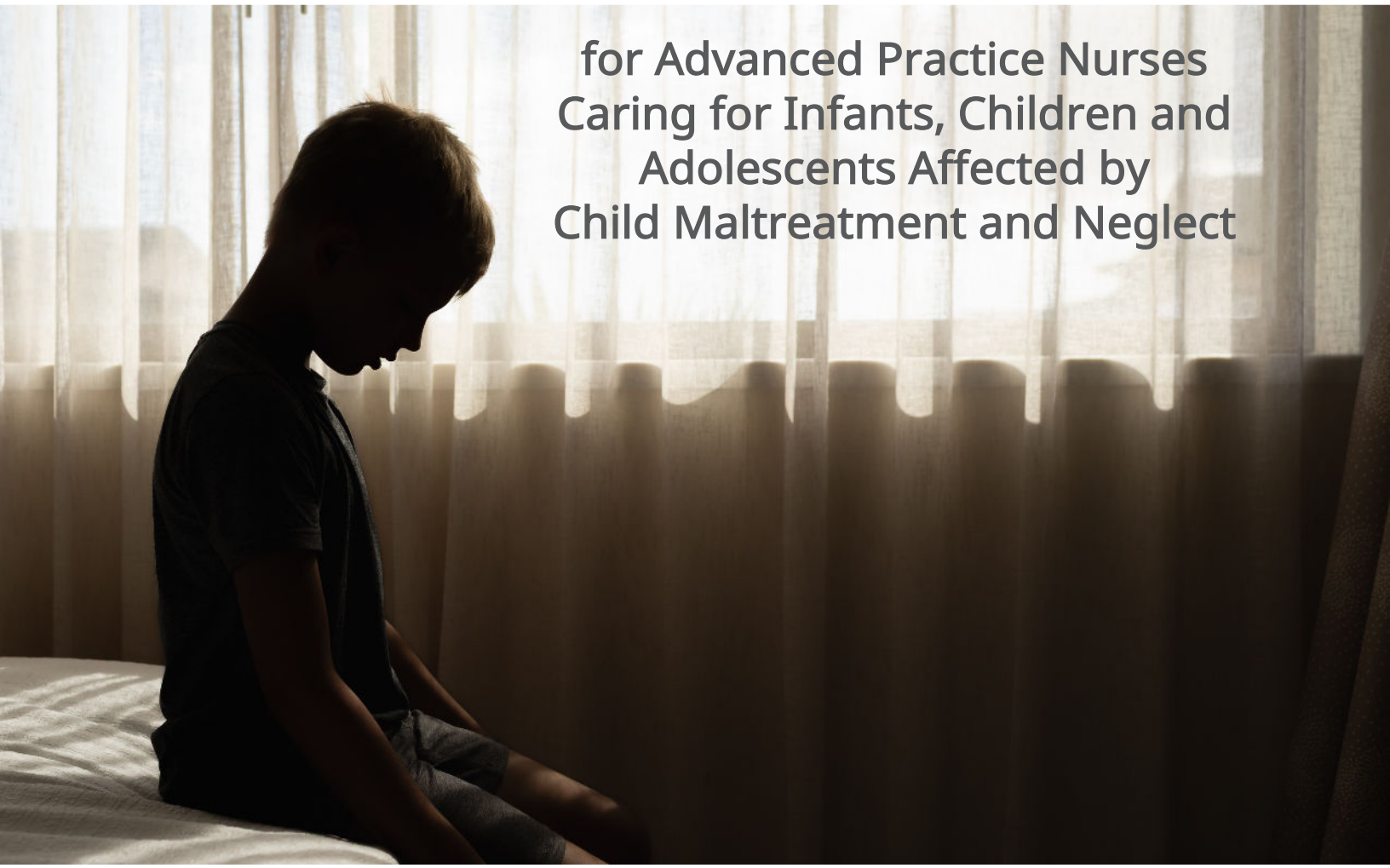
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners℠ | Child Maltreatment and Neglect SIG

Child Maltreatment and Neglect (CMN) Shared Interest Group (SIG) Toolkit



for Advanced Practice Nurses Caring for Infants, Children and Adolescents Affected by Child Maltreatment and Neglect

