

Safeguarding

Current Awareness Bulletin

July 2025

Our Current Awareness Bulletins provide details of recently published articles in a given subject. They are a quick and easy way to keep up to date.

Please contact the Academy Library to request any articles:

 ruh-tr.library@nhs.net

 **01225 82 4897/4898**



Carry out basic searches using the Knowledge and Library Hub.



Sign up to NHS OpenAthens to access our subscriptions.



Contact us to receive our bulletins via email each month.



Get personalised alerts via our KnowledgeShare service.

ruh.nhs.uk/library

New training via MS Teams available from the Academy Library:

- **Bitesize searching databases for evidence: a quick guide to help you develop your literature searching skills**
45 minutes. Learn how to transform a question into a search strategy, and how to find the best evidence in a database.
Next sessions: 27th August @ 1pm, 25th September @ 9am & 3rd October @ 10am
- **Simple and painless evidence into practice (BMJ Best Practice and the LKS Hub)**
30 minutes. Learn about quick and hassle-free ways to seamlessly incorporate evidence into your daily work.
Next sessions: 7th August @ 3pm, 5th September @ 3pm & 6th October @ 9am
- **Quickfire health literacy: communicating with patients more effectively**
30 minutes. Learn about the communication barriers patients may encounter, and ways to ensure they get the most from their care.
Next sessions: 12th August @ 9am, 10th September @ 10am & 2nd October @ 11am

Book a session today at <https://forms.office.com/e/HyiSXfDaYV> (these sessions will be held on a monthly basis)

1. Repressed memories and the body keeps the score: public perceptions and prevalence

Authors: Anderson, Kris-Ann S.; Miller, Quincy C.; Strange, Deryn and London, Kamala

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Memory 33(5), pp. 495–509

Abstract: The "memory wars" resurgence has renewed debates over the validity of repressed memories. This revival appears linked to factors such as changing statutes of limitations, confusion about repression, and unchallenged social media content. In a nationally representative online survey of American adults (N = 1581), we examined (a) beliefs in repression and the body keeps the score, (b) the prevalence of recovered memory claims, and (c) the impact of question phrasing on recovered memory reporting. An overwhelming 94% of respondents expressed belief in repressed memory, and 77% endorsed the idea that the body keeps the score. Additionally, 3.6% (n = 57) of participants self-reported claims of recovered memories previously unknown to them, with an average of 75% confidence in the accuracy of those memories. We also found that asking about unwanted experiences provided a more conservative estimate for recovered memory claims compared to first asking directly about child abuse memories. Finally, qualitative analyses underscore adults' confusion about repression and the media's potential influence. Given the significant emotional and legal consequences of recovered memories, we suggest memory experts must be better at giving our science away if the "memory wars" are ever to really end.

2. Breaking the Silence: Addressing Domestic Abuse in Mental Health Settings—Identification, Screening, and Responding

Authors: Baukaite, Ema;Walker, Kate and Sleath, Emma

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Trauma, Violence & Abuse 26(3), pp. 436–450

Abstract: Individuals experiencing domestic abuse (DA) struggle to disclose victimization, but as frequent users of mental health services, this is a pivotal setting for identification and addressing DA. This systematic review of 20 studies investigates DA identification, screening, and responses within mental health settings. Three databases were searched using these inclusion criteria: adults aged 18 and older accessing mental health services, samples comprising mental health professionals (or combination). No geographical restrictions were applied. All studies were peer-reviewed and published in English between January 2000 and December 2023. Studies had to incorporate screening for DA between (ex-)partners and/or response to disclosure within mental health settings. The findings revealed considerable variation in DA screening methods from direct screening tools to retrospective analyses of patient files. Professionals report barriers in identifying DA, including uncertainty about their role, time constraints, and the importance of building trust with service users. Nonetheless, many highlight the importance of routinely asking about DA. A small number of interventions have been effective in enhancing professionals' readiness to address DA, but it remains unclear what format of training is most effective. Service users report feelings of shame and fear of not being believed when disclosing DA, but are aided by therapeutic engagement and enhanced professional awareness. There is a lack of diverse inclusion in the research. In summary, there is considerable scope to develop good practice to support mental health professionals' ability to identify and respond to DA across assessment tool and training, but also in understanding what facilitates service users to disclose.

