

Safeguarding

Current Awareness Bulletin

September 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: 25th September @ 9am, 3rd October @ 10am & 10th November @ 11am
- **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: 5th September @ 3pm, 6th October @ 9am & 11th November @ 10am
- **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: 10th September @ 10am, 2nd October @ 11am & 28th November @ 12 noon

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

Why language matters: why we should rethink our use of the term 'sextortion' | NSPCC Learning

NSPCC

When harm to a child involves numerous forms of abuse, it can be difficult to understand and manage what's happening and why, let alone find the right words to describe it. This is the case with a type of abuse – often referred to as 'sextortion' – which spans sexual abuse and exploitation, financial exploitation, online abuse, fraud and blackmail. In this blog, we explore why using the term 'sextortion' may obscure professional understanding of this issue and outline how rethinking our language choices can help us to engage with and support children and young people affected by this form of abuse.

Read the news article at <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/why-language-matters/rethinking-the-term-sextortion>

1. Child sexual and physical abuse, self-regulation, and problematic sexual behavior: A prospective mediational model

Authors: Allen, Brian and Wamser, Rachel

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Developmental Psychology

Abstract: Preteen children with problematic sexual behavior (PSB) are a poorly understood group, and etiological examinations typically focus on cross-sectional associations. Using the Longitudinal Studies in Child Abuse and Neglect (n = 1,354) data set, a hypothesized mediational model was tested that examined whether problems with self-regulation at age 6 predicted PSB at age 8 while accounting for the impact of child sexual abuse and/or child physical abuse occurring prior to age 6. Using structural equation modeling, the defined mediational model was largely supported, with both child sexual abuse and physical abuse prior to age 6 predicting problems with self-regulation at age 6, which in turn predicted PSB at age 8. This mediational relationship operated similarly across two different conceptualizations of PSB, one that was general and included a variety of behaviors and one that was restricted only to interpersonally intrusive types of behavior. Early physical abuse continued to predict age 8 PSB after controlling for self-regulation across both models; however, early child sexual abuse continued to predict only intrusive types of behavior. These results are discussed in the context of advancing etiological research and our understanding of PSB among preteen children. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2025 APA, all rights reserved).

2. Forensic evaluation of atypical Mongolian spots in dark pigmented skin: navigating the differential diagnosis of potential child abuse

Authors: Amadasi, Alberto;Amadasi, Larissa and Oesterhelweg, Lars

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: International Journal of Legal Medicine

Abstract: Competing Interests: Declarations. Ethical statement: A written informed consent for the photographic documentation and the publication of the photos was obtained from the child's mother. Declaration of competing interest: The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper. Competing interests: The Authors declare no conflicts of interest.; This letter addresses the challenges in differentiating Mongolian spots from traumatic skin lesions in forensic medical evaluations, particularly in cases of suspected child abuse. We appreciate the insightful discussion in the article "Atypical localized Mongolian spots in dark pigmented skin - a challenge for forensic medical examination" which highlights the complexity of diagnosing Mongolian spots, especially when they occur in atypical locations. The case presented here involves a 2-year-old child with unusual skin discolorations on the back and chest, initially suspected to be blunt force injuries. However, upon further investigation and a follow-up examination, these markings were confirmed as atypical Mongolian spots, emphasizing the diagnostic difficulty in distinguishing them from trauma-related bruises. This case underscores the importance of timely and thorough evaluations, including a two-step medico-legal assessment, to prevent misdiagnoses. The letter advocates for increased awareness and education among forensic professionals to accurately differentiate Mongolian spots from signs of abuse, particularly in individuals with dark skin. (© 2025. The Author(s).)

3. Comparative relationships between physical and verbal abuse of children, life course mental well-being and trends in exposure: a multi-study secondary analysis of cross-sectional surveys in England and Wales

Authors: Bellis, Mark A.;Hughes, Karen;Ford, Kat;Quigg, Zara;Butler, Nadia and Wilson, Charley

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: BMJ Open 15(8), pp. e098412

