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Contents

Summaries of the main articles

War at home: Domestic violence during the Israel-Hamas war and willingness to seek help

Hadas Shapira[1]*, Anna Reznikovski-Kuras*[1] *and Tal Arazi*[1]

On October 7, 2023, the Hamas terrorist organization launched a surprise attack on Israel, triggering the Israel-Hamas War. Studies conducted worldwide indicate a rise in domestic violence immediately following life-threatening events and even years after such crises. This study aims to provide an up-to-date picture of the scope of domestic violence in the context of the Israel-Hamas War, along with the specific risk factors associated with this crisis.

The study was conducted using a quantitative method through a self-report population survey, which included demographic characteristics, manifestations of domestic violence and risk-enhancing factors, and help-seeking behavior. The survey was distributed in February 2024. The 1,529 survey respondents, aged 18 and above, comprised a representative sample of the Israeli population .

The findings revealed that 43.6% of respondents reported emotional, or psychological abuse; 25.0% reported economic abuse; 6.6% reported physical abuse; and 3.4% reported sexual abuse within the family. Domestic violence was reported more frequently by those evacuated from their homes as a result of the war more frequently than by those not directly affected by the terror attacks or the war and by respondents who were mobilized for military service .

Regarding conclusions and implications for practice and policy, there is a need to raise awareness of the various forms and expressions of domestic violence and to enhance services for addressing them. In particular, it is crucial to identify both perpetrators and victims of "invisible" forms of violence that are harder to detect, such as emotional-psychological and economic abuse within the family.

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Black medicine in the Israeli healthcare system: Examining the phenomenon and recommendations for policymakers

Nissim Cohen[2], Dani Filc[3] and Dana Natan-Krup[4]

This study aims to provide an assessment, characterization, and explanation of the phenomenon of using black medicine in the Israeli healthcare system. The research examines how experiences related to the process of receiving medical care and its outcomes may accelerate or reduce the use of black medicine. Based on a national survey, we found that the more people feel a sense of procedural justice in receiving medical care and perceive the healthcare system as acting equitably, the lower the likelihood of using black medicine. Additionally, it was found that the more people feel the healthcare system discriminates against people like them, the more they tend to justify the use of black medicine. The study's findings reveal that the use of black medicine has become normative and that private healthcare services are perceived as legitimate. Thus, there are cases in which the use of black medicine is initiated by the patient even if not requested to do so, and other cases where medical teams guide patients to receive treatments within private healthcare services. Therefore, this study adds to the existing knowledge on the use of black medicine and provides practical recommendations.

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Ethical challenges for conducting research among social workers and individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities

Tehila Raftar-Ozery[5] *and Orly Shapira-Lishchinsky*[5]

The professional challenges and guidelines for conducting research among individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities have yet to be adequately developed. For example, there is a lack of clarity regarding the process of informed consent and the role of guardianship, insensitivity towards individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities, their exclusion from research due to bureaucratic difficulties in involving them, and the associated financial costs, moreover, there is excessive protectiveness, exploitation, and exclusion from research. This study explores the ethical challenges and specific principles in research of individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities. Thirty-seven participants were interviewed in the research. Ten social workers, thirteen guardians and decision supporter, and fourteen individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities at a mild-to-moderate level of functioning. A qualitative methodology was used based on semi-structured interviews, open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. Two main ethical challenges emerged: the guardian consent for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities to participate in the research, following over-protection, and the difficulty and inadequacy of the social workers' code in handling vulnerable populations in participating in research. Four ethical guidelines were identified, work rules, privacy, protection, and inclusion of individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities in research. The findings will help develop a document presenting unique principles to refine the social workers' ethical code concerning vulnerable populations, emphasizing the importance of including individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities in research.

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[5] Bar Ilan University

Parents' coping with child cancer: Anxiety, support systems, trust in the medical staff, and decision-making preferences

Sharon Egozi[6] and Siwar Makhoul-Khoury[6]

Childhood cancer constitutes a significant source of stress for both the child and their family. Psychosocial resources such as social support, trust in the medical staff, and participation in decision-making can contribute to well-being and reduce parental distress.

