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Child Abuse

Bell V, McCann A, Power C, et. al.

Child protection concern in patients during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Ir J Med Sci. 2022 Jul 26:1–3. PMID: [35879544](#)

In a comparison of matched time periods pre- and during Covid in Ireland, while there were fewer assessments for child protection concerns, there was significantly increased complexity – higher physical abuse (52.3% vs. 11%), emotional abuse (7.0% vs. 1.2%) and multiple types of abuse (48.8% vs. 13.5%).

Palmer L, Font S, Eastman AL, Guo L, Putnam-Hornstein E.

What Does Child Protective Services Investigate as Neglect? A Population-Based Study.

Child Maltreat. 2022 Jul 13:10775595221114144. PMID: [35829657](#)

“Most child protective services (CPS) investigations involve allegations of neglect...in California in 2017, the most common types of neglect were inadequate supervision (44%) and failure to protect (29%), followed by physical neglect (14%). Common risk factors identified in neglect investigations were parental substance use (41%), domestic violence (21%), mental illness (18%), and co-reported physical or sexual abuse (29%).”

Matte-Landry A, Grisé Bolduc MÈ, Tanguay-Garneau L, et. al.

Cognitive Outcomes of Children With Complex Trauma.

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2022 Jul 4:15248380221111484. PMID: [35786061](#)

Children with complex trauma (exposure to multiple or repeated traumatic events of an interpersonal nature) had poorer overall cognitive functioning than controls, and recency of trauma was an important factor. “Findings suggest that children with complex trauma are at risk of cognitive difficulties quickly after trauma exposure”. Authors suggest that the impact on cognitive outcomes with more prompt interventions should be assessed.

Cai JY.

Economic instability and child maltreatment risk: Evidence from state administrative data.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022 Aug;130(Pt 4):105213. PMID: [34334214](#)

Using administrative data for CPS-involved families in Wisconsin, “Experiencing a negative earnings shock of 30% or more increases the likelihood of CPS involvement by approximately 18%. The effect becomes nonsignificant when an earnings decline is compensated by benefit receipt. Each additional earnings drop is associated with a 15% greater likelihood of CPS involvement. Each consecutive quarter with stable income is associated with 5% lower probability of a CPS report.”

Schneider W, Schenck-Fontaine A.

Growing up unequal: Objective and subjective economic disparities and authoritarian parenting.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022 Aug;130(Pt 4):105332. PMID: [34627622](#)

Using 30 years of General Social Survey data, socioeconomic status (SES) and perceived social subjective status (SSS) were both associated with increased odds of endorsing authoritarian parenting, with white parents' parenting more influenced by both SES and SSS than Black parents. “This is important because authoritarian parenting is not only directly associated with adverse outcomes for children, but is also associated with an increased risk for child maltreatment.”

Regeffe F, Chevignard M, Millet A, et. al.

Factors associated with poor neurological outcome in children after abusive head trauma: A multicenter retrospective study.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022 Jul 9;131:105779. PMID: [35816903](#)

Of 117 children under one year old admitted to three pediatric intensive care units for suspected or confirmed abusive head trauma, mean age was 4.3 months, with 61% male. 85% of these children were followed for two years. At discharge, 40% had at least a moderate disability, and at 2 years 44% had moderate and 19% severe disabilities. The main neurological disabilities were 35% neurodevelopmental (such as difficulties with language and speech, motor skills, behavior, memory, and learning), 33% hyperactivity disorder, and 31% epilepsy.

Wear KR, Li S.

Guideline review: RCPCH perplexing presentations, fabricated or induced illness in children guidance 2021.

Arch Dis Child Educ Pract Ed. 2022 Aug;107(4):288-291.

PMID: [34728544](#)

“The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) outlines guidance and procedures in order to safeguard children who present with perplexing presentations (PP) and fabricated or induced illness (FI). It offers practical advice on how to recognise it, how to manage risk and how to manage these presentations.” Some of the alerting signs include: reported physical, psychological or behavioural symptoms and signs not observed independently; unusual results of investigations; inexplicably poor response to prescribed treatment; characteristics of the child’s illness may be physiologically impossible; and unexplained impairment of child’s daily life, including school attendance and social isolation.

Graber EA, Puchalski A, Magill C, Reynolds S.

Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in a Pediatric Emergency Department: Support for Trauma-Informed Pediatric Emergency Care.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2022 Aug 1;38(8):372-375. PMID:

[35904951](#)

“Five hundred children aged 0 to 17 years were evaluated for ACE exposure in an academic, urban, tertiary-care, pediatric ED... We found that 40.2% had ACE exposure. The most frequently reported ACEs were poverty (20.8%), divorce/separation (18.2%), and mental illness within the household (7.2%). Adverse childhood experience exposure in this pediatric ED was similar to the national prevalence. There was no significant relationship between ACE exposure and high ED recidivism [multiple ED visits] as an adverse outcome.”

Langevin R, Hébert M, Kern A.

Maternal History of Child Sexual Abuse and Maladaptive Outcomes in Sexually Abused Children: The Role of Maternal Mental Health.

J Interpers Violence. 2022 Aug;37(15-16):NP14485-NP14506.

PMID: [33926300](#)

Of 997 children aged 3-14 years who experienced child sexual abuse (CSA) and their non-offending mothers, “Maternal history of CSA was associated with increased maternal psychological distress, PTSD symptoms, and dissociation following children's disclosure of CSA. In turn, maternal psychological distress and maternal dissociation were associated with increased child internalizing, externalizing, and dissociation symptoms...Clinicians should assess for possible history of CSA in mothers of sexually abused children and determine how best

to support them to cope with the aftermaths of their child's disclosure and with their own traumatic past.”