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Table of Contents

Alternatives to Corporal Punishment	3
Body and Internet Safety Education	3, 4
Children in Foster Care	12
Child Trafficking and Exploitation	11
Continuing Education and Partner Resources	6
Emotional/Psychological Abuse	11
Gun Violence Prevention	3
Medical Child Abuse	10
Neglect	10
Physical Abuse/Assault	9
Publications by NAPNAP CMN Members	13, 14
Sexual Abuse/Assault	4, 7
Strangulation	8
Trauma-Informed Care	5
Vicarious (Secondary) Trauma	12

Intended Audience

- Child Maltreatment and Neglect Provider
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Anticipatory Guidance

As medical providers, we have a responsibility to educate and counsel children, parents, and caregivers on topics that promote child health, safety, and well-being, including child abuse prevention and positive parenting practices. Providers across all healthcare settings, including primary care and specialty areas, may encounter concerns for child maltreatment during the course of routine clinical care. Equipping families with evidence-based education on child development, safe and effective discipline strategies, and abuse prevention is an essential component of comprehensive pediatric care.

Alternatives for corporal punishment

- No Hit Zone
  - Resources to promote non-violent interactions and effective parenting, ensuring that no adult or child hits another person.
- Alternatives by Age
  - Parenting tips with age-appropriate discipline strategies.
- AAP Healthy Children - Best Way To Discipline My Child
  - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)- tips for positive discipline strategies while promoting healthy childhood development.
- AAP - Stance of Spanking
- Discipline Strategies More Effective Than Spanking
  - Alternatives to spanking.

Gun violence prevention

- Child Safety and Guns
  - The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children- Handout on the impacts of guns and violence.
- NAPNAP Gun Violence Prevention Resources

Body and internet safety education

- Preschool-age Child Education on Sexual Health
  - Age-appropriate sexual health education for children ages 3-5.
- School-age Child Education on Sexual Health
  - Age-appropriate sexual health education for school age children with resources for parents and educators.
- Adolescent Resource for Sexual Safety, Sexual Thoughts, and Behaviors- What's OK
  - Sexual health education and support for youth ages 14-21 years. Youth can correspond with counselors about sexual feelings, interests, thoughts, and behaviors, in a safe and non-judgmental space.
- Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Resources- National Sexual Violence Resource Center
  - Collection of online resources for caregivers and organizations on child sexual abuse prevention.
- NetSmartz- Keeping Children Safe Online
  - Presentations, tip-sheets, and activities for educators and caregivers to keep youth safe online.

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- AAP - Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health
  - American Academy of Pediatrics toolkit on social media and creating a healthy digital environment for youth. This resource has valuable information for caregivers, educators, and clinicians on social media, internet safety, and screen time.
- AAP - Family Media Plan
  - A resource to assist families in developing a customizable Family Media Plan, including choosing media priorities and using practical tips to enhance child well-being with media usage.
- AAP – 12 Tips for Healthy Digital Habits
  - Tips to help children develop healthy digital habits.
- AAP - How to Connect with Your Teen About Smart & Safe Media Use
  - Resource guide on safe media use for adolescents.
- AAP - Sexting: How to Talk with Kids About the Risks
  - "Sexting"- the exchange of sexually explicit images, videos, and/or messages. Resource on the risks and discussion on adolescent "sexting."
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children -Sextortion
  - "Sextortion," a form a child sexual exploitation, where a child is coerced or blackmailed by someone demanding sexual images, sexual acts, or money from a child. This resource includes steps on how to respond in cases of sextortion, prevention strategies, and parental education on talking to children about sextortion.
- Take It Down - How to Have Nude Photos Removed From the Internet
  - Online resource to help remove nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit photos/videos of children less than 18 years old.

Sexual abuse/assault

- Rape, Abuse, & Insest National Network (RAINN)
  - Sexual assault support, services, education, and policy advocacy services.
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
  - Resources for survivors of sexual abuse/assault.
- Prevent Child Abuse America
  - National organization that promotes programs and resources on child abuse prevention, including research and public policy.
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network- Child Sexual Abuse Fact Sheet
  - What parents need to know about child sexual abuse.

