

# Partnering to Address Childhood ACES

Pediatric Practices Partner with Community to Address the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences













### **Introducing Our Presenters**



Lori Clarke
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University



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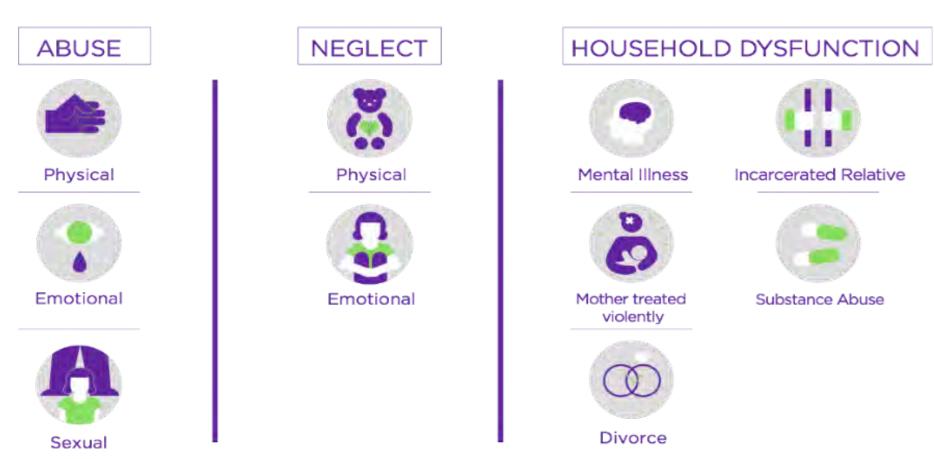
Nilofer Ahsan
Lead, Knowledge and
Partnerships
Children's Bureau
Learning and
Coordination Center
Moderator

### **ACEs Aware**

- California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, in partnership with Gov. Newsom, the state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and health and community leaders, is leading system reform that recognizes, and responds to, the effects that ACEs have on our biological systems and addresses the lifelong impacts of ACEs.
- The statewide ACEs Aware Initiative offers:
  - Training, screening tools, protocols, and payment for screening children and adults.
  - Provider Engagement and Communications Activities.

The California
Surgeon
General has
set a bold goal
to cut ACEs in
half in one
generation.

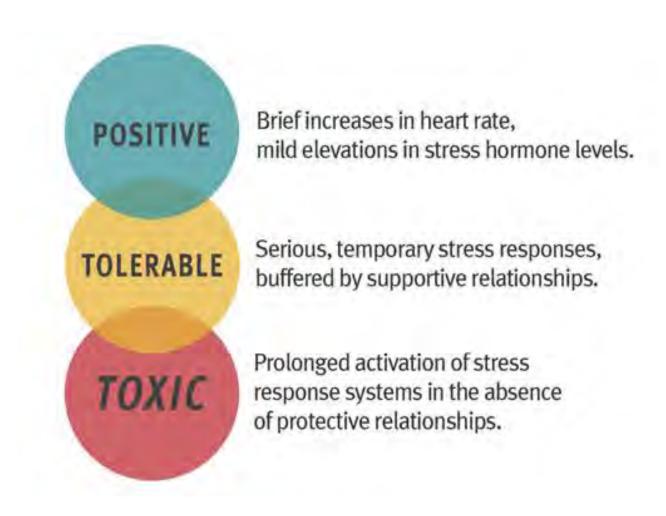
## 10 Categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences



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# Positive, Tolerable, or Toxic Stress

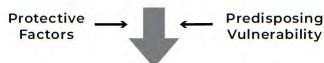
Source: Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University.

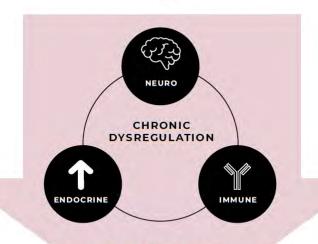


## The Complex Biology of ACES

Source: Adapted from Bucci, M., Marques, S. S., Oh, D., & Harris, N. B. (2016). Toxic stress in children and adolescents. *Advances in Pediatrics*, 63(1), 403-428.



