Partnering to Address Childhood ACES

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

Lori Clarke
Co-Principal Investigator for the Social Policy Institute at San Diego State University

Pradeep Gidwani, MD, MPH, FAAP
Medical Director at the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3, San Diego and Imperial Counties

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

**ABUSE**
- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual

**NEGLECT**
- Physical
- Emotional

**HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION**
- Mental Illness
- Incarcerated Relative
- Mother treated violently
- Substance Abuse
- Divorce

Positive, Tolerable, or Toxic Stress

Source: Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University.
The Complex Biology of ACES

Early Adversity Has Lasting Impacts
ACEs Dramatically Increase Risk for At Least 9 of the 10 Leading Causes of Death in the U.S.

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

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
- 38% have experienced at least 1 ACE
- 62% have not experienced at least 1 ACE

Californians who have experienced 4 or more ACEs
- 16% have experienced 4 or more ACEs
- 84% have not experienced 4 or more ACEs

The Complex Biology of ACES

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:

- Applying principles of trauma-informed care
- Identification and treatment of ACE-Associated Health Conditions
- Validation
- Referral to needed patient resources or interventions
- Follow up

For information on the clinical response to ACEs and toxic stress, visit [ACEsAware.org/assessment-and-treatment](http://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”

Be prepared to be empathetic and supportive

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

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

Ellis W., Dietz W. BCR Framework Academic Peds (2017)
Family Readiness and Referrals

Reduce the sources of adversity

Match the right resources with the right needs at the right time

Enhance sources of buffering

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
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.
Discussion

Please type your questions into the chat box.
Thank You!

Lori Clarke
lsclarke@sdsu.edu
https://sdsusocialpolicyinstitute.org/

Pradeep Gidwani
pgidwani@aapca3.org
https://aapca3.org/

cblcc.acf.hhs.gov