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Child Abuse

Weisbrot DM, Carlson GA, Ettinger AB, et al.

Psychiatric Characteristics of Students Who Make Threats Toward Others at School.

J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2023;62(7):764-76.

PMID: [36608740](#)

Of 157 consecutive school-referred youths in grades K-12 between 1998 and 2019, "Mean age of referred students was 13.37 years; 88.5% were male, 79.7% White, 11.6% Hispanic, 10.1% Black, and 2.5% Asian. Of students, 51.6% were receiving special education services. Verbal threat was made by 80%, and 29.3% brought a weapon to school. History included being bullied in 43.4%, traumatic family events in 52.2%, physical abuse in 5.1%, sexual abuse in 5.7%, and verbal abuse in 36.3%. Frequently encountered psychiatric diagnoses were attention-deficit/hyperactivity, learning, depressive, anxiety, and autism spectrum disorders, usually in combinations. History of medication treatment was reported in 50.3% and psychotherapeutic interventions in 36.3%. Recommendations to return the student to their prior schools were made for 63.1%. Recommendations for psychotherapy were made for 79.9%, medication for 88.5%, and both for 70.1%. Therapeutic school setting or psychiatric hospitalization was more likely recommended (with statistical significance) with a prior threat history (odds ratio [OR] 5.47), paranoid symptoms (OR 5.72), autism spectrum disorders (OR 3.45), mood disorder (OR 5.71), personality disorder (OR 9.47), or with psychotherapy recommendation (OR 4.84)."

McGuier EA, Campbell KA, Byrne KA, Shepard LD, Keeshin BR. **Traumatic stress symptoms and PTSD risk in children served by Children's Advocacy Centers.**

Frontiers in psychiatry. 2023;14:1202085. PMID: [37457766](#)

Of 2,350 children screened for PTSD symptoms at children's advocacy centers (CACs) in a single state, 45.5% exhibited symptoms suggestive of PTSD. Brief interventions were delivered to 66% of children, and most were referred to evidence-based trauma

treatment (53.1%) or community mental health services (39.0%). "Many children served by CACs are likely to meet criteria for PTSD at their initial visit...Use of structured screening/referral protocols may improve early identification and treatment access for children experiencing PTSD symptoms."

Poljak Lukek S, Pate T, Gostečnik C.

Physical Violence and Scapegoating Within the Family: An Exploration of Biblical Texts and Contemporary Psychology.

Journal of religion and health. 2023;62(4):2638-55. PMID:

[37170016](#)

Authors discuss the biblical background of the concept of scapegoating, "and highlight two basic dynamics of violence against children in the family: when the child is the 'scapegoat' for unresolved tensions in the family and when the child becomes the 'sacrifice' or victim of the dysregulated emotional response of his or her parents."

Ivanov I, Weber E, Javorsky E.

Fentanyl in an Infant: Taking Our Breath Away.

Cureus. 2023;15(5):e39216. PMID: [37378194](#)

"Pediatric respiratory failure carries a wide differential diagnosis. Toxic ingestion should remain on the differential even at very young ages. There have been increasing reports of fentanyl overdoses among adults; this should be considered for accidental pediatric ingestion, especially considering its high potential for mortality." Authors detail a case report of a 9-month-old who responded to numerous doses of IV naloxone, with labs later positive for fentanyl and cocaine. Ingestions can be seen in child abuse, but also neglect.

De Champlain A, Tremblay-Perreault A, Hébert M.

Gender Differences in Behavioral Problems in Child Victims of Sexual Abuse: Contribution of Self-Blame.

J Child Sex Abus. 2023;32(5):536-53. PMID: [36861736](#)

"Self-blame following the abuse has been identified as a predictor of negative outcomes in adult survivors." In this study of 1066 sexually abused children aged 6-12 years and their non-offending parent, "parents' self-blame was associated with a higher level of self-blame in the child which, in turn, was linked to more child internalizing and externalizing behavior problems...These findings underscore the importance of considering self-blame in interventions."

Macorano E, Gentile M, Stellacci G, et al.

'Compressed Baby Head': A New 'Abusive Head Trauma' Entity?

Children (Basel, Switzerland). 2023;10(6). PMID: [37371236](#)

Authors detail an infant case report of unusual head trauma injuries caused by child abuse, and propose a new entity "compressed baby head" that should be included in the context of Abusive Head Trauma

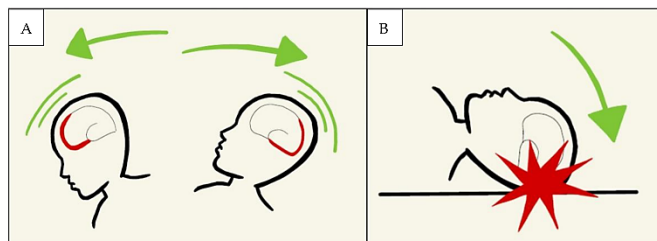


Figure 6. (A) Shaken baby syndrome. (B) Shaken impact syndrome.

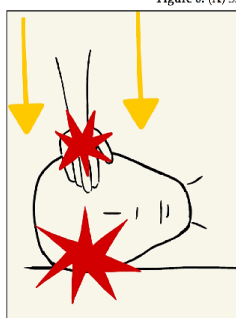


Figure 7. Compressed Baby Head.

Bell CE, Dittborn M, Brierley J.

What is the impact of high-profile end-of-life disputes on paediatric intensive care trainees?

