



Multidisciplinary approach to address the consequences of violence against children

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June 2, 2023

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1. Child Protection in France





- WHO (2002): « Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power"
- 2016 French child protection law : « Danger Or risk of danger »
- « situation compromising the child's health, security, morality, environmental conditions for his education or physical, psychological, intellectuel or social development »
- Evaluate the potential impact : past or persistant exposure? Casual or chronic? Intentional or not? Protection factors in the child's life?



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Broader vision and assessment approach

« non-consideration of the child's rights and fundamental needs »

Rather a multidisciplinary and ecosystemic approach for health determinants in prevention and decision making

Bronfenbrenner U. The Ecology of Human Development. Experiments by Nature and Design, Harvard University Press, 1979

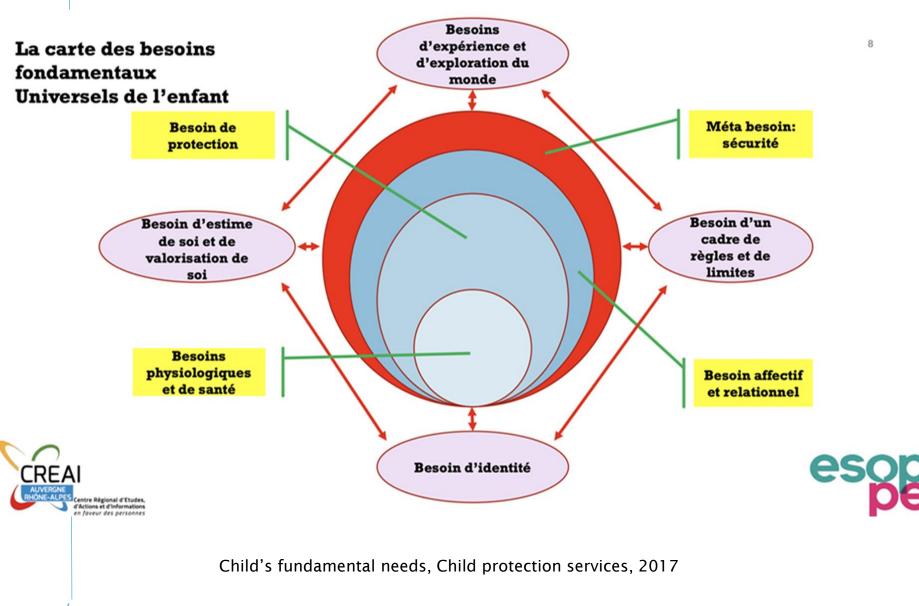
Baumann et al. The Decision Making Ecology. American Humane Association, 2011.

Is the parental behavior fulfilling the child's needs?



air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction

Maslow's hierarchy of needs



ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE

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HÔPITAUX

DE PARIS





ASSISTANCE

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Reminders for French physicians

75% of lethal violence occurs under age 5⁻¹ 33% of parents still unaware that customary violence forbidden by law 80% of sexual violence perpetrators (children age <15) are in the intimate family circle²

Co-occurrence of multiple forms of violence and cumulated health effects³

Cumulative impact if chronic illness and maltreatment

Poverty increases risk of physical abuse⁵

- Very little reliable data
- Raised awareness due to Covid-19⁶ and #MeTooIncest

¹ONPE, chiffres 2020; ²enquête VIRAGE 2017; Hugues 2017; Hunter 2021; ⁵Loiseau 2021

2. Child protection in a hospital setting

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What's broadly at stake?

Health and social outcome inequalities



Poor detection by healthcare providers

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- Underidentification
- Underreporting
- Underestimated prevalence¹

Risk exists despite protection measures

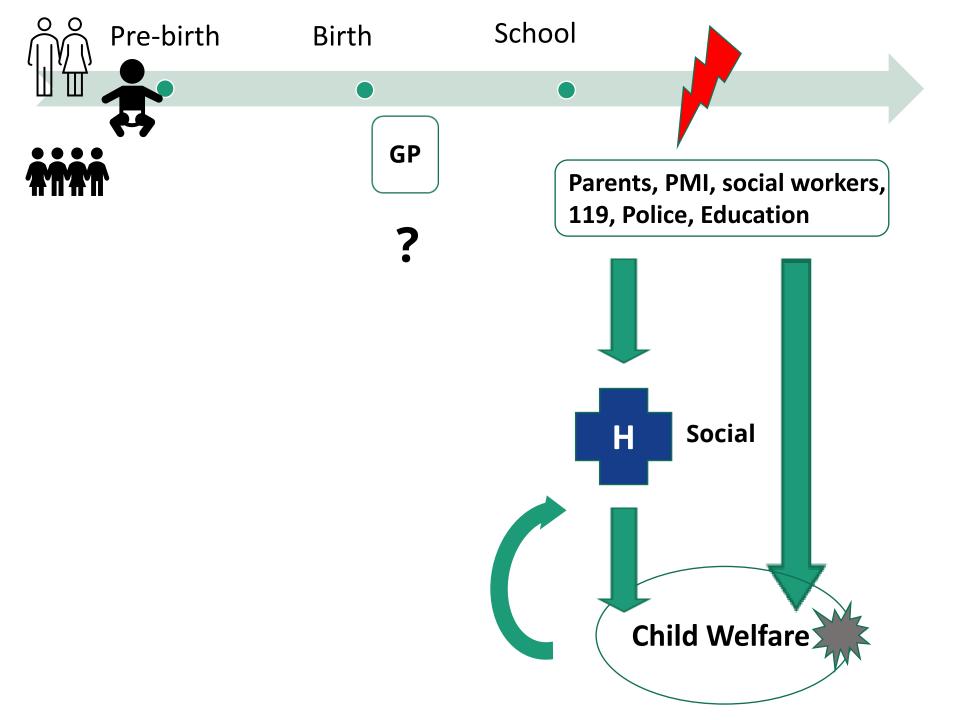
- Protection comes in too late²
- Recurrences or new violence
- Suboptimal medical pathway³

