



**PODCAST TRANSCRIPT:  
PREVENTION OF POLY-VICTIMIZATION  
FEATURING HEATHER TURNER, PH.D**

**Intro:** Hello, and welcome to the National Children's Advocacy Center's new podcast series on Poly-victimization; 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.

I am pleased to welcome back Dr. Heather Turner, who is joining us today to talk about "Poly-Victimization among Children with Disabilities". Dr. Turner is Professor of Sociology and Senior Research Associate at the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Turner has 13 years of research experience on childhood exposure to violence, has conducted numerous national surveys, and has published over 75 articles, many focusing on the patterns of childhood victimization and mental health.

**Question:** Dr. Turner, thank you for joining us.

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

**Question:** I know we're going to talk about the prevention of poly-victimization today. But first of all, what is poly-victimization?

**Answer:** Poly-victimization refers to exposure to many different types of violence and victimization across settings in a child's life. So instead of focusing on specific individual types of victimization, such as sexual abuse or bullying, poly-victimization instead refers to the experience of multiple victimizations of different kinds. So it focuses on how the same children often experience many different types of victimization... like sexual abuse, bullying, physical abuse, witnessing family violence and exposure to community violence.

**Question:** Why is poly-victimization important to understand when thinking about the prevention of child victimization?

**Answer:** Poly-victimization highlights the need for a more coordinated prevention effort that addresses many different types of victimization. Ideally, prevention programs would build off of each other, instead of too often offering similar content. We believe Child Advocacy professionals are well positioned to take a lead role in preventing poly-victimization given their

strong collaborations across many settings... like schools, families, communities, and youth development organizations.

**Question:** What are some resources or existing programs that might help child maltreatment professionals help to prevent poly-victimization?

**Answer:** Some promising prevention approaches supported by research, for example, are home visiting and early intervention programs for infants and young children, and the Big Brothers-Big Sisters program for older children. There has also been research showing the benefits of encouraging bystanders to take action to defend and support victims and reduce opportunities for perpetration. Practitioners who work with at-risk kids can also help to support these kinds of community based efforts. An awareness of poly-victimization also points to the need for stronger referral chains between prevention providers and intervention services.

**Question:** So you are suggesting that professionals who work for Child Advocacy Centers, for example, could encourage prevention efforts even in contexts outside of what has traditionally been their domain of work?

**Answer:** Absolutely! We believe that CAC professionals have important roles to play in helping to teach prevention messages, advocating for more comprehensive prevention efforts in schools, communities and homes, in helping prevention professionals understand the needs of poly-victimized children, and in connecting families and children to key prevention and intervention resources. Practitioners who work daily on clinical interventions with poly-victimized children are really in a unique and important position to also be advocates for prevention. They witness firsthand the widespread and damaging effects of poly-victimization and can speak most eloquently about how urgent it is to prevent further victimization.

**End:** Thank you for sharing such valuable information.

Thank you for tuning into this podcast on Prevention of Poly-victimization. For information on Poly-victimization, and to review other helpful resources, please visit the National Children's Advocacy Center's website at [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org). That's: w-w-w dot n-a-t-i-o-n-a-l-c-a-c dot o-r-g.

Production and dissemination of this podcast is supported by the National Children's Advocacy Center under Grant No. 2012-VF-GX-K010, Awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in these materials are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.