Real-world strategies: Assessing for ACEs and brief interventions in an integrated care environment

Andrew Philip, PhD
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SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions
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SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions

WHO WE ARE

The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) is a national training and technical assistance center dedicated to the planning and development of integration of primary and behavioral health care for those with mental illness and/or substance use disorders and physical health conditions, whether seen in specialty mental health or primary care safety-net provider settings across the country.

CIHS is jointly funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), and is run by the National Council for Behavioral Health through the contract task order HHSS283201200031I/HHSS28342001T, Ref No. 283-12-3101.



Moderators



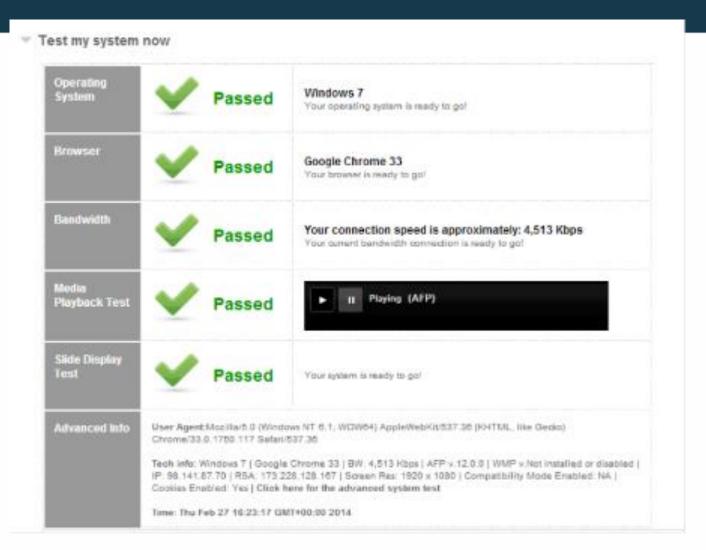
Andrew Philip, PhD, Deputy Director, CIHS



Katie Scott, Associate

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Learning Objectives

- Review the relevance of adverse childhood experiences in integrated care settings
- Learn best practices for brief assessment and intervention related to adverse childhood experiences relevant to integrated care settings
- Understand keys to implementation of screening and intervention for adverse childhood experiences, including leadership buy-in and culture change

Today's Speakers



Linda Ligenza, LCSW
Clinical Services Director
National Council for
Behavioral Health



Dennis Pusch, PhD, Rpsych Clinical Psychologist University of Calgary



Keith S. Dobson, Ph.D., R. Psych.
Professor of Clinical Psychology
Department of Psychology
University of Calgary

Why A Co-Sponsored Webinar On ACEs?

- CIHS and the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association (CFHA) share strong commitments to improving access to behavioral health care and in particular strengthening national efforts to integrate care.
- We are looking to move the conversation on ACEs to where providers and patients on the ground can benefit, namely, what can be done to help reduce the impact of ACEs.
- This is an ongoing conversation that includes you, the providers of care, given that the intervention research is still in its infancy. Therefore, this is an invitation to start the conversation.



Collaborative Family Healthcare Association (CFHA)

• The CFHA promotes comprehensive and cost-effective models of healthcare delivery that integrate mind (behavioral health) and body (physical health), individual and family, patients, providers and communities. We call this integrated care. If you are a like-minded clinician, healthcare organization, payer, foundation, training program or state/governmental agency then CFHA is your community. We invite you to join the movement to make integrated care the standard of care for all.