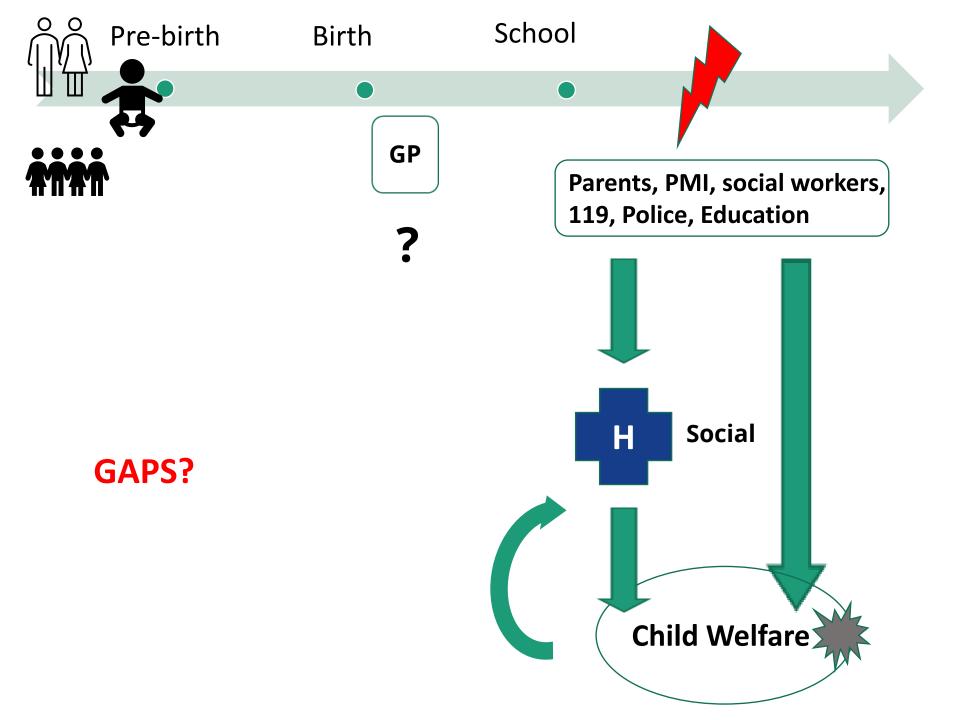
- Exposure to severity
- Increased health and protection needs over lifespan
- Weaker education levels
- 35% of young homeless adults (ages 18-24) were childhood victims³