Arch Dis Child. 2023 Sep;108(9):719-724. PMID: [37365006](#)

"This study explores UK paediatric intensive care (PIC) trainees' thoughts and feelings about high-profile end-of-life cases recently featured in the press and social media and the impact on their career intentions...Six main themes were identified: (1) All participants wished to do what was best for the child, feeling conflicted if this meant disagreeing with parents. (2) Interviewees felt unprepared and expressed deep concern about the effect of high-profile cases on their future career; all had reconsidered their training in PIC due to concerns about future high-profile end-of-life disputes, despite this all were still in training. (3) Specific training on the ethical and legal nuances of such cases is required, alongside targeted communication skills. (4). All cases are unique. (5) All had purposefully minimised their social media presence. (6) Working in a supportive environment is crucial, underscoring the importance of clear and unified team communication...Models for supporting trainees and establishing formal PIC training are required to improve trainees' confidence and skills in managing high-profile cases."

Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Mposhi A, Turner JD.

How can early life adversity still exert an effect decades later? A question of timing, tissues and mechanisms.

Front Immunol. 2023;14:1215544. PMID: [37457711](#)

"Exposure to any number of stressors during the first 1000 days from conception to age 2 years is important in shaping an individual's life trajectory of health and disease...early-life exposure to a stressor reduces the capacity of the immune system to generate subsequent generations of cells...leads us to the 'stem cell hypothesis' whereby exposure to adversity during a sensitive period, acts through a common mechanism in all the cell types by programming the tissue resident progenitor cells... This may consequently alter the destiny of these cells, producing the lifelong 'supply' of functionally altered fully differentiated cells."

Jin Y, Song D, Yan Y, Quan Z, Qing H.

The Role of Oxytocin in Early-Life-Stress-Related Neuropsychiatric Disorders.

Int J Mol Sci. 2023;24(13). PMID: [37445607](#)

"Oxytocin is a critical social regulator and anti-inflammatory hormone that modulates stress-related functions and social behaviors and alleviates diseases...we describe the history of oxytocin and its role in neural circuits and related behaviors. We then review abnormalities in the oxytocin system in early-life stress and the functions of oxytocin in treating stress-related neuropsychiatric disorders."

Wittekind DA, Kratzsch J, Mergl R, et al.

Childhood sexual abuse is associated with higher total ghrelin serum levels in adulthood: results from a large, population-based study.

Translational psychiatry. 2023;13(1):219. PMID: [37349303](#)

Ghrelin is a hormone that leads to a feeling of being hungry. It is synthesized in times of stress and food absence, mainly in the stomach, but also brain, small intestine and pancreas. In this large national survey of 1086 adults mean age 57.1 years, women but not men with a history of childhood sexual abuse or also with severe emotional neglect had higher ghrelin levels than those without such history.

Desch J, Bakour C, Mansuri F, Tran D, Schwartz S.

The association between adverse childhood experiences and insomnia symptoms from adolescence to adulthood: Evidence from the Add Health study.

Sleep Health. 2023 Jul 6:S2352-7218(23)00116-X. PMID: [37419708](#)

Using data from a large national long-term study, “Of 12,039 participants, 75.3% experienced at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE) and 14.7% experienced 4 or more. We found specific ACEs, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, parental incarceration, parental alcoholism, foster home placement, and community violence were associated with experiencing insomnia symptoms throughout the entire 22-year follow-up period from adolescence to mid-adulthood, while childhood poverty was only associated with insomnia symptoms in mid-adulthood. The number of ACEs showed a dose-response association with insomnia symptoms in adolescence.”

Matsukura H, Yamaoka Y, Matsuyama Y, Kondo K, Fujiwara T.
Association between adverse childhood experiences and marital status among Japanese older adults.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106340. PMID: [37467673](#)

From a national Japanese survey of functionally independent people aged 65 and above, “Three or more ACEs showed higher risks of being widowed, divorced, or unmarried.” Psychological neglect led to higher divorce risks, and childhood poverty showed higher risks of being unmarried.

Hall K, Stafford J, Cho B.

Women Receive More Positive Reactions to Childhood Sexual Abuse Disclosure and Negative Reactions are Associated With Mental Health Symptoms in Adulthood for Men and Women.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;38(15-16):8803-23. PMID: [36915216](#)

From an online survey of 299 US adults, “Women reported disclosing to a significantly greater number of people than men, and were more likely to disclose to parents, while men were more likely to tell friends. Results revealed that women reported receiving significantly more positive responses and emotionally supportive responses to their CSA disclosures than men. Negative reactions to disclosure were positively associated with internalizing symptoms and externalizing symptoms, while both negative reactions to disclosure and perceived parental dysfunction were positively associated with substance use symptoms. Results signify a need for resources to aid individuals in supporting survivors of CSA, as reactions have the potential to impact recovery trajectory.”

Adolescents

Larson N, Mason SM, Bruening M, et al.

Adverse childhood experiences and food insecurity in emerging adulthood.

Public health nutrition. 2023;1-29. PMID: [37431646](#)

From a survey of 1518 secondary school students in Minneapolis/St. Paul, “The adjusted prevalence of food insecurity was 45.3 % among emerging adults who reported three or more ACE compared with 23.6 % among those with one or two ACE and 15.5 % among those with no ACE...childhood experiences of emotional abuse and substance use by a household member were associated with the largest prevalence differences in food insecurity.”

Li Q, Song S, Xiang G, Fu Z, Zhou Z, Chen H.

The inferior frontal gyrus spontaneous activity mediates the association of early life adversity with self-control ability in late adolescents.

Psychophysiology. 2023;60(8):e14291. PMID: [36951595](#)

In a brain scan study of self-control in 538 Chinese adolescents, “Family unpredictability rather than family harshness of early life adversity was negatively correlated with self-control ability.”

