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Child Abuse

Christian CW; Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, American Academy of Pediatrics.

The evaluation of suspected child physical abuse.

Pediatrics. 2015 May;135(5):e1337-54. PMID: [25917988](#)

Review of the role of the pediatrician in identifying and preventing child physical abuse, including identifying suspicious injuries; reporting suspected abuse; supporting families; coordinating with other professionals and community agencies; and in providing long-term care, preventive care, anticipatory guidance, and advocacy.

Leetch AN, Leipsic J, Woolridge DP.

Evaluation of child maltreatment in the emergency department setting: an overview.

Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am. 2015 Jan;24(1):41-64.

PMID: [25455575](#)

The role of the emergency provider in evaluation of child maltreatment, including identification, facilitation of investigation, treating medical needs, protecting the patient, and providing an unbiased medical consultation to law enforcement.

Thorpe EL, Zuckerbraun NS, Wolford JE, Berger RP.

Missed opportunities to diagnose child physical abuse.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2014 Nov;30(11):771-6. PMID: [25343739](#)

In this retrospective study from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, of 77 children diagnosed with abusive fracture at median age 3.9 months, 1/3 had had at least one prior visit with a physical examination sign suggestive of trauma, and in which the diagnosis of abuse was not recognized.

Greeley CS.

Abusive head trauma: a review of the evidence base.

AJR Am J Roentgenol. 2015 May;204(5):967-73. PMID:

[25905929](#)

Review of findings of abusive head trauma in children, connecting the evidence bases from diagnostic imaging, pathology, pediatrics, biomechanics, ophthalmology, epidemiology, and orthopedics.

Boos SC, Fortin K.

Medical neglect.

Pediatr Ann. 2014 Nov;43(11):e253-9. PMID: [25369577](#)

"Medical neglect occurs when children are harmed or placed at significant risk of harm by gaps in their medical care. This is most likely to occur when families lack resources, commonly due to poverty, and when medical demands are high, such as with complex, severe, and chronic illness."

Martin KA.

Making sense of children's sexual behavior in child care.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Oct;38(10):1636-46. PMID: [25082430](#)

Examination of how parents, child care providers and child care licensing consultants manage and respond to sexual behavior between children in the context of child care. The same behaviors can be viewed culturally as "natural curiosity, a sign of sexual abuse, or a sex-offender in the making."

Li L, Denholm R, Power C.

Child maltreatment and household dysfunction: associations with pubertal development in a British birth cohort.

Int J Epidemiol. 2014 Aug;43(4):1163-73. PMID: [24706731](#)

For 17,638 British adults followed from birth to mid-adulthood, childhood neglect was associated with delayed development of several pubertal markers for both males and females. Childhood sexual abuse was associated with early as well as late menarche, and witnessing abuse with early genital development.

Alpaslan AH, Coşkun KŞ, Yeşil A, Cobanoğlu C.

A child death as a result of physical violence during toilet training.

J Forensic Leg Med. 2014 Nov;28:39-41. PMID: [25440146](#)

Different cultures may consider delayed bladder control and/or bed-wetting as a "sign of laziness, misbehavior, or disobedience rather than a medical disorder, and may cause children to be exposed to physical and emotional violence and maltreatment by the family as a corrective strategy."

Early Stress Physiology

Provençal N, Binder EB.

The effects of early life stress on the epigenome: From the womb to adulthood and even before.

Exp Neurol. 2015 Jun;268:10-20. PMID: [25218020](#)

“There is increasing evidence for a prominent role of epigenetic mechanisms in embedding long-term effect of stress at different developmental stages as well as across generations. These epigenetic mechanisms are distinct for the different stages of stress exposure...leading to long-term changes not only in the brain, but also in peripheral tissues... could explain some of the adverse effects of early life stress on immune, cardiovascular and metabolic systems...Exposure to stress early in life or prior to birth of an individual may prime or poise the system through epigenetic differences to future response to environmental challenges. These effects may be silent until the system is challenged in a specific way.” [Epigenome = environmentally-caused genetic modification of original DNA.]

Vela RM.

The effect of severe stress on early brain development, attachment, and emotions: a psychoanatomical formulation.

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2014 Dec;37(4):519-34. PMID: [25455063](#)

Psychoanatomical assessment of maladaptive brain development in child abuse shows how disturbed neuroanatomy may underlie impaired emotional development and symptom expression.

Perry R, Sullivan RM.

Neurobiology of attachment to an abusive caregiver: short-term benefits and long-term costs.

