The Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior Letter   June 2011

Editor: Gregory K. Fritz, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Founding Editor: Lewis P. Lipsitt, Ph.D.
Published in cooperation with Bradley Hospital. Founded in 1951, Bradley Hospital (www.bradleyhospital.org) was the nation’s first psychiatric hospital operating exclusively for children. Today it remains a premier medical institution devoted to the research and treatment of childhood psychiatric illnesses. Bradley Hospital, located in Providence, RI, is a teaching hospital for The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and ranks in the top third of private hospitals receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health. Its research arm, the Bradley Hasbro Children’s Research Center (BHCRC), brings together leading researchers in such topics as: autism, childhood sleep patterns, infant development, eating disorders, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and juvenile fire-setting.

Bradley Hospital is a member of the Lifespan health system.

Editorial Board:
Larry Brown, M.D., Director, Research, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, RI Hospital; Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Debra Lohnt, Ph.D., Director of Child Psychology, Clinical Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Rowland Barrett, Ph.D., Director of Child and Adolescent Developmental Disabilities Program, Bradley Hospital; Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Jennifer Freeman, Ph.D., Director of Child & Adolescent Outpatient Services, Hasbro Children’s Hospital; Associate Professor (Research) Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Karyn Horowitz, M.D., Director of Outpatient Services, Bradley Hospital; Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Jeffrey Hunt, M.D., Director of Training, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Thomas Roessler, M.D., Co-Director, Hasbro Children’s Partial Hospital Program, Hasbro Children’s Hospital; Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Henry Sachs, M.D., Medical Director, Bradley Hospital; Clinical Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Ronald Sofer, Ph.D., Director of Research, Bradley Hospital; Professor, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Anthony Spinto, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Psychology Training Consortium, Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Executive Managing Editor: Karinne Stovell Senior Associate Editor: Sarah Merrill Production Editor: Richard Rochester Executive Editor: Isabelle Cohen-DeAngelis

Publisher: Sue Lewis

The Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior Letter (CABL) (ISSN 1068-1073, Online ISSN 156-7935) is published monthly by Wiley Subscription Services, Inc., A Wiley Company, 111 River St, Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774; e-mail: subinfo@wiley.com. Annual subscription rates are: Electronic only: $199 (individual), $341 (institutional); Print and electronic: $329 (individual, U.S.), $529 (individual, all other), $629 (institutional, U.S.), $829 (institutional, all other). Periodicals postage paid at Hoboken, NJ and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: For address changes, contact Subscription Distribution US, c/o John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774. © 2011 Wiley Periodicals, Inc., A Wiley Company. All rights reserved.

Editorial offices are located in Providence and Providence, RI. Telephone and Fax numbers are: Pro. Office: (401) 792-2577; Fax: (401) 481-2685

Wiley Online Library Subscription Information: (800) 625-956
Printed in USA

Keep your eye on...

...AAP clinical report on social media on youth

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently issued a clinical report reviewing the impact of social media on children and adolescents and their families. They cite a 2009 poll finding that 22% of adolescents log on to their favorite social media site (e.g., Facebook, Myspace, Twitter) more than 10 times each day. In addition, a 2007 study (Hinduja, et al.) found that 75% of teens own cell phones and use them frequently for social media, texting, and instant messaging. Thus, the report suggests, “a large part of this generation’s social and emotional development is occurring while on the Internet and cell phones.” In their report, AAP’s Council on Communications and Media review the benefits of social media, such as socialization and learning opportunities. They focus more of their discussion on the risks, including cyberbullying, “sexting,” and “Facebook depression.” The Council suggests that pediatricians are uniquely poised to educate and advise parents about the social and health issues related to new media use, with the “core issues” of concern including bullying, popularity and status, depression and social anxiety, risk-taking, and sexual development.


...online and offline victimization linked

A recent study found that a full 96% of youth (aged 10–17) who reported a past-year online victimization also reported offline victimization during the same period, indicating that online victimization does not occur in isolation. Kimberley J. Mitchell, Ph.D., with the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire and colleagues suggest “it is important that awareness of and funding to prevent online perils for youth not eclipse prevention efforts aimed at the broader spectrum of victimizations that they suffer.” In this study of 2,501 adolescents responding to a telephone survey, a total of 6% reported past-year online victimization and 9% reported a lifetime history of online victimization. The types of offline victimization most strongly associated with online victimization were sexual (e.g., sexual harassment, rape) and psychological/physical abuse. Online victims reported elevated rates of life adversity, trauma symptoms, and delinquency. The report concludes that online victims are not necessarily naïve about the Internet, but often “struggle with dysfunctional coping styles, cognitive and emotional deficits, absence of social support, and patterns of increased risk taking.” These teens may require more intensive intervention than that found in standard Internet safety programs. [Mitchell K, et al.: J Adolesc Health 2011; 48:128–134.]

...game elements improve memory training for ADHD

There is evidence for the superior efficacy of computer-assisted instruction (CAI) programs for improving working memory (WM) in children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The authors of a new study note that some of the most effective CAI programs have a game-like format. They compared a standard computerized visuospatial WM training program with one incorporating multiple game elements, such as animation, a story line, goals, and rewards. Sixty-two children aged 7 to 12 years (mean 9.5) with ADHD were randomized. The researchers found that compared to children in the CAI control condition, children in the gaming program condition completed a greater number of training sequences (p<0.001); took fewer breaks during sessions (p<0.001); and more often reported they enjoyed the training and would like to do the task at home (p<0.01). They also experienced significant improvements in WM (Corsi Block-Tapping Test) after 3 sessions (p<0.01), whereas children in the control condition did not. [Prins P, et al.: Cyberpsychol Behav Soc Netw 2011; 14(3):115–122.]