Van Leer-Greenberg M, Hudson LC, Hoenig LJ.

Teenage dating abuse, rape, and violence: The dermatologist's role.

Clinics in dermatology. 2023;41(1):219-22. PMID: [35654362](#)

“Dermatologists have traditionally become involved in these cases when confronted with patients who have unexplained bruising or other skin injuries and/or sexually transmitted diseases that raise the possibility that they could be victims of sexual abuse and violence.” Authors suggest identification and management advice and resources.

Wittenberg MF, Fitzgerald S, Pluhar E.

Depressive symptomatology in pregnant adolescents.

Curr Opin Pediatr. 2023;35(4):415-22. PMID: [36988280](#)

“The prevalence of depressive symptoms is higher among pregnant adolescents relative to nonpregnant adolescents and pregnant adults. Clinicians should screen all pregnant adolescents for depressive symptoms at least once during pregnancy if not more frequently, with additional attention to pregnant adolescents who meet one or more risk factors for prenatal depressive symptoms.” Risk factors include “adolescents who report lower levels of income, have a previous history of depression, childhood maltreatment, recent abuse, and/or chronic exposure to racial/ethnic discrimination.”

van der Venne P, Mürner-Lavanchy I, Höper S, et al.
Physiological response to pain in female adolescents with nonsuicidal self-injury as a function of severity.

J Affect Disord. 2023 Oct 15;339:64-73. PMID: [37390927](#)

Comparing 164 adolescents with non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) histories to a control group, the NSSI group did not have decreased sensitivity to pain. However, after controlling for depression, the most severe NSSI subgroup did show decreased heart rate and increased heart rate variability (= decreased physiological arousal and improved emotion/calmness) in response to pain.

Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Syed S, Gilbert R, Feder G, et al.

Family adversity and health characteristics associated with intimate partner violence in children and parents presenting to health care.

The Lancet Public health. 2023;8(7):e520-e34. PMID: [37393091](#)

Using large British linked databases for 129,948 children and parents, and looking at 33 possible family adversities, “All family adversities were significantly associated with IPV...The probability of IPV was 0.6 per 100 children and parents with no adversity, increasing to 4.4 with one adversity, and up to 15.1 with three or more adversities. Mothers with IPV had a significantly higher prevalence of both physical (73.4% vs 63.1%, odds ratio [OR] 1.6) and mental health problems (58.4% vs 22.2%, OR 4.9) than mothers without IPV. Fathers with IPV had a higher prevalence of mental health problems (17.8% vs 7.1%, OR 2.8) than those without IPV.

Carneiro JF, Silva EP, da Silva GAP, Ludermir AB.

Could children exposed to intimate partner violence against their mother have more functional gastrointestinal disorders?

J Pediatr (Rio J). 2023 Jun 23:S0021-7557(23)00078-5. PMID: [37356811](#)

Of 626 mother-child pairs living in a poor urban area of Brazil, functional gastrointestinal disorders (GI symptoms without a findable cause) “were more frequent among children exposed to violence than those not exposed (OR: 1.64). Likewise, these GI symptoms were found in children who suffered four or more types of exposure (OR: 1.81), in which the exposure started in the first two years of life (OR: 1.93) and in those whose biological father was the perpetrator of the violence (OR: 1.62).

Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Sutton A, Beech H.

The impact of stay-at-home orders on safety and stability for women: A topical review of intimate partner violence and intimate femicide in the United States during the initial phase of COVID-19.

J Fam Violence. 2023;1-15. PMID: [37358986](#)

From a research review on the effects of the pandemic, “Findings revealed an increase in help-seeking calls during the initial phase of the pandemic and COVID-related circumstances such as extended confinement, unemployment, school closures, social isolation, and financial strains intensifying women’s experiences of violence. Data also revealed an increase in purchasing firearms, which increases the risk of women being killed by an intimate partner...The impact of COVID-19 rendered the more invisible pandemic of violence against women visible. It brought to light the fallacy of our safety nets and drew increased attention to gender and racial inequalities.”

Lysova A, Dim EE.

Nonintimate Polyvictimization and the Severity of Intimate Partner Violence Experienced by Men.

Violence Vict. 2023 Aug 1;38(4):573-592. PMID: [37380342](#)

“This study examines the association between nonintimate polyvictimization (including being abused as a child, cyberbullied, stalked, physically assaulted, and experiencing property crime) and the severity of intimate partner violence victimization in men.” Of 8,784 Canadian men in current married/common-law relationships, about 3% of the men experienced the most severe forms of partner abuse, including the combination of emotional abuse and controlling behaviors, physical violence, and the resulted injuries. Among these severely abused men, about one-third were polyvictims.”

Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Storey JE, Pina A, Williams CS.

The Impact of Stalking and Its Predictors: Characterizing the Needs of Stalking Victims.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231185303. PMID: [37482768](#)

From an analysis of 258 stalking cases, “most prevalent impact category was psychological and substance abuse which was present for 91.5% of victims and included anxiety, depression, difficulty managing emotions, panic attacks, anger, PTSD, and suicidal ideation. The heightened need for mental health care among victims who have experienced stalking supports the importance of trauma informed practice...it is not the severity of stalking or duration that predicts stalking impact, rather the variety of stalking behaviors...when victims are impacted on multiple fronts, this may have a substantial cumulative effect on their well-being and/or may mean that they have fewer safe spaces...stalking impacted multiple other individuals such as children, family, friends, and colleagues. This finding is critical because it identifies a larger circle of individuals who can potentially be impacted by stalking in need of support services.”

Table 1. Prevalence of Stalking Behavior Types Spontaneously Reported by Victims.

