

# The David Finkelhor Collection

*A Bibliography*



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## **Introduction**

This special collection lists publications authored by noted researcher David Finkelhor. Dr. Finkelhor is Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center and Co-Director of the Family Research Laboratory, and is Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. He has been studying the problems of child victimization, child maltreatment and family violence since 1977. His publications are among the most influential in areas related to child abuse and neglect. This collection is not complete; even so, it currently contains more than 100 publications. They are arranged here in reverse chronological order – the most recent publications appearing first. It should be noted, however, that some of his older publications are landmarks in the field and retain their influence even after decades in print.

## **Publications**

The items listed here are English language books, chapters, journal articles, and selected other publications published 1978-2021. International publications are included.

## **Organization**

Publications are listed in date descending order. Links to open access publications are provided.

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## The David Finkelhor Collection

Finkelhor, D., & Berliner, L. (2021). [Screening for traumatic childhood experiences in health care settings](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2021.1442). *JAMA Internal Medicine*, *181*(7),903-904.  
<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2021.1442>

The heartfelt essay by Dr Austin<sup>1</sup> captures well the experience of many survivors of childhood sexual abuse and other traumatic and adverse experiences. Faced with medical history questionnaires, they may feel ambivalent about disclosing and disappointed with the follow-up when they do. As she points out, screening for the variety of adverse experiences has been rapidly increasing, in wake of the recognition of their prevalence and their contribution to poor health. But while screening is proliferating, it is not clear how beneficial it has been for patients and their health. Little is known about outcomes or whether those who disclose get an appropriate response.

Finkelhor, D., Jones, L., & Mitchell, K. (2021). [Teaching privacy: A flawed strategy for children's online safety](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105064). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *117*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105064>

Teaching young people about “privacy” has serious defects if the goal is to promote children’s online safety. This commentary points out some the key problems to programs and educational modules with this privacy orientation. Privacy is an abstract and complicated concept, whose norms are in flux, making it difficult to impart clear, relevant, consensus-based messages. We also know very little about how privacy concepts develop in childhood and at what age and in what sequence, making it hard to know what to teach and when. Privacy skills are not necessarily the most important ones for preventing most online harms, including the most serious ones, casting doubt on whether they should receive priority over other prevention skills. Research has also not clearly established connections between many privacy practices and reductions in harm. Most privacy messaging has not been evaluated for how well it is learned, applied and what forms of safety it enhances. As an alternative, the promotion of online safety is best organized, not around privacy, but around the specific harms that educators and children themselves are trying to prevent. The highest priority of these are sexual exploitation, peer bullying and harassment. Such educational safety programs are best built from the foundation of evidence-based programs related to parallel offline dangers.

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & LaSelva, D. (2021). [Medical treatment following violence exposure in a national sample of children and youth](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.9250). *JAMA network open*, 4(5), e219250-e219250. [https://doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.9250](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.9250)

Children and youth experience high rates of exposure to violence, which is associated with later poor physical and mental health outcomes. The immediate injuries and impacts from these exposures are often treated in emergency departments and medical offices. The objective was to characterize, using nationally representative data, the size and characteristics of the child and youth population being seen by medical authorities in the wake of violence exposure. The survey study used a representative sample of children and youth aged 2 to 17 years, from 2 waves (2011 and 2014) of the National Survey of Children Exposed to Violence, drawn from a mix of random digit dialing and address-based sampling. Interviews were conducted (1) over the phone with caregivers of young children or (2) directly with the youth aged 10 to 17 years. Data analysis was performed from September to December 2020. Violence exposures were assessed with the 53-item Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire, which had follow-up questions that asked about injury and going “to the hospital, a doctor’s office, or some kind of health clinic because of what happened.” Additional questions were asked about lifetime and past-year childhood adversities and current trauma symptoms using the Trauma Symptom Checklist and the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children. The combined 2-survey sample had 5187 children and youth who reported a lifetime violence exposure, of whom 45.6% (95% CI, 43.1%-48.2%) were aged 2 to 9 years, and 54.4% (95% CI, 51.8%-56.9%) were aged 10 to 17 years; 53.6% (95% CI, 51.0%-56.2%) were male. Based on the full sample of 8503 children and youth, 3.4% (95% CI, 2.6%-4.4%) had a violence-related medical visit at some time in their lives. The rate of past-year medical visits due to a violence exposure was 1.9% (95% CI, 1.2%-2.7%), equivalent to a point estimate of approximately 1.4 million children and youth. Of those with medical visits, 33.3% (95% CI, 23.1%-45.4%) were aged 2 to 9 years. Those with a past-year visit had higher levels of trauma symptoms (risk ratio, 1.71; 95% CI, 1.44-2.03) adverse childhood experiences (risk ratio, 2.55; 95% CI, 2.34-2.78) and multiple violence exposures (risk ratio, 3.91; 95% CI, 3.22-4.76) compared with the general sample of children and youth. The estimated large number of violence-related visits with medical professionals offers an opportunity to address a source of frequent injury, and provide counseling and referral for a high-risk segment of the population to treat and prevent further physical and mental health and social consequences.

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & LaSelva, D. (2021). [Receipt of behavioral health services among us children and youth with adverse childhood experiences or mental health symptoms.](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.1435) *JAMA network open*, 4(3), e211435-e211435.  
[https://doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.1435](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.1435)

Epidemiological literature on children's mental health and children's adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have consistently pointed to widespread, unaddressed, and treatable high-risk conditions among children. The objective was to estimate the proportion of children with either high levels of ACEs and/or high levels of mental health symptoms who were not receiving services from behavioral health professionals. This cross-sectional study included 11 896 children who participated in 3 National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), which were nationally representative surveys conducted in 2008, 2011, and 2014. The surveys entailed telephone interviews with youth aged 10 to 17 years and caregivers of children aged 2 to 9 years. Data were analyzed from February to August 2020. Nationally representative samples were obtained from a mix of random digit dial and address-based sampling methods. The primary outcome was the proportion of children with high ACEs, high distress symptoms, and both who were receiving clinical contact, broken down by demographic characteristics. Of the 11 896 children, 4045 (34.0%) participated in the 2008 NatSCEV; 4112 (34.6%) in the 2011 NatSCEV; and 3738 (31.4%) in the 2014 NatSCEV; 5532 (46.5%) were aged 2 to 9 years (2785 [50.4%] aged 2-5 years; 2693 [48.7%] girls; 3521 [63.7%] White children), and 6365 (53.5%) were aged 10 to 17 years (3612 [56.7%] aged 14-17 years; 3117 [49.0%] female participants; 4297 [67.5%] White individuals). Among participants aged 2 to 9 years, no clinical contact was reported for 57% (95% CI, 51%-62%) of the high ACE group, 53% (95% CI, 48%-58%) of the high distress symptom group, and 41% (95% CI, 32%-51%) of the group with high levels on both indicators. Among participants aged 10 to 17 years, the group with no clinical contact comprised 63% (95% CI, 56%-69%) of the high ACE group, 52% (95% CI, 46%-57%) of the high distress symptom group, and 62% (95% CI, 51%-71%) of youth scoring high on both indicators. Among racial groups, odds of contact were very low for Black children aged 2 to 9 years with high ACEs compared with non-Hispanic White children with the same age and exposure (odds ratio, 0.26; 95% CI, 0.14-0.49). In this cross-sectional study combining findings from 3 US national surveys, large portions of children at high risk because of adversity or mental health symptoms were not receiving clinical services. Better ways are needed to find these at-risk populations and help them obtain relevant intervention resources.

Mathews, B., Pacella, R., Dunne, M., Scott, J., Finkelhor, D., Meinck, F., ... & Lawrence, D. (2021). The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS): protocol for a national survey of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect, associated mental disorders and physical health problems, and burden of disease. *BMJ open*, *11*(5).  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-047074>

Child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence) is widely understood to be associated with multiple mental health disorders, physical health problems and health risk behaviours throughout life. However, Australia lacks fundamental evidence about the prevalence and characteristics of child maltreatment, its associations with mental disorders and physical health, and the associated burden of disease. These evidence gaps impede the development of public health strategies to better prevent and respond to child maltreatment. The aims of this research are to generate the first comprehensive population-based national data on the prevalence of child maltreatment in Australia, identify associations with mental disorders and physical health conditions and other adverse consequences, estimate attributable burden of disease and indicate targeted areas for future optimal public health prevention strategies. The Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) is a nationwide, cross-sectional study of Australia's population aged 16 years and over. A survey of approximately 10 000 Australians will capture retrospective self-reported data on the experience in childhood of all five types of maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and exposure to domestic violence). A customised, multimodule survey instrument has been designed to obtain information including: the prevalence and characteristics of these experiences; diagnostic screening of common mental health disorders; physical health; health risk behaviours and health service utilisation. The survey will be administered in March–November 2021 to a random sample of the nationwide population, recruited through mobile phone numbers. Participants will be surveyed using computer-assisted telephone interviews, conducted by trained interviewers from the Social Research Centre, an agency with extensive experience in studies of health and adversity. Rigorous protocols protect the safety of both participants and interviewers, and comply with all ethical and legal requirements. Analysis will include descriptive statistics reporting the prevalence of individual and multitype child maltreatment, multiple logistic and linear regression analyses to determine associations with mental disorders and physical health problems. We will calculate the population attributable fractions of these putative outcomes to enable an estimation of the disease burden attributable to child maltreatment. The study has been approved by the Queensland

University of Technology Human Research Ethics Committee (#1900000477, 16 August 2019). Results will be published to the scientific community in peer-reviewed journals, scientific meetings and through targeted networks. Findings and recommendations will be shared with government policymakers and community and organisational stakeholders through diverse engagement activities, a dedicated Advisory Board and a systematic knowledge translation strategy. Results will be communicated to the public through an organised media strategy and the ACMS website.

Turner, H., Finkelhor, D., & Henly, M. (2021). [Exposure to family and friend homicide in a nationally representative sample of youth](https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518787200). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(7-8), NP4413-NP4442. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518787200>

This study examines the lifetime prevalence and distribution of family/friend homicide exposure among children and adolescents age 2 to 17 in the United States, and assesses the impact of family/friend homicide on emotional and behavioral outcomes, while controlling for potential co-occurring factors. Data were collected by telephone about the experiences of youth in 2008, 2011, or 2014, as part of the National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV). Analyses are based on a pooled sample (n =11,771) from these three surveys. Approximately 8% of all children and youth ages 2 to 17 were exposed to a family/friend homicide. Older adolescents, Black youth, those living in single parent and nonparent family households, those from lower socioeconomic status households, and youth living in large cities were overrepresented among youth experiencing family or friend homicide. Exposed youth were also substantially more likely to be poly-victims, experience other major adversities, and live in neighborhoods with more community disorder. Exposure to family/friend homicide was significantly related to trauma symptoms. However, when other co-occurring factors were taken into account, only family/friend homicide that occurred within the last 2 years remained significant. With respect to delinquency, only nonfamily homicide exposure remained significant with these other factors controlled. Findings suggest that family/friend homicide represents a powerful marker for a broad level of victimization risk and adversity, demonstrating that family/friend murder is often just one relatively small part of a more complicated life of adversity. Although recent exposure is certainly distressing to youth, it is the wider, co-occurring context of poly-victimization and other types of adversity that appears most impactful in the longer term.



Bright, M. A., Sayedul Huq, M., Patel, S., Miller, M. D., & Finkelhor, D. (2020). Child safety matters: randomized control trial of a school-based, child victimization prevention curriculum. *Journal of interpersonal violence*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520909185>

Recognizing the potential of classrooms as a context for identifying and addressing child victimization, several U.S. states now mandate the inclusion of child abuse prevention in school curricula. There are, however, a limited number of evidence-based and developmentally appropriate curricula designed for elementary. This study utilized a randomized control trial (RCT) design to evaluate the knowledge acquisition of children who received the Monique Burr Foundation's Child Safety Matters curriculum, a program designed to educate kindergarten to Grade 5 children about bullying, cyberbullying, four types of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect), and digital dangers. Participants included 1,176 students from 72 classrooms in 12 Florida schools across eight counties. Schools were matched in pairs and randomly assigned to receive the program or be in a wait-list control. Knowledge was assessed with a questionnaire administered prior to the curriculum (T1) as well as approximately 3 weeks (T2) and approximately 7 months (T3) after implementation. Analyses were conducted with class means examining grade, treatment condition, and time. The interaction of treatment and time was significant,  $F(2, 90) = 17.024, p < .000$ . Children who received the curriculum increased their knowledge about potentially risky situations, and this knowledge was sustained over 7 months to the follow-up assessment. Children in the control schools did not have similar gains. The current classroom-based child maltreatment prevention education is a promising strategy to address children's vulnerability to abuse and its consequences.

Finkelhor, D. (2020). [Trends in adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\) in the United States](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104641). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 108. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104641>

It is important for those called upon to discuss major social determinants of health such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to have accurate knowledge about generational trends in their prevalence. The objective was to review available trend data on major forms of ACEs. A search of academic data bases was conducted by combining the term "trend" with a variety of terms referring to childhood adversities. Available trend data on ACEs from the 20th century show multi-decade declines in parental death, parental illness, sibling death, and poverty, but multi-decade

increases in parental divorce, parental drug abuse and parental incarceration. More recent trend data on ACEs for the first fifteen to eighteen years of the 21st century show declines in parental illness, sibling death, exposure to domestic violence, childhood poverty, parental divorce, serious childhood illness, physical abuse, sexual abuse, physical and emotional bullying and exposure to community violence. Two 21st century ACE increases were for parental alcohol and drug abuse. Overall, there appear to have been more historical and recent improvements in ACEs than deteriorations. But the US still lags conspicuously behind other developed countries on many of these indicators. Awareness of improvements, as well as persistent challenges, are important to motivate policy makers and practitioners and to prompt them to recognize the feasibility of success in the prevention of ACEs.

Finkelhor, D., Walsh, K., Jones, L., Mitchell, K., & Collier, A. (2020). Youth internet safety education: Aligning programs with the evidence base. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020916257>

This review critically examines the messages of youth internet safety education programs in the light of research about both the dynamics of internet dangers and the efficacy of youth prevention education. Using terms “internet safety education” and “digital citizenship,” a Google search identified 12 multi-topic safety programs. Review articles were identified via Google Scholar for six forms of online harm to youth that have been targeted by many of these programs: cyberbullying (19 articles); online sexual exploitation (23 articles); sexting (19 articles); online fraud, hacking, and identity theft (6 articles); online suicide and self-harm promotion (18 articles); and internet overuse or addiction (15 articles). There appear to be mismatches between dynamics revealed in the research about internet harms and the messages emphasized in educational programs, particularly on the issues of sexual exploitation and sexting. Overall, the review literature also suggests major advantages to integrating internet safety into already well-established and evidence-based programs currently addressing related off-line harms, for example, programs focusing on general bullying, dating abuse, or sexual abuse prevention. The advantages stem from four factors: (1) the considerable overlap between online harms and similar off-line harms, (2) the apparent greater prevalence of off-line harms, (3) the evidence that the same risk factors lie behind both online and off-line harms, and most importantly, (4) the substantially superior evidence base for the longer standing programs developed originally around the off-line harms

Gewirtz-Meydan, A., & Finkelhor, D. (2020). [Sexual abuse and assault in a large national sample of children and adolescents](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519873975). *Child Maltreatment*, 25(2), 203-214.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559519873975>

The present study sought to examine features of sexual abuse cases among a U.S. nationally representative sample of 13,052 children and adolescents, ages 0–17 years. The National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence was collected in three different years (2008, 2011, and 2014) via telephone interviews. Information about sexual abuse and assault was obtained from youth themselves (ages 10–17) or caregivers (for children ages 0–9) using the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire. Results indicate most offenses are at the hands of other juveniles (76.7% for males and 70.1% for females), primarily acquaintances, and occurring more frequently for adolescents aged 14–17. Whereas girls are mostly abused by males (88.4%), boys are abused by both males (45.6%) and females (54.4%). In 15% of cases, penetration is part of the abuse. Victims report being very afraid in 37.5% of episodes but not at all afraid in 19.8%. Among 10- to 17-year-olds, 66.3% of episodes are not reported to parents or any adult. Police reports occur for 19.1% of all cases. The results in the present study indicate that children and youth are exposed to sexual abuse and assault in varied ways, which require moving beyond conventional stereotypes of the problem.

Tucker, C. J., Finkelhor, D., & Turner, H. (2020). Family and friend social support as mediators of adolescent sibling victimization and mental health, self-esteem, and delinquency. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 90(6), 703-711.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000502>

Sibling victimization is associated with adjustment problems. Protective factors that reduce the detrimental effects of sibling victimization are unknown. We examined the mediating role of social support from family and friends in the relationship between sibling victimization and adolescents’ mental health distress, self-esteem, and delinquency. A telephone survey (N = 850; 49% female) was conducted with a nationally representative sample of United States adolescents (Aged 10 to 17). Three mediation models were tested exploring (a) the unique effects of family and friend support, (b) the relative effects of each type of support, and (c) the effects of total support (family and friend support summed). The three models demonstrated partial mediation of adolescents’ mental health and self-esteem. Family and total support, but not friend support, partially mediated the relationship between sibling victimization and delinquency. Findings showed that family and friend social support, in combination and sometimes uniquely, reduced the adverse effects sibling

victimization associated with adolescents' mental health, self-esteem, and delinquency. Efforts aimed at promoting social support from family and friends as protective factors may reduce the risk of sibling victimization experiences for adolescent well-being difficulties. (PsycInfo Database Record © 2020 APA, all rights reserved)

Tucker, C. J., Finkelhor, D., & Turner, H. (2020). [Family predictors of sibling versus peer victimization](https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000592). *Journal of Family Psychology*, *34*(2), 186-195.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000592>

Though peer victimization has received more attention than sibling victimization, they both have negative associations with mental health and may share common family origins. We explore whether there are common family characteristics (family climate, interparental conflict, parenting) in the prediction of sibling and peer victimization. We employ a nationally representative sample of U.S. children ages 5–17 (N = 2,659; 51% male, mean age = 10.60 years, 58% White). A telephone interview was conducted with a parent of children ages 5–9 and with children ages 10–17. Multinomial logistic regression showed that sibling and peer victimization are both associated with exposure to family adversity, family violence, and child maltreatment. Sibling victimization is also associated with inconsistent or harsh parenting. The odds ratios of the family characteristics of interest did not differ for sibling versus peer victimization, suggesting overlap in the family etiology of sibling and peer victimization. However, in this study, sibling victimization does appear to have unique associations to demographic characteristics; sibling victimization is most common in White and educated families. Knowledge of shared familial elements of sibling and peer victimization could benefit family violence and antibullying programs to promote positive interactions and lessen and stop aggression in both sibling and peer relationships. (PsycINFO Database Record © 2020 APA, all rights reserved)

Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K. J., Jones, L. M., & Henly, M. (2020). Strengthening the predictive power of screening for adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in younger and older children. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 107*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104522>

There is increasing interest in routine screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to help identify high-risk children who would benefit from interventions. However, there has not yet been sufficient research concerning which particular set of ACEs would be most predictive as a potential screening tool. This study compared 40 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), covering 11 different conceptual domains, in their ability to predict trauma symptoms in childhood. The current study uses pooled data from three National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV) conducted in 2008, 2011, and 2014. Each survey collected information on children aged one month to 17 years. Samples were obtained from a mix of random digit dialing and address based sampling methods. Telephone interviews were conducted with children 10 years and older and with caregivers, if the randomly selected child was under age 10. A different set of 15 items best predicted trauma symptoms for younger (2–9-year-old) compared to older (10–17-year-old) youth. Some conventional ACEs, like physical and emotional abuse, proved important for both age groups. However, family-related factors were more predictive for younger children, while community and peer violence exposures were more predictive for older children. Our new proposed measures explained substantially more variance in subsequent trauma symptoms than did the original ACE measure ( $R^2 = .31$  vs  $.18$  for 2-9 year olds;  $R^2 = .43$  vs  $.26$  for 10-17 year olds;  $p < .001$  for all) and identified a larger percentage of children with high levels of trauma.

Witt, A., Jud, A., Finkelhor, D., Brähler, E., & Fegert, J. M. (2020). Monitoring recent trends: the prevalence of disclosure of sexual abuse in a representative sample of the German population based on indicator 16.2. 3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). *Child Abuse & Neglect, 107*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104575>

The monitoring of trends is important. The United Nations (UN) have defined indicators to monitor the proportion of young men and women who have experienced sexual abuse before the age of 18 (Indicator 16.2.3) as part of their global agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The objective was to examine recent trends in the disclosure of sexual abuse based on the indicator 16.2.3 of the SDG. A total of 7530 participants across Germany (51.1% female) were included.

The participants were between 14 and 94 years old. Three representative surveys were conducted using identical methods in 2010 (N = 2504), 2016 (N = 2510) and 2018 (N = 2516). A history of child sexual abuse (CSA) was assessed using the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ). The prevalence rates of CSA among the age cohort of 18 to 29-year olds (indicator 16.2.3) were compared across the three waves. There was no significant increase of rates in males in this specific age cohort (2010: 7.6%; 2016: 8.5%; 2018: 6.1%), but there was a significant increase among the females of this age cohort (2010: 12.8%; 2016: 13.5%; 2018: 26.1%). The increase was entirely between the survey in 2016 and 2018. This is the first study to report on indicator 16.2.3 of UN's SDGs in Germany. The identified increase in rates of sexual abuse among 18–29 year old females might have been triggered by the attention the topic received in the time between 2016 and 2018, especially via social media and the #MeToo debate.

Gewirtz-Meydan, A., Lahav, Y., Walsh, W., & Finkelhor, D. (2019). [Psychopathology among adult survivors of child pornography](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104189). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 98. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104189>

The majority of studies investigating child pornography have focused on conceptualizing the problem and the harm of the crime, evaluating the risk for child pornography offending, or discuss preventive measures. Little is known about survivors of this type of crime. This research explores the relationship between child pornography victimization and psychopathology in adulthood. Specifically, we examined the contribution of emotional reactions at the time of the crime and shortly after (guilt, embarrassment and avoidance) on psychopathology among adult survivors of child pornography. The study was conducted among 107 child pornography adult survivors, aged 18–63 (M = 39.48, SD = 12.31). All participants were sexually molested during the crime. An online survey was completed by a convenience sample of adult survivors of child pornography. Findings indicate survivor's current age predicted current psychopathology symptoms. Survivor's emotional reactions of guilt and embarrassment at the time of the crime and shortly after were significantly associated with elevated psychopathology, above and beyond demographic characteristics and features of the crime. The present results suggest the way survivors of child pornography react to the crime might shape their mental health in the long term.

Tucker, C. J., Finkelhor, D., & Turner, H. (2019). Patterns of sibling victimization as predictors of peer victimization in childhood and adolescence. *Journal of Family Violence, 34*(8), 745-755. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-018-0021-1>

We document four patterns of sibling victimization (Persist, New, Desist, and None) across two time points and their association with peer victimization at time two and whether these linkages are apparent in early childhood, middle childhood and adolescence. A telephone survey (N = 1653) was conducted with a nationally representative sample of U.S. parents with children (age 3–9) and adolescents (age 10 to 17). The four patterns differed by age, gender, ethnicity and parent education levels but not family structure. The Persist, New and Desist sibling victimization patterns were associated with a greater likelihood of peer victimization. Sibling victimization patterns were unrelated to peer victimization in early childhood but predictive of peer victimization in middle childhood and adolescence. Findings showed that sibling victimization leaves children and adolescents vulnerable to peer victimization. Children and adolescents who experienced chronic sibling victimization (Persist group) were particularly vulnerable to peer victimization. Eliminating sibling victimization could reduce peer victimization in middle childhood and adolescence.

Turner, H. A., Vanderminden, J., Finkelhor, D., & Hamby, S. (2019). Child neglect and the broader context of child victimization. *Child Maltreatment, 24*(3), 265-274. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559518825312>

Using a pooled data set of two waves of the National Surveys of Children’s Exposure to Violence, this study investigates links between indicators of socioeconomic resources and lifetime exposure to two different forms of child neglect (physical and supervisory), examines how neglect is associated with the risk of other types of victimization, and estimates the impact of neglect on trauma symptoms. Findings suggest that physical neglect is directly linked to economic stressors, while low parental education is consequential for both physical and supervisory neglect. Both types of neglect also were strongly associated with risk of other maltreatment and most other forms of victimization. Physical neglect was particularly strongly related to sexual abuse and witnessing sibling abuse, while supervisory neglect was most strongly related to risk for sexual victimization by a nonfamily adult. Although neglect is significantly associated with trauma symptoms, poly-victims had, by far, the highest levels of trauma symptoms.