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Trauma-informed Care

Trauma-informed care (TIC) is essential to delivering patient-centered, high-quality care for children and families who have experienced trauma. TIC requires healthcare providers to understand the effects of trauma on a child's health and development, create a safe and supportive environment, empower patients and families, and adapt clinical practices to effectively respond to their unique needs.

- NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth Position Statement on Trauma-Informed Care
  - The NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth's position statement regarding the need for trauma-informed care.
- NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth: Alliance for Children in Foster Care - Trauma-Informed Care Toolkit
  - NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth TIC Toolkit provides resources for pediatric-focused advanced practice providers. *Available soon!*
- AAP National Center for Relational Health Care and Trauma-Informed Care
  - The American Academy of Pediatrics National Center for Relational Health and Trauma-Informed Care provides resources for pediatric-focused providers on trauma-informed care.
- National Traumatic Stress Network (NTSN)
  - The NTSN provides access and resources for traumatized children, families, and communities throughout the United States.
- Child Trauma Academy (CTA)
  - The CTA serves as a resource to better the lives of traumatized and maltreated children by improving the systems that educate, nurture, protect and enrich these children, focusing on education, program consultation, research and disseminating innovations in the field.
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Adverse Childhood Experiences
  - The CDC provides resources regarding adverse childhood experiences.
- SAMHSA National Trauma-Informed Care Center
  - The SAMHSA National TIC Center provides national resources and interventions for trauma-informed care.
- Strengths-Based Questions
  - This Strengths-Based Question resource provides questions/prompts and examples of strength-based questions for providers.

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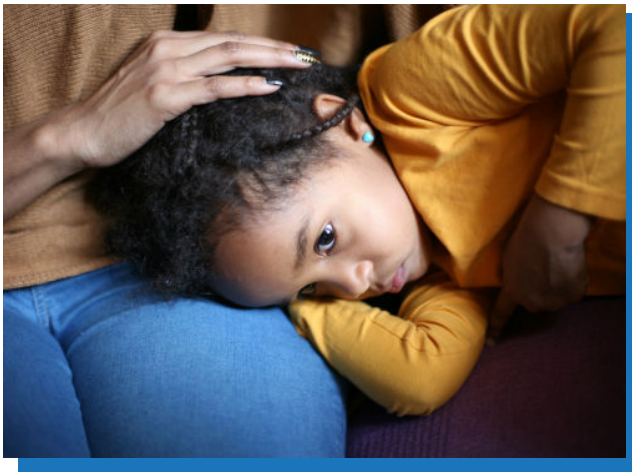
Continuing Education and Partner Resources

- Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center (MRCAC)
  - Online learning center including sexual assault nurse examiner training, peer review, and ongoing CME/CUE on child abuse.
- NAPNAP Webinar on Abuse and Neglect
  - 1 contact hour webinar on child abuse and neglect.
- NAPNAP Webinar on Mandated Reporting
  - 1 contact hour webinar on mandated reporting.
- NAPNAP Webinar on Medially Complex Youth in Foster Care
  - 1 contact hour webinar on medically complex youth in foster care.
- NAPNAP Webinar on the Overuse of Psychotropic Medications in Youth in Foster Care
  - 0.5 contact hour webinar on psychotropic medications in youth in foster care.
- NAPNAP Continuing Education Course on Navigating the Transition: Supporting Youth Aging Out of Foster Care (Course expires 4/30/2027)
  - 0.75 contact hour CE course on supporting youth aging out of foster care.
- Child Abuse Medical Provider Program (CHAMP)
  - Education for child abuse medical providers.
- AAP Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (COCAN)
  - AAP COCAN policies, publications, and educational opportunities.
- AAP Child Abuse and Neglect Partners and Resources
  - A list of organizations that provide additional resources on child abuse and neglect.
- The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
  - Resources, publications, and trainings on child abuse and neglect.
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
  - Publications, resources, laws/policies, and a database of information regarding child abuse and neglect.
- Prevent Child Abuse America
  - National organization that promotes programs and resources on child abuse prevention, including research and public policy.



