

# ABUSE RESEARCH

For archive and to sign up for distribution list:

<http://abuseresearch.info/>

Questions: Harise Stein, MD [harise@stanford.edu](mailto:harise@stanford.edu)

## Child Abuse

Gautam N, Rahman MM, Khanam R.

### Adverse childhood experiences and externalizing, internalizing, and prosocial behaviors in children and adolescents: A longitudinal study.

J Affect Disord. 2024;363:124-33. PMID: [39043305](#)

From a long-term national Australian study, "Adverse childhood experiences such as physical punishment, hostile parenting, parental conflicts, separation, financial strain, and parental mental health issues increased the risk of externalizing and internalizing behaviors while reducing prosocial behaviors. The risk increases with the number of ACEs." Prosocial behaviors evaluated included desire to share with peers, providing support through injuries, kindness with younger children, and a proclivity to volunteer for aid.

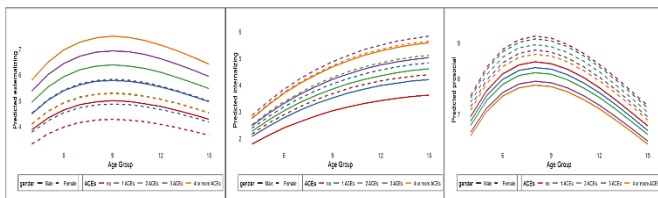


Fig. 1. Externalizing, internalizing, and prosocial behaviors among participants aged 4 to 15, who have experienced 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 or more ACEs.

Cimino S.

### Parental Neglect and Childhood Obesity Amidst COVID-19: A Developmental Psychopathology Perspective on Health and Developmental Risks.

Nutrients. 2024;16(13). PMID: [38999909](#)

"This paper highlights how pandemic-related disruptions have exacerbated conditions such as anxiety and depression and, notably, increased childhood obesity due to changes in lifestyle and reductions in physical activity. The analysis includes a discussion of how isolation has not only restricted access to educational and psychological resources but also increased the risk of parental mental illness and related familial stress, thereby intensifying issues of neglect and their consequent impact on child health...underscores the importance of early, multifaceted strategies involving parents, educators,

and healthcare providers to foster healthier developmental outcomes for children facing unprecedented global health crises."

Goulbourne M, Huber CM.

### Seizures, medical child abuse, and the pediatric neurologist.

Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2024;50:101137. PMID: [38964818](#)

"Approximately 40-50 % of medical child abuse cases involve neurological symptoms, with fabricated or induced seizures accounting for a significant proportion. Identifying fictitious seizures is often difficult even for the most experienced clinicians. Therefore, having a low threshold for clinical suspicion is essential in the timely diagnosis of medical child abuse. This article provides a review of the epidemiology, diagnosis, and management of medical child abuse when it involves seizures."

Kellogg ND, Lukefahr JL, Koek W.

### Medical assessments for abuse and neglect in contacts of maltreated children.

J Paediatr Child Health. 2024 Aug;60(8):349-354. PMID: [39014917](#)

"Records of 381 maltreated index children and their 588 contacts were reviewed. Abuse or neglect was diagnosed in 15% of contact children. When index children had more than one type of maltreatment or more than three risk factors, their contacts were more likely to be neglected or abused, respectively. Failure to thrive, patterned injuries, and unmet medical needs were the most common findings among maltreated contacts, and most were diagnosed with injuries or conditions that would not be evident to a child protection investigator."

Lorenzo M, Cory E, Cho R, et al.

### Deliberate Practice as an Effective Method for Reducing Diagnostic Error in Identifying Burn and Bruise Injuries Suspicious for an Abusive Injury.

J Pediatr. 2024 Jul 2;274:114183. PMID: [38964439](#)

137 US and Canadian pediatric and front-line physicians significantly reduced their error rate in interpreting child burn and bruise injuries suspicious for abuse after reviewing an educational opportunity of 300 cases with pictures. "Variables associated with diagnostic error included patient age, sex, skin color, mechanism of injury, and size and pattern of injury."

Park C, Alley S, Reinke W, Yarlagadda S, Hansen J.

### **Child maltreatment in children with medical complexity and disability.**

Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2024;50:101134. PMID: [38964809](#)

“Children with disability and/or medical complexity are particularly vulnerable to child maltreatment, which can have lifelong effects. The risk for type and severity of abuse are different for children of differing abilities, with children with less severe disabilities generally felt to be at highest risk. Children with cognitive impairment are at highest risk for physical abuse, and children with communication impairment are at increased risk for sexual abuse. Neglect is common. Support for families and caregivers of children with special needs may help reduce the risk of maltreatment. Pediatric medical providers are in a position to improve care of these children, through assessment of specific needs and referrals to available resources and services.”

## Adult Manifestations of Child Abuse

Selden TM, Bernard DM, Decker SL, Fang Z.

### **Adverse Childhood Experiences: Health Care Utilization And Expenditures In Adulthood.**

Health Aff (Millwood). 2024;101377h1thaff202301271. PMID: [39047202](#)

From a 2021 US national survey, “Compared to demographically similar adults without ACEs, those with ACEs had substantially higher healthcare utilization and 26.3 percent higher expenditures. The aggregate spending difference across the 157.6 million US adults with ACEs was \$292 billion in 2021. Moreover, we observed large, graded relationships between ACEs and health status, health behaviors, and some dimensions of socioeconomic status. We also found associations between ACEs and a range of adverse adult circumstances, including financial and housing problems, social network problems, little or no life satisfaction, stress, food insecurity, verbal abuse, physical harm, and discrimination.”