3. A Workplace Violence Policies Influence on the Occurrence of Violence

Authors: Bellacov, Ryan;Obariase, Efosa;Gillespie, Gordon and Davis, Kermit

Publication Date: May ,2025

Journal: Home Healthcare Now 43(3), pp. 144–149

Abstract: There is a lack of research on the quality of workplace violence (WPV) policies in home care. This study conducted a blinded review of WPV policies from home care agencies in Ohio, Oregon, and Texas, evaluating them based on five key criteria: WPV reporting, WPV training, WPV policy, workplace conduct, and policy review. Seven agencies participated, but only one met more than 50% of the criteria. Major deficiencies included a lack of WPV prevention methods, formal training, and protective strategies for home visits. While the study examined a small sample, the findings highlight that most WPV policies were incomplete, lacking essential procedures and training to safeguard home care providers. If these findings reflect broader industry trends, home care agencies must prioritize employee safety by implementing more comprehensive WPV policies.

4. Perpetrators of domestic abuse against older adults – a rapid evidence assessment

Authors: Bows, Hannah; Pullerits, Merili and Quinn-Walker, Natalie

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Aggression & Violent Behavior 82, pp. N.PAG

Abstract: This rapid review examines the existing, published research on the demographic and health characteristics, and the offending behaviours and histories of perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse against adults aged 60 and over. Using a systematic methodology, searches were conducted in five databases: MEDLINE Complete, APA PsychInfo, CINAHL Complete, SociINDEX with Full Text, Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text, and Web of Science (Core Collection), resulting in 75 papers being included in the review. Much of the available evidence comes from the elder abuse field, with few specific domestic abuse studies. The review found that non-intimate partners, that is (adult) children or other family members, are the most frequently reported perpetrator group. Most perpetrators tend to be male, and, where information is available, poor health, and drug and alcohol problems are often reported. We conclude that we need to build more evidence on perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse using a wider methodology, which should be situated within the conceptual lens of domestic abuse, and that policy and practice should urgently review whether existing risk assessment tools and perpetrator programmes are suitable given most domestic abuse of older adults is perpetrated by younger sons, daughters or other family members. • Most domestic abuse research on older adults sits within the field of 'elder abuse'. • Non-intimates are responsible for more domestic abuse against older adults than intimates. • Most perpetrators are male. • Poor health, drug and alcohol problems are commonly observed among perpetrators.

5. A Happy Child? A Preliminary Evaluation of Children's Subjective Well-Being in the Children and Young People Secure Estate

Authors: Falcon-Legaz, Pilar; Addy, Chelsea; Yeebo, Mma; Hajaji, Yussra; Malcolm, Alistair and Farooq, Romana

Publication Date: May ,2025

Journal: Child Abuse Review 34(3), pp. 1–10

Abstract: The Children and Young People's Secure Estate (CYPSE) accommodates some of the most vulnerable children and young people (CYP) in the United Kingdom. Literature shows that mental health difficulties are four times more common in this population, who have frequently experienced trauma. However, little attention has been paid to their subjective well-being. This evaluation explored the subjective well-being and mental health needs of CYP admitted to a Secure Children's Home in the north of England. Thirty-four CYP completed a range of mental health and subjective well-being psychometric assessments upon admission. Participants expressed low life satisfaction, mild symptoms of depression and anger, moderate perceived stress and low mental well-being. In this evaluation, females reported lower self-concept, less satisfaction with their appearance and more common depressive difficulties than

their male peers. Overall, the respondents expressed the highest satisfaction about their relationships with friends. This evaluation broadens the focus of attention to include CYP's well-being and factors that add meaning to their lives. The results highlight the need to involve CYP in interventions and service design, as well as the value of gender-informed practices. Suggestions for practice development and future research are outlined for the CYPSE in line with the SECURE STAIRS Framework.

6. Fifteen Years of Case Presentations at the Helfer Society Annual Meeting: The Ongoing Value of Case Reports. "We See What We Look for. We Look for What We Know."

Authors: Feldman, Kenneth W. and Christian, Cindy W.