Vanderminden, J., Hamby, S., David-Ferdon, C., Kacha-Ochana, A., Merrick, M., Simon, T. R., ... & Turner, H. (2019). Rates of neglect in a national sample: Child and family characteristics and psychological impact. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 88, 256-265.

This study provides national estimates of neglect subtypes, demographic variations in exposure to neglect subtypes, and examines the psychological impact. Participants and Setting: Pooled data from two representative U.S. samples from the National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV) survey conducted in 2011 and 2014, representing the experiences of children and youth aged 1 month to 17 years (N=8503). Telephone surveys were used to obtain sociodemographic characteristics, six measures of past year and lifetime exposure to neglect, and assessments of trauma symptoms, suicidal ideation, alcohol use, and illicit drug use. More than 1 in 17 U.S. children (6.07%) experienced some form of neglect in the past year, and more than 1 in 7 (15.14%) experienced neglect at some point in their lives. Supervisory neglect, due to parental incapacitation or parental absence, was most common. Families with two biological parents had lower rates (4.29% in the past year) than other household configurations (range from 7.95% to 14.10%;  $p < .05$ ). All types of neglect were associated with increased trauma symptoms and suicidal ideation (for 10–17 year olds), and several were associated with increased risk of underage alcohol and illicit drug use. More attention needs to be paid to the impact of supervisory neglect. These results underscore the importance of prevention strategies that provide the supports necessary to build safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments that help children thrive.

Gewirtz-Meydan, A., Walsh, W., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2018). [The complex experience of child pornography survivors](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 80, 238-248.

This research explores the complex experiences of survivors of child pornography production. The study was conducted among a convenience sample of child pornography adult survivors (N = 133), using an online survey which included a series of open-ended questions. Nearly half of respondents reported that they felt the production of sexual images caused specific problems that were different from the problems caused by other aspects of the abuse. Nearly half of the sample worried all the time that people would think they were willing participants or that people would recognize them, one-third refused to talk about the images and 22% denied there were images. The qualitative analysis identified three major themes which emerged from the survivor's perspective



as adults: Guilt and shame, their ongoing vulnerability and an empowerment dimension the images sometimes brought. Recommendations for further research and additional implications are discussed.

Merrick, M. T., Henly, M., Turner, H. A., David-Ferdon, C., Hamby, S., Kacha-Ochana, A., ... & Finkelhor, D. (2018). [Beyond residential mobility: A broader conceptualization of instability and its impact on victimization risk among children.](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 79, 485-494.

Predictability in a child's environment is a critical quality of safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments, which promote wellbeing and protect against maltreatment. Research has focused on residential mobility's effect on this predictability. This study augments such research by analyzing the impact of an instability index—including the lifetime destabilization factors (LDFs) of natural disasters, homelessness, child home removal, multiple moves, parental incarceration, unemployment, deployment, and multiple marriages—on childhood victimizations. The cross-sectional, nationally representative sample of 12,935 cases (mean age = 8.6 years) was pooled from 2008, 2011, and 2014 National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV). Logistic regression models controlling for demographics, socio-economic status, and family structure tested the association between excessive residential mobility, alone, and with LDFs, and past year childhood victimizations (sexual victimization, witnessing community or family violence, maltreatment, physical assault, property crime, and polyvictimization). Nearly 40% of the sample reported at least one LDF. Excessive residential mobility was significantly predictive of increased odds of all but two victimizations; almost all associations were no longer significant after other destabilizing factors were included. The LDF index without residential mobility was significantly predictive of increased odds of all victimizations (AOR's ranged from 1.36 to 1.69), and the adjusted odds ratio indicated a 69% increased odds of polyvictimization for each additional LDF a child experienced. The LDF index thus provides a useful alternative to using residential moves as the sole indicator of instability. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive supports and services to support stability for children and families.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Walsh, W., & Treitman, L. (2018). Sextortion of minors: Characteristics and dynamics. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 62*(1), 72-79.

Sextortion (threats to expose sexual images to coerce victims to provide additional pictures, sex, or other favors) has been identified as an emerging online threat to youth, but research is scarce. We describe sextortion incidents from a large sample of victims (n = 1,385) and examine whether incidents occurring to minors (n = 572) are more or less serious than those experienced by young adults (n = 813). We ran advertising campaigns on Facebook to recruit victims of sextortion, ages 18–25, for an online survey. We use cross tabulations and logistic regression to analyze incidents that began when 18- and 19-year-old respondents were minors (ages 17 and younger) and compare them with incidents that began at ages 18–25 years. Most minor victims were female (91%) and aged 16 or 17 when incidents started (75%). Almost 60% of respondents who were minors when sextortion occurred knew perpetrators in person, often as romantic partners. Most knowingly provided images to perpetrators (75%), but also felt pressured to do so (67%). About one-third were threatened with physical assaults and menaced for >6 months. Half did not disclose incidents, and few reported to police or websites. Perpetrators against minors (vs. adults) were more likely to pressure victims into producing initial sexual images, demand additional images, threaten victims for >6 months, and urge victims to harm themselves. Sextortion incidents were serious victimizations, and often co-occurred with teen dating violence. We describe resources so that practitioners can help victims find support and legal advice and remove posted images.

van Berkel, S. R., Tucker, C. J., & Finkelhor, D. (2018). [The combination of sibling victimization and parental child maltreatment on mental health problems and delinquency](#). *Child Maltreatment, 23*(3), 244-253.

This study examined how the combination of sibling victimization and parental child maltreatment is related to mental health problems and delinquency in childhood and adolescence. Co-occurrence, additive associations, and interactive associations of sibling victimization and parental child maltreatment were investigated using a sample of 2,053 children aged 5–17 years from the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence. The results provide primarily evidence for additive associations and only suggest some co-occurrence and interactive associations of sibling victimization and child maltreatment. Evidence for cooccurrence was weak and, when controlling for the other type of maltreatment, only found for neglect. Sibling victimization was related to

more mental health problems and delinquency over and above the effect of child abuse and neglect. Moderation by sibling victimization depended on child age and was only found for the relation between both types of child maltreatment by parents and delinquency. For mental health, no interactive associations were found. These results highlight the unique and combined associations between sibling victimization on child development.

Finkelhor, D. (2017). [Screening for adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\): Cautions and suggestions](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 85, 174-179.

This article argues that it is still premature to start widespread screening for adverse childhood experiences (ACE) in health care settings until we have answers to several important questions: 1) what are the effective interventions and responses we need to have in place to offer to those with positive ACE screening, 2) what are the potential negative outcomes and costs to screening that need to be buffered in any effective screening regime, and 3) what exactly should we be screening for? The article makes suggestions for needed research activities.

Frias, S. M., & Finkelhor, D. (2017). [Victimizations of Mexican youth \(12–17 years old\): A 2014 national survey](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 67, 86-97.

Victimization of Mexican youth (aged 12–17) has received little attention compared to that of adults. Using the 2014 Social Survey on Social Cohesion for the Prevention of Violence and Delinquency, we examine prevalence and types of victimization; describe the characteristics of incidents in terms of relationship with perpetrator(s) and places where took place; and study significant correlates of forms of victimization and poly-victimization. During 2014 alone, more than 2.8 million minors were victims of bullying, cyberbullying, theft, sexual abuse, physical assault, threats, robbery, or extortion. About 10% of these were polyvictims-experienced at least four different types of victimization by at least four types of perpetrators. Youth tended to be victimized by people in their inner circle. The factors associated with victimization tended to vary by victimization type, but proximity to crime and peer delinquency increased the risk of experiencing all types of victimization. Implications for future research and practice are discussed.

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Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., Hamby, S., & Henly, M. (2017). [Victimization and adversity among children experiencing war-related parental absence or deployment in a nationally representative US sample](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 67, 271-279.

This study compares children and youth who have experienced lifetime war-related parental absence or deployment with those having no such history on a variety of victimization types, non-victimization adversity, trauma symptoms, and delinquency; and assesses whether cumulative adversity and victimization help to explain elevated emotional and behavioral problems among children of parents who have experienced war-related absence or deployment. The National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV) are comprised of three cross-sectional telephone surveys conducted in 2008, 2011, and 2014. Data were collected on the experiences of children aged one month to seventeen years. In each survey, interviews were conducted with youth 10–17 years old and with caregivers of children 0–9 years old. The analyses use pooled data from all three U.S. nationally representative samples (total sample size of 13,052). Lifetime parental war-related absence or deployment was a marker for elevated childhood exposure to a wide array of victimization and adversity types. Cumulative past year exposure to multiple forms of victimization and adversity fully explained elevated trauma symptoms and delinquency in this population of children. Given the breadth of victimization and adversity risk, children with histories of parental war-related absence or deployment, as well as their families, represent important target groups for broad-based prevention and interventions to reduce exposure and ameliorate consequences when it does occur. © 2017 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved

Tucker, C. J., Finkelhor, D., & Turner, H. (2016). Family adversity's role in the onset and termination of childhood sibling victimization. *Psychology of Violence*, 8(1), 10-18.

Objective: To understand the role of family adversity in the onset and desistance of sibling victimization, we examined school-age children's sibling victimization patterns using 2 waves of longitudinal data from a nationally representative sample. Method: Parents of children aged 5–9 and children aged 10–12 years old (N = 945, Mage = 8.5 years, 52% male) participated in 2 waves of telephone interviews, 2 years apart. Results: We compared family adversity for children whose victimization by a sibling emerges at Wave 2 (the New group) versus those children who do not experience any sibling victimization at either Wave (the None group). Also, we compared children who continue to be victimized (the Persist group) versus those children for whom victimization

stops (the Desist group). An increase in family adversity was associated with initiation of sibling victimization, and termination was related to a decline in family adversity. These patterns applied more to girls than boys. Conclusions: Family adversity was associated with the onset and termination of sibling victimization. In adverse family conditions, girls may be particularly vulnerable to sibling victimization. For families dealing with loss, illness and other transitions, parents and children may need help preventing and interrupting sibling victimization. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2019 APA, all rights reserved)

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. J. (2016). [Child victims of stereotypical kidnappings known to law enforcement in 2011](#). Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Finkelhor, D., Vanderminden, J., Turner, H., Shattuck, A., & Hamby, S. (2016). At-school victimization and violence exposure assessed in a national household survey of children and youth. *Journal of School Violence, 15*(1), 67-90.

This national household telephone survey of youth and parents assessed exposure to a broad range of at-school victimizations among a representative sample of 3,391 children and youth ages 5 to 17. Nearly half the sample (48%) had been exposed to at least one form of victimization at school during the past year (in 2011), most of which was intimidation/bullying (29.8%). Fourteen percent had been assaulted at school in the past year, 13% had witnessed an assault, 3.2% had been sexually harassed, and 0.4% had been sexually assaulted at school. Twelve percent had an at-school victimization injury in the past year, and 6% had missed a day or more of school as a result of their at-school victimization. Some victimizations, such as weapon assault and sexual assault, were less prevalent at school than out of school, others, such as intimidation and sexual harassment, were more common.

Jud, A., Fegert, J. M., & Finkelhor, D. (2016). [On the incidence and prevalence of child maltreatment: A research agenda](#). *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health, 10*, 17.

Research on child maltreatment epidemiology has primarily been focused on population surveys with adult respondents. Far less attention has been paid to analyzing reported incidents of alleged child maltreatment and corresponding agency responses. This type of research is however

indispensable to know how well a child protection system works and if the most vulnerable are identified and served. Notable findings of child maltreatment epidemiological research are summarized and directions for future studies discussed.

Shattuck, A., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. (2016). [Children exposed to abuse in youth-serving organizations: results from national sample surveys](#). *JAMA Pediatrics*, *170*(2), e154493-e154493.

**Objective** To provide clinicians, policymakers, and parents with estimates of children's exposure to abuse in youth-serving organizations. Telephone survey data from the 3 National Surveys of Children's Exposure to Violence (2008, 2011, and 2014) were combined to create a sample of 13 052 children and youths aged 0 to 17 years. The survey participants included youths aged 10 to 17 years and caregivers of children aged 0 to 9 years. In the combined sample of 13 052 children and youths aged 0 to 17 years, the rate of abuse by persons in youth-serving organizations was 0.4% (95% CI, 0.2-0.7) for the past year and 0.8% (95% CI, 0.5-1.1) over the lifetime. Most of the maltreatment (63.2%) was verbal abuse and only 6.4% was any form of sexual violence or assault. Abuse in youth-serving organizations was a relatively rare form of abuse, dwarfed by abuse by family members and other adults.

Finkelhor, S. D., Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A. M., Hamby, S. L., & Kracke, K. (2015). [Children's exposure to violence, crime, and abuse: An update](#). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, 2015(Sept), 1-13.

This bulletin discusses the second National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV II), which was conducted in 2011 as a followup to the original NatSCEV I survey. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsored both surveys. The Crimes against Children Research Center of the University of New Hampshire conducted the NatSCEV I survey between January and May 2008. NatSCEV I represented the first comprehensive national survey of children's past-year and lifetime exposure to violence, crime, and abuse in the home, school, and community across children and youth from ages 1 month to 17 years.

Fang, X., Fry, D. A., Ji, K., Finkelhor, D., Chen, J., Lannen, P., & Dunne, M. P. (2015). The burden of child maltreatment in China: A systematic review. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 93(3), 176-185C.  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4371492/>

The study objective was to estimate the health and economic burdens of child maltreatment in China. We did a systematic review for studies on child maltreatment in China using PubMed, Embase, PsycInfo, CINAHL-EBSCO, ERIC and the Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure databases. We did meta-analyses of studies that met inclusion criteria to estimate the prevalence of child neglect and child physical, emotional and sexual abuse. We used data from the 2010 global burden of disease estimates to calculate disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) lost as a result of child maltreatment. From 68 studies we estimated that 26.6% of children under 18 years of age have suffered physical abuse, 19.6% emotional abuse, 8.7% sexual abuse and 26.0% neglect. We estimate that emotional abuse in childhood accounts for 26.3% of the DALYs lost because of mental disorders and 18.0% of those lost because of self-harm. Physical abuse in childhood accounts for 12.2% of DALYs lost because of depression, 17.0% of those lost to anxiety, 20.7% of those lost to problem drinking, 18.8% of those lost to illicit drug use and 18.3% of those lost to self-harm. The consequences of physical abuse of children costs China an estimated 0.84% of its gross domestic product – i.e. 50 billion United States dollars – in 2010. The corresponding losses attributable to emotional and sexual abuse in childhood were 0.47% and 0.39% of the gross domestic product, respectively. In China, child maltreatment is common and associated with large economic losses because many maltreated children suffer substantial psychological distress and might adopt behaviours that increase their risk of chronic disease.

Finkelhor, D., Shattuck, A., Turner, H. A., & Hamby, S. L. (2014). Trends in children's exposure to violence, 2003-2011. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 168(6), 540-546.  
<http://unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/poi130100.pdf>

The study suggests that years of public policy designed to reduce the burden of violence and victimization among youths is having some success. To identify trends in children's exposure to violence, crime, and abuse from 2003 through 2011. Three national telephone surveys of representative samples of children and caregivers from 2003, 2008, and 2011 were compared, all obtained using the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire; samples included parents of children 2

to 9 years old and youth 10 to 17 years old. Direct and indirect experiences of violence, abuse, and victimization during the previous year. Change in rates between 2003 and 2011 and between 2008 and 2011. Of 50 trends in exposure examined, there were 27 significant declines and no significant increases between 2003 and 2011. Declines were particularly large for assault victimization, bullying, and sexual victimization. There were also significant declines in the perpetration of violence and property crime. For the recession period between 2008 and 2011, there were 11 significant declines and no increases for 50 specific trends examined. Dating violence declined, as did one form of sexual victimization and some forms of indirect exposure.

Victimization surveys with general population samples confirm patterns seen in police data and adult surveys. Crime and violence have been declining in the child and youth population as well

Finkelhor, D., Vanderminden, J., Turner, H., Hamby, S., & Shattuck, A. (2014). Upset among youth in response to questions about exposure to violence, sexual assault and family maltreatment. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38(2), 217-223.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV296Revised-Published.pdf>

To assess whether youth are upset by being asked questions about sensitive kinds of abuse, victimization, family maltreatment, and sexual victimization in the course of standard epidemiological surveys. A national sample of youth aged 10–17 were interviewed on the telephone by experienced interviewers as part of the National Survey of Children Exposed to Violence. At the end they were asked whether answering questions had upset them. Of the youth interviewed, 4.5% reported being at all upset and 0.8% reported being pretty or a lot upset. However, only a minority of those upset, .3% of the total sample, said they would not participate again had they known about the content. But even in this group, the regret about participation was mostly due to the length of the survey, not the types of questions being asked. Thus, asking about exposure to abuse and sensitive kinds of victimization in standard interview surveys is associated with low levels of respondent upset due to the nature of the questions. © 2013 Published by Elsevier Ltd.



Finkelhor, D. (2013). Trends in bullying and peer victimization. Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center. 4 p  
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.documentcloud.org/documents/758587/cv280-bullying-amp-peer-victimization-bulletin-1.pdf>

In this bulletin, we will summarize the trends, from youth surveys that have tracked bullying specifically, and also those that have tracked closely related phenomena such as school assaults, school thefts, school fighting and school hate speech.

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A., & Hamby, S. L. (2013). Violence, Crime, and Abuse Exposure in a National Sample of Children and Youth: An Update. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 167(7), 614-621. <http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1686983>

Because exposure to violence, crime, and abuse has been shown to have serious consequences on child development, physicians and policymakers need to know the kinds of exposure that occur at various developmental stages. To provide updated estimates of and trends for childhood exposure to a broad range of violence, crime, and abuse victimizations. The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence was based on a cross-sectional, US national telephone survey conducted in 2011. The experiences of 4503 children and youth aged 1 month to 17 years were assessed by interviews with caregivers and with youth in the case of those aged 10 to 17 years. Two-fifths (41.2%) of children and youth experienced a physical assault in the last year, and 1 in 10 (10.1%) experienced an assault-related injury. Two percent experienced sexual assault or sexual abuse in the last year, but the rate was 10.7% for girls aged 14 to 17 years. More than 1 in 10 (13.7%) experienced maltreatment by a caregiver, including 3.7% who experienced physical abuse. Few significant changes could be detected in rates since an equivalent survey in 2008, but declines were documented in peer flashing, school bomb threats, juvenile sibling assault, and robbery and total property victimization. The variety and scope of children's exposure to violence, crime, and abuse suggest the need for better and more comprehensive tools in clinical and research settings for identifying these experiences and their effects.

Finkelhor, D., Shattuck, A., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. (2013). Improving the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Scale. *JAMA Pediatrics*, *167*(1), 70-75.  
<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1393429>

To test and improve upon the list of adverse childhood experiences from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study scale by examining the ability of a broader range to correlate with mental health symptoms. Nationally representative sample of children and adolescents Telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 2030 youth aged 10 to 17 years who were asked about lifetime adversities and current distress symptoms. Lifetime adversities and current distress symptoms. The adversities from the original ACE scale items were associated with mental health symptoms among the participants, but the association was significantly improved (from  $R^2 = 0.21$  to  $R^2 = 0.34$ ) by removing some of the original ACE scale items and adding others in the domains of peer rejection, peer victimization, community violence exposure, school performance, and socioeconomic status. Our understanding of the most harmful childhood adversities is still incomplete because of complex interrelationships among them, but we know enough to proceed to interventional studies to determine whether prevention and remediation can improve long-term outcomes.

Jones, L.M., Mitchell, K., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). Online harassment in context: Trends from three youth Internet safety surveys (2000, 2005, 2010). *Psychology of Violence (Special Issue)*, *3*(1), 53-69.  
<http://unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Online%20Harassment%20in%20Context.pdf>

The current study examines an increase in youth online harassment over the last decade in order to better explore the implications of the trend for prevention initiatives. The Youth Internet Safety Surveys (YISSs) involved 3 cross-sectional, nationally representative telephone surveys of 4,561 youth Internet users, ages 10 to 17, in 2000 (n = 1,501), 2005 (n = 1,500), and 2010 (n = 1,560). The increase in youth online harassment from 6% in 2000 to 11% in 2010 was driven primarily by a rise in indirect harassment—someone posting or sending comments to others about them online. Girls made up an increasing proportion of victims: 69% of victims were girls in 2010 compared with 48% in 2000. Furthermore, in comparison with earlier in the decade, harassment incidents in 2010 were more likely to come from a school friend or acquaintance and occur on a social networking site. Victims reported disclosing harassment incidents to school staff at greater rates in 2010 than in 2005 or 2000. The increase in online harassment can likely be attributed to changes

in how youth are using the Internet, especially a disproportional increase in online communication with friends by girls, providing more opportunity for offline peer conflicts to expand to this environment. School-based prevention programs aimed at improving peer relationships and reducing bullying are recommended to reduce online harassment.

Mitchell, K. J., Jones, L. M., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2013). Understanding the decline in unwanted online sexual solicitations for US youth 2000–2010: Findings from three Youth Internet Safety Surveys. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 37(12), 1225-1236.

To explore the decline in online sexual solicitations between 2000 and 2010 by examining the characteristics of solicitations to better inform prevention efforts. Data are from the Youth Internet Safety Surveys (YISS); three cross-sectional, nationally representative telephone surveys of 3561 youth Internet users in the United States, ages 10 through 17 (1501 in YISS-1; 1500 in YISS-2; 1560 in YISS-3). Unwanted online sexual solicitation was defined as requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk or give personal sexual information that were unwanted or, whether wanted or not, made by an adult. The decline in unwanted sexual solicitations from 19% in 2000 to 13% in 2005 to 9% in 2010 was driven by a reduction in youth who were being asked to talk about sex or for personal sexual information online. Pre-teens (ages 10-12) accounted for the majority of this decline. Multiple solicitations over the course of a year also decreased. More solicitations occurred at the hands of people youth knew in person prior to the incident - mainly friends and acquaintances, and less so at the hands of people youth met online. By 2010 most solicitations were occurring through social networking sites. Victims were disclosing solicitation incidents at greater rates in 2010 - mostly to friends. In spite of continuing anxiety about the impact of the Internet on the safety of youth, encouraging trends suggest experiences, behavior and education are moving in the direction of greater online safety and improved experiences for youth.

Priebe, G., Mitchell, K. J., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). To tell or not to tell? Youth's responses to unwanted Internet experiences. *Cyberpsychology*, 7(1). Article 6. doi: 10.5817/CP2013-1-6. <http://www.cyberpsychology.eu/view.php?cisloclanku=2013011603>

This study is one of the first that investigated youth's response to unwanted Internet experiences, not only for those youth who were bothered or distressed but for all youth who reported the experience. Three types of response were examined: telling someone about the incident and ending

the unwanted situation by active or passive coping. Responses to the following unwanted Internet experiences were analysed: Sexual solicitation, online harassment and unwanted exposure to pornography. The study was based on data from the Third Youth Internet Safety Survey (YISS-3), a telephone survey with a nationally representative U.S. sample of 1,560 Internet users, ages 10 to 17, and their caretakers. Youth's responses to unwanted Internet experiences differ depending on the type of unwanted experiences, whether they are distressed or have other negative reactions caused by the incident and – to some degree – other youth characteristics and incident characteristics. For example, not all youth who are distressed tell someone and not all youth who tell someone are distressed. Also, the reasons for telling may differ depending on whom they tell, and youth tell somebody less often about their victimization if they also are online perpetrators, but of different types of unwanted Internet experiences. Internet safety information for parents and parents' active mediation of Internet safety does not seem to result in youth telling more often about unwanted Internet experiences.

Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., Hamby, S. L., & Shattuck, A. (2013). Family structure, victimization, and child mental health in a nationally representative sample. *Social Science & Medicine*, 87, 39-51. <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV235.pdf>

Utilizing the 2008 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), the current study compares past year rates of 7 forms of child victimization (maltreatment, assault, peer victimization, property crime, witnessing family violence and exposure to community violence) across 3 different family structure types (two biological/adoptive parents, single parent, step/cohabiting family) among a representative sample of 4046 U.S. children ages 2e17. The study also considers whether certain socialcontextual risk factors help to explain family structure variations in victimization, and the extent to which victimization exposure accounts for family structure differences in distress symptom levels. Findings showed significantly elevated rates of almost all types of victimization among children in both nontraditional family types, relative to those living with two biological/adoptive parents. Factors associated with increased victimization risk in these families include high parental conflict, drug or alcohol problems, family adversity, and community disorder. A summary measure of children's exposure to multiple forms of victimization was the strongest predictor of distress symptoms. 2013 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A., Hamby, S., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). Community disorder, victimization exposure, and mental health in a national sample of youth. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 54(2), 258-275.

