Child Abuse

For 1007 children from the Fragile Families study, 55% had experienced 1 ACE and 12% >= 3 ACEs. After adjusting for variables, experiencing >=3 ACEs was associated at the end of kindergarten with below-average language, literacy and math skills; attention problems; social problems; and aggression.

“Medical home access was consistently associated with higher levels of child well-being and was a significant moderator of the relationship between the total ACE and child well-being among children ages 6-11.”

Review of epidemiological, historical and legal aspects of non-accidental injury, current biomechanical and neuropathological theories, patterns of injury, prognosticating features using various imaging modalities, differential diagnoses and syndrome mimics.

Review of the normal anatomy of the pediatric skull, how it changes with age, and normal variants.

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

“Much evidence has accumulated unequivocally demonstrating that child abuse and neglect is associated with a marked increase in risk for major psychiatric disorders (major depression, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD], substance and alcohol abuse, and others) and medical disorders (cardiovascular disease, diabetes, irritable bowel syndrome, asthma, and others).” This review summarizes persistent biological alterations associated with childhood maltreatment.

In this study of 66 mother-infant pairs, mothers who scored lower on knowledge about infant development scored lower on empathy and were at increased risk of abuse/neglect. “Parents who lack empathy or hold developmentally inappropriate expectations of their children may also become dangerously impatient or reactive when frustrated with their children.”

CDC review – “a minimum of 50% or more of children in Asia, Africa, and Northern America experienced past-year violence, and globally over half of all children-1 billion children, ages 2-17 years-experienced such violence.”
Roberts AL, Chen Y, Slopen N, et. al.  
**Maternal Experience of abuse in childhood and depressive symptoms in adolescent and adult offspring: a 21-year longitudinal study.**  
Depress Anxiety. 2015 Oct;32(10):709-19. PMID: 26220852  
From a 21 year study linking two databases – of 8882 women and 11,402 of their offspring, women with severe childhood abuse (compared to no abuse) were 1.78 time more likely to have offspring with depressive symptoms starting at age 12 and persisting well into adulthood.

Ortiz R, Ballard ED, Machado-Vieira R, Saligan LN, Walitt B.  
**Quantifying the influence of child abuse history on the cardinal symptoms of fibromyalgia.**  
This NIH study concluded that the experience of child abuse is associated with modest increases in fibromyalgia symptom severity, and may be involved in biological predisposition to pain and distress.

MacDonald K, Sciolla AF, Folsom D, et. al.  
**Individual risk factors for physician boundary violations: the role of attachment style, childhood trauma and maladaptive beliefs.**  
“Our findings support a potential link between childhood adversity and boundary difficulties... boundary education programs and professional wellness programs may be enhanced with a focus on sequelae of childhood maltreatment...”

Sachs-Ericsson NJ, Rushing NC, Stanley IH, Sheffler J.  
**In my end is my beginning: developmental trajectories of adverse childhood experiences to late-life suicide.**  
For late-life suicide, “Proposed mechanisms span biological factors (neurological, gene-environment), psychiatric and health functioning, and psychosocial development (cognitive biases, coping resources, interpersonal deficits).” Evidence suggests that ACEs affect each of these areas, and in their interaction with late-life stressors, suicidality in older adulthood emerges.

---

**Adolescents**

**CDC**  
**Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12—United States and Selected Sites, 2015**  
August 2016  
http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/smy.htm  
In the first study of health risks of US lesbian, gay and bisexual high school students, these students reported significantly higher rates of physical and sexual violence, bullying, suicidality, depression and addiction. Nationwide, 88.8% of students identified as heterosexual, 2.0% as gay or lesbian, 6.0% as bisexual, and 3.2% were not sure of their sexual identity. [Transgender was not queried as there was no validated screening question available.]

Hanson JL, Hariri AR, Williamson DE.  
**Blunted Ventral Striatum Development in Adolescence Reflects Emotional Neglect and Predicts Depressive Symptoms.**  
Biol Psychiatry. 2015 Nov 1;78(9):598-605. PMID: 26092778  
For 106 adolescents followed over 2 years, emotional neglect was associated with reward-related dysfunction in a certain brain area, which predicted the subsequent emergence of depression.