Publication Date: May ,2025

Journal: Child Abuse Review 34(3), pp. 1–5

Abstract: Unusual child abuse manifestations and abuse mimics are unlikely to be identified in large studies. Over 15 years, the authors selected and moderated Helfer Society Annual Meeting presentations highlighting unusual findings. We review those presentations, highlighting the educational value of case reports. The authors independently reviewed and categorized original presentations. Disagreements were resolved jointly. Summary numbers and supplementary tables are provided. Fifteen annual presentations included 201 individual cases. Abuse had occurred for 62 (30.8%) children, and 142 (70.6%) had abuse mimics. Presentations, over time, changed from mostly by faculty (81.2%) to half by trainees (51.6%). Twenty-five presentations led to publications. Many serious causal conditions and underlying diseases were identified. Unusual abuse manifestations and abuse mimics are unlikely to appear in large institutional or research consortium studies. They are lost in "other" categories of large databases. Being aware of them is important to conduct a thorough differential diagnosis. Case reports can be important presentation opportunities, can highlight unusual conditions, and can be springboards to further research. The role of child abuse paediatricians is not only to diagnose abuse but also to conduct thorough medical evaluations and consider broad differential diagnoses. In doing so, many serious nonabusive conditions can be identified.

7. Legal Issues Encountered by Nurse Executives

Authors: Hughes, Maria V. and Ludwig-Beymer, Patti

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Nurse Leader 23(3), pp. 298–301

Abstract: Nursing leaders frequently face legal challenges in their practice and play a crucial role in safeguarding patients, staff, and the organization. Nurse executives contend with significant challenges in creating safe and healthy work environments, such as racism and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. Case studies enable nurse leaders to translate

theoretical knowledge into practical, real-life applications. A proactive approach can help prevent potential issues before they arise. The legal foundation behind decision-making is crucial for protecting patients and staff in the workplace.

8. Development of a toolkit to aid health and social care staff in acute hospitals to identify childhood exploitation

Authors: Jennings, Hannah

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: British Journal of Nursing 34(11), pp. 576–581

Abstract: Frontline staff in acute settings need to be able to recognise and respond to exploitation concerns to improve outcomes for children and young people (CYP), given the recent rise in prevalence and the risks it poses to them. Exploitation can lead CYP to present with a variety of physical, sexual and mental health problems. However, it was identified that frontline staff at a hospital trust did not always recognise or refer child exploitation cases that presented. As a result, the author and the named nurse for children's safeguarding decided a simple, trauma-informed flow chart or pathway was required to give staff a way to proactively recognise and respond to contextual safeguarding concerns in hospital. A toolkit was developed to aid health and social care workers in acute settings to identify childhood exploitation. It is designed to encourage professional curiosity and provides staff with questions to ask to support this, alongside a digital flow chart to assess risk and screen for exploitation quickly. This quality improvement project was introduced across an integrated care board area to improve the assessment of CYP at risk of exploitation in the wider context of health and social care concerns.

9. Adversity in Childhood and Its Association with Caregiving of a Parent in Adulthood

Authors: Maher, Erin J.;Shurtliff, Tacey M.;Miller-Cribbs, Julie;Milojevich, Helen M. and Chapple, Constance L.

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Journal of Child & Family Studies 34(5), pp. 1405–1416

Abstract: To examine the relationship between adversity in childhood and regular caregiving of a parent in adulthood. Using 2019 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data from four states that administered both the caregiving and Adverse Childhood Experiences modules (n = 18,909), we conducted logistic regression to estimate the relationship between ACEs and caregiving for a parent. Adults with three or more ACEs are significantly more likely (OR = 1.2) than those with fewer ACEs to provide regular care for a parent nine or more hours per week, controlling for other characteristics such as gender, age, poverty, and marital status. Moreover, the type of ACEs experienced in childhood matters, such that adults exposed to parental challenges (i.e., parental substance use, mental health, and incarceration, or divorce), and not child abuse, are more likely to provide regular care of a parent. Our findings suggest that ACEs, particularly parental challenges, are associated with

greater likelihood of caregiving responsibilities in adulthood showcasing how ACEs also influence social roles over the life course. Because ACEs are partially determined by social factors, caregiving also has social determinants. Both ACEs and caregiving can have detrimental effects on health and well-being, and thus, this observed relationship is important for developing support for caregivers. Highlights: Thirty-three percent of US adults provide regular caregiving for aging parents for at least nine hours per week. A greater number of adversities in childhood is associated with greater likelihood of providing this care. ACEs reflecting parental challenges (i.e., parental substance use, mental health problems, incarceration, and divorce) explain this association more than experiences of abuse in childhood.