Category	Stalking Behavior	n	%
Unwelcome communication		220	85.3
	Texts	130	50.4
	Calls	130	50.4
	Social Media	104	40.3
	Emails	85	32.9
	Letters	48	18.6
Contact	Gifts	41	15.9
		192	74.4
	Visiting home/work	98	38.0
	Following	75	29.1
	Harassing	74	28.7
	Loitering	70	27.1
	Watching	61	23.6
	Hacking	30	11.6
	Spying	24	9.3
	Breaking and entering	19	7.4
	Tracking	8	3.1
Associated behaviors	Monitoring	6	2.3
		139	53.9
	Third party contact	104	40.3
	Vexatious complaints	49	19.0
Violent stalking behaviors	Criminal damage	46	17.8
		127	49.2
	Threats	103	39.9
	Death threat	34	13.2
	Physical assault	24	9.3
	Suicide threat	16	6.2
	Sexual assault	8	3.1
Revenge porn	5	1.9	

Kuo SY, Zhang L, Chang KM.

Technology-Facilitated Abuse in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence: A Qualitative Study of Women Survivors in Taiwan.

Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231188093. PMID: [37491903](#)

“Our findings indicated that the male perpetrators of intimate partner violence against female survivors utilized communications technologies to further harm, control, and intimidate their victims. We found that the perpetrators harassed, stalked/monitored, and isolated the survivors and distributed defamatory messages about the survivors to other people using telephones, e-mail, social media, the Internet, broadcast media, and recording devices.”

Willie TC, Alexander KA, Sharpless L, et al.

Recent Economic Intimate Partner Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Among a Racially and Ethnically Diverse Sample of U.S. Women Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231178357. PMID: [37387530](#)

Participants were 255 US adult women experiencing IPV. “Economic IPV was uniquely associated with PTSD symptoms while controlling for other forms of IPV...The mental health impact of economic IPV may be particularly debilitating for women with low economic self-sufficiency...Fostering economic empowerment and asset building may be a strengths-based approach to reduce the PTSD symptomatology among women experiencing IPV.”

Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Gurvich T, Lang A.

Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Case Series: The Pharmacist's Role in Preventing Elder Abuse.

Sr Care Pharm. 2023;38(8):329-37. PMID: [37496170](#)

“Abuse, including neglect and exploitation, is experienced by about 1 in 10 people aged 60 and older who live at home...only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse are actually reported to authorities. Elder abuse is often perpetrated by the family members, caregivers, financial advisors, or other individuals trusted by the older person...During the pandemic, many visits to physicians have been canceled, delayed, or moved to telehealth; however, visits to pharmacies remained essential. Pharmacists are mandated reporters and are able to identify potential misuse of medications and physical and emotional abuse, and neglect. The discussion highlights the continued importance of the role of pharmacists in preventing and reporting elder abuse through discussion of a patient case.”

Sexual Assault

Mellen EJ, Hatzenbuehler ML.

Sexual Violence-Related Stigma, Mental Health, and Treatment-Seeking: A Multimodal Assessment in a Population-Based Study of Young Adults.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231179715. PMID: [37491905](#)

“We adapted a measure that quantified three key features of SV [sexual violence] stigma across three levels: negative self-image (individual), disclosure concerns (interpersonal), and concerns about public attitudes (structural)”. Of 453 Swedish young adults who had experience either SV or IPV, 89% endorsed at least one item on the stigma scale. Experiences of SV-related stigma were associated with significantly higher symptoms of generalized anxiety, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, alcohol misuse, greater perceived need for mental health treatment, and with more shame. “Results suggest that exposure to SV stigma may be a critical, but often overlooked, correlate of post-assault recovery.”

Campbell R, Gregory K, Goodman-Williams R, et al.

Organizational Readiness and Response During COVID-19: Reflections From a Sexual Assault Agency Serving a Predominately African American Community.

Violence Vict. 2023;38(3):328-44. PMID: [37348957](#)

From interviews with 12 sexual assault advocates working in an urban agency in a predominately African American U.S. city, participants felt their organization “was under-prepared for prolonged interruption of in-person services. Even though this agency was able to create telehealth options, many clients did not have the financial and technological resources to utilize these services. Advocates reported that survivors expressed a strong preference for in-person services, which afford more privacy and confidentiality. The pervasive digital divide within this urban community limited survivors’ access to comprehensive services and jeopardized their safety.”

Human Trafficking

Casassa K, Ploss A, Karandikar S.

"Drugs Can Be a Great Coercion": Service Providers' Perspectives on the Relationship between Substance Use and Trauma Bonding among Survivors of Sex Trafficking.

Health Soc Work. 2023;48(3):198-208. PMID: [37279359](#)

“A trauma bond refers to an emotional attachment that can develop between victims and their abusers.” From interviews with sex trafficking survivors experiencing substance use, three themes emerged: “substance use as a tactic, substance use as a risk factor, and substance use as a potential trauma bond. These findings support the need to treat substance use and mental health concerns concurrently among sex trafficking survivors.”

Clark KR.

Human Trafficking: Red Flags, Common Myths, and Health Effects.

Radiol Technol. 2023;94(6):471-5. PMID: [37433602](#)

Succinct summary of human trafficking, with red flags for radiology technicians, including a case example of how a trafficked person sent from the ED for a sonogram for pelvic pain and bleeding and her trafficker might act in the exam room, and best options for care.

Panda P, Garg A, Grube A.

The Haven Clinic: The Planning and Implementation of a Medical Home for Child Trafficking Survivors.