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Tidmarsh LV, Harrison R, Ravindran D, et. al.

The Influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Pain Management: Mechanisms, Processes, and Trauma-Informed Care.

Front Pain Res (Lausanne). 2022 Jun 10;3:923866. PMID:

[35756908](#)

“This topical review aimed to highlight the role of ACEs in the experience of chronic pain, pain management services, and clinical decision making by: (1) providing an overview of the relationship between ACEs and chronic pain; (2) identifying biopsychosocial mechanisms through which ACEs may increase risk of persistent pain; (3) highlighting the impact of ACEs on patient adherence and completion of pain management treatment; and (4) providing practical clinical implications for pain management.”

Yoon CY, Mason SM, Loth K, Jacobs DR Jr.

Adverse childhood experiences and disordered eating among middle-aged adults: Findings from the coronary artery risk development in young adults study.

Prev Med. 2022 Jul 1;107:124. PMID: [35787840](#)

From a study of 3340 adults aged 32-46, disordered eating behaviors (DEB - concerns about weight and shape, anxiety about eating or food, unhealthy weight control behaviors, chronic dieting, overeating, and binge eating) were associated with ACE score in a stepwise manner.”

Polick CS, Polick SR, Stoddard SA.

Relationships between childhood trauma and multiple sclerosis: A systematic review.

J Psychosom Res. 2022 Jun 25;160:110981. PMID: [35779440](#)

From a research review, “Twelve studies examined relationships between any ACE(s) and the prevalence or physical clinical features of MS. There was considerable variance in the measurement of stressors, confounders, and categorization of MS; however most studies (n = 10) demonstrated an association between ACEs and MS.”

Alsubaie MA, Alkhalifah HA, Ali AH, et. al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Their Effect on Irritable Bowel Syndrome Among Saudi Arabian Adults.

Cureus. 2022 Jun 9;14(6):e25791. PMID: [35812574](#)

Of 196 Saudi Arabian patients (56.7% female) seen for irritable bowel syndrome, “The prevalence of ACEs was 63.3%. The most prevalent type was emotional abuse (34.9%), followed by both physical abuse and emotional neglect (28.4%). Females reported significantly more ACEs than males. Overall IBS symptoms and abdominal pain severity were significantly correlated with total ACEs score.”

Kuzminskaite E, Vinkers CH, Milaneschi Y, et. al.

Childhood trauma and its impact on depressive and anxiety symptomatology in adulthood: A 6-year longitudinal study.

J Affect Disord. 2022 Sep 1;312:322-330. PMID: [35760192](#)

From a study of Dutch adults, “Individuals with CT [childhood trauma], especially severe CT, compared to those without CT, had significantly higher scores in overall depressive symptomatology. Differences were lower, but still highly significant for anxiety, worry, and fear/phobic symptomatology. Effects were consistent across CT types and maintained over six years...Screening for CT is essential to identify individuals at risk for more severe and chronic manifestations of affective disorders.”

Betz LT, Rosen M, Salokangas RKR, Kambeitz J.

Disentangling the impact of childhood abuse and neglect on depressive affect in adulthood.

J Affect Disord. 2022 Jul 23:S0165-0327(22)00810-2. PMID: [35882299](#)

Using data from two different US midlife surveys, “Emotional abuse, particularly its more subjective components such as reactions to and appraisal of the abuse, emerged as the strongest predictors of adult depressive symptoms...Our findings corroborate the strong role of subjective experience in childhood maltreatment-related psychopathology across the lifespan.”

Henkhaus LE.

The lasting consequences of childhood sexual abuse on human capital and economic well-being.

Health Econ. 2022 Sep;31(9):1954-1972. PMID: [35815810](#)

Using US national longitudinal survey data, the author measured negative effects of childhood sexual abuse on education and labor market outcomes, controlling for socioeconomic status and other childhood maltreatment, showing robust negative effects. These effects were similar for males and females, as well as for sexual abuse from a caregiver or non-caregiver. “Results suggest that childhood sexual abuse leads to a 36%–41% greater

likelihood of high school dropout, 17%–24% lower likelihood of Bachelor's degree attainment, 6%–8% lower likelihood of full-time employment, and 13%–19% lower earnings in young adulthood...aggregate productivity loss due to childhood sexual abuse totals roughly \$38 billion to \$44 billion each year.”

Adolescents

Herbenick D, Fu TC, Eastman-Mueller H, et. al.

Frequency, Method, Intensity, and Health Sequelae of Sexual Choking Among U.S. Undergraduate and Graduate Students.

Arch Sex Behav. 2022 Aug;51(6):3121-3139. PMID: [35902430](#)

“A total of 4254 randomly sampled students (2668 undergraduate, 1576 graduate) completed a confidential online survey during Spring 2021. Among undergraduates, 37.1% had ever choked someone (26.7% women, 47.4% men) and 42.1% had ever been choked (57.6% women, 25.4% men); among graduate students 27.6% had ever choked someone (16.2% women, 37.7% men) and 32.1% had ever been choked (41.3% women, 23.5% men). The mean age of first choking/being choked was about 19. Women and transgender/gender non-binary participants were significantly more likely to have been choked than men. Participants more often reported the use of hands compared to limbs or ligature. Common responses to being choked were pleasurable sensations/euphoria (81.7%), a head rush (43.8%), feeling like they could not breathe (43.0%), difficulty swallowing (38.9%), unable to speak (37.6%), and watery eyes (37.2%). About 15% had noticed neck bruising and 3% had lost consciousness from being choked.”

