# Inter-generational Transmission of Trauma:

Creating Local Partnerships to Improve Access to Trauma and Resiliency Informed Care for Families



Benchmarks' Partnering for Excellence (PFE) is an initiative intended to improve the behavioral health and well-being outcomes for children involved in the child welfare system. Creating a partnership between the local child welfare agency and the Medicaid Managed Care Organization.

Partnering agencies with separate missions strategically aligning data and resources to work towards a common goal.



The mission of the Ollie Harris Behavioral Health Center (OHC) is to create a known, safe place in Cleveland County to serve individuals and families with mental health and substance use needs.

Goal: To work collaboratively on local parallel efforts to bridge the gap in trauma-informed services for adults and caregivers in Cleveland County, NC.

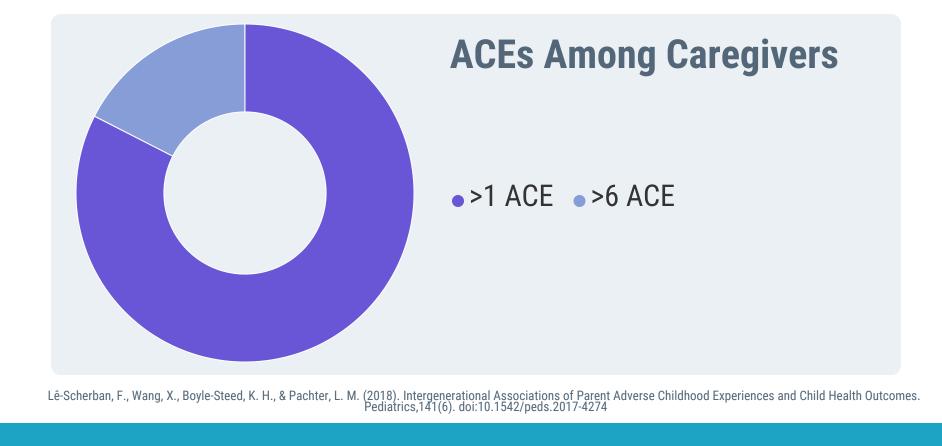
### Background

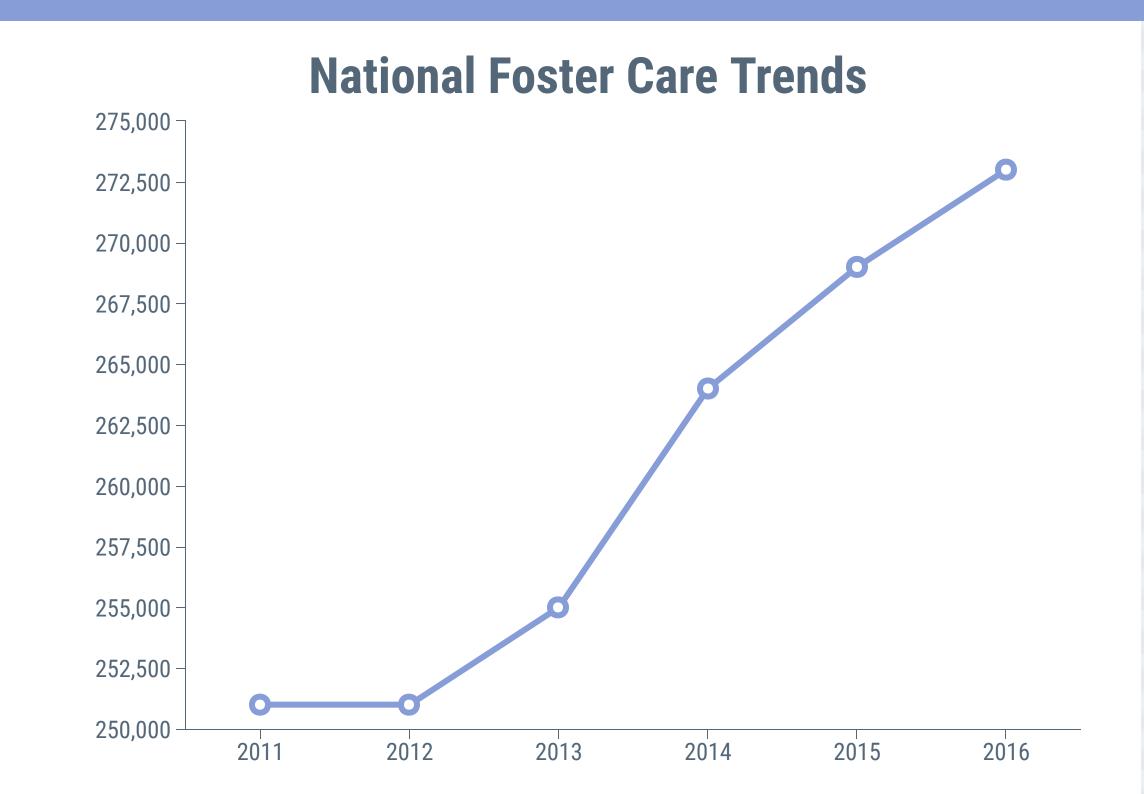
Prevalence of ACEs (4 or +)

Nearly all children in child welfare have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)many resulting in complex trauma (Van der Kolk, 2005).

