ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH FELLOWS
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
WHAT ARE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)?

- ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur during childhood
- Decades of research have found:
  - Strong link between ACEs and a higher likelihood of negative health and behavioral outcomes later in life
  - High prevalence of ACEs
    - 45% of children
    - 60% of adults
WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF ACES?

Toxic stress: A prolonged or excessive activation of the stress response system in the absence of protective relationships

- Underlying mechanism by which ACEs exert long-term effects on health
WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF ACES?

ECONOMIC TOLL

The lifetime cost of non-fatal child maltreatment (which covers 5 of 10 ACEs) incurred annually in the United States is $401 billion.

- Quality-Adjusted Life Year Reduction: $66.3 billion
- Health Care: $22.4 billion
- Special Education: $4.2 billion
- Child Welfare: $4.1 billion
- Criminal Justice: $3.5 billion


The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2015 non-fatal child maltreatment estimates
STATE LEGISLATION ADDRESSING ACES

- Injury Prevention database
- Trends:
  - New task force or work group
  - Trauma-informed workforce
  - Behavioral health supports

ACEs legislation includes childhood trauma, child adversity, toxic stress and ACEs specifically.
NEW TASK FORCE OR WORK GROUP

- **Hawaii SB 388 (2019)** – Establishes a task force to evaluate students using an ACEs assessment protocol.
- **Maine HB 851 (2019)** - Directs the convening of a task force on childhood trauma response guidance.
- **West Virginia HB 4773 (2020)** - Creates a work group to investigate and recommend screening protocols for childhood trauma.
TRAUMA-INFORMED WORKFORCE

- **Tennessee** HB 405 (2019) - Establishes a trauma-informed discipline policy in schools.
- **New York** AB 4268 & SB 4990 (2019) - Require workforce training on how to identify and appropriately respond to ACEs.
- **Indiana** HB 1283 (2020) - Enacts a teacher preparation program curriculum with trauma-informed classroom instruction.
Utah HB 264 (2018) - Authorizes the State Board of Education to award grants for school-based mental health supports.

Colorado HB 1053 (2020) - Creates the early childhood mental health consultation program.

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.
NCSL Resources

- Injury Prevention Database
- Webpage, Adverse Childhood Experiences
- LegisBrief, Reducing the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Brief, Preventing and Mitigating the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Brief, Early Childhood Home Visiting: What Legislators Need to Know

Additional Resources

- States’ Efforts to Address Adverse Childhood Experiences Are Critical During COVID-19, National Academy for State Health Policy
- Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences During COVID-19, Association for State and Territorial Health Officials
Thank you!

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