Lim L, Khor CC.

Examining the common and specific grey matter abnormalities in childhood maltreatment and peer victimisation.

BJPsych Open. 2022 Jul 12;8(4):e132. PMID: [35817782](#)

For 105 age and gender-matched youth aged 17-21 years, while both childhood maltreatment and peer victimization showed brain changes in areas common to both – involving cognitive control (allows for information processing and behavior to adapt moment to moment), emotion, and sensory processing (organizes input from the 5 senses from the body and external world) – the changes were different and specific to maltreatment and peer victimization. This “suggests that peer victimisation, particularly cyberbullying, could be as detrimental as childhood maltreatment.”

Musicaro RM, Langer DA.

Applying shared decision-making to screening for trauma and adversity in youth.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022 Jun 28;131:105762. PMID: [35777339](#)

“Despite significant support for widespread adversity screening, and many guidelines on how to conduct such screening, successful implementation has lagged behind enthusiasm. This paper outlines the challenges of adversity screening and then proposes applying the shared decision-making (SDM) model to improve adversity screening by increasing youths' 1) engagement in adversity screening if doing so is appropriate for them, and 2) disclosure of honest information during screens. Using an SDM approach honors youth preferences and perspectives.”

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Wallace ME.

Trends in Pregnancy-Associated Homicide, United States, 2020.

Am J Public Health. 2022 Jul 7:e1-e4. PMID: [35797500](#)

Comparing US data 2018, 2019 and 2020, “Pregnancy-associated homicide substantially increased in 2020...There were 5.23 pregnancy-associated homicides per 100 000 live births in 2020, a notable increase from previous years. Rates were highest among adolescents and non-Hispanic Black women. Eighty percent of incidents involved firearms. The risk of homicide was 35% greater for pregnant and postpartum women than for their nonpregnant, nonpostpartum counterparts, who did not experience as large an increase from previous years.”

Skafida V, Morrison F, Devaney J.

Intimate partner violence and child maltreatment in Scotland - Insights from nationally representative longitudinal survey data.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022 Jul 15;132:105784. PMID: [35849873](#)

From a Scottish national survey of parents and children, “In homes with a long-term abusive partner, children are more likely to have been smacked/slapped by the father (odds ratio 1.91), mother (OR 1.84), and both parents (OR 2.31). Maternal IPV frequency and intensity was incrementally associated with children's odds of being smacked/slapped (OR range 1.47-1.70).”

Whitten T, Green MJ, Tzoumakis S, et. al.

Early developmental vulnerabilities following exposure to domestic violence and abuse (DVA): Findings from an Australian population cohort record linkage study.

J Psychiatr Res. 2022 Jul 6;153:223-228. PMID: [35841818](#)

Comparing Australian police records of children exposed to DVA as either a victim or witness with school entry data, children exposed to DVA showed developmental difficulties with all 5 domains of school functioning, with girls showing significantly worse development in communication skills and general knowledge than boys. “Findings hold important implications for policy regarding the early intervention and implementation of support services for young children exposed to DVA.”

Roy J, Williamson E, Pitt K, et. al.

'It felt like there was always someone there for us': Supporting children affected by domestic violence and abuse who are identified by general practice.

Health Soc Care Community. 2022 Jan;30(1):165-174. PMID: [33963618](#)

UK authors describe a training intervention for general practices to identify and support children and young people exposed to IPV, barriers at the patient and professional level, and benefits to the children who were referred to support services.

Rengasamy ER, Long SA, Rees SC, et. al.

Impact of COVID-19 lockdown: Domestic and child abuse in Bridgend.

Child Abuse Negl. 2022 Aug;130(Pt 1):105386. PMID: [34789382](#)

Using Welsh data 23rd March to 30th September 2020 compared to one year prior, there was a 190% increase in self-referral for DV but a 36% decrease in police referral for DV. Regarding child abuse, there was a 198% increase in friend/family referral, 67% decrease in child protection medical examinations, and a significant decrease in referrals from schools.

Moore G, Buckley K, Howarth E, et. al.

Police referrals for domestic abuse before and during the first COVID-19 lockdown: An analysis of routine data from one specialist service in South Wales.

J Public Health (Oxf). 2022 Jun 27;44(2):e252-e259. PMID: [34568944](#)

Comparing police referrals to a domestic abuse service in South Wales before and during early covid lockdown, while there was little increase in overall volume, the proportion of those at high risk level increased. In addition, there was a significant increase in referrals called in by children “suggesting increased exposure of children to domestic abuse during school closure.”

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Rowlands S.

Interference with and abuses of sexual and reproductive health and rights: a new proposal for classification and terminology.

Eur J Contracept Reprod Health Care. 2022 Jun 28:1-7. PMID: [35762967](#)

“This opinion paper proposes a classification for the many and varied types of interference with, and abuse of, sexual and reproductive health and rights. There are a range of abuses including denial of access to services, control, pressure, threats, coercion and violence...When does pressure become coercion and coercion become abuse?...Abuses are categorised sociologically, according to micro [individuals, families], meso [institutions, communities], and macro [nations] levels of influence. Many types of behaviour at meso and macro level contain elements of racism. It is concluded that the term reproductive coercion and abuse should refer only to micro level behaviour. Healthcare professionals should ascertain that no practices that could be considered abusive are taking place in their workplace.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Wemrell M.

