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Questions: Harise Stein, MD harise@stanford.edu

Child Abuse

Nguyen LH.

Calculating the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on child abuse and neglect in the U.S.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Aug;118:105136. PMID: [34098378](#)

From an extrapolation of child welfare data from NY City, Florida, New Jersey and Wisconsin to the US nationally, historically as well as focusing on the March – December 2020 interval, an estimated 85,993 children were missed for prevention services and about 104,040 children were missed for child abuse and neglect, with a potential lifetime economic impact of up to \$48.1 billion in the U.S.

Gnanamanickam ES, Nguyen H, Armfield JM, et. al.

Hospitalizations among children involved in the child protection system: A long-term birth cohort study from infancy to adulthood using administrative data.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Sep;107:104518. PMID: [32652507](#)

Using Australian linked CPS and hospitalization data on 608,540 children, by 16.5 years of age, incidence of ever-being hospitalized was 58% for children with no CPS involvement, and 72-88% for those with different levels of CPS involvement. Mean counts of hospitalization at every age were almost four times higher for those with CPS involvement.

Font S, Maguire-Jack K.

The Organizational Context of Substantiation in Child Protective Services Cases.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Aug;36(15-16):7414-7435. PMID: [30862238](#)

“Using national population data from the United States, this study examined...county substantiation rates...organizational context (policy and practice characteristics) influences substantiation rates. In particular, standards of evidence, alternative options for investigation and disposition of allegations, and workload burden were all significant predictors of substantiation rates...Implications for child protection policy and practice are discussed.”

Manfield J, Oakley K, Macey JA, Waugh MC.

Understanding the Five-Year Outcomes of Abusive Head Trauma in Children: A Retrospective Cohort Study.

Dev Neurorehabil. 2021 Aug;24(6):361-367. PMID: [33478304](#)

Of 55 children treated at an Australia children’s hospital for abusive head trauma (AHT), five years later “one child had died and two had made a complete recovery. 81.8% had a moderate or severe disability, an increase from 64.5% at acute discharge. At follow-up, the main impairments were behavioral problems (53%), vision impairment (44%), fine motor difficulties (26%), gross motor problems (26%), communication problems (24%) and 16% had seizures...many children’s presentation were worse at follow-up. Therefore, all children presenting with AHT need long term follow up regardless of early indications of good recovery.”

Blumfield E.

Pearls and Pitfalls in Imaging of Abusive Head Trauma.

Semin Ultrasound CT MR. 2020 Oct;41(5):411-420. PMID: [32980088](#)

Review of typical and “mimic” imaging findings and methods of assessment in abusive head trauma.

Asnes AG, Pavlovic L, Moller B, Schaeffer P, Leventhal JM.

Consultation for child physical abuse: Beyond the history and physical examination.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jan;111:104792. PMID: [33158586](#)

Authors recommend a structured approach to a suspected child physical abuse consultation by a child abuse clinician, including “(1) components to have in place before a consultation, (2) components of a quality consultation, (3) sharing a final opinion, and (4) inevitable pitfalls.”

Ruiz-Maldonado TM, Dorey A, Christensen ED, Campbell KA.

Near-Fatal Spice Intoxication of a Toddler.

Pediatrics. 2021 Jul 7:e2021050888. PMID: [34233919](#)

Synthetic cannabinoids are a heterogenous group of novel psychoactive substances purposely designed to avoid detection and prosecution, and can result in broad, multisystemic, dangerous effects. Caregivers may not provide an accurate history of exposure, and routine urine drug screens may not be accurate. “We highlight clinical findings that should increase a physician’s index of suspicion for synthetic cannabinoid toxicity, even in the absence of a history of exposure.”

Brassard MR, Hart SN, Glaser D.

Psychological maltreatment: An international challenge to children's safety and well being.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Dec;110(Pt 1):104611. PMID: [32660756](#)

“Psychological maltreatment [PM] is a human rights issue that must be addressed through child protection and promotion of child wellbeing. Adoption of reliable definitions of the different aspects of PM for Child Protective Service practice is a top policy goal.”

Hoeboer C, de Roos C, van Son GE, Spinhoven P, Elzinga B.

The effect of parental emotional abuse on the severity and treatment of PTSD symptoms in children and adolescents.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jan;111:104775. PMID: [33158585](#)

For 287 children, mean age 15.5 years, seen for trauma treatment, “Emotional abuse (rather than any other type of maltreatment) was associated with more severe PTSD symptoms in all symptom clusters...This calls for routine assessment of emotional abuse in the diagnostic phase, even when this is not the reason for referral.”

Bertele N, Talmon A.

Sibling Sexual Abuse: A Review of Empirical Studies in the Field.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Jul 9:15248380211030244. PMID: [34238075](#)

From a research review, “Sibling Sexual Abuse [SSA] has some unequivocal features such as an early onset, an extended duration and frequency, and a particularly high intensity (i.e., involvement of coercion, force, superiority, and manipulation)...SSA is linked to later depression, anxiety, impaired self-esteem, and sexual functioning...SSA and its implications have been and to date are marginalized in research and practice.”