This study considers whether elevated distress among youth living in more disordered neighborhoods can be explained by personal exposure to violence and victimization, level of non-victimization adversity, and family support. Analyses were based on a sample of 2,039 youth ages 10 to 17 who participated in the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, a national telephone survey conducted in 2008. Using structural equation modeling, we find no direct effects of community disorder on distress, once the significant mediating effects of victimization, family support, and adversity are taken into account. Using a comprehensive measure of victimization covering several domains of experiences, we show that past year exposure to child maltreatment, sexual victimization, peer assault and bullying, and property crime each significantly mediate the community disorder–distress association. A measure of the total number of victimization types to which youth were exposed (i.e., level of “poly-victimization”) had the strongest mediating effect.

Walsh, W., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). Sexting: When are state prosecutors deciding to prosecute? The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3). <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.363.473&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

The majority of state prosecutors (62%) in the sample that had worked on technology facilitated crimes against children had handled a sexting case involving juveniles, and 36% of prosecutors in the sample reported that they had ever filed charges in these cases. When charges were filed, the majority charged child pornography production felonies and 16% of prosecutors had sexting cases that resulted in the defendant being sentenced to sex offender registration. Research needs to continue to help prosecutors develop tools and strategies to deal with these complex crimes.

Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). Trends in arrests for technology-facilitated sex crimes with identified victims: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3) [http://cola.unh.edu/sites/cola.unh.edu/files/research\\_publications/NJOV3\\_Trends\\_in\\_Tech-Facilitated\\_Sex\\_Crimes\\_with\\_Identified\\_Victims\\_Final.pdf](http://cola.unh.edu/sites/cola.unh.edu/files/research_publications/NJOV3_Trends_in_Tech-Facilitated_Sex_Crimes_with_Identified_Victims_Final.pdf)

This bulletin reports on trends in arrests for tech-facilitated sex crimes against identified victims, ages 17 and younger. It describes an increase in arrests of face-to-face sex offenders who used

technology to perpetrate crimes against youth who were family members or acquaintances. It also describes changes over time in the characteristics of offenders, victims, crime dynamics and technology use. The data come from 3 waves of the National Juvenile Online Victimization (NJOV) Study that examined arrests in 2000, 2006 and 2009. See the end of this report for a description of the methodology of the NJOV Study.

Finkelhor, D. (2013). Trends in bullying and peer victimization. Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center. 4 p.  
[http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV280\\_Bullying%20&%20Peer%20Victimization%20Bulletin\\_1-23-13\\_with%20toby%20edits.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV280_Bullying%20&%20Peer%20Victimization%20Bulletin_1-23-13_with%20toby%20edits.pdf)

In this bulletin, we will summarize the trends, from youth surveys that have tracked bullying specifically, and also those that have tracked closely related phenomena such as school assaults, school thefts, school fighting and school hate speech.

Finkelhor, D., Shattuck, A., Turner, H., & Hamby, S. (2013). Improving the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study Scale. *JAMA pediatrics*, 167(1), 70-75.  
<https://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV272.pdf>

**Objective:** To test and improve upon the list of adverse childhood experiences from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study scale by examining the ability of a broader range to correlate with mental health symptoms. **Design:** Nationally representative sample of children and adolescents. **Setting and Participants:** Telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 2030 youth aged 10 to 17 years who were asked about lifetime adversities and current distress symptoms. **Main Outcome Measures:** Lifetime adversities and current distress symptoms. **Results:** The adversities from the original ACE scale items were associated with mental health symptoms among the participants, but the association was significantly improved (from  $R^2 = 0.21$  to  $R^2 = 0.34$ ) by removing some of the original ACE scale items and adding others in the domains of peer rejection, peer victimization, community violence exposure, school performance, and socioeconomic status. **Conclusions:** Our understanding of the most harmful childhood adversities is still incomplete because of complex interrelationships among them, but we know enough to proceed to interventional studies to determine whether prevention and remediation can improve long-term outcomes.

Jones, L.M., Mitchell, K., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). Online harassment in context: Trends from three youth Internet safety surveys (2000, 2005, 2010). *Psychology of Violence (Special Issue)*, 3(1), 53-69. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Online%20Harassment%20in%20Context.pdf>

The current study examines an increase in youth online harassment over the last decade in order to better explore the implications of the trend for prevention initiatives. Method: The Youth Internet Safety Surveys (YISSs) involved 3 crosssectional, nationally representative telephone surveys of 4,561 youth Internet users, ages 10 to 17, in 2000 (n 1,501), 2005 (n 1,500), and 2010 (n 1,560). The increase in youth online harassment from 6% in 2000 to 11% in 2010 was driven primarily by a rise in indirect harassment—someone posting or sending comments to others about them online. Girls made up an increasing proportion of victims: 69% of victims were girls in 2010 compared with 48% in 2000. Furthermore, in comparison with earlier in the decade, harassment incidents in 2010 were more likely to come from a school friend or acquaintance and occur on a social networking site. Victims reported disclosing harassment incidents to school staff at greater rates in 2010 than in 2005 or 2000. The increase in online harassment can likely be attributed to changes in how youth are using the Internet, especially a disproportional increase in online communication with friends by girls, providing more opportunity for offline peer conflicts to expand to this environment. School-based prevention programs aimed at improving peer relationships and reducing bullying are recommended to reduce online harassment.

Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., Hamby, S. L., & Shattuck, A. (2013). Family structure, victimization, and child mental health in a nationally representative sample. *Social Science & Medicine*, 87, 39-51. <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV235.pdf>

Utilizing the 2008 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), the current study compares past year rates of 7 forms of child victimization (maltreatment, assault, peer victimization, property crime, witnessing family violence and exposure to community violence) across 3 different family structure types (two biological/adoptive parents, single parent, step/cohabiting family) among a representative sample of 4046 U.S. children ages 2-17. The study also considers whether certain social-contextual risk factors help to explain family structure variations in victimization, and the extent to which victimization exposure accounts for family structure differences in distress symptom levels. Findings showed significantly elevated rates of

almost all types of victimization among children in both nontraditional family types, relative to those living with two biological/adoptive parents. Factors associated with increased victimization risk in these families include high parental conflict, drug or alcohol problems, family adversity, and community disorder. A summary measure of children's exposure to multiple forms of victimization was the strongest predictor of distress symptoms.

Turner, H. A., Shattuck, A., Hamby, S., & Finkelhor, D. (2013). Community disorder, victimization exposure, and mental health in a national sample of youth. *Journal of health and social behavior*. In Press

This study considers whether elevated distress among youth living in more disordered neighborhoods can be explained by personal exposure to violence and victimization, level of non-victimization adversity, and family support. Analyses were based on a sample of 2,039 youth ages 10 to 17 who participated in the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, a national telephone survey conducted in 2008. Using structural equation modeling, we find no direct effects of community disorder on distress, once the significant mediating effects of victimization, family support, and adversity are taken into account. Using a comprehensive measure of victimization covering several domains of experiences, we show that past-year exposure to child maltreatment, sexual victimization, peer assault and bullying, and property crime each significantly mediate the community disorder–distress association. A measure of the total number of victimization types to which youth were exposed (i.e., level of “poly-victimization”) had the strongest mediating effect.

Finkelhor, D., & Shattuck, A. (2012). Characteristics of crimes against juveniles. Crimes Against Children Research Center. [http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV26\\_Revised%20Characteristics%20of%20Crimes%20against%20Juveniles\\_5-2-12.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV26_Revised%20Characteristics%20of%20Crimes%20against%20Juveniles_5-2-12.pdf)

Statistics on crimes against children have not been readily available until recently, because The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system, which has served as the Nation's primary source of information about crime since 1929, has never collected information or reported crimes by age of victim, with the exception of homicides. However, as more jurisdictions participate in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) developing National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), a national picture of juvenile crime victims is beginning to emerge. Even though NIBRS



is far from a comprehensive national data system, its scope is sufficient to provide a glimpse of what the scope and characteristics are of crimes against children coming to police attention.

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H. A., & Hamby, S. (2012). Let's prevent peer victimization, not just bullying. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 36(4), 271-274.

This commentary argues that it is time to make bullying less of the central concept in efforts to combat peer victimization. Bullying has been a pivotal concept in the mobilization of effort in recent years to create safe environments for children. It has highlighted a phenomenon that seems to have universal resonance and is recognized internationally (Jimerson, Swearer, & Espelage, 2010). Prevalence for bullying has been measured in many countries, overall assessed as involving about 10% of the school aged population in its chronic form (Molcho et al., 2009). It is associated with serious outcomes (Klomeck et al., 2009) and is higher among abused children (Mohapatra et al., 2010). Public policy efforts are being made in many place to combat its occurrence and its effects (Howlett, 2011; Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, 2011; Salmivalli, Karna, & Poskiparta, 2011). <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV239.pdf>

Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., & Turner, H. (2012). Teen dating violence: Co-occurrence with other victimizations in the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV). *Psychology of Violence*, 2(2), 111-124.

The purpose of this research was to examine the co-occurrence of physical teen dating violence (TDV) with other forms of victimization. The sample includes 1,680 youth aged 12 to 17 from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), a nationally representative telephone survey of victimization experiences. Every victim of physical TDV (100%) reported at least one other type of victimization. Physical TDV is very closely associated with several other forms of victimization in this sample, with adjusted odds ratio ranging from 1.48 to 17.13. The lifetime rate of TDV was 6.4% for all youth, but TDV rates reached 17% for youth who had been physically abused by a caregiver, 25% for youth who had been raped, and 50% for youth (116 years) who had experienced statutory rape or sexual misconduct by a partner more than 5 years older. Victims of TDV reported, on average, twice as many other types of victimizations as those with no history of TDV. These data indicate that physical TDV is especially closely associated with some forms of child maltreatment, sexual victimization, and polyvictimization. Universal

dating violence prevention programs designed for youth who have not yet, or just recently, started dating will typically include a large number of youth who have already been victimized by other forms of violence. Prevention curricula may be more effective if they address the needs of victimized youth, for example, by teaching skills for coping with prior victimization experiences. <http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/vio-2-2-111.pdf>

Mitchell, K. J., Finkelhor, D., Jones, L. M., & Wolak, J. (2012). Prevalence and characteristics of youth sexting: A national study. *Pediatrics*, 129(1), 13-20.

To obtain national estimates of youth involved in sexting in the past year (the transmission via cell phone, the Internet, and other electronic media of sexual images), as well as provide details of the youth involved and the nature of the sexual images. The study was based on a cross-sectional national telephone survey of 1560 youth Internet users, ages 10 through 17. Estimates varied considerably depending on the nature of the images or videos and the role of the youth involved. Two and one-half percent of youth had appeared in or created nude or nearly nude pictures or videos. However, this percentage is reduced to 1.0% when the definition is restricted to only include images that were sexually explicit (ie, showed naked breasts, genitals, or bottoms). Of the youth who participated in the survey, 7.1% said they had received nude or nearly nude images of others; 5.9% of youth reported receiving sexually explicit images. Few youth distributed these images. Because policy debates on youth sexting behavior focus on concerns about the production and possession of illegal child pornography, it is important to have research that collects details about the nature of the sexual images rather than using ambiguous screening questions without follow-ups. The rate of youth exposure to sexting highlights a need to provide them with information about legal consequences of sexting and advice about what to do if they receive a sexting image. However, the data suggest that appearing in, creating, or receiving sexual images is far from being a normative behavior for youth. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV237.pdf>

Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., Hamby, S., Leeb, R. T., Mercy, J. A., & Holt, M. (2012). Family context, victimization, and child trauma symptoms: Variations in safe, stable, and nurturing relationships during early and middle childhood. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 82(2), 209-219.

Based on a nationally representative sample of 2,017 children age 2–9 years, this study examines variations in “safe, stable, and nurturing” relationships (SSNRs), including several forms of family perpetrated victimization, and documents associations between these factors and child trauma symptoms. Findings show that many children were exposed to multiple forms of victimization within the family (such as physical or sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, child neglect, sibling victimization, and witnessing family violence), as evidenced by substantial intercorrelations among the different forms of victimization. Moreover, victimization exposure was significantly associated with several indices of parental dysfunction, family adversity, residential instability, and problematic parenting practices. Of all SSNR variables considered, emotional abuse and inconsistent or hostile parenting emerged as having the most powerful independent effects on child trauma symptoms. Also, findings supported a cumulative risk model, whereby trauma symptom levels increased with each additional SSNR risk factor to which children were exposed. Implications for research and practice are discussed.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Mitchell, K. J. (2012). How often are teens arrested for sexting: Data from a national sample of police cases. *Pediatrics*, 129(1), 4-12.

The purpose of this study was to examine characteristics of youth sexting cases handled by police and their outcomes in response to clinical and other concerns about the risks of sexting behavior. Mail surveys were sent to a stratified national sample of 2712 law enforcement agencies followed by detailed telephone interviews with investigators about a nationally representative sample of sexting cases handled by police during 2008 and 2009 (n = 675).

The cases involved “youth-produced sexual images” that constituted child pornography under relevant statutes according to respondents. US law enforcement agencies handled an estimated 3477 cases of youth-produced sexual images during 2008 and 2009 (95% confidence interval: 3282–3672). Two-thirds of the cases involved an “aggravating” circumstance beyond the creation and/or dissemination of a sexual image. In these aggravated cases, either an adult was involved (36% of cases) or a minor engaged in malicious, nonconsensual, or abusive behavior (31% of

cases). An arrest occurred in 62% of cases with an adult involved, in 36% of the aggravated youth-only cases, and in 18% of the “experimental” cases (youth only and noaggravating elements). Most of the images (63%) were distributed by cell phone only and did not reach the Internet. Sex offender registration applied in only a few unusual cases. Many of the youth sexting cases that come to the attention of police include aggravating circumstances that raise concerns about health and risky sexual behavior, although some cases were relatively benign. Overall, arrest is not typical in cases with no adults involved. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/1/4.full>

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Mitchell, K. J. (2012). Trends in arrests for child pornography production: The Third National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (NJOV-3). Crimes Against Children Research Center. [http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV270\\_Child%20Porn%20Production%20Bulletin\\_4-13-12.pdf](http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV270_Child%20Porn%20Production%20Bulletin_4-13-12.pdf)

This bulletin tracks trends in arrests in cases involving the production of child pornography (CP), including characteristics of victims and offenders and dynamics of cases. The data come from 3 waves of the National Juvenile Online Victimization (NJOV) Study that examined arrests in 2000, 2006 and 2009.

Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L. (2011). Trends in child maltreatment. *The Lancet*, 379(9831), 2048-2049.

In their Review on trends in child maltreatment in six developed countries including the USA,<sup>1</sup> Ruth Gilbert and colleagues conclude: “Our results indicate relative stability or increases in child maltreatment indicators over time with little evidence of a decline.” In our view this is not an accurate assessment of what the available indicators show in the USA. The fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect<sup>2</sup> found a 45% decline in sexual abuse and a 26% decline in physical abuse between 1993 and 2005. Similarly, data from child protection authorities show a 53% decline in sexual abuse and 45% decline in physical abuse over a similar period (1992–2006).<sup>3</sup> Police reports of rape (about 50% of which involve minors) declined 27% during 1993–2006.<sup>4</sup> And the National Crime Victimization Survey<sup>5</sup> found a 67% decrease in sexual assaults to juveniles aged 12–17 years between 1993 and 2004. These declines are supported by indicators that show improvements in related child-welfare indicators such as running away,

teenage pregnancy, and teen suicide. Gilbert and colleagues' conclusions might have differed for several reasons. First, the Review excluded indicators of sexual abuse. Second, it focused entirely on younger children. Third, for its indicator of child protection system cases, the study examined only the period from 2001 to 2007, which excluded many of the years when the declines were most striking. And fourth, the study did not always differentiate physical abuse from neglect, which in the USA is much more frequent and has a different trend trajectory from that of physical abuse. In summary, although there are many important insights in the Review, we think that the best indicators available for the USA suggest a decline in sexual and physical abuse in the period between 1993 and the mid-2000s.

Finkelhor, D. (2011). Prevalence of child victimization, abuse, crime, and violence exposure. In J. W. White, M. P. Koss, & A. E. Kazdin (Eds.), *Violence Against Women and Children, Vol. 1*. (pp. 9-29). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Although the literature about the scope and nature of the problem of child victimization, abuse, crime, and violence exposure is large and growing, it is still far from satisfying the needs of policymakers, practitioners, and researchers. In this chapter, I examine and document the prevalence of the problem. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved).

Finkelhor, D. (2011). The Internet, Youth Safety and the Problem of “Juvenioia”. Crimes Against Children Research Center. <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Juvenioia%20paper.pdf>

The internet and its associated electronic technologies have provoked a considerable wave of worry and anxiety among parents and policy makers worldwide in recent years. But in this discussion a very crucial distinction has not been sufficiently made. It is one thing to say that there are risks online. The research has clearly established the point that such perils exist, from online molesters and bullies, to exposure to problematic content. But where it is easy for people to jump beyond the evidence base is when they assert, not just that there are risks, but that the Internet is a risk-promoting environment or a specially risky environment. They imply that there are features of the Internet that increase risk for young people above what they already encounter or what they encounter in other environments, or what they used to encounter. It is hard to cite any research that as yet supports that notion. Yet, this is the narrative implicit in much of what is being written.

Finkelhor, D., Shattuck, A., Turner, H. A., Ormrod, R., & Hamby, S. L. (2011). Polyvictimization in developmental context. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma*, 4(4), 291-300.

Polyvictimization (i.e., exposure to multiple forms of victimization) appears highly correlated with indicators of traumatic stress in children. In this study, a national sample of children and youth were assessed for 36 different kinds of victimization using the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire. Polyvictims were defined as the 10% of children experiencing the most different kinds of victimization in each of 4 developmental cohorts. The younger polyvictims had somewhat fewer victimizations overall, less sexual victimization, and more victimization at the hands of family members, particularly siblings. However, polyvictimization at every developmental level was strongly associated with distress symptoms. This study suggests the importance of assessing for and identifying polyvictims at all ages, including among preschoolers.

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Hamby, S., & Ormrod, T. (2011). Polyvictimization: Children's exposure to multiple types of violence, crime, and abuse. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/Polyvictimization%20OJJD%20bulletin.pdf>

As amply evidenced in this bulletin series, children's exposure to violence is pervasive and affects all ages. The research findings reported here and in the other bulletins in this series are critical to informing our efforts to protect children from its damaging effects.

Hamby, S. Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2011). Children's exposure to intimate partner violence and other family violence. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/NatSCEV-Children's%20Exposure%20Family%20Violence%20final.pdf>

This bulletin explores in depth the NatSCEV survey results regarding exposure to family violence among children in the United States, including exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV), assaults by parents on siblings of children surveyed, and other assaults involving teen and adult household members.

Jones, L. M., Mitchell, K. J., & Finkelhor, D. (2011). Trends in youth Internet victimization: Findings from three youth Internet surveys 2000-2010. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 50*(2), 179-186.

The purpose of this research was to explore the trends in youth reports of unwanted online sexual solicitation, harassment, and exposure to pornography over time. The study was based on three separate cross-sectional national telephone surveys of approximately 1,500 youth Internet users, aged 10 through 17 years. Data were collected in 2000, 2005, and 2010. Nine percent of youth reported an unwanted sexual solicitation in 2010. This continued the decline in unwanted sexual solicitations that occurred between 2000 (19%) and 2005 (13%), resulting in a total 50% decrease between 2000 and 2010. Twenty-three percent of youth reported an unwanted exposure to pornography, a decline from 34% in 2005, following an increase between 2000 and 2005 (25% to 34%). However, marking the only trend to show an increase over the past 5 years, 11% of youth reported an online harassment experience, which was an increase from 9% in 2005, and 6% in 2000. Some differences in these trends were noted for subgroups of youth across age, gender, and race. The trends in unwanted experiences online over the past decade identified by three Youth Internet Safety Surveys may contradict impressions that the general population, professionals, and the media have about what is happening. Trends provide evidence for some optimism that protective adaptations to the online environment have been successful; however, online harassment appears to be increasing for youth, particularly girls, and may require additional mobilization. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/YISS%20Trends%202011.pdf>

Jones, L., & Finkelhor, D. (2011). Increasing youth safety and responsible behavior online: Putting in place programs that work. Family Online Safety Institute. [http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/fosi\\_whitepaper\\_increasingyouthsafety\\_d9.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/fosi_whitepaper_increasingyouthsafety_d9.pdf)

With this paper, we hope to inspire the Internet safety field to make evaluation an integral part of program development, and consumers to insist on information about effectiveness. We make a case for evaluation, try to de-mystify the process, respond to common concerns or questions about evaluation, and propose some steps to ensure that our programs help youth stay safe online.

Lounsbury, K., Mitchell, K. J., & Finkelhor, D. (2011). The true prevalence of “sexting”. Crimes Against Children Research Center.  
[https://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Sexting%20Fact%20Sheet%204\\_29\\_11.pdf](https://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Sexting%20Fact%20Sheet%204_29_11.pdf)

This factsheet presents and critiques the findings of recent studies estimating the prevalence of youth “sexting.” The authors contend that research findings to date have been inconsistent and many widely-publicized studies have been flawed in their design. It is difficult to compare findings and draw clear conclusions due to inconsistent terminology between studies and the inclusion of material not of primary concern to the public and law enforcement, such as text-only messages, images of adults, or images of youth that do not constitute child pornography under legal statutes. These findings are then often reported in distorted or exaggerated ways by the media, leading to public misperception. The authors present a number of suggestions to future researchers and to journalists wishing to cite statistics on sexting.

Mitchell, K. J., Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., Ybarra, M. L., & Turner, H. (2011). Youth Internet victimization in a broader victimization context. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 48*(2), 128-134.

The purpose of this research was to examine past-year and lifetime rates of online victimization and associations with offline victimizations, trauma symptomatology, and delinquency among adolescents. Data were collected through telephone interviews from a nationally representative sample of 2,051 adolescents (ages, 10-17) as part of the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. Data were collected between January and May, 2008. Six percent of youth reported a past-year online victimization and 9% a lifetime online victimization. Almost all youth reporting a past-year online victimization (96%) reported offline victimization during the same period. The offline victimizations most strongly associated to online victimization were sexual victimizations (e.g., sexual harassment, being flashed, rape) and psychological and emotional abuse. Online victims also reported elevated rates of trauma symptomatology, delinquency, and life adversity. Prevention and intervention should target a broader range of behaviors and experiences rather than focusing on the Internet component exclusively. Internet safety educators need to appreciate that many online victims may be at risk not because they are naive about the Internet, but because they face complicated problems resulting from more pervasive experiences of victimization and adversity. <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV207.pdf>



Mitchell, K. J., Jones, L. M., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2011). Internet-Facilitated Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Findings from a Nationally Representative Sample of Law Enforcement Agencies in the United States. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 23(1), 43-71.

This article explores the variety of ways in which the Internet is used to facilitate the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and provides national incidence estimates for the number of arrests involving such technology-facilitated crimes in 2006. The National Juvenile Online Victimization Study is a nationally representative longitudinal study of more than 2,500 local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies across the United States. The current article utilizes Wave 2 data, which surveyed arrests in 2006 for Internet-related sex crimes against minors. Detailed data were collected via telephone interviews with investigators about 1,051 individual arrest cases. Findings show that an estimated 569 arrests for Internet-facilitated commercial sexual exploitation of children (IF-CSEC) occurred in the United States in 2006. Offenders in IF-CSEC cases fell into two main categories: (1) those who used the Internet to purchase or sell access to identified children for sexual purposes including child pornography (CP) production (36% of cases), and (2) those who used the Internet to purchase or sell CP images they possessed but did not produce (64% of cases). Offenders attempting to profit from child sexual exploitation were more likely than those who were purchasing to have (a) prior arrests for sexual and nonsexual offenses, (b) a history of violence, (c) produced CP, (d) joined forces with other offenders, and (e) involved female offenders. Although the number of arrests for IF-CSEC crimes is relatively small, the victims of these crimes are a high-risk subgroup of youth, and the offenders who try to profit from these crimes are particularly concerning from a child welfare perspective.

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV201.pdf>

Mitchell, K. J., Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L. (2011). Investigators using the Internet to apprehend sex offenders: Findings from the Second National Juvenile Online Victimization Study. *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*, 13(3), 267-281.