Abstract: Competing Interests: Competing interests: None declared.; Objectives: To test associations between mental well-being across the life course and exposure to childhood physical and/or verbal abuse.; Design: Secondary analysis of combined data from seven cross-sectional general adult population surveys measuring childhood experience of physical and/or verbal abuse and current mental well-being.; Setting: Households across England and Wales.; Participants: 20 687 residents in England and Wales aged 18 years or over.; Measures: Self-reported childhood physical and verbal abuse using questions from an Adverse Childhood Experiences tool. Individual and combined components of adult mental well-being measured using the short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS).; Results: Exposure to either childhood physical abuse or verbal abuse was associated independently with a similar significant increase in likelihood of low adult mental well-being, with exposure to both abuse types compounding increases (adjusted ORs 1.52, 1.64, 2.15 respectively, reference category: neither abuse type). Individual components of mental well-being showed similar associations, with adjusted prevalence of never or rarely having felt close to people in the last 2 weeks rising from 7.7% (neither abuse type) to 9.9% (physical abuse), 13.6% (verbal abuse) and 18.2% (both types of abuse). Within sample trends showed a significant drop in the prevalence of child physical abuse from around 20% in those born from 1950 to 1979 to 10% in those born in 2000 or after. However, verbal abuse rose from 11.9% in those born before 1950 to nearly 20% in those born in 2000 or after.; Conclusion: Exposure to childhood physical or verbal abuse have similar associations with lower mental well-being during adulthood. Interventions to reduce child abuse, including physical chastisement, should consider both physical and verbal abuse and their individual and combined consequences to life course health. The potential role of childhood verbal abuse in escalating levels of poor mental health among younger age groups needs greater consideration. (© Author(s) (or their employer(s)) 2025. Re-use permitted under CC BY-NC. No commercial re-use. See rights and permissions. Published by BMJ Group.)

4. Public Perspectives of Oral and Maxillofacial Injuries Related to Domestic Abuse Experiences and Help-Seeking Barriers: Web Scraping of Reddit Posts

Authors: Berger, Corinne;Cantao, Ana Beatriz;N'Diaye, Noemie;de Oliveira, Gustavo;Teixeira Bittencourt and Levin, Liran

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Dental Traumatology : Official Publication of International Association for Dental Traumatology

Abstract: Background: Domestic abuse (DA) frequently results in injuries to the head, neck, and orofacial regions. Despite the visibility of these injuries, many survivors do not access formal medical or dental care because of fear, stigma, or systemic barriers. Reddit, an anonymous online platform, offers a unique opportunity to examine unfiltered victims/survivors' narratives shared in public forums. The aim of this study was to explore how DA, particularly its physical, psychological, and social impacts, was represented, perceived, and discussed on Reddit. Special attention was given to posts describing injuries to the head, neck, and orofacial region, to understand how victims/survivors narrated their experiences, sought support, and navigated disclosure in anonymous digital spaces.; Methods: This study employed web scraping to analyze Reddit posts from four domestic abuse-related subreddits (r/AbuseInterrupted, r/DomesticAbuse, r/DomesticViolence, and r/domesticviolence) using Python's Reddit API Wrapper (PRAW). Posts were filtered using anatomical keywords relevant to dental and maxillofacial trauma. After cleaning and manual review, first-person accounts referencing injuries to the head, neck, or orofacial area underwent qualitative thematic analysis and quantitative content analysis.; Results: A total of 588 Reddit posts related to DA were initially collected. Of the 588 posts, 153 (26.0%) met the inclusion criteria and were retained for analysis. Analysis of the 153 posts meeting the inclusion criteria revealed the most affected regions in DA victims, with frequent descriptions of physical abuse including slapping, grabbing, strangulation, and blunt-force trauma. Thematic analysis identified four central themes: (1) visible injuries, (2) barriers to accessing medical and dental care, (3) psychological and emotional consequences of abuse, and (4) inconsistent responses from healthcare and legal systems.; Conclusions: Oral and Maxillofacial injuries may serve as critical red flags of domestic abuse. Even when visible, they are often overlooked by healthcare providers. The findings of this study underscore the need for trauma-informed training among dental professionals and support the integration of domestic abuse screening protocols into routine oral health care. Additionally, the ethical use of web scraping presents a valuable tool for public health research by amplifying survivor voices and helping to identify intervention gaps that may be missed in clinical or institutional data. (© 2025 The Author(s). Dental Traumatology published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.)

5. "The things we're complaining about, we're providing as well": "dual-use" technologies in the lives of victim-survivors of domestic abuse

Authors: Brookfield, Kathryn;Fyson, Rachel and Goulden, Murray

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Journal of Adult Protection 27(4), pp. 186–196

Abstract: Purpose: This paper aims to provide information for professionals and victim-survivors of domestic abuse on the potential risks and benefits of three "dual-use" technologies: smart doorbells, indoor cameras (such as smart baby monitors and pet cameras) and location tracking apps. Design/methodology/approach: This study draws on qualitative interviews conducted as part of a wider mixed-methods study. Participants included UK-based professionals working in the domestic abuse sector and women with lived experience of technology-facilitated domestic abuse. Findings: Professionals and victim-survivors of domestic abuse are using the same apps and devices, as part of post-separation security measures, that perpetrators use to abuse. Whilst these technologies can support evidence

gathering and increase women's sense of safety, they must be used with caution, as their presence can facilitate ongoing abuse and increase the risks of harm to women.