Lucas S, Jernbro C, Tindberg Y, Janson S.  
**Bully, bullied and abused. Associations between violence at home and bullying in childhood.**  
From a Swedish survey of 14-15 year olds, “Frequent bullying, whether as victim or perpetrator, warrants particular vigilance, as it appears to be an indicator of severe violence in the home.” Frequent bullying was associated with 20.3 times increased risk for multiple types of at home abuse.

Rabinovitch SM, Kerr DC, Leve LD, Chamberlain P.  
**Suicidal Behavior Outcomes of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Longitudinal Study of Adjudicated Girls.**  
Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2015 Aug;45(4):431-47. PMID: 25370436  
For 166 adolescent girls in the juvenile justice system and followed for 7-12 years, and despite controlling for anxiety or depressive symptoms, early childhood sexual abuse was related to suicide attempts and non-suicidal self-injury.
Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Jarde A, Morais M, Kingston D, et. al.
JAMA Psychiatry. 2016 Aug 1;73(8):826-37. PMID: 27276520
In a review of medical research covering 25,663 women experiencing depression during pregnancy, and who did not receive either medication or talk therapy, compared to women without depression, untreated depressed women were 1.56 times more likely to deliver a baby prematurely, and 1.96 times to deliver a low birth weight baby. [IPV is a significant risk factor for depression during pregnancy.]

Updated Clinical Guidelines for Diagnosing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.
Fetal alcohol syndrome and its variants affect 2-5% of US adults, and are caused by maternal alcohol use during pregnancy. This spectrum of disorders is associated with a variety of physical findings, and with difficulties with cognition, mood, and impulse control. Those affected are more likely to have trouble in school and with the law, to participate in high-risk behaviors, and to be prone to addiction. [Women experiencing IPV are less likely to stop drinking during pregnancy.]

Kenny KS, Barrington C, Green SL.
"I felt for a long time like everything beautiful in me had been taken out": Women's suffering, remembering, and survival following the loss of child custody.
In-depth interviews with 19 drug-addicted women revealed the impact of child custody loss, including PTSD. “Practices of dissociation through increased use of drugs and alcohol were central in tending to the pain of separation”, reinforced by increased exposure to housing instability, intimate partner violence, and initiation of injection drug use and sex work. “Women’s survival hinged largely on hopefulness of reuniting with children...”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Seyller M, Denis C, Dang C, et. al.
Intimate Partner Sexual Assault: Traumatic Injuries, Psychological Symptoms, and Perceived Social Reactions.
Of 767 French females age 15 and older who had experienced sexual assault, sexual assault by an intimate partner was more likely to also include physical assault than if the perpetrators were strangers or acquaintances (55% vs. 31% and 32%).

McCloskey LA.
The Effects of Gender-based Violence on Women’s Unwanted Pregnancy and Abortion.
From a survey of 309 outpatient adult women, 25.7% reported child sexual abuse, 40.8% teen physical dating violence, 43.1% IPV, and 22% sexual assault outside an intimate relationship. No single form of gender-based abuse predicted abortion, however there was a cumulative effect of multiple forms of abuse.

Citernesi A, Dubini V, Uglietti A, et. al.
Intimate partner violence and repeat induced abortion in Italy: A cross sectional study.
In this Italian study of 1030 women presenting to 12 abortion clinics, any kind of IPV abuse (physical, sexual or psychological) was significantly association with increased risk of repeat induced abortion.

Sexual Assault

Freyd JJ.
Proposal for a National Institute on Sexual Violence.
J Trauma Dissociation. 2015;16(5):497-9. PMID: 26458061
“We urgently need substantial federal funding of research on sexual and other gender-based violence. The best way to achieve this is to create a new National Institute on Sexual Violence (NISV) that will be charged with funding innovative and excellent basic and translational research drawing on the best psychological, medical, educational, sociological, ethical, and criminal justice approaches.”
National Sexual Violence Resource Center and CDC, 2016
Key Findings on Sexual Violence from the “Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014”

Mollen CJ, Goyal M, Lavelle J, Scribano P.
Evaluation and Treatment of the Adolescent Sexual Assault Patient.
Detailed description of management of adolescent sexual assault patients presenting to the emergency department.