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Sexual Abuse/Assault

Child sexual abuse/assault encompasses a spectrum of direct and indirect forms of sexual contact involving children and adults or other children. Persistent misconceptions exist regarding the physical findings and clinical symptoms associated with child sexual abuse, including the belief that genital injury is common or required in cases involving genital contact or penetration. The resources listed below provide evidence-based guidance on the appropriate interpretation of medical findings in cases of suspected child sexual abuse.

- Interpretation of medical findings in suspected child sexual abuse: An update for 2023
  - Data and recommendations on interpreting medical findings and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in cases involving concerns of child sexual abuse.
- Genital Examination of the Prepubertal Female: Essentials for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
  - Review of normal genital anatomy, genital examination techniques, genital findings concerning for sexual abuse, and genital findings caused by medical conditions.
- A Normal Ano-genital Exam: Sexual Abuse or Not?
  - Review of normal anogenital anatomy and understanding common myths/misconceptions about child sexual abuse and anogenital exam findings.
- Medical Evaluation for Child Sexual Abuse: What the PNP Needs to Know
  - Review of normal anogenital anatomy, obtaining history, and physical examination findings when evaluating a for sexual abuse.
- Genital Anatomy in Pregnant Adolescents: “Normal” Does Not Mean “Nothing Happened”
  - Retrospective case review of 36 pregnant adolescent girls who presented for sexual abuse examinations, summarizing that vaginal penetration generally does not result in observable injuries to the hymenal tissue.



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Strangulation

Strangulation is an act of external forces obstructing or compressing the airway or blood vessels within the neck, which can lead to impaired breathing and/or neurological functioning. Strangulation can have serious medical consequences, including death, within seconds to minutes with relatively low forces.

- Pediatric Strangulation Signs
- Pediatric Strangulation Symptoms
- Pediatric Strangulation Discharge Recommendations
  - Discharge instructions for children that have been strangled
- Pediatric Strangulation
  - Information for parents and caregivers about pediatric strangulation
- Pediatric Strangulation Webinar
  - Part 1
  - Part 2
- Non-fatal Strangulation Toolkit- International Association of Forensic Nurses



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Physical Abuse

Definitions of child physical abuse vary by legal context and jurisdiction. Generally, child physical abuse is defined as acts of violence toward a child that result in, or pose a risk of, physical injury or harm. Child physical abuse can have profound and lasting effects on a child's physical and mental health, with consequences that may persist into adulthood.

- The Evaluation of Suspected Child Physical Abuse
  - American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Report on *The Evaluation of Suspected Child Physical Abuse* (2015). This report provides an overview on the background, clinical presentation, and management of suspected child physical abuse.
- TEN-4-FACESp
  - Review of the validated, clinical decision rule (TEN-4-FACESp) on bruising in children under 4 years of age, developed by Dr. Mary Clyde Pierce.
- Validation of a Clinical Decision Rule to Predict Abuse in Young Children Based on Bruising Characteristics
  - Cross sectional study on the validity of the clinical decision rule (TEN-4-FACESp) in distinguishing abusive versus non-abusive trauma in children.
- Sentinel Injuries: Subtle Findings of Physical Abuse
  - Definition and review of sentinel injuries.
- AAP Recommendations for Testing for Bleeding Disorders in Suspected Child Abuse
  - Summary of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations on testing for bleeding disorders in suspected child abuse. Included is the link to the AAP Clinical Report *Evaluation for Bleeding Disorders in Suspected Child Abuse* (2022).
- Occult Abusive Injuries in Children Brought for Care After Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
  - Review of recommendations to screen children exposed to intimate partner violence for physical abuse.
- Prevalence of Abusive Injuries in Siblings and Household Contacts of Physically Abused Children
  - Recommendations on evaluating contact children for physical abuse using a common screening protocol, including physical examination and/or radiologic imaging studies.
- Patterned Bruises from Abusive Squeezing
  - Case-based examples and explanation of patterned bruising from abusive squeezing.
- Abusive Head Trauma in Infants and Children: Technical Report | Pediatrics | AAP
  - Diagnosis and management of abusive head trauma (AHT, formerly known as shaken baby syndrome).

