
A Note about Sources

N.B. For readers who’d like to read more, or who are undertaking their own research, here is a select bibliography of my sources for this piece. As with all the bibliographies for New Yorker essays that I post on my Harvard faculty website, this brief discussion mentions a good number of works consulted but it’s neither an exhaustive inventory of my sources nor a survey of the scholarship in a given field. Instead, I’ve listed works I found most useful or especially provocative. I have generally only included manuscripts, journal and magazine articles, and books; I haven’t listed interviews here at all; I’ve generally not included things like newspapers, advertisements, patents, legislation, and policy statements; and I’ve left out citations from specialized bodies of literature in fields like medicine and law. A last caveat: these brief bibliographies are all frozen in time: I do not update them, and they therefore don’t include anything written on these subjects after the date on which my essay was published.

My accounts of the Baby Doe investigation and the pre-trial proceedings relating to criminal charges against Rachelle Bond and Michael McCarthy are derived from court documents, press coverage, and interviews, especially with Bond’s attorney, Janice Bassil, and with employees of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Sources for my account of the current controversy at the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families include published investigations into recent deaths, including reports published by DCF itself, by the Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate and by the Child Welfare League of America. My thanks to everyone I interviewed, including DCF Commissioner Linda Spears and the Massachusetts Child Advocate, Maria Mossaides.

My account of the Gallison case is based on the complete records of the separate criminal trials of Denise and Edward Gallison (including court briefs, dockets, and trial testimony); newspaper accounts from 1978-1980; the results of the state-mandated investigation, “Report of the Massachusetts Child Abuse and Neglect Fact-Finding Commission: First Case Study,” typescript, June 26, 1978; and interviews with Denise Gallison, with members of her family, and with her caregivers, that appear in a one-hour documentary, Denise: The Tragedy of Child Abuse (Boston: ABC-TV, 1980). I also interviewed Eleanor Dowd, who served as a staff member for the Fact-Finding Commission.


The Adverse Childhood Experiences studies are available online, as are many materials relating to Yale’s Minding the Baby Program. My particular thanks to the faculty and staff at Minding the Baby, for particularly illuminating interviews regarding the provision of preventative care. Publications reporting the results of the clinical trial include Monica Roosa Ordway et al, “Lasting Effects of an Interdisciplinary Home Visiting Program on Child Behavior: Preliminary Follow-Up Results of a Randomized Trial,” Journal of Pediatric Nursing (2013).