-trauma was the most commonly reported symptom and was associated with functional impairment. Arousal symptoms (startle, hypervigilance) and Re-experiencing symptoms (nightmares) also emerged as relevant for young children. Findings may contribute to efforts to improve assessment for PTSD in young children.”

Hanson CL, Crandall A, Novilla MLB, Bird KT.

Psychometric Evaluation of the Trauma-Informed Care Provider Assessment Tool.

Health Serv Res Manag Epidemiol.

2024;11:23333928241258083. PMID: [38867940](#)

“This study contributes an efficient assessment tool for the provision of TIC by primary care providers in healthcare settings, promoting better patient-provider interactions and enhancing provider awareness of trauma's impact on health.”

Question

— Patient-centered communication and care

I ask what can be done to make patients more comfortable during the appointment.

Prior to a physical examination, I present a brief summary of what parts of the body will be examined and allow the patient to ask questions.

Health effects of trauma

I discuss with patients the relationship between unhealthy behaviors (maladaptive coping methods) and stress/trauma.

When discussing behaviors that are detrimental to the patient's wellbeing, I brainstorm with them potential solutions for how to change the behavior.

Interprofessional collaboration

I maintain a list of referral sources for patients who disclose a trauma history.

I am confident in sensitively referring a patient with trauma.

Screening

I screen for trauma in every new patient.

I screen for current trauma or a history of traumatic events as a follow-up to the universal screening questions.

Understanding personal history and reactions

I reflect on my own stress and/or trauma history and how it may influence patient interactions.

I recognize when caring for patients with a trauma history begins to impact my own emotional health and well-being.

Other of Interest

Stöckl H, Sorenson SB.

Violence Against Women as a Global Public Health Issue.

Annual review of public health. 2024;45(1):277-94. PMID: [38842174](#)

“Violence against women, especially intimate partner violence, is recognized as a global public health issue due to its prevalence and global reach. This article outlines the scope of the issue, with respect to its prevalence, health outcomes, and risk factors, and identifies key milestones that led to its global recognition: methodological and data advances, acknowledgment as a criminal justice and health issue, support by the global women's movement, and the robust evidence demonstrating that intimate partner violence is preventable. Key issues for the future include recognition and consideration of intersectionality in research, improvements in the measurement of other forms of violence against women, and the need to scale up prevention efforts that have documented success.”