How to Assess Poly-Victimization in Your Work: Approaches & Tools
Enhance Clinical Assessment

- Provides a more comprehensive and accurate picture of a child’s victimization exposure.
- If your assessment already covers maltreatment & sexual victimization, then supplement with peer, crime, witnessing.
- The burden of creating an opportunity to disclose safety issues should not be placed on youth.
Enhance Needs Assessment

- Needs assessment document service priorities in a community or special population.
- In the current financial climate, making a strong case for services is important.
- Broadening assessment can help ID true burden of victimization.
- Local data strengthen grant proposals and help track trends.
Enhance Program Evaluation

- Measures of poly-victimization increase the scope of your outcome measures.
- Helps you track program effects you may be missing.
  - Alcohol treatment example
- Allows better examination of subgroup effects.
- Develop suggestions for improvement.
What Does the JVQ Measure?

- The Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire has 5 core modules:
  - Conventional crime
    - (theft, assault, kidnapping)
  - Child maltreatment
    - (physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect)
  - Peer Victimization
    - (includes bullying)
  - Sexual Victimizations
    - (includes sexual harassment, statutory sex offenses)
  - Witnessing and Indirect Victimization
    - (includes witnessing DV, war zone)

JVQ ref: Hamby, Finkelhor, Ormrod, & Turner, 2004
Advantages of the JVQ-R2 Model

- #1 Can track developmental pathways
- #2 Can identify overlap among types
- #3 Powerful determinant of symptoms
- #4 Comprehensive; includes violence across settings and perpetrators
- #5 Designed to map more closely onto common institutional categories
- #6 Free! Search for “JVQ toolkit”
JVQ-R2 Steps in Development

- Item formulation
- Expert review—more than 15 experts
- 9 Focus groups of youth and parents
- 24 in-depth narrative interviews
- National household survey—with test-retest reliability and construct validity
JVQ-R2 Formats

- Full JVQ, including all supplemental screeners and all follow-ups
  - More than 50 forms of victimization
  - 39 follow-ups, some asked of all or most screeners, some specific to certain victimizations
- Screener only version
  - No follow-up items
- Abbreviated interview
  - 34 core JVQ items, with limited follow-ups
- Reduced item version
  - 12 items that include at least one screener from each major victimization domain.
North Shore Trauma History Checklist

- 29-item semi-structured interview
- Widely used in CAC’s.
- Covers wide range of potentially traumatic events (PTE’s), including victimization, natural disasters, homelessness.
- Developed for clinical use.
- Main limitation is limited psychometric data.
Childhood Experiences of Violence Questionnaire

- Walsh et al, 2008
- Designed for adolescents
- 12 items that cover some forms of family and community violence
- Good psychometric properties
- Main limitations are limited scope and focus on adolescents
Adverse Childhood Experiences Scales

- Felitti et al., 1998
- Assesses multiple forms of victimization and other PTEs.
- Well-known
- Simple to use and available online
- Main limitations are lack of scope, lack of empirical reasons for inclusion of items, and focus on adult retrospective reports (no youth version).
Building a Child-Centered Approach into Assessment

- Although some exemplary programs exist, many programs, including the important gateways of CPS & schools, seldom ask about victimizations aside from those related to initial report.
- We’d like to see all children who receive CPS referrals asked about bullying, nonfamily assault, and exposure to community violence.
- We’d like to see all school children referred for bullying or depression asked about family violence.