J Health Care Poor Underserved. 2023;34(2):833-44. PMID: [37464534](#)

“The authors describe the planning and implementation of a survivor-informed medical home for child trafficking survivors. Key partnerships necessary for establishing clinical infrastructure are highlighted. The trauma-informed clinical practices are described in detail.”

LGBTQ Concerns

Price MN, Green AE, DeChants JP, Davis CK.

Physical Dating Violence Victimization among LGBTQ Youth: Disclosure and Association with Mental Health.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;38(15-16):9059-85. PMID: [37032552](#)

“Using online survey data collected from 39,126 US LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24, overall, 11% of LGBTQ youth who were in a relationship in the past year experienced physical dating violence victimization, with 4% having experienced it once and 7% having experienced it multiple times...Past-year physical dating violence victimization was associated with nearly four times the odds of attempting suicide in the past year...dating violence prevention organizations must be LGBTQ-inclusive, and suicide prevention must be equipped to address dating violence victimization.”

Ison J, Forsdike K, Henry N, Hooker L, Taft A.
"You're just constantly on alert": Women and Gender-Diverse People's Experiences of Sexual Violence on Public Transport.

J Interpers Violence. 2023;8862605231186123. PMID: [37465905](#)

"Public transport is a key site of sexual violence and harassment experienced by women and gender-diverse people in Australia...including stalking, sexualized verbal assaults, sexual assault, physical violence, homophobic and transphobic verbal assaults, and racist verbal assaults. Participants reported a broad range of experiences not only on the mode of transport (tram, bus, train, and taxi/rideshare) but also on platforms, in transit, and during the last kilometer home. All participants reported that the perpetrator or perpetrators were male and unknown to the victim...sexual violence and harassment on public transport should be addressed...for primary prevention."

Stults CB, Gao S, Brandt SA, et al.

Intimate Partner Violence and Mental Health Among Transgender and Gender Diverse Young Adults.

J Fam Violence. 2023;1-15. PMID: [37358980](#)

From a survey of 200 New York transgender youth, "Regarding lifetime IPV, IA [identity abuse] was most prevalent (57.0%), followed by sexual (40.0%), physical (38.5%), T-IPV (35.5%), and psychological IPV (32.5%). Regarding past-year IPV, psychological IPV was most common (29.0%), followed by IA (27.5%), physical (20.0%), T-IPV (14.0%), and sexual IPV (12.5%)...lifetime IA was related to depression, anxiety, and PTSD, while past-year T-IPV was only associated with depression."

Forrest LN, Beccia AL, Exten C, Gehman S, Ansell EB.

Intersectional Prevalence of Suicide Ideation, Plan, and Attempt Based on Gender, Sexual Orientation, Race and Ethnicity, and Rurality.

JAMA Psychiatry. 2023 Jul 19:e232295. PMID: [37466933](#)

From a large US survey 2015-2019, suicidal thought and behavior prevalence was highest among Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black bisexual women residing in more rural counties."

Race/Cultural Concerns

LaBrenz CA, Littleton T, Shipe S, Bai R, Stargel L.

State Policies on Child Maltreatment and Racial Disproportionality.

Children and youth services review. 2023;151. PMID: [37425655](#)

"The racial disproportionality index (RDI) was calculated for Black children in each state and Washington DC (N = 51) based on the proportion of children who received a referral to CPS, a substantiated investigation, or entered foster care... Our results suggest there is an overrepresentation of Black children in CPS across the three decision points...Recommendations are provided for policy and research, including a suggestion for further exploration of state policies and county-level disproportionality indexes."

Martz CD, Wang Y, Chung KW, et al.

Incident racial discrimination predicts elevated C-Reactive protein in the Black Women's experiences Living with Lupus (BeWELL) study.

Brain Behav Immun. 2023;112:77-84. PMID: [37286173](#)

From a study of 380 Black Atlanta women with lupus, incident experiences of racial discrimination were associated with elevated CRP, a measure of inflammation. "Racial inequities in SLE outcomes and other diseases driven by inflammatory pathways may be explained in part through experiences of racial discrimination."

Talbert RD.

Lethal Police Encounters and Cardiovascular Health among Black Americans.

Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities.

2023;10(4):1756-67. PMID: [35778629](#)

Linking multiple large Federal databases, "After adjusting for important risk factors, results...reveal a positive association between exposures to police killings of unarmed Black people and odds of hypertension among Black women and stroke among Black men...adverse cardiovascular health associated with exposure to police violence tends to manifest differently for Black men and women."

An S, Choi GY, Yun SH, et al.

Intimate Partner Violence Among Hispanic/Latinx and White College Students.

Violence Vict. 2023 Aug 1;38(4):513-535. PMID: [37380343](#)

Using survey data of 3,397 Hispanic/Latinx and White college students enrolled in 7 universities, "Compared to their White counterparts, Hispanic/Latinx students reported higher rates of IPV victimization and perpetration. Age, gender, drug use, and adverse childhood experience were associated with both IPV victimization and perpetration, while ethnicity was only associated with IPV perpetration. This study's findings highlight the urgent need for more culturally sensitive IPV prevention services and responses to support Hispanic/Latinx college students."

Laster M, Kozman D, Norris KC.

Addressing Structural Racism in Pediatric Clinical Practice.

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2023;70(4):725-43. PMID: [37422311](#)

“Both structural and interpersonal racism can adversely impact a child’s biological and psychological functioning. By integrating strategies that address the impact of structural racism along the life course into clinical care, we can optimize our potential to mitigate both existing disparities and the intergenerational transmission of many health and social disadvantages, thereby improving the health of minoritized children, families, and communities.”