Originality/value: To the best of the authors' knowledge, this is original research conducted by the first author. This study makes an original contribution through its focus on the duality of digital technologies in cases of domestic abuse.

6. Impact of violence on emotional exhaustion risk of registered nurses in Germany: a Bayesian analysis of cross-sectional data with multiple imputations

Authors: Campione, Alessandro and Henschke, Cornelia

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: BMC Nursing 24(1), pp. 1–10

Abstract: Background: Medical workers are at risk of burnout due to various stressors, affecting their health, reducing quality of care, and threatening the retention of a resilient workforce. Among these stressors, workplace violence has emerged as a contributor to an increased risk of burnout among nurses. However, evidence from the German context remains limited. This study investigates the association between the frequency of workplace violence and the risk of the primary dimension of burnout, emotional exhaustion. Methods: This analysis is based on data from a German survey of registered nurses, measuring burnout risk and experiences of workplace violence. Multiple imputations were applied to missing data. The primary outcome, emotional exhaustion, was assessed with the Maslach Burnout Inventory. Extensive literature searches guided variable selection and prior elicitation for ordinal Bayesian regression. The main independent variables measured self-reported frequencies of physical and verbal violence from different perpetrators. Results: A total of 4317 RNs responded to the survey. Multiple imputed estimates revealed a high prevalence of frequent verbal (21.6%) and physical (3.8%) violence by patients and their families. High frequency verbal and physical violence perpetrated by staff was reported by 7.8% and 9.7% of respondents, respectively. Bayesian regression analyses across multiple imputed datasets showed a robust association between all types of workplace violence and increased risk of emotional exhaustion. Conclusion: Repeated exposure to physical and verbal violence is a major contributor to the risk of burnout in the emotional exhaustion dimension among German RNs. Given its high prevalence, there is an urgent need for reforms and policy measures to prevent violence and address its impact. Updated evidence and targeted interventions are essential to safeguard workers and maintain a resilient nursing workforce. Clinical trial number: Not applicable.

7. A short psychosocial history of British child abuse and protection: case studies in problems of mourning in the public sphere

Authors: Cooper, Andrew

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Journal of Social Work Practice 39(3), pp. 307–320

Abstract: This paper offers a historical and psychosocial account of 'moral panics' about child

maltreatment in England over the last four decades, and proposes this perspective as additional to Munro's more systemic account of the same history. The formal child protection system is theorised in terms of an explicit and a covert dual primary task. The overt task is to actually protect vulnerable children and prevent abuse; the covert task is to protect the remainder of society from exposure to anxiety provoking 'dangerous knowledge' about the prevalence of child maltreatment. Episodes of public and political moral panic occur when the boundaries of containment provided by the official system and its processes are breached, propelling debate and contestation about child maltreatment into the public sphere, where public enquiries and other social mechanisms are called upon to 'settle' the contested issues. Sometimes these social settlements appear to be successful in resolving conflicts about the reality or otherwise of specific forms of abuse; in other cases, especially child deaths, the controversial and anxiety-laden nature of the problem is recurrently projected back into the public domain. The paper suggests that this may be associated with a difficulty about establishing a secure symbolic framework or discourse in society for the emotionally indigestible facts of child torture and murder. In turn, this may be associated with problems about the decline of public mourning rituals and the failure of the public enquiry format to facilitate this. In line with Munro, the paper argues for the importance of a tragic perspective on child maltreatment, to counter idealisations of the capacity of the formal system to protect children.

8. Spirituality and Psychological Well-Being of Adults with a History of Child Abuse by Catholic Clergy: A Systematic Review of Qualitative and Quantitative Studies

Authors: Dhirachaikulpanich, Dhanach;Dendumrongsup, Wichapol;Viyoch, Thamonwan;Srithawatpong, Nattacha;Angkasirisan, Thanakorn;Huang, Xi and Wainipitapong, Sorawit

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Journal of Religion & Health 64(4), pp. 2660–2678

Abstract: This systematic review explored the spirituality and psychological well-being of adults with a history of child abuse by Catholic clergy. The study was registered with PROSPERO (CRD42023468440) and searched on MEDLINE, Embase, and PsycINFO. Five qualitative and eight quantitative studies were included. The studies reported varied psychological adversities. We developed three themes using thematic synthesis: 1) comprehensive yet suspicious self-negativity, 2) challenges in interacting with others, and 3) alterations in practices and beliefs in God and the Church. Despite the findings, causality and sociocultural factors remain underexplored, necessitating further studies for a deeper understanding and the development of supportive policies.