Ryan GL, Mengeling MA, Summers KM, et. al.
Hysterectomy risk in premenopausal-aged military veterans: associations with sexual assault and gynecologic symptoms.
Compared to a civilian database, hysterectomy rates for veterans were significantly higher (16.8% vs. 13.3%) at a younger age (35 vs. 43 years old). 62% of premenopausal veterans had experienced attempted or completed sexual assault in their lifetimes, and lifetime sexual assault with vaginal penetration was a significant risk factor for hysterectomy (1.85 times increased risk), possibly due to also higher associated risk of gynecological symptoms such as pain or bleeding.

Hossain MB, Memiah P, Adeyinka A.
Are female college students who are diagnosed with depression at greater risk of experiencing sexual violence on college campus?
Of 10,541 female college students on 33 campuses, those who were reportedly ever diagnosed with depression were 1.56 times more likely to have experienced sexual violence.

Perry R, Murphy M, Haider S, Harwood B.
“One Problem Became Another”: Disclosure of Rape-Related Pregnancy in the Abortion Care Setting.
“Rape-related pregnancy disclosure in the abortion care setting can lead to opportunities for interpersonal support and open options for funding, legal recourse, and mental health care...The most important consequence of disclosure for patients was being believed and feeling that providers cared about them.”

Obstetric Outcomes of Mothers Previously Exposed to Sexual Violence.
Of 1068 Icelandic females who experienced sexual assault and who delivered at least one singleton infant (on average 5.8 years after assault), compared to a control group, and controlling for smoking and body mass index, sexually assaulted women experienced significantly increased risk of maternal distress during labor and delivery, antepartum bleeding, and emergency instrumental delivery, but not elective cesarean section.

Flack WF Jr, Kimble MO, Campbell BE, et. al.
Sexual Assault Victimization Among Female Undergraduates During Study Abroad: A Single Campus Survey Study.
From an anonymous online survey of female undergrads from one institution who had studied abroad (52% response rate), students reported during study abroad 17% non-consensual sexual touching, 7% attempted rape, and 4% rape. Authors note campus support personnel may be unaware of the likelihood of assault in this context.

Brayley-Morris H, Sorrell A, Revoir AP, et. al.
Persistence of DNA from laundered semen stains: Implications for child sex trafficking cases.
Authors report their ability to recover DNA from semen samples on various articles of clothing stored for 8 months and laundered multiple times.

Human Trafficking

Chaffee T, English A.
Sex trafficking of adolescents and young adults in the United States: healthcare provider’s role.
“This review provides an overview of the definitions of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, contributing factors, health consequences, recruitment of victims, and identification and response by healthcare providers.”
Helton M.  
**Human Trafficking: How a joint task force between health care providers and law enforcement can assist with identifying victims and prosecuting traffickers.**  
Health Matrix Clevel. 2016;26:433-73. PMID: 27263258  
Article from a joint law/medicine journal on the rationale for, barriers to, and benefits of, a collaboration between healthcare providers and law enforcement to combat human trafficking.

---

**Cultural Issues**

Parson N, Escobar R, Merced M, Trautwein A.  
**Health at the Intersections of Precarious Documentation Status and Gender-Based Partner Violence.**  
Discussion of the multi-faceted needs of IPV-experiencing Spanish-speaking undocumented immigrant women.

Boyce S, Zeledón P, Tellez E, Barrington C.  
**Gender-Specific Jealousy and Infidelity Norms as Sources of Sexual Health Risk and Violence Among Young Coupled Nicaraguans.**  
Focus groups with Nicaraguan couples revealed “gendered norms around infidelity that provided a narrative to justify male expressions of jealousy, which included limiting partner autonomy, sexual coercion, and physical violence against women, and resulted in increased women’s risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.”

---

**Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse**

Shiel R.  
**Identifying and responding to gaps in domestic abuse services for older women.**  
Nurs Older People. 2016 Jun 29;28(6):22-6. PMID: 27353789  
“This article examines the physical and mental health issues that older women face as a result of abusive relationships, and the barriers to seeking help.”