Box 3
Key mechanisms through which structural racism impacts child health^{27,31,36,41,43-46}

- Psychological and biologic trauma from negative social messaging, increased perceived/ actual personally mediated discrimination, persistent implicit and explicit racial biases, and microaggressions.
- Residential segregation and disproportionately placing minority children in disinvested communities that are wrought with poor educational opportunities, limited access to quality health care, increased exposure to natural disasters, environmental toxins, poor quality nutrition, and limited safe play space.
- Limited opportunities for parents by limiting access to quality education and employment which manifests daily as limited transportation, limited time off work, and other barriers to accessing quality care for their children.
- In utero and childhood traumatic events such as exposure to poverty, race-based bias and discrimination, parental incarceration, substance use, domestic violence, separations, abuse and neglect, and familial displacement can adversely impact fetal development during pregnancy as well as subsequent transition to adulthood, becoming an important modulator of physical and mental disease.
- Intergenerational trauma such as the impact of a traumatic experience(s) that inflict negative social, psychological, and biological consequences (eg, epigenetics) not only on one generation, but also on subsequent generations for children and their families, and entire communities.

Box 6
Strategies pediatric clinicians might use for initiating conversations around race^{87,88}

- An introductory statement such as “As your physician, I would like to create a safe space for you to discuss key life experiences that contribute to your mental and physical health. Would you be comfortable talking with me about some of your experiences?”
- If the patient answers “Yes” clinicians can ask: “What life experiences do I need to understand to help you reach your health goals?”
- If the patient is open to discussing these and related issues, follow-up open-ended questions might be: “How are you doing during this challenging time?” or “How are you feeling about what’s going on in the world/country right now as it relates to health care, health resources and/or racism?” or how often do you think about your race?

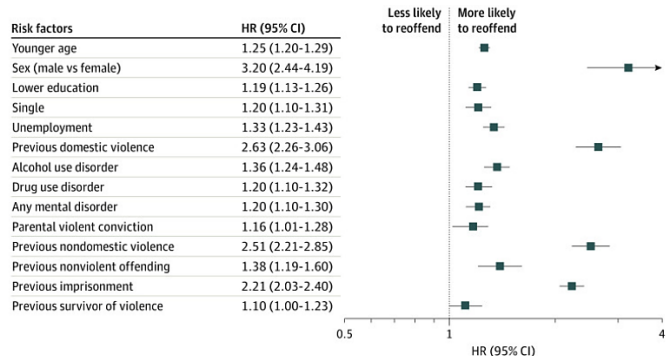
Perpetrators

Yu R, Molero Y, Lichtenstein P, et al.

Development and Validation of a Prediction Tool for Reoffending Risk in Domestic Violence.

JAMA network open. 2023;6(7):e2325494. PMID: [37494041](#)

“By using linked national data for 16 years from a population-based cohort of individuals arrested for perpetration of domestic violence, we have developed 3 risk assessment tools to predict reoffending outcomes. These tools could be used to assist decision-making in criminal justice and mental health services and assist with prevention initiatives.” Tools found at <https://oxrisk.com/violenceafterdv/>



Zgoba KM, Liu L, Matthews DT.

Advancing Research: An Examination of Differences in Characteristics of Sexual and Non-Sexual Offense Recidivism Using a 10-Year Follow-Up.

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2023;20(13). PMID: [37444060](#)

“This study uses administrative data and comprehensive case files of 626 individuals who were incarcerated for a sexual offense with a 10-year post-release follow-up. Findings reveal that ACEs, mental health challenges, and substance use disorder, along with a variety of other factors, affect the pathway to re-offending differently. Interestingly, despite the recent legislative push to utilize one standardized predictor of risk, individuals who commit sexual offenses had very different re-offending patterns based on historic life events.”

	Model 1: Sex Offense Recidivism		Model 2: Non-Sex Offense Recidivism	
	OR	95% C.I.	OR	95% C.I.
ACF score	1.18	(0.95-1.47)	1.34 **	(1.09-1.66)
No mental health or substance use issues	0.42 **	(0.24-0.73)	0.67	(0.36-1.25)
Mental health issues only	0.83	(0.47-1.47)	0.97	(0.54-1.76)
Substance use issues only	0.55	(0.30-1.00)	1.05	(0.54-2.01)
Denial	1.16	(0.74-1.82)	1.52 †	(0.97-2.38)
Remorse	1.32	(0.86-2.03)	1.24	(0.82-1.89)
Juvenile non-sex offense history	0.84	(0.51-1.37)	0.75	(0.47-1.21)
Juvenile sex offense history	1.61	(0.93-2.77)		

Police and Court Systems

Fitt K, Maylea C, Costello S, Kuyini B, Thomas S.

Independent non-legal advocacy in the child protection context: A descriptive review of the literature.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;143:106285. PMID: [37379729](#)

From a research review, “two points were unanimously agreed: 1) parents' encounters with the child protection system are difficult or disempowering; and 2) parents' access to independent non-legal advocacy is advantageous...the purpose of this form of parent support was that it acted as a bridging role to facilitate system navigation, communication and parent empowerment...Despite resource constraints, independent non-legal advocacy programs have nevertheless shown a financial return and benefits to both the child protection system and parents.”

Providers

Dichter ME.

Addressing intimate partner violence in healthcare: Implications for the inpatient setting.

J Hosp Med. 2023 Aug;18(8):771-772. PMID: [37497668](#)

In an editorial about a scoping review of IPV and hospitalization, the author notes that “IPV is associated with increased rates of acute inpatient and all-cause hospitalization; psychiatric hospitalization; and HIV-, drug-, and injury-related hospitalization...the inpatient setting offers expanded opportunities for privacy and time to address patients' IPV-related concerns and facilitate IPV-related service connection...IPV-related concerns may lead patients to be discharged or leave the inpatient setting against medical advice; patients may also seek to or be supported to prolong their inpatient stay as a means to seek safety from further violence...should serve as a call to action for hospital medicine.”

