

The Facts About ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

ACEs are potentially traumatic events that take place before a child is the age of 18.

Why do we care?

According to studies, ACEs are linked to:

- risky health behaviors
- chronic diseases
- low life potential
- early death

As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk of these adverse health outcomes later in life.

Almost two-thirds of US adults report at least one Adverse Childhood Experience



Abuse



Neglect



Household Dysfunction

Three types of ACEs

What can we do?

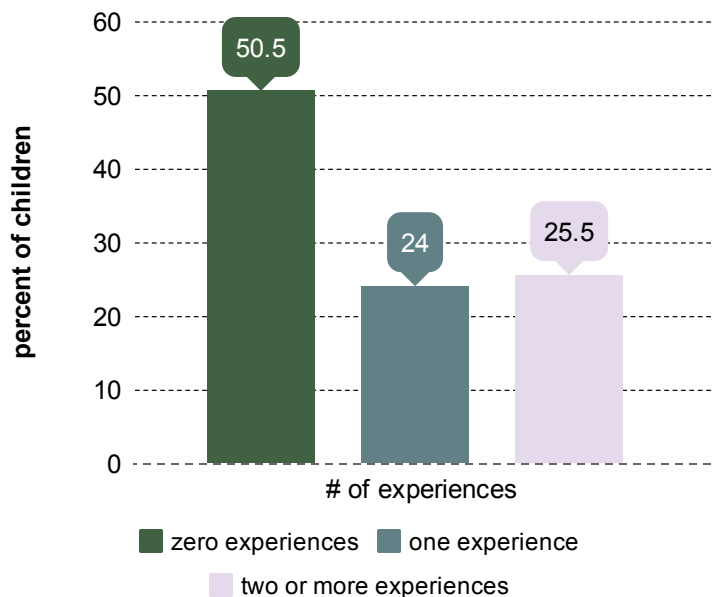
- ACEs do not include positive events that can help children develop resiliency.
- Supportive grandparents, teachers, neighbors or other positive role models outside the home can influence how ACEs impact a child.
- We should work to ensure that children have safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments to help them reach their full potential.

ACEs in Wyoming Children

National Survey of Children's Health measures ACEs through a series of nine questions related to family specific experiences reported about a child by a parent. They include:

- socioeconomic hardship,
- divorce/separation of parent,
- death of parent,
- parent served time in jail,
- witness to domestic violence,
- victim of neighborhood violence,
- lived with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal,
- lived with someone with alcohol/drug problem,
- treated or judged unfairly due to race or ethnicity.

How common are they?



25% of Wyoming children have two or more adverse family experiences

Family Structure Matters. Among children living in a two-parent household (biological or adoptive) 68% report no adverse experiences compared to a mother only household where only 14% report no adverse experiences.

two-parent household



mother only (no father present)



- A higher proportion of children with special health care needs (47%) reported having two or more experiences compared to children without special healthcare needs (20%).
- Over half of children diagnosed with ADD/ADHD (62%) have two or more experiences
- 60% of children with one or more emotional, behavioral or developmental issues report experiencing two or more adverse experiences.

References:

Centers for Disease Control (2016). *About Adverse Childhood Experiences*. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/about_ace.html

Veto Violence (2014). *Adverse Childhood Experiences: looking at how ACEs affect our lives and society*. https://vetoviolenecdc.gov/apps/phl/resource_center_infographic.html

National Survey of Children's Health (2011/12). <http://childhealthdata.org>