

# ABUSE RESEARCH

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## Child Abuse

Cho N, Koti AS.

### **Identifying inflicted injuries in infants and young children.**

Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2024 Jul;50:101138. PMID: [38964814](#)

“Up to half of all children presenting with abusive injuries have a history of a prior suspicious injury, suggesting a pattern of repeated physical abuse...Early identification of inflicted injuries and appropriate evaluations may serve as an opportunity for life-saving intervention and prevent further escalation of abuse. However, identification of abuse can be challenging. This article will review both physical exam findings and injuries that suggest abuse as well as the evaluation and management of physical abuse.”

Hartman L, Greene HM.

### **Acute presentation of abusive head trauma.**

Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2024 Jul;50:101135. PMID: [38964810](#)

“The leading cause of child physical abuse related deaths is abusive head trauma, formerly known as shaken baby syndrome, making the rapid identification and assessment of these children critical. The clinical presentation of cases of abusive head trauma ranges from neurological complaints, such as seizures, to vague or subtle symptoms, such as vomiting. This results in frequent missed diagnoses of abusive head trauma...In this article we present a framework for the assessment of abusive head trauma and provide information on common presentations and injuries, as well as differential diagnoses.”

Canty KW, Keogh A, Rispoli J.

### **Neuroimaging considerations in abusive head trauma.**

Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2024 Jul;50:101140. PMID: [38964816](#)

“This focused review on abusive head trauma describes the injuries to the head, brain and/or spine of an infant or young child from inflicted trauma and their neuroimaging correlates... discusses the various findings on neuroimaging that have been associated with abusive head trauma,

compared to those that are more consistent with accidental injuries or with underlying medical causes.”

Ahmad D, Small A, Gibson A, Kissoon N.

### **Developmental outcomes in abusive head trauma.**

Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2024;50:101142. PMID: [38964813](#)

“Abusive head trauma (AHT) is associated with high mortality and poorer outcomes compared to accidental head injuries. The short and long-term developmental outcomes for AHT are not well identified.” From a research review, “injuries sustained from AHT result in a spectrum of outcomes ranging from normal development to death. There are more than 100 outcome assessment tools limiting the ability to compare studies. More than half of patients are left with disabilities post discharge. Gross motor and cognition/academics are the 2 most common domains studied. Advancement in surgical and neurocritical care management has influenced AHT outcomes. Close long-term follow up is recommended to maximize each child's developmental potential, irrespective of the presence of disability at discharge. We suggest that future research should focus on adopting a consistent diagnostic and assessment approach and explore the social environmental factors that can affect recovery.”

Rebbe R, Malicki D, Siddiqi N, et al.

### **Child Protection System Interactions for Children With Positive Urine Screens for Illicit Drugs.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2024 Mar 4;7(3):e243133. PMID:

[38512254](#)

From 2016 to 2021 at one level 1 children's hospital in San Diego California, a positive drug test was identified in 511 child ED and inpatient encounters, 51.3% female and 60.5% age 6 or younger. 43.6% had a CPS report prior to the medical encounter. Following the positive screen, only 47.7% were reported to child protection, and 11.9% were placed out-of-home within 30 days. Positive drug tests doubled after the COVID-19 pandemic onset, and tripled for cannabis. Encounters for children under age 1 were 2.91 times more likely to have associated child protection reports than encounters involving older children.

Ball WP, Anderson C, Black C, et al.

**Mental health service use in children at risk of significant harm: A record linkage study of a child protection register.**

Soc Sci Med. 2024;353:117057. PMID: [38905923](#)

Of 1498 UK children with a child protection registration (CPR), 69% had available linked health data. "Incidence rates in all measures of mental health service use were higher in children with a CPR record across all ages (at outcome) and genders compared to the general population." The largest difference was for boys aged 5-9 with a CPR record having 2.7 times increased mental health prescriptions, and for girls aged 0-4 year with a CPR record having 5.4 times higher mental health referrals. "Our findings have relevance to public mental health surveillance, service prioritisation and wider policy aiming to reduce childhood exposure to risk of harm."

Lanais K, Gnanamanickam E, Maclean M, Segal L.

**Investigating the impact of Out-of-Home Care on early childhood development.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106856. PMID: [38850748](#)

For 2011 South Australian children mean age 5.7 years and 50.7% boys who were placed in foster/kinship care, "placement in out-of-home care supported physical health and wellbeing, communication and cognitive but not social and emotional early childhood development. These results highlight the need for professional therapeutic support for children in care and better attending to the physical development, communication and cognitive skills in maltreated children remaining at home."

## Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Ebong IA, Quesada O, Fonkoue IT, et al.

**The Role of Psychosocial Stress on Cardiovascular Disease in Women: JACC State-of-the-Art Review.**

Journal of the American College of Cardiology. 2024;84(3):298-314. PMID: [38986672](#)

"Certain stressors, such as socioeconomic disadvantage, childhood adversity, intimate partner violence, and caregiving stress, are especially common among women. The consequences of stress begin at a young age and persist throughout the life course. This is especially true for women, among whom the burden of negative psychosocial experiences tends to be larger in young age and midlife. Menarche, pregnancy, and menopause can

further exacerbate stress in vulnerable women. Not only is psychosocial adversity prevalent in women, but it could have more pronounced consequences for cardiovascular risk among women than among men. These differential effects could reside in sex differences in responses to stress, combined with women's propensity toward vasomotor reactivity, microvascular dysfunction, and inflammation. The bulk of evidence suggests that targeting stress could be an important strategy for cardiovascular risk reduction in women."