CFHA WEBSITE http://www.cfha.net

INTEGRATED CARE NEWS http://www.integratedcarenews.com

The embrACE Program: Treating adults with ACEs in primary care

Keith S. Dobson, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology
University of Calgary

Dennis Pusch, Ph.D.
Southport Psychology
Calgary, Alberta



Acknowledgements

 Working in collaboration with colleagues from Alberta Health Services (AHS), and the Primary Care Networks within Calgary area

- Have a long-standing patient advisory group
- Sponsored by Norlien (Palix) Foundation







The EmbrACE Research Program

- Project Purpose and Goals: To identify and treat adults with multiple ACEs in primary care settings.
- Four Phase Implementation
 - Phase 1: Develop and validate an ACEs measure
 - Phase 2: Large scale replication of the first ACEs study
 - The hunt for moderators and modifiers
 - Phase 3: Develop and test an intervention for people with high ACE scores in primary care
 - Phase 4: Test the intervention in an RCT

ACEs as a Predictor of Health Problems

Research Article

Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

Vincent J. Felitti, MD, FACP, Robert F. Anda, MD, MS, Dale Nordenberg, MD, David F. Williamson, MS, PhD, Alison M. Spitz, MS, MPH, Valerie Edwards, BA, Mary P. Koss, PhD, James S. Marks, MD, MPH

- The largest study of its kind, that examined the health and social effects of adverse childhood experiences over time.
- Involved over 17,000 participants at Kaiser Permanente in California.
- Study conducted in 1998.



What are ACEs?

Abuse

- Emotional: recurrent threats, humiliation (11%)
- Physical: beating, not spanking (28%)
- Contact sexual abuse (28% women; 16% men)

Neglect

- Physical (10%)
- Emotional (15%)

Household Dysfunction

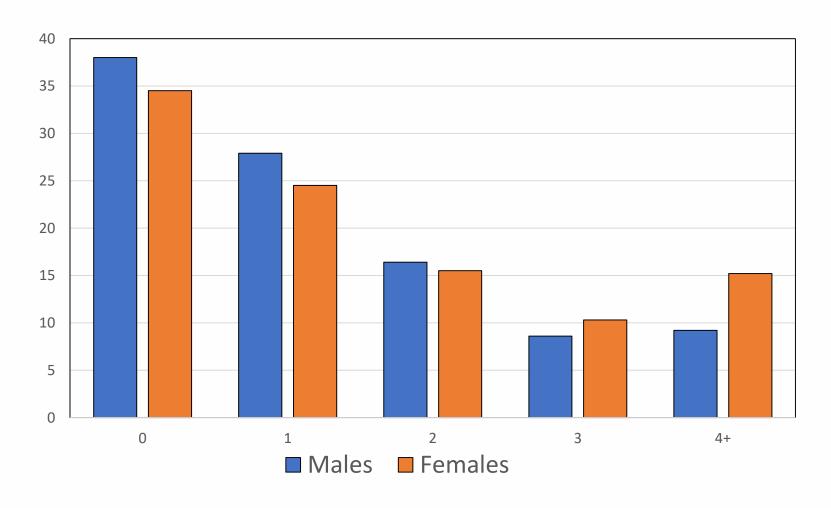
- Mother treated violently (13%)
- Household member was drug or alcohol abuser (27%)
- Household member was imprisoned (6%)
- Household member with chronic mental illness (17%)
- Not raised by both biological parents (23%)



Two Main Conclusions

1) ACEs are very common

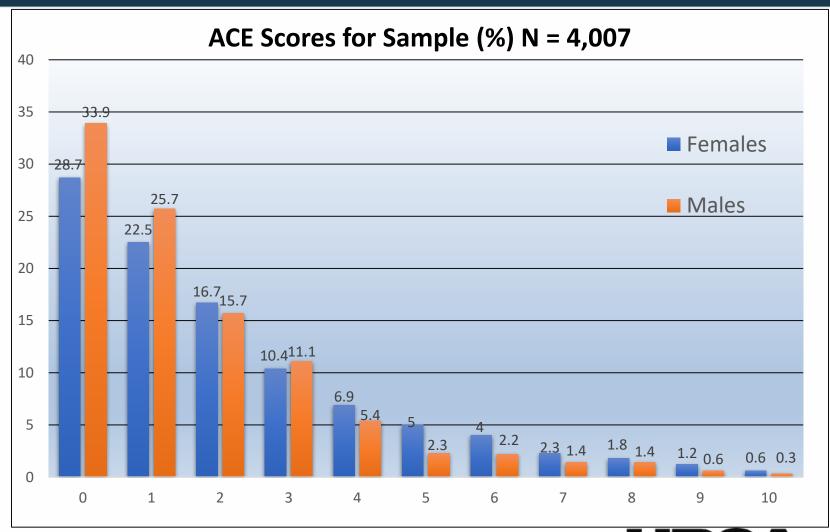
ACE Distribution (%)- Anda & Felitti, 1998