Alley J, Gassen J, Slavich GM.

### **The effects of childhood adversity on twenty-five disease biomarkers and twenty health conditions in adulthood.**

Brain Behav Immun. 2024 Jul 16:S0889-1591(24)00488-4. PMID: [39025418](#)

Using data from a large national study, authors assessed stressor exposure groups, and individual stressors, related to 25 biomarkers of inflammation,

metabolism, and stress, and 20 major health conditions. “Childhood adversity portends worse biological health and elevated risk for many major health problems in a sex- and stressor-specific manner” including greater inflammation, poorer metabolic health, cardiovascular disease, cancer, arthritis, and mental/behavioral health problems.

Qiao Y, Zhu D, Zhao M, Magnussen CG, Xi B.

### **Adverse childhood experience, adopting a healthy lifestyle in adulthood, and risk of cardiovascular diseases.**

J Affect Disord. 2024;362:450-8. PMID: [39009308](#)

Using data from the UK biobank and almost 13 year follow-up, Individuals with high ACEs had a greater risk of incident overall cardiovascular disease (hazard ratio [HR] = 1.39), coronary heart disease (1.50), and atrial fibrillation (1.18) compared to those with low ACEs. Having a healthy lifestyle (no smoking, adequate physical activity, healthy diet, no obesity) in adulthood substantially attenuated these increased risks conferred by ACEs.

Trott M, Bull C, Najman JM, et al.

### **Hospital admissions and community health service contacts for mental illness following self-reported child maltreatment: Results from the Childhood Adversity and Lifetime Morbidity (CALM) study.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106912. PMID: [38970858](#)

Linking data sets for Australian adults to age 40, self-report of all types of child maltreatment was significantly associated with admissions to hospital for any type of mental illness, for non-psychotic mental disorder, alcohol and/or substance use, and community mental health service contacts. Hospital admissions for psychotic mental disorders were significantly associated with childhood physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse.

Momose Y, Ishida H.

### **Bullying experiences in childhood and health outcomes in adulthood.**

PLoS One. 2024;19(7):e0305005. PMID: [39008467](#)

From a long-term Japanese adult study, “for both men and women, the direct effect of being bullied at school was strong and significant. Bullying experiences in childhood had a long-term impact on health outcomes in adulthood, regardless of social background and mediating factors of education, marriage, economic well-being, and social networks. Bullying victimization increased the risk of poor subjective health, low mental health scores, and activity restriction due to health conditions...Policy measures not only to prevent bullying during childhood but also to alleviate its negative consequences in adulthood should be considered.”

# Adolescents

Matthews TA, Shao H, Forster M, Kim I.

## **Associations of adverse childhood experiences with depression and anxiety among children in the US.**

J Affect Disord. 2024 Oct 1;362:645-651. PMID: [39029666](#)

From a very large national study of children and adolescents, “ACEs were associated with depression and anxiety in a linear, dose-dependent manner. After adjustment for covariates, compared to no ACE exposures, participants with exposures to one, two, and three ACEs exhibited significantly higher odds of depression (fully-adjusted ORs = 2.18, 4.95, and 11.39, respectively). For anxiety, compared to no ACEs exposures, participants with exposure to one, two, and three ACEs had significantly higher odds of anxiety (1.90, 3.66, and 6.91, respectively)... These findings underscore the need for urgent government and healthcare interventions and policies to ameliorate ACEs' health effects.”

Breslin FJ, Kerr KL, Ratliff EL, et al.

## **Early Life Adversity Predicts Reduced Hippocampal Volume in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study.**

J Adolesc Health. 2024;75(2):275-80. PMID: [38878049](#)

“The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study provides a large dataset of tabulated neuroimaging, youth-reported adverse experiences, and parent-reported financial adversity from a sample of children around the United States.” For 7036 youth from ages 9-10 to 11-12 years, “Higher adversity was associated with lower hippocampal volume at Baseline and at Year 2...The hippocampus plays a major role in the formation and reconstruction of memories and is strongly associated with learning. The hippocampus has a high density of glucocorticoid [stress hormone] receptors and is, therefore, especially sensitive to stress...heightened glucocorticoid exposure can result in dendritic atrophy [shrinking of connections between brain cells] and the suppression of neurogenesis (i.e., the formation of new neurons), suggesting a process by which early life adversity (ELA) leads to volumetric changes in this brain area...Prevention and early intervention are needed to alter the course of this trajectory.”

# Domestic Violence – Effects on Children

Oberheim K, Barlow J, Nescott E.

## **Implications of Exposure to IPV in Childhood.**

Dela J Public Health. 2024;10(2):6-8. PMID: [38966346](#)

“Children were present at 38% of domestic incidents reported in Delaware, and barriers to reporting predict this number to be much higher. IPV can take numerous forms, such as physical, sexual, psychological, economic, and reproductive abuse, meaning each situation manifests differently and requires individualized intervention. Children face unique short- and long-term challenges as a result of their witness status.” Authors detail various programs in Delaware to support families experiencing IPV, including workplace policies, housing, and trauma-informed therapy.

McKenzie M, Humphreys C, Tarzia L.