Koball AM, Ames GE, Grothe K.

**Role of Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Onset of Overweight/Obesity.**

Curr Obes Rep. 2024 Sep;13(3):574-583. PMID: [38874702](#)

"A well-established literature has linked ACEs and obesity suggesting complex interactions between genetic, biological, behavioral, mental health, social, and environmental factors and obesity. Trauma-informed care strategies can be used to optimize care for individuals living with obesity."

Wallace C, Krugman R.

**More Than What You Eat: A Review on the Association Between Childhood Maltreatment and Elevated Adult BMI.**

Curr Nutr Rep. 2024 Sep;13(3):377-381. PMID: [38922364](#)

"In this narrative review, we summarize the existing work describing the different child maltreatment types (physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, and child neglect) and their relation to adult obesity, what is known about a potential dose-response relationship, potential mediators and pathophysiology, comorbidities, and preliminary work on gender and racial/ethnic disparities. We review the limited data on interventions that have been studied, and close with a discussion of implications and suggestions for clinicians who treat adult obesity, as well as potential future research directions."

Haim-Nachum S, Lazarov A, Zabag R, et al.

**Self-stigma mediates the relationships between childhood maltreatment and symptom levels of PTSD, depression, and anxiety.**

European journal of psychotraumatology. 2024;15(1):2370174. PMID: [38985020](#)

From a study of 685 childhood trauma survivors, mean age 36.8 years, "Self-stigma [internal negative feelings about one's experiences] significantly mediated [was the process or mechanism for] the relationship between childhood maltreatment and depression, PTSD, and anxiety symptoms...Self-stigma may serve as an important treatment target for survivors of childhood abuse and neglect."

Lynch S, Weber S, Kaplan S, Craun E.

### **Childhood and Adult Sexual Violence Exposures as Predictors of PTSD, Dissociation, and Substance Use in Women in Jail.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2024;33(4):424-40. PMID: [37357921](#)

For 146 randomly selected incarcerated women at one facility, “73% reported experiences of CSA [childhood sexual abuse] and about half reported experiences of adult sexual violence. Over half of the women reported symptoms consistent with current probable PTSD, about 20% reported dissociation symptoms in a clinical range, and over 70% met criteria for a SUD [substance use disorder] in the past year...CSA significantly predicted current symptoms of PTSD while adult sexual violence exposure predicted symptoms of SUD and dissociation. These results illustrate the high rates of sexual violence exposure as well as the complexity of mental health needs associated with these exposures in system-involved women. Findings highlight the need to comprehensively assess incarcerated women's trauma exposure and psychological distress to better meet the needs of this population.”

## Adolescents

Adams M, Gong C, Heinze JE.

### **Firearm ownership and storage among US college students: results from the healthy minds study, 2021-2022.**

J Behav Med. 2024 Aug;47(4):662-671. PMID: [38460062](#)

“We used 2021-2022 survey data from the Healthy Minds Study, which included approximately 88,500 students at over 100 US colleges and universities...About 4% of respondents reported having a firearm on or around campus. Among firearm owners, 68.8% reported storing firearms at their permanent address within an hour's drive from campus, and 43.1% reported storing their firearms unloaded and locked. Firearm ownership rates were significantly higher for respondents who were positive for specific risk factors (i.e., in a relationship, suicide ideation, recent binge drinking, and having been physically assaulted) versus those who were negative. These findings support the need for targeted messaging and firearm safety training for college students to reduce firearm-related risks.”

Baiden P, Park Y, LaBrenz CA, Childress S.

### **Exposure to Neighborhood Violence and Gun Carrying Among Adolescents in the United States: Findings From A Population-Based Study.**

J Interpers Violence. 2024;39(15-16):3396-423. PMID: [38357885](#)

From a national study of 17,033 adolescents aged 14 to 18 years old (51.7% male), 4.2% carried a weapon during the past year, and 18.7% were exposed to neighborhood violence (NV). Controlling for the effects of other factors, adolescents who were exposed to NV were 2.33 times more likely to carry a gun when compared to their counterparts not exposed to NV. “Other significant factors associated with gun carrying include being a male, non-Hispanic Black, being threatened or injured with a weapon, use of alcohol, cigarette smoking, and misuse of prescription opioids. High parental monitoring was protective against gun carrying. The findings of this study underscore the importance of developing age-appropriate intervention strategies to reduce gun carrying among adolescents.”

## Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Khazanchi R, Wachman EM, Schiff DM, et al.

### **Mandatory Child Protective Services Reporting for Substance-Exposed Newborns and Peripartum Outcomes: A Difference-in-Differences Analysis.**

JAMA pediatrics. 2024;178(7):719-22. PMID: [38709513](#)

“In May 2021, Boston Medical Center implemented a clinical practice guideline to inform reporting decisions for PSE [prenatal substance exposure], focusing on trauma-informed care and substance use treatment engagement with reporting to CPS only if protective concerns are identified...led to a large reduction in CPS reports. There were no significant changes in custody at discharge or length of stay, suggesting the guideline change did not alter short-term disposition or discharge readiness. Birthing parents perceive mandatory reporting for maternal substance use to be unjust, stigmatizing, and harmful to family health. National quantitative studies corroborate these narratives: punitive reporting policies decrease access to substance use treatment and fail to improve neonatal outcomes...if CPS reporting is redefined based on expert-identified protective concerns rather than categorical mandates, the benefits could include conservation of limited state resources, reduction in family surveillance, and mitigation of stigma.”

# Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Adhikari SP, Daugherty JC, Quiroz Molinares N, et al.  
**A Four-Country Study of Strangulation-Related Alterations in Consciousness in Women Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence: Co-Occurrence with Traumatic Brain Injuries and Measures of Psychological Distress.**  
J Neurotrauma. 2024 Jul;41(13-14):e1666-e1677. PMID: [38666734](#)

“The most commonly sustained IPV-related brain injuries (BI) include strangulation-related alterations in consciousness (S-AICs) and traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). Moreover, survivors of IPV-related S-AICs and/or TBIs often demonstrate psychological distress such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress...Women who had experienced physical IPV ( $n = 213$ ) were included across four countries (Canada, the United States, Spain, and Colombia)... Approximately 67% of women sustained at least one IPV-related BI...approximately 37% sustained both S-AICs and TBIs, 2% sustained only S-AICs, and 61% sustained TBIs exclusively. Furthermore, women who had sustained S-AICs (with or without a TBI) were more likely to have experienced a moderate-to-severe BI...and reported higher levels of psychological distress... irrespective of whether they occurred once or multiple times...highlight IPV-related BIs as a global issue that needs to be aggressively studied with policies established and then implemented to address findings.”

Peel M, Cunnion K.  
**Recognising and responding to non-fatal strangulation in domestic abuse.**

Nurs Stand. 2024 Jul 31;39(8):68-73. PMID: [38853486](#)  
“This article discusses non-fatal strangulation in domestic abuse, including the presenting signs and symptoms and barriers to disclosure, and describes the role of the nurse. The authors include a fictional case study to demonstrate the type of situation nurses may experience when they encounter a victim/survivor of non-fatal strangulation.”

Tiemensma M, Byard RW, Vink R, et al.  
**Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in the context of longstanding intimate partner violence.**

Acta Neuropathol. 2024 Jul 8;148(1):1. PMID: [38976081](#)  
In this letter to the journal, authors review autopsy slides from two women with repetitive head injury from IPV. “In common with almost all other cases of CTE [chronic traumatic encephalopathy = abnormal

brain findings found almost exclusively in people with a history of repeated mild traumatic brain injury, such as football players], the cases presented here had a long history of RHI [repetitive head injury]. In contrast, a recent study of IPV neuropathology failed to identify CTE in a series of prospective and retrospective cases. Evidence of longstanding RHI was lacking in that detailed study but has been present in all cases of CTE identified in IPV to date, underscoring the importance of chronic RHI exposure in CTE pathogenesis. As CTE is typically associated with cognitive and behavioral symptoms...need intensive and specialized support for those at risk.”

# Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Ahuja K, DeSena G, Spiegel D.  
**The Intersection of ChatGPT and Reddit: A New Avenue for Support of Abuse Survivors?**

The primary care companion for CNS disorders. 2024;26(3). PMID: [38848466](#)

In a letter to the editor, authors describe a Reddit subgroup on narcissistic abuse, in which a member got considerable attention from other members by submitting texts from her ex to ChatGPT, asking it to analyze the communication for emotionally abusive tactics, “and the responses they received from ChatGPT were enormously validating...Studies have shown that explanations of abusive partners as narcissists help women process their trauma and heal faster...Many victims of narcissistic abuse report victim blaming and lack of accountability in their partner. Thus, it is refreshing to see an AI modality such as ChatGPT used to validate victims of narcissistic abuse.”

Jang SH, Kim D, Zhu Y, Kim C.  
**Stalking Discourse on Reddit: A Comparative Analysis of Pre- and Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Using Big Data.**

Cyberpsychol Behav Soc Netw. 2024 Aug;27(8):539-549. PMID: [38905134](#)

Using a “big data” analysis of posts from the subreddit (<https://www.reddit.com/r/Stalking/>), authors compared the discourse on stalking before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a notable shift in stalking-related posts after the pandemic began, “particularly with the emergence of new topics centered on cyberstalking”, polyvictimization and mental health issues.

Cortis N, Smyth C.

**Specialist Financial Counseling for Women Affected by Domestic and Family Violence: Staff and Client Perspectives on an Australian Initiative.**

Violence Against Women. 2024:10778012241263103. PMID: [39051709](#)

“This article provides insight into a specialist DFV [domestic and family violence] financial counseling initiative that was considered effective by those involved. The co-location of specialist DFV financial counseling services in women’s legal services was well received by clients and practitioners. It built practitioners’ capacity to address economic abuse and the financial harms experienced by women survivors of DFV, and clients reflected positively on the service.”

## Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Bloemen EM, Elman A, Tietz S, et al.

**Emergency department and hospital-based programs responding to elder mistreatment: developing consensus about an idea whose time has come.**

J Elder Abuse Negl. 2024:1-11. PMID: [39051637](#)

“Elder mistreatment is common, serious, and under-recognized, with Emergency Department and hospital clinical encounters offering a potential but currently unrealized opportunity to identify and help older adults experiencing mistreatment. Interdisciplinary emergency department and hospital-based response teams represent a promising care model to address this. This manuscript describes two such teams.”

MacNeil A, Salvo E, Burnes D. A

**Qualitative Study of Adult Protective Services Practitioners Responding to Allegations of Elder Abuse and Self-Neglect.**

J Gerontol Soc Work. 2024:1-17. PMID: [38958202](#)

“Adult Protective Services (APS) practitioners play an essential role in supporting older adults experiencing elder abuse and self-neglect (EASN).” From interviews with 14 APS practitioners from the state of Maine, “APS practitioners are motivated by their capacity to help elicit positive change in the lives of their clients and support the well-being of older adults experiencing EASN. However, APS practitioners must navigate numerous challenges and barriers in their role, including time constraints, high and complex caseloads, limited resources, and broader misconceptions on APS. These findings highlight the importance of addressing these

stressors to support the well-being of APS practitioners, which, in turn, can help support the vulnerable older adults they serve.”

## Sexual Assault

Caswell RJ, Ross JD, Bradbury-Jones C.

**Making sexual and reproductive healthcare environments safe and supportive for disclosure of sexual violence.**

Sex Transm Infect. 2024 Jun 13:sextrans-2024-056140. PMID: [38871453](#)

Through focus groups with UK care providers and interviews with sexual assault survivors, clinic “promotional material needs to address rape myths, stereotypes and silence surrounding SV, to ensure that all individuals and especially those from diverse groups are empowered to access care. Three fundamental mechanisms for safe and supported disclosure were identified: being listened to, being validated, and having choice. Trauma-informed care was identified as being essential for implementing these mechanisms.”

Dawood R, Vosper J, Irons C, Gibson S, Brown G.

**Exploring the roles of compassion and post-traumatic stress disorder on global distress after sexual trauma.**

Br J Clin Psychol. 2024 Sep;63(3):378-393. PMID: [38563456](#)

“Recovery from sexual trauma may be distinct from that of other types of traumas and may not be fully understood through the PTSD model. The compassion focused therapy (CFT) model provides a potential theoretical model for treating trauma after sexual abuse. An analysis of CFT-related variables showed self-criticism to play a significant role in distress after sexual abuse. The results from this study highlight specific aspects of the CFT model which clinicians may wish to consider in work with sexual abuse survivors.”

Klein LB, Melnik J, Curran K, et al.

**Trauma- and Violence-Informed Empowering Care for Sexual Assault Survivors.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2024 Jul-Sep 01;20(3):166-173. PMID: [38509039](#)

Authors expand upon 2008 Campbell et al.'s five key domains of empowering care for forensic nurse examinations (i.e., build rapport and establish trust, show compassion, provide patient-directed care, convey professionalism, and provide resource referral and follow-up) by including behavioral examples of trauma/violence informed care for each empowerment area.

# Human Trafficking

Recknor F, Kelly CE, Jacobson D, et al.

## **Impacts of the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis on Caring for Sex-Trafficked Persons.**

Health Promot Pract. 2024 Jul;25(4):537-544. PMID: [37477140](#)

From interviews with 15 Canadian social service providers, "Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on social service care provision were connected to individuals' increased vulnerability to trafficking, difficulties safely and effectively providing services to sex-trafficked persons amid pandemic restrictions, and reduction in in-person educational activities to improve providers' capacity to serve this client population. Securing safe shelter was particularly difficult and inappropriate placements could at times lead to further trafficking. The pandemic created novel barriers to supporting sex-trafficked persons; managing these sometimes led to new and complex issues. Future efforts should focus on developing constructive strategies to support sex-trafficked persons' unique needs during public health crises."

Such E, Campos-Matos I, Hayes K, et al.

## **A public health approach to modern slavery in the United Kingdom: a codeveloped framework.**

Public Health. 2024 Jul;232:146-152. PMID: [38781781](#)

From workshops with 65 UK anti-slavery stakeholders, "Participants contributed to the development of a public health framework to modern slavery that included multiple elements across national, local, and service levels. There were six 'C's' to national components: policy that was coherent, co-ordinated, consistent, comprehensive, co-operative and compliant with international law. Local components centred on effective local multiagency partnerships and service design and delivery focussed on trauma-informed, flexible, person-centred care...Barriers to its implementation included the challenge of intersectoral working and an incongruent policy environment."

# LGBTQ Concerns

Zoe Hilton N, Ham E, Radatz DL, et al.

## **Coercive Control in 2SLGBTQQA+ Relationships.**

Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024:15248380241257957. PMID: [39066513](#)

"This review revealed a lack of agreed definition of coercive control or accepted standard of

measurement, and a gap in research with individuals who identify as gender diverse, gender fluid or intersex, or those identifying their sexuality as asexual, pansexual, or sexually diverse."

# Race/Cultural Concerns

Bloom M, McCoy C, Hendrix-Dicken AD, et al.

## **Association and disparities of food insecurity and exposure to violence: analysis of the National Survey of Children's Health.**

J Osteopath Med. 2024 Mar 8;124(8):369-376. PMID: [38451468](#)

"Lack of access to food is a significant concern for child well-being, and it creates many health disparities and adverse social outcomes. Food insecurity and its many associated risk factors increase parental stress, which are strongly correlated with an increased risk of child abuse and maltreatment." From a large national study, "5.42 % of children experienced low food security and 7.4 % were exposed to violence. The odds of exposure to violence are 5.19 times greater for children with low food security compared to food-secure children. Indigenous and Black children were 7.8 and 6.81 times more likely to experience or witness violence when food insecure compared to food secure White children, respectively."

Kogan SM, Reck AJ, Curtis MG, Oshri A.

