

TRANSLATING EVIDENCE INTO TRAUMA- INFORMED HOME VISITING SERVICES

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The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

- Study launched by CDC & Kaiser Permanente in the mid-1990s (Robert Anda; Vincent Felitti)
- >17,000 patients in San Diego, CA responded to a survey regarding their childhood experiences of:
 - ▣ Abuse & neglect
 - ▣ Domestic violence
 - ▣ Household crime
 - ▣ Household mental illness & substance abuse
 - ▣ Divorce

<http://www.cdc.gov/ace/about.htm>

Some Things We Know...

- ACEs are prevalent
- ACEs have an array of long-term consequences
- ACEs correlate & their effects accumulate
 - Higher ACE Scores → Poorer outcomes

Some Things We Don't Know...

- What other kinds of negative experiences should we define as an “ACE”?
- What is the prevalence of ACEs among home visiting clients, and do ACEs vary among client subgroups?
- Are clients uncomfortable reporting their ACE history?
- How can the assessment of ACEs enhance home visiting services?

The Childhood Experiences Survey

- Measures 8 ACEs included in the CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Adds other potential ACEs:
 - + Physical & Emotional Neglect
 - + Poverty & Homelessness
 - + Death of parent or sibling
 - + Prolonged absence of parent
 - + Peer victimization (i.e., bullying)
 - + Violent crime victimization
- Asks about client discomfort responding to questions
- Completed within 90 days of enrollment

Wisconsin Home Visiting Sample

Characteristics (N = 763)	
Low income	98%
Tobacco use in the home	50%
Low academic achievement, child	49%
Pregnant, < age 21	37%
Child welfare history	25%
AODA history	23%
Developmental delay/disability, child	11%
Family member, armed forces	8%

Abuse & Neglect

Adverse Childhood Experience	Female Prevalence (%)	
	WI Home Visiting	ACE Study ¹
Physical Abuse	42.4	25.1
Sexual Abuse	26.5	24.3
Emotional Abuse	28.0	12.2
Physical Neglect	10.6	9.2
Emotional Neglect	17.8	16.7

¹Dube, S. R., Felitti, V. J., Dong, M., Chapman, D. P., Giles, W. H., & Anda, R. F. (2003). Childhood abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction and the risk of illicit drug use: The adverse childhood experiences study. *Pediatrics*, 111(3), 564-572.

Household Dysfunction

Adverse Childhood Experience	Female Prevalence (%)	
	WI Home Visiting	ACE Study ¹
Substance Abuse	49.1	30.5
Mental Illness	39.2	25.3
Criminal Offending	37.1	6.9
Domestic Violence	38.1	13.9
Divorce/Separation	43.0	25.4

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Cumulative Risk

Number of ACEs*	Female Prevalence (%)	
	WI Home Visiting	ACE Study
0	15.3	31.3
1	15.5	24.2
2	13.4	14.8
3	11.5	10.4
4	13.1	6.8
5 or more	31.2	12.5

*Sum of 10 ACEs: Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, Psychological abuse, Physical neglect, Emotional neglect; Parent substance abuse; Parent mental illness; Household crime; Domestic violence; Parent separation or divorce.

Other Adverse Experiences

Adverse Childhood Experience	Prevalence (%) WI Home Visiting
Serious Financial Problems (often)	34.1
Food Insecurity	17.3
Homelessness	22.5
Peer Victimization (often)	25.6
Victim of Violent Crime	15.9
Prolonged Absence of Parent	56.2
Death of Parent/Sibling	23.6

ACEs by Race/Ethnicity

	Avg. Number of ACEs (Range 0-10)
Hispanic / Latina	2.82
African American	2.98
Native American	3.60
Caucasian	3.77

*Sum of 10 ACEs: Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, Psychological abuse, Physical neglect, Emotional neglect; Parent substance abuse; Parent mental illness; Household crime; Domestic violence; Parent separation or divorce.

ACEs & Reproductive Health

Outcome	N	< 4 ACEs	≥ 4 ACEs	Percent Change
Any Pregnancy Loss (%)	565	22.7	35.7	+57%

ACEs & Smoking

Outcome	N	< 5 ACEs* (%)	≥ 5 ACEs* (%)	Percent Change
Smoked before pregnancy	569	36.1	51.5	+43%
Smoked during pregnancy	570	23.4	34.5	+47%
Smoked after pregnancy	548	22.9	37.3	+63%

*Sum of 10 ACEs: Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, Psychological abuse, Physical neglect, Emotional neglect; Parent substance abuse; Parent mental illness; Household crime; Domestic violence; Parent separation or divorce.

