



3104 William James Hall
2900 Bedford Ave. • Brooklyn, NY 11210
Tel. 718-951-5000 x1413 • fax 718-951-4661

Children's Studies Program website:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies>

Children's Studies Center for Research, Police and Public Service Website:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/1758.htm>

National Consultation Conference Website:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/conference/>

Children's Studies Center
For Research, Policy, and Public Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Professor Gertrud Lenzer, Director (718) 951-3192

glenzer@brooklyn.cuny.edu

A National Epidemic of Child Abuse and Violence against Children

***New Findings from the National Consultation on "Social Justice for Children:
To End Child Abuse and Violence against Children"***

Convened by the Children's Studies Center of Brooklyn College, CUNY

"Imagine that you woke up this morning and on the headlines of the New York Times, or on the feature story on CNN, the headline was that scientists discovered a new disease that affected children and about 60 percent of children every year were exposed to this disease.

Scientists also reported that those exposed were at greater risk for mental health – problems like depression and anxiety disorder. And they were also at greater risk for physical health problems, even serious health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. In addition, they were at greater risk for social problems like crime and drug abuse during their lives.

Scientists also noted that they even could pass this on to their own future children in some way. If we had a disease that was in the headlines framed like that, what do you think we'd do about it? I really believe that despite budget deficits, despite anything, we would do anything we could to eradicate that disease, to stop it. But the truth is, as you've already heard, we do have such a disease; it's called violence against children."

*-James Mercy, Acting Director, Division of Violence Prevention,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

BROOKLYN, NY, May 7, 2012 –The Children's Studies Center of Brooklyn College and The City University of New York has just released on their website, complete videotaped recordings, transcriptions, and findings from its National Consultation: "Social Justice for Children: To End Child Abuse and Violence Against Children" held on November 4, 2011 at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Visit the National Consultation Conference Website for information:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/conference/>

This multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral national consultation event was convened to draw concerted attention to the realities of child maltreatment and violence against children as a national condition of alarming proportions and to explore ways to meet this national epidemic. The participants included twenty-seven distinguished speakers and panelists from neuroscience, the social sciences and public health, the courts and the judiciary, the New York State legislature, the U.S. Department of Justice, the United Nations, major child protection and advocacy organizations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. In this expert consultation, the speakers presented the most recent biological, social, cultural and economic findings about the incidence, prevalence and long-ranging effects of maltreatment of children and young people in the home and many other social settings in our nation.

Together with the Children's Studies Center, researchers and policy makers called on the U.S. government to take immediate action to address the national epidemic of child abuse and violence against children.

Many of the participants and invited guests at the National Consultation endorsed a Joint Statement, which outlined major policy and legislative initiatives and explored ways of collaboration between the different sectors in our society dedicated to the prevention of violence against children and to promote awareness in the nation of the deleterious effects of maltreatment of children.

Sign our Joint Statement from the National Consultation on “Social Justice for Children to End Child Abuse and Violence Against Children”:

(http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/conference/pdf/Joint_Statement_FINAL_with_address.pdf)

###

The Children's Studies Center for Research, Policy, and Public Service concentrates on pedagogy, research, and public service. It participates in local, national, and international research on behalf of children and youth, and assistance to governmental and advocacy agencies as well as community-based organizations in their work on behalf of children and young people. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of children and youth studies, an interdisciplinary field of study focusing on children and youth ages 0 to 18, which represent a distinct socio-cultural and generational cohort. Professor Gertrud Lenzer, director of the program and the center, is credited with establishing the field.

“Social Justice for Children: A National Consultation to End Child Abuse and Violence against Children” was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York with additional support from The New York Community Trust – The Mark Family Fund, and the Oak Foundation.