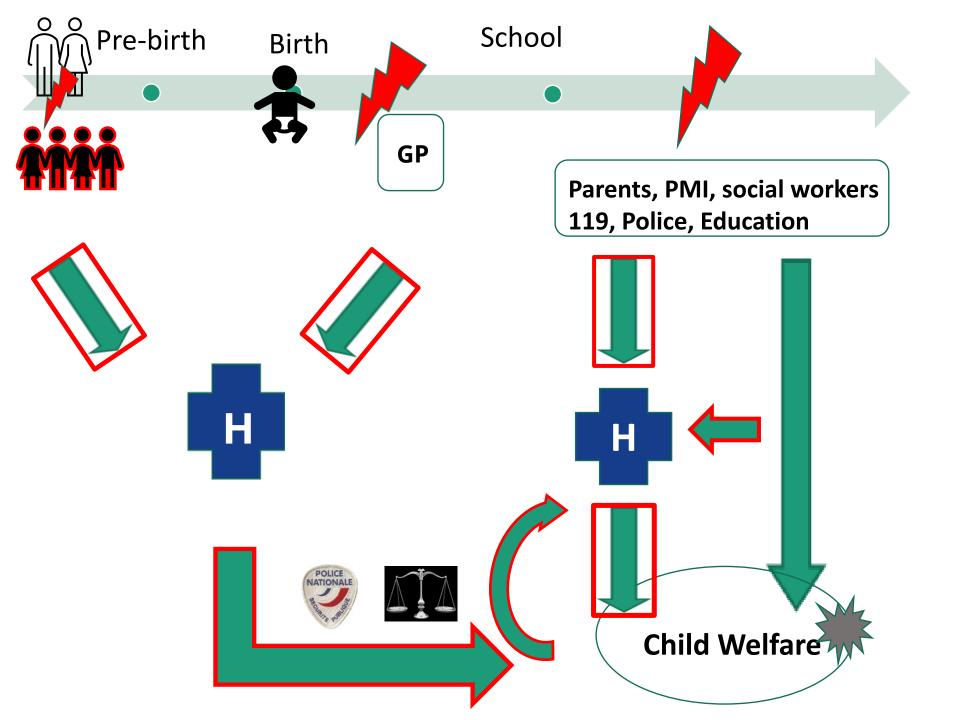


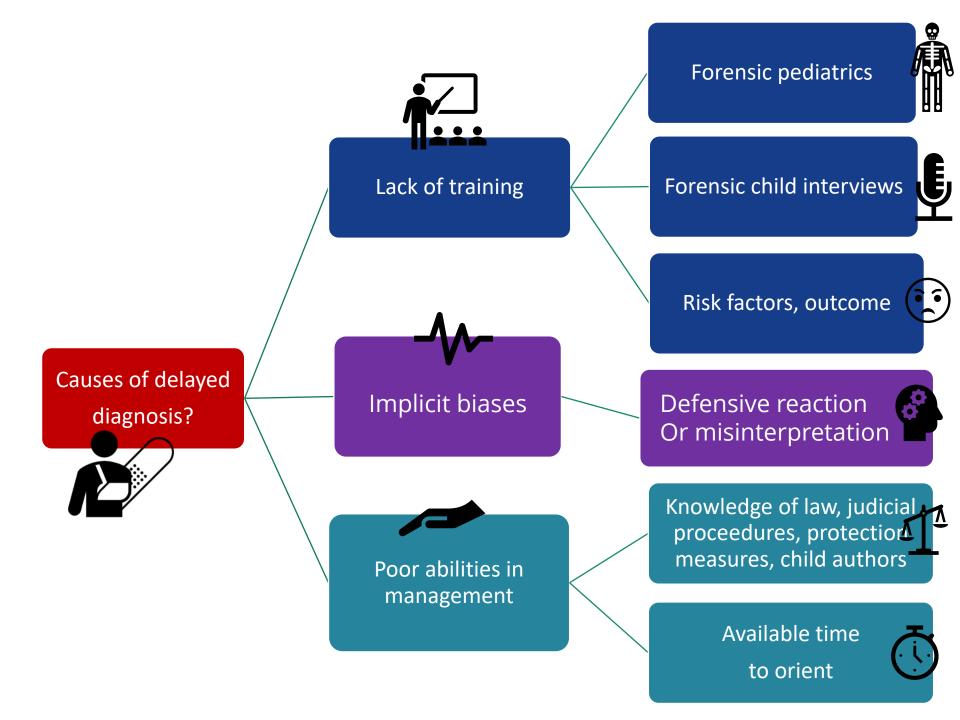


¹Gilbert 2009; ²Tanguy 2015; ³Join-Lambert* 2020; ³Frechon* 2016











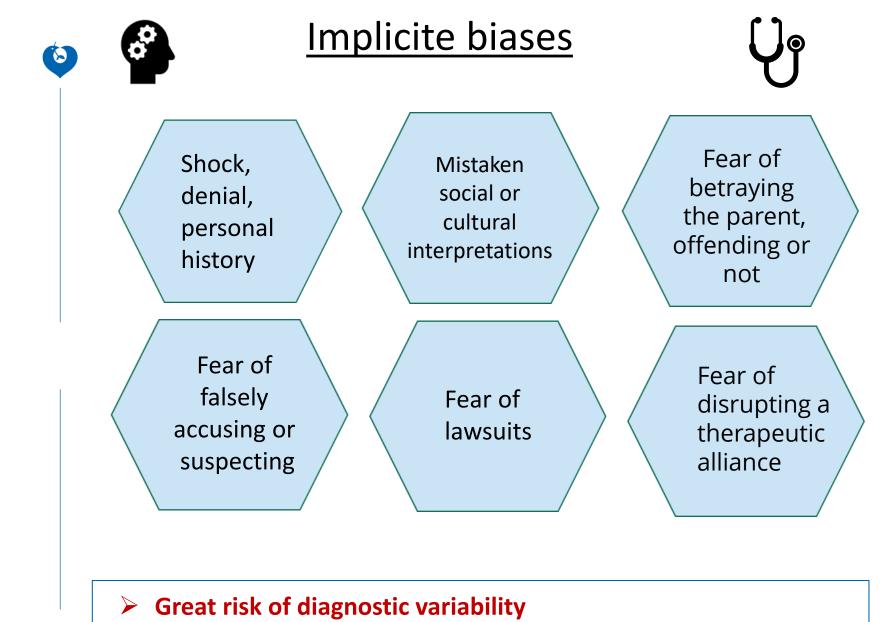
- « Gap between knowledge and pediatricians' practice » Flaiherty 2006
- « Pediatricians' knowledge and practices » Ayou 2018

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• Probable » reluctancy to see » and difficulties to report in pediatricians own socioeconomic group

A. Tursz 2015

« How to overcome healthcare providers' denial? »
 A. Tursz 2012



Necessity of sharing the discussion and of consensus decision





Ayou 2018 A Tursz 2012



3. What needs and actions?

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For early detection
 For early intervention
 For prevention?



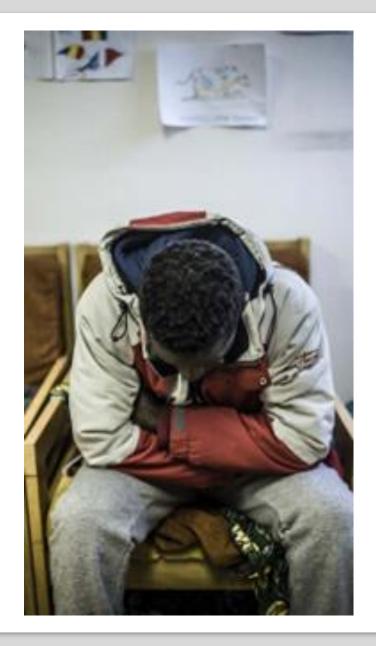
- Early and positive diagnosis thanks to various skills
- Multidisciplinary approach, sociologist too!
- Time
- Good quality communication and with partners form extra medical fields – social – police - justice
- Professionnals who can feel competent and in close communication
- Feeling comfortable to discuss the matters ++ implications for prevention interventions

Better assessment if complementary points of view











- U.S. Child Advocacy Centers (1985) : 900 at date!
- Iceland Barnahus (1998), spreading model in EU
- ISPCAN (1977) and Forensic pediatrics (2009)
- For victims of violence or witnesses of violence
- Prevention and protection + rapid access to justice
- Staff: physicians, mental health therapists, child protection personnel + social workers + defense attorney and child advocates + prosecutors + law enforcement officers
- Barnahus: also a judge

Implementation in France?

