

# Overview

## Children and Trauma

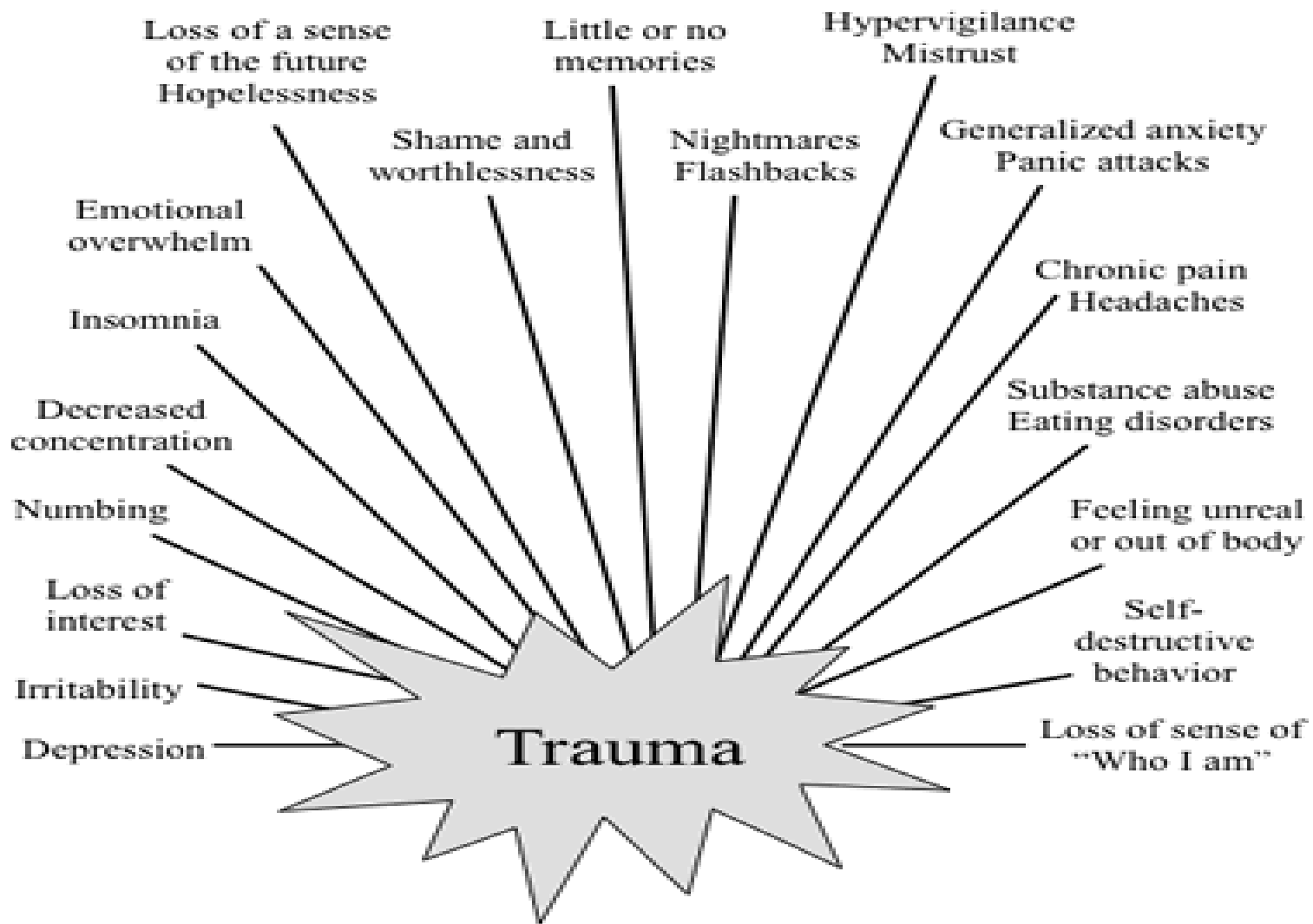
This section of the Practice Kit provides guidance and information related to children and trauma. Specifically, this section aims to increase your understanding of child trauma and its broad impact on children. With additional resources to build your knowledge base and provide tips for advocacy about trauma in the educational and legal settings, this section is designed to also provide information that you can use to educate service providers and other professionals on the impact of trauma on children.