Hanley N, MacPhail C.

"You Can't Meet Everyone's Needs After-Hours": After-Hours Domestic and Family Violence Services in Rural and Remote Areas.

Violence Against Women. 2023;10778012231183655. PMID: [37394839](#)

“There are known barriers associated with providing domestic and family violence services in rural and remote communities; however...the already limited rural and remote services available during business hours are further constricted in the after-hours period. This article reports on research about after-hours service needs and service challenges in six target communities in New South Wales.

Voth Schrag RJ, Fantus S, Leat S, Childress S, Wood L.

Experiencing Moral Distress Within the Intimate Partner Violence & Sexual Assault Workforce.

J Fam Violence. 2023;1-13. PMID: [37358973](#)

“Moral distress (MD) refers to the psychological disequilibrium that emerges when institutional policies and/or practices conflict with an individual's professional values and ethics.” From interviews with 33 IPV and sexual violence service providers during the pandemic, “MD related to institutional resource constraints, providers working beyond their capacity and/or competency, shifting responsibilities within service agencies creating burdens among staff; and breakdowns in communication. Impacts of these experiences at individual, organizational, and client levels were identified by participants.”

Willer F, Chua D, Ball L.

Patient aggression towards receptionists in general practice: a systematic review.

Fam Med Community Health. 2023;11(3). PMID: [37414572](#)

From a research review, “All studies reported that displays of aggression towards receptionists by patients were a frequent and routine occurrence in general practice, particularly verbal abuse such as shouting, cursing, accusations of malicious behaviour and use of racist, ableist and sexist insults. Although infrequent, physical violence was widely reported. Inefficient appointment scheduling systems, delayed access to doctors, and prescription denial appeared common precipitators...Training in patient aggression management increased receptionist confidence and appeared to decrease negative sequelae.”

Pham C, Caso TJ, Cullen MJ, et al.

Adverse Childhood Experiences, Household Income, and Mentorship Among Interns Who Are Underrepresented in Medicine.

J Grad Med Educ. 2023;15(3):309-15. PMID: [37363664](#)

Between 2019 and 2021, a diversity survey was administered to incoming medical interns at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, with a 81.9% overall completion rate. “The odds of experiencing the cumulative burden of having a childhood household income of \$29,999 or less, no physician mentor, and 4 or more ACEs was approximately 10 times higher among underrepresented in medicine (6.41%) than White (0.66%) interns (OR=10.38).”

Prevention

Han D, Dieujuste N, Doom JR, Narayan AJ.

A systematic review of positive childhood experiences and adult outcomes: Promotive and protective processes for resilience in the context of childhood adversity.

Child Abuse Negl. 2023;144:106346. PMID: [37473619](#)

From a research review, higher levels of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) were associated with more favorable outcomes reflecting mental health, psychosocial functioning, physical health and health behaviors, and psychosocial stress. “Individuals' childhood adversity and PCEs are somewhat independent sets of experiences; many individuals experience both, and the presence of one does not preclude the other...PCEs may more frequently directly promote positive outcomes rather than moderate the effects of adversity on outcomes.”

Brem MJ, Shorey RC, Ramsey SE, Stuart GL.

Randomized Clinical Trial of a Brief Alcohol Intervention as an Adjunct to Batterer Intervention for Women Arrested for Domestic Violence.

Interv Psicosoc. 2023;32(2):79-88. PMID: [37383647](#)

209 women (79.9% white) in Rhode Island were randomized to receive the state-mandated batterer intervention program alone or the batterer intervention program plus a brief alcohol intervention. Women who received the brief alcohol intervention reported less alcohol use, and perpetrated less physical IPV and experienced less injury than did women who only received the batterer intervention.

Girod SA, Leerkes EM, Zvara BJ.

Childhood maltreatment predicts maternal sensitivity to distress: Negative attributions during the transition to parenthood.

J Fam Psychol. 2023;37(5):709-19. PMID: [37053420](#)

In this study of first-time mothers and their 6-month-old children, “maternal childhood maltreatment history was significantly positively associated with negative attributions about infant crying [child spoiled, trying to make mother’s life difficult, etc.]... These effects were significant above and beyond the effects of coherence of mind, concurrent depressive symptoms, infant affect, maternal age, race, education, marital status, and income-to-needs ratio. The results suggest that altering negative attributions about infant crying may be an important area to intervene during the prenatal period to reduce continuity in maladaptive parenting across generations.”

Skolnick VG, Lynch BA, Smith L, et al.

The Association Between Parent and Child ACEs is Buffered by Forgiveness of Others and Self-Forgiveness.

Journal of child & adolescent trauma. 2023:1-9. PMID: [37359460](#)

For 150 parents and children enrolled in Head Start in an upper midwestern, rural state, “Parents with low and medium levels of self-forgiveness and forgiveness of others had a stronger positive correlation between their own experience of ACEs and their child’s, whereas, for parents with high levels of self-forgiveness and forgiveness of others, the correlation between parent and child ACEs was reduced statistically to zero. The cycle of intergenerational transmission of ACEs may be interrupted, or at very least notably buffered, by forgiving oneself and others.”

Researchers

Jackson Y.

Future Directions in Child Maltreatment Research.