Stories of Backlash in Interviews With Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Sweden.

Violence Against Women. 2022 Jul 11:10778012221088312. PMID: [35816435](#)

“Despite high gender equality ratings, Sweden shows a high prevalence of intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW). Suggested factors underlying this apparent paradox include backlash effects against women’s empowerment.” From interviews with 23 IPVAW survivors, this study explores backlash against education, income, work, independence, freedom of movement, appearance and behavior, speaking back, resisting violence, drawing a limit, and help-seeking.

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Unwin BK MD, Stubbs SL MD, D'Heron H BSW.

Assisting Adult Protective Services in Addressing Maltreatment in Older Adults.

Am Fam Physician. 2022 Jul;106(1):96-99. PMID: [35839353](#)

In this case scenario, APS has asked a family physician for a medical assessment of their elder patient who is found wandering in the neighborhood. Authors go over physician responsibilities to both the patient and APS, including medication review, physical and cognitive function assessment, anticipated prognosis, and recommendations for health care, keeping in mind the possibility for abuse or neglect.

TABLE 2

Undiagnosed Conditions in Maltreatment Cases in Older Adults

Diagnostic finding	Prevalence rate (%)	Associated category of elder maltreatment	Assessment tools
Dementia	62	Caregiver neglect Financial exploitation Self-neglect	Cognitive testing Mini-Mental State Examination, ⁶ Saint Louis University Mental Status Examination, ⁷ Montreal Cognitive Assessment ⁸ Laboratory testing Complete blood count, comprehensive metabolic panel, vitamin B ₁₂ /folate, thyroid-stimulating hormone, thiamine, others as indicated Imaging Noncontrast brain magnetic resonance imaging or noncontrast head computed tomography
Depression	37	—	Geriatric Depression Scale ⁹ or Patient Health Questionnaire-9 ¹⁰
Hypertension	36	—	—
Weight loss	34	—	—
Pain	32	—	—
Falling	26	—	Timed Up and Go test; ¹¹ 30-Second Chair Stand (five times) ¹²
Limited food access	25	—	—
Incontinence	23	Caregiver neglect (both sexes)	—
Sensory impairment	22	Caregiver neglect	Routine vision and hearing assessment
Diabetes mellitus	16	—	—
Substance and alcohol use	10	Physical abuse	Tobacco, alcohol, prescription medication, and other substance use screening tools ¹³
Impaired capacity	NA	All types (e.g., driving, financial, legal, medical)	Aid to Capacity Evaluation (ACE) Tool ¹⁴
Physical abuse	8	Physical abuse	Geriatric Injury Documentation Tool ¹⁵

NA = not available.
Information from references 2 and 5-15.

Hirt J, Adlbrecht L, Heinrich S, Zeller A.

Staff-to-resident abuse in nursing homes: a scoping review.

BMC Geriatr. 2022 Jul 6;22(1):563. PMID: [35794542](#)

This review revealed inconsistent definitions of and evaluated factors for staff-to-resident abuse in nursing homes, making prevalence difficult to assess – ranging from 0% to 93%. Despite this abuse being considered unacceptable, it was underreported. There were only 4 studies looking at prevention and recommended interventions, including staff education and organizational culture.

Sexual Assault

Danan ER, Brunner J, Bergman A, et. al.

The Relationship Between Sexual Assault History and Cervical Cancer Screening Completion Among Women Veterans in the Veterans Health Administration.

J Womens Health (Larchmt). 2022 Jul;31(7):1040-1047.

PMID: [35049381](#)

Using 2015 data from 12 VA facilities, “The sample included 1049 women, of whom 58.7% reported lifetime sexual assault. Women with a history of sexual assault were more likely to report a high level of distress related to pelvic examinations, and to report ever delaying a gynecologic examination due to distress. However, in the final adjusted model, lifetime sexual assault was not significantly associated with reduced odds of cervical cancer screening completion.”

Blackburn K, Grubb LK, Vargas G.

Sexual violence experiences among adolescent and young adult males: a review to empower healthcare providers.

Curr Opin Pediatr. 2022 Aug 1;34(4):297-305. PMID:

[35836391](#)

“Despite 3-17% of adolescent and young adult males (AYAMs) experiencing sexual violence, there is a paucity of information regarding their sexual violence experiences...After reviewing AYAMs' experiences of sexual violence, including risk and protective factors, media influences, detrimental sequelae, and resilience factors, we provide a screening framework to empower the healthcare provider (HCP) to champion tailored prevention, screening, intervention, and advocacy efforts to support AYAMs.

Carey DS, Sumstine S, Amabile C, et. al.

Student-Athletes', Coaches', and Administrators' Perspectives of Sexual Violence Prevention on Three Campuses with National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I and II Athletic Programs.

J Interpers Violence. 2022 Jul;37(13-14):NP10565-NP10593.

PMID: [35259318](#)

From in-depth interviews with college student-athletes and athletic directors, “Student-athletes associated sexual violence with alcohol in their relationships with peers and asymmetrical power dynamics in relationships with coaches and faculty. Athletes felt strong connections with teammates and sports programs but isolated from the larger campus. This created barriers to students' use of services and the likelihood of reporting sexual violence. Athletes felt the mandatory sexual violence prevention training, including additional

NCAA components, were ineffective and offered to protect the university and its athletic programs from legal complications. Student-athletes were uncomfortable disclosing information regarding relationships and sexual violence to coaches and preferred peer-led prevention approaches.”