## **Mothering in the Aftermath of Reproductive Coercion and Abuse. Violence Against Women.**

2024:10778012241263102. PMID: [39043121](#)

“Based on an analysis of interviews with 30 Australian mothers, we found that RCA [reproductive coercion and abuse] affected mothering in complex ways. Many struggled with feeling detached, resentful, and guilty toward their children, while some found mothering an emotionally and morally restorative experience after the RCA. All felt compelled to conceal their abuse from their children and others. The findings have implications for how healthcare practitioners can support mothers in the aftermath of RCA.”

# Domestic Violence – Physical Health

Nikolova S, Chong C, Li J, et al.

## **Brain structural and functional abnormalities associated with acute post-traumatic headache: iron deposition and functional connectivity.**

J Headache Pain. 2024 May 28;25(1):88. PMID: [38807070](#)

For 60 adults average age 42 years with acute post-traumatic headache due to mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), compared to a healthy control group, brain scans showed that increased iron accumulation was associated with headache frequency and severity. Per authors, this suggests that the post-traumatic headache profile might reflect the severity of underlying mTBI injury. (While iron is present in red blood cells, it is not known what the presence of iron in this context reflects – initial bleeding, increased blood flow for repair to more injured areas, etc.)

Subbarao B, Hayani Z, Clemmens Z.

**Complementary and Integrative Medicine in Treating Headaches, Cognitive Dysfunction, Mental Fatigue, Insomnia, and Mood Disorders Following Traumatic Brain Injury: A Comprehensive Review.**

Phys Med Rehabil Clin N Am. 2024;35(3):651-64. PMID: [38945657](#)

“Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a complex condition associated with a range of persistent symptoms including headaches, cognitive dysfunction, mental fatigue, insomnia, and mood disorders. Conventional treatments for TBI-related symptoms can be insufficient, leading to interest in complementary and integrative medicine (CIM) approaches. This comprehensive article examines the existing literature on CIM modalities, including mind-body interventions, acupuncture/acupressure, herbal remedies, nutritional supplements, biofeedback, yoga, and tai chi in the context of managing secondary complications following TBI.”

Wayne CD, Singer YM, Malic CC, Baselice HE, Bernal NP.

**Burn-related Violence Against Women in the US: Findings from the ABA Burn Registry.**

J Burn Care Res. 2024 Jul 26;irae148. PMID: [39056356](#)

From a US burn registry of 54,523 women aged 18+ years, including those who experienced an assault or accidental burn, but not self-harm, 2% experienced burn violence. Women who experienced burn violence were a younger age (36 vs. 47 years), had a higher proportion of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns (35.4% vs. 28.9%), and a higher proportion of >20% total body surface area (18.2% vs. 6.7%). They also had a higher median length of hospital stay (7.0 vs. 4.0 days), ICU stay (8.5 vs. 4 days), and higher mortality rate (5.7% vs. 4.3%). “The frequency of women who sustained burn violence appears small yet experience worse outcomes.”

## Domestic Violence – Mental Health

Hargrave AS, Knight KR, Dhatt ZK, et al.

**The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Homelessness and Returns to Housing: A Qualitative Analysis From the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness.**

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241259006. PMID: [39008369](#)

Of 104 California adults experiencing both homelessness and IPV, “violence within a partnership was multidimensional (physical, sexual,

emotional, and financial) and bidirectional. We identified six themes: (1) IPV precipitated and prolonged homelessness; (2) Need for housing, financial stability, and material resources influenced staying in abusive relationships; (3) Alcohol and illicit substance use exacerbated violence between partners; (4) Participants struggled to find resources in domestic violence (DV) shelters; (5) The healthcare system did not provide substantial support; and (6) discrimination and stigma influenced equitable access to housing and DV resources. Experiencing IPV contributed to homelessness and impeded returns to housing.”

López-Aybar L, Gonzales L, Dhillon A.

**Intimate partner violence survivors' reported experiences of discrimination in mental health treatment settings.**

J Community Psychol. 2024 Sep;52(7):835-856. PMID: [38976375](#)

“This study explored perceived discrimination among 88 IPV survivors across different racial backgrounds and income levels in mental health settings...Results revealed high levels of perceived discrimination based on survivor status among both racially minoritized and majoritized survivors. However, racially minoritized survivors reported greater racial discrimination and associated stress within mental healthcare settings. Regardless of income level, all survivors reported significant discrimination experiences...which informs the need to focus education and training on reducing IPV-based discrimination toward IPV survivors.”

## Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse

Hall L, Lichtenberg PA.

**Successful Aging Through Financial Empowerment (SAFE): Financial Coaching with Older Adult Victims of Financial Exploitation.**

J Gerontol Soc Work. 2024;1-21. PMID: [38958203](#)

“Current estimates of financial exploitation show between 5% and 11% of older adults are victimized each year. This study examined an empowerment-centered financial coaching intervention...Most SAFE participants were very satisfied or satisfied (91%) with the services they received. Participants also reported significantly less stress at the six-month follow-up. These findings demonstrate that empowerment-centered financial coaching interventions can successfully address financial exploitation in older adult populations.” [Resources](#)

Lim AC, Weissberger GH, Axelrod J, et al.

**Neuropsychological profile associated with financial exploitation vulnerability in older adults without dementia.**

The Clinical neuropsychologist. 2024;1-17. PMID: [39060956](#)

“Among older adults without dementia, individuals at higher risk for financial exploitation demonstrated worse verbal memory, confrontation naming [difficulty naming objects], phonemic fluency [listing objects quickly, a measure of verbal ability and executive control], and set-shifting [a measure of ability to be flexible and shift between one task and another].