This paper discusses the types of undercover investigations conducted on the Internet. Computer-assisted telephone interviews were conducted with police about 544 undercover cases ending in arrest for an Internet-related sex crime against a minor in 2006. The two most common types of undercover investigations involved police posing online as minors (76%) and undercover police

investigations of child pornography (20%). Additionally, a few investigators were posing as adults having access to minors to sell or wanting to purchase sex with a minor (4%). The findings of this paper are a first step in understanding the efficacy of various types of investigations. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV212.pdf>

Turner, H. A., Vanderminden, J., Finkelhor, D., Hamby, S., & Shattuck, A. (2011). Disability and victimization in a national sample of children and youth. *Child Maltreatment, 16*(4), 275-286.

Although past research has found higher rates of violence, crime, and abuse among children with disabilities, most studies combine diverse forms of disability into one measure and assess exposure to only one particular type of victimization. Based on a representative national sample of 4,046 children aged 2–17 from the 2008 National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence, the present study examines the associations between several different types of disability and past-year exposure to multiple forms of child victimization. Results suggest that attention-deficit disorder/attention-deficit with hyperactivity disorder elevates the risk for peer victimization and property crime, internalizing psychological disorders increase risk for both child maltreatment and sexual victimization, and developmental/learning disorders heighten risk only for property crime. In contrast, physical disability did not increase the risk for any type of victimization once confounding factors and co-occurring disabilities were controlled. It appears that disabilities associated with interpersonal and behavioral difficulties are most strongly associated with victimization risks. <http://cmx.sagepub.com/content/16/4/275.full.pdf>.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Mitchell, K. (2011). Child pornography possessors: Trends in offender and case characteristics. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment, 23*(1), 22-42.

This article describes trends in child pornography (CP) possession cases that ended in arrest in 2000 and in 2006, using data from the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study, a two-wave longitudinal survey of a national sample of more than 2,500 U.S. law enforcement agencies. In 2006, there were an estimated 3,672 arrests for CP possession, compared with 1,713 arrests in 2000. Many characteristics of the offenders and the offense remained stable. In both 2006 and 2000, most offenders were White, non-Hispanic males and socioeconomically diverse. Few were

known to have committed previous sex crimes. Most had CP that depicted preteen children and serious sexual abuse. In 2006, however, a higher proportion of offenders were aged 18 to 25 years, used peer-to-peer (p2p) networks, had images of children younger than 3 years, and had CP videos. P2p users had more extreme images (e.g., younger victims, sexual violence) and larger numbers of images than those who did not use p2p networks. Findings reflect heightened efforts in the criminal justice system to combat CP crimes. More cases originated with investigations of CP possession and involved proactive investigations aimed at detecting CP. The great majority of cases were successfully prosecuted, with more offenders sentenced to incarceration and serving longer sentences than in 2000. As in 2000, one in six cases that began with investigations of CP possession detected offenders who had molested children.

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV204%20CP%20possessors.pdf>

Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2011). Sexting: A typology. *Crimes Against Children Research Center*. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/AbstractDB/AbstractDBDetails.aspx?id=258402>

This bulletin presents a typology of sexting episodes based on a review of over 550 cases obtained from a national survey of law enforcement agencies. The cases all involved “youth-produced sexual images,” defined as images of minors created by minors that could qualify as child pornography under applicable criminal statutes. The episodes could be broadly divided into two categories, which we termed ‘Aggravated’ and ‘Experimental’. Aggravated incidents involved criminal or abusive elements beyond the creation, sending or possession of youth-produced sexual images. These additional elements included 1) adult involvement; or 2) criminal or abusive behavior by minors such as sexual abuse, extortion, threats; malicious conduct arising from interpersonal conflicts; or creation or sending or showing of images without the knowledge or against the will of a minor who was pictured. In Experimental incidents, by contrast, youth took pictures of themselves to send to established boy- or girlfriends, to create romantic interest in other youth, or for reasons such as attention-seeking, but there was no criminal behavior beyond the creation or sending of images, no apparent malice and no lack of willing participation by youth who were pictured.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K. J., & Jones, L. M. (2011). Arrests for child pornography production: Data at two time points from a national sample of U.S. law enforcement agencies. *Child Maltreatment, 16*(3), 184-195.

This study collected information on arrests for child pornography (CP) production at two points (2000–2001 and 2006) from a national sample of more than 2,500 law enforcement agencies. In addition to providing descriptive data about an understudied crime, the authors examined whether trends in arrests suggested increasing CP production, shifts in victim populations, and challenges to law enforcement. Arrests for CP production more than doubled from an estimated 402 in 2000–2001 to an estimated 859 in 2006. Findings suggest the increase was related to increased law enforcement activity rather than to growth in the population of CP producers. Adolescent victims increased, but there was no increase in the proportion of arrest cases involving very young victims or violent images. Producers distributed images in 23% of arrest cases, a proportion that did not change over time. This suggests that much CP production may be primarily for private use. Proactive law enforcement operations increased, as did other features consistent with a robust law enforcement response.

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV210%20Arrests%20for%20CP%20Production%20CM%202011.pdf>

Becker-Blease, K. A., Turner, H. A., & Finkelhor, D. (2010). Disasters, victimization, and children's mental health. *Child Development, 81*(4), 1040-1052.

In a representative sample of 2,030 U.S. children aged 2–17, 13.9% report lifetime exposure to disaster, and 4.1% report experiencing a disaster in the past year. Disaster exposure was associated with some forms of victimization and adversity. Victimization was associated with depression among 2- to 9-year-old disaster survivors, and with depression and aggression among 10- to 17-year-old disaster survivors. Children exposed to either victimization only or both disaster and victimization had worse mental health compared to those who experienced neither. More research into the prevalence and effects of disasters and other stressful events among children is needed to better understand the interactive risks for and effects of multiple forms of trauma.

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Ormrod, R., & Hamby, S. L. (2010). Trends in childhood violence and abuse exposure: Evidence from 2 national surveys. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine, 164*(3), 238-242.

The objective was to assess trends in children's exposure to abuse, violence, and crime victimizations. An analysis based on a comparison of 2 crosssectional national telephone surveys using identical questions conducted in 2003 and 2008. Experiences of children aged 2 to 17 years (2030 children in 2003 and 4046 children in 2008) were assessed through interviews with their caretakers and the children themselves. Several types of child victimization were reported significantly less often in 2008 than in 2003: physical assaults, sexual assaults, and peer and sibling victimizations, including physical bullying. There were also significant declines in psychological and emotional abuse by caregivers, exposure to community violence, and the crime of theft. Physical abuse and neglect by caregivers did not decline, and witnessing the abuse of a sibling increased. The declines apparent in this analysis parallel evidence from other sources, including police data, child welfare data, and the National Crime Victimization Survey, suggesting reductions in various types of childhood victimization in recent years. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV196.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R. K., & Turner, H. A. (2009). Lifetime assessment of poly-victimization in a national sample of children and youth. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 33*(7), 403-411.

To use a lifetime assessment of victimization experiences to identify children and youth with high cumulative levels of victimization (poly-victims). Also to compare such children to other victims and non-victims, and assess the contribution of cumulative victimization to levels of psychological distress. A national sample of 1,467 children aged 2–17 recruited through random digit dialing and accessed via telephone interviews (with caretakers and youth themselves) about a comprehensive range of 33 types of victimization experiences in the previous year and at any time in their lives. Nearly 80% of the children and youth reported at least one lifetime victimization. The mean number of lifetime victimizations was 3.7 and the median 2.6. The total number of different lifetime victimizations was highly predictive of symptoms of current distress. The best linear prediction of distress on the basis of cumulative victimization entailed weighting child maltreatment and sexual assault by factors of 4 and 3 respectively compared to other victimizations. We proposed classifying poly-victims as those 10% of children and youth with the

highest victimization scores, and calculating different thresholds for children at different ages. Poly-victims designated in this way had significantly more distress, more non-victimization adversities than other youth and were less likely to come from an intact family.

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., Ormrod, R., & Hamby, S. L. (2009). Violence, abuse, and crime exposure in a national sample of children and youth. *Pediatrics*, *124* (5), 1411-1423.

The objective of this research was to obtain national estimates of exposure to the full spectrum of the childhood violence, abuse, and crime victimizations relevant to both clinical practice and public-policy approaches to the problem. The study was based on a cross-sectional national telephone survey that involved a target sample of 4549 children aged 0 to 17 years. A clear majority (60.6%) of the children and youth in this nationally representative sample had experienced at least one direct or witnessed victimization in the previous year. Almost half (46.3%) had experienced a physical assault in the study year, 1 in 4 (24.6%) had experienced a property offense, 1 in 10 (10.2%) had experienced a form of child maltreatment, 6.1% had experienced a sexual victimization, and more than 1 in 4 (25.3%) had been a witness to violence or experienced another form of indirect victimization in the year, including 9.8% who had witnessed an intrafamily assault. One in 10 (10.2%) had experienced a victimization-related injury. More than one third (38.7%) had been exposed to 2 or more direct victimizations, 10.9% had 5 or more, and 2.4% had 10 or more during the study year. The scope and diversity of child exposure to victimization is not well recognized. Clinicians and researchers need to inquire about a larger spectrum of victimization types to identify multiply victimized children and tailor prevention and interventions to the full range of threats that children face.

[http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/fieldctr/current\\_issues/documents/ViolenceAbuseandCrimeExposureinaNationalSampleofChildrenandYouth.pdf](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/fieldctr/current_issues/documents/ViolenceAbuseandCrimeExposureinaNationalSampleofChildrenandYouth.pdf)

Mitchell, K. J., Sabina, C., Finkelhor, D., & Wells, M. (2009). Index of problematic online experiences: Item characteristics and correlation with negative symptomatology. *CyberPsychology & Behavior*, *12*(6), 707-711.

This exploratory study aimed to develop and test a quick, easily administered instrument, the Index of Problematic Online Experiences (I-POE). The goal of the I-POE extends beyond assessing for Internet overuse to broadly assess problematic Internet use across several domains and activities.

Data was collected from 563 college students from a Northern New England university using an online survey methodology. Results indicated the I-POE has adequate construct validity and is highly correlated with a variety of relevant constructs: depression, anger/irritability, tension-reduction behavior, sexual concerns, and dysfunctional sexual behavior as measured by the Trauma Symptom Inventory; as well as amount of Internet use and permissive attitudes toward engaging in a variety of sexual activities. Early flagging of online experiences could mitigate the negative effects associated with problematic use. The I-POE, as an easy-to-administer, short screening index, holds promise in this regard. Initial testing of the instrument points to its utility in identifying persons who are experiencing a broad range of Internet-related problems.

Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L. (2008). Updated Trends in Child Maltreatment, 2006. Crimes Against Children Research Center. 4 p.

New data released by the federal government show continuing national declines in sexual and physical abuse in 2006, but no decline in neglect. The data detailed in the attached table and figure, come from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), which aggregates and publishes statistics from state child protection agencies. The most recent data from NCCANDS were released in April, 2008 and concern cases of child maltreatment investigated in 2006. [http://www.unh.edu/news/docs/CCRC\\_childmaltreatment.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/news/docs/CCRC_childmaltreatment.pdf)

Mitchell, K. J., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2008). Are blogs putting youth at risk for online sexual solicitation or harassment? *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 32(2), 277-294.

In light of public concern about the dangers to young people from maintaining online journals or “blogs,” this exploratory paper examines whether bloggers are at increased risk for online sexual solicitation or harassment. A national telephone survey of 1,500 youth Internet users, ages 10–17, conducted between March and June 2005. Sixteen percent of youth Internet users reported blogging in the past year. Teenagers and girls were the most common bloggers, and bloggers were more likely than other youth to post personal information online. However, bloggers were *not* more likely to interact with people they met online and did not know in person. Youth who interacted with people they met online, regardless of whether (AOR = 2.42,  $p < .01$ ) or not (AOR = 2.36,  $p < .001$ ) they blogged, had higher odds of receiving online sexual solicitations. Bloggers who did not interact with people they met online were at *no* increased risk for sexual solicitation

(AOR = 1.41, *ns*). Moreover, posting personal information did not add to risk. However, youthful bloggers were at increased risk for online harassment, regardless of whether they also interacted with others online (AOR = 2.65,  $p < .01$ ) or not (AOR = 2.55,  $p < .01$ ). Prevention messages about blogging need to directly address the risks of interacting with people youth meet online and the risk of online harassment.

Sabina, C., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2008). The Nature and dynamics of internet pornography exposure for youth. *CyberPsychology & Behavior, 11*(6), 691-693.

We examined exposure to Internet pornography before the age of 18, as reported by college students (  $n = 563$ ), via an online survey. Ninety-three percent of boys and 62% of girls were exposed to online pornography during adolescence. Exposure prior to age 13 was relatively uncommon. Boys were more likely to be exposed at an earlier age, to see more images, to see more extreme images (e.g., rape, child pornography), and to view pornography more often, while girls reported more involuntary exposure. If participants in this study are typical of young people, exposure to pornography on the Internet can be described as a normative experience, and more study of its impact is clearly warranted. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV169.pdf>

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Mitchell, K. (2008). Is talking online to unknown people always risky? Distinguishing online interaction styles in a national sample of youth Internet users. *CyberPsychology & Behavior, 11*(3), 340-343.

We examined the risk of unwanted online sexual solicitations and characteristics associated with four online interaction styles among youth Internet users. The interaction styles took into account the people with whom youth interacted online (people known in person only, unknown people met through face-to-face friends, unknown people met in chatroom, and other places online) and high- and low-risk patterns of online behavior. The aim was to provide a basis for identifying which youth may be most at risk from interacting online with unknown people. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV168.pdf>



Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K. J., & Ybarra, M. L. (2008). Online "predators" and their victims: Myths, realities, and implications for prevention and treatment. *American Psychologist*, 63(2), 111-128.

The publicity about online "predators" who prey on naive children using trickery and violence is largely inaccurate. Internet sex crimes involving adults and juveniles more often fit a model of statutory rape--adult offenders who meet, develop relationships with, and openly seduce underage teenagers--than a model of forcible sexual assault or pedophilic child molesting. This is a serious problem, but one that requires approaches different from those in current prevention messages emphasizing parental control and the dangers of divulging personal information. Developmentally appropriate prevention strategies that target youths directly and acknowledge normal adolescent interests in romance and sex are needed. These should provide younger adolescents with awareness and avoidance skills while educating older youths about the pitfalls of sexual relationships with adults and their criminal nature. Particular attention should be paid to higher risk youths, including those with histories of sexual abuse, sexual orientation concerns, and patterns of off- and online risk taking. Mental health practitioners need information about the dynamics of this problem and the characteristics of victims and offenders because they are likely to encounter related issues in a variety of contexts. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Am%20Psy%202-08.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R. K., & Turner, H.A. (2007). Re-victimization patterns in a national longitudinal sample of children and youth. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 31(5), 479-502.

To understand to the degree to which a broad variety of victimizations, including child maltreatment, conventional crime, peer, and sexual victimizations, persist for children from 1 year to the next. A national sample of 1467 children aged 2-17 recruited through random digit dialing and accessed via telephone interviews (with caretakers and youth themselves) about a comprehensive range of victimization experiences in the previous year, and then re-assessed (72.3% of baseline sample) after a 1-year interval. The risk for re-victimization in Year 2 was high for children victimized in Year 1, with risk ratios ranging from 2.2 for physical assault to 6.9 for sexual victimization. Victimization of any one type left substantial vulnerability even for different types of subsequent re-victimization (e.g., property crime victimization was associated with higher risk of sexual victimization the next year). Children with four or more types of victimization in Year 1 ("poly-victims") were at particularly high risk of persisting poly-victimization. Persisting

poly-victimization was more likely for children who scored high on anger/aggression and who had recent life adversities. Desistence from poly-victimization was associated with having more good friends. Onset of poly-victimization in Year 2, in contrast to persistence from Year 1, was associated with violent or maltreating families, family problems such as alcohol abuse, imprisonment, unemployment and family disruption. Having more older siblings acted as both a risk factor and a protective factor for different groups of youth. Children previously victimized in 1 year are at higher risk of continued victimization, and the poly-victims are at particular risk. These findings suggest the potential merit of identifying these high-risk children and making them priority targets for prevention efforts.

Wolak, J., Mitchell, K., & Finkelhor, D. (2007). Unwanted and wanted exposure to online pornography in a national sample of youth internet users. *Pediatrics*, *119* (2), 247-257.

The goal was to assess the extent of unwanted and wanted exposure to online pornography among youth Internet users and associated risk factors. A telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 1500 youth Internet users aged 10 to 17 years was conducted between March and June 2005. Forty-two percent of youth Internet users had been exposed to online pornography in the past year. Of those, 66% reported only unwanted exposure. Multinomial logistic regression analysis was used to compare youth with unwanted exposure only or any wanted exposure with those with no exposure. Unwanted exposure was related to only 1 Internet activity, namely, using file-sharing programs to download images. Filtering and blocking software reduced the risk of unwanted exposure, as did attending an Internet safety presentation by law enforcement personnel. Unwanted exposure rates were higher for teens, youth who reported being harassed or sexually solicited online or interpersonally victimized offline, and youth who scored in the borderline or clinically significant range on the Child Behavior Checklist subscale for depression. Wanted exposure rates were higher for teens, boys, and youth who used file-sharing programs to download images, talked online to unknown persons about sex, used the Internet at friends' homes, or scored in the borderline or clinically significant range on the Child Behavior Checklist subscale for rule-breaking. Depression also could be a risk factor for some youth. Youth who used filtering and blocking software had lower odds of wanted exposure. More research concerning the potential impact of Internet pornography on youth is warranted, given the high rate of exposure, the fact that much exposure is unwanted, and the fact that youth with certain vulnerabilities, such as depression,

interpersonal victimization, and delinquent tendencies, have more exposure.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV153.pdf>

Finkelhor, D. (2007). Prevention of sexual abuse through educational programs directed toward children. *Pediatrics*, 120(3), 640-645.

A Catholic Medical Association (CMA) Task Force issued a report in October 2006 on the sexual abuse of children and its prevention in response to initiatives by Catholic dioceses across the country, which were reeling from abuse scandals and have been seeking to improve their sexual abuse-prevention efforts. This report argued strongly against what it called "child-empowerment programs" aimed at preventing sexual abuse. It argued that these programs were "ineffective at preventing sexual abuse" and "inconsistent with the science of emotional, cognitive, neurobiological and moral development of the child." This report reiterated a number of arguments that have been raised over 2 decades against classroom-based prevention education by various critics. However, the research evidence and the available meta-analytic reviews do not give much support to these criticisms, and the reappearance of these arguments in a high-profile public policy context merit discussion and rebuttal. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV170.pdf>

Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2007). Family structure variations in patterns and predictors of child victimization. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77(2), 282-295.

In a national probability sample of 1,000 children aged 10-17, youth from single parent and stepfamilies experienced higher rates of several different kinds of victimization compared with youth living with two biological parents. Youth in stepfamilies had the highest overall rates of victimization and the greatest risk from family perpetrators, including biological parents, siblings, and stepparents. Elevated risk in stepfamilies was fully explained by their higher levels of family problems. Victimization risk in single parent families was more affected by their lower socioeconomic status and residence in more violence neighborhoods and schools.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV112.pdf>

Turner, H. A., Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2007). Predictors of receiving counseling in a national sample of youth: The relative influence of symptoms, victimization exposure, parent--child conflict, and delinquency. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 36(7), 861-876.

This paper identifies factors that predict children's use of counseling services within a 2-year period. Using two waves of data from a national survey of 1009 youth age 6-17, we describe differences in utilization by demographic characteristics and compare receipt of counseling between children who scored high versus lower on: (1) levels of mental health symptoms, (2) multiple victimization exposure; (3) levels of delinquency; and (4) parent-child conflict. Multivariate logistic regressions were also performed to examine the relative and independent effects of a these factors on receiving counseling. Results indicate that counseling was received by only one-quarter or less of the 10-17 year olds and one-third or less of the 6-9 year olds with the highest levels of symptoms, victimization or delinquency. For the 10-17 year olds, delinquency and parent-child conflict were better predictors of treatment than were mental health symptoms or victimization exposure. In contrast, younger children (age 6-9) were most likely to receive counseling if they lived in a single parent or stepfamily household. The findings suggest that more counseling should be made available to distressed and victimized children, particularly those who do not engage in high delinquency and conflict which tend to promote referral.

Mitchell, K. J., Ybarra, M., & Finkelhor, D. (2007). The Relative importance of online victimization in understanding depression, delinquency, and substance use. *Child Maltreatment*, 12(4), 314-324.

This article explores the relationship between online and offline forms of interpersonal victimization, with depressive symptomatology, delinquency, and substance use. In a national sample of 1,501 youth Internet users (ages 10-17 years), 57% reported some form of offline interpersonal victimization (e.g., bullying, sexual abuse), and 23% reported an online interpersonal victimization (i.e., sexual solicitation and harassment) in the past year. Nearly three fourths (73%) of youth reporting an online victimization also reported an offline victimization. Virtually all types of online and offline victimization were independently related to depressive symptomatology, delinquent behavior, and substance use. Even after adjusting for the total number of different offline victimizations, youth with online sexual solicitation were still almost 2 times more likely to report depressive symptomatology and high substance use. Findings reiterate the importance of

screening for a variety of different types of victimization in mental health settings, including both online and offline forms. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV132.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., & Turner, H. (2007). Poly-Victimization: A neglected component in child victimization. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 31(1), 7-26.

*Objective:* To assess the role of multiple victimization, or what is termed in this article “poly-victimization,” in explaining trauma symptomatology. In a nationally representative sample of 2,030 children ages 2–17, assessment was made of the past year's victimization experiences and recent trauma symptoms. Children experiencing four or more different kinds of victimization in a single year (poly-victims) comprised 22% of the sample. Poly-victimization was highly predictive of trauma symptoms, and when taken into account, greatly reduced or eliminated the association between individual victimizations (e.g., sexual abuse) and symptomatology. Poly-victims were also more symptomatic than children with only repeated episodes of the same kind of victimization. Researchers and practitioners need to assess for a broader range of victimizations, and avoid studies and assessments organized around a single form of victimization.

Holt, M. K., Finkelhor, D., & Kantor, G. K. (2007). Hidden forms of victimization in elementary students involved in bullying. *School Psychology Review*, 36(3), 345-360.

This study explored the possibility that bullies, victims of bullying, and bully-victims (i.e., youth who both perpetrate and are victims of bullying) are at increased risk for victimization in four other domains: conventional crime, child maltreatment, sexual victimization, and witnessing or indirect victimization. It also evaluated the extent to which victimization in these other domains enhances the prediction of internalizing problems. Participants were 689 fifth-grade students from an urban, ethnically diverse school district in the Northeast. Youth completed self-report measures about bullying involvement, victimization in the home and community, and internalizing problems. Bullies, victims, and bully-victims endorsed more victimization in other domains than students not involved in bullying in one of these capacities; bully-victims had the highest victimization rates overall. Further, although regression models showed that bullying involvement was related to greater internalizing problems, explanatory power was increased through the inclusion of other victimization forms. Findings highlight the need for comprehensive victimization assessment

among students involved in bullying in any capacity.  
<http://www.nasponline.org/publications/spr/pdf/spr363holt.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L. (2006). Why have child maltreatment and child victimization declined? *Journal of Social Issues*, 6(4), 685-716.

Various forms of child maltreatment and child victimization declined as much as 40–70% from 1993 until 2004, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, sexual assault, homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, and larceny. Other child welfare indicators also improved during the same period, including teen pregnancy, teen suicide, and children living in poverty. This article reviews a wide variety of possible explanations for these changes: demography, fertility and abortion legalization, economic prosperity, increased incarceration of offenders, increased agents of social intervention, changing social norms and practices, the dissipation of the social changes from the 1960s, and psychiatric pharmacology. Multiple factors probably contributed. In particular, economic prosperity, increasing agents of social intervention, and psychiatric pharmacology have advantages over some of the other explanations in accounting for the breadth and timing of the improvements.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV137J.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2006). Kid's stuff: The nature and impact of peer and sibling violence on younger and older children. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 30(2), 1311-1440.

*Objective:* It is widely presumed that when children are hit by peers or siblings, it is not as serious as similar acts between adults or older youth, which would be termed, “assaults” and “violent crimes”. The goal of this study was to compare the violent peer and sibling episodes of younger children to those of older youth in terms of their seriousness and association with symptoms that might indicate traumatic effects. *Method:* The study collected reports of past year's violent victimizations and childhood symptoms in a national probability telephone sample of 2030 children and youth ages 2–17. The experiences of 10–17-year olds were obtained via self-reports and those of the 2–9-year olds from caregivers. *Results:* The younger children's peer and sibling victimizations were not less serious than the older youth on the dimensions of injury, being hit with an object that could cause injury or being victimized on multiple occasions. Younger children and older youth also had similar trauma symptom levels associated with both peer and sibling

victimization. *Conclusion:* There was no basis in this study for presuming peer and sibling victimizations to be more benign when they involve younger children. The findings provide justification for being concerned about such peer and sibling violence in schools and families and for counting such victimizations in victimization inventories and clinical assessments.