10. The Landscape of Sexual Harm in the Video Game, Streaming, and Esports Community

Authors: Merry, Oliver J. and Whitfield, Kate C.

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Journal of Interpersonal Violence 40(13), pp. 3307–3332

Abstract: While sexual harm has been studied across a range of contexts, it has not yet been considered within the video game, streaming, and esports community. This study aimed to explore the landscape of sexual harm in this community, specifically, where it has been committed by esports professionals and video game live streamers. Fifty-five victim statements were extracted from online sources (such as Twitter/X and Reddit) and coded into variables relating to offender and victim demographics, offense characteristics, the offense process, and platform(s) used. Descriptive statistics were generated for each variable and Fisher's exact tests were conducted to examine the differences between adult-on-adult and adult-on-child cases. The findings reveal diverse offense outcomes across the sample, ranging from rape to sexual communication with a child. Some offense patterns can be seen in wider sexual offending literature, such as pre-offense alcohol consumption, offending against incapacitated victims (e.g., sleeping), and offending within an established romantic relationship. However, several offense process characteristics unique to the video gaming community were identified. These included offenders using their position of fame within the community to access victims and bypass the need for other coercive behaviors. Online offenses were more common with children and offenders demonstrated a preference for "live" methods, such as voice chat and video calling, rather than instant messaging or sharing images of themselves. This limits the digital evidence left behind and indicates the offenders' greater technological literacy. The study's findings shed light on the sexual harm that exists within this previously unexplored context and highlight areas where esports organizations, live-streaming platforms, and educational providers can do more to safeguard players, fans, and viewers in this community.

11. The prevalence of wordings on Adverse Childhood Experiences in child welfare assessments in a sample of young people in secure institutional care

Authors: Nolbeck, Kajsa

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: European Journal of Social Work 28(3), pp. 525–537

Abstract: In Sweden, young people with behaviours considered norm-breaking and destructive by society are placed in secure institutional care. While these young people's behaviour is frequently debated, there is little knowledge about their family and home conditions. This study aims to identify writings (i.e. wordings, sentences, etc.) referring to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in child welfare assessments of a sample (n = 84) of young people placed in secure institutional care. The documentation was analysed by applying manifest quantitative content analysis using ACEs established in previous research as deductive categories. In addition, wordings related to the legal grounds for placement were also identified. The analysis shows that the burden of child abuse and household dysfunction is large in the sample. Compared to population-based prevalence studies, the current study presents much higher numbers, with almost 90% of the cases containing writings with reference to at least one ACE category and 38–50% referring to four or more. The findings constitute an important contribution to research on young people in secure care, by adding knowledge about adversity during childhood as a crucial part of these young people's needs and challenges.; I Sverige placeras ungdomar med beteenden som av samhället anses vara normbrytande och destruktiva i låst institutionsvård på så kallade särskilda ungdomshem. Medan dessa ungdomars beteende ofta fokuseras, finns det begränsad kunskap om deras familje- och hemförhållanden. Denna studie syftar till att identifiera skrivningar (dvs. formuleringar, meningar etc.) som hänvisar till så kallade svåra barndomsupplevelser (Eng. Adverse Childhood Experiences, ACE) i socialtjänstens utredningar i ett urval (n = 84) av ungdomar placerade på särskilt ungdomshem. Dokumentationen analyserades med hjälp av manifest kvantitativ innehållsanalys genom att svåra barndomsupplevelser bekräftade i tidigare forskning användes som deduktiva kategorier. Därutöver identifierades även formuleringar relaterade till de juridiska grunderna för placeringen. Analysen visar att omfattningen av omsorgsbrist och utsatthet är stor i urvalet. Jämfört med populationsbaserade prevalensstudier uppvisar den aktuella studien mycket högre siffror: upp mot 90% av ärendena innehöll skrivningar om minst en svår barndomsupplevelse och 38-50% innehöll skrivningar om fyra eller fler. Resultatet utgör ett viktigt bidrag till forskning om ungdomar i låst institutionsvård, genom att tillföra kunskap om svåra barndomsupplevelser som en betydande del i dessa ungdomars utmaningar och behov.