9. Safeguarding older adults in residential care settings: lessons from Kouzes and Posner's transformational leadership model

Authors: Duffy, Anita;Browne, Freda and Connolly, Michael

Publication Date: 2025

Abstract: Why you should read this article: • To refresh your understanding of transformational leadership practices • To recognise how various aspects of effective leadership can contribute to a culture of safety in residential care settings • To consider how you could apply different leadership frameworks and theories in your practice. Various styles and models of leadership can be used in nursing practice, with transformational leadership generally considered to be the most effective style. This article explores the application of Kouzes and Posner's Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership framework to the safeguarding of residents from abuse in residential care settings in the Republic of Ireland. The authors outline and critically evaluate Kouzes and Posner's five fundamental leadership practices in this context. While this transformational leadership framework offers a comprehensive approach, emphasising emotional connection and empowerment, the authors consider its practical applicability in a highly regulated healthcare environment. The authors' analysis highlights the strengths and limitations of the model in this context, particularly in fostering a culture of safety and accountability among nursing teams. They conclude that while Kouzes and Posner's model provides valuable insights, its idealistic nature may require adaptation to effectively address the complex realities of safeguarding older adults living in residential care settings.

10. Screening tools used by paediatric healthcare providers to identify child maltreatment by parents or caregivers: a systematic review

Authors: Ejnell Bjursell, Josefine;Wigert, Helena;Patriksson, Katarina and Nilsson, Stefan

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: BMJ Open 15(8), pp. e101721

Abstract: Competing Interests: Competing interests: None declared.; Objective: To evaluate the reliability and validity of screening tools designed to identify child maltreatment by parents or caregivers in paediatric healthcare settings, particularly for use in early childhood or neonatal care.; Design: Systematic literature review.; Data Sources: The Cochrane Library, Embase, Cinahl and Ovid Medline were searched for studies published up to June 2025.; Eligibility Criteria for Selecting Studies: studies evaluating screening tools intended for use by caregivers or healthcare professionals to identify child maltreatment in paediatric healthcare settings. Included tools targeted children under 18 years of age.; Data Extraction and Synthesis: Key characteristics of included tools were extracted, including type of maltreatment assessed, number of items, tool format and the age range of the child population. Data on reliability and validity were synthesised narratively due to heterogeneity in methods and outcomes.; Quality Appraisal: Risk of bias and the quality of Patient Reported Outcome Measure development were assessed using the Consensus-based Standards for the Selection of Health Measurement Instruments checklist, which also guided the grading of evidence strength.; Results: In total, 1874 abstracts and 84 full-text articles were reviewed. 14 articles featuring 13 distinct screening tools were identified, most of which were used to detect physical abuse in emergency room settings. Only the Escape tool was evaluated in two studies, both of very good quality; the study evaluating the Pediatric Hurt-Insult-Threaten-Scream-Sex tool also demonstrated very good quality. The remaining studies varied in

methodological quality and evidence strength. No tools were identified for children in neonatal care settings, and few were validated for children aged 0-3 years, none for neonatal care.; Conclusion: This review highlights the limited number of validated tools suitable for identifying maltreatment in very young children and across different contexts, particularly neonatal care. Future research should address these critical gaps to better support the early identification of child abuse within diverse clinical settings.; Prospero Registration Number: PROSPERO (2023), registration number CRD42023483966. (© Author(s) (or their employer(s)) 2025. Re-use permitted under CC BY. Published by BMJ Group.)

11. Men's lifetime interpersonal violence exposure and associations with hospitalization at the national level: Results from a New Zealand population-based study

Authors: Fanslow, Janet L.;Gulliver, Pauline J.;Mellar, Brooklyn M.;Selak, Vanessa and McIntosh, Tracey K. D.