Katz C, Tsur N, Nicolet R, Klebanov B, Carmel N.

No way to run or hide: Children's perceptions of their responses during intrafamilial child sexual abuse.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Aug;106:104541. PMID: [32474116](#)

From interviews with 40 Israeli children aged 4-14 who had been sexually abused by their fathers, children related how “fight, flight, or disclosure were not relevant options for them...The children quickly understood the consequences and implications of their responses, and on the basis of their assessments, made the best and most pragmatic decisions they could, with two main guidelines in mind: one was simply to survive the abuse and the second was to protect their younger siblings.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Ibrahim P, Almeida D, Nagy C, Turecki G.

Molecular impacts of childhood abuse on the human brain.

Neurobiol Stress. 2021 May 20;15:100343. PMID: [34141833](#)

This article reviews research evidence for the effects of childhood abuse on epigenetics (changes to DNA), HPA axis (stress hormone system), myelination (the health of nerve cells), plasticity (the ability for the brain to change in response to various factors), and signaling (the communication components between parts of the brain).

Carr A, Duff H, Craddock F.

A Systematic Review of Reviews of the Outcome of Noninstitutional Child Maltreatment.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2020 Oct;21(4):828-843. PMID: [30249161](#)

In this extensive research review involving over 30 million individuals, 518,022 of whom were maltreated in childhood, childhood maltreatment was associated with an exceptionally wide range of physical health problems and a pro-inflammatory state; an exceptionally wide range of mental health problems; significant abnormalities in the structure and functioning of the brain and hormone system; and a wide range of negative psychosocial outcomes across the life span including difficulties in making and maintaining relationships, managing sexual and aggressive impulses, adjustment in school and at work, and maintaining a satisfying quality of life.

Damian AJ, Oo M, Bryant D, Gallo JJ.

Evaluating the association of adverse childhood experiences, mood and anxiety disorders, and suicidal ideation among behavioral health patients at a large federally qualified health center.

PLoS One. 2021 Jul 12;16(7):e0254385. PMID: [34252139](#)

Of 4392 patients in behavioral healthcare services of a large federally qualified health center, “emotional neglect was the strongest predictor of SI [suicidal ideation] among Millennials (Odds Ratio = 1.59), Generation X (OR = 1.81), and Baby Boomers (OR = 1.88) after controlling for mood and anxiety disorders, race/ethnicity, and gender...ACEs should be considered as a risk factor and incorporated into screening assessments for suicidal ideation.”

Hantsoo L, Zemel BS.

Stress Gets into the Belly: Early Life Stress and the Gut Microbiome.

Behav Brain Res. 2021 Jul 16;113474. PMID: [34280457](#)

“Our review suggests strong evidence that acute laboratory stress, chronic stress, and ELS [early life stress] affect the gut microbiota in rodents, and growing evidence that perceived stress and ELS may impact the gut microbiota in humans... We also review data on dietary interventions to moderate impact of stress on the gut microbiome.”

Loxton D, Forder PM, Cavenagh D, et. al.

The impact of adverse childhood experiences on the health and health behaviors of young Australian women.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jan;111:104771. PMID: [33160649](#)

From a long-term study of 8609 Australian women, 59% reported 1 ACE, and 10% 4+ ACEs. Women reporting 4+ ACEs had higher rates of poor physical health, poor mental health, severe obesity, and smoking.

Brunton R, Dryer R.

Child Sexual Abuse and Pregnancy.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jan;111:104802. PMID: [33218712](#)

From a review of 50 years of research, the prevalence of a history of childhood sexual abuse in pregnant women ranged from 2.63% to 37.25%. “Compared to women with no history of abuse, child sexual abuse survivors may have more concerns with their care, greater health complaints, fear childbirth and have difficulties with delivery. They also had a higher likelihood of PTSD symptomology and anxiety, consumed more harmful substances (e.g., alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs) and had greater concerns with their appearance, poorer health, sleep and may also have a higher risk of revictimisation.”

Lange BCL, Condon EM, Gardner F.

A mixed methods investigation of the association between child sexual abuse and subsequent maternal parenting.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 May;103:104389. PMID: [32120331](#)

Mothers with a history of personal childhood sexual abuse reported multiple adverse effects on their parenting, including a strong desire to protect their child from experiencing abuse, as well as effects on breastfeeding, child-rearing practices, the mother-child relationship, and perceptions of motherhood. These mothers wanted interventions that provided information on how best to protect their child from abuse, what constitutes appropriate discipline, and how best to communicate with their child, preferably in a group with other mothers with a similar history to know that they are not alone.