## Sexual Assault

Sachs CJ, Ladd M, Chapman J.

**Sexual Assault History and Physical.**

In: StatPearls [Internet]. 2024 Apr 30. PMID: [28846356](#)

In this general review article, “Sexual assault is defined as sexual contact between individuals without legal consent, primarily based on age but including capacity. Rape is a form of sexual assault involving penetration, however minimal, of the vaginal or anal opening. Although physical force may be used, sexual assault includes coercion into sexual contact by intimidation, threats, or fear. Local laws variably define the exact acts that constitute sexual contact and the specific populations unable to give legal consent, including individuals with disabilities. In general, those under the influence of drugs or alcohol, minors, and developmentally delayed individuals are considered unable to provide consent for sexual contact. All clinicians must conduct a compassionate, complete history and physical examination of any patient regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation after sexual assault.” [Full article](#)

Miles LW, Valentine JL, Mabey LJ, et al.

**A Systematic Review of Evidence-Based Treatments for Adolescent and Adult Sexual Assault Victims.**

J Am Psychiatr Nurses Assoc. 2024 May-Jun;30(3):480-502. PMID: [38148646](#)

From a review of evidence-based mental health intervention recommendations for adolescent and adult victims of sexual assault, “Findings strongly support several primary psychotherapy treatments: cognitive behavioral therapy, cognitive processing therapy, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing, narrative exposure therapy, and prolonged exposure therapy. Complementary (aerobic exercise, art, drama, and music therapy) and pharmacological treatments were explored.”

Porter A, Falcon A, Graefe B, et al.

**Swipe Left on Sexual Harassment: Understanding and Addressing Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence on Dating Apps.**

J Interpers Violence. 2024;8862605241265672. PMID: [39066585](#)

“This study aimed to better understand the relationship between geolocation dating apps like Tinder, Bumble, and Grindr and technology-facilitated sexual violence (TFSV) among university students. An anonymous survey was electronically administered to a convenience sample of 1,000 undergraduates at a large private university in the southeastern United States...A total of 910 respondents completed the survey, with more than half (54%) of respondents reporting some type of TFSV while using dating apps. Women and non-heterosexual students experience significantly more TFSV than male and heterosexual students...with Grindr users being significantly more likely to report TFSV.”

## Human Trafficking

Hughes-Wegner AT, DeMaria AL, Schwab-Reese LM, et al.

**Exploring the role of salon professionals in identifying sex trafficking and violence victims in Indiana.**

BMC Public Health. 2024;24(1):2001. PMID: [39060947](#)

“Salon professionals typically identified potential violence through signs such as bruises, odd behavior, and client disclosures, prompting them to engage in cautious conversations. Yet, few were trained to identify and intervene. Often, they responded to suspected violence by talking with the client, sharing concerns with salon leadership, directly intervening on the client's behalf, or contacting the police...One-on-one salon services may provide a unique opportunity to intervene and identify victims of violence, especially when empowered through additional training and community collaborative partnerships.”

Young A, Findlay S, Cole M, et al.

**A Teach-the-Teacher Module for Human Trafficking Bedside Instruction.**

MedEdPORTAL. 2024;20:11422. PMID: [39044803](#)

“Despite the prevalence of trafficked persons in health care settings, a lack of educational modules exists for use in clinical contexts.” Authors developed a 50-minute train-the-trainer module on human trafficking for the emergency medicine clerkship at the University of Iowa that was effective and well-received. [Training materials.](#)

# LGBTQ Concerns

Terry E, Pharr JR, Batra R, Batra K.

## **Protective and Risk Factors for Suicidal Ideation and Behavior Among Sexual Minority Women in the United States: A Cross-Sectional Study.**

LGBT Health. 2024 Jul;11(5):392-405. PMID: [38324060](#)

From a US study of 497 sexual minority women, bisexual women, compared to their lesbian counterparts, had higher scores for anxiety, depression, stress, and serious suicidal ideation and behavior; and less resilience. For the whole group, "Experiencing anxiety, depression, victimization distress, and family discrimination distress were positively associated with serious suicidal ideation and behavior, whereas personal resilience and family cohesion were negatively associated with serious suicidal ideation and behavior."

# Race/Cultural Concerns

Pleasant V, Kotian A, Hammoud MM, Maben-Feaster R.

## **The Importance of Discussing the History of Racism in Medical Student Education.**

Clin Obstet Gynecol. 2024;67(3):499-511. PMID: [39061123](#)

"Racial health disparities are tightly linked to the longstanding and pervasive institution of racism. Efforts to reverse disparities begin with awareness and accountability through education. The health care workforce must be formally educated about racist practices, tools, and ideologies that perpetuate poor health outcomes. This article explores prior efforts to integrate race didactics into medical school education, addresses current legislation, and illuminates lessons learned from a single institution pilot curriculum exploring the history of racism in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Educating medical school students about the history of racism is an important and necessary tool for positive change."

Lai J, Park E, Amabile CJ, et al.