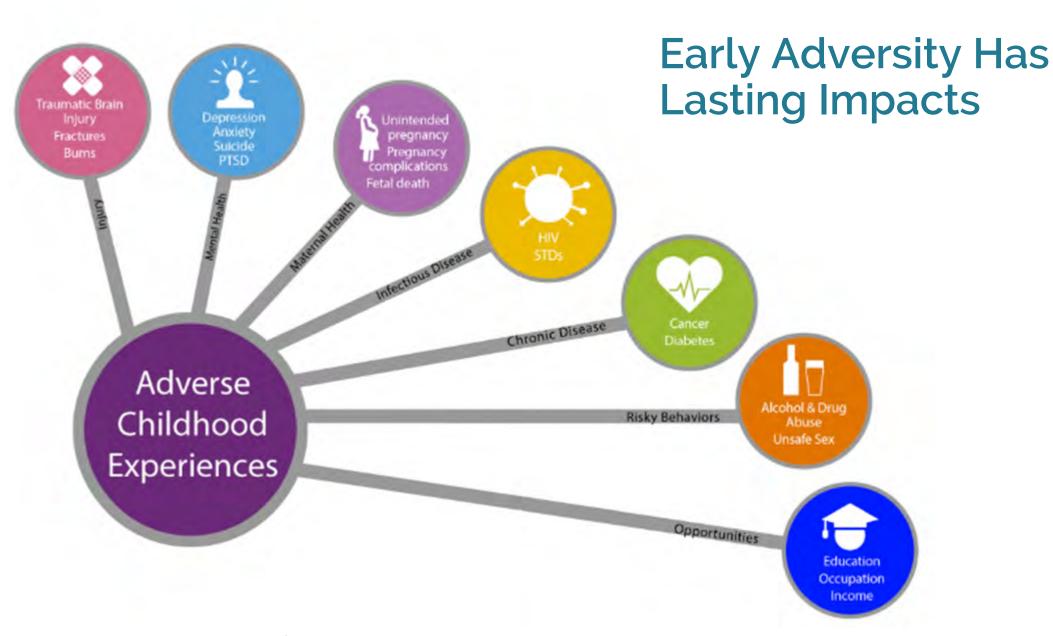




#### **CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS**

**TOXIC STRESS** 

Epigenetic			
Endocrine	Neurological	Immune	
Metabolic	Psychiatric	Inflammatory	
Reproductive	Behavioral	Cardiovascular	



# ACEs Dramatically Increase Risk for At Least 9 of the 10 Leading Causes of Death in the U.S.

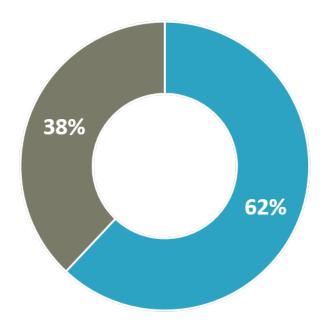
	Leading Causes of Death in the U.S., 2017	Odds Ratios for ≥ 4 ACEs (relative to no ACEs)
1	Heart disease	2.1
2	Cancer	2.3
3	Accidents (unintentional injuries) 2.6	
4	Chronic lower respiratory disease	3.1
5	Stroke	2.0
6	Alzheimer's or dementia	11.2
7	Diabetes	1.4
8	Influenza and pneumonia	Risk Unknown
9	Kidney disease	1.7
10	Suicide (attempts)	37.5

Source of causes of death: CDC, 2017; Sources of odds ratios: Hughes et al., 2017 for 1, 2, 4, 7, 10; Petrucelli et al., 2019 for 3 (injuries with fracture), 5; Center for Youth Wellness, 2014 for 6 (Alzheimer's or dementia); Center for Youth Wellness, 2014 and Merrick et al., 2019 for 9.

