

Introduction to the Effects of Toxic Stress on Children

This section includes resources discussing the physical effects visited upon children as a result of “toxic stress,” which can result from “strong, frequent, and/or prolonged adversity . . . without adequate adult support.” Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, Toxic Stress, <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/toxic-stress/> (also linked below). Toxic stress “can disrupt the development of brain architecture and other organ systems, and increase the risk for stress-related disease and cognitive impairment, well into the adult years.” Id. As noted in some of the resources discussed in Part II supra, parent-child separation places the child at significant risk of developing toxic stress. The research below, therefore, may be grafted onto the discussion of the harmful effects of removal generally when preparing a submission to a court in opposition to the government’s removal attempt.