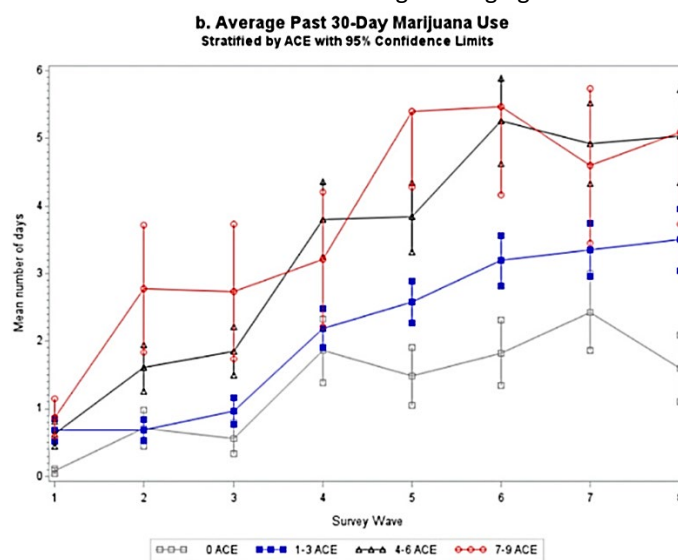
Adolescents

Rogers CJ, Forster M, Grigsby TJ, et. al.

The impact of childhood trauma on substance use trajectories from adolescence to adulthood: Findings from a longitudinal Hispanic cohort study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jul 9;120:105200. PMID: [34252647](#)

From a long-term survey of 1399 Hispanic adolescents in Southern California starting in 9th grade, ACEs were a significant predictor at 9th grade of significant cigarette, marijuana and alcohol use. Those with more ACEs experienced significantly steeper inclining use over time than those with fewer ACEs. “ACE continue to have an impact on substance use trends through emerging adulthood.”



Herbenick D, Fu TC, Patterson C, et. al.

Prevalence and characteristics of choking/strangulation during sex: Findings from a probability survey of undergraduate students.

J Am Coll Health. 2021 Jul 9:1-15. PMID: [34242530](#)

Of 4168 randomly sampled undergraduates at a large public U.S. university, “We found that 26.5% of women, 6.6% of men, and 22.3% of transgender and gender non-binary participants reported having been choked during their most recent sexual event. Additionally, 5.7% of women, 24.8% of men, and 25.9% of transgender and non-binary participants reported that they choked their partner at their most recent event. Choking was more prevalent among sexual minority students. Choking is prevalent among undergraduate students; implications for college sexual health education are discussed.”

Collibee C, Rizzo C, Bleiweiss K, Orchowski LM.
The Influence of Peer Support for Violence and Peer Acceptance of Rape Myths on Multiple Forms of Interpersonal Violence Among Youth.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Aug;36(15-16):7185-7201. PMID: [30832526](#)

From surveys of 2,830 10th graders from 27 northeastern high schools, “both peer support for sexual violence and perceptions of peer endorsement of rape myths each made a significant contribution with dating aggression perpetration, in person bullying, as well as cyberbullying.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Galano MM, Grogan-Kaylor A, Clark HM, et. al.
Examining the 8-Year Trajectory of Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms in Children Exposed to IPV.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Aug;36(15-16):NP8454-NP8481. PMID: [30994395](#)

For 120 mothers experiencing IPV and their children aged 4-6 and followed for 8 years, “in general, children experienced worsening of their PTSS over the 8-year trajectory...There were no associations between intervention participation, parenting behaviors, and long-term child PTSS outcomes; however, there were significant associations between amount of IPV exposure [continuing IPV during the course of the study], mother's level of PTSS, and children's PTSS outcomes...these findings highlight the long-term negative associations between chronic exposure to IPV and child well-being, as well as the significant connections between caregiver and child mental health.”

Murphy JL, Voorhees EV, O'Connor KE, et. al.
Positive Engagement with Pets Buffers the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Callous-Unemotional Traits in Children.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jul 18:8862605211028301. PMID: [34275347](#)

“Childhood exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) is associated with serious psychological outcomes including increased odds of developing callous-unemotional (CU) traits and behaviors.” In this study of 204 children aged 7-12 years, 57% Latinx, exposed to IPV, those who had a high level of positive engagement with a pet significantly decreased the relationship between IPV and CU traits, while the opposite was true at low levels of positive engagement with pets. “Safeguarding the

well-being of these animals may be critical to their long-term emotional health.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Goldberg X, Espelt C, Porta-Casteràs D, et. al.
Non-communicable diseases among women survivors of intimate partner violence: Critical review from a chronic stress framework.

Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2021 Jul 9:S0149-7634(21)00304-3. PMID: [34252471](#)

“We approach IPV as a scenario of chronic stress where women are repetitively exposed to threat and coping behaviours that progressively shape their neurobiological response to stress.” Authors review research studies linking alterations of the stress-response system with non-communicable diseases such as depression, anxiety, and heart disease.