Since parents often have their own trauma histories, there is a need to understand the prevalence of ACEs among adults and provide them with appropriate trauma-informed care and treatment (Pedersen, 2018).

Nationally, more children are entering state custody, demanding increased multi-systemic attention to address child well-being concerns.





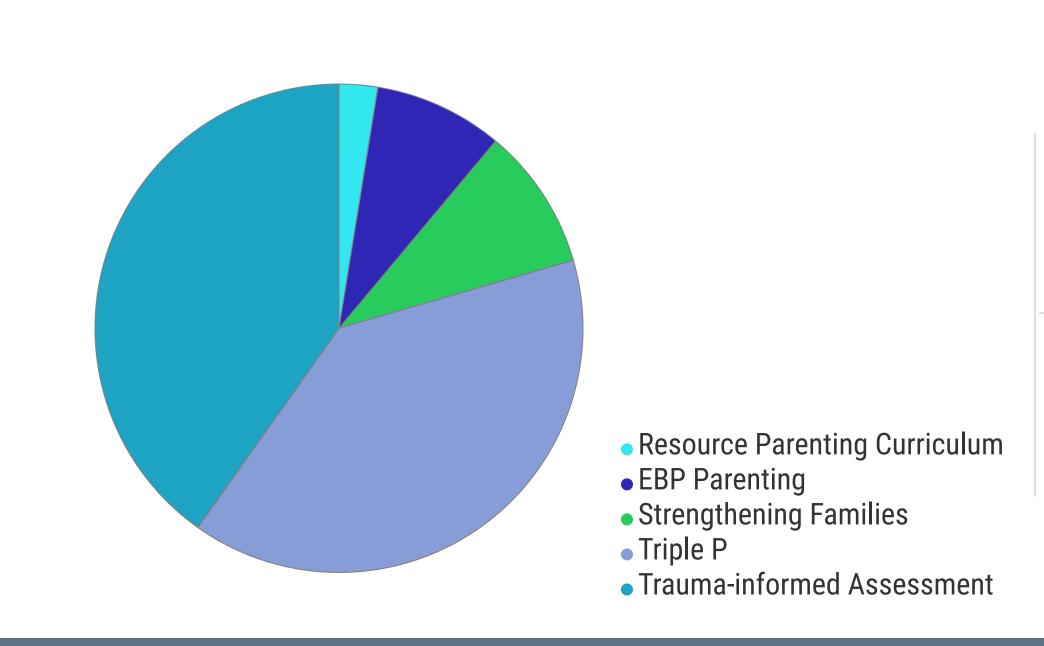
#### The TiCCA

# Trauma-intensive Comprehensive Clinical Assessment

#### Children who screen positive for trauma

are referred for a TiCCA which is a holistic assessment completed by a TFCBT rostered clinician.





68% of TiCCA Recommendations express a need for caregiver's to understand or address their childhood trauma.

#### **ACEs Profile of Ollie Harris Center Clients**

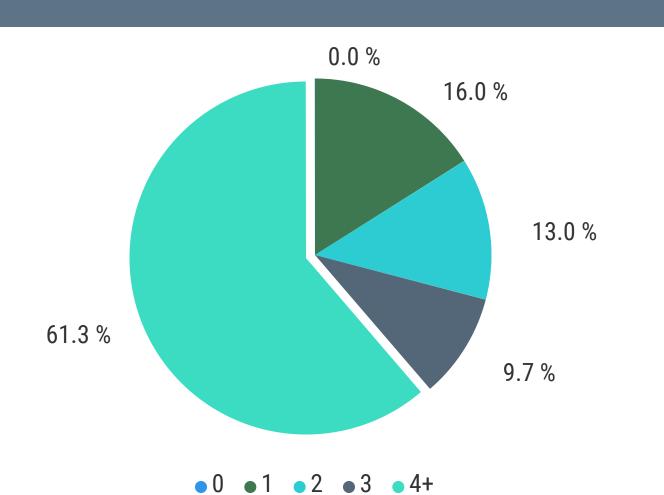
Original Kaiser Permanente/CDC

**ACE Data** 

9.5 % 36.1 % 15.9 % 26.0 % • 0 • 1 • 2 • 3 • 4+ Relevance

National Prevalence of 4+ Aces: 12.5% Ollie Harris Center Prevalence of 4+ ACEs: 54.6%

**Ollie Harris Center ACE Data** 



**Top 3 ACEs for Cleveland County** 

Parental separation or divorce **Emotional neglect** Household substance use

# **Becoming Trauma-Informed**

### **Training**

Developing staff members to positively respond to individuals who have experienced trauma using evidence-based practices.