## **Childhood adversity and racial discrimination forecast suicidal/death ideation among emerging adult Black men.**

Cultur Divers Ethnic Minor Psychol. 2024 Feb 8:10.1037/cdp0000641. PMID: [38330370](#)

Of 504 Black young adults from rural Georgia, mean age 20.7 years, childhood adversities were directly, and childhood deprivation and racial discrimination were indirectly, associated with suicidal and death ideation. Involved with these associations were "negative schemas" = negative mindsets such as mistrust, defensiveness, cynicism and hostility.

Ruiz-Narváez EA, Cozier Y, Zirpoli G, Rosenberg L, Palmer JR.

## **Perceived Experiences of racism in Relation to Genome-Wide DNA Methylation and Epigenetic Aging in the Black Women's Health Study.**

J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2024 Feb 7:10.1007/s40615-024-01915-3. PMID: [38324238](#)

Using data from a large national study of Black women, "Exposure to discriminatory events may affect the epigenome and accelerate biological aging, which may explain in part the earlier onset of disease in African American women."

Holmes SC, Zare M, Haeny AM, Williams MT.  
**Racial Stress, Racial Trauma, and Evidence-Based Strategies for Coping and Empowerment.**

Annu Rev Clin Psychol. 2024 Jul;20(1):77-95. PMID: [38346289](#)

“Racial stress and racial trauma refer to psychological, physiological, and behavioral responses to race-based threats and discriminatory experiences. This article reviews the evidence base regarding techniques for coping with racial stress and trauma. These techniques include self-care, self-compassion, social support, mindfulness, cognitive restructuring, cognitive defusion, identity-affirming practices and development of racial/ethnic identity, expressive writing, social action and activism, and psychedelics.”

## Perpetrators

Johnson L.

**Jealousy as a correlate of intimate partner homicide-suicide versus homicide-only cases: National Violent Death Reporting System, 2016-2020.**

Suicide Life Threat Behav. 2024 Aug;54(4):663-672. PMID: [38554063](#)

From a national sample of 5335 cases of intimate partner homicide, “Compared with homicide-only cases, homicide-suicide cases had 3.5 greater odds of recording jealousy as a precipitating event...Findings suggest that intimate partner homicide-suicide cases are distinct from homicide-only cases both in terms of individual- and incident-level and situational factors, including the presence of jealousy.”

Wortley R, Findlater D, Bailey A, Zuhair D.

**Accessing child sexual abuse material: Pathways to offending and online behaviour.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106936. PMID: [39002252](#)

From a survey of 75 male online child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offenders, “Most participants reported that they did not initially seek out CSAM but that they first encountered it inadvertently or became curious after viewing legal pornography. Their involvement in CSAM subsequently progressed over time and their offending generally became more serious...Opportunity and other situational factors emerged as mediators of offending frequency. Offending patterns were affected by participants' psychological states (e.g., depression, anger, stress), offline relationships and commitments (e.g., arguments with spouse, loss of

job), and online experiences (e.g., blocked sites, viruses, warning messages).”

Divakarmurthy P, Requião da Cunha B, Passold JF, et al  
**Unravelling the dynamics of child sexual exploitation material circulation on the Dark Web.**

PLoS One. 2024;19(7):e0306516. PMID: [39046976](#)

“In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the detection of child sexual exploitation material (CSEM), with perpetrators increasingly turning to advanced encryption technologies to conceal their activities...We uncovered patterns indicating strong user preferences for certain content categories, suggesting the existence of distinct groups with shared interests. Additionally, our findings reveal consistent activity patterns among users, including specific 24-hour, 12-hour, and 6-hour consumption cycles. This research offers insights into the online behavior related to CSEM, providing a foundation for further investigation and the development of effective policy measures.”

## Police and Court Systems

Hardesty JL, Park SY, Maniotes CR, et al.

**Violence Risk or Writing Quality? Predicting Relief Outcomes from Protective Order Narratives.**

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241262220. PMID: [39051478](#)

“Civil orders of protection (OPs) are the only victim-initiated legal intervention for intimate partner violence...The content and quality of survivors' OP narratives vary greatly, and studies have found that well-written accounts are positively associated with securing OPs, uncovering the potential influence of judges' implicit biases. This study...explored how violence risk and writing quality related to the receipt of emergency OPs in a sample of 90 petitions filed by women with minor children in a large Midwest County. As expected, violence severity was positively associated with securing an OP...However, the association was no longer significant when writing quality was considered; specifically, greater readability was associated with being granted an OP...Findings underscore the ongoing need to explore how the written narrative requirement of the OP process (dis)empowers survivors and the role implicit biases may play in judicial decision-making in civil OP proceedings.”

Barnert ES.

### **Childhood Behind Bars: Children and the US Juvenile Legal System.**

Adv Pediatr. 2024;71(1):29-40. PMID: [38944487](#)

“The US juvenile legal system disproportionately impacts youth with marginalized identities and exacerbates health inequities. Policy change can improve the treatment of children displaying disruptive behavior by addressing their needs in the communities when possible, disrupting the ‘cradle-to-prison’ pipeline. Systemic racism pervades the US juvenile legal system, and working toward racial equity and transforming our approach to childhood is vital.”

Manifold BM.