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Dim EE.
Experiences of Physical and Psychological Violence Against Male Victims in Canada: A Qualitative Study.

Int J Offender Ther Comp Criminol. 2021 Jul;65(9):1029-1054. PMID: [32193958](#)

This qualitative study through interviews with 16 men who had experienced IPV revealed a variety of psychological and physical abuse, as well as the consequences of abuse, including physical symptoms of stress, being denied access to children, and fear of being arrested themselves if they called the police.

Su Z, McDonnell D, Roth S, Li Q, Šegaló S, Shi F, Wagers S.
Mental health solutions for domestic violence victims amid COVID-19: a review of the literature.

Global Health. 2021 Jun 28;17(1):67. PMID: [34183030](#)

“Multidisciplinary interventions are identified that could provide timely and practical solutions to domestic violence victims amid the pandemic, which range from tailored shelter home strategies, education programs, escape plans, laws and regulations, as well as more technology-based mental health solutions.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Yonashiro-Cho JMF, Gassoumis ZD, Wilber KH, Homeier DC.

Improving forensics: Characterizing injuries among community-dwelling physically abused older adults.

J Am Geriatr Soc. 2021 Aug;69(8):2252-2261. PMID:

[33945150](#)

57 physically abused elder clients of adult protective services were examined at home, and compared to a control group of 99 non-abused elders seen in a geriatric clinic. Abused elders were more likely to have any injuries (79.0% vs. 63.9%) and to have more injuries (2.9 vs. 2.0), to have head/neck bruising (15.8% vs. 2.0%) or tenderness (15.8% vs. 0%), and arm bruising (42.1% vs. 26.3%), scrapes (31.6% vs. 11.1%), and tenderness (8.8% vs. 0%). Leg scrapes were common (12.1%) in both groups and unrelated to abuse status.

LGBTQ Concerns

Dyar C, Messinger AM, Newcomb ME, et. al.

Development and Initial Validation of Three Culturally Sensitive Measures of Intimate Partner Violence for Sexual and Gender Minority Populations.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Aug;36(15-16):NP8824-NP8851.

PMID: [31057032](#)

Description of validated IPV surveys for sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations, specifically for those assigned female at birth, including an adapted version of the Conflict Tactics Scale-Revised, an adapted measure of coercive control, and the newly developed SGM-specific IPV Tactics Measure.

Thoma BC, Rezeppa TL, Choukas-Bradley S, et. al.

Disparities in Childhood Abuse Between Transgender and Cisgender Adolescents.

Pediatrics. 2021 Jul 5:e2020016907. PMID: [34226247](#)

In a nationwide online sample of US adolescents, trans-gender adolescents (TGAs) had elevated rates of childhood psychological (73%), physical (39%), and sexual abuse (19%) compared with heterosexual cis-gender adolescents, at almost twice the rate.

Hillman J.

Lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence and health-related outcomes among transgender adults age 50.

Gerontologist. 2021 May 20:gnab067. PMID: [34015135](#)

Of 3462 50+ years old transgender adults from a national survey, "57% of respondents reported any lifetime IPV, including transgender-specific (41%), physical (36%), psychological (29%), severe physical violence (24%), stalking (12%), and sexual (10%), abuse." Lifetime experiences of IPV were significantly associated with having a disability, poor current health, smoking, screening positive for serious mental illness, ever using drugs, and attempting suicide.

Race/Cultural Concerns

Wildeman C, Edwards FR, Wakefield S.

The Cumulative Prevalence of Termination of Parental Rights for U.S. Children, 2000-2016.

Child Maltreat. 2020 Feb;25(1):32-42. PMID: [31113210](#)

Per author analysis, 1 in 100 U.S. children will experience the termination of parental rights by age 18, with risk highest in the first few years of life. Risks are highest for Native American (3.0%) and African American children (1.5%). In addition, there is dramatic variation across states in the risk of experiencing this event as well as racial/ethnic inequality in this risk.



Figure 1. National cumulative prevalence of termination of both parents' rights by race/ethnicity.

Ayodeji E, Dubicka B, Abuah O, Odebiyi B, Sultana R, Ani C.
Editorial Perspective: Mental health needs of children and young people of Black ethnicity: Is it time to reconceptualise racism as a traumatic experience?

Child Adolesc Ment Health. 2021 Sep;26(3):265-266. PMID: [34240554](#)

“We argue that the experience of racism should be universally considered an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)...This should include: the impact of racism in staff training, improving the cultural competence of staff, and supporting Black children and young people to articulate their experiences of racism and related traumas whilst facilitating their development of coping strategies to manage these experiences.”

Claypool N, Moore de Peralta A.

The Influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Including the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Toxic Stress on Development and Health Outcomes of Latinx Children in the USA: a Review of the Literature.

