

# Promoting Unbiased and Inclusive Care

*CHAMP supports the inclusive and unbiased evaluation and treatment of children suspected of being maltreated or abused.*

## Facts

- Failure to identify child abuse due to racial, ethnic, and cultural biases has severe consequences.<sup>1</sup>
- Racial disproportionality is prevalent in child abuse reporting and the child protection system.<sup>2</sup>
- Differences in child upbringing practices exist, and the effects of various cultural practices may be misinterpreted as child abuse.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Language barriers can lead to difficulties in obtaining a complete history and the misinterpretation of child maltreatment.<sup>4</sup>

## Recommendations for Providing Unbiased Care

- Engage in continuous professional development regarding the major forms of child maltreatment in addition to practicing self-reflection regarding racial, ethnic, and cultural biases.<sup>1</sup>
- Use standardized diagnostic tools, such as screening tools and checklists, to promote objectivity in reporting child abuse.<sup>1</sup>
- Develop a diverse multidisciplinary team to encourage reflection about biases. This team can also be a powerful tool in promoting unbiased care.<sup>1</sup>
- Consider your personal biases during mandated child abuse reporting.<sup>1</sup>
- Consider whether your child abuse reporting is being influenced by the family's psychosocial history. Reports should be based on new suspicions of abuse or neglect, not solely based on past histories.

## References

1. [Palusci VJ, Botash AS. Race and Bias in Child Maltreatment Diagnosis and Reporting. \*Pediatrics\*. 2021; 148\(1\): e2020049625. doi:10.1542/peds.2020-049625.](#)
2. Child Welfare Information Gateway. *Child Welfare Practice to Address Racial Disproportionality and Disparity*. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau; 2021. [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/racial\\_disproportionality.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/racial_disproportionality.pdf).

3. Killion CM. Cultural Healing Practices that Mimic Child Abuse. *Ann Forensic Res Anal.* 2017; 4(2): 1042. <https://www.jsccimedcentral.com/public/assets/articles/forensic-4-1042.pdf>.
4. Raman S, Hodes D. Cultural Issues in Child Maltreatment. *J. Paediatr. Child Health.* 2012; 48(1): 30-37. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22040215/>.

## Additional Resources

- **American Academy of Pediatrics: Child Abuse and Neglect** provides guidelines for practitioners who work with children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Available at <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/child-abuse-and-neglect/>.
- **American Academy of Pediatrics: Trauma, Treatment, and Resilience** is an educational project available for health professionals to improve identification and care of childhood trauma. Available at <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/trauma-treatment-and-resilience/>.
- **Racism and Health: A Reading List.** The American Association of Medical Colleges has compiled many health equity resources, including this collection of materials describing how racism affects health and well-being. Available at <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/racism-and-health-reading-list>.
- **Eliminating Race-Based Medicine** is an academic article that explains how professionals can take action to eliminate racial bias in medicine. [Wright JL, Davis WS, Joseph MM, Ellison AM, Heard-Garris NJ, Johnson TL. Eliminating Race-Based Medicine. \*Pediatrics.\* 2022;10.1542/.](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-10.1542)

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