

# ABUSE RESEARCH

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## Child Abuse

Egge MK.

### Medical Child Abuse: A Review by Subspecialty.

Adv Pediatr. 2023;70(1):59-80. PMID: [37422298](#)

“Medical child abuse (MCA), formerly called Munchausen syndrome by proxy, occurs when a caregiver, usually the mother, falsifies or exaggerates symptoms resulting in harm to a child through inappropriate medical care. MCA is underrecognized, underreported, and results in significant morbidity and mortality. Pediatrics subspecialists should consider MCA when unusual disease presentations do not respond to traditional treatments. This article reviews the more common diagnoses encountered in MCA cases by specialty.”

#### Box 1: Core concepts

- Is there concern for overmedicalization and harm of child?
- Multidisciplinary conference, include primary care in open discussion with goal to prevent further harm.
- Questions to answer in case review
  - Have symptoms been observed by medical staff or outside observer?
  - Are there multiple/multisystem diagnoses/problems that have no unifying theme or objective support?
  - Has the response to appropriate treatment been poor or variable?
  - Was there a third or fourth opinion obtained when consensus was established? (ie, doctor shopping)
  - Does the caregiver insist on invasive tests or procedures?
  - Would observation in the hospital be useful?
- Objective chart review by child abuse specialist?

Canty KW, DeRidder CA.

### Burns in Children: Accidental or Inflicted?

Adv Pediatr. 2023 Aug;70(1):45-57. PMID: [37422297](#)

“Abusive burns are associated with increased morbidity and mortality compared with accidental burns. A comprehensive history is essential to distinguish between accidental and abusive burns and should always include questions regarding the child’s developmental capabilities. Determination of the mechanism of injury requires a multidisciplinary investigation such as a scene investigation by a social worker and/or law enforcement. When

abusive burns are suspected, consideration of concurrent injury is important, and depending on the child’s age, it may require evaluation for occult fractures, intracranial injury, and intraabdominal injury.”

Gasteratos K, McCarthy M, Chatziathanasiou D, et al.

### A Systematic Review of Pediatric Nonaccidental Burns: Protecting the Children Through Knowledge, Vigilance, and Prevention.

Ann Plast Surg. 2023 Jun 1;90(6):551-558. PMID: [37157138](#)

In this research review, the most common mechanism for pediatric nonaccidental burns was scalds via forced immersion. Complications included wound infection and sepsis, requiring systemic antibiotics or intensive care.

Evans S, Farnell DJJ, Carson-Stevens A, Kemp A.

### Survey of practices for documenting evidence of bruises from physical abuse during child protection proceedings.

BMJ paediatrics open. 2023;7(1). PMID: [37491132](#)

From a survey of British child protection committees with an 84% response rate, “paediatricians always or usually record bruise size (87%), site (96%), shape (68%) and colour (77%); 22% stated that they ‘always’ used a ranking system for likelihood of abuse; 35% ‘sometimes’ estimated the size of the bruise. Results showed that paediatric bruise reporting is inconsistent and incomplete for some fields compared with national guidance.”

Crumm CE, Brown ECB, Vora SB, et al.

### The Impact of an Emergency Department Bruising Pathway on Disparities in Child Abuse Evaluation.

Pediatr Emerg Care. 2023 Aug 1;39(8):580-585. PMID: [37391189](#)

Using data pre and post establishing an ED child bruising protocol, children without private insurance were at higher risk of a CPS and law enforcement report before the protocol was in place. “A standardized clinical pathway for identification and evaluation of high-risk bruising may help to decrease socioeconomic disparities in reporting high-risk bruising.”

Attridge MM, Heffernan ME, Bendelow A, et al.  
**Adverse childhood experiences, child behavioral health needs, and family characteristics associated with the presence of a firearm in the home.**

Injury epidemiology. 2023;10(Suppl 1):35. PMID: [37488578](#)  
From a survey of Chicago parents, 22.0% reported having a firearm in the home. Children with 2+ ACEs, compared to 0 ACEs, were 5.16 times more likely to live in a home with a firearm, and children who had used behavioral health services were 2.10 times more likely. "These findings are particularly important in the context of injury prevention...and could inform future public health interventions and targeted safe storage messaging."

Andresen S.  
**Testimonies about child sexual abuse in the family. Challenges of addressing the private sphere.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106352. PMID: [37478733](#)  
From a German independent inquiry on child sexual abuse within families, and analyzing 870 survivors' testimonies, 47% named fathers and stepfathers as perpetrators, 9% named the mother or stepmother, and 11 % biological siblings. In addition, there were mentions of extended family members, and multiple family members either acting as co-perpetrators or accomplices. Characteristics of the abuse included "1. The planned and violent approach of the perpetrators, either through explicit threats and physical attacks or through manipulative strategies; 2. The abuse of dependency relationships through affection and tenderness or their targeted withdrawal; 3. The involvement and entanglement of family members and the family environment through relationships with the perpetrator; 4. The lack of contact persons for affected children, adolescents, and adults, as well as frequent lack of help when they confided in someone."

Attrash-Najjar A, Tener D, Katz C.  
**"One Day It Will Be Over, and You Will See Other Landscapes. . . You Are Not Alone": Adult Survivors' Messages to Children Undergoing Child Sexual Abuse.**  
J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231178496. PMID: [37431742](#)

"371 written testimonies were provided to the Israeli Independent Public Inquiry on CSA...Although survivors were from diverse backgrounds, their messages to abused children were consistent...The results revealed five main messages emphasized by survivors to children experiencing CSA: (a) transferring the responsibility and guilt from children to perpetrators and society; (b) turning toward the light and continuing on; (c) disclosure is essential; (d) a happy life is possible; and (e)

together we can survive...the survivors' desire to be there for the children emphasized the urgent need to promote the perception of survivors as key stakeholders in the field of child abuse and to integrate their experiences and perceptions into the formal and informal systems for children."

## Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Swedo EA, Aslam MV, Dahlberg LL, et al.  
**Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among U.S. Adults - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2020.**

MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2023;72(26):707-15. PMID: [37384554](#)

From a CDC report of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, "Overall, 63.9% of U.S. adults reported at least one ACE, and 17.3% reported four or more ACEs. Experiencing four or more ACEs was most common among females (19.2%), adults aged 25-34 years (25.2%), non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native adults (32.4%), non-Hispanic multiracial adults (31.5%), adults with less than a high school education (20.5%), and those who were unemployed (25.8%) or unable to work (28.8%). Prevalence of experiencing four or more ACEs varied substantially across jurisdictions, from 11.9% (New Jersey) to 22.7% (Oregon)."

Bhutta ZA, Bhavnani S, Betancourt TS, Tomlinson M, Patel V.  
**Adverse childhood experiences and lifelong health.**  
Nat Med. 2023;29(7):1639-48. PMID: [37464047](#)

"In this Review, we discuss the key mechanisms linking ACEs to health outcomes and consider promising strategies to prevent and mitigate their effects, highlighting evidence from programs in low-income and middle-income countries. Finally, we emphasize the need for early recognition of ACEs and delivery of packages of interventions spanning key sectors such as health, education, women's empowerment, and social protection."

Ditzer J, Wong EY, Modi RN, Behnke M, Gross JJ, Talmon A.  
**Child maltreatment and alexithymia: A meta-analysis.**  
Psychol Bull. 2023 May-Jun;149(5-6):311-329. PMID: [37261746](#)

From a research review that combined 36,141 participants, alexithymia, difficulty identifying and describing one's emotions, was associated with childhood maltreatment, especially emotional abuse and emotional/physical neglect.

Kisely S, Siskind D, Scott JG, Najman JM.

**Self-reported child maltreatment and cardiometabolic risk in 30-year-old adults.**

Intern Med J. 2023 Jul;53(7):1121-1130. PMID: [35607779](#)

Of 1689 adults born in a major metropolitan maternity hospital in Australia and followed up 30 years later, "One-fifth reported maltreatment (n = 362), most commonly emotional neglect (n = 175), followed by emotional abuse (n = 128), physical neglect (n = 123), sexual (n = 121) and physical abuse (n = 116)...On adjusted analyses, there were significant associations for child maltreatment, particularly neglect or emotional abuse, and one or more of the following outcomes: obesity, the total cholesterol/high-density lipoprotein cholesterol ratio, and HDL levels."

Adkins-Jackson PB, George KM, Besser LM, et al.

**The structural and social determinants of Alzheimer's disease related dementias.**

Alzheimers Dement. 2023 Jul;19(7):3171-3185. PMID: [37074203](#)

"Health and its associated outcomes are never individually centered but are products of exposure to certain risk factors in varying magnitude, from cells to cities, from neurons to nations...This narrative review provides a broad illustration for the potential relationships between the structural and social determinants of health and Alzheimers Disease and related dementias."

Foti TR, Watson C, Adams SR, et al.

**Associations between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Prenatal Mental Health and Substance Use.**

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(13). PMID: [37444136](#)

In this Kaiser Northern California study of 1084 pregnant women average age 30.8 years, "Patients with 1-2 ACEs or ≥3 ACEs (versus 0 ACEs) had higher odds of anxiety and depressive disorders, depressive symptoms, IPV, and any prenatal substance use...particularly in the context of low resilience, highlighting the importance of trauma-informed prenatal care and the need to study resilience-building interventions during pregnancy."

Bourdon M, Antoine V, Combes U, et al.

**Severe pelvic pain is associated with sexual abuse experienced during childhood and/or adolescence irrespective of the presence of endometriosis.**

Hum Reprod. 2023 Aug 1;38(8):1499-1508. PMID: [37308317](#)

Of 271 women seen at a Paris pelvic pain center and who underwent surgical exploration, while there was no association between child/adolescent sexual abuse and endometriosis, there was an association with at least one severe pelvic pain symptom.

Goeckenjan M, Veta-Darkowski J, Gabrys M, et al.

**Life-time experience of violence as a risk factor for symptomatic endometriosis.**

J Psychosom Obstet Gynaecol. 2023;44(1):2240007. PMID: [37493247](#)

Of 118 women seen at an Endometriosis center, 34.8% reported some type of lifetime experiences of violence, which had a significant impact on the course and severity of endometriosis. Women who reported violence had a significantly higher risk for severe menstrual cramps, use of pain medication, and other medical and mental health conditions in comparison to women without life-time experiences of violence. They also had significant differences in employment status and impaired working ability. "However, only 17.1% of women recalled being asked about violence by a medical professional... highlight the importance of healthcare providers to be aware of the potential impact of violence on women's health, and routine screening for violence in medical care."

## Adolescents

Rau T, Mayer S, Allroggen M.

**[Traumatic Experiences and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder of Adolescents in Boarding Schools].**

Praxis der Kinderpsychologie und Kinderpsychiatrie. 2023;72(5):446-65. PMID: [37455576](#)

In this article in German, authors analyze data from 155 adolescents, 70% male, who had been in boarding school for an average of 3.26 years. 69.7% reported a traumatic experience while in school, and 33.5% met criteria for PTSD. Authors recommend screening procedures to identify traumatic experiences, and a need for further research on traumatic experiences directly related to boarding school.

Wang J, Harrer S, Zwald ML, et al.

**Association of Recent Violence Encounters With Suicidal Ideation Among Adolescents With Depression.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Mar 1;6(3):e231190. PMID: [36862413](#)

From a large national database, among adolescents with depression, persons who experienced past-year violence encounters showed a higher rate of suicidal ideation than those who had not (27.5% vs. 13.5%). "These findings highlight the importance of identifying and accounting for past violence encounters when treating adolescents with depression to reduce risk of suicide."

Allwood MA, Robinson JN, Kim H.

**Youth Exposure to Gun, Knife, and Physical Assaults: Assessing PTSD Symptoms Across Types of Assaults, Race, Ethnicity, Sex, and Context.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231185300. PMID: [37409648](#)

“Of 910 racially and ethnically diverse adolescents and young adults from an urban commuter college in the Northeast US...Men reported significantly more physical assaults, gun victimizations, and knife victimizations than women. Black participants reported significantly more gun victimization than all other groups, and Black, White, and Asian participants reported significantly more physical assault than Latinx participants. Individuals victimized by physical assault or by gun victimization were more than twice as likely to report clinically significant PTSD symptoms...community gun victimization, which disproportionately impacts Black men, was the only context in which PTSD symptoms were highest for men compared to women...clinical practice must include...the various ways that distress might manifest among men. In addition to symptoms of PTSD, other symptoms of distress, including substance use, anger, and retaliatory aggression, should be considered.”

De Sousa D, Paradis A, Fernet M, Couture S, Fortin A.  
**"I felt imprisoned": A qualitative exploration of controlling behaviors in adolescent and emerging adult dating relationships.**

J Adolesc. 2023;95(5):907-21. PMID: [37005707](#)

First dating relationships can elicit intense emotions that youth may attempt to alleviate by using control tactics that negatively impact the quality of their relationship and their partner's well-being.” Interviews with 39 Canadian adolescents “revealed three categories of control tactics, including isolation, domination, and emotional manipulation...Educational programs can help ...youth in identifying unhealthy relationship dynamics and providing them with tools to either safely end the relationship or communicate their concerns with their partner.”

Diedrick M, Clements-Nolle K, Anderson M, Yang W.  
**Adverse childhood experiences and clustering of high-risk behaviors among high school students.**

Public Health. 2023;221:39-45. PMID: [37393751](#)

A random sample of Nevada high school students were evaluated for high-risk behavioral domains including (1) violence behaviors, (2) suicidal indicators, (3) non-suicidal self-injury, (4) substance use, (5) high-risk sexual behaviors, (6) poor diet, (7) physical inactivity, and (8) high screen time.

“More than 40% of the sampled students reported high-risk behaviors across two or more domains. There was a strong, graded relationship between cumulative ACE score and the count of high-risk behavior domains.”

## Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Hartwell M, Keener A, Robling K, et al.

**Associations of intimate partner violence and maternal comorbidities: a cross-sectional analysis of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System.**

J Osteopath Med. 2023 Mar 22;123(8):405-410. PMID: [36943903](#)

Using a database of pregnant women 2016-2019, only 50% of women were screened during pregnancy for IPV. “More than 40% of women experiencing IPV reported a history of depression or anxiety. The occurrence of IPV was higher among women with depression (adjusted odds ratio 3.48), anxiety (AOR 2.98), hypertension (AOR 1.21), and asthma (AOR 1.37).”

Wei X, Wang W, Law YW, Zhang H.

**The Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence on Postpartum Depression: An Updated Meta-Analysis.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2023;15248380231188068. PMID: [37480328](#)

From a research review, “IPV and its subtypes had statistically significant impacts on PPD [postpartum depression] (overall: OR = 2.50, physical: OR = 2.31, psychological: OR = 2.22, sexual: OR = 1.75). A higher impact of IPV on PPD was observed in middle- and low-income regions (OR = 3.01) than in high-income regions (OR = 1.92). IPV during pregnancy (OR = 2.73) had a greater impact on PPD than lifetime IPV (OR = 2.24).

Brühl A, Ward CL, Lachman JM, et al.

**Co-Occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence Against Mothers and Maltreatment of Their Children With Behavioral Problems in Eastern Europe.**

Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231188090. PMID: [37475529](#)

For 813 Eastern European mothers with children with behavioral problems, “IPV was reported by 64% of mothers, CM [child maltreatment] by 96%, and their co-occurrence by 63%. Mothers exposed to emotional IPV reported more physical and emotional CM.”

Gregory K, Fingarson A, Pierce MC, et al.  
**Examining Cases of Child Physical Abuse Evaluations to Identify Opportunities to Improve Intimate Partner Violence Screening in Pediatric Emergency Departments.**  
J Interpers Violence. 2023 Jul 8;8862605231182379. PMID: [37421199](#)

From a retrospective chart review at an urban pediatric ED, of 329 children who were evaluated for possible child physical abuse, caregiver responses to IPV screening revealed that social work screening produced significantly more positive IPV disclosures than initial nurse triage screening (14.0% vs. 4.3%). “These results highlight the benefits of IPV screening by social work in high-risk scenarios, such as child PA evaluations, regardless of universal IPV screening results. Exploring differences between the two screening methods can inform decisions about screening protocols to improve IPV identification in high-risk populations.”

## Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Mellar BM, Hashemi L, Selak V, et al.  
**Association Between Women's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Self-reported Health Outcomes in New Zealand.**  
JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Mar 1;6(3):e231311. PMID: [36867408](#)

From a New Zealand 2019 study with 1431 ever-partnered women, mean age 52.2 years, 54.7% reported any lifetime IPV exposure, of whom 58.8% experienced 2 or more IPV types. Compared with all other sociodemographic subgroups, women who reported food insecurity had the highest IPV prevalence (69.9%). Compared with those unexposed to IPV, women who experienced any IPV were more likely to report poor general health (adjusted odds ratio 2.02), recent pain or discomfort (AOR 1.81), recent health care consultation (AOR 1.29), any diagnosed physical health condition (AOR 1.49), and any mental health condition (AOR 2.78).

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Anyango C, Goicolea I, Namatovu F.  
**Women with disabilities' experiences of intimate partner violence: a qualitative study from Sweden.**  
BMC Womens Health. 2023;23(1):381. PMID: [37474929](#)  
“Women with disabilities are almost twice as likely to experience violence compared to men with disabilities or men and women without disabilities. Additionally, they experience higher rates of all types of violence. This increased vulnerability may be due to factors related to disability such as dependence on others for support, mistrust, and social and physical isolation.” From a focus group of Swedish women with disabilities who had experienced IPV, themes included multiple abuse by multiple abusers over time, psychological abuse was harmful but difficult to prove to others, abuse did not end with separation, and different ways that survivors had survived the relationship.

Arrondo G, Osorio A, Magallón S, et al.  
**Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder as a risk factor for being involved in IPV and sexual violence.**  
Psychol Med. 2023;1-10. PMID: [37485948](#)  
From a research review, “Analyses showed a higher risk of ADHD individuals being involved in IPV as perpetrators (six studies, OR 2.5) or victims (four studies, OR 1.78). Likewise, individuals with ADHD were at increased risk of being perpetrators (three studies, OR 2.73) or victims of sexual violence (six studies, OR 1.84)...Although the causal path or mediating variables for these results are still unclear, this increased risk should inform evidence-based psychoeducation with individuals with ADHD, their families, and partners about romantic relationships and sexuality.”

Krause-Utz A, Černáková R, Hoogenboom W, et al.  
**Psychological Factors Linked to Intimate Partner Violence and Childhood Maltreatment: On Dissociation as a Possible Bridge Symptom.**  
J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231181377. PMID: [37431756](#)

From a survey of 434 adults, 40% of whom were in treatment for mental health issues, “IPV was associated with dissociation [a mental process where a person disconnects from their thoughts, feelings, memories or sense of identity], which indirectly linked it to childhood maltreatment experiences, PTSD symptoms, withdrawal, and self-blame...IPV perpetration and victimization often co-occur. Dissociation may be an important bridge symptom, linking IPV to childhood maltreatment experiences, PTSD symptoms, and maladaptive coping.”

# Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Baldwin P.

## Government Programs Aimed to Stop Elder Abuse.

Sr Care Pharm. 2023;38(8):346-7. PMID: [37496167](#)

Brief listing of US government agencies with programs relating to elder abuse. [Administration for Community Living](#), [Administration on Aging](#), [National Center for Elder Abuse](#), [Office for Victims of Crime](#).

Chung EKH, Yeung DY.

## Reducing older people's risk of fraud victimization through an anti-scam board game.

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2023:1-18. PMID: [37489649](#)

In this small study of 55 elders, playing an educational anti-scam board game showed “significant increases in their self-efficacy in fraud prevention and awareness of scam situations, and a significant decrease in perceived susceptibility to scams immediately and two weeks after the intervention.”

# Sexual Assault

Alpert E, Baier AL, Galovski TE.

## Psychiatric Issues in Women Veterans.

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2023;46(3):621-33. PMID: [37500255](#)

“Women veterans have unique life experiences and mental health needs, perhaps in part related to their high rates of exposure to traumatic events including military sexual trauma, combat trauma, and intimate partner violence. We review mental health difficulties among women veterans and describe related functional impairment. Evidence-based treatments are available, but barriers to care remain, including providers' lack of awareness of the unique needs of women veterans.” Free online provider training resources: [Center for Deployment Psychology](#) and [The Training Institute at Home Base](#)

Hancock KP, Daigle LE.

## Polyvictimization and Academic Performance: Findings From a National-Level Study of College Students.

Violence Vict. 2023;38(3):307-27. PMID: [37348962](#)

From a large survey of US college students regarding polyvictimization (i.e., sexual, violent, and stalking- in the last 12 months), “polyvictims' grade point averages are lower than nonpolyvictims and

polyvictims have higher odds of having their academic performance suffer connected to a variety of factors (mental health, physical health, and substance use). Students who experienced three types of victimization (compared to fewer) had the highest odds of having their academic performance harmed.”

# Human Trafficking

Shekhar AC, Macias-Konstantopoulos W.

## Human Trafficking and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Prehospital and disaster medicine. 2023:1-3. PMID:

[37403463](#)

Authors summarize the relevance of human trafficking to prehospital emergency care, best practices for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed ties to human trafficking, and outline future directions for education and research.

Conley AH, Carlyle KE, Cuddeback G, Kornstein SG.

## Working with Survivors of Sex Trafficking: Mental Health Implications.

Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2023;46(3):597-606. PMID:

[37500253](#)

“Sex trafficking survivors experience significant physical, emotional, and sexual trauma that places them at increased risk of poor health outcomes...Medical professionals should be familiar with screening protocols for trafficking and evidence based, trauma-informed mental health treatment interventions,” as well as coordination with law enforcement and social services.

### Box 2

#### Clinics care points

##### 1. Legal aid

Trauma-informed legal aid includes providing clear, understandable, and developmentally appropriate information on the victim's rights that validate their status as a victim of exploitation rather than a criminal or an accomplice.<sup>44</sup> The victim should not be pressured into pressing charges and the offer of legal aid should not be contingent upon their cooperation to prosecute. Legal aid is most often needed to help navigate immigration status, prosecute against the trafficker, and claim compensation.<sup>44</sup>

##### 2. Accommodation

Safe and secure accommodation is an important component of aftercare for trafficking survivors. Service providers should maintain up to date resources and referrals for safe and secure accommodations, including emergency shelters, transit homes, rehabilitation centers, long-term shelters, and foster care if working with minors. Accommodations should not further traumatize survivors, or violate their rights to privacy, freedom of movement, and/or access to family and/or the community. Accommodations should honor and support culture, religion, age, gender, and dietary needs.

##### 3. Medical care

Trafficking survivors often have complex medical needs and need access to both general practitioners and medical and dental specialists. Trauma-informed medical care should include age-appropriate, literacy-sensitive language provided in a cultural- and gender-sensitive manner. Medical care should be patient-centered and coordinated wherever possible.

##### 4. Psychosocial care

Psychosocial care should begin as soon as possible and follow an individualized treatment plan. Trafficking survivors should be empowered to give input to their treatment plan and be continuously reevaluated collaboratively. Treatment teams will likely include individual and group counseling if the victim is staying in a shelter or group home, addiction specialists, psychotherapy and psychiatric care. All members of the treatment team (including interpreters) should be trained in trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate care.

# LGBTQ Concerns

Feil K, Riedl D, Böttcher B, et al.

## Higher Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Transgender Than in Cisgender Individuals: Results from a Single-Center Observational Study.

Journal of clinical medicine. 2023;12(13). PMID: [37445536](#)

Of 35 transgender adults with matched cisgender controls, transgender adults had higher ACE score (2.4 vs. 0.7), 4+ ACEs (28.6% vs. 5.7%), higher prevalence of depression (48.4% vs. 5.7%), posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms (59.4% vs. 13.8%), and anxiety (58.1% vs. 28.6%). For the transgender group, the most common forms of ACEs were parental abuse (54.3%) and peer abuse (54.3%). No significantly increased prevalence of sexual abuse was found.

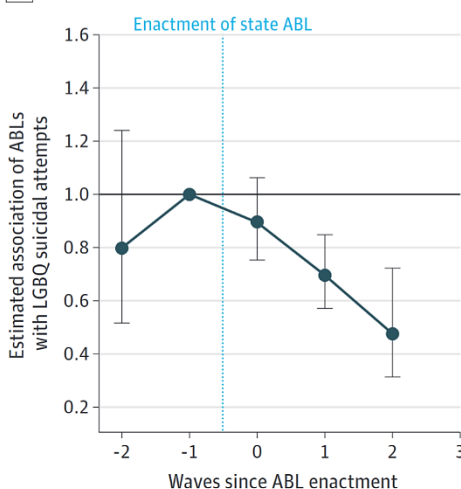
Liang Y, Rees DJ, Sabia JJ, Smiley C.

## Association Between State Antibullying Policies and Suicidal Behaviors Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Youth.

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 May 1;177(5):534-536. PMID: [36877505](#)

"In an attempt to reduce bullying, states have enacted anti-bullying laws (ABLs), which require school districts to provide teachers with training to recognize bullying, impose graduated sanctions on perpetrators, and improve monitoring of bullying incidents." Using national survey data, "The prevalence of whether a student seriously considered attempting suicide, made a suicide plan, and attempted suicide was higher for LGBQ-identifying students compared with heterosexual-identifying students. Among all LGBQ-identifying students, ABL adoption was associated with a 25.0% reduction in the odds of planning suicide and a 27.9% reduction in the odds of attempting suicide."

A Suicide attempts

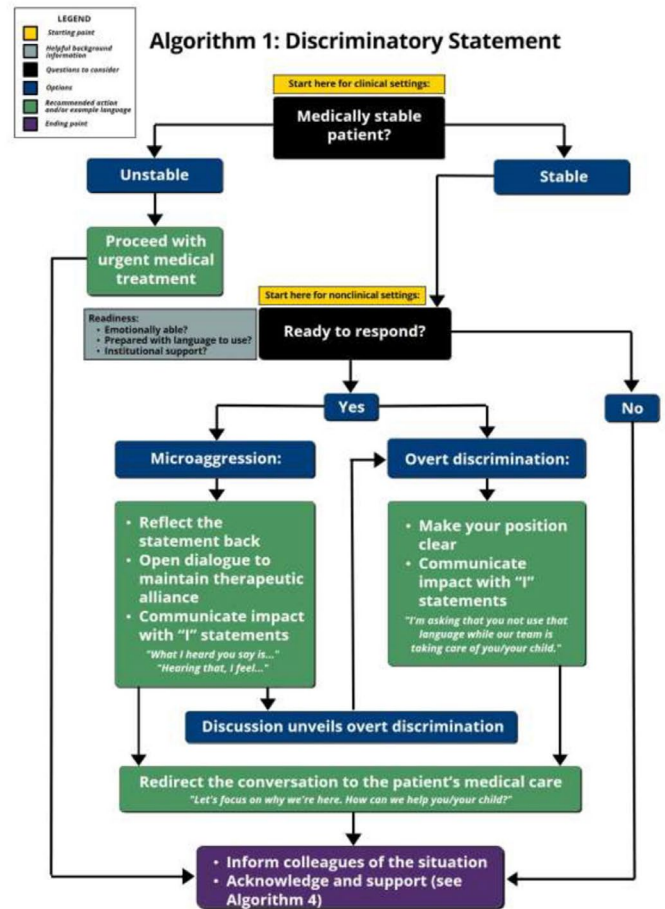


# Race/Cultural Concerns

Rubenstein J, Rahiem S, Nelapati SS, et al.

## Discrimination 911: A Novel Response Framework to Teach Bystanders to Become Upstanders When Facing Microaggressions.

Acad Med. 2023 Jul 1;98(7):800-804. PMID: [36795599](#)



Brown CE, Marshall AR, Snyder CR, et al.

## Perspectives About Racism and Patient-Clinician Communication Among Black Adults With Serious Illness.

JAMA network open. 2023;6(7):e2321746. PMID: [37405773](#)

From interviews with 25 Black patients, mean age 62.0 years, with serious illness/end of life hospitalized at one academic medical center in Washington State, "participants reported high levels of medical mistrust and high frequency of discrimination and microaggressions experienced in health care settings [including] silencing of their own knowledge and lived experiences about their bodies and illness by health care workers. Participants reported that these experiences made them feel isolated and devalued...were associated with exacerbation of existing medical mistrust and poor patient-clinician communication."

Alegría M, Alvarez K, Cheng M, Falgas-Bague I.  
**Recent Advances on Social Determinants of Mental Health: Looking Fast Forward.**

Am J Psychiatry. 2023;180(7):473-82. PMID: [37392038](#)  
Authors review new knowledge about the importance of social determinants of health and their impact on mental health outcomes, including social conditions (e.g., food insecurity, housing instability), traumas associated with immigration, racism and minoritization, as well as psychosocial and community strengths.

Agarwal S, Wade AN, Mbanya JC, et al.  
**The role of structural racism and geographical inequity in diabetes outcomes.**

Lancet. 2023;402(10397):235-49. PMID: [37356447](#)  
Authors review categories of social determinants of health with known effects on diabetes outcomes, including public awareness and policy, economic development, access to high-quality care, innovations in diabetes management, and sociocultural norms, through the lens of structural racism and geographical inequity.

Gray KD, Subramaniam HL, Huang ES.  
**Effects of Racial Bias in Pulse Oximetry on Children and How to Address Algorithmic Bias in Clinical Medicine.**

JAMA Pediatr. 2023 May 1;177(5):459-460. PMID: [36939724](#)  
Of 774 children who underwent cardiac catheterization and had measured arterial blood oxygen levels matched within a minute with an external pulse oximeter, of those children with true low oxygen levels (<88% saturation), 12% of Black or African American patients vs 4% of White patients had external pulse oximeter levels suggesting normal oxygen levels. "Values suggest that pulse oximetry overestimated arterial oxygen saturation in children of Black or African American race. The discrepancy has been attributed to light absorption properties of melanin."

Helton JJ, Asher BlackDeer A, Banks KH, et al.  
**Racial Discrimination of Adolescents With Special Healthcare Needs.**

J Adolesc Health. 2023;73(2):383-6. PMID: [37140518](#)  
From a large national children's health survey, "Adolescents of color with SHCNs [special health care needs] were almost twice as likely to experience racial discrimination as peers of color without SHCNs. Asian youth with SHCNs were over 3.5 times likely to experience racial discrimination as peers without SHCNs. Youth with depression experienced highest rates of racial discrimination. Compared to peers without SHCNs, Black youth with asthma or a genetic disorder, and Hispanic youth

with autism or intellectual disabilities, experienced higher rates of racial discrimination."

## Perpetrators

Alexander EF, Johnson MD.  
**On categorizing intimate partner violence: A systematic review of exploratory clustering and classification studies.**

J Fam Psychol. 2023 Aug;37(5):743-752. PMID: [36892924](#)  
"Many theorists have proposed that intimate partner violence (IPV) is not one homogeneous phenomenon but instead has several distinct types." Theories include some perpetrators' violence as stemming from a desire to control, from emotional dysregulation, personality profiles, by severity of violence, and variety of violent acts. "Inconsistency across studies calls into question the validity of existing typologies and the certainty with which typologies are described by researchers and practitioners. Therefore, we recommend caution in using a categorical approach to IPV."

Lievesley R, Harper CA, Swaby H, Woodward E.  
**Identifying and working with appropriate treatment targets with people who are sexually attracted to children.**

J Sex Marital Ther. 2023;49(5):497-516. PMID: [36522827](#)  
"Research has shown that people within society experience sexual attractions to children, and a substantial number of these seek support related to this. However, professional practices around working with minor-attracted persons are variable. Clinicians possess low levels of knowledge about this population and are unclear about the correct treatment goals...We offer recommendations about how professionals might work collaboratively and effectively with this population."

Lila M, Gilchrist G.  
**Treatment Resistant Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence: Research Advances.**

Interv Psicosoc. 2023;32(2):55-8. PMID: [37383643](#)  
"Major challenges hamper the effectiveness of intervention programs for IPV perpetrators, the most important of which include high dropout rates, low motivation to change, high levels of denial, minimization of responsibility, victim blaming, and dealing with high-risk and highly resistant participants...In this special issue we aim to better understand the therapeutic needs, risk factors, and treatment resistance in IPV perpetrators to provide evidence-based responses to improve intervention programs."



de Roos MS, Oliver C, Carré JR, Jones DN.

**Mimicry Deception Theory applied to sexual abuse of children.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;143:106339. PMID: [37406466](#)

From an analysis of US court appeal cases of child sexual abuse, authors suggest that Mimicry Deception Theory (Victim Selection, Community Integration, Complexity of Deception, Resource Extraction, and Detectability) can be useful in determining reasons for delayed or non-disclosure and conflicting emotions on the part of the survivor, as well as “how repeat offenders were likely to use the exact same methods of access, grooming, and remaining undetected across victims.”

Schittek A, Roskam I, Mikolajczak M.

**Parental burnout and borderline personality stand out to predict child maltreatment.**

Scientific reports. 2023;13(1):12153. PMID: [37500720](#)

“Parental burnout is a severe disorder resulting from the exposure to chronic stress in the parental role, that can translate into neglectful and violent parental behaviors towards the offspring.” In this study of 1003 parents, looking at multiple predictors of child abuse potential, “When all predictors are entered together in the model, violence and neglect towards the offspring are best predicted by borderline personality and parental burnout...These results emphasize the importance of preventing parental burnout and supporting parents with borderline personality.”

## Police and Court Systems

Campbell R, Engleton J, Gregory K, et al.

**“It made me feel like someone wasn’t doing their job: Sexual Assault Kit Victim Notifications and Institutional Betrayal by the Criminal Legal System.**

J Trauma Dissociation. 2023 Jul 4:1-14. PMID: [37401798](#)

When known stockpiles of previously untested rape kits are finally tested possibly years later, sexual assault survivors receive “victim notification”. This study discusses “how survivors reacted to this de facto admission of an institutional betrayal and the emotions they felt during and after the notification. Participants experienced considerable emotional distress (e.g. PTSD, anxiety, fear), anger and betrayal, and hope after they were recontacted by the police. Implications for making victim notifications more trauma informed are discussed.”

## Providers

AbiNader MA.

**“It Makes you Want to Go Out and Change the World”: Shifts in Victim Advocates' Perspectives Following the Intimate Partner Homicide of a Client in the United States.**

J Fam Violence. 2023:1-10. PMID: [37358977](#)

From interviews with 9 advocates who had experienced intimate partner homicide (IPH) of one of their clients, “Exposure to IPH changed participants' perception of their role, how they defined client, and how they interacted with future clients. At a macro-level, the IPH of a client motivated advocates to advance changes in agency protocol, multisector responses, and state policy based on what they had learned from the IPH. Opportunities to translate shifts in their worldview into tangible changes to protocol and policy were critical to advocate adjustment after the IPH. In order to support advocates after IPH, organizations should acknowledge the potentially transformative effect of IPH and create opportunities for meaning making to assist in advocate adjustment.”