Int J Child Maltreat. 2021 Jul 11:1-22. PMID: [34278229](#)

“In applying the ACE framework to US-Latinx populations, relevant findings concerning a potential failure of ACEs to accurately capture Latinx experiences of adversity were highlighted, as well as the need to classify the COVID-19 pandemic as an ACE. Research suggests that first-generation Latinx immigrants report lower-than-average rates of ACEs despite the various disparities ethnic minorities face in the USA. A discussion on whether this health paradox arises because of the failure of ACEs to properly identify adverse experiences unique to immigrants or if it is related with immigrant families' protective cultural factors. The compounding experiences of discrimination, immigration anxieties, and now also pandemic-related hardship have the potential to harm Latinx children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development.”
Evidence-based interventions are discussed.

Sexual Assault

Wiener SJ, Fitzgerald S, Einhorn H.

A trauma-informed guide to caring for adolescents following sexual assault.

Curr Opin Pediatr. 2021 Aug 1;33(4):354-360. PMID: [34039900](#)

“All adolescent patients should be screened for sexual assault during routine clinical visits; in responding to a disclosure, providers should exhibit compassion, express validation, and help connect

the patient to resources to aid in healing. Caring for survivors of sexual assault should ideally be multidisciplinary, involving treatment of the medical complications (including the possibility of pregnancy or infection) and mental health sequelae (including increased likelihood of depression, posttraumatic symptoms, and suicidality).”

Bailey C, Shaw J, Harris A.

Mandatory Reporting and Adolescent Sexual Assault.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Jul 9:15248380211030239.

PMID: [34238071](#)

“Though implemented broadly, MR [mandatory reporting] policies vary between individuals, organizations, and states and have historically been challenging to implement due to this variation, conflicts with other laws, tension between these policies and providers' values, and other factors. Based on the available literature, the impact of MR in the context of adolescent sexual assault is unknown. There is a critical need for research and evaluation on the implementation and impact of MR policies.”

Dworkin ER, Jaffe AE, Bedard-Gilligan M, Fitzpatrick S.

PTSD in the Year Following Sexual Assault: A Meta-Analysis of Prospective Studies.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2021 Jul 19:15248380211032213.

PMID: [34275368](#)

From a research review, 74.58% of sexual assault survivors met diagnostic criteria for PTSD at the first month and 41.49% at the 12th month following sexual assault, with most symptom recovery within the first 3 months, after which the average rate of recovery slowed. “Findings indicate that PTSD is common and severe following sexual assault, and the first 3 months post-assault may be a critical period for natural recovery.”

Lee JY, Micol RL, Davis JL.

Intimate Partner Violence and Psychological Maladjustment: Examining the Role of Institutional Betrayal Among Survivors.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Aug;36(15-16):7505-7522. PMID: [30879384](#)

Of 316 undergraduate students attending a Midwestern University, institutional betrayal was positively correlated with depressive symptoms, PTSD, and anxiety symptoms, over and above the effects of the interpersonal betrayal involving physical, sexual or psychological violence they had experienced.

Kirkner A, Lorenz K, Ullman SE.

Recommendations for Responding to Survivors of Sexual Assault: A Qualitative Study of Survivors and Support Providers.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Feb;36(3-4):1005-1028. PMID: [29294973](#)

This survey of 1863 sexual assault survivors and 45 informal support providers made informed recommendations on what survivors need after sexual assault.

Table 1. Frequency of Recommendations From Survivors and Support Providers.

Recommendations	n
Survivor to survivor	
Talking to others	23
Seek out people with specialized knowledge	56
Write or journal	6
Avoid risky behavior	6
Learn self-defense	6
Survivor to support provider	
Supportive listening	23
Antiblaming messages	23
Survivor to formal support providers	
Financial needs	5
Education/training	15
Support provider to support provider	
Give space to talk	11
Show that you care	9
Convey belief and antiblaming support	8
Respect survivor autonomy	8
Survivor experiences are subjective	5
Self-care for support provider	2

Razi T, Walfisch A, Sheiner E, et. al.

#metoo? The association between sexual violence history and parturients' gynecological health and mental well-being.

Arch Gynecol Obstet. 2021 Aug;304(2):385-393. PMID: [33527173](#)

Of 210 new Israeli mothers, 26.3% reported an unwanted sexual encounter, 23% reported sexual coercion, 1.8% assault and attempted rape, and 1.4% reported rape. "Sexual violence history was found to be independently and significantly associated with a negative relationship with the gynecologist, avoidance of gynecological care, sub-optimal routine gynecological follow-up, and seeking a gynecologist for acute symptoms, as well as 4.5 times increased risk of post-partum depression.

Alcalá HE, Keim-Malpass J, Mitchell EM.