Human Trafficking

Gallo M, Thinyane H, Teufel J.

Community Health Centers and Sentinel Surveillance of Human Trafficking in the United States.

Public Health Rep. 2022 Jul-Aug;137(1_suppl):23S-29S. PMID:

[35775918](#)

“Researchers, policy makers, and survivors have promoted reframing human trafficking, which is traditionally perceived as a law enforcement issue, as a public health issue...A sentinel surveillance system comprises a network of strategically located nodes (or sentinel sites) where the probability of detecting a condition of interest is higher than average...Federally qualified health centers, which include community health centers (CHCs) that serve medically underserved areas throughout the United States...overlap with the most common risk factors for human trafficking...Many CHCs are better equipped than other health care settings to provide resources to trafficked people because of multilingual staff members, case management systems, transportation services, environmental risk reduction, outreach activities, and legal assistance.”

Jain J, Bennett M, Bailey MD, et. al.

Creating a Collaborative Trauma-Informed Interdisciplinary Citywide Victim Services Model Focused on Health Care for Survivors of Human Trafficking.

Public Health Rep. 2022 Jul-Aug;137(1_suppl):30S-37S. PMID:

[35775914](#)

“We describe 2 citywide collaborative victim services models...funded in part by the Office for Victims of Crime, which focus on trauma-informed health care delivery for victims of human trafficking...Key lessons include the importance of a citywide needs assessment, patient navigators, interdisciplinary care, and building community partnerships to ensure safe housing, transportation, identification, health insurance, vocation services, input from survivors, peer-to-peer mentorship, and medical-legal services.”

Schroeder E, Edgemon TG, Aletraris L, et. al.
A Review of Prevalence Estimation Methods for Human Trafficking Populations.
Public Health Rep. 2022 Jul-Aug;137(1_suppl):46S-52S. PMID: [35775907](#)

Because trafficked people are mostly hidden from view, and are not randomly distributed in the general population, this paper reviews how prevalence methods used for hard-to-reach populations can be used to measure the prevalence of human trafficking.

LGBTQ Concerns

Carvalho SA, Guiomar R.
Self-Compassion and Mental Health in Sexual and Gender Minority People: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.
LGBT Health. 2022 Jul;9(5):287-302. PMID: [35357950](#)

This research review “suggests that self-compassion is significantly associated with mental health indicators in sexual and gender minority people ...higher levels of self-compassion were associated with less depression, anxiety, psychological distress, suicidal ideation, internalized homophobia/transphobia, and stigma, and with more well-being, outness, and social support... affirmative mental health care may benefit from promoting self-compassion.”

Race/Cultural Concerns

Wakeman SE, Bryant A, Harrison N.
Redefining Child Protection: Addressing the Harms of Structural Racism and Punitive Approaches for Birthing People, Dyads, and Families Affected by Substance Use.
Obstet Gynecol. 2022 Aug 1;140(2):167-173. PMID: [35852265](#)

“Black people and their newborns are more likely to be drug tested in medical settings, and Black newborns are more likely to be reported to child welfare services. Child welfare models often focus on substance use as being the dominant issue that drives risk for abuse or neglect of a child...We suggest changes to law, institutional policy, clinical care, and ideology...realigning around shared goals of supporting the birthing person-infant dyad and recognizing that substance use is not synonymous with abuse or neglect.”

Phillippe M.
Telomeres, oxidative stress, and timing for spontaneous term and preterm labor.
Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2022 Aug;227(2):148-162. PMID: [35460626](#)

Telomeres are complexes located at the ends of chromosomes. In adults, progressive telomere shortening occurs throughout the lifetime and is thought to contribute to progressive cell aging, and eventual cell death. Authors provide evidence to support the biological plausibility that a telomere-based clock mechanism in the placenta and fetal membranes also determines the length of gestation, leading to the onset of labor. “In the United States, African-American women have a 2-3-fold higher rate of preterm birth. African-American women have multiple risk factors for premature birth, all of which are distinct and potentially additive with regard to epigenetic telomere shortening...this would not only explain the preterm birth disparity but could also explain why highly educated, affluent African-American women continue to have an increased rate of preterm birth.”

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM).
#62: Best practices in equitable care delivery-Addressing systemic racism and other social determinants of health as causes of obstetrical disparities.
Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2022 Aug;227(2):B44-B59. PMID: [35378098](#)

“Focusing primarily on disparities between Black and White individuals born in the United States, this document reviews the effects of social determinants of health and systemic racism on reproductive health outcomes, and recommends multilevel approaches to mitigate disparities in obstetrical outcomes.” This thorough review includes multiple tables/figures outlining the root causes of problems, with lists of recommendations.

Bossick AS, Bossick NR, Callegari LS, et. al.
Experiences of racism and postpartum depression symptoms, care-seeking, and diagnosis.
Arch Womens Ment Health. 2022 Aug;25(4):717-727. PMID: [35504987](#)

Using data from 11 states and New York City 2015-2017, emotional upset due to racism in the 12 months prior to delivery was associated with significant increases in postpartum depressive symptoms among postpartum people of color.