2021

Structuration régionale de l'offre de soins pour les mineurs victimes de violences

NIVEAU RÉGIONAL



NIVEAU



→ Formations

croisées...

dont formations pluridisciplinaires,

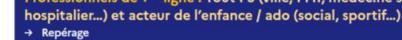
- IMMÉDIATE
- Agence Régionale de Sant

Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE DES SOLIDARITÉS

ET DE LA SANTÉ



- → IP / Signalement le cas échéant
- → Suivi du parcours / suivi « classique »



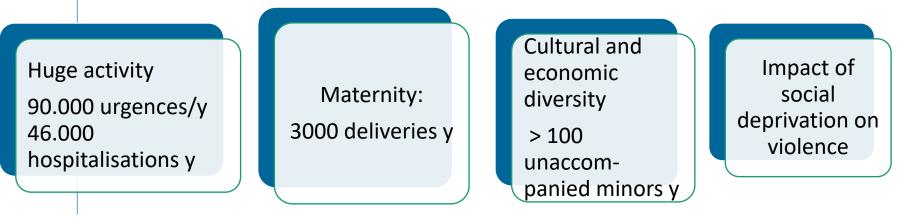
- **PRAPS** (Programme Régional d'Accès à la Prévention et aux Soins des plus démunis) 2018-2023:
- **PASS** (Permanence d'Accès aux Soins) pédiatriques, transversales \rightarrow

EUPROM (European Union protection of unaccompanied minors) (France, l'Espagne, l'Italie et la ٠ Suède): enjeux et pratiques en prise en charge des mineurs non accompagnés.



Robert Debré Pediatric University Hospital in Paris









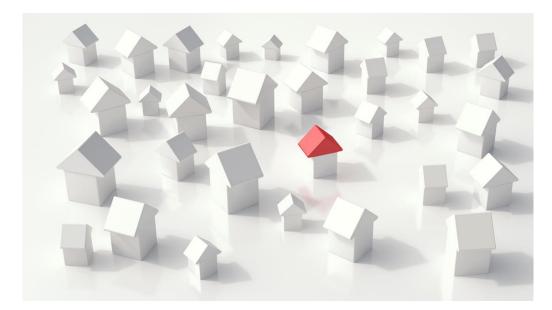




MINISTÈRE DES SOLIDARITÉS ET DE LA SANTÉ



Robert Debré University Hospital in Paris



(2022)

UAPED



Child Prevention and Protection Unit



EPRRED for l'Ilede-France: Regional Expertise







<u>Team ESPER</u> (9h – 18h)



➤ 1 full time physician

- Clinical advice, forensics, child protection and parental guidance
- Supervising public consultation for undocumented minors

> 1 full time pediatric nurse

- Mother child relationship, et parenting support
- Wide network in postnatal access to health care for socially deprived

1 full time psychologist (trauma)

- > Coworking with social workers + precarious
- Translating service and socio-cultural mediator
- > Forensic interviewing room in progress for Police use