### Prevalence of ACEs in California

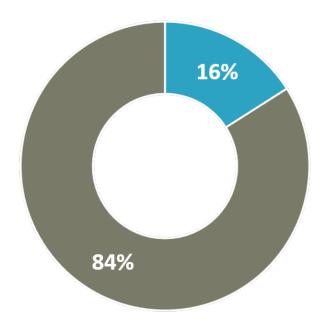
# Californians who have experienced at least 1 ACE

Have experienced at least 1 ACE



# Californians who have experienced 4 or more ACEs

Have experienced 4 or more ACEs



Sources: California Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (CDPH/IVPB), University of California, Davis, Violence Prevention Research Program, California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2011-2017.

# EARLY LIFE ADVERSITY

Predisposing

Vulnerability

# The Complex Biology of ACES



Protective

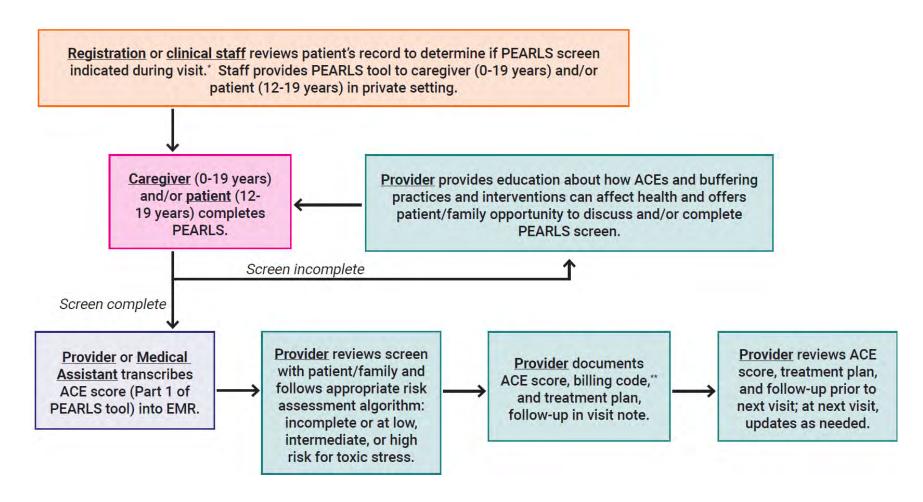
**Factors** 

Source: Adapted from Bucci, M., Marques, S. S., Oh, D., & Harris, N. B. (2016). Toxic stress in children and adolescents. *Advances in Pediatrics*, 63(1), 403-428.

#### **CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS**

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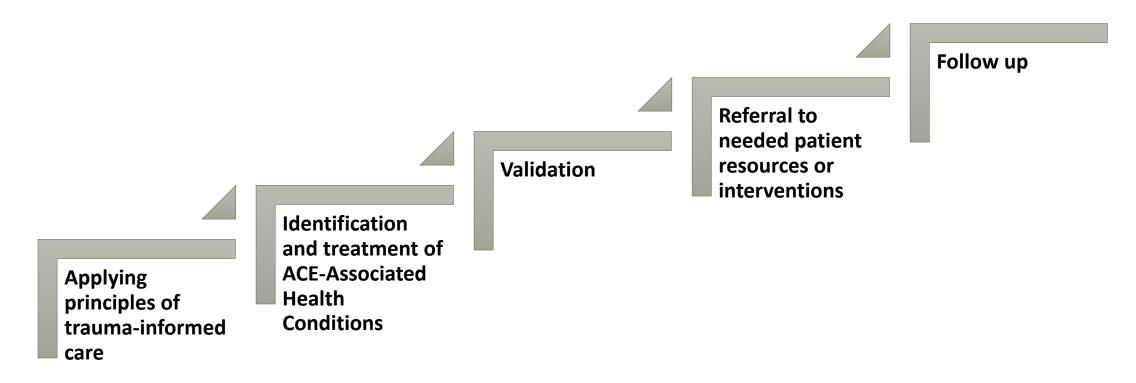
### Pediatric ACE Screening Clinical Workflow