Strauch KA.

**A Conceptual Model to Guide Patient-to-Provider Communication of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Primary Care: The PPC-ACE Model.**

ANS Adv Nurs Sci. 2023 Jul-Sep 01;46(3):265-276. PMID: [36083620](#)

“Communicating with adults about childhood adversity is not an innate clinical skill nor is it a routine assessment element...This article presents the development of a conceptual model to guide patient-to-provider communication of adverse childhood experiences in primary care (the PPC-ACE model). This includes a description of the model and its associated foundational elements, underlying assumptions, implications for nursing practice, and opportunities to use this model to guide future ACEs-related research.”

Marans S.

**Understanding and responding early to childhood trauma.**

The International journal of psycho-analysis.

2023;104(3):565-73. PMID: [37410069](#)

Author describes a psychoanalytic approach to children who have experienced trauma.

Wei LC.

**Utilizing Insights on Shame to Enhance Empathy and Support for CSA Survivors in Clinical Practice.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2023;32(5):533-5. PMID: [37194603](#)

“Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) survivors often experience long-lasting shame, which can significantly impede their healing process and overall well-being.” In this letter to the editor, a psychiatrist advocates that by better understanding the dynamics of shame and its relationship with CSA, mental health professionals can provide more empathetic and effective care to their patients, emphasizing the importance “of creating a supportive and safe environment for patients to disclose their experiences and overcome the barriers that shame creates in their journey toward recovery”.

Derck JE, Livingston JD, Zhang A, et al.

**Feasibility and Challenges with Measuring Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.**

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2023;1-4. PMID: [37359462](#)

Of 432 parents of children aged 0-18 years admitted to a single medical-surgical PICU over a one-year period, 92.6% agreed to participate in a 10 question ACE screen. Most parents reported an ACE score of zero (68.9%) while 31% experienced at least 1 ACE, of whom 14.8% experienced  $\geq 2$  ACEs. There was not a statistically significant association between ACE score and length of stay or level of respiratory support in patients with asthma. The primary reasons for not approaching families were parent availability, non-English speaking parents, and social work concerns. This study demonstrates feasibility to collect sensitive psychosocial data in the PICU and highlights challenges to enrollment.”

Arrojo MJ, Bromberg J, Walter HJ, Vernacchio L.

**Pediatric Primary-Care Integrated Behavioral Health: A Framework for Reducing Inequities in Behavioral Health Care and Outcomes for Children.**

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023;70(4):775-89. PMID: [37422314](#)

“Nearly half of US children and adolescents will suffer a behavioral health (BH) disorder, with substantially higher rates among more disadvantaged children such as racial/ethnic minorities, LGBTQ + youth, and poor children. The current specialty pediatric BH workforce is inadequate to meet the need, and the uneven distribution of specialists as well as other barriers to care, such as insurance coverage and systemic racism/bias, further exacerbate disparities in BH care and outcomes. Integrating BH care into the pediatric primary care medical home has the

potential to expand access to BH care and reduce the disparities inherent in the current system.”

## Prevention

Borg LE, Alhusen JL.

**A Review of Factors that Serve to Protect Pregnant and Post-partum Women from Negative Outcomes Associated with Adverse Childhood Experiences.**

Matern Child Health J. 2023 Sep;27(9):1503-1517. PMID: [37294463](#)

From a research review, the presence of social support, personal resiliency, and positive childhood experiences were protective factors against poor mental or physical outcomes associated with experiencing ACEs.

Aschengrau A, Winter MR, Shea MG.

**Association between resilience promotion factors during childhood and risk of drug use disorder during adulthood.**

Addict Subst Abus (Middlel). 2023;2(1):1-10. PMID: [37427318](#)

Of 618 Massachusetts adults followed from birth, “results suggest that the risk of developing criteria for drug use disorder decreases in a dose-response fashion according to the number of “outside” resilience promotion factors during childhood, and that family factors are associated with greater risk reductions than community factors, particularly among individuals with ACEs.”

Beebe R, Fish MC, Grasso D, et al.

**Reducing Family Violence Through Child Welfare Intervention: A Propensity Score-Matched Study of Fathers for Change.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231186121. PMID: [37470201](#)

“Most children referred to child protective services (CPS) have witnessed IPV and are at increased risk for subsequent exposure, as well as repeat maltreatment. For CPS referred children, there is often a missed opportunity to interrupt family violence and prevent future occurrences. Fathers for Change (F4C) is a family level intervention designed to reduce IPV by improving emotion regulation and reflective functioning in fathers.” In a study of F4C fathers vs. a control group, “control fathers were 2.4 times more likely to have a repeat maltreatment report during the 12-month follow-up period than F4C fathers.”

Guterman NB, Bellamy JL, Banman A, et al.

**Engaging fathers to strengthen the impact of early home visitation on physical child abuse risk: Findings from the dads matter-HV randomized controlled trial.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;143:106315. PMID: [37419071](#)

For 204 families with home visitation, “Dads Matter Home Visitation enhancement improved home visitor relationships with fathers, but only for families receiving services initiated postnatally. For these families, the improved quality of the father-worker relationship predicted improved parents' support of one another and reduced bidirectional mother-father partner abuse at 4-month follow-up, which in turn lowered maternal and paternal physical child abuse risk at 12-month follow-up.”

Gross M, Bhagwat A, Cole R.

**Effects of the Nurturing Parenting Program Nurturing Skills for Families on child safety and permanency.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;143:106338. PMID: [37437341](#)

“Many child welfare agencies use the Nurturing Parenting Program Nurturing Skills for Families (NPP) program to strengthen parenting skills. NPP includes a flexible sequence of lessons that are tailored to meet each family's needs.” In a study of 1102 children in Arizona, families who completed NPP were less likely to experience an investigation or have a substantiated investigation 4 months later, and less likely to experience a removal 16 months later. “Additional research is necessary to understand the supports that enable families to complete NPP and the specific components that are particularly effective.”