# CLC Resource Guide

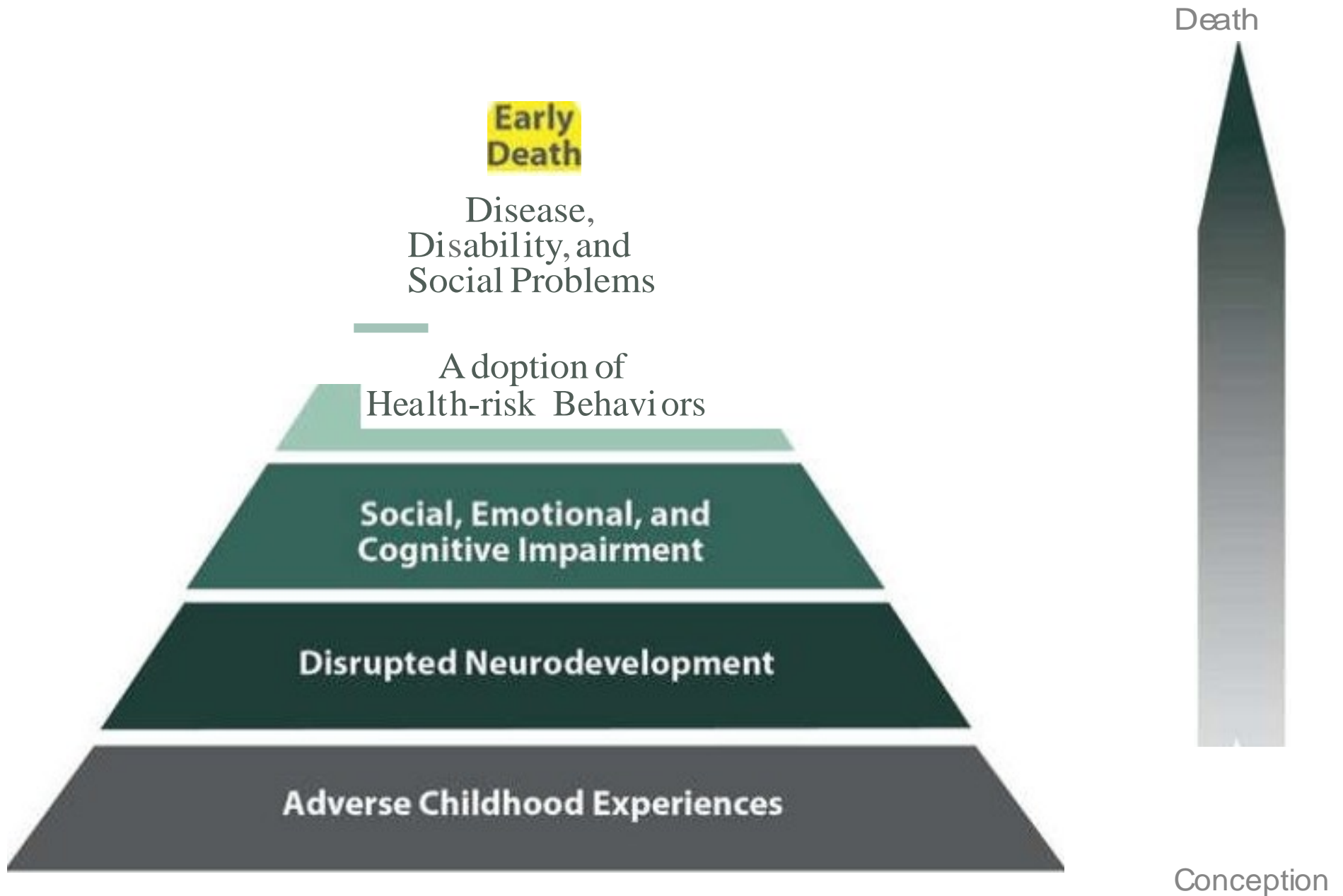
## Understanding Child Trauma and Toxic Stress

### Resources

- ◆ [What is Child Traumatic Stress?](#)
  - This article published by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network explores what trauma is and how the stress associated with the experiencing of traumatic events impacts children in a unique way.
  
- ◆ [Understanding Child Traumatic Stress: A Guide for Parents](#)
  - This guide published by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network provides information and tips for parents on how to spot signs of traumatic stress, provide support for their child, and seek additional help in caring for a child experiencing traumatic stress.
  
- ◆ [Supporting Brain Development in Traumatized Children and Youth](#)
  - This article published by the Child Welfare Information Gateway provides information on understanding trauma and its impact on brain development, encouraging healthy brain development, screening children for services and working with providers, and treatment for trauma-affected children and youth.
  
- ◆ [Trauma: What Child Welfare Attorneys Should Know](#)
  - This joint publication of The National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the American Bar Association Center on Children is an information-rich resource regarding the impacts of trauma on child development, parents, and the attorney-client relationship. Additionally, the resource discusses screening and assessment, treatments, transitions, placement, visitation, secondary traumatic stress and attorneys, collaboration, and system-level advocacy.



*"Trauma survivors have symptoms instead of memories" [Harvey, 1990]*



Mechanism by Which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan

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## Trauma-Informed Schools

### Resources

#### ◆ [Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators](#)

- This toolkit published by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network is focused on providing resources to educators working with children experiencing trauma and its aftereffects. The toolkit provides information divided among age categories of preschool, elementary, middle, and high school students as well as tips on self-care for educators.

#### ◆ [Addressing Childhood Trauma in DC Schools](#)

- This report by the Children's Law Center highlights the prevalence and impact of childhood trauma with a focus on schools in the District of Columbia. It also provides policy recommendations for D.C. Schools.

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## Advocacy Resources

### Resources

- ◆ [American Bar Association Policy on Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Children and Youth](#)
  - This policy, approved by the American Bar Association House of Delegates on February 10, 2014, provides a framework of ideas by which attorneys can support justice system-involved children and youth who have been exposed to traumatic events. The report urges attorneys to recognize the impact trauma has on the well-being of children, respond to child traumatic stress through appropriate legal representation, and collaborate across professional disciplines to support recovery and resiliency of the child and family.
  
- ◆ [Implementing Trauma-Informed Practices in Child Welfare](#)
  - This joint report published by the State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center, First Focus, and the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law provides recommendations for instituting better systems of care for children who have experienced trauma both before and during their time in the child welfare system. The report also identifies several models of trauma-informed practices.
  
- ◆ [Establishing a Trauma-Informed Lawyer-Client Relationship](#)
  - This publication by the American Bar Association Child Law Practice group provides information and tips on establishing a productive lawyer-client relationship with a client who has experienced trauma. Specifically, the publication covers topics such as establishing boundaries, preparing for and responding to triggers, and communication.
  
- ◆ [Communicating with Youth Who Have Experienced Trauma](#)
  - This publication serves as part two to the article “Establishing a Trauma-Informed Lawyer-Client Relationship” above. It takes a deeper dive into communicating with clients who have experienced trauma including: interviewing, preparing for court appearances, and talking about trauma and containing those conversations when appropriate.