Jones, L.M., Finkelhor, D., & Halter, S. (2006). Child maltreatment trends in the 1990s: Why does neglect differ from sexual and physical abuse? *Child Maltreatment, 11*(2), 107-120.

Substantiated cases of child maltreatment have declined more than 20% since a peak in 1993. However, although sexual abuse and physical abuse showed significant declines during the 1990s (47% and 36%, respectively), neglect fluctuated, with only a small overall decline during this period (7%). Available data suggest that at least part of the declines in sexual and physical abuse is likely to be real. Some evidence also suggests that a decline in neglect may have been masked in some states. Possible sources for declines in child maltreatment include direct prevention efforts, economic improvements, more aggressive criminal justice efforts, dissemination of psychiatric medication, and generational changes. Public health models suggest that population-level prevention initiatives are the most promising options for further reducing maltreatment rates. However, better epidemiological and evaluation research will be needed to identify the key factors. [http://www.juconicomparte.org/recursos/Child%20Maltreatment%20Trends%20in%20the%201990s%20Why%20Does%20Neglect%20Differ%20From%20Sexual%20and%20Physical%20Abuse%20YA\\_Fuh1.pdf](http://www.juconicomparte.org/recursos/Child%20Maltreatment%20Trends%20in%20the%201990s%20Why%20Does%20Neglect%20Differ%20From%20Sexual%20and%20Physical%20Abuse%20YA_Fuh1.pdf)

Ybarra, M. L., Mitchell, K. J., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2006). Examining characteristics and associated distress related to Internet harassment: findings from the Second Youth Internet Safety Survey. *Pediatrics, 118*(4), 1169-77.

*Objective:* We sought to identify the characteristics of youth who are targets of Internet harassment and characteristics related to reporting distress as a result of the incident. The Second Youth Internet Safety Survey is a national telephone survey of a random sample of 1500 Internet users between the ages of 10 and 17 years conducted between March and June 2005. Participants had used the Internet at least once a month for the previous 6 months. Nine percent of the youth who used the Internet were targets of online harassment in the previous year. Thirty-two percent of the targets reported chronic harassment (ie, harassment > or = 3 times in the previous year). In specific

incidents, almost half (45%) knew the harasser in person before the incident. Half of the harassers (50%) were reportedly male, and half (51%) were adolescents. One in 4 targets reported an aggressive offline contact (eg, the harasser telephoned, came to the youth's home, or sent gifts); 2 in 3 disclosed the incident to another person. Among otherwise similar youth, the odds of being a target of Internet harassment were higher for those youth who harassed others online, reported borderline/clinically significant social problems, and were victimized in other contexts. Likewise, using the Internet for instant messaging, blogging, and chat room use each elevated the odds of being a target of Internet harassment versus those who did not engage in these online activities. All other demographic, Internet-use, and psychosocial characteristics were not related to reports of online harassment. Thirty-eight percent of the harassed youth reported distress as a result of the incident. Those who were targeted by adults, asked to send a picture of themselves, received an aggressive offline contact (eg, the harasser telephoned or came to the youth's home), and were preadolescents were each significantly more likely to report distress because of the experience. Conversely, the youth who visited chat rooms were significantly less likely to be distressed by the harassment. Internet harassment can be a serious event for some youth. Because there has been a significant increase in the prevalence of Internet harassment from 2000 to 2005, adolescent health professionals should continue to be vigilant about such experiences in the lives of young people with whom they interact. Social problems and online aggressive behavior are each associated with elevated odds of being the target of harassment. Thus, prevention efforts may be best aimed at improving the interpersonal skills of young people who choose to communicate with others using these online tools. Adolescent health professionals should be especially aware of events that include aggressive offline contacts by adult harassers or asking the child or adolescent to send a picture of themselves, because each of these scenarios increase the odds of reporting distress by more than threefold. Findings further support the call for the inclusion of Internet-harassment prevention in conventional antibullying programs empowering schools to address Internet bullying situations that occur between students. This will not solve all situations, however. We also must encourage Internet service providers to partner with consumers to be proactive in serious harassment episodes that violate criminal laws and service-provider codes of conduct.

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV141.pdf>



Turner, H.A., Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2006). The effect of lifetime victimization on the mental health of children and adolescents. *Social Science & Medicine*, 6(1), 13-27.

This paper examines the cumulative prevalence of victimization and its impact on mental health in a nationally representative sample of 2030 children aged 2–17 in the USA. Telephone interviews conducted with both caregivers and youth revealed socio-demographic variations in lifetime exposure to most forms of victimization, with ethnic minorities, those lower in socio-economic status, and those living in single parent and stepfamilies experiencing greater victimization. Sexual assault, child maltreatment, witnessing family violence, and other major violence exposure each made independent contributions to levels of both depression and anger/aggression. Other non-victimization adversities also showed substantial independent effects, while in most cases, each victimization domain remained a significant predictor of mental health. Results suggest that cumulative exposure to multiple forms of victimization over a child's life-course represents a substantial source of mental health risk.

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., Turner, H. & Hamby, S. L. (2005). Measuring poly-victimization using the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29(11), 1297-1312.

*Objective:* Children who experience multiple victimizations (referred to in this paper as poly-victims) need to be identified because they are at particularly high risk of additional victimization and traumatic psychological effects. This paper compares alternative ways of identifying such children using questions from the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ). The JVQ was administered in a national random digit dial telephone survey about the experiences of 2,030 children. The victimizations of children 10–17 years old were assessed through youth self-report on the JVQ and the victimizations of children 2–9 assessed through JVQ caregiver proxy report. Twenty-two percent of the children in this sample had experienced four or more different kinds of victimizations in separate incidents (what we term poly-victimization) within the previous year. Such poly-victimization was highly associated with traumatic symptomatology. Several ways of identifying poly-victims with the JVQ produced roughly equivalent results: a simple count using the 34 victimizations screeners, a count using a reduced set of only 12 screeners, and the original poly-victimization measure using follow-up questions to identify victimizations occurring during

different episodes. Researchers and clinicians should be taking steps to identify poly-victims within the populations with which they work and have several alternative ways of doing so.

Mitchell, K. J., Becker-Blease, K.A., & Finkelhor, D. (2005). Inventory of problematic Internet experiences encountered in clinical practice. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 36(5), 489-509.

People are bringing a variety of Internet-related problems into consultation with mental health professionals. This exploratory study used a systematic sample of mental health professionals and obtained both structured and open-ended information from 1,504 practitioners who reported having at least 1 client with an Internet-related problem. This article proposes an inventory of 11 types of problematic Internet experiences reported by youth and adult clients: (a) overuse; (b) pornography; (c) infidelity; (d) sexual exploitation and abuse; (e) gaming, gambling, and role-playing; (f) harassment; (g) isolative-avoidant use; (h) fraud, stealing, and deception; (i) failed online relationships; (j) harmful influence websites; and (k) risky or inappropriate use, not otherwise specified. The authors discuss the spectrum of cases within each category and implications for clinical practice. <http://202.198.141.77/upload/soft/0-article/+01/14.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Hamby, S.L., Ormrod, R. & Turner, H. (2005). The juvenile victimization questionnaire: Reliability, validity, and national norms. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29(4), 383-412.

*Objective:* To assess the utility and performance of the 34-item Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ) in eliciting the recent victimization experiences of a national sample of children ages 2-17. The JVQ was administered in a national random digit dial telephone survey about the experiences of 2,030 children. The experiences of children 10-17 years old were assessed through youth self-report on the JVQ, and the experiences of children 2-9 assessed through JVQ caregiver proxy report. Large numbers of recent victimizations were disclosed using the JVQ (71% of the sample reporting at least one victimization in the last year, with an average of 2.63 victimizations per child). There were few indicators of respondent confusion and little resistance to even the most sensitive questions. In a test of construct validity, endorsements of JVQ items correlated well with measures of traumatic symptoms. The instrument showed adequate test-retest reliability in a 3 to 4 week re-administration. Large numbers of victimizations were reported across

the spectrum of ages, and there were no major discontinuities between the self-reports and proxy reports, suggesting that caregivers provided generally adequate and comparable information to child self-reports about the experiences of children under the age of 10. The JVQ has potential for use in future epidemiological research as well as clinical evaluation concerning the victimization of children.

Finkelhor, D. (2005). Sexually Victimized Children. *Violence against Women: Classic Papers*. Auckland, New Zealand: Pearson Education Limited. pp. 42-56.

This chapter is reprinted from Sexually Victimized Children, by David Finkelhor (1979). This chapter presents thirteen theories about why children are sexually victimized. These theories are concerned with why offenders do it, why it happens to some particular children and in some particular families, and why it is apparently so common in our society. Altogether, however, they do not add up to an inspiring panorama of insight. Knowledge on this neglected subject is still in a primitive state, as is almost any topic related to sex. Actually, a deeper flaw is the fact that we know more about sexual deviance than we do about sexual normality or ordinariness--to choose a less value-laden word--and this topic is a good case in point. Here we are inquiring how children come to have sexual experiences with adults when we hardly know how they come to have sexual experiences at all. Thus all theories about children's sexual victimization must be viewed against their true backdrop: a vast ignorance of the forces governing the development and expression of sexual behavior in general. A reflective comment is provided at the end of the chapter.

Finkelhor, D., Cross, T. P., & Cantor, E. N. (2005). The justice system for juvenile victims: A comprehensive model of case flow. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*, 6(2), 83-102.

This article proposes the idea that there is a de facto juvenile victim justice system, a complex set of agencies and institutions that responds to juvenile victims of crime and violence, including child maltreatment and conventional crime. The article offers a schematic model of that system and tries to quantify the case flow through its various components, that is, the likelihood that given certain actions (e.g., a substantiated finding of maltreatment), other actions will follow (e.g., services be provided). The model also highlights the activities of the system most likely to have consequential effects on victims. We argue that more professionals are needed who understand the system in its entirety, not just their own agency role, and who can help guide victims, families, and other

professionals through its complexities. More efforts are also needed to integrate and rationalize the system, particularly through information exchange among its components. [http://www.ngoalliance.net/fragment/programlar/yuvenal\\_edliyya/Justice%20System%20for%20Juvenile%20Victims.pdf](http://www.ngoalliance.net/fragment/programlar/yuvenal_edliyya/Justice%20System%20for%20Juvenile%20Victims.pdf)

Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., Turner, H., & Hamby, S.L. (2005). The victimization of children and youth: A comprehensive national survey. *Child Maltreatment, 10*(1), 5-25.

This study examined a large spectrum of violence, crime, and victimization experiences in a nationally representative sample of children and youth ages 2 to 7 years. More than one half (530 per 1,000) of the children and youth had experienced a physical assault in the study year, more than 1 in 4 (273 per 1,000) a property offense, more than 1 in 8 (136 per 1,000) a sexual victimization, and more than 1 in 3 (357 per 1,000) had been a witness to violence or experienced another form of indirect victimization. Only a minority (29%) had no direct or indirect victimization. The mean number of victimizations for a child or youth with any victimization was 3.0, and a child or youth with one victimization had a 69% chance of experiencing another during a single year. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV74.pdf>

Cross, T. P., Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2005). Police involvement in Child Protective Services investigations: Literature review and secondary data analysis. *Child Maltreatment, 10*(3), 224-244.

This article examines the relationship of police and child protective services (CPS) coinvolvement to the outcomes of child maltreatment investigations. It reviews practice and empirical literature and conducts a secondary analysis of a national CPS data set. Most sources argue that coordination of the two agencies improves investigations and benefits children and families. Yet, sources also report friction between these agencies, interference with each other's job, and concerns that police involvement increases child removal. In the CPS case data, allegations were more likely to be judged credible when police also investigated and families were also more likely to receive various services. For neglect cases, multidisciplinary decision making, but not police involvement per se, was linked to child removal. Across studies, police do not appear to hinder CPS effectiveness and may actually promote it. Their investigations should be coordinated in every community. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV83.pdf>

Mitchell, K. J., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2005). Protecting youth online: Family use of filtering and blocking software. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29(7), 753-765.

Objective: This paper explores the characteristics associated with decisions to adopt or discontinue the use of filtering software, including a critical analysis of some explanations about why it is used or not used in households with children and adolescents. Method: This study consisted of a national telephone survey of households in the United States with youth (10 and 17 years) who use the Internet regularly. Interviews were completed with one youth in the appropriate age group and a parent or caretaker. Results: Thirty-three percent of parents reported using filtering or blocking software, with an additional 5% having discontinued its use within the past year. Parents were more likely to adopt filtering software if they had younger children (10-15 years), a high level of concern about exposure to sexual material on the Internet, more extensive knowledge of what their child did online, low trust in the child's ability to use the Internet responsibly, and if the child used America Online (AOL). Using the Internet for school assignments was associated with not having filtering software. Conclusion: Findings suggest the need for (1) evaluation research of filter programs used in a real family context and (2) the development of a variety of strategies to prevent exposure to inappropriate material for youth of different ages.

Mitchell, K.J., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2005). The Internet and family and acquaintance sexual abuse. *Child Maltreatment*, 10(1), 49-60.

This article explores the dynamics of cases involving family and acquaintance sexual offenders who used the Internet to commit sex crimes against minors. Although the stereotype of Internet crimes involves unknown adults meeting juvenile victims online, Internet use can also play a role in sexual crimes against minors by family members and acquaintances. Data were collected from a national sample of law enforcement agencies about arrests for Internet-related sex crimes against minors. Family and acquaintance offenders were nearly as numerous as offenders who used the Internet to meet victims online. They used the Internet in various ways to further their crimes including as a tool to seduce or groom, store or disseminate sexual images of victims, arrange meetings and communicate, reward victims, or advertise or sell victims. Prevention messages and investigation approaches should be revised to incorporate awareness of such cases and their dynamics. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/CV93.pdf>

Mitchell, K.J., Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2005). Police posing as juveniles online to catch sex offenders: Is it working? *Sexual Abuse: Journal of Research and Treatment*, 17(3), 241-267.

This paper explores the extent and effectiveness of proactive investigations in which investigators pose as minors on the Internet to catch potential sex offenders. It utilizes a subsample of cases from the National Juvenile Online Victimization Survey, which concerned persons arrested for Internet sex crimes against minors in the year beginning July 1, 2000. Results suggest proactive investigations represented a significant proportion (25%) of all arrests for Internet sex crimes against minors. Such investigations were being conducted at all levels of law enforcement. The online personas assumed by investigators paralleled the ages and genders of real youth victimized in sex crimes that started as online encounters. These proactive investigations accessed an offender group that appeared somewhat less deviant in terms of adult sexual behavior and arrest history but equally deviant as other online offenders in terms of possession of child pornography. Prosecution of these cases produced high rates of guilty pleas and low rates of dismissed or dropped cases. The entrapment, fantasy or role-playing, and factual impossibility defenses were used but not successfully. Findings suggest that the Internet sometimes allows law enforcement to interdict before a youth is victimized, gather solid evidence of offenses, and find and track some offenders.

Sedlak, A.J., Finkelhor, D., & Hammer, H. (2005). National estimates of children missing involuntarily or for benign reasons. *NISMART Bulletin Series*, 11p.

This Bulletin provides information on the numbers and characteristics of two groups of children not frequently recognized in the literature on missing children: those involuntarily missing because they were lost, injured, or stranded and those missing for benign reasons. The estimates reported in this Bulletin are derived from two components of the Second National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrown away Children (NISMART-2): the National Household Survey of Adult Caretakers and the National Household Survey of Youth. These surveys were conducted during 1999 and reflect the experiences of children in the United States over a 12-month period. Because the vast majority of cases were concentrated in 1999, the annual period the Bulletin refers to is 1999. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/206180.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L.M. (2004). Explanations for the decline in child sexual abuse cases. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 199298). 12 pp.

This Bulletin explores the strengths and weaknesses of six possible explanations for the decline by using data from a number of different sources aggregate data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS); detailed child protective service data from Illinois, Minnesota, Oregon, and Pennsylvania; and self-report data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and from schoolchildren in Minnesota. It provides substantially more evidence about the decline than was available in a previous Bulletin on the same topic. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/199298.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2004). Child pornography: patterns from the NIBRS. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 204911) 7 pp. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/204911.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2004). Prostitution of juveniles: patterns from the NIBRS. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 203946). 11p. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/203946.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Putnam, C. (2004). Protecting the privacy of child crime victims. *APRI Update*, 17.2, 1-2. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV98.pdf>

Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2004). Which juvenile crime victims get mental health treatment? *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 28(1), 45-59

Explores factors that facilitate the receipt of mental health treatment among juvenile crime victims. Telephone interviews were conducted with a national sample of 157 caretakers whose children had suffered a serious sexual or physical assault in the previous year. Twenty-two percent of caretakers had thought about getting professional counseling for their child victims, and 20% of the child victims actually received it. But half of the families who thought about it did not follow through on their consideration. Moreover, nearly half of those victimized children who actually received counseling did so without their families reporting that they had considered it in advance. The level of symptoms and parent-child relationship factors were related to considering counseling which was in turn strongly related to actually getting counseling. These findings suggested two

pathways to counseling. One occurred via direct parental concern, and was associated with such variables as parental perceptions that the child was depressed or withdrawn or that the parent-child relationship had been negatively affected. The other pathway occurred independent of parental concern, most likely via school interventions, because this counseling was in conjunction with school victimizations.

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., & Mitchell, K. (2004). Internet-initiated sex crimes against minors: Implications for prevention based on findings from a national study. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 35*(5), 424E11-424E20.

The purpose of this article is to describe the characteristics of episodes in which juveniles became victims of sex crimes committed by people they met through the Internet. Methods: A national survey of a stratified random sample of 2574 law enforcement agencies conducted between October 2001 and July 2002. Telephone interviews were conducted with local, state, and federal law enforcement investigators concerning 129 sexual offenses against juvenile victims that originated with online encounters. Victims in these crimes were primarily 13- through 15-year-old teenage girls (75%) who met adult offenders (76% older than 25) in Internet chat rooms. Most offenders did not deceive victims about the fact that they were adults who were interested in sexual relationships. Most victims met and had sex with the adults on more than one occasion. Half of the victims were described as being in love with or feeling close bonds with the offenders. Almost all cases with male victims involved male offenders. Offenders used violence in 5% of the episodes. Health care professionals and educators, parents and media need to be aware of the existence, nature and real life dynamics of these online relationships among adolescents. Information about Internet safety should include frank discussion about why these relationships are inappropriate, criminal, and detrimental to the developmental needs of youth. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV71.pdf>

Wolak, J., Mitchel, K., & Finkelhor, D. (2004). *National juvenile online victimization study (N-JOV). Methodology report*. Durham, NH: Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire. 14 pp.



Finkelhor, D. (2003). The legacy of the clergy abuse scandal. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 27(11), 1225-1229.

Discusses the clergy abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. It is noted that the Catholic Church abuse scandal will certainly end up reinforcing the part that litigation plays in our societal response to child maltreatment. Seeing the courage, the impact on those responsible for the offenses and the cover-up, the publicity, the large amounts of money, all these will inspire attorneys and survivors and families in a variety of ways to do this more often.

Finkelhor, D. (2003, June 17). Child victims suffer doubly under public's scrutiny. *USA Today*. 2 pp. [http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2003-06-17-opcom\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2003-06-17-opcom_x.htm)

Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2003). Reporting assaults against juveniles to the police: Barriers and catalysts. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18(2), 103-128.

Explores some of the factors that explain both the recognition of victimizations as crimes and their subsequent reporting to police. The study utilizes data from 157 parents or other primary caretakers (mean age 39 yrs) from a national sample of households in which a juvenile (aged 17 yrs or younger) was physically or sexually assaulted. Reporting crimes to the police is a two-stage process. Victims and families first recognize whether a crime has occurred and, if so, are influenced by a variety of considerations in deciding whether to report it. In the national sample of physical and sexual assaults against juveniles, recognition of the assault as a crime was more likely for episodes involving adolescent (vs. preadolescent) victims, adult and multiple offenders, physical injuries, female victims, and when families had prior experiences with police. Among families who recognized the episode as a crime, actual reporting to police was more likely when the perpetrator was an adult, the family had been advised to report, the family had prior experience with the police, the family believed the police would take the episode seriously, and when the child was believed still to be in danger from the perpetrator. Reporting was less likely for assaults that occurred at school. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/CV52.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Wells, M. (2003). Improving data systems about juvenile victimization in the United States. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 27(1), 77-102.

The objective of this study is to suggest improvements to 13 data sets and systems that collect information about juvenile victimization in United States. The suggestions were gathered from a variety of sources, including data system users and administrators, as well as a special meeting convened on the topic by the National Consortium on Children, Families and the Law in Washington, DC (December 2000). Key areas of improvement were identified for each of 13 US data systems and possible solutions were identified. This paper suggests three broad categories of improvements that apply to a number of data systems. First, data systems could expand the coverage of the systems to include more jurisdictions or other segments of the population. Second, in order to be more comprehensive and specific to child victimization, the systems need to create more specific data items, questions, or response categories. Finally, the data systems need to be modified to provide continuity and interrelationships among systems, either by using uniform definitions, or integrating data systems to facilitate the tracking of children across systems.

Jones, L. M., & Finkelhor, D. (2003). Putting together evidence on declining trends in sexual abuse: A complex puzzle. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 27(2), 133-135.

This commentary discusses the evidence on declining trends in sexual abuse. The commentary also cites declining statistics of sexual abuse in other countries, besides the US. Suggestions for future research are offered.

Mitchell, K. J., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2003). Victimization of youths on the internet. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 8(1-2), 1-39.

The Youth Internet Safety Survey is a nationally representative study of 1,501 youth, aged 10-17, who use the Internet regularly. In the past year, 19% of youth reported an unwanted sexual solicitation, 25% reported an unwanted exposure to sexual material, and 6% had been harassed online. Data suggest that youth encounter a substantial quantity of offensive episodes, and a comprehensive strategy to respond to the problem would aim to reduce the quantity of offensive behavior, better shield youth from its occurrence, increase the level of reporting, and provide more

help to youth and families to protect them from any consequence.  
<http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/CV90.pdf>

Mitchell, K.J., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2003). The exposure of youth to unwanted sexual material on the Internet: A national survey of risk, impact, and prevention. *Youth & Society*, 34(3), 330-358.

This national survey of youth ages 10 to 17 yrs, and their caretakers has several implications for the current debate about young people and Internet pornography. Using an Internet survey, the authors found that 25% of youth had unwanted exposure to sexual pictures on the Internet in the past year, challenging the prevalent assumption that the problem is primarily about young people motivated seek out pornography. Most youth had no negative reactions to their unwanted exposure, but one quarter said they were very of extremely upset suggesting a priority need for more research on and interventions directed toward such negative effects. The use of filtering and blocking software was associated with a modest reduction in unwanted exposure suggesting that it may help but is far from foolproof. Various forms of parental supervision were not associated with any reduction in exposure. The authors urge that social scientific research be undertaken to inform this highly contentions public policy. [http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Exposure\\_risk.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Exposure_risk.pdf)

Wolak, J., Mitchell, K. J., & Finkelhor, D. (2004). *Internet sex crimes against minors: The response of law enforcement*. Alexandria, VA: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Nov 2003. 19 p

Presents a summary of important findings from the National Juvenile Online Victimization Study (N-JOV) regarding three mutually exclusive types of Internet crimes against youth: Internet-related crimes against identified victims, solicitations to undercover agents posing as minors, and possession or distribution of child pornography. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV70.pdf>

Wolak, J., Mitchell, K.J., & Finkelhor, D. (2004). Escaping or connecting? Characteristics of youth who form close online relationships. *Journal of Adolescence*, 26(1), 105-119

Used data from a US national sample of Internet users, ages 10-17 (N=1,501), to explore the characteristics of youth who had formed close relationships with people they met on the Internet (n=210). Some of the characteristics explored included being highly troubled, reporting high levels of parent-child conflict, low levels of communication with parents, high levels of delinquency, demographic characteristics, and aspects of Internet use. Results show that girls who had high levels of conflict with parents or were highly troubled were more likely than other girls to have close online relationships, as were boys who had low levels of communication with parents or were highly troubled, compared to other boys. Age, race and aspects of Internet use were also related. It is suggested that little is known about the nature or quality of the close online relationships, but youth with these sorts of problems may be more vulnerable to online exploitation and to other possible ill effects of online relationships. At the same time, these relationships may have helpful aspects. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV51.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Hammer, H. & Sedlak, A.J. (2002). Nonfamily abducted children: National estimates and characteristics. *NISMART Bulletin Series* (NCJ 196467) 12 p.  
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/196467.pdf>

Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A.J. (2002). Runaway/throwaway children: National estimates and characteristics. *NISMART Bulletin Series* (NCJ 196469) 11p  
[http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/documents/nismart2\\_runaway.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/documents/nismart2_runaway.pdf)

Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A.J. (2002). Children abducted by family members: National estimates and characteristics. *NISMART Bulletin Series* (NCJ 196466) 11p  
[http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/documents/nismart2\\_familyabduction.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/documents/nismart2_familyabduction.pdf)

Sedlak, A.J., Finkelhor, D., Hammer, H., & Schultz, D.J. (2002). National estimates of missing children: An overview. *NISMART Bulletin Series* (NCJ 196465) 11p  
[http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/documents/nismart2\\_overview.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/documents/nismart2_overview.pdf)

Wolak, J., Mitchell, K.J., & Finkelhor, D. (2002). Close online relationships in a national sample of adolescents. *Adolescence*, 37(147), 441-455.