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Scandinavian Journal of Public Health 53(6), pp. 638–649

Abstract: Objective: Investigation of men's experience of interpersonal violence across the life-course and associations of these experiences with health conditions, assessed by use of national hospital services. Methods and analysis: Information on interpersonal violence exposure (child sexual abuse (CSA), non-partner physical violence (NP-PV) and intimate partner violence (IPV)) was obtained from 1054 ever-partnered men through a population-based survey, then linked with publicly funded hospital discharge information. Univariate and multivariable logistic regression was used to explore associations between men's interpersonal violence experience and hospitalization for different health conditions. Results: Men who experienced any interpersonal violence were at increased odds of hospitalization for injury (adjusted odds ratio (AOR) 1.86 (95% confidence interval (CI) 1.30–2.66)) and for non-disease-specific symptoms or findings (AOR 1.89 (95% CI 1.30–2.75)). Men who experienced CSA had increased hospitalization for nervous system disorders (AOR 7.04 (95% CI 3.12–15.92)) and ear diseases (AOR 4.31 (95% CI 1.59–11.68)). Men who experienced NP-PV had increased hospitalization for injuries (AOR 1.53 (95% CI 1.12–2.08)). Men who experienced 1–2 IPV types had increased hospitalization for genitourinary diseases (AOR 1.75 (95% CI 1.03–2.97)), and those exposed to 3+ IPV types had increased hospitalization for injuries (2.64 (1.71–4.05)). Men exposed to CSA (AOR 1.99 (95% CI 1.14–3.47)) and IPV (1–2 types AOR 1.48 (95% CI 1.03–2.15), 3+ types AOR 1.80 (95% CI 1.06–3.06)) were also at increased odds of hospitalization for non-disease-specific symptoms or findings. Conclusions: Results identify associations between men's experience of violence and hospitalization for health events. Findings underscore the need to implement preventive measures for child abuse to reduce adverse health outcomes across the life-course.

12. Reducing Bias Against Families in Low-Income Homes

Authors: Gandhi, Rupali and Glick, Jill

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics 53(2), pp. 242–243

Abstract: Shields and colleagues raise a concern for bias against low-income families when reporting suspected intentional scald burns. This is a plausible theory, and the development of Child Abuse Pediatrics as a specialty has likely helped reduce bias because they take the sociodemographic factors into account and are keenly aware of housing problems such as water heaters that are not regulated. Bringing their expertise to burn units will help reduce bias, and efforts should focus on public policy changes as described by the authors, but also on parental education to reduce the overall incidence of burn injuries in children.

13. Jarring Encounters: Discomfort, Disruption, and Dominant Narratives of Suicide

Authors: Helman, Rebecca;Huque, Sarah I. and Chandler, Amy

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Qualitative Health Research 35(12), pp. 1297–1310

Abstract: In researching experiences and understandings of suicide bereavement across diverse communities in Scotland, we expected to hear difficult, distressing, and painful narratives. However, one of the 31 in-depth qualitative interviews that we conducted was particularly and unexpectedly jarring. In this narrative, Freya explained how her ex-partner took his life after she escaped from his domestic abuse. This narrative produces a deep sense of discomfort in the interviewer, as her expectations about suicide bereavement are disrupted. Taking this discomfort as a starting point, we explore what this jarring encounter tells us about dominant and absent narratives of suicide. We interrogate how this narrative of suicide within the context of domestic violence perpetration bumps up against dominant narratives of a "male suicide crisis" and "relationship breakdown," through which men are positioned solely as "victims." Drawing on perspectives from feminist, affective, and reflexive qualitative research, critical suicide studies, and an abductive approach to analysis, we explore how attending to uncomfortable feelings that are generated within the research encounter can enable us to develop more complex, nuanced, and messy understandings of suicide.

14. Welfare inequalities and institutional abuse of older people in Northern Ireland: An exploratory study

Authors: Montgomery, Lorna;Bunting, Lisa;Gleghorne, Nicole and Doyle, Laura

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: British Journal of Social Work 55(5), pp. 2292–2313

Abstract: Institutional abuse, brought to our attention through high-profile abuse scandals, is recognized as a prevalent feature of institutional living. Risk assessment frameworks tend to focus on organizational-level features of institutional care such as staff training and support. This article draws attention to the significance of socio-economic factors in understanding institutional abuse of older people in Northern Ireland. By conducting a secondary analysis on routinely collected Adult Safeguarding referrals for institutional abuse in Northern Ireland, we