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Medical Child Abuse (MCA)

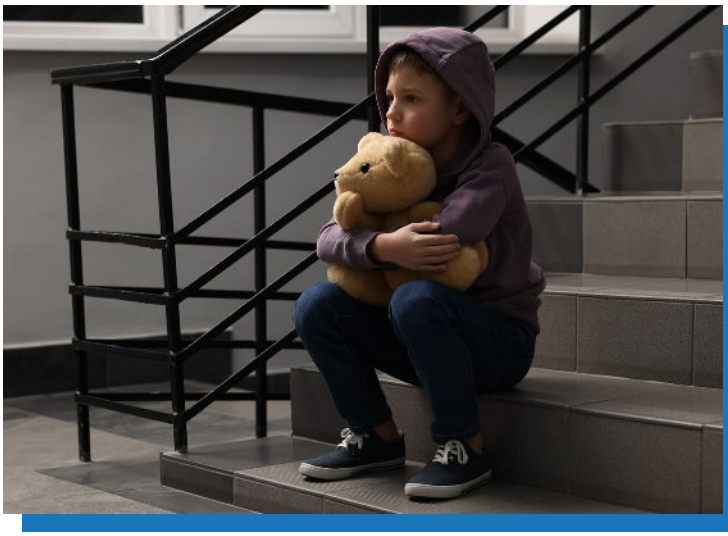
Medical child abuse, formerly known as Munchausen syndrome by proxy, occurs when a caregiver exaggerates, falsifies, or induces a child's symptoms, resulting in harm through unnecessary or inappropriate medical care.

- AAP Medical Child Abuse Point-of-Care Reference
  - Definitions and management of medical child abuse, formerly known as Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.
- Medical Child Abuse: Essentials for Pediatric Health Care Providers
  - Definitions of medical child abuse and implications for clinical practice.

Neglect

Child neglect is the most common form of child maltreatment, which often goes unrecognized. There are several subtypes of neglect including medical, supervisory, educational, dental, nutritional, emotional, and general/physical neglect. Definitions and the scope of neglect may vary by context and jurisdiction. Neglect may lead to potentially significant physical or psychological consequences, including death. The healthcare provider must identify concerns for neglect to appropriately intervene, prevent further harm to the child, and ensure that the child's needs are adequately addressed.

- Child Neglect: Assessment and Intervention.
  - Definitions and types of neglect, risk factors for neglect, and practice implications for pediatric health care providers.
- Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention
  - Definition and scope of neglect, subtypes of neglect, and principles for intervention and prevention of neglect. Published by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Child and Families, 2006.



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Emotional/Psychological Abuse

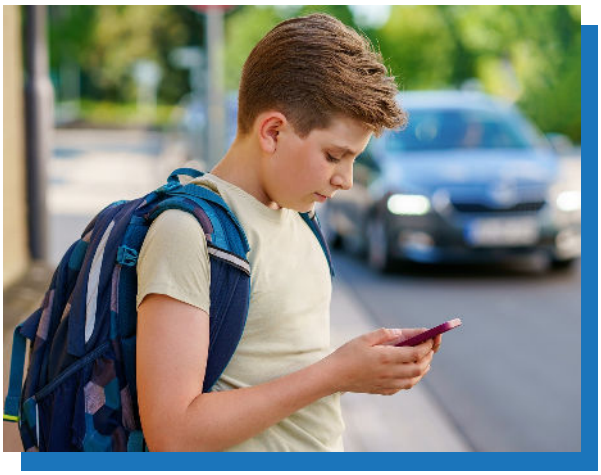
Psychological or emotional abuse of a child is one of the most prevalent, yet challenging forms of child abuse and neglect. This section includes resources on psychological abuse, child torture, and exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV).

- AAP Clinical Report on Psychological Maltreatment
  - AAP Clinical Report on child psychological maltreatment, reviewing the subtypes and definitions of psychological maltreatment.
- Child Torture as a Form of Child Abuse
  - Definitions of child torture with individual detailed case reports on child torture.
- Intimate Partner Violence: Role of the Pediatrician
  - AAP Clinical Report on IPV, reviewing the effects of IPV exposure on a child's physical and mental health.