### **When missing becomes murder: An analysis of missing-femicide cases from the Republic of Ireland.**

Med Sci Law. 2024;258024241265060. PMID: [39042922](#)

“Many femicide cases are initially reported as missing persons to the police. Women who go missing have a greater risk of being a victim of homicide. This study explores the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and killing of women and girls in the Republic of Ireland from 1962 to 2023. A total of fifty-four cases were analysed...Twenty-five victims knew the offender and the leading cause of death was strangulation with 27 cases. Dumping/leaving the body on open ground with little or no concealment was the predominant method of disposal. The leading risk factors were the engagement of the victim in a fight or row before disappearance and domestic violence. The ‘suicide narrative’ should be treated with extreme caution in the disappearance of women.”

## Providers

Williams HN, Farley B.

### **Trauma-informed care.**

Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2024;50:101139. PMID: [38964815](#)

This review article on trauma-informed care in pediatrics “requires providers to assess for protective and risk factors, identify trauma-symptoms, and have a plan to empathetically provide psychoeducation, resources, and support for the family...Trauma-informed care also encompasses providers caring for themselves and recognizing the impact exposure to trauma can have on their own health and well-being.”

### **Olson CS, Ross RM, Bland T, Munoz L, Wilson JL, Gaylord NM. Verbal Administration of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Questions: Increasing the Accuracy of Clients' Histories.**

Health Soc Work. 2024;49(3):197-9. PMID: [38817087](#)

For 40 child caregivers, “We found that significant discrepancies existed between the answers to written questions on the health history and when the questions were administered verbally by the social workers. The caregivers often reported additional ACEs (and thus higher ACE scores) when asked verbally. There are multiple explanations for this phenomenon. The specific ACEs that showed the most change between administration types may indicate ACEs which caregivers perceive as carrying a higher stigma and thus want to conceal [highest were verbal abuse and household member in prison]. Caregivers may have felt more at ease sharing their children’s ACEs with social workers they knew through multiple therapy sessions. Additionally, caregivers may have had difficulty understanding the questions on the health history form and thus may have benefited from having the questions read aloud. Though no caregivers disclosed this, illiteracy is commonly underreported, as it carries its own stigma...To provide the best care for pediatric clients, trusting relationships must be formed with not only the child but also the caregiver who often serves as the gatekeeper to essential information about the child’s past.”

Loveday S, Chen L, Constable LN, et al.

### **Opening Pandora's box - key facilitators of practice change in detecting and responding to childhood adversity - a practitioner perspective.**

BMC Pediatr. 2024;24(1):461. PMID: [39026201](#)

From interviews with 21 health and social care practitioners after a training intervention on asking about ACEs, “Six themes were identified as either facilitators or barriers to practice change. Facilitator themes included (1) connection matters, (2) knowledge provides assurance, (3) confidence in ability and (4) choosing change. Barrier themes were (1) never enough time and (2) opening Pandora's box. Following analysis, key drivers of practice change were 'social influence', 'belief in capability', 'knowledge' and 'behaviour regulation' while barriers to practice change were 'environmental context and resources' and 'emotion'...Changing practice requires more than just education and training. Opportunities for social connection and coaching to improve self-confidence and perceived competence are needed to overcome the fear of opening Pandora's box.”



Archer-Nanda E, Dwyer ML.

### Trauma-Informed Care Addressing the Mental and Emotional Needs of Patients With Cancer.

Clinical journal of oncology nursing. 2024;28(4):372-9. PMID: [39041686](#)

“This article provides a literature-based overview of TIC as a model of care for patients with cancer, informed by definitions of trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, and adverse childhood experiences...this article includes a case study, nursing approaches, implications, the TIC model of care, and resources. When applied to care, TIC benefits patients, staff, and organizations.”

**TABLE 2.**  
TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE NURSING APPROACHES

NURSING INTERVENTION	RATIONALE
Provide clear introductions.	Patients need to understand who the members of the team are, what each member's role is, and how they can anticipate interacting with each member.
Be aware of nonverbal communication.	Use of open, nonthreatening body language is helpful for establishing safety. When possible, sit at eye level or slightly below eye level with the patient. When possible, ensure that all parties have access to leave the room so no one feels trapped.
Provide patient education.	Understanding what to expect helps to empower patients and alleviate anxiety from uncertainty, which can be triggering. Use teach-back education to give patients opportunities to clarify their understanding.
Ask permission.	Ensuring patients are OK with being touched, even during simple procedures (e.g., moving a patient in bed), can help to establish choice and control over the patient's own body and environment.
Protect the patient's privacy.	Let patients know that the care team may be asking them private information, and, when doing so, ask guests or visitors to leave while those sensitive aspects of the interaction are covered. Patients may not feel comfortable asking their guest to leave; the healthcare team can ensure and enable privacy.
Be transparent.	Trust is earned when patients perceive members of their team to be dependable, reliable, and consistent. Openly sharing limitations to role and system constraints is important to minimize unrealistic expectations.
Be clear and concise.	Use simple terms and avoid medical jargon to help with information processing. Teach-back methods are helpful for ensuring understanding.
Use universal precautions.	Application of trauma-informed care approaches universally helps to limit the risk of retraumatization that can happen unintentionally if screening has not occurred.

