

# Recommendations for Population-Based Applications of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study: A Position Statement of the American College of Preventive Medicine

## BACKGROUND

- ACEs are experiences of abuse, neglect, and household challenges that may overwhelm a child's ability to cope
- ACEs are implicated in 5+ of the 10 leading causes of death in the US.
- ACEs' high prevalence and deleterious effects on morbidity and mortality make them a worthy target for prevention, mitigation and intervention research and action.

### ACEs can have lasting effects on...



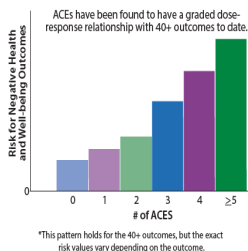
**Health** (obesity, diabetes, depression, suicide attempts, STDs, heart disease, cancer, stroke, COPD, broken bones)



**Behaviors** (smoking, alcoholism, drug use)



**Life Potential** (graduation rates, academic achievement, lost time from work)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed September 13, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf>

## METHODS and RESULTS

### Position Statement Development

#### 3 Key Questions Based on Literature & AHRQ/USPSTF Recommendations

1. Can the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can be prevented or mitigated?
2. Is screening for ACEs associated with various benefits, including improved health outcomes?
3. What is the effectiveness or harm of interventions for elevated ACE scores?



#### Umbrella Review Yields:

8 Systematic Reviews  
260 studies; 340,450 participants



+

#### Review of Position Statements:

6 Statements  
4 Professional Organizations  
2 Government Agencies



#### ACPM Position Statement: 7 Recommendations

Surveillance/Screening, Education/Training, Policy Practice, Research



## RECOMMENDATIONS



Population Level Surveillance: ACEs and PCEs



Consider Trauma Sensitive Inquiry in clinical encounters



Trauma-informed care training



Incentivize trauma-informed and trauma-specific applications



Local initiatives to enhance child health and well-being



Federal funding for relevant research



Rigorous evaluation of trauma-informed and trauma-specific interventions

## CONCLUSION

ACPM STC creates its **first position statement** synthesizing the best available evidence on **addressing ACEs, one of the nation's most pressing and preventable public health problems.**

**Strategies to enhance protective factors and prevent and mitigate the consequences** of ACEs and other childhood adversity are **promising** and require further implementation and research.