

The Impact of ACEs and the Primary Care Provider's Role

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traumatic encounters and experiences occurring during childhood (ages 0 to 17)

TYPES OF ACEs

- Physical/verbal/sexual abuse
- Physical/emotional neglect
- Experiencing parental separation
- Witnessing abuse of parent
- Witnessing family member with mental illness

Substance abuse within the family

- ✓ Incarcerated family member

ACE QUESTIONNAIRE

The ACE questionnaire is a validated screening tool that primary care providers can use to assess for various adversities, such as child abuse, household dysfunction, and neglect.

Access the questionnaire through the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/about.html>

IMPACT ON MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

Higher incidence of chronic disease in adulthood:

- Depression
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancer

Substance use disorder

- Negative experiences hinders normal child development

- Negative impact on school performance

Reckless behavior

High risk of suicide
Premature death



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE



Prioritizing trauma-informed care is essential for addressing the lasting impact of ACEs on patients' well-being