Sexual Assault and Cancer Screening Among Men and Women.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jun;36(11-12):NP6243-NP6259. PMID: [30477387](#)

Using data from a 2014 Kansas phone survey of adult men and women, a lifetime history of sexual assault "was associated with lower odds of current compliance with clinical breast examination, mammogram, Pap test, and PSA test screening

recommendations...with the notable exception of colorectal cancer screening. Authors suggest that alternatives or modifications of screening procedures, such as home specimen collection, "may be a promising route to increase current compliance with cancer screening among a population that may avoid these procedures due to pain or fear of retraumatization."

Human Trafficking

Hurst IA, Abdo DC, Harpin S, Leonard J, Adalgais K.

Confidential Screening for Sex Trafficking Among Minors in a Pediatric Emergency Department.

Pediatrics. 2021 Mar;147(3):e2020013235. PMID: [33593847](#)

"A confidentially administered, previously validated, electronic screening tool was used to accurately identify sex trafficking among minors, suggesting that this modality of screening may be useful in busy clinical environments."

Hurst TE.

Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation: Insights From Adult Survivors.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jul;36(13-14):NP7350-NP7372. PMID: [30688542](#)

17 adults who were survivors of commercial sexual exploitation of children noted six themes with relevance to vulnerability to recruitment and barriers to prevention - difficulty trusting medical and mental health professionals, difficulty trusting law enforcement, protection of family members, self-destructive behaviors, a need for awareness in educational settings, and a need for awareness among at-risk youth.

Perpetrators

Friestad C, Vaskinn A.

An exploration of theory of mind performance among men convicted of rape.

Scand J Psychol. 2021 Aug;62(4):476-483. PMID: [34085727](#)

From a study of 26 Norwegian men imprisoned for rape against an adult, "results showed that the rape-convicted men have a markedly inferior ability to infer the mental states of others. Clinical as well as theoretical implications of the findings are discussed."

Police and Court Systems

Richards J, Smithson J, Moberly NJ, Smith A.
"If It Goes Horribly Wrong the Whole World Descends on You": The Influence of Fear, Vulnerability, and Powerlessness on Police Officers' Response to Victims of Head Injury in Domestic Violence.
 Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Jul 2;18(13):7070. PMID: [34281006](#)

From interviews with 12 British police officers about potential barriers to police supporting DV victims with head injury (HI), three themes were revealed: "seesaw of emotions', 'police vulnerability', and 'head injury is fearful'. Police officers' vulnerability to external blame was the predominant influence in their responses to HI."

Providers

Dagenhardt DMR, Mersky J, Topitzes JD, et. al.
Assessing Polyvictimization in a Family Justice Center: Lessons Learned From a Demonstration Project.
 J Interpers Violence. 2021 Jul 2;8862605211027998. PMID: [34215168](#)

In examining the experience of administration of a polyvictimization assessment tool (PAT) at a family justice center, "an assessment tool provides the space for clients to talk about trauma and facilitate empowerment, while providing the opportunity for psychoeducation and service referrals. Concerns included adverse reactions without proper framing and language, as well as shifting the emphasis from screening for adversities toward strengths, coping skills, and resilience."

List of Polyvictimization Events From the PAT.

Violence and abuse	Family or intimate partner assault Strangulation Sexual assault Unwanted sexual contact or sexual harassment Held against will Emotional abuse Financial abuse Human trafficking Stalking Neglect Bullying
Adverse life events	Poverty Homelessness Immigration-related trauma Permanent/long-term loss Hospitalization for severe illness/injury/mental illness Separation from children or parent (as a child) Discrimination Incarceration (self or someone else) Substance misuse (self or someone else) System-induced trauma Natural or man-made disasters
Witnessing violence or death	Community violence Animal cruelty Seen death/killing (not on TV/movie)
Other	

Cañas M, Ibabe I, De Paúl J.
Promising observational instruments of parent-child (0-12 years) interaction within the child protection system: A systematic review.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Nov;109:104713. PMID: [32971348](#)
 This research review of instruments to evaluate parent-child interactions by CPS providers produced a list of the 9 best observational tools, with The Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale" (2-71 months) given the highest rating.

Adams JA.
Sexual Abuse in Children: What the General Practice Ob/Gyn Needs to Know.

Clin Obstet Gynecol. 2020 Sep;63(3):486-490. PMID: [32366764](#)
 Detailed description of how to talk to the child, do an examination in this context, and what to look for.

Black A, Bow M, Armson BA, Guilbert É, Dunn S, Fisher WA.
Committee Opinion No. 419: Coercion Free Contraceptive Care.

J Obstet Gynaecol Can. 2021 Jul 6;S1701-2163(21)00502-8. PMID: [34242822](#)

Committee Opinion from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada on how to provide guidance on culturally competent contraception counselling that is free of coercion and promotes shared decision-making and patient autonomy.

Millar HC, Lorber S, Vander Morris A, et. al.
"No, You Need to Explain What You Are Doing": Obstetric Care Experiences and Preferences of Adolescent Mothers With a History of Childhood Trauma.

