

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Paediatrics Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Child modern slavery, trafficking and health: A practical review of factors contributing to children's vulnerability and the potential impacts of severe exploitation on health.
AUTHORS	Wood, Laura

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Reviewer name: Jeffrey Goldhagen Institution and Country: University of Florida College of Medicine - Jacksonville USA Competing interests: None
REVIEW RETURNED	21-Dec-2019

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This is an excellent review of the vulnerabilities and impact of child trafficking. The following comments should not impact publication of the manuscript.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The title doesn't adequately reflect the focus of the paper. The paper focuses primarily on the vulnerabilities of children and the impact—primarily mental and behavioral health, on the child through the lifecycle. The title should reflect this.2. I would replace "child abuse" with "violence against children." (line 33) and use this term throughout.3. I think you meant "intrafamilial" and not "interfamilial" (line 46)4. In the list of issues delineated in line 46, would add armed conflict.5. There isn't a deep enough discussion of addressing the sometimes paradox of treating these children, in particular victims of sex trafficking, in the juvenile justice system. (Crime vs. Victim)6. On page 4, line 6, having a difficult time understanding what the author is suggesting. Is the author suggesting people shouldn't respond for fear of deterring perpetrators. Not sure I agree with this. Am sure others would share my concerns.7. May need more discussion on the issue mentioned above(5) as presented on page 4 line 25-26.8. Long list of pre-trafficking vulnerabilities could also be reflected in a Table9. Page 5, line 12. Is "ostracization" a word?10. Page 6, line 5, Not sure that I agree with the statement "all that is required." is a true statement. It is a bit reductionist--it's far more complicated.11. While there are many references to "health care," there are relatively few to mental and behavioral health care--even though the primary impact is on mental and behavioral health. Would be sure to comment on this, and wherever "health care" and/or "health" impact is referred to, that the author includes health and mental health or some other mechanism to include both.
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REVIEWER	Reviewer name: Bernadette O'Hare Institution and Country: The University of St Andrews, Scotland
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	The College of Medicine, The University of Malawi Competing interests: None
REVIEW RETURNED	10-Jan-2020

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This is a really useful review. A minor suggestion, in table 1, for each system, it would be great to systematically first give the history followed by the findings on examination. For example, under the abdominal system, abdominal pain, encopresis and constipation should be listed before the physical findings.</p> <p>Also, some examples of the cardiovascular consequences of illicit drug use would help the reader.</p> <p>Under respiratory, chest infections including tuberculosis.</p> <p>To sexually transmitted diseases you could also include blood-borne infections.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Professor Goldhagen

- the title is now suggested to be: Child modern slavery, trafficking and health: A practical review of factors contributing to children’s vulnerability and the potential impacts of severe exploitation on health.
- 'violence against children' has been added in line with WHO definition. At points I have kept the term 'child abuse' alongside it as this is common terminology in the UK setting.
- armed conflict has been added.
- the sentences that were unclear have been removed - the concern was around a wise approach to counter-trafficking that does not merely force victims into backstreet medical care and away from safe healthcare provision.
- erroneous words have been corrected - thanks for spotting them!
- a section on victim/criminality boundaries has been added however I think this topic could have a review of its own, particularly from the US perspective.
- my use of the term 'health' and 'healthcare' was intended to be inclusive of all components of health, including mental and behavioural which are natural aspects of paediatric care as well as via specialist provision. The terms 'medicine' and 'medical staff' were deliberately avoided. Unfortunately the term 'holistic healthcare' can be conflated with alternative medicine here. I have tried to widen the inclusiveness by using 'health professionals from all disciplines' and similar within the text. If you feel that international readers would not consider themselves under that banner please let me know - thank you.

Dr O'Hare

Many thanks for your comments and I have endeavoured to re-shape the tables in the way you suggested.

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Reviewer name: Goldhagen, Jeffrey Institution and Country: President, International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health
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	Professor and Chief, Division of Community and Societal Pediatrics University of Florida College of Medicine—Jacksonville 841 Prudential Drive, Suite 1330 Competing interests: none
REVIEW RETURNED	24-Mar-2020

GENERAL COMMENTS	The changes I suggested to be made on the initial submission were made, and I suggested the paper be published
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