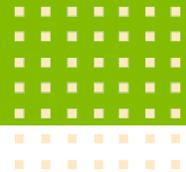**Viewpoints**

The LA Wildfires Are Taking a Traumatic Toll on Children

This LA Times article posits that the aftermath of wildfires on children is profound and often overlooked, with traumatic events causing emotional and behavioral regressions that can linger for months or even years. As seen in the experiences of families like those profiled in the article, young children often react to these crises by reverting to earlier developmental stages, exhibiting tantrums, sleep issues, and extreme separation anxiety.

This shift in behavior can be particularly challenging for parents, as the emotional toll on their children may not always be immediately visible. Yet, child development experts emphasize the importance of continuing support long after the initial trauma, noting that the scars from such devastating events often emerge months later, requiring ongoing therapeutic attention.

The resilience of children in the face of such calamities is undeniable, but it's crucial that parents and communities remain vigilant in providing them with appropriate resources for healing – employing various

strategies to help children process their grief and anxiety. However, as experts like Jennifer Levin stress, long-term recovery requires a sustained commitment to addressing the trauma, even when the world moves on and the immediate crisis fades from public consciousness. Ensuring that children's emotional well-being is prioritized in the aftermath of such tragedies is not just a short-term necessity but an essential part of their long-term development and healing process.

For the entire article, please visit:

While adult fire victims can be better equipped to process and act on stressful circumstances in rational ways — assessing financial losses, planning next steps, wading through paperwork — children are more likely to express their grief and fear with raw emotion and behavioral regressions.

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