J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol. 2021 Aug;34(4):538-545. PMID: [33535100](#)

For 29 adolescent mothers with average age 17.9 years, the mean ACE score was 5.1. 65.5% reported being triggered during pregnancy or postpartum. Trauma memories were elicited during vaginal examinations in the clinic (27.6%) and in the hospital (27.6%), abdominal examinations (13.8%), measurement of vital signs (17.2%), and labor (17.2%). Ten participants (34.5%) felt that the providers delivering their baby knew how to help them cope with trauma memories. Themes that emerged included the following: acknowledgment of trauma by provider, avoiding re-telling of story, building a relationship with provider, choice and control in care, and providing coping strategies.

Gupta RC, Randell KA, Dowd MD.

Addressing Parental Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Pediatric Setting.

Adv Pediatr. 2021 Aug;68:71-88. PMID: [34243860](#)

“Parents’ own adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) impact their children’s physical and emotional health. Causal mechanisms are not fully understood but are likely multifactorial, affecting parent resiliency and attachment behaviors, with possible intergenerational transmission. Although universal screening for parental ACEs is controversial, they may be identified during pediatric care. Providers can address parental ACEs by consistently using trauma-informed, healing-centered approaches that acknowledge the impact of trauma and the presence of resilience, promote positive parenting skills, and provide compassionate support universally. When necessary, more targeted interventions may include referral to community social support services and parenting programming. Incorporating a two-generation approach in pediatrics may enhance and support child health and well-being more robustly.”

Hatters Friedman S, Beaman JW, Friedman JB.

Fatality Review and the Role of the Forensic Psychiatrist.

J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2021 Jul 21;JAAPL.210027-21.

PMID: [34290108](#)

Multidisciplinary Fatality Review teams have operated for decades in the United States and across the developed world. Goals of these teams include examining individual deaths in the community to determine preventability and to make recommendations for future prevention. Fatality Review teams initially focused on child deaths but have expanded to include deaths from domestic violence, elder abuse, overdose, and maternal mortality...Recommendations made by Fatality Review teams have led to important changes for mental health services and prevention, including the Safe Haven laws for neonaticide prevention, suicide and homicide prevention, child murder prevention, firearm laws, and domestic violence screening.”

MacNeill EC.

What's Notable is our Absence.

Acad Emerg Med. 2021 Aug;28(8):934-935. PMID: [34245629](#)

“As emergency medicine providers, we bear witness to the incredible burden that violence, including gun violence, has on individuals, families, and communities. We see it in ways we do not often think about; increased psychiatric illness, increased ED visits for asthma, higher Adverse Childhood Events scores, cancer, cardiovascular disease and resultant lower life expectancy. All of these have been associated with exposure to violence. Of any

medical specialty, emergency medicine as a field must embrace the idea that the ED is a medical home for the disease of violence. Emergency care providers are among the few healthcare professionals who care for acute violent injuries as well as the downstream effects. We need to develop expertise not only in the acute treatment of violence victims; we need to be experts in screening people for risk and intervening with evidence based supported programs.”

Prevention

Pasalich DS, Moretti MM, Hassall A, Curcio A.

Pilot randomized controlled trial of an attachment- and trauma-focused intervention for kinship caregivers.

Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jul 6;120:105178. PMID: [34243100](#)

An Australian attachment and trauma-focused intervention for kinship caregivers received high levels of program satisfaction and attendance/completion rates. Preliminary results showed significant reductions in caregiver strain and caregiver psychological aggression, and no further placement changes at 6 months vs. 15% placement changes in the usual care group.

Poon CYS, Christensen KM, Rhodes JE.

A Meta-analysis of the Effects of Mentoring on Youth in Foster Care.

J Youth Adolesc. 2021 Sep;50(9):1741-1756. PMID: [34240254](#)

This study estimated the effect size of nine formal mentoring programs in the United States serving youth involved with the foster care system (total n = 55,561). Analyses revealed a small-to-medium-sized overall effect with weaker effects for studies containing higher proportions of youth with emotional abuse histories. Programs deploying near-peer mentors were more than twice as effective as intergenerational mentors.

Orchowski LM, Edwards KM, Hollander JA, et. al.

Integrating Sexual Assault Resistance, Bystander, and Men's Social Norms Strategies to Prevent Sexual Violence on College Campuses: A Call to Action.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2020 Oct;21(4):811-827. PMID: [30205767](#)

Authors note that sexual assault prevention on college campuses is often siloed into women’s programs, men’s programs, and bystander programs, and that “it is timely to envision a comprehensive and interconnected prevention approach.”

Tani Y, Fujiwara T, Kondo K.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Dementia: Interactions With Social Capital in the Japan Gerontological Evaluation Study Cohort.