12. Family social workers' experiences of using the Swedish model after the child forensic interview

Authors: Petersén, Anna Charlotta; Sandelin, Lisa; Thunberg, Sara and Källström, Åsa

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: European Journal of Social Work 28(3), pp. 565–576

Abstract: Children interviewed by the police in cases of suspected child abuse may experience emotional distress. Simultaneously, parents face the dual challenge of being suspects in the investigation while also striving to support their child's well-being. To offer children and their parents information and support in such cases, social workers in Sweden developed the model After the Child Forensic Interview (ACFI, sw. Efter barnförhöret). This study aims to explore the model from the perspective of family social workers to understand its

relevance for supporting children and parents. Twenty family social workers from eleven Swedish municipalities were interviewed about their experiences of working with ACFI. The analysis revealed that working with ACFI (a) requires preconditions such as resources and cooperation, individual/professional knowledge and experience, and the parents' receptivity, (b) demands adaptations such as changes and additions, and (c) entails side effects. Overall, family social workers describe the model as beneficial as it can improve client-worker relationships and facilitate further interventions. However, it is required that the municipalities have a plan for implementation and allocation of resources.; Barn som förhörs av polisen vid misstanke om barnmisshandel kan uppleva känslomässig påfrestning. Samtidigt möter föräldrar den dubbla utmaningen att både vara misstänkta i utredningen och att försöka stödja sitt barns välbefinnande. För att ge barn och deras föräldrar information och stöd i sådana situationer utvecklade socialarbetare i Sverige modellen Efter barnförhöret (EBF). Denna studie syftar till att utforska modellen utifrån familjebehandlares perspektiv för att förstå dess relevans i arbetet med att stödja barn och föräldrar. Tjugo familjebehandlare från elva svenska kommuner intervjuades om sina erfarenheter av att arbeta med EBF. Analysen visade att arbetet med EBF: (a) kräver förutsättningar, såsom resurser och samverkan, individuell/professionell kunskap och erfarenhet samt föräldrarnas mottaglighet, (b) kräver anpassningar, såsom förändringar och tillägg, och (c) medför bieffekter. Familjebehandlarna beskriver EBF som gynnsam, då de uppfattar att den kan förbättra klientrelationer samt underlätta vidare insatser. För gynnsamhet krävs dock att kommunerna har en plan för implementering och resursfördelning.

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

Authors: Pinchevsky, Gillian M.; Miller, Susan L. and Goodmark, Leigh

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Violence Against Women 31(10), pp. 2661–2681

Abstract: Justice is typically thought of as a product of the criminal legal system. However, prior research has found that survivors of domestic and sexual abuse may also value other factors outside of the legal system. 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.

14. Significant initial hyperglycemia in young children with intracranial hemorrhage related to abuse

Authors: Randall, Melanie M.; Lee, Christine L. S.; Walsh Lang, Colleen; Sampson, Luke R.; Chen, Brian G. and Brown, Lance A.

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Brain Injury 39(8), pp. 697–700

Abstract: Introduction: Abusive head injury is more common in younger children, with long lasting physical or neurologic impairments seen in many survivors. There is a close relationship between hyperglycemia and head injury, with hyperglycemia associated with worse outcomes. Our hypothesis is that abusive head injury patients are more likely to have significant hyperglycemia. Methods: This study is a retrospective review of pediatric emergency department patients less than three years with traumatic intracranial hemorrhage. Demographics, laboratory values, and imaging results were recorded. Results: In total, 179 patients were analyzed. The median initial glucose for abuse patients was 164 mg/dL. The median initial glucose for non-abuse patients was 99 mg/dL. Eight patients had glucose levels greater than 300 mg/dL. All of these patients were abuse victims. The initial glucose level was significant for the diagnosis of child abuse, ICU admission, need for neurosurgical intervention, and mortality. Discussion: Young children with intracranial hemorrhage and initial glucose levels greater than 300 mg/dL were all found to be abuse victims. A very high initial glucose can prompt a provider to evaluate for abusive head injury. In cases of a sick infant with glucose greater than 300 mg/dl, the consideration of abuse should play a prominent role in the differential.

15. Child Abuse and Family Social Support: The Practice of Resolutions Approach

Authors: Sepers, Annemariëk J. W.; Maric, Marija and Mooren, Trudy M.