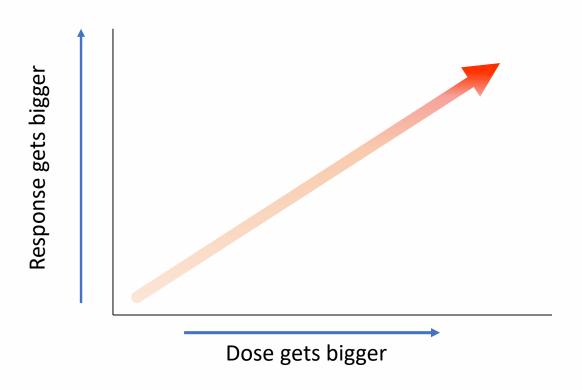
EmbrACE Results (2017)



Two Main Conclusions

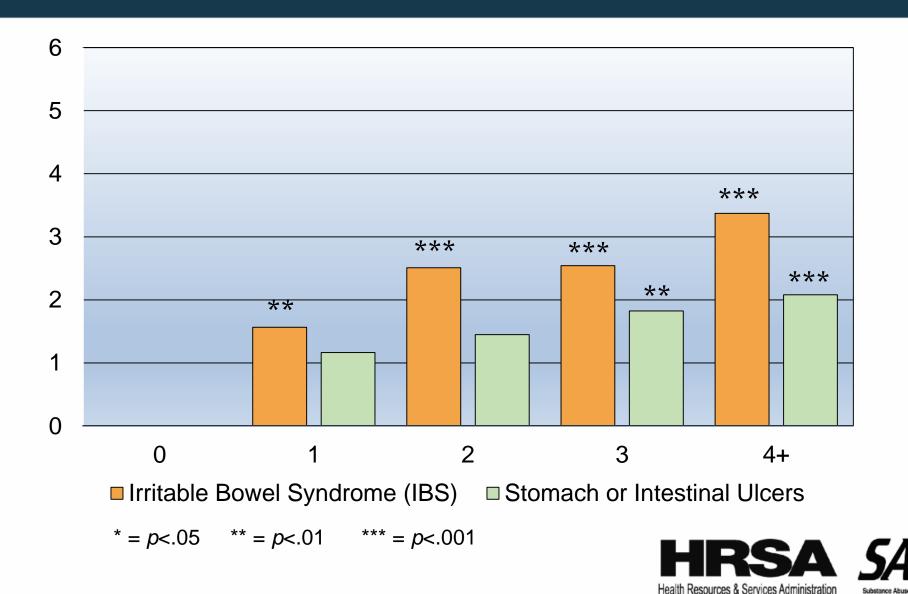
- 1) ACEs are very common
- 2) ACEs significantly increase the risk of having a large variety of physical and mental health problems later in life

The Dose-Response Relationship

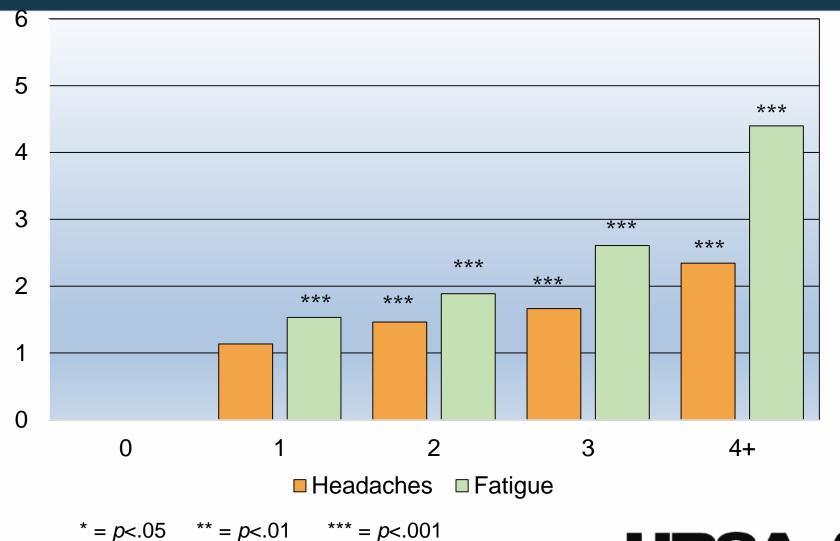


- The dose-response relationship leads to inferences about cause & effect.
- The "response"—in this case the occurrence of the health condition—is influenced directly by the size of the "dose"—in this case, the number of ACE categories.