## Researchers

Francis ER, Tsaligopoulou A, Stock SE, Pingault JB, Baldwin JR.

**Subjective and objective experiences of childhood adversity: a meta-analysis of their agreement and relationships with psychopathology.**

J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2023;64(8):1185-99. PMID: [37186463](#)

From a research review, “we found that subjective and objective measures of childhood adversities were only moderately correlated...subjective measures of childhood adversities were associated with psychopathology, independent of objective measures. In contrast, objective measures of childhood adversities had null or minimal associations with psychopathology...Our findings suggest that the effects of childhood adversity on psychopathology are primarily driven by a person's subjective experience. If this is the case, clinical

interventions targeting memories and cognitive processes surrounding childhood adversity may reduce the risk of psychopathology in exposed individuals.”

Jaen J, Lovett SM, Lajous M, Keyes KM, Stern D.

**Adverse childhood experiences and adult outcomes using a causal framework perspective: Challenges and opportunities.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;143:106328. PMID: [37379730](#)

“The estimation of the effects of ACEs measured in adulthood on adult outcomes comes with methodological challenges, including the control of confounding and possibility of selection bias. It is necessary to be very clear about the causal structure of the exposure-outcome relationship being studied, as well as the temporality of the events, since the identification of the presence of these biases and the correct choice of variables used in the analyses will depend on it. Directed acyclic graphs could be a useful tool for the identification and selection of covariates when studying the impact of ACEs on adult outcomes.”

Allen B, Pistone LF.

**Psychometric evaluation of a single-item screening tool for the presence of problematic sexual behavior among preteen children.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;143:106327. PMID: [37390590](#)

“The newly developed single-item tool appears to offer an efficient, reliable, and valid method of screening preteen children for the presence of problematic sexual behavior.” The tool asks caregivers to report whether, over the past month, the child: “Performs sexual behaviors that are concerning to me.” Possible answers are Not True, Somewhat True, Certainly True.

Sarmiento CA, Wyrwa JM, Chambliss AV, et al.

**Developmental Outcomes Following Abusive Head Trauma in Infancy: A Systematic Review.**

The Journal of head trauma rehabilitation. 2023;38(4):283-93. PMID: [36730957](#)

From a research review on developmental outcomes after infant abusive head trauma, authors note 115 different assessment tools were used. “Developmental outcomes after AHT have been assessed in a manner that limits understanding of how AHT impacts development, as well as the efficacy of interventions intended to improve outcomes. Researchers and clinicians are encouraged to adopt consistent diagnostic and assessment approaches.”

Dufour GK, Senn CY, Jeffrey NK.

**Self-Reports of Sexual Violence Outside of Survey Reference Periods: Implications for Measurement.**

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231182383. PMID: [37431746](#)

“Accurate measurement of sexual violence (SV) victimization is important for informing research, policy, and service provision. Measures that use behaviorally specific language and a specified reference period (e.g., since age 14, over the past 12 months) are considered best practice...The current study explored the extent, nature, and impact on incidence estimates of reference period errors in two large, diverse samples of post-secondary students...Between 8% and 68% of rape and attempted rape victims made reference period errors, with the highest proportion of errors occurring in the survey with the shortest reference period (1 month). These errors caused minor to moderate changes in time period-specific incidence estimates.”

Graham LM, Lloyd AM, McCort AD, et al.

**Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships to Implement and Evaluate Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Programs for Boys and Men.**

Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231185545. PMID: [37501605](#)

“Although male-focused sexual and relationship violence prevention programs are widely promulgated, limited guidance concerning how programs should be implemented for rigorous evaluation exists.” From stakeholder interviews, authors examined “(1) how programs can be designed to engage male participants; and (2) how youth-serving community organizations and educational institutions can partner with researchers for evaluations. Findings underscore the importance of attending to the unique needs of program participants, their parents/guardians, and host organizations.”

Wilbur RE, Gone JP.

**Beyond resilience: A scoping review of Indigenous survivance in the health literature.**

Dev Psychopathol. 2023;1-15. PMID: [37496163](#)

“Health inequity scholars, particularly those engaged with questions of structural and systemic racism, are increasingly vocal about the limitations of resilience...and who are increasingly using the term survivance...Overwhelmingly, authors employed survivance in relation to historical trauma, leading us to propose the analogy: as resilience is to trauma, so survivance is to historical trauma. There may be value in...development of a

unified definition and measurement tool, ensuring comparability across studies and supporting future strengths-based Indigenous health research and practice.”

## Other of Interest

Dreyer BP.

**Achieving Child Health Equity: Policy Solutions.**

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023;70(4):863-83. PMID: [37422319](#)

“Policy solutions to address child health equity, with evidence to support the policies, are presented. Policies address health care, direct financial support to families, nutrition, support for early childhood and brain development, ending family homelessness, making housing and neighborhoods environmentally safe, gun violence prevention, LGBTQ + health equity, and protecting immigrant children and families. Federal, state, and local policies are addressed. Recommendations of the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine and the American Academy of Pediatrics are highlighted when appropriate.”

Ashe JJ, Baker MC, Alvarado CS, Alberti PM.

**Screening for Health-Related Social Needs and Collaboration With External Partners Among US Hospitals.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Aug 1;6(8):e2330228. PMID: [37610754](#)

Of 2858 US hospitals surveyed, most hospitals reported screening for at least one health-related social need (HRSN), most often food insecurity and IPV. Hospitals reported a mean of 4.03 external partnership types to address social determinants of health, and 5.69 partnership types to address HRSNs. “These findings suggest that hospitals’ policy-related organizational decisions hold the promise of progress toward equitable health care delivery.”

Coker TR, Cheng TL, Ybarra M.

**Addressing the Long-term Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Families: A Report From the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.**

JAMA. 2023 Apr 4;329(13):1055-1056. PMID: [36928897](#)

This viewpoint reviews the report on long-term effects of the pandemic on children and families, and includes recommendations to prioritize children and families; address social, emotional, and educational needs; address physical and mental health needs; address economic needs; and support future research and data needs. [Report](#)