

Special Issue

The Lifelong Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Health

Message from the Guest Editors

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.

Guest Editors

Dr. Ângela Rosa Pinho Costa Maia

School of Psychology, University of Minho, 4710-057 Braga, Portugal

Dr. Mariana Gonçalves

School of Psychology, University of Minho, 4710-057 Braga, Portugal

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 April 2025)



International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

CiteScore 8.5
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/173762

*International Journal of
Environmental Research and
Public Health*

Editorial Office

MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5

4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34

ijerph@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/

ijerph





International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

CiteScore 8.5
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/
ijerph](https://mdpi.com/journal/ijerph)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

IJERPH provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Paul R. Ward

School of Society and Culture, Adelaide University, Adelaide 5001,
Australia

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, PubMed, MEDLINE, PMC, Embase, GEOBASE, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

CiteScore - Q1 (Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health)