

RESEARCH BYTES

Programs, Organizations and Systems




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KENT SCHOOL MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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Compared with children whose parents were first told they had autism spectrum disorder by a primary care provider, those first told by a specialist provider received treatment earlier.

Peer caregivers [in prison hospice programs] were reported to “express that they are ‘giving back’ to others in need” as well as develop family-like connections and empathy for others.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

At Kent School we understand that in order to promote the wellbeing of children, families and adults alike we must also focus our efforts on the programs that serve them, the communities where they live, and the societal and public policy context. In this edition of Research Bytes we highlight our research that is occurring on the mezzo and macro level.

EARLY TREATMENT OF AUTISM

Yingling, M. E., Creel, L.M., & Bell, B.A. (2020). Assessing the Healthy People 2020 Objective to expand early treatment receipt among a national sample of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/DBP.0000000000000786>

The HP2020 objective to enroll 57.6% of 8-year-old children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in treatment by 48 months old was not met (40.9%). Among 3- to 5-year-old children with ASD, the proportion who received treatment by 48 months old was more than double that of 8-year-old children (88.3%). We detected social inequities and significant differences by provider type and state mandate. Research with larger samples is needed.

HOSPICE

Prost, S.G., Holland, M.M., Hoffman, H.C., & Dickinson, G.E. (2019). Characteristics of Hospice and palliative care programs in US prisons: An update and 5-year reflection. *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1049909119893090>

We provide an updated description and reflection of current hospice and palliative care programs in state prisons serving incarcerated persons with terminal illness compared with data collected in 2010. Responses indicated interdisciplinary teams remain integral to care, peer caregivers continue to support dying patients, and perceived public support for these programs remains low. Reduced enthusiasm for programs may negatively influence administrative decision-making and program resources.

Due to the role that trauma plays in both predisposing youth to commercial sexual exploitation and its significant, complex consequences, a trauma-informed approach to work with commercial sex exploitation of children is imperative.

Faced with multifaceted external pressures, managers report a wide variety of strategies to respond to them. The most common strategic response is advocacy...Similarly, participation in membership associations was viewed as a strategy for collective efforts to influence public policy.

These results underscore the potential for digital social movements to rewrite enduring social scripts regarding the barriers to safely exiting abusive relationships and to subvert dominant representations of [gender based violence, GBV] that often minimize the structural determinants of GBV.

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

McDonald, A.R. & Middleton, J. (2019) Applying a survival sex hierarchy to the commercial sexual exploitation of children: A trauma-informed perspective, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2019.1590289>

Many victims of commercial sex exploitation (CSE) come from vulnerable populations with a serious history of prior abuse, suggesting a significant overlap with youth involved in the child welfare system. Child welfare agencies are tasked with addressing the problem through screening, intervention, and treatment. In this article, the authors apply a survival sex hierarchy model to CSEC, discuss its goodness of fit with tenets of trauma-informed care, and identify implications for practice and policy.

INTERORGANIZATIONAL DYNAMICS

Collins-Camargo, C., Chuang, E., McBeath, B., & Mak, S. (2019). Staying afloat amidst the tempest: External pressures facing private child and family serving agencies and managerial strategies employed to address them. *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership and Governance*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23303131.2019.1606870>

Qualitative data were collected regarding external pressures experienced by private agencies across six states and approaches managers took in response to them. Themes were organized into the following categories: funding; operations and practice-related issues; staff recruitment and retention; laws, regulations and licensure; contracts and contractual expectations, and interorganizational relationships.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Storer, H.L., & Rodriguez, M. (2020). #Mapping a movement: socialmedia, feminist hashtags, and movement building in the digital age, *Journal of Community Practice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10705422.2020.1757541>

This study examines issues framing domains within the #WhyIStayed campaign, illustrating how social media campaigns serve as a central component in social movement building. Results indicate #WhyIStayed participants contested dominant representations of intimate partner abuse (IPA) in multiple ways, including demonstrating the ubiquity of IPA and challenging victim blaming. We argue that these subversive acts lay the foundation for the contemporary #MeToo movement.