Available at: ACEsAware.org/clinical-assessment

### Clinical Response Overview

Clinical response to identification of ACES and increased risk of toxic stress should include:



For information on the clinical response to ACEs and toxic stress, visit ACEsAware.org/assessment-and-treatment

## **Avoiding Re-traumatization**

## Plan: Prepare clinic staff

- Everyone is aware of the screening program and what will be done with the information
- Staff feel comfortable taking about it with patients

# Normalize the screening process

- Posters in waiting rooms and exam rooms
- "we screen everyone"
   "asking is providing good care"

Goal is not to delve into specifics of the family trauma, but to assess, support and refer

Be prepared to be empathetic and supportive

Assess and respect family readiness for discussion and referrals, strengths based, collaborative in care planning

### Self-Care

Source: acesaware.org, October 2020.



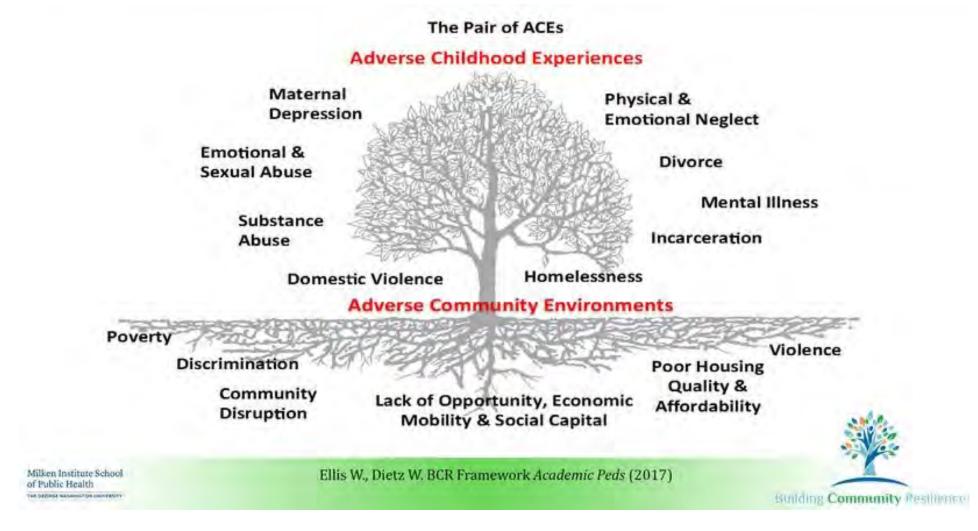
### **HOPE Framework**

From - Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences -

https://positiveexperience.org/

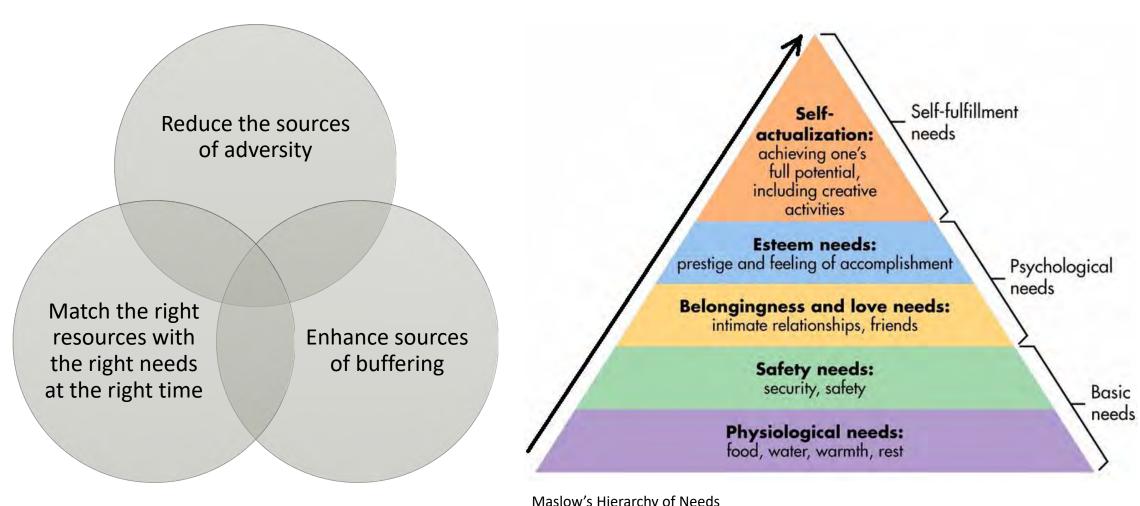


### **ACEs and Health Equity**



Source: Center for Community Resilience, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University

## Family Readiness and Referrals



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html

### **ACEs Network of Care**

An ACEs **network of care** includes agencies, organizations, and individuals who respond to the needs of children, youth, families, and caregivers who have experienced ACEs.

A comprehensive ACEs network of care:

- Promotes healing
- Provides and coordinates prevention and intervention services to youth and families
- Builds capacity within communities to meet the needs of youth exposed to ACEs