## **"They Don't See Us": Asian Students' Perceptions of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment on Three California Public University Campuses.**

J Interpers Violence. 2024;39(15-16):3619-50. PMID:

[38470066](#)

23 in-depth interviews were conducted with Asian students enrolled at three University of California campuses. "Five main themes emerged: (a) SVSH [sexual violence/sexual harassment] is considered a "taboo" topic in Asian culture and family systems,

and Asian student survivors are often reluctant to disclose incidents or seek support services. (b) Students did not feel their campus environments were tailored to understand or meet the sociocultural realities and needs of Asian student survivors. (c) Campus SVSH services and reporting processes were seen as non-transparent. (d) Peers were the major source of support and SVSH information, as opposed to official campus-based resources and training. (e) Survivors often conduct an internal cost-benefit analysis evaluating their decision about whether to report. This study highlights the lack of conversation surrounding SVSH in Asian families, and how the cultural stigma of sex and sexual violence prevented Asian students from receiving knowledge and resources about these topics in their families...Thus, facilitating peer support groups, training university students to support each other through SVSH incidents, and tailoring campus services to the diverse cultural backgrounds of students are key considerations to foster a safe campus environment and prevent SVSH."

Holmes EG, Harris RR, Leland BD, Kara A.

## **Against Medical Advice Discharge: Implicit Bias and Structural Racism.**

Am J Med. 2024 Jul 22:S0002-9343(24)00451-0. PMID:

[39047930](#)

"Approximately 1%-2% of all hospitalizations end in an against medical advice (AMA) discharge; rates of AMA discharge have been increasing over the last two decades...It is generally accepted to be a premature discharge that occurs at the patient's request over the discharging clinician's objection...AMA discharge provides no benefit to the patient but instead is associated with significant harms, including risk of readmission, mortality, and suicide...Black patients are more likely than White patients to be discharged AMA. Poor communication, inadequate symptom control, inadequate management of substance withdrawal, and competing social demands are associated with AMA discharge; these barriers are more common for Black patients. Both bias and systemic racism contribute to higher rates of AMA discharge of Black patients...AMA discharge is a harmful clinical practice that is inconsistent with all dimensions of quality health care...These disparities require the profession to reconsider the value and purpose of the AMA discharge."

Petrecan VG, Dowdell EB, Harding SL, et al.

**Murdered Indigenous Women: A Comparison Study of Victim and Perpetrator Patterns and Characteristics.**

J Forensic Nurs. 2024 Jul-Sep 01;20(3):174-184. PMID: [38488389](#)

“Despite only making up an estimated 1% of the total U.S. population, Indigenous women are murdered at a rate that is more than 10 times the national average in some communities...Indigenous women are also often subject to domestic and intimate partner violence, which in some instances are precursors to homicide in itself...In nearly 73% of the cases in which the victim had experienced a prior history of IPV, the homicide was perpetrated by a romantic or intimate partner. In comparison, among cases in which there was no known history of IPV, the murder was committed primarily by strangers or acquaintances/friends. This finding, coupled with...reports that Indigenous Americans have higher rates of IPV than other groups and are disproportionately affected by homicide and suicide compared with any other racial or ethnic groups, highlights the importance of developing strategies to assess and address IPV in Indigenous women.”

## Perpetrators

Fix RL, Letourneau EJ.

**Examining and Comparing the First Public Olympic and Competitive Sports Misconduct Registry with the National Sex Offense Registry.**

J Child Sex Abus. 2024;33(4):529-44. PMID: [38881157](#)

“In 2017, the U.S. Center for SafeSport launched the first public disciplinary sports registry listing individuals accused of engaging in harmful behavior against child and adult athletes. Of 1161 individuals on the sports registry, 22% were concurrently listed on the national registry for sexual offenses. Relative to individuals listed only on the sports registry, those on both registries were 4.5 and 1.4 times more likely to have sexual misconduct allegations and allegations involving a child, respectively. Of those on both registries, 31% were on the national registry approximately seven years before appearing on the sports registry. We discuss whether and how public registries represent effective strategies for crime prevention.”

Mackinon MB, Laifersweiler-Dwyer D.

**A Deeper Look at the Boy Scouts of America "Perversion" Files: Structural Factors Related to Access and Abuse.**

J Interpers Violence. 2024;39(15-16):3352-72. PMID: [38420936](#)

“The Boy Scouts of America's (BSA's) Ineligible Volunteer (IV) files, commonly called the "perversion files," is a unique data set allowing researchers to examine organizational characteristics that allow for child sexual victimization.” From a random selection of cases, “Through both the scouting documents and the public domain records, the researchers identified six BSA-specific characteristics that allowed motivated adult leaders to molest their victims: (a) weak or inefficient incident reporting system, (b) failure to collect and review pertinent information, (c) organizationally legitimate reasons for one-on-one contact, (d) volunteer imbalance, (e) legitimate reasons for separation from protective adults, and (f) social status as a prophylactic defense.”

Winters GM, Jeglic EL, Johnson BN, Chou C.

**The prevalence of sexual grooming behaviors among survivors of childhood sexual abuse.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106842. PMID: [39059229](#)

From a survey of 1045 adults who had experienced childhood sexual abuse, “Overall, 99% of participants endorsed experiencing at least one sexual grooming behavior, with an average of 14.25 sexual grooming behaviors out of a possible 42 (range = 0-36) reported per survivor. Participants endorsed behaviors across all five stages of the sexual grooming process: victim selection, gaining access and isolation, trust development, desensitization, and post-abuse maintenance. The most frequently reported sexual grooming behaviors included the perpetrator selecting a child who was compliant/trusting (68%) or had low self-esteem (61%); arranging activities alone with the child (57%); presenting themselves as nice/charming/likeable (70%); showing the child large amounts of attention (56%) or affection (54%); and using seemingly innocent touch (51%).”

