Adverse Childhood Experiences
NCSL Opioid Fellows and Maternal & Child Health Fellows Joint Session

January 22, 2022
VISION
We envision a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.

MISSION
To prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation’s children.
Our approach works at two levels—boots-on-the-ground programs and actions that impact systems-level change.

**State Chapter Network**
Prevention happens in partnership. We support a 50-state chapter network that drives regional initiatives and policies.

**Home Visiting**
Healthy Families America (HFA) is one of the leading family support and evidence-based home visiting programs in the U.S., with nearly 600 sites serving more than 70,000 families annually.

**Research**
Our team of experts ensures that the best available data and evidence guide our prevention strategies, elevating lessons learned from the field and advancing knowledge of what works.

**Public Policy**
We operate on both the national and state level to mobilize non-partisan policies and push for equitable solutions that deliver prevention and impact for families in all communities.

**Public Awareness**
We raise public awareness and engagement to increase individual and community support, mobilize resources and knowledge sharing, and stimulate meaningful action.
1 in 7 U.S. Children EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE OR NEGLECT ANNUALLY
Evidence shows that stress and trauma can interrupt healthy child development, putting children at risk for lifelong health issues.
Adverse Childhood Experiences

ACEs are experiences that may be traumatic to children and youth during the first 18 years of life such as experiencing violence or other types of emotionally disturbing exposures in their homes and communities.

ACEs not included in the traditional measure:

- Bullying
- Teen dating violence
- Peer to peer violence
- Witness violence in community or school
- Homelessness
- Death of a parent
Early Adversity has Lasting Impacts

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

- Injury
- Mental Health
- Opportunity
- Chronic Disease
- Maternal Health
- Risk Behavior
- Infectious Disease
Preventing child abuse and neglect seems BIG, but prevention IS possible.
IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS

The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Maternal Depression
- Physical & Emotional Neglect
- Emotional & Sexual Abuse
- Divorce
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Illness
- Domestic Violence
- Incarceration

Adverse Community Environments

- Homelessness
- Violence
- Poverty
- Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital
- Discrimination
- Poor Housing Quality & Affordability
- Community Disruption

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Preventing ACEs could reduce many health conditions

- 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
The Economics of Child Maltreatment

Preventing and mitigating ACEs protects children, strengthens families and saves taxpayer dollars. Investing in prevention efforts upstream helps to prevent more serious problems in the future.

The Cost of Child Maltreatment to the Alabama Economy 2018
Prepared for the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
The Children’s Trust Fund


The Economics of Child Abuse
A Study of California

Policy Opportunities
to prevent and mitigate the impact of
childhood trauma or ACEs &
Promote Positive Childhood Experiences
Research shows that with the right policies, we can prevent and mitigate ACEs and ensure that every child and family has the support they need to thrive.
State Policies to Prevent ACEs

• More than 20 states increased their minimum wages for workers in 2021
• 9 states plus DC offer Paid Family and Medical Leave
• 7 states have enacted a state Child Tax Credit
• 24 states plus DC have a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit
• 31 states have legislation in place that promotes positive discipline strategies in schools or public institutions
• 33 state and DC have laws that address child sexual abuse prevention education in schools
Prevention policy strategies to support children, families, and communities.

- ACEs Legislation or Resolution
- 1-800 Warm lines
- Voluntary evidence-based Home Visiting programs
- Trauma-informed care in schools and child care centers
- Task Forces or Commissions

Family Resource Centers
Parenting education and skill building programs
Prevention awareness / public awareness campaigns
Positive fatherhood engagement programs
Infant Safe Sleep
Child neglect laws

Abuse Head Trauma prevention programs / Shaken Baby Syndrome
State prevention planning
Quality Early Child Care and Education
Approaches to Preventing Child Maltreatment in Arizona

Claire Louge
Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

...strengthening families and protecting children through collaboration, education and advocacy.
Shifting the Public Frame

The Protective Factors™ Framework

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Children’s Social and Emotional Competence
We know how to report child abuse. Do we know how to *prevent* it?

Can we be not just mandated reporters, but *mandated supporters*?

“Once, an older couple walked up to me while my four-year-old son was melting down, and said ‘you’re doing great.’ I felt so supported, I was walking on air.”

pcaaz.org/LeanOnMeAZ
State Initiatives focused on Preventing and Addressing Substance Use

Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

- Parent depression
- Parent Anxiety
- Parent Stress
- Child behavior problems
- Rates of child maltreatment
- Out-of-home placements
- Child injuries due to maltreatment

- Parent self-regulation skills
- Parent competencies
- Family communication skills
- Family relationship strength

Local foundation investments and state agency State Opioid Response funding has grown AZ’s capacity to offer Triple P to 200+ practitioners statewide.
State Initiatives focused on Preventing and Addressing Substance Use

SHIFT - Safe, Healthy Infants and Families Thrive

Coordination of local providers able to offer services to pregnant people using substances

- early identification of prenatal substance exposure
- reduce time-to-service engagement for parents and infants
- increase cross-system coordination
- keep families safely together
Resources

• Prevent Child Abuse America: https://preventchildabuse.org/
• Prevent Child Abuse Arizona: www.pcaaz.org
• Adverse Childhood Experiences One-Pager: https://preventchildabuse.org/resources/adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-one-pager/
• Lean On Me AZ toolkit: www.pcaaz.org/LeanOnMeAZ
• Triple P: https://www.triplep.net/
• SHIFT (Safe, Healthy Infants and Families Thrive): https://maricopashift.com/
• Video, The Upstream Solution: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn2akD5joXM
Together, we can prevent child abuse...because childhood lasts a lifetime.