ACEs and Gastro-Intestinal Problems



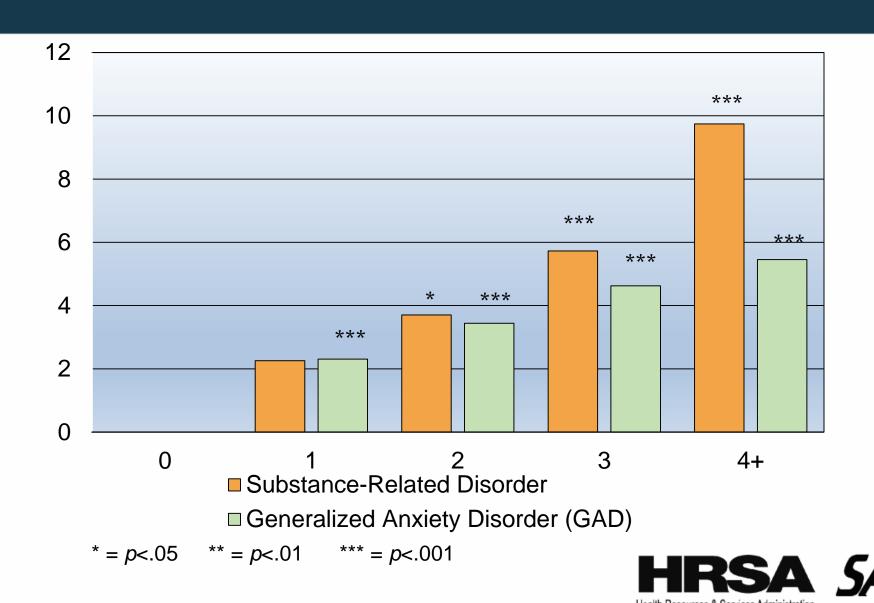
ACEs and Frequent Headaches & Fatigue



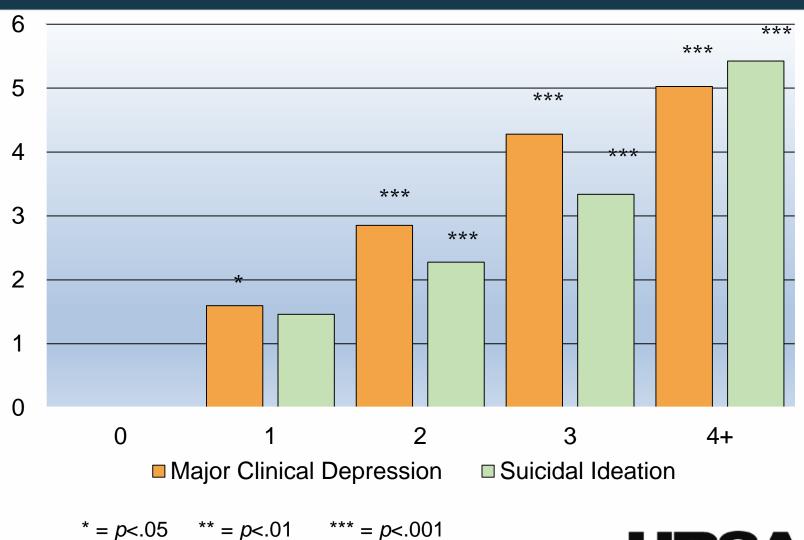




ACEs and Substance Abuse & GAD



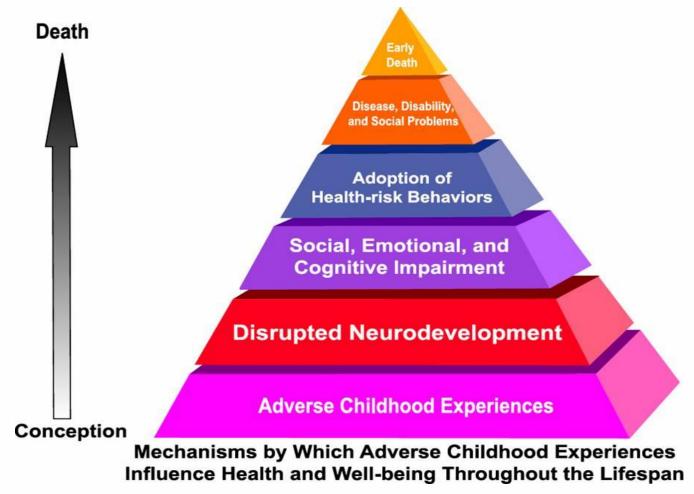
ACEs and Clinical Depression & Suicidal Ideation







Lifetime Effects





ACEs and Healthcare Utilization



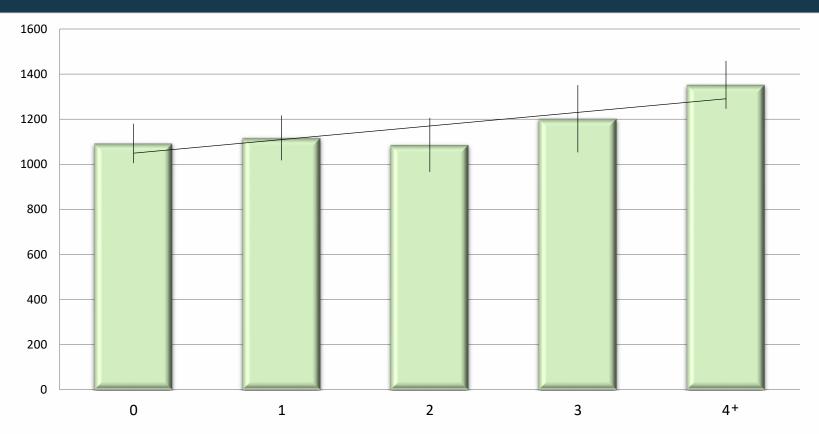
The Long-term Cost of ACEs

- Chronic Disease
 - 67% of all health care costs
 - \$219 billion in 2015 (11% of GDP)
 - Expenditure growth rate > Canadian economy
- Depression
 - \$51 billion annually in Canada
 - 2nd leading cause of global disease burden by 2020
- Addictions
 - \$40 billion annually (tobacco + alcohol + illegal drugs)
 - Doesn't include Rx drugs or behavioural addictions





Avg. Total Health Care Costs by ACE Score



NOTE: An ACE history of 4+ is assôciated with about a 25% increase in health care costs, from \$1100 to \$1360/ person/ year.

About 20% of the population has an ACE score of 4+.

Source: Dobson, Pusch et al. (2017).