ACEs & Mental Health

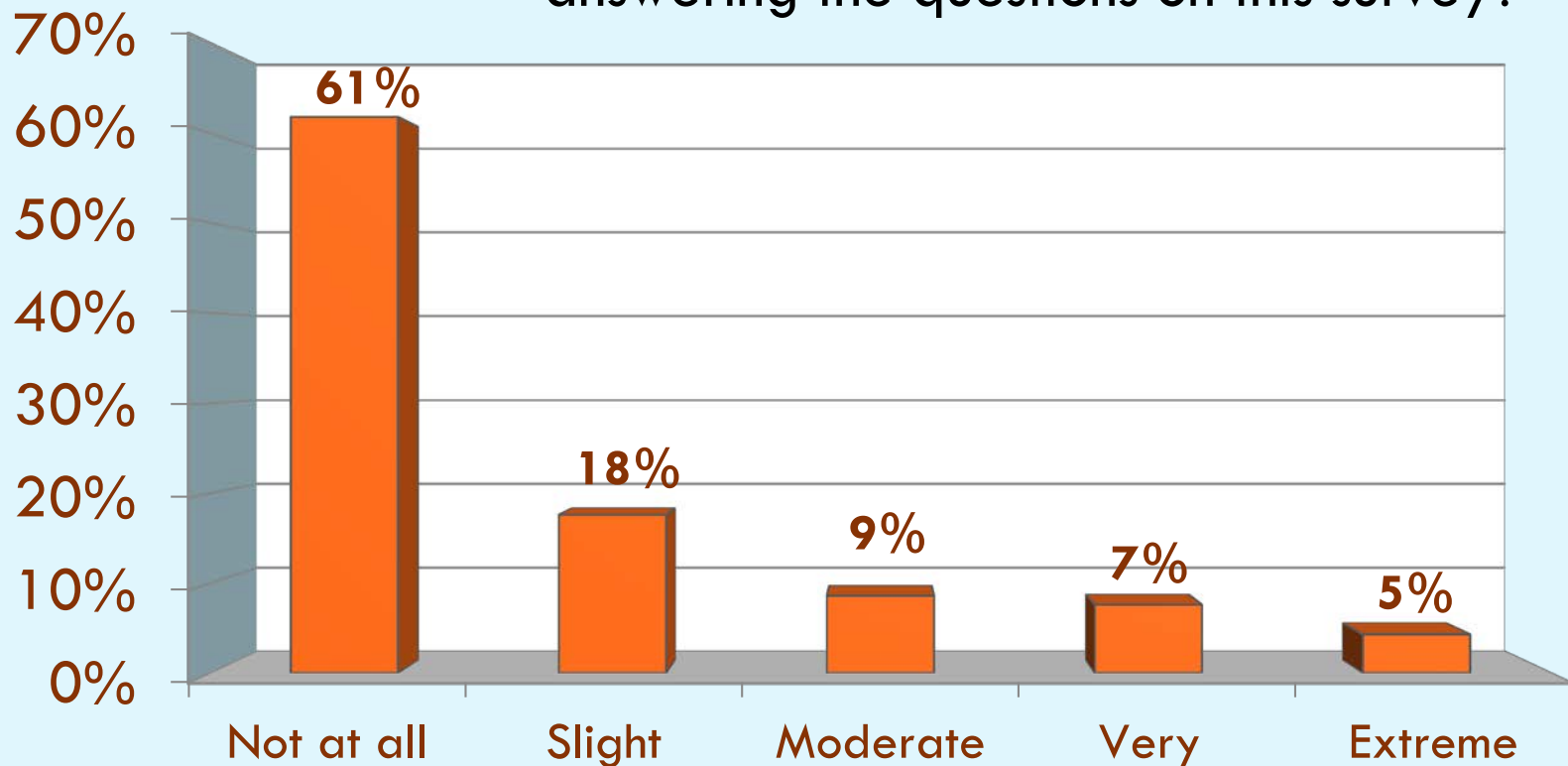
Outcome	N	< 5 ACEs (%)	≥ 5 ACEs (%)	Percent Change
Prenatal Edinburgh Score ≥ 13	449	18.4	35.3	+92%
Postnatal Edinburgh Score ≥ 13	476	10.8	21.1	+95%
Perceived Stress Scale ≥ 20	584	24.7	45.9	+86%

ACEs & Intimate Partner Violence

Outcome	N	< 5 ACEs (%)	≥ 5 ACEs (%)	Percent Change
Any Abuse by Spouse or Partner, Ever	565	23.0	37.1	+61%
Any Abuse by Spouse or Partner, Past Year	565	15.8	29.2	+85%

Discomfort Responding to CES

Overall, how uncomfortable did you feel answering the questions on this survey?



Why We Should Ask

- Most clients can answer questions about ACEs without significant distress
- Linking client history to current functioning
- Increasing client motivation to change
- Promoting therapeutic alliance
 - Acknowledging client adversity & resilience
- Caveat: Home visitors should be well trained in assessment, interviewing skills, & motivation enhancement

Policy Implications

- ACEs provide a unifying framework & significant explanatory power
- Changing the narrative about economically disadvantaged families
- Making the case for investing in early interventions like home visiting