Guglielminotti J, Samari G, Friedman AM, et. al.
Nurse workforce diversity and reduced risk of severe adverse maternal outcomes.
 Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM. 2022 Jul 10:100689. PMID: [35830955](#)

Using 2017 birth certificate data, births with severe adverse maternal outcomes (eclampsia, blood transfusion, hysterectomy, or intensive care unit admission) for each state were compared to proportions of minoritized racial and ethnic registered nurses in each state. After adjustment for various factors, giving birth in states with the highest proportion of minoritized nurses was associated with a reduced risk of severe adverse outcomes as follows: 32% for White mothers, 20% for Black mothers, and 50% for Asian and Pacific Islander mothers. Results were not statistically significant for Native American mothers.

Perpetrators

Comes-Fayos J, Romero-Martínez Á, et. al.
Hormonal Profile in Response to an Empathic Induction Task in Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence: Oxytocin/Testosterone Ratio and Social Cognition.
 Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Jun 27;19(13):7897. PMID: [35805556](#)

“Empathy deficits have been proposed to be an important factor for intimate partner violence (IPV).” Comparing results for 12 Spanish IPV perpetrators and 12 controls after an empathy task, IPV perpetrators, and particularly those with low perspective-taking (understanding a situation from another’s point of view), had lower total and changes in oxytocin levels (the “tend and befriend” hormone), and higher testosterone levels.

Police and Court Systems

Singh JK, Duncan TK.
Examining the Domestic Violence Crisis in Ventura County in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
 Am Surg. 2022 Jun 26:3134822111509. PMID: [35757933](#)

Comparing data pre-covid with that during the pandemic at one Family Justice Center, there was a significant decrease in initial service requests. The most reported issues were 1.26 times increase in physical abuse, and 2.45 times increase in stalking. The most requested service was for a restraining order (72.4%).

Stefanska EB, Longpré N, Harriman RS.
The Wheel of Change Moves On: Assessing the Severity of Stalking Behavior.
 J Interpers Violence. 2022 Aug;37(15-16):NP14672-NP14694. PMID: [33966536](#)

From a review of 924 cases from the national stalking hotline, 16 stalking behavioral items “best represented the severity of stalking. Unwanted communication behaviors such as text messages and phone calls were located at the lower end of the severity scale, whereas criminal damage and death threats were mapped on the higher end of the continuum...The findings of the present study provide many implications for stalking agency professionals and criminal justice responses.”

Youngson N, Saxton M, Jaffe PG, et. al.
Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Research to Real-World Practice: The Devil Is in the Implementation.
 Violence Vict. 2022 Aug 1;37(4):425-440. PMID: [35613886](#)

“Although there is growing information about the reliability and validity of a variety of risk assessment tools across different practice contexts, there is a paucity of research on the feasibility and application of these tools in real world settings. The present qualitative study examined current practices in domestic violence risk assessment in Canada through a survey of professionals working across diverse sectors.”

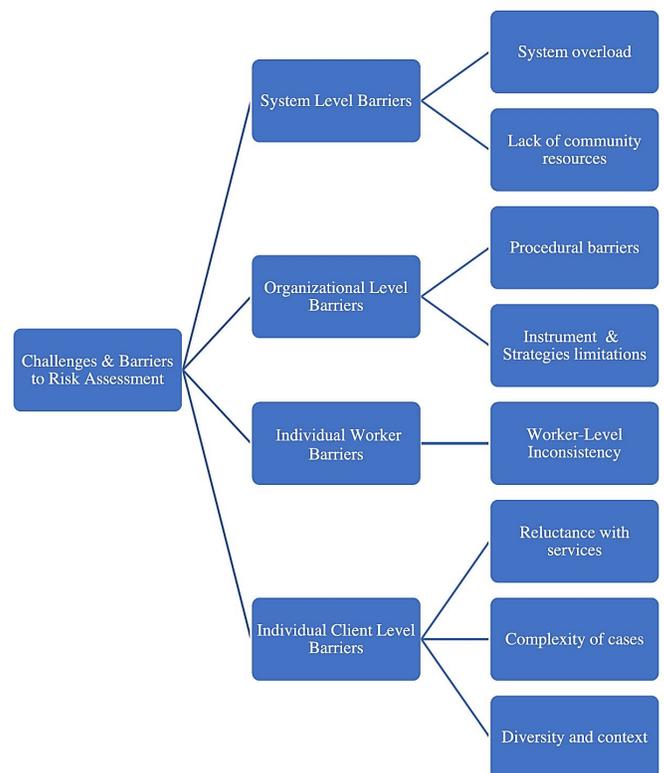


FIGURE 1. Challenges and barriers to risk assessment.

Providers

Maercker A, Cloitre M, Bachem R, et. al.

Complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

Lancet. 2022 Jul 2;400(10345):60-72. PMID: [35780794](#)

“Complex PTSD has been adopted as a new diagnosis in the ICD-11. Individuals with complex PTSD typically have sustained or multiple exposures to trauma, such as childhood abuse and domestic or community violence. The disorder has a 1-8% population prevalence and up to 50% prevalence in mental health facilities. Progress in diagnostics, assessment, and differentiation from post-traumatic stress disorder and borderline personality disorder is reported, along with assessment and treatment of children and adolescents.”

O'Hara MA, Swerdin HR, Botash AS.

Expanding Trauma-Informed Care to Telemedicine: Brief Report From Child Abuse Medical Professionals.

Clin Pediatr (Phila). 2022 Jul 21:99228221111233. PMID: [35864730](#)

“The aim of this report is to offer insights regarding the application of key principles of trauma-informed care when telemedicine is used, and to inform future guidelines for optimal trauma-informed telemedicine for pediatricians caring for children with trauma and adversity...Issues of safety, examination concerns, and confidentiality are key variables to deter telemedicine visits.”