---

Cannell MB, Weitlauf JC, Garcia L, et. al.  
**Cross-sectional and longitudinal risk of physical impairment in a cohort of postmenopausal women who experience physical and verbal abuse.**  
11% of over 150,000 post-menopausal women from the Women’s Health Initiative Study reported abuse (verbal, physical or sexual).  
“Abuse exposure (all types) was associated with diminished physical functioning, with women exposed to combined physical and verbal abuse presenting baseline physical functioning scores consistent with non-abused women 20 years senior.”

---

Du Mont J, Mirzaei A, Macdonald S, et. al.  
**Perceived feasibility of establishing dedicated elder abuse programs of care at hospital-based sexual assault/domestic violence treatment center.**  
The majority of surveyed Canadian program coordinators/managers of sexual assault/DV treatment centers favored expansion of their program mandates to include an elder abuse care program, as long as the available trained professionals and available services in the community that address elder abuse were integrated and coordinated.

---

**Perpetrators**

Oliffe JL, Han CS, Drummond M, et. al.  
**Men, Masculinities, and Murder-Suicide.**  
A review of newspaper articles describing 45 North American murder-suicide cases were characterized as domestic desperation, workplace justice, or school retaliation.  
“Prevailing across the three themes was men's loss of control in their lives, hopelessness, and marginalized masculine identities,” with the event a reassertion of masculinity.

Aebi M, Landolt MA, Mueller-Pfeiffer C, et. al.  
**Testing the "Sexually Abused-Abuser Hypothesis" in Adolescents: A Population-Based Study.**  
Arch Sex Behav. 2015 Nov;44(8):2189-99. PMID: 25981223  
“The present findings demonstrate a strong relationship between past sexual abuse, with and without physical contact, and sexual-offending behavior in male and female adolescents.”

---


Police and Court Systems

Hamner MB.
The role of PTSD in adjudicating violent crimes.
J Law Med Ethics. 2014 Summer;42(2):155-60. PMID: 25040379

“PTSD may play a role in the assessment of violent crimes both as a possible contributing factor in the perpetrators as well as a consequence in the victims. There are a number of ethical and clinical considerations in the use of this diagnosis. Importantly, the diagnostic criteria have changed...This may have an impact on the interpretation of past legal judgments...”

Baker AJ, Asayan M, LaCheen-Baker A.

Review of state statues relating to best interest of the child highlight a lack of “specificity in ways that could negatively impact children caught in their parents’ conflict”, including only three states explicitly mentioning psychological maltreatment.

Providers

Yeomans PD, Ross RJ.
Removing Barriers in the Assessment of Combat-Related Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.
Mil Med. 2016 Jul;181(7):625-6. PMID: 27391614

In clinical encounters with veterans, “Topics that once were deemed too shameful for inquiry, specifically, childhood abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and military sexual trauma are now part of a standard assessment...that address the darkest underside of wartime experiences.”

Wathen CN, Harris RM, Ford-Gilboe M, Hansen M.
What counts? A mixed-methods study to inform evaluation of shelters for abused women.
Violence Against Women. 2015 Jan;21(1):125-46. PMID: 25540254

“Shelters for abused women have expanded from ‘safe havens’ to providing a range of residential and outreach services, and face increasing pressure to demonstrate ‘value for money’... interviews and surveys with 68 shelter directors in Ontario, Canada, found that differences in service philosophy and how abuse is defined influence decisions about who receives services and the shelter’s role in the broader community...”

Goodman LA, Banyard V, Woulfe J, Ash S, Mattern G.
Bringing a Network-Oriented Approach to Domestic Violence Services
Violence Against Women. 2016 Jan;22(1):64-89. PMID: 26270387

Discussion of the benefits of and developmental models for comprehensive use of networks for DV advocates and survivors.

Sabella D. CE:
Mental Health Matters: Revisiting Child Sexual Abuse and Survivor Issues.
Am J Nurs. 2016 Mar;116(3):48-54; quiz 55. PMID: 26871893

Review of child sexual abuse in various care settings – risk factors, possible signs and symptoms, nursing management, possible long-term issues faced by survivors, and patient resources.