This paper uses data from a national survey of 1,501 adolescent Internet users to describe online relationships. Fourteen percent of the youths interviewed reported close online friendships during the past year, 7% reported fact-to-face meetings with online friends, and 2% reported online romances. Two hundred forty-six youths provided details about one close online relationship. Most of these relationships were with same-age peers (70%) and crossed gender lines (71%). Many introductions from friends or family (32%), involved people who lived in the vicinity (26%), were known to parents (74%), included offline contact by mail or telephone (70%), or involved fact-to-face meetings (41%). Few youths reported bad experiences with online friends.

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R.K. (2001). Factors in the underreporting of crimes against juveniles. *Child Maltreatment: Journal of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children*, 6(3), 219-229.

The analysis of 1995 to 1996 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data finds substantial underreporting to police of violent and property crimes against youth (aged 12-17 yrs) compared with the reporting of such crimes against adults. This underreporting is not explained by the crimes involved being less serious, being committed by juvenile perpetrators, or by any other aspect of the crimes for which NCVS information is available. Counting reports to nonpolice authorities (in lieu of police) equalizes the level of reporting for property crime but not for violent crime. Law enforcement should undertake a variety of policies to try to encourage the police reporting of juvenile crime victimization, including steps to emphasize the criminal seriousness of such offenses, to undermine the code of silence, to provide incentives to report, to make reporting easier, and to work with schools about policies concerning when to involve the police.

Finkelhor, D., Wolak, J., & Berliner, L. (2001). Police reporting and professional help seeking for child crime victims: A review. *Child Maltreatment: Journal of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children*, 6(1), 17-30.

Notes that most crimes with child victims are not reported to police, nor do child victims access other professional victim services, despite evidence that these yield positive outcomes. This article develops a conceptual framework about the barriers to such access: (1) the reluctance to define the

crime episodes or their consequences as serious, criminal, harmful, or warranting intervention; (2) the extra authorities, including parents and schools, who mediate between victims and police or services; (3) developmental issues, such as concerns about autonomy; (4) attitudinal and emotional obstacles; and (5) time and expense factors. This article suggests the need for initiatives to stimulate reporting and help seeking; such as more publicity about the seriousness of juvenile victimization, more justice-system involvement with schools, more child and family friendly police services, and an emphasis on attractive outcomes such as justice and empowerment. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/CV29.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Hashima, P.Y. (2001). The victimization of children and youth: A comprehensive overview. In: White, Susan O., ed. *Handbook of Youth and Justice*. Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 49-78.

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the victimization of children and youth. The authors demonstrate that victimization has enormous consequences for children, derailing normal and healthy development trajectories. It can affect personality formation, have major mental health consequences, impact on academic performance, and also is strongly implicated in the development of delinquent and antisocial behavior. It is clear that because of several factors such as children's special developmental vulnerability to victimization, its differential character during childhood, and the presence of specialized institutions to deal with it (like child protection agencies), the victimization of children and youth deserve both more attention and specialized attention within the larger fields of criminology, justice studies, and even developmental psychology. The authors propose that this field be called developmental victimology.

Finkelhor, D., Paschall, M.J., & Hashima, P.Y. (2001). Juvenile crime victims in the justice system. In: White, Susan O., ed. *Handbook of Youth and Justice*. Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publisher, 2001. pp. 11-28.

This chapter highlights the main contexts in which juvenile victims have contact with the justice system, that is, with the police, the prosecutors, and the juvenile and criminal courts. The authors provide some of the data that give some dimensions to the frequency or intensity of this contact. Some of the major policy questions that are considered or should be considered in trying to

improve the quality of justice system response to these juvenile victims are included. The justice system context in which juvenile victims appear are outlined. Each context is described in details, with what is known, as well as what may be known about the dimensions of the problem in the justice system.

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2001). Crimes against children by babysitters. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 189102) 7pp <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/189102.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2001). Homicides of children and youth. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 187239) 11pp <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/187239.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2001). Offenders incarcerated for crimes against juveniles. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 191028) 11pp <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/191028.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K., & Wolak, J. (2001). Highlights of the youth internet safety survey. *OJJDP Fact Sheet #4* (FS200104) 1p <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/CV46.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Dziuba-Leatherman, J. (2001). Victimization of children. In: Bull, Ray, ed. *Children and the Law: The Essential Readings*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2001.pp 5-28.

This reprinted article originally appeared in *American Psychologist*, 1994(Mar), 49(3), 173-183. Children suffer more victimizations than do adults, including more conventional crimes, more family violence, and some forms virtually unique to children, such as family abduction. On the basis of national statistics, these victimizations can be groups into 3 broad categories: the pandemic, such as sibling assault, affecting most children; the acute, such as physical abuse, affecting a fractional but significant percentage; and the extraordinary, such as homicide, affecting a very small group. They can also be differentiated by the degree to which they result from the unique dependency status of children. A field called the victimology of childhood should be defined that adopts a developmental approach to understanding children's vulnerability to different types of victimizations and their different effects.

Hamby, S. L., & Finkelhor, D. (2001). Choosing and using child victimization questionnaires. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 186027). 15pp.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Choosingandusingquestionnaires.pdf>

Jones, L.M., Finkelhor, D., & Kopiec, K. (2001). Why is sexual abuse declining? A survey of state child protection administrators. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 25(9), 1139-1158.

According to estimates, cases of substantiated sexual abuse have declined approximately 39% nationwide from 1992 to 1999. Despite the dramatic nature of the decline, little discussion of the trend has occurred at either the national or the state level. Aims of the current research were to: (1) gather state-level information about possible sources of the sexual abuse decline, (2) identify child protection trends that might be contributing to the decline, and (3) assess the level of awareness of the decline in state child protection offices. Telephone interviews were conducted with child protection administrators in 43 states. More than half of the officials in states with large declines were unaware of any discussion of the declines within their agency or in the public at large within their state. State officials cited a diverse array of possible causes for the decline, including: (1) increased evidentiary requirements to substantiate cases, (2) increased caseworker caution due to new legal rights for caregivers, and (3) increasing limitations on the types of cases that agencies accept for investigation. More than half also mentioned the effectiveness of prevention programs, increased prosecution, and public awareness campaigns.

Jones, L. M., & Finkelhor, D. (2001). Decline in Child Sexual Abuse Cases. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 184741) 11pp  
[http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojdp/jjbul2001\\_1\\_1/contents.html](http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojdp/jjbul2001_1_1/contents.html)

Kendall-Tackett, K.A., Williams, L.M., & Finkelhor, D. (2001). Impact of sexual abuse on children: A review and synthesis of recent empirical studies. In: Bull, Ray, ed. *Children and the Law: The Essential Readings*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers 31-76.

This reprinted article originally appeared in *Psychological Bulletin*, 1993(Jan), Vol. 113(1), 164-180. A review of 45 studies clearly demonstrates that sexually abused children have more symptoms than nonabused children, with abuse accounting for 15-45% of the variance. Fears, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), behavior problems, sexualized behaviors, and poor self-



esteem occurred most frequently among a long list of symptoms noted, but no one symptom characterized a majority of sexually abused children. Some symptoms were specific to certain ages, and approximately one-third of victims had no symptoms. Penetration, the duration and frequency of the abuse, force, the relationship of the perpetrator to the child, and maternal support affected the degree of symptomatology. About two-thirds of the victimized children showed recovery during the 1st 12-28 mo. The findings suggest the absence of any specific syndrome in children who have been sexually abused and no single traumatizing process.

Mitchell, K. J., & Finkelhor, D. (2001). Risk of crime victimization among youth exposed to domestic violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 16*(9), 944-964.

Explored the degree to which youth are at higher risk of crime victimization when they live in a household with an adult who has been the victim of domestic violence or another violent crime. Combined data targeting 8,267 12-17 yr olds in the 1996, 1997, and 1998 National Crime Victimization Surveys show a generally higher victimization risk for youth who live in households with a victimized adult. The risk is elevated for youth from households with adult victims of both domestic and other nondomestic violence. Girls living in households with an adult victim of domestic violence appear to be at particularly high risk for crime victimization. Some of the added risk for such youth appears to be from family members. These findings reinforce the need to direct crime prevention and detection efforts toward youth in households in which an adult has been victimized.

Mitchell, K. J., Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, J. (2001). Risk factors for and impact of online sexual solicitation of youth. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, 285*(23), 3011-3014.

Assessed the risk factors surrounding online sexual solicitations of youth and distress due to solicitation. A random sample of 1,501 youth (aged 10-17 yrs) who were regular Internet users were surveyed via telephone during August 1999-February 2000. Main outcome measures included demographic and behavioral characteristics associated with solicitation risk and distress due to solicitation. 19% of youth who used the Internet regularly were the targets of unwanted sexual solicitation in the last year. Girls, older teens, troubled youth, frequent Internet users, chat room participants, and those who communicated online with strangers were at greater risk. 25%

of the solicited youth reported high levels of distress after solicitation incidents. Risk of distress was more common among the younger youth, those who received aggressive solicitations (the solicitor attempted or made offline contact), and those who were solicited on a computer away from their home. It is concluded that health care professionals, educators, and parents should be prepared to educate youth about how to respond to online sexual solicitations, including encouraging youth to disclose and report such encounters and to talk about them.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/cv42jama.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K.J., & Wolak, J. (2000). *Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth*. Washington, DC: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. 51p  
[http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/NC62.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC62.pdf)

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2000). Characteristics of crimes against juveniles. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 179034) 11pp <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/179034.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2000). Kidnaping of juveniles: patterns from the NIBRS. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 181161) 7pp [http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojdp/2000\\_6\\_2/contents.html](http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojdp/2000_6_2/contents.html)

Finkelhor, D., & Ormrod, R. (2000). Juvenile victims of property crimes. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. (NCJ 184740) 11pp <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/184740.pdf>

Hamby, S. L., & Finkelhor, D. (2000). The victimization of children: Recommendations for assessment and instrument development. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 39(7), 829-840.

The study and treatment of juvenile victimization would greatly benefit from instruments that are comprehensive, methodologically sound, and relevant to settings such as health and mental health clinics, criminal justice institutions, and child protection agencies. Toward these ends, this article makes 20 recommendations. Among other things, instruments should (1) allow victimization to be mapped onto conventional crime and child protection system categories; (2) adequately assess victimization by family and other nonstranger perpetrators; (3) ask about crimes specific to childhood, such as nonviolent sexual offenses and neglect; (4) allow for comparisons between juvenile and adult victimizations; (5) collect self-report data with children as young as age 7 years;

(6) use simple, behaviorally specific language; (7) protect privacy during data collection; (8) attend to potential ethnic, class, and gender differences; and (9) prepare procedures to assist children in danger. Comprehensive and well-researched instrumentation could greatly advance the study and treatment of juvenile victimization. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV27.pdf>

Hasima, P.Y., & Finkelhor, D. (1999). Violent victimization of youth versus adults in the National Crime Victimization Survey. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 14*(8), 799-820.

To understand the characteristics of juvenile victimization, explicit comparisons between the victimization of juveniles and adults need to be made. In this article, rates of violent victimizations of youth aged 12 to 17 years and adults were compared, using the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), an annual survey of 50,000 American households administered by the U.S. Bureau of the Census on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice. Analyses with 1994 data revealed that juveniles were substantially more likely than adults to be victims of violent crimes and suffer from a crime-related injury. Large disparities between juveniles and adults were present for males and females, Whites and Blacks, and persons from different types of localities. Moreover, juvenile victims were more likely than adult victims to know their offenders. Some characteristics of the NCVS may result in an underestimation of the disproportionate youth victimizations. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV20.pdf>

Boney-McCoy, S., & Finkelhor, D. (1998). Psychopathology associated with sexual abuse: A reply to Nash, Neimeyer, Hulsey, and Lambert (1998). *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology, 66*(3), 572-573.

This article is a reply to M. R. Nash, R. A. Neimeyer, T. L. Hulsey, and W. Lambert's (1998) article in which concerns are expressed about S. Boney-McCoy and D. Finkelhor's (1996) research. The authors concur with Nash et al.'s position that a variety of samples and designs are valuable to the study of child sexual abuse (CSA), although the position is maintained that the independent contributions of family functioning and CSA to child psychopathology are most accurately evaluated with the use of longitudinal data. Additional research questions concerning the interaction of family environment and CSA are raised.

Finkelhor, D. (1998). A comparison of the responses of preadolescents and adolescents in a national victimization survey. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 13*(3), 362-382.

Examined the quality of responses of 10-11 vs 12-16 yr olds in a national telephone survey of 2,000 youth concerning victimization and victimization prevention education. Although the overall participation rate was quite good for both groups, parents were slightly more likely to bar the younger children from taking part in the survey. The younger children also disclosed fewer of the most sensitive kinds of victimization, such as sexual abuse. However, by contrast, they did not give any more problematic responses to the key questions dealing with victimization and its details, and their rates for both family and nonfamily assaults, which comprised most of the victimizations, were equivalent to those of older children. The younger children also did not report any greater levels of distress in response to the survey. The few difficulties in interviewing the 10- and 11-yr-old children and the quantity of valuable information they can provide suggest that they should be included in victimization surveys.

Luna, R., & Finkelhor, D. (1998). School-based prevention programs: Lessons for child victimization prevention. Durham, NH: Center for Research on Crimes against Children, 17pp <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV30.pdf>

Straus, M.A., Hamby, S.L., Finkelhor, D., Moore, D.W., & Runyan, D. (1998). " Identification of child maltreatment with the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scales: Development and psychometric data for a national sample of American parents": Erratum. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 22*(11), 1177.

Reports an error in the original article by M. A. Straus et al (*Child Abuse & Neglect*, 1998 [Apr], Vol 22 [4], 249-270). On page 256, line 6, the list of items in the Severe Physical Assault subscale includes item I, not item L. On page 268, right column, item V should be scored as part of the Minor Physical Assault subscales, not as part of the Severe Physical Assault subscale.

Straus, M.A., Hamby, S.L., Finkelhor, D., Moore, D.W., & Runyan, D. (1998). Identification of child maltreatment with the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scales: Development and psychometric data for a national sample of American parents. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 22(4), 249-270.

Describes the development of a new version of the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS) called the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale (CTSPC). The scale is intended to measure psychological and physical maltreatment and neglect of children by parents, as well as nonviolent modes of discipline. Description of the conceptual and methodological approaches used and psychometric data for a nationally representative sample of 1,000 US children, ranging in age from infancy to age 17, are presented. The scale was administered through a telephone survey with the children's parents (mean age 36.8 yrs). The scale provides (1) improved Psychological Aggression and Physical Assault scales, (2) a new Nonviolent Discipline scale, a supplementary scale for Neglect, and supplemental questions on discipline methods and sexual abuse, (3) reliability ranges from low to moderate, and (4) evidence of discriminant and construct validity. The CTSPC is better suited to measuring child maltreatment than the original CTS. It is brief (6 to 8 minutes for the core scales) and therefore practical for epidemiological research on child maltreatment and for clinical screening. Methodological issues inherent in parent self-report measures of child maltreatment are discussed.

Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (1998). Children exposed to partner violence. In: Jasinski, Jana L. and Williams, Linda Meyer, eds. *Partner Violence: A Comprehensive Review of 20 Years of Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. 73-112.

This chapter reviews current knowledge about how partner violence affects children and the different ways children respond to, and cope with, violence in their homes, focusing on developmental differences. It covers approaches to assessing and treating child witnesses to partner violence. The following topics are discussed: scope of the problem, different ways children are exposed to partner violence, symptoms of children exposed to partner violence, why exposure to partner violence harms children, factors determining the extent of the impact of partner violence, protective factors, long-term effects, and responding to the problem.

Finkelhor, D., Moore, D., Hamby, S.L., & Straus, M.A. (1997). Sexually abused children in a national survey of parents: Methodological issues. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 21(1), 1-9.

In a national survey of 1,000 parents, which primarily concerned disciplinary practices and violence toward their children, 2 questions were asked about whether the children had been sexually abused. This was to assess the feasibility of epidemiological research on contemporaneous sexual abuse using parental interviews rather than the usual adult retrospective approach. From these questions, rates of sexual abuse for children currently 0-17 were estimated at 1.9% in the last year and 5.7% ever. The cases making up these rates included a nearly equal number of boys and girls and no female victims between the ages of 9 and 12, a distribution different from those generally obtained by other epidemiological methods, but due possibly in this case to normal sampling variation. Cases were more likely to be disclosed for children whose parents had themselves been sexually abused, who were from lower income households, or who were living with only one biologic parent. It is concluded that although some of the findings suggest caution in generalizing about child sexual abuse from survey samples of parents, the method is worthy of exploration if only to gain better epidemiologic data about parent knowledge, reaction, reporting, and coping strategies.

Finkelhor, D. (1997). The victimization of children and youth: Developmental victimology. In: Davis, Robert Carl, Lurigio, Arthur J., et al., eds. *Victims of Crime* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 86-107.

This chapter documents the tremendous growth in the number of professionals concerned with children's welfare. Finkelhor's framework of "developmental victimization" encompasses the victimization of children from schoolyard assaults to child abuse, child molestation, and stranger abductions. The chapter reviews findings on the incidence and effects of child victimizations, addresses the question of why child victimizations are so common and how the circumstances that lead to them differ from those surrounding crimes against adults, and calls for better data on the victimization of children under 12 yrs of age.

Finkelhor, D., & Kendall-Tackett, K. (1997). A developmental perspective on the childhood impact of crime, abuse, and violent victimization. In: Cicchetti, Dante and Toth, Sheree L., eds. *Developmental Perspectives on Trauma: Theory, Research, and Intervention*. Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 1-32.

There are several different forms of the child homicide problem that are only revealed by taking a developmental perspective. Not all of them are increasing. They have different sources, and ultimately different strategies for preventing them. This chapter tries to look at them individually. From a developmental perspective, juvenile homicides should be broken down into at least three distinct segments, each of which has its own reality: young children, including infanticide and child abuse homicide; school-aged children; and teenagers. This chapter will discuss each in order of decreasing frequency, starting with teens, then young children, and finally, school-aged children. This chapter concludes with some general principles about developmental victimology.

Plass, P.S., Finkelhor, D., & Hotaling, G.T. (1997). Risk factors for family abduction: Demographic and family interaction characteristics. *Journal of Family Violence, 12*(3), 333-348.

This study compares demographic and social interaction characteristics of families to establish risk factors for the experience of family abduction. The authors use data drawn from the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children (NISMAART). NISMAART identified 104 families who had experienced family abductions and 472 control families. The demographic and social variables measured were race and age of children, education level of household, family size, marital status of parent, recency of divorce, incidence of domestic violence, and parents' own experiences with various negative events in their own childhoods. The authors find that race, age of children, family size, and incidence of violence in the family all appear to bear on the risk of experiencing a family abduction event. Further, recency of divorce or separation appears to be associated with the risk for a more serious or alarming case of family abduction. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/MC11.pdf>

Boney-McCoy, S., & Finkelhor, D. (1996). Is youth victimization related to trauma symptoms and depression after controlling for prior symptoms and family relationships? A longitudinal, prospective study. *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology, 64*(6), 1406-1416.

The common finding linking symptoms such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression with youth victimization (e.g., sexual abuse) might well be artifactual if preexisting psychopathology or disturbed family relationships create a common risk for both later victimization and later symptoms. This study used a longitudinal, prospective design to examine this issue. In a national random sample telephone survey, children 10 to 16 years old were interviewed and then reinterviewed approximately 15 months later about psychological problems, family relationships and victimization experiences that had occurred in the interim. Victimization in the interim was associated with PTSD-related symptoms and depression measured at Time 2, even after controlling for these symptoms and the quality of the parent-child relationship at Time 1. The association was particularly strong for sexual abuse, parental assault, and kidnapping experiences. However, these data also suggest that some of the apparent association found in cross-sectional studies between victimization and psychopathology may be due to prior psychopathology (but not parent-child relationship problems), which puts children at risk for both victimization and later symptoms. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV14.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Asdigian, N.L. (1996). Risk factors for youth victimization: Beyond a lifestyles/routine activities theory approach. *Violence & Victims, 11*(1), 3-20.

Argues that personal characteristics put youth at risk for victimization, not through any lifestyle or routine activity mechanism, but by making certain youth more "congruent" with the needs, motives, or reactivities of potential offenders. Three specific types of such characteristics are those that increase the potential victim's target vulnerability (e.g., physical weakness or psychological distress), target gratifiability (e.g., female gender for the crime of sexual assault), or target antagonism (e.g., behaviors or ethnic or group identities that may spark hostility or resentment). Using data from the National Youth Victimization Prevention Study, in which 2,000 youth (aged 10-16) were interviewed about their victimization experiences, variables measuring aspects of target congruence were tested. The target congruence variables had predictive power with 3 separate kinds of youth victimization: nonfamily assault, sexual assault, and parental assault.



Moreover, variables representing each of the 3 subcategories of target congruence variables (vulnerability, gratifiability, and antagonism) were all significant contributors in predicting at least 1 kind of victimization. <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV13.pdf>

Plass, P.S., Finkelhor, D., & Hotaling, G. T. (1996). Family abduction outcomes: Factors associated with duration and emotional trauma to children. *Youth & Society*, 28(1), 109-130.

Used data from a national survey, to examine factors associated with 2 specific outcomes of family abduction events: duration of the episode and the likelihood of emotional trauma to children involved. A total of 142 children were involved. Duration appears to be influenced by indicators of preparedness, planning and intent, and with difficulty in physically locating the child. Emotional harm was influenced by factors associated with child awareness, disruption in the child's routine, and levels of animosity between parents. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/MC12.pdf>

Turner, H.A., & Finkelhor, D. (1996). Corporal punishment as a stressor among youth. *Journal of Marriage & the Family*, 58(1), 155-166.

This article addresses the impact of corporal punishment by parents on the psychological well-being of youth. The present research used the National Youth Victimization Prevention Study, a nationally representative sample of 1,042 boys and 958 girls (aged 10-16 yrs). Based on a stress-process framework, this study examined (1) the effects of frequency of corporal punishment experienced by youth on psychological distress and clinically relevant depression and (2) the moderating influence of parental support on the associations between corporal punishment and psychological outcomes. Controlling for sociodemographic factors and physical abuse, findings indicate a positive association between the frequency of corporal punishment and both psychological distress and depression. Although distress is greatest at higher frequencies of punishment, the association is also present at low and moderate levels of corporal punishment. An interaction between corporal punishment and parental support was also evident, showing that the impact of frequent punishment relative to no corporal punishment was greater in the context of high parental support. <http://unhinfo.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV10.pdf>

Asdigian, N. L., & Finkelhor, D. (1995). What works for children in resisting assaults? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 10(4), 402-418.

Examined children's responses to threats of victimization and their perceptions of the effectiveness of their responses in a sample of 1,042 male and 958 female 10-16 yr olds. Survey data were gathered from Ss regarding victimization experiences, prevention responses, protective efficacy, victimization-related injury, and the preferred victimization response of Ss' fathers. Boys, especially those in their teens, used more aggressive forms of resistance than did younger Ss and girls, and felt those strategies had been more effective. Ss advised by their fathers to stand up and fight also felt more successful using aggressive resistance. Results suggest that different children may feel more successful with different protection strategies, arguing against a unifacted approach to victimization prevention. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV6.pdf>

Asdigian, N.L., Finkelhor, D., & Hotaling, G.T. (1995). Varieties of nonfamily abduction of children and adolescents. *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, 22(3), 215-232.