Walsh K, Eggins E, Hine L, et. al.

Child protection training for professionals to improve reporting of child abuse and neglect.

Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2022 Jul 5;7:CD011775. PMID: [35788913](#)

A Cochrane Database review did not find conclusive evidence from existing studies on training outcomes for professionals regarding child protection. “Considering the many professional groups with reporting duties, we strongly recommend further research to assess the effectiveness of training interventions, with a wider range of child-serving professionals.”

Shimkhada R, Miller J, Magnan E, et. al.

Policy Considerations for Routine Screening for Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs).

J Am Board Fam Med. 2022 Jul-Aug;35(4):862-866. PMID: [35896468](#)

“In this health policy article, we describe key issues under debate with regards to ACEs screening and estimate potential change in screening utilization and expenditures due to the new ACEs legislation in

California...A trauma-informed system to conduct screenings includes properly training providers to conduct and discuss screening, sufficient time to conduct the screening and discuss the health risks of these past (or current, for children) traumas, knowledge about services available to address ACEs, and the ability to refer patients to proper follow-up care if needed. Without these elements, screening risks offering no benefit to the patients.”

Elvey R, Mason T, Whittaker W.

A hospital-based independent domestic violence advisor service: demand and response during the Covid-19 pandemic.

BMC Health Serv Res. 2022 Jul 5;22(1):865. PMID: [35790985](#)

“The hospital-based IDVAs (independent domestic violence advisors) provided an efficient, flexible service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Referrals increased during the first lockdown and subsequent relaxing of restrictions. Locating the IDVAs within a team working across the organisation, and building good working relationships facilitated an effective disclosure and referral route, which endured through social restrictions.”

Fleury-Steiner R, Miller SL, Camphausen LC, et. al.

Online Guidance for Domestic Violence Survivors and Service Providers: A COVID-19 Content Analysis.

Violence Against Women. 2022 Jul 7:10778012221092469. PMID: [35799497](#)

“A content analysis of 80 national and state/territorial coalition websites was performed in June 2020. COVID-19 information was available on 84% of websites...COVID-19 and social distancing measures implemented to control it diminished help-seeking in unique ways. Greater online access to information and resources may be needed to address changing needs of survivors during disasters and emergencies.”

Whiting JB, Davies BN, Eisert BC, Witting AB, Anderson SR.

Online Conversations About Abuse: Responses to IPV Survivors from Support Communities.

J Fam Violence. 2022 Jul 22:1-11. PMID: [35891985](#)

In a review of Reddit responses to an online IPV group, responses included support, sharing experiences, and sharing information, and were overwhelmingly positive in their tone and content. “Online forums may help bridge the gap between survivors and resources.”

Prevention

Pazderka H, Reeson M, Polzin W, et. al.

Five year cost savings of a multimodal treatment program for child sexual abuse (CSA): a social return on investment study.

BMC Health Serv Res. 2022 Jul 9;22(1):892. PMID: [35810283](#)
Specialized mental health services for the treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) are generally expensive and labour intensive that may involve multiple services and therapeutic modalities, provided over the course of several months...Our analyses suggest that each dollar spent in treatment results in an average cost savings of \$11.60. The largest value-for-money was identified as the avoidance of events associated with the long-term impacts of CSA. Somewhat surprisingly, savings related to the area of criminal justice were minimal.”

Elam KK, Johnson SL, Ruof A, et. al.

Examining the influence of adversity, family contexts, and a family-based intervention on parent/child telomere length.

Eur J Psychotraumatol. 2022 Jun 30;13(1):2088935. PMID: [35789082](#)
“Exposure to adversity, trauma, and negative family environments can prematurely shorten telomeres, the protective caps at the ends of chromosomes [which are a measurement of cellular aging]. Conversely, some evidence indicates that positive environments and psychosocial interventions can buffer the shortening of telomere length (TL).”
Parents and adolescents from a sample of divorced families participated in either a family-based New Beginnings Programme (NBP), or an active control. Approximately six years after the intervention, the family-based intervention was associated with longer TL in parents. Also, positive parenting was associated with longer TL in children.

Thulin EJ, Lee DB, Eisman AB, et. al.

Longitudinal effects of Youth Empowerment Solutions: Preventing youth aggression and increasing prosocial behavior.

Am J Community Psychol. 2022 Jan 20:10.1002/ajcp.12577. PMID: [35050518](#)
“Among 329 middle school students, YES [Youth Empowerment Solutions] participation enhanced prosocial behaviors through empowerment, and directly reduced aggressive behaviors a year after the conclusion of the program. This trend was particularly pronounced for African American youth. These effects were found after controlling for age, sex, and behavioral outcomes at baseline, and across different schools and teachers, suggesting that YES can also be sustainable and readily implemented by communities.”

Kaufman KL, Lee DS, Milroy JJ, Raj A.