Child Trafficking and Exploitation

Child trafficking and exploitation occur across all communities and may present in a wide range of forms. Survivors of trafficking and exploitation often have complex and individualized medical needs, requiring healthcare providers to possess a thorough understanding of trauma-informed and survivor-centered care.

- NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth
  - The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Partners for Vulnerable Youth (NAPNAP PVY) seeks to improve the physical and mental health and well-being of vulnerable infants, children, adolescents and young adults.
    - NAPNAP PVY currently has three alliances, Alliance for Children in Trafficking, Alliance for Children in Foster Care, and Alliance to Prevent Suicide.
- NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth: Alliance for Children in Trafficking
  - NAPNAP Partners For Vulnerable Youth, Alliance for Children in Trafficking resource page.
- AAP Child Trafficking and Exploitation Toolkit
  - AAP Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (COCAN) professional tools and resources on child trafficking and exploitation.



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Foster Care-Specific Resources

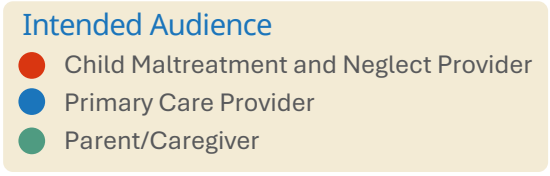
According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), children in foster care are classified as children with special health care needs due to their high prevalence of medical, emotional, behavioral, developmental, educational, and dental health-care problems.

- NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth Position Statement on the Health Care and Wellbeing of Children and Adolescents in Foster Care
  - The NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth position statement regarding caring for the needs of youth in foster care.
- NAPNAP Partners for Vulnerable Youth: Alliance for Children in Foster Care Toolkit
  - NAPNAP Partners Foster Care Toolkit provides resources for pediatric-focused advanced practice providers. *Available soon!*
- NAPNAP Podcast on Caring for Youth in Foster Care
  - The NAPNAP PVY Alliance for Children in Foster Care created a 12 series podcast focused on caring for the needs for youth in foster care.
- Child Welfare Gateway Information (CWI)
  - CWI provides resources on the child welfare continuum.
- Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)
  - AFCARS provides data on youth in foster care.
- AAP Foster Care Toolkit
  - AAP Foster care Toolkit provides resources for providers caring for the unique needs for youth in foster care.

Vicarious (Secondary) Trauma Resources

Vicarious or secondary trauma is the emotional/psychological impact that is experienced by individuals who are exposed to other people's traumatic experiences. Health care providers, especially in the context of child maltreatment, often experience vicarious trauma. Below are resources for those affected by vicarious trauma.

- Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime- Vicarious Trauma Toolkit
  - The Office of Victims of Crime is a resource for those affected with, or the potential for, secondary trauma.
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NTSN)- Secondary Traumatic Stress, Fact Sheet for Child-Serving Professionals
  - The NTSN provides resources for those affected or with the potential to be affected by secondary trauma.



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Publications by CMN SIG Members

Below are recent journal articles by CMN SIG members related to child maltreatment and neglect, trauma-informed care, and foster care.

Trauma-Informed Care

- Igoe, A., Keller, S., Stallings, M., Goddard, A., Van Graafeiland, B., Roney, L.N., & Peck, J. (2025). Trauma informed care: Practical application for pediatric-focused Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 39(2), 266-275. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2024.10.008
- Hornor, G., & Chiocca, E. M. (2025). Trauma Exposure in Migrant Children: Implications for Mental and Physical Health. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 39(5), 836–847. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2025.05.002
- Halsz, T.W., Cohen, R.S., Quick, C., Schenelle, B., Betts, K., & VanGraafeiland, B. (2024). NAPNAP position statement on trauma-informed care. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 38(5), 778-780. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2024.06.007