Am J Prev Med. 2021 Aug;61(2):225-234. PMID: [33985835](#)
 Social capital = the network of relationships among people in a given society. From a large Japanese elder study, at 3-year follow-up of new dementia cases, those with 3+ ACEs and low social capital were 3.25 times more likely to develop dementia, 3+ ACEs with middle social capital 1.19 times more likely, and in those with 3+ ACEs with high social capital no new dementia cases were observed.

Researchers

Carmel T, Widom CS.

Development and validation of a retrospective self-report measure of childhood neglect.

Child Abuse Negl. 2020 Aug;106:104555. PMID: [32497939](#)
 Authors describe a new, validated 10-item childhood neglect instrument.

Final retrospective neglect self-report items identified by machine learning techniques

	Both your natural mother and father	Your natural mother only	Your natural father only	Other, neither your natural mother nor father	Don't remember		
1. With whom did you live when you were born?							
Number of Days in a Typical Year							
In a typical year, living with your PARENT...	Never or almost never	1-2 days a year	1-2 days a month	1-2 days a week	3-5 days a week	Every day or almost every day	Don't know
2. How many days did you have trouble with your teeth?							
3. How many days did someone make sure you took a bath or shower?							
4. How many days did you have lice?							
5. How many days did the place where you lived usually have moldy or spoiled food?							
6. How many days did the place where you lived usually have broken windows that weren't fixed right away?							
7. How many days were you home alone when someone gave you a plan for what to do in an emergency?							
8. How many days were you home alone when you were not sure if your parent would come home at all?							
9. How many days were you home alone without an adult present (by adult we mean a teenager or older person)?							
10. How many days did you feel your parent cared about you?							

Crowe A, Overstreet NM, Murray CE.

The Intimate Partner Violence Stigma Scale: Initial Development and Validation.

J Interpers Violence. 2021 Aug;36(15-16):7456-7479. PMID: [30866696](#)

“The stigma associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major challenge facing those in abusive and violent intimate relationships. This study explored the initial development and validation of the Intimate Partner Violence Stigma Scale. An exploratory factor analysis revealed four subscales including internalized stigma, anticipated stigma, perpetrator stigma, and isolation.”

Other of Interest

Stevens F, Nurse JRC, Arief B.

Cyber Stalking, Cyber Harassment, and Adult Mental Health: A Systematic Review.

Cyberpsychol Behav Soc Netw. 2021 Jun;24(6):367-376. PMID: [33181026](#)

“Victims of cyber stalking and/or harassment experienced a multitude of harmful and detrimental consequences for their mental health, including depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and panic attacks. Victims recounted the lack of support they received from the criminal justice system and their subsequent distrust of technology post-abuse...Our research highlights the need to devise practical solutions to tackle and minimize this victimization.”

Lane WG, Dubowitz H.

Social determinants of health, personalized medicine, and child maltreatment.

Pediatr Res. 2021 Jan;89(2):368-376. PMID: [33288877](#)

“This paper synthesizes knowledge on social determinants of health [economic stability, education, health and healthcare, neighborhood environment, and social context] and advances in genetics and genomics [how a person’s genetics interact with the person’s environment] related to the prevention of child maltreatment. It provides examples of model approaches to addressing the prevention of child maltreatment in primary care practices.” Authors also address the role of personalized medicine (tailoring of medical treatment to the individual characteristics of each patient) in addressing child maltreatment.

Table 1. Social determinants of health programs with web-based resources.

Program	SDH items screened	Additional resources	Resource availability
Health Leads	ESSENTIAL: food insecurity, housing instability, utility needs, financial resource strain, transportation, exposure to violence OPTIONAL: childcare, employment, health behaviors, social isolation and support, behavioral/mental health	Screening Toolkit Social Needs Roadmap and Implementation Tools Specific information for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Accountable Health Communities (AHC) grantees	https://healthleadsusa.org/
Medical-Legal Partnership	CORE MEASURES: (PRAPARE) Housing status and stability Employment Income/financial stability Stress Insurance status Transportation Social integration and support OPTIONAL MEASURES: Incarceration history Safety Intimate partner violence Refugee status	Toolkit for screening implementation and action, including appendix with resources. Free electronic health record templates for commonly used systems, including Epic, eClinicalWorks, GE Centricity, and NextGen	www.mlboston.org www.medical-legalpartnership.org http://medical-legalpartnership.org/ PRAPARE Toolkit: http://www.nachc.org/research-and-data/prapare/toolkit/
A Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)	Parental depression Major stress Unhealthy substance use Domestic (or intimate partner) violence Food insecurity Harsh punishment OPTIONAL: There is flexibility to add a few other problems	SEEK training videos SEEK Parent Questionnaire-R SEEK Algorithms and Responses to Barriers SEEK Parent Handouts Materials related to Motivational Interviewing and the Quality Improvement process	www.SEEKwellbeing.org