Dev Psychobiol. 2014 Dec;56(8):1626-34. PMID: [24771610](#)

Using rodent models of abusive caregiving, authors explain how cues associated with abuse normalize neurobehavioral deficits following abuse. “Here we review these models and explore implications for human interventions for early life maltreatment.”

Sheridan MA, McLaughlin KA.

Dimensions of early experience and neural development: deprivation and threat.

Trends Cogn Sci. 2014 Nov;18(11):580-5. PMID: [25305194](#)

Discussion of “studies on fear learning and sensory deprivation in animals to highlight potential mechanisms through which experiences of threat and deprivation could affect neural structure and function in humans.”

Callaghan BL, Sullivan RM, Howell B, Tottenham N.

The international society for developmental psychobiology Sackler symposium: early adversity and the maturation of emotion circuits--a cross-species analysis.

Dev Psychobiol. 2014 Dec;56(8):1635-50. PMID: [25290865](#)

Using multi-species research (rodent, monkey, human), “The convergence of these cross-species studies on early life adversity suggests that adversity targets the amygdala and prefrontal cortex and has immediate impact on infant behavior with the caregiver, and emotional reactions to the world.”

Bücker J, Fries GR, Kapczinski F, et. al.

Brain-derived neurotrophic factor and inflammatory markers in school-aged children with early trauma.

Acta Psychiatr Scand. 2015 May;131(5):360-8. PMID: [25401224](#)

Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) is an important factor in brain development and maintenance. “We identified increased levels of BDNF, as well as the proinflammatory cytokine TNF- α in children with a history of trauma compared with those without trauma. These results suggest that the children with trauma may be in a proinflammatory state and the higher levels of BDNF are possibly an attempt to compensate for or neutralize the negative effects of early trauma.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Kelly-Irving M, Lepage B, Dedieu D, et. al.

Childhood adversity as a risk for cancer: findings from the 1958 British birth cohort study.

BMC Public Health. 2013 Aug 19;13:767. PMID: [23957659](#)

From a British study following 18,558 individuals from birth through mid-life, for women who had had more than 2 adverse childhood experiences, and after controlling for many variables, the risk of cancer before age 50 was increased 2.1 times.

Nazarov A, Frewen P, Oremus C, et. al.

Comprehension of affective prosody in women with post-traumatic stress disorder related to childhood abuse.

Acta Psychiatr Scand. 2015 May;131(5):342-9. PMID: [25401486](#)

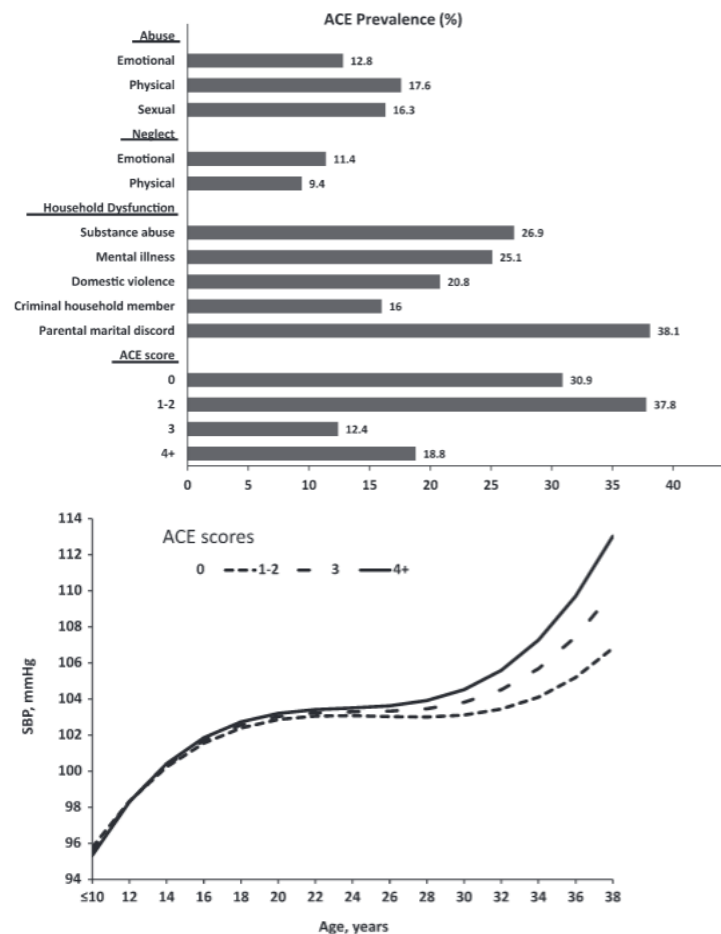
“Exposure to childhood trauma is associated with long-term, atypical development in the interpretation of prosodic cues in speech [recognition of emotion in speech]. The findings have implications for the intergenerational transmission of trauma.”