**Note.** Based on information from Lewis-O'Connor et al., 2019; Lewis-O'Connor & Rittenberg, 2019.

Hall D, Smiley Y, Slovin A, Manget J, Bost JE, Chokshi B.  
**Applying a Trauma-Informed Lens to Challenging Adolescent Encounters: A Faculty Development Session for Pediatricians.**

MedEdPORTAL. 2024;20:11408. PMID: [38957524](#)

“Patient encounters perceived to be challenging are common and contribute to both suboptimal patient health outcomes and provider burnout. A trauma-informed care (TIC) approach to these encounters is

critical, as many of the characteristics associated with challenging patient encounters can be linked to a history of trauma exposure...Our team created and delivered a 1-hour synchronous virtual session intended to bolster provider knowledge of TIC principles and their application to challenging adolescent encounters.” Participants were strongly positive about the content relevance and delivery.  
[Training resources.](#)

Watson CR, Wei J, Rios N, Staunton M, Koper A, Shiels J, et al.  
**Evaluation of an Embedded Health Psychologist Intervention for Obstetric Patients With Adverse Childhood Experiences.**

The Permanente journal. 2024:1-8. PMID: [38980765](#)  
For 910 pregnant women, mean age 31 years, “Patients had a mean of 1.2 ACEs; 58.4% had 0, 23.0% had 1–2, and 18.7% had 3+. Overall, 55.6% and 44.4% of the sample had high and low resilience, respectively...Overall, 21.4% of patients received an EHP [embedded health psychologist] referral, and 18.5% participated in EHP...Patients with higher ACEs and lower resilience scores were more likely to be referred to and participate in EHP intervention, suggesting that at-risk patients can be successfully linked with a health psychologist when accessible within obstetric care...Patients and clinicians reported positive experiences with EHP intervention.”

## Prevention

Guo S, Wijesuriya R, O'Connor M, et al.  
**The effects of adverse and positive experiences on cardiovascular health in Australian children.**

International journal of cardiology. 2024;411:132262. PMID: [38878872](#)

From a long-term Australian study of 1874 children aged 0-11, assessment of heart disease parameters (behaviors: diet, physical activity, cigarette smoking, and sleep; and health: body mass index, non-high-density lipoprotein, blood pressure, and blood glucose) at age 11-12, children exposed to 2+ ACEs were 18% less likely to have high cardiovascular health, and those with 2+ positive childhood experiences were 14% more likely to have high cardiovascular health. “Stratified analyses suggested that exposure to multiple positive experiences might buffer the detrimental effects of multiple adverse experiences on cardiovascular health.”

Turgeon J, Racine N, McDonald S, Tough S, Madigan S.  
**Maternal adverse childhood experiences, child resilience factors, and child mental health problems: A multi-wave study.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106927. PMID: [38970861](#)  
From a long-term study of 910 mother-child pairs, maternal ACEs predicted child-reported symptoms of anxiety and depression. However, both these associations were moderated by higher levels of perceived child resilience factors (the ability to solicit support from internal and external sources: e.g., being creative, setting realistic goals, making friends easily). “Specifically, there was no association between maternal ACEs and child mental health problems in the context of moderate and high levels of child resilience factors...Thus, the effects of maternal ACEs on child mental health problems are not deterministic.”

Austin AE, DePadilla L, Niolon P, Stone D, Bacon S.  
**Intersection of adverse childhood experiences, suicide and overdose prevention.**

Inj Prev. 2024 Jul 24:ip-2024-045295. PMID: [39053926](#)  
“Growing evidence shows the potential for community- and societal-level programmes and policies, including higher minimum wage; expanded Medicaid eligibility; increased earned income tax credits, child tax credits and temporary assistance for needy families’ benefits; Paid Family Leave; greater availability of affordable housing and rental assistance; and increased participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to contribute to ACEs, suicide and overdose prevention.”

Zebrowska M, Strohmaier S, Huttenhower C, et al.  
**Pet Attachment and Anxiety and Depression in Middle-Aged and Older Women.**

JAMA Netw Open. 2024 Aug 1;7(8):e2424810. PMID: [39088217](#)  
Of 214 women with an oversampling of childhood abuse survivors (72.6%), higher pet attachment was associated with lower generalized anxiety. Dog attachment was associated with reduced depression and anxiety, especially among abuse survivors.

## Researchers

Doan T, López-Zerón G, Prado G, Ragavan MI.  
**Applying a Language Justice Framework in Research: A Step Toward Achieving Health Equity.**  
Health Promot Pract. 2024 Mar 11:15248399241236182. PMID: [38462918](#)

“People who use languages other than English (LOE) are rarely included in research in the United States... Equitable inclusion of LOE communities in research is an important step to disrupt health disparities. We propose a new conceptual framework on language justice in research...comprises six core pillars of best practices required for achieving language justice during all the stages of the research process including conceptualization, budgeting, data collection and analysis, and dissemination. We also present key definitions, examples of how core pillars can be applied, and structural solutions to achieving language justice.”

Garcia-Molsosa M, Montserrat C, Soler-Masó P, et al.  
**Advisory groups of children in research on gender-based violence.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024:106935. PMID: [38987103](#)  
“Involving children in research is not only advisable but mandatory from both a child rights and an academic perspective...recent research has shown that children's participation enriches knowledge and contributes to an in-depth understanding of complex issues, even in sensitive questions such as gender-based violence, leading to improved policy and practice interventions...This article analyses the participation of children both as experts and informants in a research project aimed at creating an early detection model of gender violence applicable in schools...discusses methodological questions, analysing the benefits and obstacles encountered in working with children, including power relationships, children's voices, engagement, protection, recognitions of capacities and remuneration.”

