

Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Leveraging the Best Available Evidence

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES-508.pdf>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines ACEs as “traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years) such as experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect.” This report explains the prevalence of ACEs and provides a number of strategies to prevent children from experiencing them.

Adverse Childhood Experiences are Different than Child Trauma, and It’s Critical to Understand Why

<https://www.childtrends.org/adverse-childhood-experiences-different-than-child-trauma-critical-to-understand-why>

As the use of ACEs questionnaires for identifying potentially harmful childhood experiences has gained popularity, it is important to understand how ACEs differ from other commonly used terms, including childhood adversity, trauma, and toxic stress. This blogpost clearly and succinctly defines and clarifies each term.

The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Nationally, by State, and by Race or Ethnicity

<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/prevalence-adverse-childhood-experiences-nationally-state-race-ethnicity/>

Research summarized in this report reveals that 45% of children in the US have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience. Economic hardship and parental divorce or separation are the most common, both nationally and in almost every state. The prevalence of other adverse childhood experiences (including parental incarceration, parental death, and other experiences) varies by state and by race and ethnicity. Black and Hispanic children are more likely than white children to have had at least one adverse childhood experience.

ACEs and Toxic Stress: Frequently Asked Questions

The terms adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress seem to be everywhere right now, but what are they exactly and how are they related? Clear up the confusion in this new, easily shareable resource that includes a helpful, downloadable infographic and answers to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs). Most importantly, information is included about how to help mitigate the effects of ACEs and toxic stress, whether you've experienced them yourself or want to help others.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/aces-and-toxic-stress-frequently-asked-questions/>

Childhood Adversity Screenings – Just One Part of an Effective Policy Response to Childhood Trauma

https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/ACESScreening_ChildTrends_July2019.pdf

This brief addresses the implications—both promising and troubling—of integrating adversity screening into child and family service settings that are not exclusively focused on mental health. It summarizes how the research has both informed work with vulnerable children and families, and inadvertently provided a rationale for a strategy that could do harm through the singular use of screening to address the negative effects of childhood adversity. It recommends steps to minimize the unintended consequences of screening and provide a more comprehensive, holistic response to children who have experienced adversity.

Children With Special Health Care Needs Are More Likely to Have Adverse Childhood Experiences

The prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is higher among children and youth with special health care needs than among their peers without such needs, according to Child Trends’ analysis of data from the 2016–17 National Survey of Children’s Health. The survey asks parents or guardians to report whether their child has experienced any of nine ACEs.

<https://www.childtrends.org/children-with-special-health-care-needs-are-more-likely-to-have-adverse-childhood-experiences>

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3, their families, and the professionals and systems who serve and support them. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu