AGENDA & SPEAKERS

- Overview
  - Dr. Melissa Merrick, president & CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America
- State Legislative Trends and Examples
  - Kate Bradford, research analyst, NCSL Health Program
- State Perspectives
  - Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi (D-NY)
  - Representative Sherrie Conley (R-OK)
- Q&A
State Strategies to Address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Melissa T. Merrick, PhD
President & CEO

National Conference of State Legislatures
December 17, 2020
Mission:
To prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation’s children

Vision:
We envision a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

**ABUSE**
- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual

**NEGLECT**
- Physical
- Emotional

**HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGES**
- Mental Illness
- Divorce
- Parent Treated Violently
- Incarcerated Relative
- Substance Abuse
ACEs are common

61% of surveyed adults reported experiencing at least one ACE

1 in 6 people reported experiencing 4+ ACEs

Females, LGBTQ+ individuals, and most racial/ethnic minority groups are at higher risk of experiencing 4+ ACEs


ACEs have a lasting impact across the lifespan.
Potential reductions in negative health outcomes

**Health Conditions**
- Depressive Disorder: -44%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: -27%
- Asthma: -24%
- Kidney Disease: -16%
- Stroke: -15%
- Coronary Heart Disease: -13%
- Cancer: -6%
- Diabetes: -6%
- Overweight/Obesity: -2%

**Health Risk Behaviors**
- Current Smoking: -33%
- Heavy Drinking: -24%

**Socioeconomic Challenges**
- Unemployment: -15%
- Less than a High School Education: -5%
- No Health Insurance: -4%

UP TO 21 MILLION CASES OF DEPRESSION

UP TO 1.9 MILLION CASES OF HEART DISEASE

UP TO 2.5 MILLION CASES OF OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY
Mechanism by which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan
The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Maternal Depression

Physical & Emotional Neglect

Emotional & Sexual Abuse

Divorce

Substance Abuse

Mental Illness

Domestic Violence

Incarceration

Homelessness

Poverty

Adverse Community Environments

Discrimination

Poor Housing

Community Disruption

Quality & Affordability

Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital

Violence

Public health is what we, as a society, do collectively to assure the conditions in which (all) people can be healthy.

Institute of Medicine
Role of Public Health in Violence Prevention

ROLE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CHILD WELFARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHCARE
CDC’s 6 Strategies to Prevent ACEs

**Strengthen economic supports for families**
- Strengthening household financial security
- Family-friendly work policies

**Promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity**
- Public education campaigns
- Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment
- Bystander approaches
- Men and boys as allies in prevention

**Ensure a strong start for children**
- Early childhood home visitation
- High-quality child care
- Preschool enrichment with family engagement

**Teach skills**
- Social-emotional learning
- Safe dating and healthy relationship skill programs
- Parenting skills and family relationship approaches

**Connect youth to caring adults and activities**
- Mentoring programs
- After-school programs

**Lessen harms and prevent future risk**
- Enhanced primary care
- Victim-centered services
- Treatment to lessen the harms of ACEs
- Treatment to prevent problem behavior and future involvement in violence
- Family-centered treatment for substance use disorders
2020 State Public Policy Priorities

Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) America advocates for policies and services that strengthen families, promote healthy child development, and prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs. We support services that improve child well-being through our extensive network of chapters in nearly 50 states and nearly 600 Healthy Families America (HFA) evidence-based home visiting program sites.

At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect annually in the United States. A recent study estimates that the victims of child abuse and neglect from 2015 will incur costs nearly $2 trillion over their lives in addressing the effects of the abuse and neglect. This directly impacts state budgets in various ways through treatment of the tangible and intangible consequences of child maltreatment across the entire span of a victim’s life. We know that investing in healthy child development reduces the likelihood of a significant array of these costly conditions, including chronic health problems, premature mortality, lowered educational achievement, lost productivity, mental illness, violent crime, substance abuse and addiction, and the perpetuation of abuse and neglect.

A public health approach to the prevention of child abuse and neglect requires strategies that address the conditions and contexts in which children and families live. As noted by the Centers for Disease Control, supporting children and families through policy is one of the most promising strategies for preventing child abuse and neglect and promoting health and well-being.

When communities, policymakers, and resources are invested in prevention strategies, we can begin to envision a world where the negative impacts and outcomes from child maltreatment will be nonexistent. State legislative policies ought to prioritize programs that emphasize the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

PCA America recommends that states prioritize children and families in both their legislative and budgetary decisions in 2020 through strategies that strengthen families and reduce child abuse and neglect. These priority areas represent a select group of strategies, based on the best evidence, to inform the prevention activities in states.

