



RESEARCH BYTES



ISSUE 4

SHAPING PRACTICE: THROUGH THE LIFECOURSE

Volume 2: Fall 2021



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

Adulthood's myriad challenges are not news to our faculty. Kent School faculty have been busy addressing some of these challenges through their research. From understanding childhood experiences' impact on adult behavior to facing end-of-life decisions, learn about how our faculty are shaping practice through the lifecourse in their work to improve life for adults of all ages.

**"We Are Saving Their Bodies and Destroying Their Souls.":
Family Caregivers' Experiences of Formal Care Setting Visitation Restrictions
during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

W.A. Nash, L.M. Harris, K.E. Heller, & B.D. Mitchell

Journal of Aging & Social Policy 33(4-5) | DOI: 10.1080/08959420.2021.1962164

This study aims to explore the experiences of family caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic-imposed visitation restrictions at formal care settings (FCS) such as assisted living centers and traditional nursing homes. Participants (N = 512) were recruited from an international caregiving social media site that was developed at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Descriptive data was collected on the family caregivers, the care recipient and facility. Respondents also provided a single feeling word describing their experience and an open-ended question allowed for further exploration. The most common reported feeling words were sadness, trauma, anger, frustration (n = 56), helplessness (n = 50), and anxiety (n = 36). Thematic analysis revealed four overarching themes: 1) isolation 2) rapid decline 3) inhumane care and 4) lack of oversight. This study highlights the importance of addressing the mental, emotional and physical needs of both care recipient and family caregiver during this challenging time. Caregiver visitation policy reform that includes the care recipient and family caregiver is also discussed.

**The Effects of Child and Adult Victimization on Psychological Distress:
A Mediated Structural Equation Modeling Analysis**

A. Dishon-Brown, S. Golder, T. Renn, T. Logan, & G.E. Higgins

Violence Against Women 27(2) | DOI: 10.1177/1077801219885183

Justice-involved women experience significantly higher rates of victimization and psychological distress, and these experiences place women at greater risk of initial and ongoing involvement in the criminal justice system. This research explored the relationship between victimization, the hypothesized mediators (social support and coping), and psychological distress among victimized women on probation/parole. Coping was a significant mediator of IPV and psychological distress. Targeted treatment programs for sanctioned women should include interventions regarding coping skill development. Based upon the results of this research, implications and future research are explored regarding gender-responsive practices for this population.

"We should be recognized as essential caregivers and be allowed into our loved one's facility using the same safety precautions as staff to provide physical, emotional support . . . because isolation kills too."

Quote from participant in Nash et al. study

Gender-responsive policies are needed that target women's accessibility to resources via community corrections.

Dishon-Brown et al.

This study revealed a new finding for trauma studies: those with resolved trauma are more likely than those without resolved trauma to help others.

Prost et al.

Childhood Family Violence and Officer Responses to Officer-Involved Domestic Violence: Effects of Cumulative and Resolved Trauma

S.G. Prost, D.G. Saunders, & K. Oehme

International Journal of Police Science & Management 22(2) | DOI: 10.1177/1461355720907641

Law enforcement officers who witness or experience abuse in their family of origin are at higher risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and alcohol abuse. The purpose of this study was to examine how these childhood traumas, PTSD, and alcohol abuse affect officers' supportive responses to victims and perpetrators of officer-involved domestic violence (OIDV). We hypothesized that officers who witnessed or experienced family of origin violence would have higher levels of PTSD and abusive drinking than those without trauma. Furthermore, we hypothesized that officers with resolved trauma (i.e., no current PTSD or abusive drinking) would be more likely to support victims of OIDV than officers with unresolved trauma. Survey respondents were law enforcement officers ($n = 1661$) in police and sheriff's departments throughout the United States. Results partially supported the hypotheses regarding the separate and cumulative effects of witnessing family violence and experiencing child abuse. In addition, officers who endured these childhood traumas, but resolved these concerns reported a significantly greater average likelihood of helping an OIDV victim than those with unresolved trauma. Implications include the promotion of employee assistance programs and professional counselors to support officers with unresolved trauma, which may lead to improved responses to OIDV.

Integration of Faith and Spirituality in Social Work Education: A Systematic Review of Evidence in the Last 35 Years (1985-2020)

A.C.A. Adedoyin, S.E. Moore, R. Copeland, & O.O. Folaranmi

Social Work & Christianity 48(3) | DOI: 10.34043/swc.48i3.233

This study systematically synthesizes the conceptual understanding, guiding theological, or denominational orientations, and the most promising pedagogical models for integrating faith and spirituality into social work education curricula. Accordingly, we reviewed published peer-reviewed journals in the last 35 years (1985-2020). This systematic review answers three main research questions: 1) What is the array of conceptual definitions of faith and spirituality integration in social work education; 2) Are there theological, and or, denominational orientations influencing the definitions, and integration, of faith and spirituality in social work education? and; 3) What are the available pedagogical models for integrating faith and spirituality into social work education? Catholic, Evangelical, and Baptist schools/universities are more intentional than other denominations in integrating faith into social work curricula. A conclusion is presented with implications for pedagogy, research, and policy in Christian social work programs.