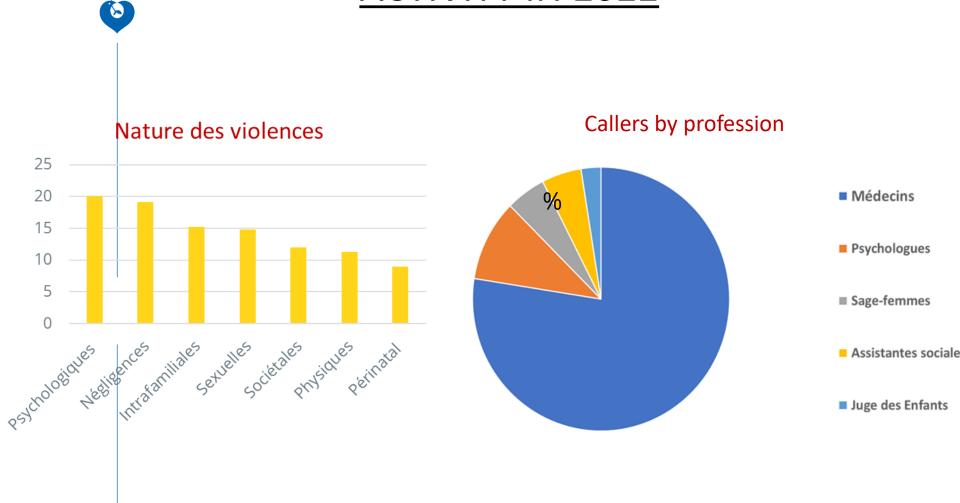








<u>ACTIVITY IN 2022</u>

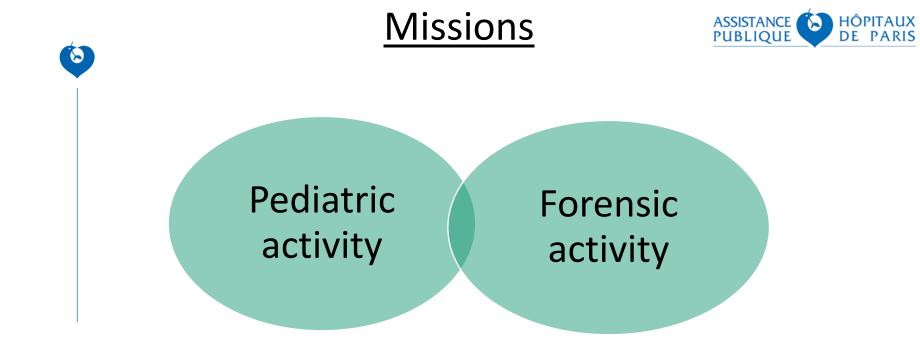


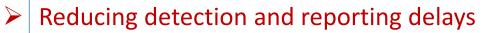
- 45 new children identified per month

- above 400 a year







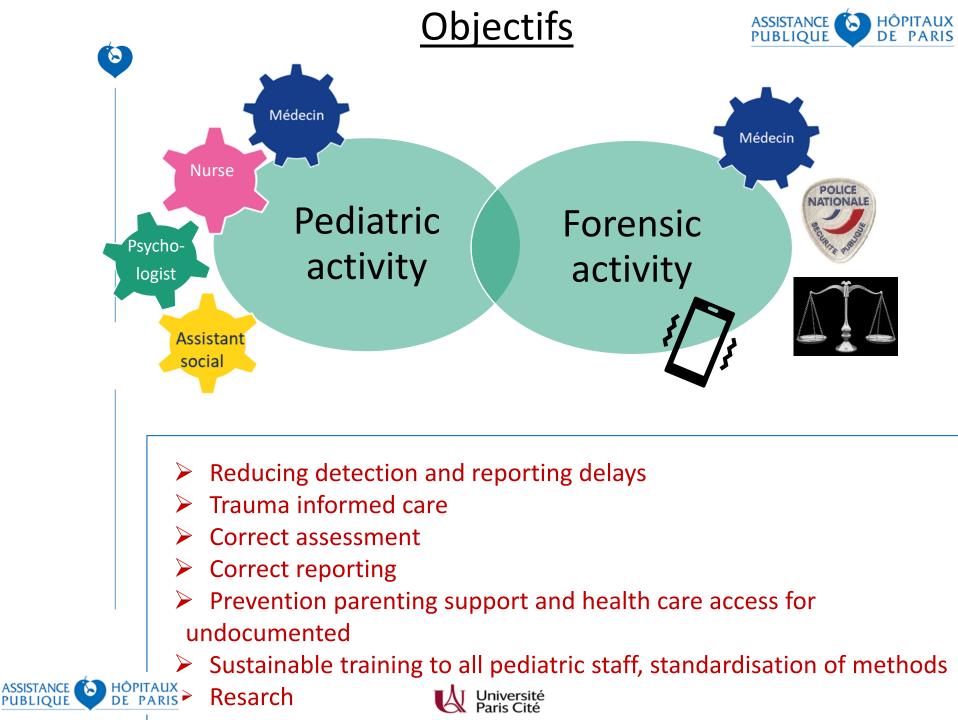


- Trauma informed care
- Correct assessment
- Correct reporting
- Prevention by parenting support and health care access for undocumented
- Sustainable training to all pediatric staff, standardisation of methods
- Resarch

HÔPITAUX

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Child victim process in care

Hsopitalisaton for Health treatment protection Mental trauma care **Biological and radiological Parental guidance** Detection exams Follow-up Partnership **Forensic certificates** contact Written reporting





NICHD protocol

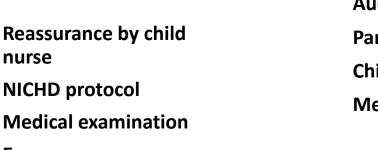
Emergency care

nurse

protocol

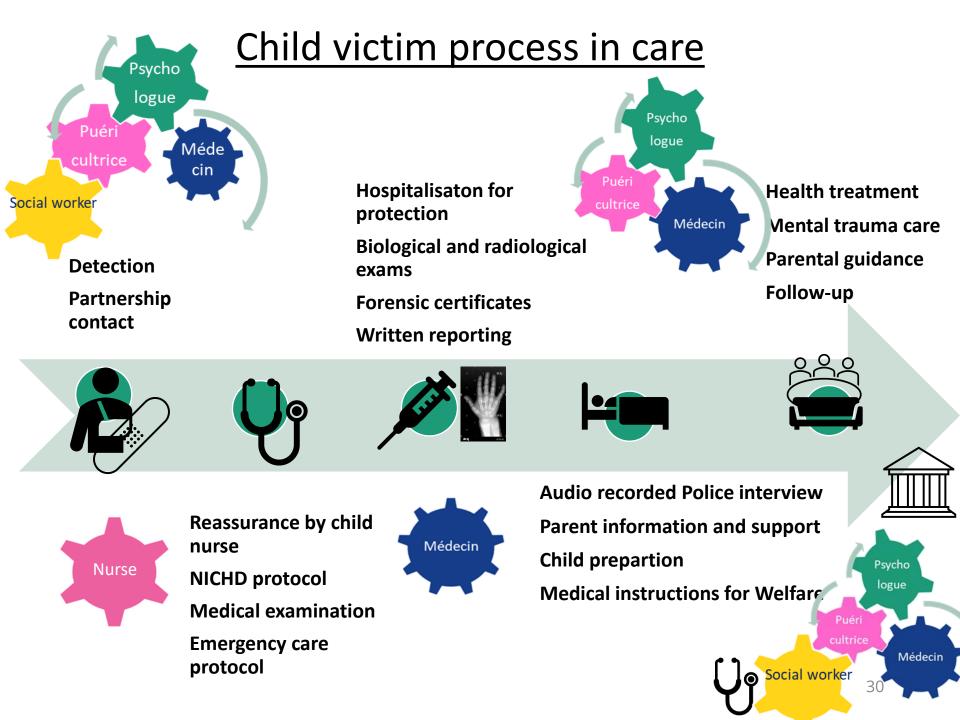




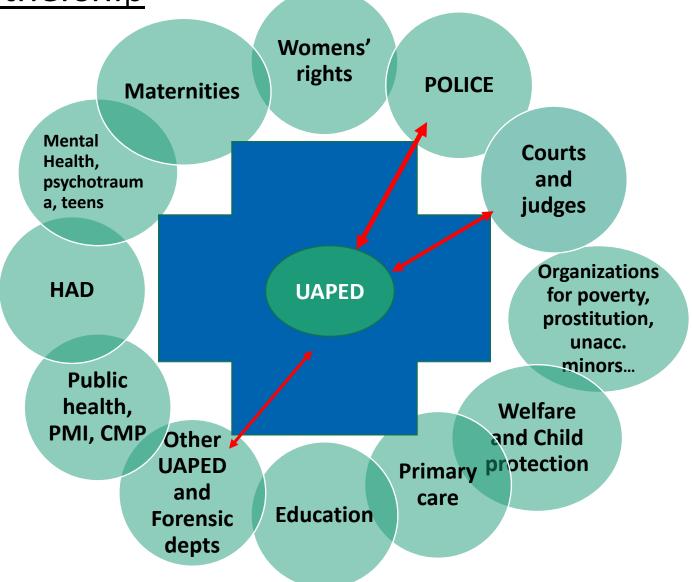


Audio recorded Police interview Parent information and support **Child prepartion** Medical instructions for Welfare





Partnership





Fluidity and constant interactions



Physical violence	Protocols, of which female genital mutilations
Sexual violence	Protocols, Incest, Prostitution, NICHD Protocol
Shaken baby syndrome	Autopsies and sibling assessment or protection
Customary and psychological domestic violence	Reinforced parental guidance
School bullying	Partnership with School
Neglect and lack oh health care	Reinforced pediatric follow-up, possible change?
Intimate partner violence	Partnership, protocol for fémicide child survivors
Structural violence	Care access, protocol for runaway unacc. minors
Neonatal risk	prebirth, mother-newborn interactions, guidance

And always pediatric follow-up+ siblings +parenting support + training

Adapting to childrens' needs... rather than ours...