Examined 396 cases of nonfamily abduction of children and adolescents, using police records in a national survey of law enforcement agencies, to distinguish between stereotypical (n = 32) and legal-definition abduction cases (n = 364). Incidents that fit the public stereotype of a kidnapping were much less prevalent than incidents that simply met legal definitions for abduction. Stereotypical abductions tended to involve more White preteen victims who were taken but not sexually assaulted. The majority of legal-definition abductions was characterized by the forcible sexual assault of teenage girls. Legal-definition abductions that did not involve sexual assault occurred in the context of a diverse range of other crimes, including robbery attempts, hijackings, intimidation, and dating violence. Findings highlight the need to orient efforts aimed at the prevention of nonfamily abduction toward those at risk for sexual assault. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/MC8.pdf>

Boney-McCoy, S., & Finkelhor, D. (1995). Psychosocial sequelae of violent victimization in a national youth sample. *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology, 63*(5), 726-736.

In a national telephone sample of youths aged 10-16 years, over one third reported having been the victims of an assault. Victimized respondents displayed significantly more psychological and behavioral symptomatology than did non victimized respondents (more symptomatology related to post traumatic stress disorder, more sadness, and more school difficulties), even after controlling for some other possible sources of distress. Sexual assault was associated with particularly high levels of symptomatology. However, victims of other forms of assault--nonfamily assaults involving weapons or physical injury (aggravated assaults), assaults by parents, violence to genitals, and attempted kidnappings--also evidenced levels of distress that were not statistically lower than those suffered by victims of sexual assault. The findings suggest that substantial mental health morbidity in the general child and adolescent population is associated with victimization. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/hold.CV5.pdf>

Boney-McCoy, S., & Finkelhor, D. (1995). Prior victimization: A risk factor for child sexual abuse and for PTSD-related symptomatology among sexually abused youth. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 19*(2), 1401-1421.

Studied the influence of prior victimization on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related symptomatology over and above the contribution made by the child sexual abuse episode, demographic factors, and quality of parent-child relation. 2,000 Ss (aged 10-16 yrs) were questioned about victimizations they might have experienced, including its sexual and non sexual forms. Trauma symptoms related to PTSD, 9 child sexual abuse episode characteristics, and quality of parent-child relationship were assessed using various scales. Parents of all Ss were interviewed regarding their demographic characteristics. Results indicate that a prior victimization acted as a risk factor for later child sexual abuse even when background variables were controlled for. It exacerbated the symptoms associated with PTSD. Prior victimization of a family member also predicted later child sexual abuse.

Finkelhor, D., Asdigian, N., & Dziuba-Leatherman, J. (1995). Victimization prevention programs for children: A follow-up. *American Journal of Public Health, 85*(2), 1684-1689.

Examined the effect of victimization prevention instruction in school on children's behavior in situations of real victimization threat. Telephone interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 10-16 yr olds and their caretakers, and the experience of 1,457 of these children was followed up more than 1 yr later. Ss reported school-based program exposure and content, and completed measures of knowledge about sexual abuse, victimizations, self-protection strategies, self-perceived efficacy, injury, disclosure, and self-blame. Exposure to a comprehensive prevention program was not associated with reduced incidence of victimization, injury, or upset. However, some exposure conditions were associated with an increased likelihood that Ss would disclose victimization and would see themselves as having successfully protected themselves, and a decreased likelihood that they would blame themselves for the episode.

Finkelhor, D., & Berliner, L. (1995). Research on the treatment of sexually abused children: A review and recommendations. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 34*(11), 1408-1423.

Evaluates research (1987-1995) findings on effectiveness of treatments for sexually abused children. 29 studies were categorized into 3 groups based on their designs: pre- and posttest designs with or without comparison groups and treatment, and quasi-experimental designs with comparisons and no treatment. Five studies substantially prove that recovery is due to therapy. Aggressiveness and sexualized behavior are resistant to change, and some children do not improve. Future sexual abuse therapy outcome research needs to be identified, such as the diversity of sexually abused children, the problem of children with no symptoms, the existence of serious "sleeper" effects, the importance of family context on recovery, the utility of abuse focused therapy and targeted interventions, the optimal length of treatment, the problem of treatment dropouts, and the development and use of abuse-specific outcome measures.

Finkelhor, D., & Meyer, L. (1995). "Paternal caregiving and incest": Reply. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 65(4), 586.

Replies to the critique by R. H. Bixler of the authors' original article concerning paternal caregiving and incest, and suggests that Bixler has misunderstood the authors' article.

Finkelhor, D., Asdigian, N.L., & Hotaling, G. (1995). Attempted non-family abductions. *Child Welfare*, 74(5), 941-955.

Examined cases of attempted nonfamily abductions (ANFAs), identified in a national telephone survey of caregivers in 10,367 households who reported on the experiences of 20,505 children aged 17 yrs or younger. The study attempted to determine demographic and family characteristics that may put children at risk for such incidents. Children who experienced ANFA incidents (unweighted n = 35; weighted n = 114,600) were compared with 1,520 other children in nonepisode households and a random subsample of 491 children in nonepisode households. Significant group differences emerged on the measures of household stress and caregiver history of childhood trauma. The prevalence and risk-marker findings reinforce the need to continue teaching "stranger-danger" and suggest that children living in stressful or unstable family environments may particularly need such prevention efforts.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/MC9.pdf>

Finkelhor, D. (1995). The victimization of children: A developmental perspective. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 65(2), 177-193.

Presents a framework for a new field of developmental victimology, the study of victimization across the changing phases of childhood and adolescence, and describes 2 distinct domains of developmental victimology. The 1st domain analyzes developmental changes that affect children's risk for victimization, particularly in children's suitability as targets, their ability to protect themselves, and the environments they inhabit. The 2nd domain focuses on developmental processes that affect children's reactions to victimizations, particularly regarding developmental tasks and critical periods, the process of cognitive appraisal, and the forms of symptom expression.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV8.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Dziuba-Leatherman, J. (1995). Victimization prevention programs: A national survey of children's exposure and reactions. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 19*(2), 129-139.

Used The National Youth Victimization Prevention Study to interview 1,042 boys and 958 girls (aged 10-16 yrs) and their caretakers about the children's experience with child-abuse and victimization-prevention programs. 67% of Ss reported being exposed to at least one program at some time. Programs that gave Ss a chance to practice, that prompted discussions with parents, and that included information on dealing with bullies were more likely to result in use of the program skills. Girls, Black Ss, and Ss from lower SES families and their parents, had more positive reactions and reported more skill use. Some Ss did report more worry about abuse and fear of adults. Ss with increased worry and fear were also the Ss who themselves and their parents reported the most positive feelings about the programs and the most skill use, suggesting that the level of worry and fear induced by the programs was appropriate to the subject.

Finkelhor, D., Asdigian, N., & Dziuba-Leatherman, J. (1995). The effectiveness of victimization prevention instruction: An evaluation of children's responses to actual threats and assaults. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 19*(2), 141-153.

Examined whether instruction in school and at home about how to prevent victimization influenced behavior of 1,042 boys and 958 girls (aged 10-16 yrs) in situations of real victimization threat. Data were collected from the National Victimization Prevention Study. Ss exposed to more comprehensive school-based prevention programs performed better than other Ss on a short test of knowledge about sexual victimization; when victimized or threatened were more likely to use the self-protection strategies recommended by prevention educators; were more likely to feel that they had been successful in protecting themselves; and were more likely to disclose to someone about the victimization attempts. However, these Ss were not better able to limit the seriousness of the assaults and they experienced more injuries in the course of sexual assaults.

Finkelhor, D., & Wolak, N. (1995). Nonsexual assaults to the genitals in the youth population. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, 274*(21), 1692-1697.

The objective of this study was to assess the frequency with which youth suffer nonsexual assaults to the genitals and their context and consequences. Telephone survey with follow-up interview 1

year later, representative of the general population of the United States living in households with telephones. A random sample of 1042 boys and 958 girls aged 10 through 16 years was drawn. A nonsexual assault to the genitals was experienced by 9.2% of the boys and 1.0% of the girls in the year prior to the initial interview and 9.1% of the boys and 2.2% of the girls in the year prior to the follow-up interview. Among the boys, about a quarter of the assaults involved some injury, but only one in 50 needed medical attention. The most common assailants were same-aged peers. The assaults occurred in a variety of contexts including gang attacks, peer fighting, bullying, and some situations in which girls retaliated against the genitals of harassing boys. Boy victims of nonsexual genital assault had significantly higher levels of posttraumatic and depression symptomatology than boys without such assaults. This study concludes that nonsexual genital violence needs additional clinical and research attention. Youth should be educated about its possible consequences. Clinicians should ask about nonsexual genital violence when taking a history, particularly with youth who have experienced other kinds of assaults.

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV12.pdf>

Williams, L.M., & Finkelhor, D. (1995). Paternal caregiving and incest: Test of a biosocial model. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 65(1), 101-113.

Explored the existence of a biosocial mechanism for inhibiting incest through early caretaking contact in a comparison between 118 incestuous fathers and a nonincestuous control sample (116 Ss). Ss were interviewed on variables that included paternal involvement, marital dissatisfaction, and severe parental abuse in childhood. Low involvement in caretaking was found to be a risk factor for incest, even after controlling for other predisposing conditions. However, it appeared that caretaking has its effect by enhancing more general parental feelings and capacities, rather than by inhibiting a father's sexual interest in the daughter, as proposed in the original biosocial theory.

Plass, P.S., Finkelhor, D., & Hotaling, G.T. (1995). Police response to family abduction episodes. *Crime & Delinquency*, 41(2), 205-218.

Determined the nature of police response to the abduction of children by family members in custody disputes. A telephone survey was conducted with caretakers in 10,367 households who reported on the experiences of 20,505 children (aged 17 yrs or younger). 104 broad-scope family

abduction episodes involving 142 children were identified; the police were contacted in almost 40% of the cases. The decision to contact police was based primarily on logical assessment of the characteristics of the episode and not on extrinsic characteristics of the participants. Although police generally appeared to respond with appropriate measures, most Ss were not satisfied with police response. Police intervention had no significant effect on the duration of abduction episodes, and it was not clear whether police contact was independently associated with greater risk of harm or whether it was unrelated to the likelihood of harm.

Dziuba-Leatherman, J., & Finkelhor, D. (1994). How does receiving information about sexual abuse influence boys' perceptions of their risk? *Child Abuse & Neglect, 18*(7), 557-568.

Tested the influence of 2 common sources of information on 44 boys' (aged 10-16 yrs) perceptions of their risk for sexual abuse. Exposure to prevention education programs was associated with a lower perceived likelihood of being sexually abused, and discussion of child sexual abuse with parents was associated with a higher perceived likelihood. The authors suggest that the information provided in prevention education programs emphasizes controllability of sexual abuse to a greater extent than do discussions with parents, so that boys exposed to these programs see their risk as reduced.

Finkelhor, D. (1994). Current information on the scope and nature of child sexual abuse. *Future of Children, 4*(2), 31-53.

Summarizes data from 19 surveys of adults regarding their experiences of sexual abuse as children. Considerable evidence exists to show that at least 20% of American women and 5% to 10% of American men experienced some form of sexual abuse as children. The rates are somewhat lower among people born before World War II, but there is little evidence of a dramatic increase for recent generations. The studies provide little evidence that race or socioeconomic circumstances are major risk factors. They do show elevated risk for children who experienced parental inadequacy, unavailability, conflict, harsh punishment, and emotional deprivation. Most sexual abuse was committed by men (90%) and by persons known to the child (70% to 90%), with family members constituting one-third to one-half of the perpetrators against girls and 10% to 20% of the perpetrators against boys. Studies of the criminal justice processing of sexual abusers suggest that, compared with other violent criminals, slightly fewer are prosecuted, but of those prosecuted,



slightly more are convicted. Overall, there is little evidence to suggest that either the child welfare system or the criminal justice system abandons its usual standards of operation and acts hysterically when confronted with sexual abuse. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/V575.pdf>

Finkelhor, D. (1994). The international epidemiology of child sexual abuse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 18(5), 409-417.

Reviewed 21 epidemiological studies on child abuse to examine the nature of sexual abuse from an international perspective and to examine the state of comparative research on abuse. Surveys of child sexual abuse in large nonclinical populations of adults have been conducted in at least 19 countries in addition to the US and Canada, including 10 national probability samples. All studies found abuse rates in line with comparable North American research, ranging from 7% to 36% for women and from 3% to 29% for men. Most studies found women to be abused at 1.5 to 3 times the rate for men. All studies that examined the long-term effects of abuse found a history of sexual abuse to be associated with adult mental-health impairments. Although few comparisons among countries are possible because of methodological and definitional differences, data confirm sexual abuse to be an international problem.

Finkelhor, D., & Dzuiba-Leatherman, J. (1994). Victimization of children. *American Psychologist*, 49(3), 173-183.

Children suffer more victimizations than do adults, including more conventional crimes, more family violence, and some forms virtually unique to children, such as family abduction. On the basis of national statistics, these victimizations can be grouped into 3 broad categories: the pandemic, such as sibling assault, affecting most children; the acute, such as physical abuse, affecting a fractional but significant percentage; and the extraordinary, such as homicide, affecting a very small group. They can also be differentiated by the degree to which they result from the unique dependency status of children. A field called the victimology of childhood should be defined that adopts a developmental approach to understanding children's vulnerability to different types of victimizations and their different effects. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/hold.CV1.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Dziuba-Leatherman, J. (1994). Children as victims of violence: A national survey. *Pediatrics*, 94(4), 413-420.

The goal of this study was to gain a more comprehensive perspective on the scope, variety, and consequences of child victimization, which has been obscured by a fragmentation into specific problems like sexual abuse or kidnapping. Two thousand children aged 10 to 16 years were interviewed in a national telephone survey of children. In the previous year, a quarter of the children had experienced a completed victimization, one in eight had experienced an injury, and one in a hundred required medical attention as a result. Nonfamily physical assaults were the most numerous. Contact sexual abuse occurred to 3.2% of girls and 0.6% of boys. There were also substantial numbers of incidents of attempted kidnappings and violence directed to children's genitals. The victimization of children occurs to a greater extent than has been previously reported and is poorly represented in official statistics. The authors argue for a more comprehensive interest in children's victimization including better national statistics about the problem.  
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV4.pdf>

Finkelhor, D. (1993). Epidemiological factors in the clinical identification of child sexual abuse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 17(1), 67-70.

The main finding from epidemiological literature on child sexual abuse is that no identifiable demographic or family characteristics of a child may be used to exclude the possibility that a child has been sexually abused. Some characteristics are associated with greater risk: girls more than boys, preadolescents and early adolescents, having a stepfather, living without a natural parent, having an impaired mother, poor parenting, or witnessing family conflict. Class and ethnicity appear not to be associated with risk. In any case, none of these factors bear a strong enough relationship to the occurrence of abuse that their presence could play a confirming or disconfirming role in the identification of actual cases.

Kendall-Tackett, K.A., Williams, L.M., & Finkelhor, D. (1993). Impact of sexual abuse on children: A review and synthesis of recent empirical studies. *Psychological Bulletin*, 113(1), 164-180.

A review of 45 studies clearly demonstrates that sexually abused children have more symptoms than nonabused children, with abuse accounting for 15-45% of the variance. Fears, posttraumatic

stress disorder (PTSD), behavior problems, sexualized behaviors, and poor self-esteem occurred most frequently among a long list of symptoms noted, but no one symptom characterized a majority of sexually abused children. Some symptoms were specific to certain ages, and approximately one-third of victims had no symptoms. Penetration, the duration and frequency of the abuse, force, the relationship of the perpetrator to the child, and maternal support affected the degree of symptomatology. About two-thirds of the victimized children showed recovery during the 1st 12-28 mo. The findings suggest the absence of any specific syndrome in children who have been sexually abused and no single traumatizing process. <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/VS69.pdf>

Donnelly, D., & Finkelhor, D. (1992). Does equality in custody arrangement improve the parent-child relationship? *Journal of Marriage & the Family*, 54(4), 837-845.

The purpose of this paper was to examine whether parent-child relations are affected by custody type, and if so, to evaluate the relative effects of sole and joint custody on these relationships. It was expected that children in joint custody arrangements would have better relationships with their parents than those in sole custody arrangements. It was also expected, however, that regardless of custody type, a high level of parental disagreement would be correlated with poorer parent-child relations. In a nationally representative sample of children whose parents were divorced, separated, or unmarried, no evidence was found to support the idea that children in shared custody have less conflictual or better relationships with their parents. Children in sole custody households actually gave their parents more support than those in shared custody, but this may be because they feared losing their remaining parent. It was also found that when parents had high levels of disagreement with each other (regardless of type of custody), they also had more disagreements with their children. These results suggest that proponents of shared custody cannot assume a simple relationship between this type of custody arrangement and better parent-child relationships.

Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G.T., & Sedlak, A.J. (1992). The abduction of children by strangers and nonfamily members: Estimating the incidence using multiple methods. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 7(2), 226-243.

Used 3 approaches to estimate the incidence of nonfamily abductions of children for 1988: a national survey of households with children, a national survey of police records, and an analysis

of FBI homicide data. Estimates were derived for 3 differently defined types of events: stereotypical kidnappings, in which a stranger perpetrator took a child overnight, or a distance of 50 miles or more, or killed, ransomed, or evidenced an intent to keep the child permanently (200-300 children); legal-definition nonfamily abductions, in which a stranger or other nonfamily member took, detained, or lured a child, often in conjunction with another crime such as sexual assault (3,200-4,600 children); and attempted abduction, in which an unsuccessful attempt was made to take, detain, or lure a child (114,600 children). <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/MC4.pdf>

Finkelhor, D., & Strapko, N (1992). Sexual abuse prevention education: A review of evaluation studies. In: Willis, Diane J., Holden, E. Wayne, et al., eds. *Prevention of Child Maltreatment: Developmental and Ecological Perspectives*. Oxford, England: John Wiley & Sons, 150-167.

Reviews the evaluation studies on educational programs for sexual abuse prevention.

Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G.T., & Sedlak, A.J. (1991). Children abducted by family members: A national household survey of incidence and episode characteristics. *Journal of Marriage & the Family*, 53(3), 805-817.

Reports on the results of a national survey of 10,544 households containing 20,505 children as part of the National Incidence Study of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrown-away Children. On the basis of the survey, and using a broad, legal definition of abduction that includes many short-term violations of custody arrangements, the authors estimated that, in 1988, approximately 354,100 children were abducted by a family member. Using a more restrictive definition that is closer to the popular stereotype (i.e., a situation where there is concealment, transportation to another state, or an intent to keep the child or to permanently alter custodial privileges) they estimated that there were 163,200 family-abducted children. <http://unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/MC3.pdf>

Finkelhor, D. (1991). Commentary on "The universality of incest." *Journal of Psychohistory*, 19(2), 218.

Asserts that L. DeMause's article is actually discussing the universality of sexual maltreatment of children, not incest. Within the larger category of sexual maltreatment, 3 forms with differing psychological dynamics and effects on children are distinguished: the sexual exploitation of children, the mortification of children's sexuality, and the eroticization of children.

Finkelhor, D. (1991). The lazy revolutionary's guide to the prospects for reforming child welfare. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 15*(1), 17-23.

Examines trends likely to impact upon child welfare programs and services over the next 20 yrs. Demographic trends are seen as having a favorable impact, as there likely will be fewer unwanted children and a consequent reduction in the number of abused children. Improved biotechnology and medical care will mean fewer children with developmental disabilities and better treatment for them. As women assume higher positions within institutions and professions, there will be more of a focus on children's concerns; social work and teaching may also attain a higher status. Negative trends include divorce/family break-ups, poverty, federal budget problems, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Finkelhor, D., & Zellman, G.L. (1991). Flexible reporting options for skilled child abuse professionals. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 15*(4), 335-341.

Outlines a plan to improve the child protection system by extending new reporting options to some mandated reporters. "Flexible reporting options" are created for certain skilled child abuse professionals (e.g., defer the report until later, make the report in confidence). An important goal of this proposal is to improve the relationship between frequent mandated reporters and child protective staff. Potential benefits and drawbacks of this system are discussed.

Finkelhor, D. (1990). "Objectivity and ideology: Criticism of Theo Sandfort's research on man-boy sexual relations": Response. *Journal of Homosexuality, 20*(1-2), 313-315.

Responds to comments by R. Bauserman (see record 1991-18694-001) concerning D. Finkelhor's (1984) criticisms of T. Sandfort's (1982) study of boys who reported positive experiences in sexual relationships with men. It is reiterated that most research shows that most children feel victimized as a result of sexual relations with adults.

Finkelhor, D. (1990). Early and long-term effects of child sexual abuse: An update. *Professional Psychology: Research & Practice, 21*(5), 325-330.

New research on the impact of child sexual abuse generally confirms the conclusions of an earlier review article by A. Browne and D. Finkelhor (see record 1986-14683-001) and extends findings into a few new areas. For example, more studies are now available concerning the impact of abuse on boys, but they have not found consistent gender differences. Some longitudinal studies have also been completed; they show a decline in symptomatology in the months following disclosure. Two areas of controversy are also prominent. One concerns how to explain the relatively substantial percentages of sexually abused children in most studies who have no symptoms on current diagnostic measures. The second concerns whether posttraumatic stress disorder is a useful conceptual framework for understanding the findings on the impact of sexual abuse.

Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G.T., Lewis, I. A., & Smith, C. (1990). Sexual abuse in a national survey of adult men and women: Prevalence, characteristics, and risk factors. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 14*(1), 19-28.

Surveyed 1,145 males and 1,481 females (aged 18+ yrs) regarding their histories of childhood sexual abuse. Victimization was reported by 27% of females and 16% of males. The median age of abuse was 9.9 years for males and 9.6 yrs for females. Males were more likely to be abused by strangers, while females were more likely to be abused by family members. Both males and females reported that most of their abuse was perpetrated by men. Higher rates of abuse were found among males who grew up in unhappy families, lived for some period with only their mothers, who were currently residing in the western US, and who came from English or Scandinavian heritage. Higher rates of abuse were found among females who grew up in unhappy families, lived for some period without 1 of their natural parents, received inadequate sex education, were currently residing in the western US, or who were born after 1925.

Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G., & Sedlak, A. (1990). *Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children in America. First Report: Numbers and Characteristics, National Incidence Studies*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP, 377 pp.

Williams, L.M., & Finkelhor, D. (1990). The characteristics of incestuous fathers: A review of recent studies. In: Marshall, William L., Laws, D. R., et al, eds. *Handbook of Sexual Assault: Issues, Theories, and Treatment of the Offender*. New York, NY: Plenum Press, 231-255.

Examined studies of incestuous fathers that had been completed in the 10 years starting in 1978. Limited ourselves to studies which attempted to quantify characteristics and which used for comparison either a control group or statistical norms from widely used psychological measures. Altogether we identified 29 studies that met these criteria. The context of incestuous: abuse childhood experiences, childhood abuse, poor relationship with parents, other family problems. Psychological characteristics, psychiatric disturbances, personality disturbances, passivity-inadequacy-dependence, dominance-aggression-abusiveness, paranoia, mood disturbances, cognitive disturbances, sexual arousal to children, sexual problems with adults, sex role and masculinity. Family and social relations: marital quality, family disorganization, substance abuse, empathy and bonding, social isolation and ineptitude.

Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G.T., Lewis, I.A., & Smith, C. (1989). Sexual abuse and its relationship to later sexual satisfaction, marital status, religion, and attitudes. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 4(4), 379-399.

In a nationally representative survey of 2,626 adults, Ss who were victims of childhood sexual abuse (CSAVs) involving penetration were more likely to report a disrupted marriage, dissatisfaction in their sexual relationship, and a tendency to be a religious nonpractitioner. CSAVs were also more likely to have read or talked about the problem recently and tended to see it as a more common occurrence than non-CSAVs. These findings are generally consistent with other studies on the long-term impact of abuse (e.g., J. Briere and M. Runtz, and D. Finkelhor and A. Browne; see PA, Vols 76:1766 and 73:9375, respectively) and add to the sense of abuse as a social problem with social and psychological ramifications.

Pillemar, K., & Finkelhor, D. (1989). Causes of elder abuse: Caregiver stress versus problem relatives. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 59(2), 179-187.

Surveyed 46 elderly abuse victims and 215 elderly controls (all aged 65+ yrs) from a large metropolitan area to examine whether elderly abuse results from the burden and stress placed on

those caring for infirm and dependent elderly people. A small but significant percentage of the elderly were found to be abuse victims, and spouses were more likely to be abusers than were adult children. Findings are consistent with a general trend in family violence research that has found abuser characteristics to be more powerful predictors than victim characteristics. Elder abuse may result from the deviance and dependence of the abusers, not from the increased needs of victims.