explored the impact of socio-economic conditions on rates and outcomes of adult institutional abuse. Our findings indicate that if you live within a residential facility in an area with higher levels of deprivation, you are considerably more likely to be subject to an Adult Safeguarding referral, and the progress of that referral in terms of investigation and levels of support, may differ from those individuals living in facilities within areas of low deprivation. Further research is needed to identify how institutional abuse may be impacted by welfare inequalities. To our knowledge, this is the first time institutional abuse cases have been explored in relation to deprivation. Our findings can potentially inform social work practice and policy development in this area. Many older people with support needs require care within residential facilities and nursing homes. However, we know that globally many people living in such institutions have been subject to abuse. Whilst social workers play a key role in investigating and responding to institutional abuse, our understanding of what contributes to abuse is limited. Building on our previous study of Adult Safeguarding and deprivation, we examined Adult Safeguarding referrals across Northern Ireland between 2015 and 2021. We explored the impact of socio-economic conditions on the rates and outcomes of abuse within nursing homes and residential settings. The study shows that individuals living in a residential or nursing home located in areas of high deprivation had an increased risk of abuse. Whilst we know that poverty has a negative impact on individuals across their life-course, as far as we are aware, this is the first study to explore the links between socio-economic factors and institutional abuse. These findings will help to determine how social workers can best respond to institutional abuse and help to shape policy and practice in this area.

15. The Impact of the COVID-19 on Physical Violence, Sexual Violence and Neglect Against Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Authors: Nakaike, Tomomi;Nguyen, Dung Anh;Makram, Abdelrahman M.;Elsheikh, Randa;Hassani, Mohamed;Reda, Abdelrahman;Trieu, My Duc Thao;Huy, Nguyen Tien and Hirayama, Kenji

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Child: Care, Health & Development 51(4), pp. 1–13

Abstract: Background: COVID-19 caused the interruption of child protection services and economic/psychological burdens on parents. Therefore, in this systematic review and meta-analysis (SR/MA), we aimed to identify the impact of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic on physical and sexual violence and neglect against children by investigating the change in the prevalence of these events before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Methods: The protocol of this study was registered in PROSPERO with the registration number CRD42022377660. We included any studies eligible for meta-analysis comparing physical and sexual violence and neglect against children before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Eleven electronic databases were systematically searched in March 2022. The meta-analysis was conducted using STATA, pooled odds ratios were calculated and subgroups by countries and sex of children (when possible) were analysed. Results: A total of 11 publications were included in the meta-analysis. Overall, we found no significant evidence to support that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the prevalence or proportion of the three types of violence against children, even after segregating the data to the country or sex levels. Conclusion: Overall, our analysis revealed no significant change in physical and sexual violence, as well as neglect

against children before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the majority of data sources being hospital records and child protection services. More self-reported studies should be performed, especially in low- and middle-income countries, for a better understanding of child abuse and neglect around the world.

16. The Impact of Parental Alcohol Misuse on Children: A Systematic Review

Authors: Nkobi, Malaki and Kingan, Michelle

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Substance use & Misuse 60(11), pp. 1690–1698

Abstract: Background: Although the impact of parental alcohol misuse has been widely published in various studies, there is very little that is known about the lives and experiences of children affected by the issue from their own perspectives. Denial and secrecy are hallmarks of this issue, and children's voices too often go unheard. Moreover, most studies rely on a small homogeneous sample limiting generalisability. The perspectives of minority ethnic families and children are absent. Equally so, are gaps in studies about middle-class society who are more able to mask their issues and less frequently come under scrutiny of child protection services and don't appear in official statistics. Objectives: This study filtered literature using a systematic review to gain an understanding of qualitative studies with children, parents, and young adults. Results: The common themes identified were parental alcohol misuse and family disharmony, intergenerational drinking and resilience, austerity, benefits cuts, poverty and engagement challenges. Conclusions: Findings suggest that domestic abuse was often attributed to alcohol misuse. The impact on children was negative with deeper emotional impact and family relationship damage. Equally so, parents experienced a trilogy of risks of mental health, domestic abuse and substance misuse alongside benefits cuts as contributors to alcohol misuse.

17. Harm, safety and belonging: exploring 'contextual safeguarding' with refugee youth in Europe

Authors: Peace, Delphine; Wroe, Lauren and Huegler, Nathalie

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: European Journal of Social Work 28(5), pp. 957–971

