

Special Issue

Exploring the Systemic Causes of Adverse Childhood Experiences

Message from the Guest Editor

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs; child maltreatment, household dysfunction) occur in children across all races/ethnicities and income levels. However, minoritized children (e.g., black, Indigenous, and people of color/global majority) often cope with additional adversities within their social ecologies due to systemic inequality. Although studies on ACEs have expanded to examine how children interact with their environments, research addressing upstream factors (i.e., system inequality) that raise the risk for ACEs among children is limited. We need to expand the research on the causes of ACEs (e.g., racism, neighborhood violence, and poverty) and go beyond studies on the effects of ACEs on a person. We are interested in research that examines how systemic inequality impacts children's lives to better understand the relationship among the access to resources, high-risk environments, and ACEs.

Guest Editor

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