Ricono-Kaufhold S, Czarnietzki M, Darjee R, et al.

**Comparing child and adult sexual homicides in Australia and New Zealand: A retrospective study.**

Behav Sci Law. 2024 Jul-Aug;42(4):435-460. PMID: [38801740](#)

From Australia/New Zealand data, compared to adult sexual homicide offenders, child sexual homicide offenders “displayed elevated rates of pedophilia, sexual deviance, and adverse childhood experiences, including sexual abuse. They were more likely to be married, cohabitate, and target familial victims. Their crimes were more often committed during daylight and outdoors, involving tactics such as victim conning, restraints, strangulation, and hiding victim's bodies.”

# Police and Court Systems

Pinchevsky GM, Miller SL, Goodmark L.

## "Stop Giving Us What You Think We Need. Come to Us and Ask Us What We Need": Justice Perceptions Among Survivors of Domestic Abuse.

Violence Against Women. 2024;10778012241265361. PMID: [39043126](#)

"This study explores perceptions of justice held by 96 survivors of domestic abuse. Responses to an online survey indicate that perceptions of justice are complex and multifaceted. Survivors often spoke of justice as accountability, restoration, postabuse support, and validation. The findings highlight the many justice considerations, and solely emphasizing criminal legal system outcomes may be misguided. Implications for additional research and practice are provided."

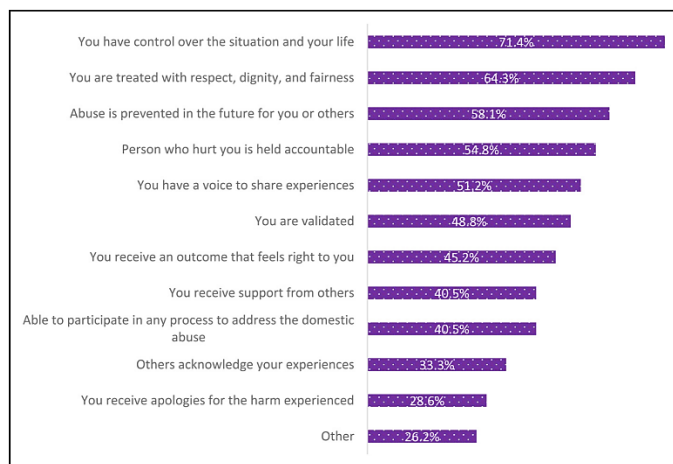


Figure 2. The statements most important for achieving justice.

Toros K, Falch-Eriksen A.

## "I got to say two or three lines"-A systematic review of children's participation in child protective services.

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;106934. PMID: [38971702](#)

"Although children's right to participate in decisions that influence their lives is widely recognized, it is rarely present in the assessment and decision-making processes in child protective services (CPS)." From this research review, "The findings show that although a few children reported instances of meaningful participation, overall, children's participation was often reduced to a tokenistic engagement, with limited influence on the decision-making processes. Children, especially younger children, receive insufficient information and struggle to understand the proceedings...highlight a need for significant changes in how child participation is conceptualized and operationalized

within CPS. Implications for practice, policy, and research are discussed."

# Providers

Dawson D, Bell SB, Hollman N, et al.

## Assaults and Microaggressions Against Psychiatric Residents: Findings from a US Survey.

Acad Psychiatry. 2024;48(4):310-9. PMID: [38291313](#)

"The survey was completed by 275 psychiatry residents from 29 states (63.6% women). At least one form of assault was experienced by 78.9% of participants with 74.5% experiencing verbal, 22.2% physical, and 6.2% sexual assault. At least one type of microaggression was experienced by 86.9% of trainees. Elevations in PTSD scores were seen in residents who identified as women and non-White and those physically injured or sexually assaulted. While 92.7% of residents stated their program provided training about assault, 25% of residents indicated they had no training on recognizing and responding to microaggressions. Psychiatric residents experience widespread assault and microaggressions in the clinical setting but often do not report them. Due to the ubiquitous nature of these events, programs should provide training about early recognition and de-escalation techniques for agitation, responding effectively to microaggressions, and the importance of reporting events."

Neff K, McKean E, Miller M, et al.

## How medical students' trauma histories affect their clinical clerkship experiences.

The clinical teacher. 2024;21(4):e13734. PMID: [38247167](#)

From a survey of 419 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students at a single institution, with a 30.8% response rate, "Forty (31.1%) reported a history of sexual assault/IPV-32 (80.0%) women, five (12.5%) men, and three (7.5%) who did not report gender or identified as non-binary. Of the 40 respondents with a history of SA/IPV, 20 (50.0%) reported that their prior history affected their overall clinical experience, and nine (22.5%) felt that it affected their performance. Only seven (17.5%) reported using any resources, such as counselling, during their clerkships. Narrative responses discussed significant effects on performing physical exams, taking a history, interacting with team members, and engaging during clerkships."