Abstract: We present findings from a research project with youth in a German refugee accommodation centre. In partnership with an organisation that delivered a refugee group mentorship programme, we piloted elements of 'Contextual Safeguarding': an innovative practice framework to child protection developed and embedded into statutory guidance in the United Kingdom (UK) to address significant harm to youth in extra-familial relationships and settings. This study was the first piloting of Contextual Safeguarding in another European country, with refugee youth. We documented the implementation of Contextual Safeguarding approaches over 18-months through qualitative methods, supported by a review of the

literature on refugee youth and extra-familial harm in Europe. European child protection systems struggle to protect refugee youth from extra-familial harm, compounded by a lack of evidence on refugee youth's multi-faceted experiences of harm in their communities and approaches to increase safety in these spaces. Our findings suggest that Contextual Safeguarding offers an innovative theoretical and practice framework to identify and respond to refugee youth's contextualised experiences of harm and safety needs. Pilot activities enriched the mentoring programme, but opportunities to create safety in spaces were limited by a lack of capacity, partnerships, and legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate the approach.; Nous présentons une étude menée en partenariat avec une ONG proposant un programme de mentorat auprès de jeunes réfugiés résidant dans un centre d'hébergement pour réfugiés en Allemagne. Nous avons exploré la mise en œuvre de l'approche dite « Contextual Safeguarding » (protection contextualisée), un cadre de pratique en protection de l'enfance développé au Royaume-Uni et intégré aux directives nationales britanniques. Ce cadre adopte une approche socio-écologique pour mieux protéger les jeunes contre les dangers survenant en dehors du cadre familial, dans des contextes dits « extra-familiaux » (communauté, école, espaces publics). Il s'agit de sa première mise en œuvre dans un autre pays européen. Nous en avons documenté l'application sur 18 mois à l'aide de méthodes qualitatives. En complément nous avons conduit une revue de la littérature soulignant les défis rencontrés par de nombreux pays européens pour protéger les jeunes réfugiés dans des contextes extra-familiaux. Nos résultats montrent que la protection contextualisée constitue un cadre théorique et pratique pertinent pour identifier et répondre aux expériences de danger et de préjudice vécues par les jeunes réfugiés dans leurs communautés. Cependant, la portée de cette approche est restée limitée en raison d'un manque de ressources, de partenariats et de dispositifs législatifs adaptés.

18. Understanding the Mediating Effect of Child Abuse and Poor Mental Health on the Use of Adolescent Family Violence: Findings From an Australian Study

Authors: Ralph, Brittany;Roberts, Steven;Lukamto, William;Fitz-Gibbon, Kate and Meyer, Silke

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: The British Journal of Sociology

Abstract: There is increasing recognition of the use of family violence by children and young people, and the need to build the evidence base on understanding this form of violence. Adolescent family violence (AFV, also referred to as adolescent violence in the home) refers to the use of violence by a young person against another family member within the home, and can include physical, verbal, emotional, psychological, financial and/or sexual abuse and property damage. This article presents findings from a secondary analysis of data from the Adolescent Family Violence in Australia (AFVA) study-the first national study of the nature, prevalence and impacts of AFV in Australia. The AFVA study involved an online survey of 5021 young people aged 16-20. Drawing from a subset of this survey data, this article aims to better understand how correlations between disability, poor mental health and use of AFV relate to young people's experiences of child abuse. The findings provide further evidence that young people's use of family violence in the home is interrelated to their own family violence victimisation during childhood. Findings presented here reiterate the need to recognise and

respond to children experiencing family violence as victim-survivors in their own right. Early and age-appropriate child-centred interventions would create opportunities to mitigate adverse outcomes, including poor mental health and the intergenerational transmission of violence. (© 2025 The Author(s). The British Journal of Sociology published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of London School of Economics and Political Science.)

19. Imaging and clinical features of intra-abdominal injuries in children with suspected physical abuse

Authors: Ruiz-Maldonado, Tagrid;Henry, M. K.;Ro, Esther;Prasad, Shashank S. and Thomas, Anna Kalathil

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Pediatric Radiology

Abstract: Competing Interests: Declarations. Competing interests: Dr. Ruiz-Maldonado and Dr. Henry have provided testimony in cases with concern for child maltreatment for which their institutions received payment.; The effective diagnosis and management of inflicted intra-abdominal injuries require a comprehensive, collaborative evaluation that includes a thorough understanding of the clinical presentation, laboratory findings, injury mechanisms, and potential clinical outcomes. This review presents the various aspects of inflicted intra-abdominal injuries, including the clinical presentation, mechanisms of injury, and the utility of available screening and imaging tools. The specific types of solid organ and hollow viscus injuries relevant to child physical abuse and their imaging appearance are also discussed. Radiological imaging provides critical information that can help treating providers contextualize the history obtained and the injuries identified, highlighting the value of close collaboration among radiologists, child abuse pediatricians, and other members of the clinical team when concerns for abuse arise. (© 2025. The Author(s).)

20. Network Analysis to Visualize Qualitative Results: Example From a Qualitative Content Analysis of The National Child Abuse Hotline

Authors: Schwab-Reese, Laura;Lenfestey, Nicholas C.;Hartley, Amelia W.;Renner, Lynette M. and Prochnow, Tyler

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Health Promotion Practice 26(5), pp. 855–864

Abstract: Data visualization, such as figures created through network analysis, may be one way to present more complete information from qualitative analysis. Segments of qualitatively coded data can be treated as objects in network analysis, thus creating visual representations of the code frequency (i.e., nodes) and the co-occurrence (i.e., edges). By sharing an example of network analysis applied to qualitative data, and then comparing our process with other applications, our goal is to help other researchers reflect on how this approach may support their interpretation and visualization of qualitative data. A total of 265 de-identified transcripts between help-seekers and National Child Abuse Hotline crisis counselors were included in the

network analysis. Post-conversation surveys, including help-seekers' perceptions of the conversations, were also included in the analysis. Qualitative content analysis was conducted, which was quantified as the presence or absence of each code within a transcript. Then, we divided the dataset based on help-seekers' perceptions. Individuals who responded that they "Yes/Maybe" felt more hopeful after the conversation were in the "hopeful" dataset, while those who answered "No" were in the "unhopeful" dataset. This information was imported to UCINET to create co-occurrence matrices. Gephi was used to visualize the network. Overall, code co-occurrence networks in hopeful conversations were denser. Furthermore, the average degree was higher in these hopeful conversations, suggesting more codes were consistently present. Codes in hopeful conversations included information, counselor support, and problem-solving. Conversely, non-hopeful conversations focused on information. Overall, network analysis revealed patterns that were not evident through traditional qualitative analysis.

21. Medical assessment of suspected traumatic head injury due to child maltreatment (THI-CM) Free

Authors: Shouldice, Michelle;Ward, Michelle G. K.;Nolan, Kathleen and Cory, Emma

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Paediatrics & Child Health (1205-7088) 30(3), pp. 184–188

Abstract: Traumatic head injury due to child maltreatment (THI-CM) is a serious form of child abuse with significant morbidity and mortality, particularly in infants and young children. Healthcare providers have important roles to play, including identifying and treating these children, reporting concerns of child maltreatment to child welfare authorities, assessing for associated injuries and medical conditions, supporting children and their families, and communicating medical information clearly to families and other medical, child welfare, and legal professionals. Symptoms associated with head trauma often overlap with those of other common childhood illnesses, and external signs of injury may be subtle or absent. As a result, THI-CM is frequently overlooked and its identification is often delayed, leading to a risk of ongoing injury. Assessing for head trauma in cases of possible child maltreatment includes considering medical causes for clinical findings and assessment for occult injuries. This practice point provides health care providers with guidance for identifying and medically assessing suspected THI-CM in infants and children.

22. Addressing physical and psychological sibling violence: Perspectives from youth care professionals in Belgium

Authors: Van Kelecom, Eva;Tucker, Corinna Jenkins;Pleysier, Stefaan and Put, Johan

Publication Date: 2025

Journal: Child Abuse & Neglect 169, pp. 107612

Abstract: Competing Interests: Declaration of competing interest The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.; Background: Despite its prevalence and potential consequences, sibling violence often

stays under the radar in professional health care, social and judicial services. The lack of awareness and training related to sibling violence has led to failing to detect and properly address it.; Objective: The main goals of this study are to investigate how youth care professionals in social and judicial services address physical and psychological sibling violence, what challenges they encounter while trying to address it, and their thoughts on needed changes to practice and policy to reduce sibling violence. The study expands current knowledge of evidence-based practice approaches which are generally limited to social work and school counseling, by including youth care professionals in social and judicial services.; Participants and Setting: Youth care professionals in social and judicial services (n = 13) in Flanders (Belgium) were selected based on their experience addressing child abuse and neglect.; Methods: In-depth interviews and focus groups were conducted, transcribed and coded using initial, pattern and selective coding methods.; Results: Consistent with previous literature, results indicate a lack of awareness of sibling violence in Flemish social and judicial youth care services. Professionals consistently expressed the need for greater awareness about sibling violence and tools to respond to it adequately. They prioritized a social service response characterized by a family-oriented approach rather than a judicial response.; Conclusion: Professionals need information on typical sibling dynamics and signs and impacts of sibling violence and evidence-based tools to effectively address it. Given the prevalence and impacts of sibling violence, the development of evidence-based training and family-oriented prevention and intervention efforts are critical to reduce it, but such efforts are limited by professionals' capacity, funding, and time. (Copyright © 2025 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.)

Sources Used:

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

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.