Kowalski R, Thompson M.  
**Expanding the Sexual Experiences Survey to Include Technology Facilitated Sexual Exploitation.**

J Sex Res. 2024;61(6):897-903. PMID: [38973061](#)  
“The Sexual Experiences Survey is the most widely used measure of sexual assault victimization and perpetration among college students. To improve comprehensiveness and inclusiveness, the current revision of the victimization items of the SES included the addition of a module focusing on Technology Facilitated Sexual Exploitation (TFSE). The current paper...describes the development of the items making up this module of the SES-V...receipt of sexual materials, target of unwanted sexual comments, threatened sharing of sexually explicit images, actual sharing of sexually explicit images, target of sexual solicitation, threatened sharing of images of sexual exploitation, and actual sharing of images of sexual exploitation.”

# Other of Interest

Peterson JK, Densley JA, Hauf M, Moldenhauer J.  
**Epidemiology of Mass Shootings in the United States.**  
Annu Rev Clin Psychol. 2024 Jul;20(1):125-148. PMID:  
[38346290](#)

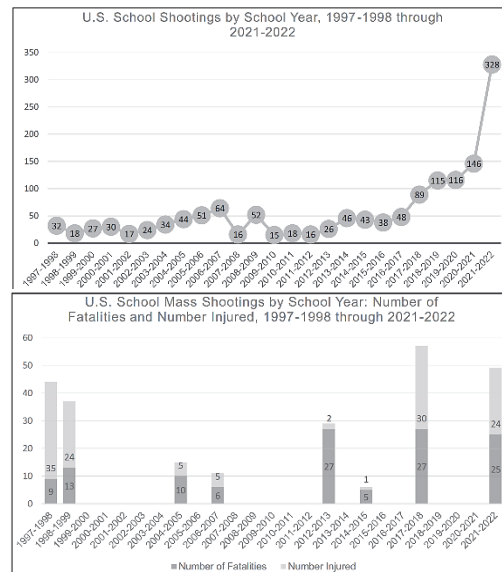
“This in-depth review delves into the multifaceted realm of mass shootings and explores their epidemiology from a psychological perspective... presents a comprehensive examination of the prevalence, perpetrator and victim profiles, motives, and contributing factors associated with mass shootings. By investigating the intricate relationship between masculinity, domestic violence, military service, social media, fame-seeking, suicidal ideation, mental illness, and firearms, this article sheds light on the multifaceted nature of mass shootings. Moreover, it discusses the importance of implementing effective prevention strategies.”

## SUMMARY POINTS

1. Mass shootings are variably defined but typically involve multiple fatalities from firearms in public locations, and the United States stands out globally for its high frequency of such events. Mass shootings have become more frequent and deadly over recent decades and have lasting effects on survivors, families, and society.
2. Mass shooting contagion, spurred by extensive media and online coverage, can inspire individuals, especially those with extremist beliefs or in crisis, to replicate violent acts.
3. While mass shootings are sometimes linked to untreated mental illness, studies show a varied relationship: A majority of shooters show signs or history of mental health issues, but psychosis, characterized by symptoms like delusions, is a primary driver in only about 10% of cases. Such findings underscore the multifaceted motives behind such acts.
4. Mass shootings amplify societal fear and anxiety, altering perceptions about mental illness and safety, and while interventions like active shooter drills aim to prepare communities, they can also have psychological impacts and potentially normalize violence.
5. Mass shooting prevention requires multifaceted approaches that target complex perpetrator pathways, emphasizing mental health accessibility, suicidality intervention, social media reforms, threat assessment and crisis intervention, and nuanced firearms policies.

Rapa LJ, Katsiyannis A, Scott SN, Durham O.  
**School Shootings in the United States: 1997-2022.**  
Pediatrics. 2024 Apr 1;153(4):e2023064311. PMID: [38433681](#)

“School shootings [K-12] have risen in frequency in the recent 25 years and are now at their highest recorded levels [defined as “every instance a gun is brandished, is fired, or a bullet hits school property for any reason, regardless of the number of victims, time of day or day of week”]. School mass shootings [defined as a shooting at a K-12 school site during which 3 or more victims were killed], although not necessarily increasing in frequency, have become more deadly. This leads to detrimental outcomes for all the nation's youth, not just those who experience school-related gun violence firsthand... School-based interventions can be used to address this public health crisis...and services should be used in support of students' mental health and academic and behavioral needs.”



Bell R.  
**Confronting School Shootings in America: The Pediatrician's Role.**  
Pediatrics. 2024 Apr 1;153(4):e2023065281. PMID: [38433663](#)

In a commentary on the article above, “It is worth noting that the databases used in this study are created and maintained by individuals and organizations using publicly available data with little funding support...The most common school shooting situation involves a student, a handgun, and an ‘escalation of dispute’...Research is needed to determine effective strategies for pediatricians in direct counseling of youth on handgun carrying...Most school shooters obtain their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative, underscoring the importance of secure home storage. The most secure way to store a firearm is locked up, unloaded, with the ammunition locked and stored separately. Pediatricians can play an important role in firearm storage counseling, but many lack training in how to have these conversations with families...the online module Safer: Storing Firearms Prevents Harm available through the American Academy of Pediatrics at no cost...It has been 25 years since the shooting at Columbine High School. Since that time, billions of dollars have been poured into school security efforts. Despite this, school-related gun incidents are growing, and the fatality rate of school mass shootings has increased. The data are clear that these tragedies cannot be prevented by focusing on school security alone...Intensifying our counseling and community collaboration efforts and advocating for research funding and policy change are critical measures to stem the tide of increasing gun violence in schools.”