Pell B, Melendez-Torres GJ, Buckley K, Evans R, Robinson A.  
**A Realist Evaluation of a "Whole Health" Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse in the UK.**  
Violence Against Women. 2024;10778012241265364. PMID: [39043123](#)

"Health Pathfinder is a multilevel system change intervention initiated to transform the health response to domestic violence and abuse in eight sites in England. The current study drew upon interviews with health professionals ( $n = 27$ ) and victim-survivors ( $n = 20$ )...Findings show that five change mechanisms explain why Health Pathfinder was effective as an intervention: awareness, expertise, relationships, empowerment, and evidence. Positive progress in respect of each mechanism had meaningful impacts on victim-survivor experiences of enquiry, disclosure, and uptake of services and had the potential to meaningfully impact health inequities."

Ziola EA, Gimenez MA, Stevenson AP, Newberry JA.  
**The Role of Emergency Medicine in Intimate Partner Violence: A Scoping Review of Screening, Survivor Resources, and Barriers.**  
Trauma Violence Abuse. 2024;15248380241265383. PMID: [39049479](#)

From a research review on IPV screening in emergency medicine, "Inconsistencies in screening women for IPV in EM are still prevalent. No study used the same validated IPV screening tool and four did not specify the tool. Significant barriers to screening included time constraints, patient acuity, language barriers, staff education, and inability to connect patients to resources. There is a need for more consistent IPV screening in the EM setting, which may include the development of a standardized, inclusive screening tool, as well as additional research and sharing of best practices."

Namatovu F, Ineland J.  
**Collaboration in providing intimate-partner violence services to women with disabilities.**  
BMC Public Health. 2024;24(1):1863. PMID: [38992636](#)  
"This study combines the perspectives of women with disabilities and those of professionals to understand collaboration in providing IPV services to women with disabilities...Strengthening collaboration requires trust, specified roles, and the allocation of adequate resources."

Hui V, Zhang B, Jeon B, Wong KCA, Klem ML, Lee YJ.  
**Harnessing Health Information Technology in Domestic Violence in the United States: A Scoping Review.**  
Public health reviews. 2024;45:1606654. PMID: [38974136](#)

"The following scoping review aims to identify and map the existing evidence for HIT [health information technology] interventions among women with DV experiences in the United States... (e.g., mobile applications, online training, web-based intervention, Global Positioning System (GPS), emails, videoconferencing, and simulation), and the majority of studies assessed usability, acceptability, and participants' satisfaction. Several studies assessed psychological wellbeing outcomes."

Wongworawat MD.  
**Editorial: When What I Did Wasn't Enough to Stop Intimate Partner Violence.**  
Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2024 Jul 15;482(9):1515–6. PMID: [39008403](#)

Clinician details efforts to contact both police and APS for an 80-year-old woman being physically abused by her husband, and lack of any decisive eventual help for her.

Rotter LK.  
**"Do You Feel Safe at Home?"**  
N Engl J Med. 2024 Sep 5;391(9):785-787. PMID: [39216099](#)  
Clinician details repeated concern and efforts to ask about possible abuse, all rebuffed by patient who is eventually killed by her husband in homicide/suicide.

Brooks AN.  
**Escaping the Closed World of Intimate Partner Violence.**  
Am J Nurs. 2024;124(8):64. PMID: [39051822](#)  
An ICU nurse explains how she finally left an abusive relationship after non-judgmental support from a colleague.

## Prevention

Stirling J, Gavril A, Brennan B, et al.  
**The Pediatrician's Role in Preventing Child Maltreatment**  
Pediatrics. 2024 Aug 1;154(2):e2024067608. PMID: [39034825](#)  
"This clinical report elaborates the pediatrician's multitiered role in supporting relational health from infancy through adolescence, from universal interventions assessing for maltreatment risks and protective factors to targeted interventions addressing identified needs and building on strengths. When maltreatment has already occurred, interventions can prevent further victimization and mitigate long-term sequelae. Advice is provided on engaging community resources."

Culyba A, Ragavan MI, Miller E.

**Supporting Youth Exposed to Violence in the Post-Pandemic: Prevention and Intervention Strategies.**

Pediatr Clin North Am. 2024;71(4):567-81. PMID: [39003002](#)

“This study reviews the increases in intimate partner and youth violence during the pandemic, mechanisms contributing to these increases, and the overarching health impacts on adolescents...Provision of confidential, accessible, and affirming adolescent health services is essential during the early phases of a public health emergency (PHE) and should be maintained throughout recovery phases. Advocacy for youth in communities with limited access to Internet, computers, and cell phones are critical to reduce inequities in health care delivery. Given the multiple overlapping forms of trauma and violence that youth experience and potential barriers to disclosure, health professionals should receive training on how to offer resources and support to all patients and how to discuss options for safety and healing during the course of PHE.”

Morgan MHC, Herbst JH, Fortson BL, et al.

**Evaluation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers on parent behavioral outcomes.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106928. PMID: [39032355](#)

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web-based behavioral parent training program, Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers, uses a psychoeducational approach to promote positive parenting and address common parenting challenges.” A sample of 200 parents of 2- to 4-year-olds were recruited via the internet and randomly assigned to guided navigation (GN) or unguided navigation (UN). Both GN and UN study conditions significantly increased use of praise and commands and consequences, decreased corporal punishment use and attitudes promoting corporal punishment, and increased use of time out.”

Editors T.