Introduction - The Prevention of Sexual Violence in Sport.
J Interpers Violence. 2022 Jul;37(13-14):NP10451-NP10458. PMID: [35465747](#)

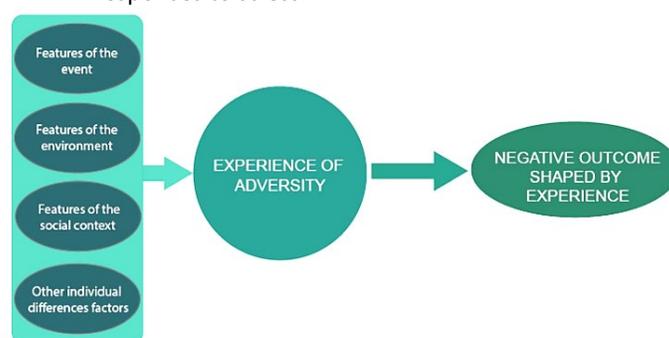
This Special Issue focuses on the theory of prevention of sport-related sexual violence, identifies critical gaps in the literature, features a number of cutting-edge prevention studies, and provides a practically oriented investigation into policy.

Researchers

Smith KE, Pollak SD.

Early life stress and neural development: Implications for understanding the developmental effects of COVID-19.

Cogn Affect Behav Neurosci. 2022 Aug;22(4):643-654. PMID: [33891280](#)
Authors propose a new model of early life stress, oriented on children's perceptions of their environment and their social relationships, rather than specific events. These factors influence central and peripheral nervous system development, changing how children interpret, adapt, and respond to potentially stressful events, with implications for children's mental and physical health outcomes...Incorporating assessment of factors that shift perceptions of stress, including predictability, controllability, and perceived safety, has promise towards illuminating the underlying mechanisms supporting variability in children's responses to stress.”



Blachman-Demner DR, Tyus NC.

Efforts to advance NIH-funded behavioral and social sciences research on structural racism and health.

Transl Behav Med. 2022 Jul 18;12(7):775-780. PMID: [35640244](#)
“A range of initiatives from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) focused on structural racism and health equity are discussed and opportunities and gaps for future research are identified.”

Schroeder K, Dumenci L, Sarwer DB, et. al.

The Intersection of Neighborhood Environment and Adverse Childhood Experiences: Methods for Creation of a Neighborhood ACEs Index.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Jun 25;19(13):7819.

PMID: [35805478](#)

“This study evaluated methods for creating a neighborhood adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) index, a composite measure that captures the association between neighborhood environment characteristics (e.g., crime, healthcare access) and individual-level ACEs exposure, for a particular population. A neighborhood ACEs index can help understand and address neighborhood-level influences on health.”

Giabbanelli PJ, Rice KL, Galgoczy MC, et. al.

Pathways to suicide or collections of vicious cycles? Understanding the complexity of suicide through causal mapping.

Soc Netw Anal Min. 2022 Jun 15;12(1):1-21. PMID: [35845751](#)

“Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth ages 10-19 in the USA...We use the methodology of systems mapping to structure the complex interrelationships of suicide and ACEs based on the perceptions of fifteen subject matter experts...Our map is the largest to date on ACEs and suicide among youth, totaling 361 concepts and 946 interrelationships. Using a previously developed open-source software to navigate the map, we are able to explore how trauma may be perpetuated through familial, social, and historical concepts. In particular, we identify connections and pathways between ACEs and youth suicide that have not been identified in prior research, and which are of particular interest for youth suicide prevention.”

Other of Interest

Seeholzer EL, Santiago M, Thomas C, et. al.

Prevalence of Social Determinants of Health Among Health System Employees.

J Prim Care Community Health. 2022 Jan-

Dec;13:21501319221113956. PMID: [35850615](#)

From a survey at MetroHealth in Cleveland, Ohio, “Of 4191 full-time employees, 46% completed the survey. The percentage of employees at risk for each social determinant were: food insecurity (11%), financial strain (12%), transportation difficulty (4%), inability to pay for housing or utilities (10%), intimate partner violence (4%), social isolation (48%), infrequent physical activity (10%), daily stress (58%), and lack of internet access (3%).

Being at risk for specific social determinants was more common among support staff compared to staff physicians and nurses. For example, the survey participants included 436 administrative support staff, a job category that includes secretaries and patient service representatives. Among this group, 20% reported food insecurity, 20% financial strain, and 17% inability to pay for housing or utilities...Social determinants of health are common among health system employees, especially among workers in lower paid job categories. Health systems should routinely screen employees for social determinants and adjust salaries, benefits, and assistance programs to address their social needs.”

Eberly LA, Julien H, South EC, et. al.

Association Between Community-Level Violent Crime and Cardiovascular Mortality in Chicago: A Longitudinal Analysis.

J Am Heart Assoc. 2022 Jul 19;11(14):e025168. PMID:

[35861831](#)

“We investigated whether longitudinal changes in violent crime rates are associated with changes in cardiovascular mortality rates at the community level in one large US city-Chicago, IL...a 1% decrease in community area violent crime rate was associated with a 0.21% decrease in cardiovascular mortality rates and a 0.19% decrease in coronary artery disease mortality rates. There was no statistically significant association between change in violent crime and stroke mortality rates.

Nutbeam M, Mereish EH.

Negative Attitudes and Beliefs Toward the #MeToo Movement on Twitter.

J Interpers Violence. 2022 Aug;37(15-16):NP13018-NP13044.

PMID: [33752498](#)

From an analysis of 4559 tweets with #MeToo over a 4 day period, 508 were negative. Negative beliefs and attitudes were conveyed through six main themes: (1) invalidating the accusations made as part of the #MeToo Movement; (2) insisting, and likely believing, that accusations made were false; (3) claiming that there were alternative motives for those accusations; (4) showing a concern for the harm that accusations may cause those accused; (5) exhibiting concerns about the effects of the Movement on male power, privilege, and status; and (6) questioning the integrity of the #MeToo Movement as a whole.”