Standard Follow-up Single or multidisciplinary assessment : if foreseeable and rapid change potential or social problem alone

Targeted care Day care

- Multidisciplinary assessment : risk of danger
- Pediatric and social follow-up + written reporting

Reinforced pathway Hospitalisation - Multidisciplinary assessment : immediate danger, shelter

- reporting, team work with Welfare, police and Justice
- Building a specialized care pathway in pedaitrics + social + psychological.



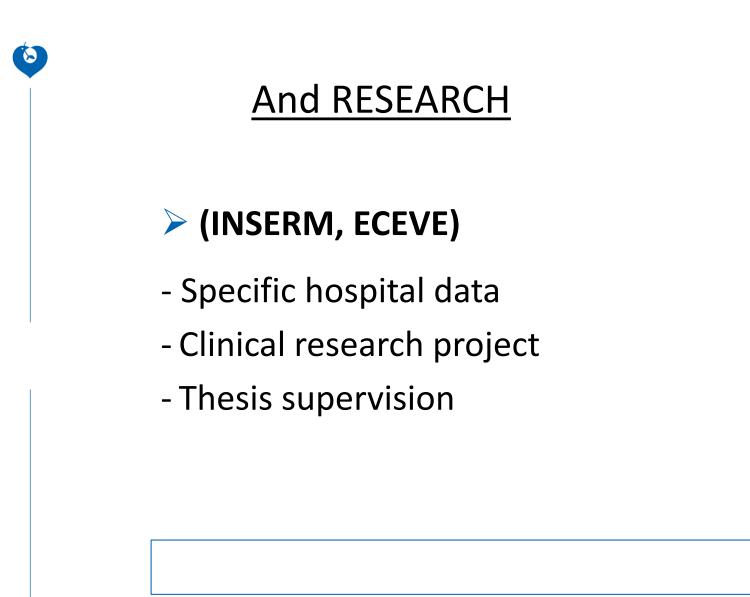


PREVENTION

• Throughout it all...training and awareness

 Prévention first and secondary:
 consultations and day care for parenting support and to initiate change
 vigilance

Prevention secondary and tertiary: interagency cooperation and explaining medical subjects to Police and justice



4. Examples: from knowledge to practice

(A)

<u>Questioning</u>

Situation sociale et familiale:

Parcours et trajet, motif de départ

Démarches administratives, hébergement, assurance maladie

entourage sur place, fratrie?

Scolarisation antérieure et actuelle

Situation maternelle++ Evaluation somatique:

Vaccination (preuve vaccinale?)

Grossesse, ATCD néonataux et pédiatriques, fratrie, consanguinité

Signes fonctionnels (toux, prurit, perte de poids, hématurie, fièvre...) <u>Ado:</u> Addictions, sexualité, conduite à risque, idées suicidaires...

Développement et signes d'appel psy:

Âge des principales acquisitions

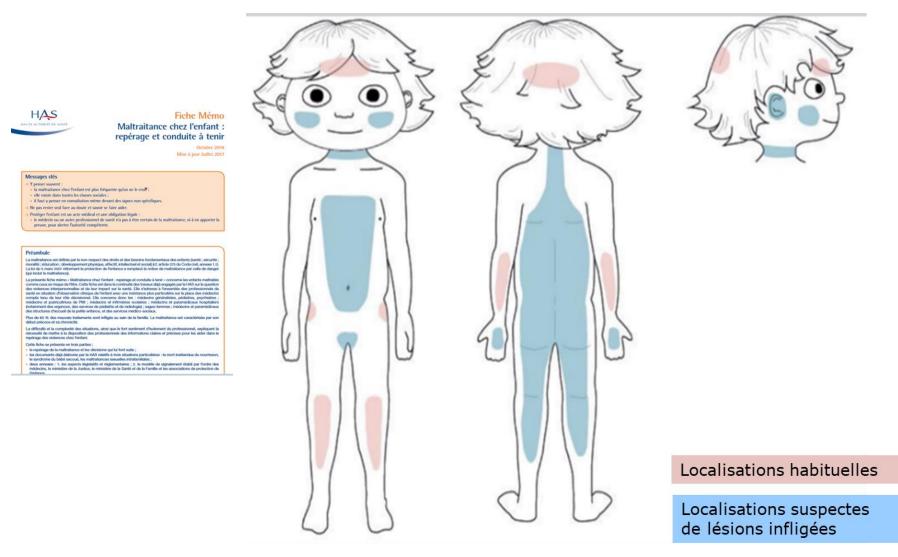
Alimentation, propreté, sommeil

Comportement (pleurs, agitation, difficultés de séparation...)

What parenting challenges? What family model? cultural gaps? What protection factors in their life? What it means or the child to speak



Bruising areas



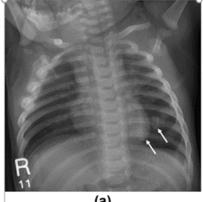
ASSISTANCE DE HÔPITAUX PUBLIQUE DE PARIS

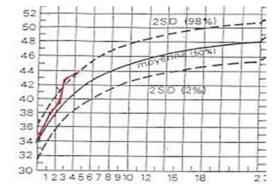


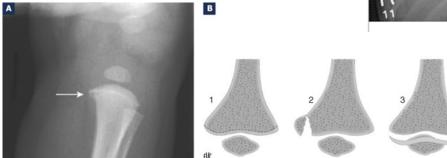
Suspect, detect, diagnose



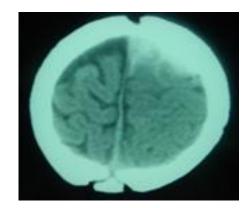
Watch out for toddlers and children who don't walk !!!

