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Children 12(5), pp. 580

Abstract: Background/Objectives: Child abuse is a devastating problem, and effective interventions are needed. Interventions incorporating social support have been found to be more effective in reducing parental abuse than those that do not. The resolutions approach (RA) emphasizes collaborating with the family's social network. The present study aims to examine the role of social networks in RA. Methods: This report presents the cases of two families (children aged 8–18) who are alleged to have committed child abuse. A mixed-method study was conducted. Qualitative data based on in-depth interviews, and quantitative data obtained by repeated assessments following a single-case design were integrated. Incidents of child abuse were assessed before treatment, at the end of treatment, and at follow-up, using the Conflict Tactics Scales. An idiosyncratic measurement was administered every fortnight during the intervention. Results: In both families, members acknowledged the value of involving their social network and reported decreased incidents of child abuse. One family succeeded in involving the network, and in this family, aggressive behavior stopped soon after RA started. Results were maintained during follow-up. In the other family, aggression stopped after the baseline period, according to the parents, but not according to their youngest child. Conclusions: Although the involvement of social support is prescribed through the intervention protocol, several challenges hamper its realization. Recommendations are formulated for how to involve social network members in the context of family therapy when child safety is at risk. RA might be a valuable intervention to stop child abuse, but it needs further research.

16. Bullying in nursing: Breaking the cycle for a healthier workplace

Authors: Shaw, Brenda C.

Publication Date: May ,2025

Journal: Nursing made Incredibly Easy! 23(3), pp. 28–33

Abstract: Workplace bullying doesn't just threaten the safety of healthcare settings—it erodes the quality of patient care and weighs heavily on the nurses caught in its grip. Breaking the cycle of workplace bullying isn't just necessary, it's crucial for safeguarding the health and well-being of both caregivers and patients alike. Workplace bullying endangers both healthcare environments and patient care while taking a toll on nurses. Breaking this cycle is essential to protect the well-being of both caregivers and patients.

17. Coping mechanisms and the protective role of relatives for children victims of parental violence

Authors: Suyanto, Bagong; Sugihartati, Rahma; Egalita, Nadia; Mas'udah, Siti; Savira, Pingkan Sekar and Anridho, Claudia

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Vulnerable Children & Youth Studies 20(2), pp. 236–253

Abstract: This research is crucial due to the escalating cases of violence against children, demanding prompt intervention to prevent further victimization. This study aims to reveal forms of violence experienced by children in urban families; survival mechanism employed by children to evade victimization in urban families; and the roles of relatives and the social milieu in urban areas in the effort to forestall and address violence against children in the family. This research constitutes a descriptive study focusing on the patterns of violence against children and endeavors to safeguard children's rights within urban family environments. The study involved 500 respondents from urban families. Many parents still resort to threats, physical punishment, and other forms of violence to correct what they perceive as disobedient behavior in their children. In these societies, physical discipline is commonly used to quickly instill obedience in children. Notably, parents in these societies do not feel remorse for their actions, as they believe that such discipline benefits their children. The coping mechanism developed by some children to avoid being scolded and punished by their parents is they choose to lie to their parents to avoid receiving severe punishment and to evade the risk of experiencing hurtful treatment from their parents. Generally, relatives hesitate to intervene in cases of child abuse due to concerns about causing misunderstandings, regardless of the parents' disciplinary methods. Therefore, among relatives, it is primarily the grandmother, as the closest and one of the oldest family members, who dares to intervene in preventing child abuse.

18. Clarifying labels, constructs, and definitions: Sibling aggression and abuse are family violence

Authors: Tucker, Corinna Jenkins;Whitworth, Tanya Rouleau and Finkelhor, David

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Journal of Social & Personal Relationships 42(7), pp. 1800–1817