Su S, Wang X, Pollock JS, et. al.

Adverse childhood experiences and blood pressure trajectories from childhood to young adulthood.

Circulation. 2015 May 12;131(19):1674-81. PMID: [25858196](#)

For almost 400 individuals recruited for a health study in elementary school and followed for 23 years, increasing adverse childhood experiences led to a faster rise in blood pressure levels in young adulthood, regardless of ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, and negative health behaviors. [SBP = systolic blood pressure]



van Harmelen AL, van Tol MJ, Dalgleish T, et. al.

Hypoactive medial prefrontal cortex functioning in adults reporting childhood emotional maltreatment.

Soc Cogn Affect Neurosci. 2014 Dec;9(12):2026-33. PMID: [24493840](#)

From functional MRI brain scans of almost 300 adults, childhood emotional maltreatment was associated with adult decreased functioning of the medial prefrontal cortex (an area of the brain involved with executive function, memory and personality), regardless of depression, anxiety, gender, parental psychopathology, negative life events or use of antidepressants.

Hemmingsson E, Johansson K, Reynisdottir S.

Effects of childhood abuse on adult obesity: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Obes Rev. 2014 Nov;15(11):882-93. PMID: [25123205](#)

In a review of research articles encompassing 112,708 participants, "Childhood abuse was clearly associated with being obese as an adult, including a positive dose-response association. This suggests that adverse life experiences during childhood plays a major role in obesity development, potentially by inducing mental and emotional perturbations, maladaptive coping responses, stress, inflammation and metabolic disturbances."

Miron LR, Orcutt HK, Kumpula MJ.

Differential predictors of transient stress versus posttraumatic stress disorder: evaluating risk following targeted mass violence.

Behav Ther. 2014 Nov;45(6):791-805. PMID: [25311288](#)

In the aftermath of a campus mass shooting, using data from 573 individuals with known pretrauma functioning, prior trauma exposure was the only preshooting variable shown to significantly differentiate between those who subsequently experienced transient acute distress vs. prolonged symptoms of PTSD.

Adolescents

Vagi KJ, O'Malley Olsen E, Basile KC, Vivolo-Kantor AM.

Teen Dating Violence (Physical and Sexual) Among US High School Students: Findings From the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

JAMA Pediatr. 2015 May;169(5):474-82. PMID: [25730143](#)

From a large national sample of US high school students, among students who dated, 20.9% of female and 10.4% of male students experienced some form of teen dating violence (TDV) during the prior 12 months. TDV was associated variously with health-risk behaviors such as suicidality, being electronically bullied, alcohol use, carrying a weapon, or having sex with more than 4 persons.

Hébert M, Lavoie F, Blais M.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in adolescent victims of sexual abuse: resilience and social support as protection factors.

Cien Saude Colet. 2014 Mar;19(3):685-94. PMID: [24714884](#)

From a sample of high school students in Quebec, 27.8% of female and 14.9% of male adolescents who had experienced sexual abuse scored high on clinical levels of PTSD. Significant resilience factors included maternal and peer support.

Delker BC, Freyd JJ.

From betrayal to the bottle: investigating possible pathways from trauma to problematic substance use.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Oct;27(5):576-84. PMID: [25322887](#)

In a study of 362 college students, betrayal trauma prior to age 18 was associated with problematic substance use via PTSD, self-destructiveness, and difficulty discerning risk. Non-betrayal trauma exposure (e.g. earthquake) was not associated with problematic substance use or PTSD.

Vloet A, Simons M, Vloet TD, et. al.

Long-term symptoms and posttraumatic growth in traumatised adolescents: findings from a specialised outpatient clinic.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Oct;27(5):622-5. PMID: [25270037](#)

For 42 German traumatized adolescents who were seen at a specialized psychiatric health service, the rate of PTSD declined from 59.5% to 11.9% 2-5 years later. Sexual abuse was associated with the most severe PTSD symptoms. Adolescent PTSD at follow-up was correlated with parental PTSD, showing the need to treat both adolescents and their parents.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Alhusen JL, Bullock L, Sharps P, et. al.