**Homeschooling Needs More Uniform Oversight: Without standards and monitoring, children may get an incomplete education or be abused.**

Scientific American. 2024;330(6):70. PMID: [39017571](#)

“With few states tracking who is being homeschooled and what they are learning, an untold number of U.S. children are at risk of a poor education or even abuse...Eleven states do not require parents to inform anyone that they are home-schooling a child, and in most of the country, once a child has exited the traditional schoolroom environment, no one checks to ensure they are

receiving an education at all...Many are well-rounded and well-adjusted children who go on to thrive as adults. But others do not receive a meaningful education—and too many have suffered horrific abuse. The federal government must develop basic standards for safety and quality of education in homeschooling across the country.”

Solvi AS, Råbu M, Røseth I.

**"You think lots of love will heal the child, but it requires a lifetime of patience". Foster parents' intrapersonal and interpersonal struggles.**

Child Abuse Negl. 2024;154:106947. PMID: [39018750](#)

In this study of Norwegian foster parents' lived experience of caring for foster children with mental illness and attachment difficulties, “Our analysis revealed four interrelated constituents describing the foster parents' experiences: 1) Wanting to help a child, 2) Adjustments were harder than expected, 3) Sacrifices and suppression of needs, and 4) Commitment and love mixed with ambivalence...Balancing the needs of the foster child with the well-being of the foster family can be challenging. Foster parents may need extensive support from professionals who are familiar with their unique circumstances.”

## Researchers

Gonzalez CJ, Krishnamurthy S, Rollin FG, et al.

**Incorporating Anti-racist Principles Throughout the Research Lifecycle: A Position Statement from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM).**

J Gen Intern Med. 2024 Aug;39(10):1922-1931. PMID: [38743167](#)

“This position statement from the Society of General Internal Medicine presents a conceptual framework suggesting multi-level systemic changes and strategies for researchers to incorporate an anti-racist perspective throughout the research lifecycle.”

Restar AJ, Lett E, Menezes NP, et al.

**Getting Precise about Gender and Sex Measurement: A Primer for Epidemiologists.**

Am J Epidemiol. 2024 Jun 29;kwae144. PMID: [38944757](#)

“Accurately measuring gender and sex is crucial in public health and epidemiology...We aim to summarize existing critiques and guiding principles in measuring gender and sex that can be applied in practice.”

Kristiansen D, Luetke M, Gunther M, et al.  
**Constructing comparable intimate partner violence indicators across the DHS, MICS, and PMA health surveys.**  
 J Public Health Policy. 2024 Sep;45(3):537-542. PMID: [38997471](#)

“We construct comparable indicators that measure the prevalence of recent intimate partner violence (IPV) using publicly available, integrated microdata within the IPUMS [“the world’s largest individual-level population database”] data collections across many countries. The objective of this work is to increase opportunities for comparative research by leveraging vast quantities of harmonized data. We use consistent and comparable variables that measure domestic violence in international health surveys.”

Zabelski S, Cascalheira CJ, Shaw TJ, et al.  
**Community-Based Participatory Research with Sexual and Gender Minority Trauma Survivors: Challenges, Solutions, and Recommendations for Future Research.**  
 J Interpers Violence. 2024 Aug 9;8862605241265441. PMID: [39126159](#)

“In the current paper, we present a case study of a CBPR [community-based participatory research] study conducted in collaboration with SGM [sexual and gender minority] survivors of DV/SA, as well as community stakeholders (i.e., DV/SA agency staff and providers). More specifically, we make six recommendations to address CBPR study challenges specifically focused on SGM DV/SA, including (a) integrating positionality throughout every step of the research process, (b) establishing rapport with community partners early in the process, (c) engaging external experts in conducting research related to SGM DV/SA to enhance community-research partnerships, (d) ensuring diverse identities are represented within the study team, (e) developing clear, co-defined feedback and communication guidelines with a Survivor Advisory Board (SAB), and (f) implementing an SAB engagement/retention plan. We also provide concrete examples from our CBPR case study to illustrate each recommendation.

Franchino-Olsen H, Woollett N, Thurston C, et al.  
**“They should ask me so that they can help me”: Patterns of young children’s expressed feelings and beliefs when interviewed about violence and difficult experiences.**  
 Child Abuse Negl. 2024;106932. PMID: [38972819](#)

“Children’s participation in research is a rights-based principle. However, young children are often excluded from research on sensitive topics, due to gatekeepers concerns that participation would cause distress/re-traumatization and conflict with

the principle of providing adequate protection from harm.” From interviews with South African children who had experienced violence, “the quantitative interview was frequently a positive experience for young children, and children who became upset or emotional stated their feelings were due to violence they experienced. The interviewer seemed to represent a safe person to whom the child could disclose. The play- and arts-based methods of the interview were useful in building this safety and providing space for children to regulate difficult emotions.”

## Other of Interest

Verma A, Inslicht SS, Bhargava A.  
**Gut-Brain Axis: Role of Microbiome, Metabolomics, Hormones, and Stress in Mental Health Disorders.**  
 Cells. 2024 Aug 27;13(17):1436. PMID: [39273008](#)

“The gut microbiome, an organ itself, is now thought to influence almost all other organs, ranging from the brain to the reproductive systems. Gut microbiome, metabolites, hormones, and biological sex also influence a myriad of health conditions that range from mental health disorders, obesity, gastrointestinal disorders, and cardiovascular diseases to reproductive health. Here, we review the history and current understanding of the gut-brain axis bidirectional talk in various mental health disorders with special emphasis on anxiety and depressive disorders, whose prevalence has increased by over 50% in the past three decades.”