J Clin Child Adolesc Psychol. 2023:1-10. PMID: [37383011](#)

“Scientific interest in child maltreatment is shared across many disciplines including but not limited to social welfare, medicine, law, and biology. As a result, the current state of the field although robust, is limited by a lack of shared definitions, common approaches to research, and inclusion of widely differing sample types, making the results often nonreproducible and of limited generalizability. The goal of the current paper is to provide...a guide to the complexity of child maltreatment research and to suggest possible solutions.”

Schucan Bird K, Stokes N, Tomlinson M, Rivas C.

Ethically Driven and Methodologically Tailored: Setting the Agenda for Systematic Reviews in Domestic Violence and Abuse.

J Fam Violence. 2023:1-15. PMID: [37358972](#)

“Ethical and methodological priorities for systematic reviews in domestic abuse include (1) Safety and wellbeing: maintaining the wellbeing of researchers and stakeholders, and appraising the ethics of included studies, (2) Transparency/ accountability: transparent reporting of research funding, aims and methods together with explicit consideration of authorship of outputs, (3) Equality, human rights and social justice: developing diverse review teams/ advisory groups, and review methods that aim to search for, and report, diverse perspectives, (4) Engagement: collaboration with non-academic stakeholders and individuals with lived experience throughout the review process, (5) Research ethics: independent ethical scrutiny of systematic review proposals with input from researchers with expertise in systematic reviews and domestic abuse.”

Tracy M, Chong LS, Strully K, et al.

A Systematic Review of Systems Science Approaches to Understand and Address Domestic and Gender-Based Violence.

J Fam Violence. 2023:1-17. PMID: [37358982](#)

“We conducted a systematic review of systems science studies (systems thinking, group model-building, agent-based modeling [ABM], system dynamics [SD] modeling, social network analysis [SNA], and network analysis [NA]) applied to domestic or gender-based violence, including victimization, perpetration, prevention, and community responses.”

Papp J, Mueller-Smith M, Kearns MC, Peterson C.
Inventory of U.S. Public Data Sources to Measure the Socioeconomic Impact of Experiencing Interpersonal Violence.

AJPM Focus. 2023;2(3):100114. PMID: [37502696](#)

“There is limited recent information regarding the impact of interpersonal violence on an individual's non-health-related experiences and attainment, including criminal activity, education, employment, family status, housing, income, quality of life, or wealth. This study aimed to identify publicly available representative data sources to measure the socioeconomic impact of experiencing interpersonal violence in the US...Sixteen data sources were identified...This type of data infrastructure may provide cost-effective research opportunities to better understand the elements of the economic burden of violence and improve targeting of prevention strategies.” [Full article with table of data sources](#)

Orendain N, Anderson A, Galván A, Bookheimer S, Chung PJ.
A data-driven approach to categorizing early life adversity exposure in the ABCD Study.

BMC medical research methodology. 2023;23(1):164. PMID: [37420169](#)

“We recommend a data-driven approach to define and catalog early life adversity exposure and suggest the incorporation of more versus less data to capture the nuances of exposure, e.g., type, age of onset, frequency, duration. The broad categorizations of early life adversity exposure into two domains, such as abuse and neglect, or threat and deprivation, fail to account for the routine co-occurrence of exposures and the duality of some forms of adversity. The development and use of a data-driven definition of early life adversity exposure is a crucial step to lessening barriers to evidence-based treatments and interventions for youth.”

Sanford K, Pizzuto AE.

The Healthcare Discrimination Experience Scale: Assessing a Variable Crucial for Explaining Racial/Ethnic Inequities in Patient Activation and Health.

Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities.

2023;10(4):1642-52. PMID: [35731463](#)

“A new Healthcare Discrimination Experience Scale was developed, validated, compared to an existing scale, and used to estimate effects in explaining racial/ethnic health inequities...The new scale is valid for assessing a broadly defined healthcare discrimination experience in diverse patients with chronic medical conditions, and it is more sensitive

to group differences than the best existing alternative scale.”

Turner W, Morgan K, Hester M, Feder G, Cramer H.

Methodological Challenges in Group-based Randomised Controlled Trials for Intimate Partner Violence Perpetrators: A Meta-summary.

Interv Psicosoc. 2023;32(2):123-36. PMID: [37383642](#)

“Evidence for treatment effects of group-based Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) perpetrators programmes remains, at best, inconclusive. In the present review...a meta-summary approach was employed to identify methodological challenges in the design and conduct of these trials...The summary of methodological challenges will provide the first step in the development of methods guidance for researchers working in this area.”

Other of Interest

Branicki L, Kalfa S, Pullen A, Brammer S.

Corporate Responses to Intimate Partner Violence.

J Bus Ethics. 2023:1-21. PMID: [37359806](#)

“We draw upon unique data on the IPV policies and practices of 191 Australian listed corporations between 2016 and 2019, that collectively employ around 1.5 M employees...Our findings identify greater IPV responsiveness among larger corporations, as well as those corporations with higher proportions of women middle managers, greater financial resources, and more advanced employee consultation on gender issues. This paper concludes that there is a need for further research on corporate IPV responsiveness, to further illuminate corporate motivations, organizational support processes, and employee experiences.”

Scott A.

Financial Abuse in a Banking Context: Why and How Financial Institutions can Respond.

J Bus Ethics. 2023:1-16. PMID: [37359798](#)

Author discusses how IPV perpetrators use bank system processes to create financial abuse, and uses two case reports to show better and worse banking responses. “By framing victim-survivors as customers experiencing vulnerability, banks and financial institutions can begin revising their policies and practices to prevent the unintentional harm existing policies may cause. Such work is already underway for other consumer vulnerabilities but requires specialised knowledge, training, and understanding.”