Abstract: Research on aggressive and abusive sibling dynamics has grown significantly but is characterized by a disjointed literature, confusion about the identification of harmful behaviors, and missed opportunities for increasing awareness and prevention and intervention activities. This paper proposes several important suggestions about the classification and differentiation of sibling aggression. First, there is a level of sibling aggression that merits the terminology of sibling abuse and is on a par with the severity of child abuse and spousal abuse within the larger rubric of family violence. Sibling abuse should be characterized as relationships involving repetitive ongoing emotional and physical violence, in a context of power imbalance, with signs of harm and intimidation. Second, there should be another category of sibling aggression that does not rise to the level of abuse, but still merits active intervention and repair. This is termed destructive conflict, which can be divided into mild and severe sub-categories. Severe destructive conflict entails aggression that is likely mutual and includes objects as weapons, injury, or threats of serious injury. In addition, we distinguish two categories that we would categorize as non-pathological: rivalry and constructive conflict. We assert that efforts to apply bullying terminology to sibling aggression have some important drawbacks and should be avoided. Research is needed to help confirm the utility of a classification of this sort. The proposed classification could enhance the cohesiveness of the research literature and lead to changes in professional practice, which often lacks training and access to evidence-based guidelines on sibling dynamics.

19. Medical professionals: How to learn and how to teach about child abuse

Authors: Famiglietti, Hannah S.

Publication Date: 2024

Journal: International Journal of Child & Adolescent Health 17(3), pp. 197–201

Abstract: Using adult learning theory practices, pilot educational interventions have clearly proven that curricula focused on child abuse and neglect can have impactful results in the knowledge, attitudes, and skills of medical trainees. In addition to clinical experiences, educational interventions can provide the next generation of medical professionals with information to better diagnose and report child maltreatment and ideally prevent any injury to our pediatric patients. This paper will review approaches to teaching medical trainees about the diagnosis and management of child abuse and neglect in light of adult learning theory and structured education whether as part of a residency curriculum or any other training program.

20. Abusive head trauma

Authors: Palusci, Vincent J.

Publication Date: 2024a

Journal: International Journal of Child & Adolescent Health 17(3), pp. 229–235

Abstract: Among the harms caused by physical abuse, abusive head trauma (AHT) injuries range from those that are occult to those resulting in lifelong neurologic and developmental harm and death. Head injuries account for 90% or more of fatal child abuse cases and more than half of them result in measurable neurodevelopmental delay and disability. Head injuries have been identified for more than a century in medicine, and their diagnosis and their management have been commonly accepted across countries, specialties, and generations. This paper reviews keys elements of abusive head trauma with the goal of aiding early identification, treatment and prevention.

21. Child maltreatment: Epidemiology, presentation, and management

Authors: Palusci, Vincent J.

Publication Date: 2024b

Journal: International Journal of Child & Adolescent Health 17(3), pp. 203–210

Abstract: Using a disease model, child maltreatment can be thought of as the second most common chronic disease of childhood. Pediatricians as well as others who care for children should be knowledgeable about its epidemiology, presentation for care, medical management and prevention in health care. In addition, the suspicion and diagnosis of child abuse as well as neglect carries legal obligations for reporting and cooperation with the governmental child protection system. This paper provides an overview of these important health care functions as they apply to child abuse and neglect in general with particular information to guide primary care practice for children. Basic principles are provided with the hope that the reader will continue to later chapters with more detailed descriptions of medical practice depending on the type of maltreatment under consideration, the population, and the manifestations being seen in the office or the hospital.

22. Summary of the National audit on group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse (Casey review)

Publication Details: 06.2025:

Abstract: This report was commissioned by the Prime Minister and Home Secretary to evaluate our understanding of the scale, nature and drivers of child sexual exploitation and abuse by 'grooming gangs' in England and Wales.¹

The audit was led by Baroness Casey and carried out in March, April and May 2025. Reviewers assessed a range of national and local data and reports, as well as meeting with

survivors, police, local authorities and other organisations and individuals.

This briefing summarises the key findings from the report, including:

what can be learnt about the scale of group-based child sexual exploitation (CSE)
the nature of group-based CSE and the characteristics of victims and perpetrators
the issues hampering efforts to protect children from 'grooming gangs'
recommendations to government, including the government's response.

Sources Used:

The following databases are used in the creation of this bulletin: CINAHL, Medline and NSPCC.

Disclaimer:

The results of your literature search are based on the request that you made, and consist of a list of references, some with abstracts. Royal United Hospital Bath Healthcare Library will endeavour to use the best, most appropriate and most recent sources available to it, but accepts no liability for the information retrieved, which is subject to the content and accuracy of databases, and the limitations of the search process. The library assumes no liability for the interpretation or application of these results, which are not intended to provide advice or recommendations on patient care.