Intimate partner violence during pregnancy and adverse neonatal outcomes in low-income women.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2014 Nov;23(11):920-6. PMID: [25290007](#)

For 239 pregnant women experiencing IPV, those with more severe IPV were 4.81 times more likely to deliver a small-for-gestational-age baby, and 4.2 times more likely a low birth weight baby.

Gartland D, Woolhouse H, Mensah FK, et. al.

The case for early intervention to reduce the impact of intimate partner abuse on child outcomes: results of an Australian cohort of first-time mothers.

Birth. 2014 Dec;41(4):374-83. PMID: [24995910](#)

29% of 1507 first-time Australian mothers reported domestic abuse in the first four years after birth. Children who were exposed to domestic abuse both at year 1 and year 4 were more likely to experience emotional and/or behavioral difficulties at age 4. “The case for early intervention to reduce the impact of intimate partner abuse on women's and children's lives is compelling.”

Gustafsson HC, Coffman JL, Cox MJ.

Intimate Partner Violence, Maternal Sensitive Parenting Behaviors, and Children's Executive Functioning.

Psychol Violence. 2015 Jul 1;5(3):266-274. PMID: [26185731](#)

For 154 families, even after controlling for a number of variables, IPV occurring early in children's lives was negatively associated with children's executive functioning at school entry. Sensitive parenting behaviors lessened the impact of IPV on children, but increased IPV led to decreased sensitive parenting behaviors.

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Population Reference Bureau Policy Brief, July 2015

Intimate Partner Violence and Family Planning: Opportunities for Action

<http://www.prb.org/pdf15/intimate-partner-violence-fp-brief.pdf>

“This brief presents data to help policymakers and others understand the nature and extent of the harm caused by IPV, especially as it relates to women's reproductive health and autonomy, and highlights opportunities for action.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Moser DA, Aue T, Suardi F, et. al.

Violence-related PTSD and neural activation when seeing emotionally charged male-female interactions.

Soc Cogn Affect Neurosci. 2015 May;10(5):645-53. PMID: [25062841](#)

Brain scans of Swiss women who had PTSD from abusive relationships with men were compared to healthy controls while watching a series of different emotional video interactions between men and women. Findings show that “emotion perception and appraisal, which are essential to social interaction, are significantly affected among women with IPV-PTSD.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Wang XM, Brisbin S, Loo T, Straus S.

Elder abuse: an approach to identification, assessment and intervention.

CMAJ. 2015 May 19;187(8):575-81. PMID: [25852037](#)

Very comprehensive, concise review of identification and management of elder abuse, with algorithm including competency factors.

Beacher N, Sweeney MP.

The Francis Report--implications for oral care of the elderly.

Dent Update. 2015 May;42(4):318-20, 323. PMID: [26062255](#)

This article from the UK discusses barriers to care and "longstanding deficiencies in the provision of oral healthcare for the elderly, whether residing in care homes, hospitals or at home with support."

Sexual Assault

Carr M, Thomas AJ, Atwood D, et. al.

Debunking three rape myths.

J Forensic Nurs. 2014 Oct-Dec;10(4):217-25. PMID: [25411813](#)

In a review of 317 sexual assault nurse examiner reports, 43% of rape victims did not appear in the emergency department for 12 or more hours after the assault, 11% sustained anogenital injuries requiring medical intervention, 4% experienced other physical injury requiring medical intervention, and 57% never actively resisted the attack.

Walsh K, Galea S, Cerda M, et. al.

Unit support protects against sexual harassment and assault among national guard soldiers.

Womens Health Issues. 2014 Nov-Dec;24(6):600-4. PMID: [25442705](#)

Of 1674 Ohio Army National Guard service members, 13.2% of men and 43.5% of women reported sexual harassment, with 1.1% of men and 18.8% of women reporting sexual assault during their most recent deployment. Greater unit support decreased odds of sexual harassment and assault.

Hourani L, Williams J, Bray R, Kandel D.

Gender differences in the expression of PTSD symptoms among active duty military personnel.

J Anxiety Disord. 2015 Jan;29:101-8. PMID: [25527902](#)

In a survey from all services, in general women expressed more distress than men across PTSD symptoms checklist except for hypervigilance. However, men who had been sexually abused had greater distress and number of PTSD symptoms than women.

Human Trafficking

Ashby J, Rogstad K, Forsyth S, Wilkinson D.

Spotting the Signs: a national toolkit to help identify young people at risk of child sexual exploitation.

