

INTERSECTION BETWEEN ACES AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

The following information from Strategies for Trauma-Informed School Communities, obtained from various research publications, is intended to support local programs in their efforts to directly tie various public health focus areas to ACEs and the need to educate about strategies that support resiliency among school-aged youth.

Rape Prevention, Teen Dating Violence, and Domestic Violence

- Higher instance of childhood adversity is associated with higher odds of experiencing physical dating violence.³³
- Childhood physical and emotional abuse are predictors for adolescent sexual victimization.³⁴
- Higher ACE scores are associated with adolescent interpersonal violence perpetration.³⁵

Home Visiting

- Home visiting programs have a positive effect on child development.^{36,37}
- Home visiting programs improve health and development of children by preventing ACEs.³⁸

Substance Use/Misuse

- Higher ACE scores are associated with increased risk of illicit drug use.²⁶
- Higher ACE scores are associated with earlier initiation of prescription opioid use.^{27,28,29,30,31,32}

Tobacco Use

- ACEs are associated with current tobacco use.^{2,3,4,5,6}
- Research suggests that there is a dose-response relationship between ACE exposure and an increased likelihood of tobacco use.^{7,8}
- The initiation of tobacco use is associated with childhood physical abuse and sexual abuse.^{3,9,10}

Nutrition

- Higher ACE scores are associated with higher odds of food insecurity.^{11,12,13,14,15}
- Food insecurity is associated with childhood obesity.¹⁶

Problem Gambling

- Higher ACE scores are associated with gambling disorders.^{17,18}
- Child abuse is associated with an increased risk of problem gambling.¹⁹
- Pathological gamblers are more likely to have experienced childhood maltreatment as compared to non-pathological gamblers.^{20,21}

Oral Health

- Higher ACE scores are associated with poor oral health and higher tooth loss.^{22,23,24,25}

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