Systematic testing for maltreatment below age 2

- Photos eandmeasurements of lesions
- Test the twin equally
- Hospitalize

Testing around lesion

- Imagerie cérébrale
- FO (24-72h)
- Rx squelette complet +/- scinti os
- EEG
- BHC, lipase, lactates
- écho abdo +/- TDM abdo

Testing for cause

- NFS, hémostase complète
- Ionogramme sanguin, bilan phosphocalcique (Ca, PAL, 25 OH-D, PTH)
- Bilan métabolique (acidurie glutarique type I, Menkes)
- Bilan infectieux
- Toxiques



Detecting is tricky and takes time...



Do abused young children feel less pain?

Drouineau, Picherto et al., Child Abuse and Neglect, 2017

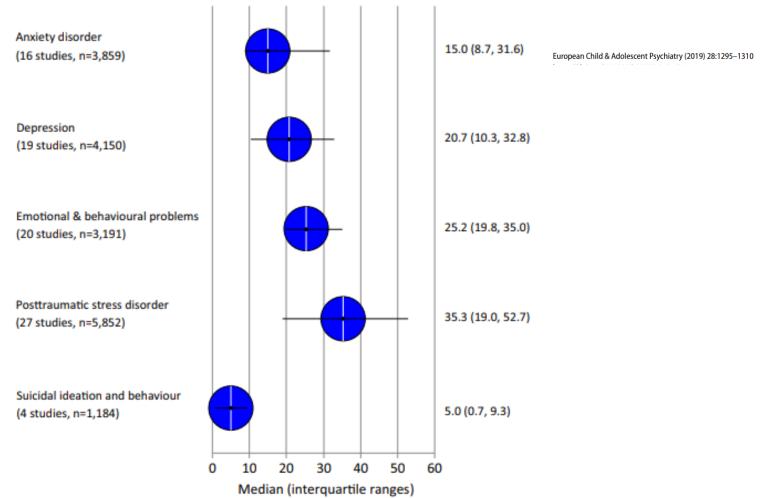


Underidentification of structural violence

- Unaccompanied minors with a smile and no complaints...
- Signs of traumatic dissociation or anesthesia

Prevalence of mental disorders in young refugees and asylum seekers in European Countries: a systematic review

Christina Kien¹ · Isolde Sommer¹ · Anna Faustmann² · Lacey Gibson³ · Martha Schneider⁴ · Eva Krczal⁵ · Robert Jank⁶ · Irma Klerings¹ · Monika Szelag¹ · Bernd Kerschner¹ · Petter Brattström¹ · Gerald Gartlehner^{1,7}

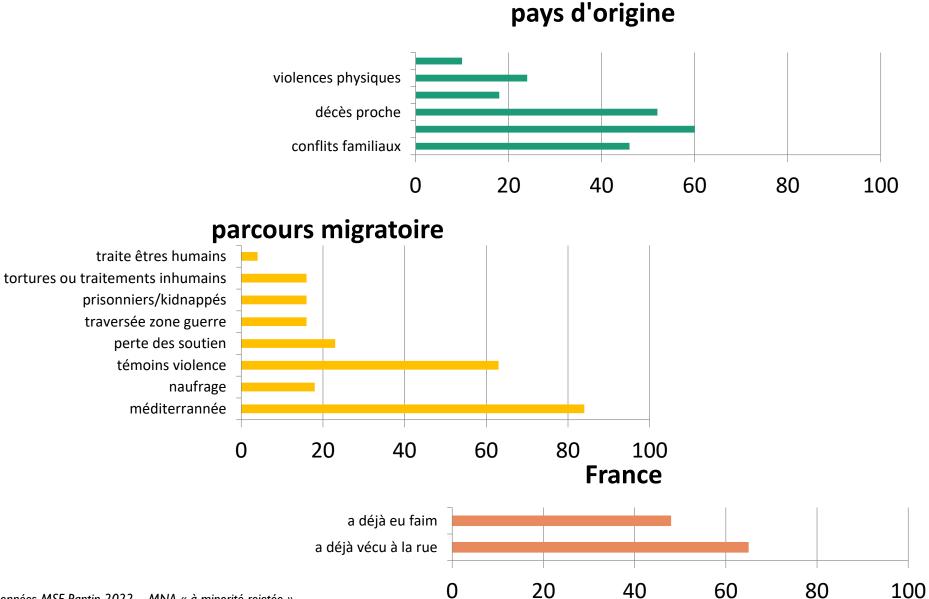






Traumatic risk events during migration





Understanding attachment



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Difficulty in handicap or chronic illnesses/ pain

- Kevin, 11 years old. Mother and brother. Doesn't know if parents are separated.
- Chronic pain and hand shaking, not diagnosed. Social worker believes she is an amazing mother.
- Home schooling since a year and a half. Pain migrates
- 14 specialists seen in the past 18 months. No diagnosis, he is fine.
- Emergency: home morphine administration, arrives in a wheel chair. Mme wants anticoagulants. Handicap recognition obtained. Wants CBD.
- Social worker from school calls: online cagnotte : 35000 euros for transmagnétique brain stimulation machine. K. feels better, loves to play football. But eats less and has trouble sleeping.
- Doctor and psychologist: K is sad, confused, mother is angry.
- « What job would you like to have when you grow up? »
- « I won't have time, I'll be dead by then ».