Sex Transm Infect. 2015 Jun;91(4):231. PMID: [25990777](#)

Review of child sexual exploitation with multiple excellent reports and guidelines in the reference section.

McNulty MS.

Human trafficking: crime in our own backyard.

Home Healthc Nurse. 2014 Apr;32(4):243-7. PMID: [24685757](#)

General review article for nurses.

Polaris Project, 2015

Breaking Barriers: Improving Services for LGBTQ Human Trafficking Victims

<http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/resources/breaking-barriers-lgbtq-services>

Report plus accompanying webinar.

Jana S, Dey B, Reza-Paul S, Steen R.

Combating human trafficking in the sex trade: can sex workers do it better?

J Public Health (Oxf). 2014 Dec;36(4):622-8. PMID: [24179187](#)

In this alternate management response to human trafficking, a committee in West Bengal India provides universal surveillance of sex workers entering the profession with rapid confidential intervention and case management, removing underage and unwilling adult women, and providing healthcare, counseling and other options for willing sex workers.

Cultural Issues

Schenkel LS, Rothman-Marshall G, Schlehofer DA, et. al.

Child maltreatment and trauma exposure among deaf and hard of hearing young adults.

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Oct;38(10):1581-9. PMID: [24862922](#)

From a study of college students, deaf and hard-of-hearing participants report significantly higher rates of childhood maltreatment, lifetime trauma, and PTSD symptoms compared to hearing participants. Severity of deafness increased the risk of being victimized. Being part of the Deaf community and having access to others who are deaf were important protective factors.

Perpetrators

Colantonio A, Kim H, Allen S, et. al.

Traumatic brain injury and early life experiences among men and women in a prison population.

J Correct Health Care. 2014 Oct;20(4):271-9. PMID: [25033995](#)

In a survey of a Canadian prison population, 50.4% of males and 38.0% of females reported previous traumatic brain injury.

Milaniak I, Widom CS.

Does Child Abuse and Neglect Increase Risk for Perpetration of Violence Inside and Outside the Home?

Psychol Violence. 2015 Jul 1;5(3):246-255. PMID: [26191459](#)

Comparing 676 children with known histories of physical and sexual abuse and/or neglect with 520 control children without abuse, and following both groups to average age 29, "individuals with histories of child abuse and/or neglect were significantly more likely to be poly-violence perpetrators, perpetrating violence in all three domains" of criminal acts, child abuse and IPV.

Police and Court Systems

Kettner M, Cappel-Hoffmann S, Makuch D, et. al.

IPV--bridging the juridical gap between scratches and DNA detection under fingernails of cohabitating partners.

Forensic Sci Int Genet. 2015 Jan;14:110-5. PMID: [25450781](#)

Forensic differentiation of DNA found from scratching a partner vs. normal partner DNA from co-habitation.

Gifford EJ, Eldred LM, Vernerey A, Sloan FA.

How does family drug treatment court participation affect child welfare outcomes?

Child Abuse Negl. 2014 Oct;38(10):1659-70. PMID: [24736039](#)

Comparing North Carolina databases, of 566 children who were placed into foster care, those parents who completed a family drug treatment court program had significantly higher reunification rates with their children than parents who were only referred or only enrolled. "Future research should examine factors for improving participation and completion rates."

Providers

Grimley-Baker K.

Ethical implications of mandatory reporting of intimate partner violence.

Creat Nurs. 2014;20(4):254-7. PMID: [26050421](#)

Brief discussion of the pros and cons of mandatory domestic violence reporting, with admonition to discuss the limits of confidentiality.

McFarlane J, Nava A, Gilroy H, Maddoux J.

Risk of behaviors associated with lethal violence and functional outcomes for abused women who do and do not return to the abuser following a community-based intervention.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2015 Apr;24(4):272-80. PMID: [25714332](#)

Using matched-pair analysis, 152 women who had experienced DV and returned to the abuser after either a shelter stay or receiving a protection order (PO) were compared. Both groups reported highly significantly more risk of behaviors associated with lethal violence after they returned. Those who had stayed at a shelter and returned to the abuser had higher levels of depression, PTSD and anxiety as well as more severe physical abuse compared to those who returned after having received a PO.

Hussain N, Sprague S, Madden K, et. al.

A comparison of the types of screening tool administration methods used for the detection of intimate partner violence: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2015 Jan;16(1):60-9. PMID: [24343478](#)

From a detailed statistical research review, authors concluded that adult female disclosure of DV was 37% higher using a computer-assisted self-administered screen compared to face-to-face interview, and 23% higher when compared to a self-administered written screen. [However there were a very wide variety of screening questions/settings.]