Daoud N, Matheson Fi, Pedersen C, et. al.
Pathways and trajectories linking housing instability and poor health among low-income women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV): Toward a conceptual framework.

From interviews with 41 Canadian women experiencing IPV, “...trajectories included material housing instability (homelessness, high mobility, evictions, problems paying rent, hiding, and landlord discrimination), psychological housing instability (feeling unsafe, low self-esteem, and poor control), and social trajectories (financial problems, loss of employment, income, or social networks, and leaving school). These trajectories elevated stress and decreased self-care (unhealthy behaviors, substance abuse, and reduced medical compliance) and exacerbated poor health already compromised by IPV...for these women, achieving stable housing was crucial for stabilizing their health.”

Matheson Fi, Daoud N, Hamilton-Wright S, et. al.

“The journey through and out of IPV is often marked by an initial erosion of sense of self (identity deconstruction) followed by the identity reconstruction through an extended process of change...IPV-related training for physicians and allied health professionals should emphasize the varied nature of IPV and its impact on identity, self-esteem, and self-efficacy.”


Elder H, Karras E, Bossarte RM.  
*Promoting Help Seeking Among Veteran Households: Associations Between Exposure to Multiple Types of Health Messages and Intentions to Utilize Related Public Health Hotlines.*  
*Mil Med.* 2016 Jul;181(7):649-54. PMID: 27391618  
For both veteran and non-veteran households, intent to use different hotlines (e.g. suicide prevention, domestic violence) significantly increased as the number of types of messages an individual was exposed to increased.

McCollum SE.  
*Multigenerational Dissociation: A Framework for Building Narrative.*  
*J Trauma Dissociation.* 2015;16(5):563-76. PMID: 26158318  
“This paper presents the concept of Multigenerational Dissociation (MGD), a behavior pattern that occurs in families in which violence and abuse are re-enacted from one generation to the next, accompanied by denial that the trauma occurred, or if it did, that it was destructive.”

**Prevention**

Amasanti ML, Imcha M, Momoh C.  
*Compassionate and Proactive Interventions by Health Workers in the United Kingdom: A Better Approach to Prevent and Respond to Female Genital Mutilation?*  
Suggestions on how to best move forward to decrease female genital mutilation, as “overly intrusive efforts to help might make the problems worse.”

Eisenlohr-Moul TA, Peters JR, Pond RS Jr, DeWall CN.  
*Both trait and state mindfulness predict lower aggressiveness via anger rumination: A multilevel mediation analysis.*  
*Mindfulness (N Y).* 2016 Jun;7(3):713-726. PMID: 27429667  
“Individuals with high or fluctuating aggression may benefit from mindfulness training to reduce both intensity of and rumination on anger.”

**Researchers**

Stewart C, Kirisci L, Long AL, Giancola PR.  
*Development and Psychometric Evaluation of the Child Neglect Questionnaire.*  

**Other of Interest**

*Virtual Violence*  
http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/07/14/peds.2016-1298  
Guidelines for pediatricians and parents on children’s exposure to media violence, which research has associated with a small to moderately significant effect on aggressive behavior, aggressive thoughts, angry feelings, and physiologic arousal.

Niemi L, Young L.  
*When and Why We See Victims as Responsible: The Impact of Ideology on Attitudes Toward Victims.*  
*Pers Soc Psychol Bull.* 2016 Sep;42(9):1227-42. PMID: 27340155  
This article discusses the powerful role of moral values in attitudes toward victims. “Moral values influence judgments of victim responsibility, which then influence ascriptions of blame to victims.” Particularly for groups who value “binding values” (importance of loyalty, obedience to authority, and purity), trying to elicit compassion for the victim may lead to more victim-blaming, while focusing on the transgressions of the perpetrator may lead to less victim-blaming.

Montesanti SR, Thurston WE.  
*Mapping the role of structural and interpersonal violence in the lives of women: implications for public health interventions and policy.*  
*BMC Womens Health.* 2015 Nov 11;15:100. PMID: 26554358  
Interesting concept map linking the relationships between structural and interpersonal violence against women, and determinants of health.