



The Lifelong Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Health

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACE) is a prevalent public health concern worldwide, resulting in extensive costs on both an individual and a societal level. The effects of trauma go far beyond its immediate psychological and physical effects. It can change biology and behavior throughout a person's lifetime, significantly affecting interpersonal and intergenerational relationships. Exposure to trauma is particularly harmful when it occurs during childhood or adolescence, disrupting numerous aspects of cognitive, emotional, and social development, with long-term consequences for learning and memory, educational outcomes, emotional functioning, and social relationships, and resulting in an elevated risk of re-victimization, mental disorders, physical diseases, and criminal behaviors. The effects of traumatic exposure extend far beyond the symptoms of post-traumatic disorder (PTSD) and related disorders, with complex trauma assuming a high prevalence in persons that have experienced ACE.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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