- Implement Family Friendly Work Policies
- Strengthen Economic Supports To Families
- Expand Evidence-Based Home Visiting
- Eliminate The Use Of Corporal Punishment In Public Institutions
- Prevent Child Sexual Abuse
- Prioritize Primary Prevention
This Policy Toolkit was developed in partnership with the Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) Chapter Network’s Policy Affinity Group. This group is made up of representatives from 15 PCA America chapters centered on a common interest in furthering the knowledge and capacity to address specific policy strategies within the PCA chapter network, beginning with paid family leave as a policy lever in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

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Prevention Happens in Partnership
STRONG ROOTS
GROW
A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT RESILIENCE PLEASE VISIT PEACE4TARPON.ORG

Marc.HealthFederation.org
www.HealthFederation.org
Thank you
ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES: STATE TRENDS & EXAMPLES

PUBLIC HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES: STATE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES
DECEMBER 17, 2020

Kate Bradford
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POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Support Parental Stress Reduction
• Earned Income Tax Credit
• Paid Family and/or Sick Leave

Build Resilience
• Home Visiting
• Quality Early Child Care and Education

Increase Screening and Treatment
• Comprehensive Health Services
  • Mental Health Services
  • Substance Use Disorder Treatment

NCSL’s Adverse Childhood Experiences Webpage
LEGISLATION ADDRESSING ACES

Injury Prevention database

Main trends:
- Task force or work group to assess or respond to ACEs
- Trauma-informed services
- Behavioral health supports

ACES legislation includes childhood trauma, child adversity, toxic stress and ACEs specifically
TASK FORCE OR WORK GROUP TO:

Assess Mental Health and Behavioral Challenges
- **Hawaii SB 388** (2019) – Establishes a task force to evaluate students exhibiting emerging or persistent behaviors or academic challenges.

Develop Appropriate Response Guidance
- **Maine HB 851** (2019) – Directs the Commissioner of Education to convene a task force on childhood trauma response guidance in schools.
- **West Virginia HB 4773** (2020) – Creates a work group to investigate and recommend clinical screening protocols for primary health care practitioners to identify ACEs and properly treat associated health conditions.
TRAUMA-INFORMED SERVICES

Child Welfare
- **California AB 2944** (2020) – Requires all licensed community care facilities serving children to provide trauma-informed care and utilize trauma-informed practices.

Child Care and Education
- **Indiana HB 1283** (2020) – Enacts a teacher preparation program curriculum with trauma-informed classroom instruction.
- **Washington HB 2861** (2018) – Directs the Department of Children, Youth and Families to develop a 5-year strategy to expand training in trauma-informed child care and reduce expulsions.

Education Commission of the States:
- Education Policy Approaches to Trauma-Informed Practices
- The Status of School Discipline in State Policy
Colorado HB 1053 (2020) – Creates the early childhood mental health consultation program to increase the number of qualified and appropriately trained early childhood mental health consultants in a variety of settings, including to support the prenatal period.

Massachusetts HB 4742 (2018) – Establishes the Commission on Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention to promote access to care and early intervention; creates a fund to support programs that promote behavioral health and aim to prevent substance misuse among children and young adults.

Michigan HB 5396 (2020) – Includes funding for the development and operation of a resiliency center for families and children experiencing trauma, toxic stress or addiction.

Utah HB 264 (2018) – Authorizes the State Board of Education to award grants for school-based mental health supports, giving priority to elementary schools with a high percentage of students exhibiting risk factors for childhood trauma or experiencing intergenerational poverty.
COVID-19 AND ACES

State Legislation

- **Pennsylvania HB 1210** (2020) – Makes COVID-19 disaster emergency school health and safety grants available, including to provide mental health services and trauma-informed care for students impacted by COVID-19.

- **Massachusetts HB 4808** (2020) – Includes funding for expanded programming and supports to address increased needs and to support youth who have experienced ACEs, which have been compounded by the pandemic and resulting educational and economic disruptions.

NCSL COVID-19 Resources for States

- [COVID-19: Human Services Resource Hub](#)
- [COVID-19: Child Welfare Resources](#)
- [COVID-19: Hunger and Nutrition Programs](#)
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES—AND THANK YOU!

- Legislation Tracking Database | Injury Prevention
- Legislation Tracking Database | Early Care and Education
- Webpage | Adverse Childhood Experiences
- LegisBrief | Reducing the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences
- LegisBrief | Sustaining Behavioral Health Services Through the Pandemic
- Brief | Time Off to Care: State Actions on Paid Family Leave
- Brief | Preventing and Mitigating the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Brief | Early Childhood Home Visiting: What Legislators Need to Know

Injury Prevention Legislation Database | Opioid Abuse Prevention

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STATE PERSPECTIVE

ACES LEGISLATION

Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi (D-NY)
Representative Sherrie Conley (R-OK)
Please type your questions into the chat box and we will get to as many as we can!
Please feel free to register and join us for the following webinars as NCSL continues its webinar series on public health issues. We hope to see you (virtually!) in the coming month.

- **NCSL Public Health Webinar Series:**
  - Dec. 18 | Saving Moms: Strategies to Reduce Maternal Mortality in the U.S.
  - Jan. 6 | Policies and Strategies to Address Infectious Diseases
  - Jan. 8 | Welcome to the Legislature: What You Need to Know About Public Health
  - Jan. 15 | Connection of Public Health and Behavioral Health
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