**Intro:** Hello, and welcome to the National Children’s Advocacy Center’s new podcast series on How to Assess Poly-victimization in Your Work: Approaches & Tools; made possible with support from the Office for Victims of Crime.

The NCAC models, promotes, and delivers excellence in child abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership. I am Muriel Wells, Research Librarian for the National Children’s Advocacy Center and the host of this series which will showcase current poly-victimization topics, and discuss cutting-edge research.

**Question:** I am pleased to welcome Dr. Sherry Hamby, who will join us today to talk about, “How to Assess Poly-victimization in Your Work: Approaches & Tools.” Dr. Hamby is a Research Professor of Psychology at Sewanee, the University of the South, founding editor for the journal Psychology of Violence, and co-investigator for the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence. Dr. Hamby, thank you so much for joining us today.

**Answer:** I am pleased to be here. Thank you for inviting me, Muriel.

**Question:** The CAC community has expressed a lot of interest in poly-victimization, which is the experience of multiple types of victimization. At NCAC, we have had many questions about how knowledge of poly-victimization can be used in clinical settings. What suggestions do you have?

**Answer:** Thanks for that question. There are at least 3 ways an understanding of poly-victimization can be used in clinical settings as an assessment tool. First and probably most obviously, it can be used to enhance clinical assessment of individual children or families and make sure the treatment program is addressing all of the safety issues a child is experiencing.

**Question:** And what are the other two?

**Answer:** The other two are at the program level. Understanding poly-victimization can help with needs assessments of communities or of service populations, again by making sure that the agency is capturing the true burden of victimization in their community. The third way is with program evaluation. Program evaluation can be difficult, high-stakes work. There is a lot of pressure to show positive results. One way to address that is by casting a wide net of outcome measures. It is possible that interventions with families might also help peer relationships at school, for example.
**Question:** Great, those are all interesting possibilities. If someone wants to start assessing poly-victimization, what tools can they use?

**Answer:** There are several measures that assess multiple forms of victimization. In our work for the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, we use the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ). The JVQ is a freely available and widely used tool for assessing poly-victimization. The JVQ also has a lot of data available on reliability and validity. Just search for "JVQ toolkit."

**Question:** What about other options?

**Answer:** There are several. Other options include the North Shore Trauma History Checklist, Childhood Experiences of Violence Questionnaire, and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale (ACES). Most of these are easily located online too. For example, the CDC has a website with ACES information.

**Question:** Terrific. Thank you, Dr. Hamby, for all of this information. We also want to mention that there are white papers and webinars available on this and other topics related to poly-victimization on the NCAC website. Ensuring the safety and well-being of children is the primary mission of the National Children's Advocacy Center, and we are committed to making available the latest information on tools and resources that providers can use in their important work to ensure the safety of all children.

**End:** Thank you for tuning into this podcast on How to Assess Poly-victimization in Your Work: Approaches & Tools, and to review other helpful resources, please visit the National Children’s Advocacy Center’s website at www.nationalcac.org. That’s: w-w-w dot n-a-t-i-o-n-a-l-c-a-c dot o-r-g

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