Training



Creating a Safe Space

Trained clerical staff using the National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network's Trauma Training **Toolkit for Child Welfare Professionals** 

Community Resilience Model Training for Community and Staff

Consumer Quiet Room

Staff Relaxation Room

### **Trauma-Aware Spaces**

Created space within the center that reduces simulation and possible triggers for individuals clients. As well as a separate space for staff to decompress and address secondary traumatic stress.

## Implications

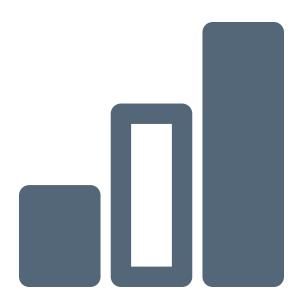
Reducing secondary traumatic stress in staff: less turnover, more satisfied employees who deliver trauma-informed customer service.

ACEs data will provide evidence for the need for more trauma-informed services.

### **Partnering for Excellence**

Provides insightful statistics on the landscape of trauma for child welfare involved youth that further the mission of bringing adequate trauma-informed care to Cleveland County.





Saturating the community with trauma awareness in order to break the cycle.

Ability to prioritize prevention efforts locally to address most commonly identified ACEs.

## **Ollie Harris Center**

Encourages data-driven practices through universal processes and aggregate data promoting both ease of access and individualized treatment in a central and safe space.

### **Next Steps**

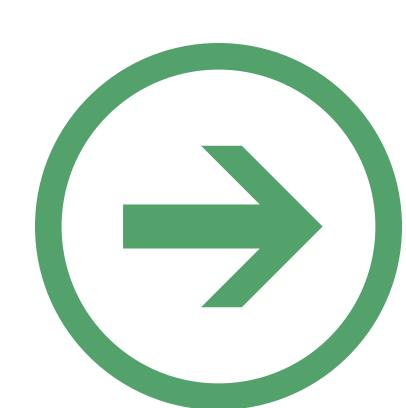


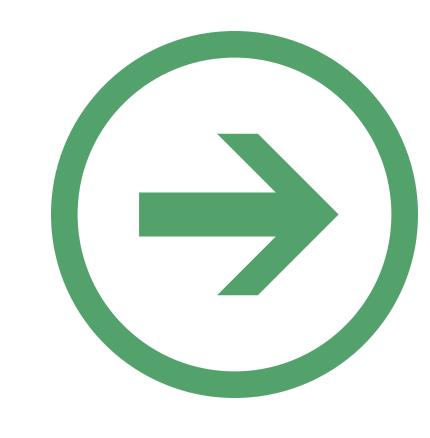
"If everyone is moving forward together then success takes care of itself."

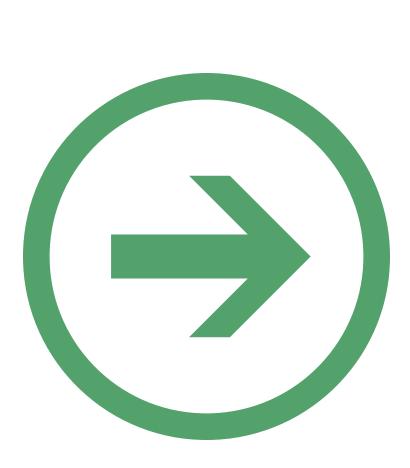
### -Henry Ford

So far, we realize that ACEs are impacting our caregivers and adults affecting their abilities to care for their children. However, in order to make population level predictions we must continue to collect data and reach out to partner agencies serving similar populations.

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### **Implications for Other Systems**

10% of OHC clients are direct referrals from child welfare; many are also seen at the Public Health Department. The well known impact of ACEs on the risk of future maltreatment and poor physical health dictates a need to share findings and expand the partnership across systems.

### **Building Partnerships to Address Trauma**



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Begin to explore the combination of resources from identified partner agencies to support population-level efforts to break cycles of inter-generational trauma transmission.

