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


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


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.
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN


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


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


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.