Foster Care

- Quick, C., Meimers, M. C., Buchele, E., Krawciw, M., Hughes, D., & Rohn, A. (2026). Integrated healthcare for youth in foster care: A narrative review. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 40(1), 64–78. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2025.06.012
- VanGraafeiland, B., Quick, C., Martinez, V. C., Cwynar, C. M., Helman, J., Mudd, S., Wilson, S., & Halasz, T. (2026). Assessing knowledge of nurse practitioners on youth in foster care: Results of nationwide survey. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 40(1), 22–31. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2025.08.001
- Halasz, T.W., Barbel, P., Armstrong, A., Carr, K., & VanGraafeiland, B. (2025). Navigating Foster Care: A Practical Guide for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2025.03.009
- Quick, C., & Halasz, T. W. (2025). Caring for youth in foster care: A trauma-informed practice guide. The Nurse practitioner, 50(3), 31–38. https://doi.org/10.1097/01.NPR.0000000000000279
- Halasz, T.W., Wallis, E., Roberts, J.R., & Gustin, T. (2025). Evaluating the feasibility of utilizing telehealth with youth in foster care. The Journal for Nurse Practitioners, 21(1), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2024.105267
- VanGraafeiland, B., Foli, K., Snethen, J.A., Greenberg, E., & Greenberg, C. (2024). Youth aging out of foster care: Implications for nurse practitioners. The Journal for Nurse Practitioners, 20(9). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2024.105153
- Quick, C., Halasz, T.W., Cavanaugh, N., Betts, K., & VanGraafeiland, B. (2023). NAPNAP Position Statement on the Health Care and Well-Being of Children and Adolescents in Foster Care. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 37(3), 347-350. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2022.12.004

Corporal Punishment

- Chiocca, E. M. & Hornor, G. (2024). Corporal punishment of children in homes and schools: An action plan. APSAC Advisor, 37 (3), 26-35. https://apsac.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/12/10756.pdf
- VanGraafeiland, B., Hornor, G., Herendeen, P., Chiocca, E.M., Loyke, J., Dietzman, H., Boucher, N., Nielsen, A., & Record, A. C. (2022). NAPNAP Position statement on using positive parenting to eliminate corporal punishment. Journal of Pediatric Health Care,36(2):202-204. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2021.09.001
- Hornor, G., Boudreaux,D. Bretl, D., Chapman, E., Chiocca, E.M., Donnell, C., Herendeen, P., Kahn, D., Loyke, J., Morris, K., Mulvaney, B. Perks, D., Terreros, A., & VanGraafeiland, B. Garcia (2020). Building a safe and healthy America: Eliminating corporal punishment via positive parenting. Journal of Pediatric Health Care,34(2):136-144. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2019.09.008
- Hornor, G., Garcia Quinones, S., Bretl, D., Chiocca, E.M., Donnell, C., Doughty, K., Marshall, B., & Morris, K. (2019). An educational intervention for health care providers. In: E. T. Gershoff & S. J. Lee (Eds.), *Ending the physical punishment of children: A guide for clinicians and practitioners* (pp. 81–86). American Psychological Association.
- Chiocca, E. M. (2017). American parents' attitudes and beliefs about corporal punishment: An integrative literature review. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 3, 372-383. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2017.01.002
- Hornor, G., Bretl, D., Chapman, E., Chiocca, E.M., Donnell, C., Doughty, K., Houser, S., Marshall, B., Morris, K., & Garcia Quinones, S. (2015). Corporal punishment: Evaluation of an intervention by PNPs. Journal of Pediatric Health Care, 29 (6), 526-535. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2015.04.016

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Publications by CMN SIG Members Page 2

Child Trafficking

- VanGraafeiland, B., Chiocca, E.M., Perks, D., Dietzman, H., & Hornor, G. (2022). Overview of recognition and prevention of child sex trafficking in the primary care setting: A primer for nurse practitioners. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 18 (3), 285-288. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2021.12.010

Child Sexual Abuse

- Chiocca EM, Hornor G, Sidberry R. (2026). Sexting and sextortion in adolescents: Essentials for the PNP. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care;40*(1), 162-173. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2025.07.017 .

Medical Child Abuse

- Hornor G. (2021). Medical Child Abuse: Essentials for Pediatric Health Care Providers. *Journal of pediatric health care: Official publication of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates & Practitioners*, *35*(6), 644–650. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2021.01.006

Neglect

- Hornor G. (2014). Child neglect: assessment and intervention. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, *28*(2), 186–194. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2013.10.002

We would like to thank the following NAPNAP Child Maltreatment & Neglect Shared Interest Group members for their contributions to this toolkit:
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