Lee FH, Yang YM, Huang JJ, Chang SC, Wang HH, Hsieh HF.

Clinical competencies of emergency nurses toward violence against women: a delphi study.

J Contin Educ Nurs. 2015 Jun;46(6):272-8. PMID: [26057164](#)

Using a Delphi technique, Taiwanese nurses established a list of clinical competencies regarding knowledge, attitudes and practice re: IPV for emergency department nurses.

Moser C.

Interviewing a patient about intimate partner violence.

Virtual Mentor. 2014 Nov 1;16(11):872-6. PMID: [25397645](#)

Practical suggestions for taking a sexual history when there may be sexual coercion/aggression.

Prevention

Michau L, Horn J, Bank A, Dutt M, Zimmerman C.

Prevention of violence against women and girls.

Lancet. 2015 Apr 25;385(9978):1672-84. PMID: [25467577](#)

“This Series paper describes programming to prevent violence against women and girls, and emphasizes the importance of systematic, sustained programming across the social ecology (i.e. the delicate equilibrium of interacting social, institutional, cultural, and political contexts of people's lives) to transform gender-power inequalities.”

Lanier P, Jonson-Reid M.

Comparing primiparous and multiparous mothers in a nurse home visiting prevention program.

Birth. 2014 Dec;41(4):344-52. PMID: [24931744](#)

Infants of mothers with multiple children at home, compared to infants of first-time mothers, were 49% more likely to have later reports of child maltreatment. Home nurse programs “limited to primiparous mothers are missing a critical opportunity for prevention.” Programs serving multiparous mothers should incorporate strategies to address caregiver stress and depression.

Dubowitz H.

The Safe Environment for Every Kid model: promotion of children's health, development, and safety, and prevention of child neglect.

Pediatr Ann. 2014 Nov;43(11):e271-7. PMID: [25369580](#)

Description of the SEEK (Safe Environment for Every Kid) model for pediatric primary care to prevent neglect, which “enables practitioners to identify and help address psychosocial problems facing many families. These include parental depression, substance abuse, major stress, intimate partner violence, harsh punishment, and food insecurity.”

Researchers

Howe LD, Tilling K, Lawlor DA.

Studying the life course health consequences of childhood adversity: challenges and opportunities.

Circulation. 2015 May 12;131(19):1645-7. PMID: [25858195](#)

Methodological issues in using ACEs for research.

Other of Interest

Wathen CN, MacGregor JC, MacQuarrie BJ.

The Impact of Domestic Violence in the Workplace: Results From a Pan-Canadian Survey.

J Occup Environ Med. 2015 Jul;57(7):e65-71. PMID:

[26147553](#)

From an online anonymous Canadian survey of adult workers, with 8429 participants, more than a third reported experiencing DV. Of those who had experienced DV, more than half reported that it continued at or near work, more than a third that it affected their ability to get to work, and most reported that it had negatively affected their performance.

Purtle J.

The legislative response to PTSD in the United States (1989-2009): a content analysis.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Oct;27(5):501-8. PMID: [25322879](#)

In an analysis of all bills introduced into congress that explicitly mentioned PTSD, “PTSD, as a discrete diagnostic entity, has been largely defined as a problem unique to combat exposure and military populations in federal legislation” (91.4% of bills). Authors call for “advocacy strategies that translate the full spectrum of PTSD research into policy.”

Lueger-Schuster B, Weindl D, Kantor V, et. al.

Resilience and mental health in adult survivors of child abuse associated with the institution of the Austrian Catholic Church.

J Trauma Stress. 2014 Oct;27(5):568-75. PMID: [25322886](#)

For 185 Austrian Adults who had experienced child abuse associated with the Austrian Catholic Church, most of the survivors reported severe mental health problems. Known protective factors (education, social support, age) did not apply. “...we conclude that the kind of institutional abuse reported is especially adverse...”

Academy on Violence and Abuse, 2015

Animal Abuse as a Marker for Traumatic Experiences in Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse

http://www.avahealth.org/resources/ava_publications/

MyPlan App 2015

<https://www.joinonelove.org/get-help/danger-assessment-app/>

Apple or Android App for college students to assess relationship danger and to make a plan after better understanding their priorities, by evaluating factors relating to commitment to relationship, privacy, social life, safety, and studies.