Access and Utilization of Compassionate Release in State Departments of Corrections

M. Holland, S.G. Prost, H. Hoffmann, & G. Dickinson

Mortality 26(1) | DOI: 10.1080/13576275.2020.1750357

Compassionate release (CR) is touted as an ethical and cost-effective mechanism for releasing older adults or individuals with life-limiting illness from prison and reducing prison overcrowding. However, little is known regarding the monitoring practices and the numbers of persons eligible, applying for, and being released under CR policies. The current study sought to describe CR monitoring practices, and access and use of CR for each U.S. state between 2013 and 2015 using data obtained via public records requests. Roughly 80% of responding states monitored the number of persons released under CR policies ($n = 39$), though only 65% of responding states captured records of those who applied for release ($n = 32$). Fewer monitored CR eligibility (35% $n = 17$). Between 2013 and 2015, 5,932 persons were eligible for CR. However, less than half of these persons applied for CR during the study period (46.4%; $n = 2,751$), and less than 30% of those who applied were discharged under CR during the study period ($n = 802$). The importance of monitoring and reporting numbers of persons eligible, applying, and released under CR policies is discussed.

Faith learning is most commonly integrated into social work curricula in BSW programs at Catholic and Evangelical Universities. Integration of Faith and Spirituality can benefit those students who are drawn to social work to heed a spiritual calling.

Although the number of persons eligible for Compassionate Release (CR) increased over the study period, the numbers of people who applied for and were discharged under CR remained similar over the 3-year study period. CR is underutilized with an overall rate of .02% of the total prison population.

Holland et al.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY

The Shady Pink Elephant: End of Life Education for Young Women Affected by Breast Cancer

J. Rowe & T. Schapmire

Journal of Cancer Education 35 | DOI: 10.1007/s13187-018-1446-1

In an effort to improve participation of younger breast cancer survivors in end of life (EOL) discussions and planning, this study evaluated the impact of The Shady Pink Elephant EOL educational series on participants' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors towards palliative care and EOL wishes. Data was gathered at baseline (pre survey and registration) following each event (post survey) and 6 months after the series as intervention (post survey). A total of 36 women with breast cancer, averaging 40 years of age, participated in the first online event, 24 in the second and 22 in the third. A total of 20 completed the 6-month post survey. Significant improvement in scores occurred from baseline to 6 months for the following items: belief that palliative care is only for those at the EOL, belief that EOL discussions are only important for those at the EOL, comfort with talking about EOL issues, confidence that EOL wishes will be honored by one's health care power of attorney and knowledge of characteristics are important in the person assigned as a person's health care power of attorney. The Shady Pink Elephant EOL educational series is therefore a promising intervention for improving EOL knowledge, attitudes and behavior. Further research with larger sample sizes is needed regarding understanding and accessing palliative care and deciding upon and communicating EOL wishes in this patient population.

The Young Survival Coalition's *Shady Pink Elephant: End of Life Education Series for Women Affected by Breast Cancer* was a three-part online series of interactive, live-streaming events about EOL topics.

Participants were significantly more likely to discuss their EOL wishes 6 months after the intervention. They also reported a significantly better understanding of the individual parts of an advance directive. Beliefs about palliative care and the importance of having early EOL conversations also significantly improved, along with participants' comfort levels talking about EOL.

Rowe & Schapmire

Living with the Financial Consequences of Cancer: A Life Course Perspective

K. Kayser, L. Smith, A. Washington, L.M. Harris, & B. Head

Journal of Psychosocial Oncology 39(1) | DOI: 10.1080/07347332.2020.1814933

Financial hardship can be a major cause of distress among persons with cancer, resulting in chronic stress and impacting physical and emotional health. This paper provides an analysis of the lived experience of cancer patients' financial hardship from diagnosis to post-treatment. In-depth interviews were conducted with 26 cancer survivors who reported financial hardship during and/or after treatment. The interviews were analyzed using Dedoose™ as an organizational tool, the life course perspective as an organizing theoretical framework, and a thematic analysis tool¹ to answer our research questions. Our analysis identified that timing and sequencing of life transitions and stress proliferation furthered the process of financial stress over time. Cancer survivors do not experience financial toxicity as a singular process; the experience can be quite different depending on age and life transitions. These findings provide psychosocial oncology providers with a framework for identifying patients at risk for financial distress and addressing the critical needs related to their life stage.

Financial stress became a downward spiral as one stressor led to another. This "wear and tear" has consequences on health, especially as cancer patients are trying to build their immune systems.

Kayser et al.