### Regional Networks of Care

- Pediatric providers meet community-based organizations and hear about their resources and approaches to providing supports for children and families.
- Pediatric providers understand how community organizations build protective factors and alleviate challenges created by ACEs.
- Community organizations understand the challenges and needs pediatric providers encounter in their work with families.
- Referral pathways are examined and defined to ensure connections for children and families who are screened for ACEs.

### Resources

#### **ACEs Aware**

https://www.acesaware.org/

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Child Welfare Information Gateway https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/overview/framework/aces/

This collection of resources provides an overview of ACEs and how healthy outcomes from positive experiences can be used to help mitigate the impact of ACEs on child development.

### **Balancing ACEs with HOPE, CBLCC**

https://cblcc.acf.hhs.gov/topic-areas/trauma-and-healing/balancing-aces-with-hope/

Access the summary and recording of our Digital Dialogue with Robert Sege about the role of positive experiences in child development.

### **Adverse Childhood Experiences, CDC**

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html

Browse CDC's library of resources about ACEs.

#### **Topics: Resilience and Well-being, CBLCC**

https://cblcc.acf.hhs.gov/topic-areas/resilience-and-well-being/

This collection of resources on the CBLCC website includes tip sheets, videos, and tools related to toxic stress, ACEs, and the science of resilience.



### Thank You!

#### **Lori Clarke**

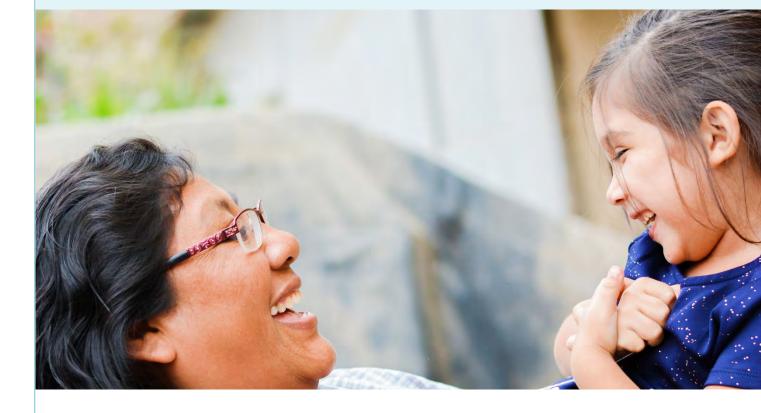
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