Browne, A., & Finkelhor, D. (1988). Impact of child sexual abuse: A review of the research. In: Chess, Stella, Thomas, Alexander, et al., eds. *Annual Progress in Child Psychiatry and Child Development, 1987*. Philadelphia, PA: Brunner/Mazel, Inc., 555-584.

This reprinted article originally appeared in *Psychological Bulletin*, 1986, Vol 99[1], 66-77. Reviews studies that have tried to empirically confirm the effects of child sexual abuse cited in the clinical literature. In regard to initial effects, empirical studies have indicated reactions--in at least some portion of the victim population--of fear, anxiety, depression, anger and hostility, aggression, and sexually inappropriate behavior. Frequently reported long-term effects include depression and self-destructive behavior, anxiety, feelings of isolation and stigma, poor self-esteem, difficulty in trusting others, a tendency toward revictimization, substance abuse, and sexual maladjustment. The kinds of abuse that appear to be most damaging are experiences involving father figures, genital contact, and force. The effects of duration and frequency of abuse, age at onset, the child's reporting of the offense, parental reaction, and institutional response are also considered. The controversy over the impact of child sexual abuse is discussed.

Finkelhor, D., & Lewis, I.A. (1988). An epidemiologic approach to the study of child molestation. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 528, 64-78.

Used a randomized response technique (RRT) to attempt to determine the percentage of undetected child molesters. Two random samples of 647 males and 588 males who responded to the RRT indicated molester rates of 17% and 4%, respectively. Discussion and revision of these rates led to the conclusion that approximately 5% of the male population has committed a molestation based on the assumption that 22% of all children are victimized. Three aspects of masculine socialization that might be associated with child sexual abuse are discussed: the oversexualization of needs, sexualization of subordination, and an empathy-with-children deficiency.



Finkelhor, D., & Korbin, J. (1988). Child abuse as an international issue. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 12(1), 3-23.

Provides a background and suggests a strategy for an international approach to policy development concerning child abuse. The author argues for a 2-pronged international strategy that urges individual countries to make a priority of the particular types of abuse that are in most urgent need of attention in their society and to participate at the same time in a concerted international focus on 3 widely occurring forms of child abuse: parental child battering, selective neglect, and sexual abuse.

Finkelhor, D., Williams, L.M., Burns, N., & Kalinowski, M. (1988). *Nursery Crimes: Sexual Abuse in Day Care*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 272 p

In an effort to sort out the reality from the controversies and anxiety, the Family Research Laboratory, with funding from the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, undertook a two-year nationwide investigation of sexual abuse in day care. The study was intended to answer a broad range of questions about the problem, looking not just at the sensational and controversial cases, but "ordinary" cases as well--cases that were handled in a routine and unremarkable fashion. This book reports that study. The book addresses issues related to the incidence of the problem and whether day care is a high-risk environment for children (Chapter 1). It describes the perpetrators of this abuse, and tries to evaluate various strategies for screening them from access to children (Chapter 2). The book also describes the victims and the dynamics of abuse (Chapters 3 and 4) and the characteristics of facilities (Chapter 7), all with an eye toward finding vulnerabilities that might be better protected. The process of detection and disclosure is examined carefully (Chapter 5) for ideas about how to promote more, better, and earlier reports. The impact on the children is examined for help in working with victims in the aftermath (Chapter 6). The study also looked into the social and professional response to cases of abuse. Chapter 8 describes the types of investigations that occurred, the kinds of problems encountered by investigators, and the relative effectiveness of different approaches. Chapter 9 details the types of actions taken by licensing and law-enforcement agencies, trying to evaluate whether the response was effective and appropriate. Finally, Chapter 10 discusses the kind of impact that cases had on the communities where they occurred, an impact that in some cases was profound and long-lasting. All in all, the report touches on many facets of the problem.

Finkelhor, D., Hotaling, G., & Yllo, K. (1988). *Stopping Family Violence: Research Priorities for the Coming Decade*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Research in the area of family violence has shown unprecedented growth during the past decade. Recognizing this fact, three leading authorities conducted extensive surveys of family violence research in the field in order to improve the quality of that research, its relevance to understanding causes and--especially--prevention. The research proposals outlined this practical, authoritative volume were selected for their urgency to the field, with special attention to physical child abuse, child sexual abuse, and spousal violence. Each proposal is presented with sufficient detail to provide researchers with a clear idea of the methodologies involved, cost estimates, degree of difficulty, and time requirements. The first book of its kind, "Stopping Family Violence" sets agendas for the next generation of research--and is sure to attract new researchers to the field. Researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and advanced students in all fields of the social sciences concerned with domestic violence will find this volume an invaluable resource--it is their roadmap for meeting the urgent and growing research needs in family violence.

Finkelhor, D. (1988). The trauma of child sexual abuse: Two models. In: Wyatt, Gail Elizabeth and Powell, Gloria Johnson, eds. *Lasting Effects of Child Sexual Abuse*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., pp. 61-82.

Discusses sexual abuse and post-traumatic stress: the problems with the PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] formulation, differences in emphases, victims without PTSD, theoretical problems. Then discusses four traumagenic dynamics of sexual abuse (traumatic sexualization, betrayal, stigmatization, powerlessness) and the effects associated with each dynamic.

Finkelhor, D., & Browne, A. (1988). Assessing the long-term impact of child sexual abuse: A review and conceptualization. In: Hotaling, Gerald T., Finkelhor, David, et al., eds. *Family Abuse and Its Consequences: New Directions in Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., pp. 270-284.

Reviews the status of empirical research findings concerning the long-term effects of child sexual abuse and suggest a framework that might be applied for future research investigation and clinical assessment. Discusses the impact of different types of abuse, traumagenic dynamics, and implementing the model.

Finkelhor, D., & Pillemer, K. (1988). Elder abuse: Its relationship to other forms of domestic violence. In: Hotaling, Gerald T., Finkelhor, David, et al., eds. *Family Abuse and Its Consequences: New Directions in Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., pp. 244-254.

This chapter discusses physical abuse in domestic settings, with elder abuse as a special category of abuse. It considers elder abuse and other domestic violence by comparison and contrast with child abuse and with spouse abuse.

Finkelhor, D., & Lewis, I.A. (1988). An epidemiologic approach to the study of child molestation. In: Prentky, Robert A. and Quinsey, Vernon L., eds. *Human Sexual Aggression: Current Perspectives*. New York: New York Academy of Sciences. pp. 64-78.

In this paper, we will begin to delineate more of the elements of an epidemiologic and social psychological approach to the problem of child molesting. We will try to show that it may be indeed feasible to look at child molesting in this way. We will present a study that illustrates how feasible it may be to gather data on undetected molesters using an epidemiologic approach. We will discuss some possible social-psychological concepts that could be applied to child molestation, focusing particularly on its relationship to normal male socialization. A national survey of child sexual abusers -- this study reports on an attempt to identify child molesters in the general population using self-reports with the Randomized Response Technique (RRT). Works toward a social psychology of child molesting: oversexualization of needs, sexualization of subordination, empathy-with-children deficiency.

Finkelhor, D., & Yllo, K. (1988). Rape in marriage. In: Straus, Martha B., ed. *Abuse and Victimization Across the Life Span*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 140-152.

The prevalence of marital rape is discussed. Wives avoid the label of rape. The chapter considers the varieties of coercion, with a focus on physical force. Identifies three types of marital rape: typical "battered women," "force-only" rape, and bizarre sexual obsessions. The chapter also considers the trauma of marital rape and public attitudes about marital rape. This review of current information about marital rape and our findings regarding wives' forced sex experiences are a first step toward a full understanding of this social problem.

Finkelhor, D., & Browne, A. (1988). Assessing the long-term impact of child sexual abuse: A review and conceptualization. In: Walker, Lenore E. Auerbach, ed. *Handbook on Sexual Abuse of Children: Assessment and Treatment Issues*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Co., pp. 55-71.

Reviews the status of empirical research findings concerning the long-term effects of child sexual abuse and suggest a framework that might be applied for future research investigation and clinical assessment. Discusses the impact of different types of abuse, traumagenic dynamics, and implementing the model.

Hotaling, G.T., & Finkelhor, D. (1988). *The Sexual Exploitation of Missing Children: A Research Review*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. 48 p.

This review based upon empirical research findings examines the prevalence, dynamics, and short- and long-term effects of sexual exploitation of missing children. Three categories of missing children are studied: runaways, the largest group of missing children; victims of parental kidnapping; and victims of family abductions. Between 11 and 23 percent of runaways become involved in prostitution; once involved in prostitution, runaways are more vulnerable to rape and pornography. Runaways at the most risk of engaging in prostitution are those who leave home frequently and longer each time, those with a history of serious sexual abuse, those from dysfunctional families, and males who describe themselves as homosexual or bisexual. There is no evidence that victims of parental abduction are at greater risk of sexual exploitation than children in the general population. Sexual abuse sometimes accompanies nonfamily abductions, but public fears may have exaggerated this connection; when sexual abuse does occur during nonfamily abduction, the effects on these children are probably quite severe and long lasting, with the presence of many symptoms more than 4 years later.  
<http://www.eric.ed.gov/PDFS/ED312582.pdf>

Hotaling, G.T., Finkelhor, D., Kirkpatrick, D.T., & Straus, M.A., eds, (1988). *Coping with Family Violence: Research and Policy Perspectives*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 323 p.

This book grew out of the Second National Conference for Family Violence Research held at the University of New Hampshire. It represents what can happen when academic researchers, service

providers, and policymakers come together to work on a common problem. The 21 chapters making up this volume address issues that are in need of answers in order to understand, treat, and ultimately prevent family violence and abuse.

Hotaling, G.T., Finkelhor, D., Kirkpatrick, D.T., & Straus, M.A., eds (1988). *Family Abuse and Its Consequences: New Directions in Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. 318 p.

Each year the amount of research on forms of family violence and abuse seems to grow geometrically. This collection of articles represents another forum for this research and contains some of the newest research on the prevalence, risk factors, and consequences of family violence and abuse. The chapters in this volume have been organized into the three major areas of physical child abuse, dating abuse, and elder abuse. Also, the chapters in this volume point to a number of emerging strengths in the research on all forms of violence and abuse. Fully 75 percent of the empirical chapters in this volume use a case control or multiple case control design.

Pillemer, K., & Finkelhor, D. (1988). The prevalence of elder abuse: A random sample survey. *Gerontologist*, 28(1), 51-57.

Interviewed 2,020 elderly persons (aged 65+ yrs) living in the community to assess their experience of physical violence, verbal aggression, and neglect. Physical violence was the most widespread form of maltreatment, and the prevalence rate of overall maltreatment was 32 Ss per 1000. Spouses were found to be the most likely abusers and roughly equal numbers of men and women were victims, although women suffered more serious abuse. Results indicate that service providers and the elderly themselves should be educated about spouse abuse.

Finkelhor, D. (1987). The trauma of child sexual abuse: Two models. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 2(4), 348-366.

Examines 2 models of the traumatic impact of child sexual abuse, the posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) model and the four traumagenic dynamics model (FTDM) developed by the 1st author and A. Browne. It is argued that the PTSD model has 3 major problems when applied to sexual abuse: It fails to account for all the symptoms; it does not apply to all victims; and its explanation

for the source of trauma does not fit with many types of sexual abuse. The FTDM is more complex and accounts for more of the variety of effects. It posits 4 dynamics--traumatic sexualization, betrayal, stigmatization, and powerlessness--that cause trauma by distorting a child's self-concept, world/view, and affective capacities. The 4 dynamics are described and are matched with specific symptoms that have been noted in the literature.

Finkelhor, D. (1987). The sexual abuse of children: Current research reviewed. *Psychiatric Annals*, 17(3), 233-241.

Discusses child sexual abuse (CSA) said to occur (1) within the context of a relationship where it is deemed exploitative by virtue of an age difference or caretaking relationship and (2) as a result of threat or force. Statistics are cited to show the incidence of CSA by family members (e.g., parents, stepparent/s), teacher, baby sitter, or other older adults, known or unknown. Five high risk factors for CSA are highlighted (e.g., a child who is living without one of the biological parents). Intervention strategies for victims of CSA are provided. The view is expressed that CSA creates a significant risk for immediate and longterm mental health impairments.

Browne, A., & Finkelhor, D. (1986). Impact of child sexual abuse: A review of the research. *Psychological Bulletin*, 99(1), 66-77.

Reviews studies that have tried to empirically confirm the effects of child sexual abuse cited in the clinical literature. In regard to initial effects, empirical studies have indicated reactions--in at least some portion of the victim population--of fear, anxiety, depression, anger and hostility, aggression, and sexually inappropriate behavior. Frequently reported long-term effects include depression and self-destructive behavior, anxiety, feelings of isolation and stigma, poor self-esteem, difficulty in trusting others, a tendency toward revictimization, substance abuse, and sexual maladjustment. The kinds of abuse that appear to be most damaging are experiences involving father figures, genital contact, and force. The effects of duration and frequency of abuse, age at onset, the child's reporting of the offense, parental reaction, and institutional. The controversy over the impact of child sexual abuse is discussed.

Finkelhor, D., & Baron, L. (1986). Risk factors for child sexual abuse. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 1*(1), 43-71.

Reviews a number of surveys that provide information about the relative risk of persons from various backgrounds who experienced sexual abuse during childhood. Differences in rates according to social class or race have not been found. However, community studies show that a child is at higher risk for abuse when (a) the child lives without one of the biological parents, (b) the mother is unavailable to the child either as a result of employment or disability and illness, (c) the child reports that the parents' marriage is unhappy or conflictual, (d) the child reports having a poor relationship with the parents or being subject to extremely punitive discipline or child abuse, and (e) the child reports having a stepfather. Implications from these findings and recommendations for ways to improve subsequent studies of risk factors are discussed.

Finkelhor, D. (1986). Sexual abuse: Beyond the family systems approach. *Journal of Psychotherapy & the Family, 2*(2), 53-65.

Discusses the contributions and limitations of family systems theory to the understanding and *treatment of sexual abuse (SA) and presents an expanded model of SA. Limitations of the family systems approach include the following: the restricted scope of family systems analysis, the strict distinction between intrafamily and extrafamily SA, the inadequacy of its accounts of the sources of offender behavior, and value judgments inherent in some family systems analyses. The expanded model describes 4 preconditions of SA: (1) The potential offender (POF) needs to have some motivation to sexually abuse a child; (2) the POF has to overcome internal inhibitions against acting on that motivation; (3) the POF needs to overcome external inhibitions against acting on that motivation; and (4) the POF or some other factor has to undermine or overcome the child's resistance to SA.*

Finkelhor, D., & Araji, S. (1986). Explanations of pedophilia: A four factor model. *Journal of Sex Research, 22*(2), 145-161.

Theories of why adults become sexually interested in and involved with children all explain 1 of 4 factors: (1) emotional congruence--why the adult has an emotional need to relate to a child; (2) sexual arousal--why the adult is aroused by a child; (3) blockage--why alternative sources of sexual and emotional gratification are not available; or (4) disinhibition--why the adult is not deterred by

normal prohibitions. It is suggested that these 4 factors can be combined to explain more of the diversity in pedophilic behavior than is usually explained by single factor theories. Also introduced is the idea of viewing types of pedophilia on a continuum rather than in the traditional way of treating them as dichotomies.

Finkelhor, D. (1986). Prevention approaches to child sexual abuse. In: Lystad, Mary, ed. *Violence in the Home: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Philadelphia: Brunner/Mazel, Inc., pp. 296-308.

Reviews educational programs designed to prevent child sexual abuse. Some current prevention programs are aimed at parents. Mentions special populations of children who need special approaches, particularly children who are handicapped or who have already suffered victimization. Identifies the organizational concerns that inhibit community education for children and their parents.

Finkelhor, D., & Browne, A. (1986). Initial and long-term effects: A conceptual framework. In: Finkelhor, David; Araji, Sharon; Baron, Larry; Browne, Angela; Peters, Stefanie Doyle; Wyatt, Gail Elizabeth. *A Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. pp. 180-196.

This chapter discusses the four traumagenic factors associated with child sexual abuse -- traumatic sexualization, betrayal, powerlessness and stigmatization -- in terms of their dynamics, psychological impact and behavioral manifestations. The implications of the traumagenic model for intervention as well as research are included in the discussion.

Finkelhor, D., & Browne, A. (1986). The traumatic impact of child sexual abuse: A conceptualization. In: Chess, Stella and Thomas, Alexander, eds. *Annual Progress in Child Psychiatry and Child Development, 1986*. Philadelphia, PA: Brunner/Mazel, Inc., pp. 632-648.

This reprinted article originally appeared in *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 1985, Vol 55[4], 530-541. Proposes a framework for a more systematic understanding of the effects of child sexual abuse. Four traumagenic dynamics (traumatic sexualization, betrayal, stigmatization, and powerlessness) are identified as the core of the psychological injury inflicted by abuse. These



dynamics can be used to make assessments of victimized children and to anticipate problems to which these children may be subsequently vulnerable.

Finkelhor, D., Araji, S., Baron, L., Browne, A., Peters, S. D. & Wyatt, G. E. *A Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse*. Thousand Oaks, CA, US: Sage Publications, Inc (1986). 276 p.

Araji, S., & Finkelhor, D. (1985). Explanations of pedophilia: Review of empirical research. *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry & the Law*, 31(1), 17-37.

Reviews the research concerning theories of pedophilia, including all those that make some effort to quantify offender characteristics. The theories fall into 4 basic categories: (1) emotional congruence (why an adult has an emotional need to relate to a child), (2) sexual arousal, (3) blockage (why alternative sources of gratification are not available), and (4) disinhibition (why an adult is not deterred from such interest by normal inhibitions). This review indicates that pedophiles do show a pattern of sexual arousal toward children, and they are blocked in their social and heterosexual relationships. The use of alcohol is well-established as a disinhibiting factor. Children may have some meaning for pedophiles because of their lack of dominance. There is also evidence that many pedophiles were themselves victims of such behavior as children.

Finkelhor, D., & Browne, A. (1985). The traumatic impact of child sexual abuse: A conceptualization. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 55(4), 530-541.

Proposes a framework for a more systematic understanding of the effects of child sexual abuse. Four traumagenic dynamics--traumatic sexualization, betrayal, stigmatization, and powerlessness--are identified as the core of the psychological injury inflicted by abuse. These dynamics can be used to make assessments of victimized children and to anticipate problems to which these children may be subsequently vulnerable.

Finkelhor, D., & Yllo, K. (1985). *License to Rape: Sexual Abuse of Wives*. New York: Free Press.

"License to Rape" explores the patterns of sexual coercion, the motives of husbands who rape, and the emotional aftermath for their wives. Filled with the testimony of victims and victimizers, it challenges the myths about rape in marriage--including the notion that marital rape only happens

to battered wives--and describes its shocking reality. Offering hope, the authors suggest short and long-term measures to end this degrading experience for women, such as criminalizing this brutal act nationwide, intensifying media exposure, and increasing the number of self-help groups and social service agencies.

Giles-Sims, J., & Finkelhor, D. (1984). Child abuse in stepfamilies. *Family Relations: Journal of Applied Family & Child Studies*, 33(3), 407-413.

Examines the evidence and theory related to the idea that children are at increased risk of abuse at the hands of stepparents. Although evidence from reported cases suggests that stepparents are overrepresented among abusers, the available data are inadequate to determine the nature of the relationship between the stepfamily structure and child abuse. Five theories that can or have been used to explain this presumed relationship are evaluated: social-evolutionary, normative, stress, selection, and resource theory.

Finkelhor, D. (1984). *Child Sexual Abuse: New Theory and Research*. New York: Free Press, 260 p.

Finkelhor, D., & Hotaling, G.T. (1984). Sexual abuse in the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect: An appraisal. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 8(1), 23-32.

The National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect was a major, government-sponsored effort to collect data on reported and unreported child abuse. It used a systematic representative sample methodology and precisely developed definitions of child abuse. Some of the main limitations of the study are reviewed with regard to findings on sexual abuse. First, there is probably less new data in the study on sexual abuse than on other forms of abuse, since so many of the study cases of sexual abuse were officially reported cases. In addition, the study limited its definition of sexual abuse only to cases where a caretaker was the perpetrator, a definition that is much more restrictive than what is used in many treatment programs. Finally, the data on perpetrators have a number of problems that stem from the study's definitions of sexual abuse. Suggestions for future studies of the incidence of sexual abuse and the definition of the term sexual abuse are presented.

Finkelhor, D. (1983). Removing the child-prosecuting the offender in cases of sexual abuse: Evidence from the national reporting system for child abuse and neglect. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 7(2), 195-205.

Analyzed data on all 6,096 cases of 1-18 yr old sexual abuse victims that were officially reported in 1978 to see what kinds of intervention were made. Data show that foster placement occurred in more cases of sexual abuse than physical abuse and was concentrated among cases of older Ss who reported their own victimization. Criminal action was taken almost 5 times more often in cases of sexual abuse than in cases of physical abuse, and it occurred more often among cases which were directly reported to police and involved offenders with prior criminal records. Black families and poorer families did not seem to be the objects of obvious discrimination in the disposition of these cases.

Finkelhor, D. (1983). Common features of family abuse. In: Finkelhor, David; Gelles, Richard J.; Hotaling, Gerald T.; Straus, Murray A., eds. *The Dark Side of Families: Current Family Violence Research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 17-28.

Finkelhor, D., & Yllo, K. (1983). Rape in marriage: A sociological view. In: Finkelhor, David; Gelles, Richard J.; Hotaling, Gerald T.; Straus, Murray A., eds. *The Dark Side of Families: Current Family Violence Research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 119-130.

Finkelhor, D., Gelles, R.J., Hotaling, G.T., & Straus, M.A., eds. (1983). *The Dark Side of Families: Current Family Violence Research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

Finkelhor, D., & Yllo, K. (1982). Forced sex in marriage: A preliminary research report. *Crime & Delinquency*, 28(3), 459-478.

There is increasing evidence that forced sex in marriage is a widespread social problem. The authors report some initial findings from a study of 20 victims of forced marital sex. Such incidents occurred both in generally violent and in violence-free relationships, often near their end. The offender's goal in many instances was to humiliate and retaliate against his wife, and the abuse often included anal intercourse. Summaries of the accounts of 8 of the victims are included to illustrate the range of experiences found in the sample.

Finkelhor, D. (1982). Sexual abuse: A sociological perspective. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 6(1), 95-102.

Suggests that sexual abuse needs to be viewed as a problem distinct from physical child abuse--characterized by the preponderance of offenders who are males. This involves searching for the sources of the problem in male sexual socialization rather than in problems of inadequate and disaffected parenting.

Finkelhor, D. (1981). *Sexually Victimized Children*. New York: Free Press.

Finkelhor, D. (1980). Sex among siblings: A survey on prevalence, variety, and effects. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 9(3), 171-194.

In a survey of 796 undergraduates, 15% of the females and 10% of the males reported sexual experience involving a sibling. Touching of the genitals was the most common activity. 25% of the experiences could be described as exploitative, and females were more likely than males to have been exploited. Positive and negative reactions to the experiences were equally divided. Few participants ever told anyone. Results indicate that such experience may have long-term effects on sexual development. Females who reported sibling sexual experiences had substantially higher levels of current sexual activity. Their level of sexual self-esteem may also have been affected, but more selectively: Those with positive sibling experiences after age 9 had more sexual self-esteem. However, experiences with much older siblings taking place before age 9 were associated with lower levels of self-esteem and no increase in current sexual activity.

Finkelhor, D. (1979). What's wrong with sex between adults and children? Ethics and the problem of sexual abuse. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 49(4), 692-697.

The belief that sex with adults causes harm to children is often offered as the most compelling argument against such relationships and is the basis for much current concern about sexual abuse. The present paper criticizes some of the more complacent arguments against sex between adults and children and argues for the importance of a stronger ethical position, less dependent on an empirical presumption that is not firmly established. It is suggested that basing the prohibition of

adult-child sex on the premise that children are incapable of full and informed consent will provide a more solid and consistent approach to the problem.

Finkelhor, D. (1978). Psychological, cultural and family factors in incest and family sexual abuse. *Journal of Marital & Family Therapy*, 4(4), 41-49.

Reviews clinical experience and research evidence about father-daughter incest and family sexual abuse and suggests 6 factors important in its etiology: (a) the personal characteristics of the offender, (b) the role of the mother, (c) a milieu of abandonment, (d) subcultural isolation, (e) poor family sexual boundaries, and (f) opportunity factors.