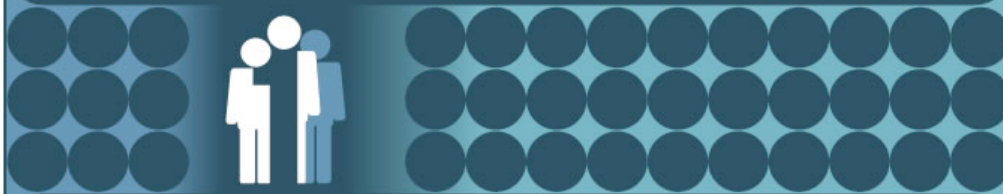


Massachusetts Hospitals: Continuing Commitment to Patient Safety and High-Quality Care



*Patients first Advance*

August 9, 2006

## **CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE PUBLISHES VIOLENCE STUDY IN PEDIATRICS JOURNAL**

A study by clinicians at Cambridge Health Alliance examines the complexities surrounding students with disruptive behavior and special education needs in schools, and the challenges clinicians, families, and educators face to optimize services for these vulnerable students. Forming collaborations throughout communities to improve health care to residents is a key goal of The clinicians examined the circumstances surrounding 33 urban students whom staff had designated as “threats to school safety.” The students were characterized by severe untreated or under-treated psychopathologies and faced serious adversity, ranging from substance abuse to academic difficulties. The study found major barriers to care including poor experiences with the mental health system and parents, and school staff who often did not understand the impact of a child’s psychiatric condition on his/her behavior. Those receiving treatment sought help in fragmented doses, thereby limiting doctors’ abilities to meet their needs. The researchers also offer practical tips for parents and educators, who can look for signs that a child may be having difficulties. If a child exhibits increased irritability, impulsive responses, or reacts aggressively, he or she may be depressed, traumatized or struggling with a learning disorder. Consultation with a mental health professional may be critical. “Beyond Psychopathology: Assessing Seriously Disruptive Students in School Settings” was published in the August issue of *The Journal of Pediatrics*. , M.D., , MD, and , MD, PhD, are the authors of the study. Nancy Rappaport Lois T. Flaherty Stuart T. Hauser