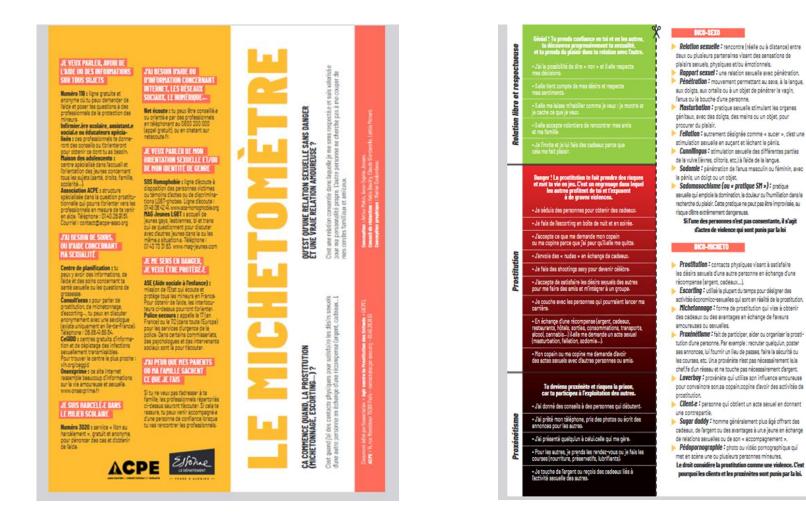
Detecting sexual violence and victim status

- Dalia, 16 years old. Baby in foster care.
- Comes regularly for hand burns, bruises. Always asks for a pregnancy test.
- Comes drunk and drugged voluntarily.
- Exploited. Hurt. Insecure.

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- Police interview: nothing to do, she is laughing away, she says she isn't victim of anyone.
- 4 reports to the prosecutor.
- She doesn't want her mother to be informed, otherwise she won't ever come back.
- Foster care 3 months later.

Sexual violence and Prostitution







SIGNALEMENT

(veuillez écrire en lettres d'imprimerie)

Date (jour de la semaine et chiffre du mois)				
,				
Année :	Heure :			
L'enfant				
Nom :	Prénom : Sexe :			
Date de naissance : Adresse :				
				Nationalité :
Accompagné de (notez s'il s'agit d'une p	personne majeure ou mineure, indiquez si possible les coordonnées de la personne et			
les liens de parenté éventuels avec l'enfant) :				
La personne accompaganatrice r L'enfant nous a dit que :	nous a dit que :			
Examen clinique fait en présence	e de la personne accompagnatrice : oui non			
	e de la personne accompagnatrice : oui non			
Description du comportement de				
Description du comportement de Description des lésions s'il y lieu (Compte tenu de ce qui précède et con	formément à la loi, je vous adresse ce signalement.			
Description du comportement de Description des lésions s'il y lieu (Compte tenu de ce qui précède et con	formément à la loi, je vous adresse ce signalement.			
Description du comportement de Description des lésions s'il y lieu ((notez le siège et les caractéristiques sans en préjuger l'origine) :			

Signature et cachet du médecin ayant examiné l'enfant :



+ teenager rights+ unaccompanied andundocumented minors





Interviewing a child

A faire	<mark>A ne pas faire</mark>	
- S'intéresser, en restant calme	- Forcer l'enfant à parler	
Croire l'enfant et le lui dire	Être trop directif, couper la parole	
A dire	<mark>A éviter de dire</mark>	
« tu peux tout me dire » = rassurer	Poser des questions fermées: « est-ce que » Ou enchainer une suite de questions dirigées	
« ce que tu as subi est grave » = pas juger	« t'es sûr(e)? »	
« je vais le dire à quelqu'un qui va savoir		
comment te protéger »	« pourquoi tu as fait cela »	
« ta parole est entendue, elle est importante »	« dis-moi tout, je garde ton secret »	
« je ne répèterai pas ce que tu me dis sauf si ce sont des choses graves qui te mettent en	« on va tout arranger, tu verras »	
danger »	Insister toujours sur les mêmes éléments	

protocole NICHD, adapting to the age, needs, level of development, cultural background, abilities, and type of suspected violence



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<u>In conclusion</u>

- Multidisciplinary cooperation approach: setting a standard
- Neutral and professional team, adressing all types of violence, evidence based practices (care and proceedures)
- Importance of the quality of the Child interview
- Safe place, aim is to avoid retraumatisation
- Not limited to the child, but also the siblings, and to the nonoffending caregivers taken care of as well: prevention
- Supporting the child's best interests as a primary consideration (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)





1 UAPED by department In France







+ EPRRED









CHALLENGES for research



- Hospital based: great place for collecting big scale data
- Studies for assessment of impact: training; parenting support? Interventions? prevention programs, followup and outcome of the children and families ?
- Practical tools: predictive rules for detection? Parenting pronosis scales? profiles of violence? association with poverty?
- Protective factors for survivors?
- Join national research networks: multidisciplinary research dynamic needed
- Join international networks for inspiration and to learn (Shreiambulanz; Jugend Amt...)



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Multidisciplinary and parenting interventions

Branco 2022

Smith 2020

McCoy 2020 xx

Zafar 2021

Kaur 2022

Westphalin 2021

Nwogu 2016

Need more research

Multidisciplinary easier in high income countries

Intuition that parenting programs can reduce abusive, harsh or negative parenting







MINISTÈRE DES SOLIDARITÉS ET DE LA SANTÉ

















Thank you for your attention

Innovative achievements for our hospital

Towards children and families	Towards Professionals	Bridge in and out of Hospital
 Care access for undocumented minors Early and specialized detection psychotrauma siblings Multidisciplinary assessment + Transcultural Intervention: Forensic NICHD protocol Interview room 	 Psychological supervision Direct help to colleagues: Specific groups (unaccompanied minors, incest, Munchausen) Concerted discussion Raising awareness (risk factors, diagnosis, laws)) Actions: Protocols to share Training for students by 	 Detection: Direct demands Better coordination Shared discussion Vigilance on complex files Sustainable training for private practitioners, childcaregivers, teaching staff and parents. Intervention: time for good quality discussions
 Prévention first and secondary: consultations and day care for parenting support Vigilance 	 simulation Time saving: reporting, tools, resources, orientations, quality communication with child protecion Prévention: practice analysis, safe culture 	 Prévention secondary and tertiary Explaining medical subjects to Police and justice