In line with Bronfenbrenner's model (1979), this study examined correlations between personal variables (parent's gender, age, number of children in the family, education level, and employment status), illness-related variables (cancer type, stage, and time since diagnosis), and ethnicity (Jewish/Arab), to variables related to parental well-being: anxiety levels, social support, trust in the medical staff, and preferences regarding participation in medical decision-making.

Method: Seventy parents of children with cancer (half Jewish, half Arab) were recruited during their child's hospitalization via social workers. Participants completed the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), the Trust in Physician Scale, the Control Preferences Scale (CPS), and a social support measure. Demographic and illness-related data were also collected.

Results: Both state and trait anxiety levels among parents were elevated relative to normative population data, particularly among Arab parents. Trust in the medical staff did not differ significantly by ethnicity but was positively associated with higher education and socioeconomic status. Jewish parents reported greater social support, which was also positively associated with education and socioeconomic status. Parents with higher education levels and larger families were more likely to prefer active participation in medical decision-making.

Conclusions: The findings underscore the importance of a personalized and culturally sensitive approach in supporting parents of children with

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cancer, one that incorporates both medical and psychosocial dimensions while attending to cultural and gender-related differences.

Between hope and disillusionment: The experiences of single parents who dropped out of a financial coaching program in Israel

Michal Goldkorn[7]*, Edith Blit-Cohen*[8] *and Aviad Tur-Sinai*[9]

Financial resilience poses a significant challenge for single-parent families in Israel, especially among divorced parents. Israel offers various training programs for financial management, guidance, and financial support. These programs aim to assist individuals and families in overcoming economic hardship and learning to manage finances with the resources available to them. Despite the existence of these programs, high dropout rates indicate a gap between participants' needs and the available support.

This research examines the experiences of single-parent families in Israel who participated in a financial training and support program and subsequently dropped out. The study employed a qualitative approach, conducting semi-structured interviews with 16 divorced parents aged 40-57. The findings reveal three central themes: (1) the dual nature of the training experience, characterized by initial hopefulness and increasing frustration; (2) reasons for dropout, including a sense of mismatch with the program, difficulties in mentor-mentee relationships, and perseverance challenges; and (3) retrospective evaluation emphasizing the need for personalized adjustment of training programs. The findings underscore the necessity of developing tailored financial education programs for single-parent families, considering time constraints, emotional states, and their unique challenges.

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The research offers insights for developing effective interventions with a holistic approach that integrates financial education with emotional and social support. There is a need for training mentors to work with diverse populations and integrate context-aware approaches in intervention programs. Additionally, the study raises questions about how Israeli society perceives single-parent families and proposes a reevaluation of existing social and economic support systems. These insights could contribute to significant improvements in the quality of life for single-parent families in Israel.

Mothers and fathers with disabilities in compulsory adoption proceedings of their children: The intersection of gender, disability, and socioeconomic status

Shira Rosenberg-Lavi[10] *and Anat Herbst-Debby*[11]

This article examines the perceptions of judges and professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers) regarding the parental capacity of persons with disabilities in cases of compulsory adoption. The article seeks to fill a gap in the literature concerning the intersections of gender, disability, and socioeconomic status in encounters with the welfare system. The study employs a narrative-interpretive analysis of court rulings in cases of non-consensual adoption initiated by the Child Welfare Services, involving children of parents with disabilities. The analysis includes decisions from all levels of the Israeli judiciary — Family Court, District Court, and Supreme Court — from the enactment of the Adoption Law in 1960 through 2017.

The findings reveal a wide and complex array of perceptions regarding parents with disabilities, including concerns about potential risks to the child's physical and emotional well-being. At times, adoption functions as a mechanism for erasing the genealogical lineage of disability. Judges and

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professionals are not always aware of the challenges faced by parents with disabilities who lack resources and access to parenting support services. Courts occasionally criticize the welfare authorities for failing to provide adequate support to such parents, highlighting the need for a more effective support system. The study exposes the intersection of gender, disability, and socioeconomic status, and underscores the cultural biases embedded in judicial and professional decisions concerning the forced adoption of children from parents with disabilities.