Implications of ACEs

 We need to do something about chronic disease, depression, addictions, and their associated costs.

• If ACEs are a significant predictor of these health problems, we need to do something about the long term effects of ACEs.

What Can We Really Do About ACEs?



Old Way, New Way written on a blackboard with arrows pointing in the direction of the past and the future. A concept for adapting to change, improvement and development for the self or the business . [Photo]. August 16, 2018. From: https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/old-way-new-written-on-blackboard-145613917?src=yZWEznjJ9Sq5R19V8EuznA-1-7.





Possible Approaches



- Screening alone isn't enough!
- Primary prevention (stop ACEs from happening)
 - Home visits for families with newborns
 - Parenting training programs; family wellness
 - Social justice; reducing incarceration rates
 - Social development; economic opportunity
- Secondary prevention (early help for people with ACEs)
 - Screen for people "at risk"
 - Offer treatment to increase resilience and reduce risk
- Tertiary prevention (treat the final condition that emerges)
 - Chronic disease support groups
 - Mental illness and substance abuse treatment



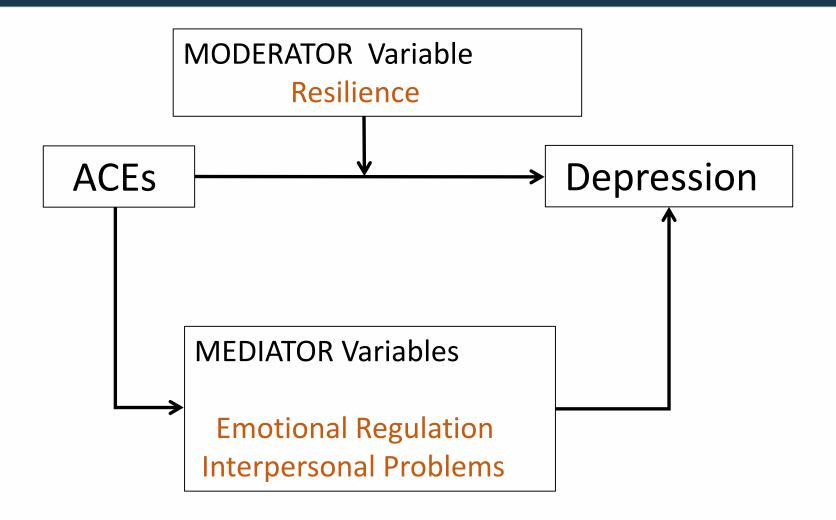


An Exploration of Mediators and Moderators

- We know that ACEs predict depression in adulthood.
- Depression is also associated with a range of other poor health outcomes in adulthood.
- Mechanisms responsible for the association between ACEs and depression will likely apply to ACEs and other poor health outcomes in adulthood.



An Exploration of Mediators and Moderators



Results

- Our research helps to establish emotion dysregulation and interpersonal problems as mechanisms by which ACEs may be associated with anxiety and depression, and resilience as a buffer of these associations.
- All of these variables have been shown to be modifiable treatment targets.
- Treatment initiatives for ACE-related depression should address emotion dysregulation, interpersonal problems, and resilience as treatment targets.
- We are conducting analyses with other physical health conditions as criteria.

Treatment Development Group

- Experienced mental health clinicians in primary care settings
 - Training and knowledge of developmental trauma factors
 - Experience in clinical work within primary care
- Met over the course of about a year to develop the treatment model
- Reviewed literature, clinical models, relevant factors
- Consultation with experts: Anda, Briere, Cloitre, Strosahl, Robinson
- Consensus and feedback!
 - ACEs-Alberta Research Group
 - Patient Advisory Group







Key Principles of the embrACE Treatment

Evidence-informed treatment

• Literature review of treatments for trauma revealed CBT, mindfulness based, expressive writing as most effective (Korotana, Dobson, Pusch, Josephson, 2016, Clinical Psychology Review)

Trauma-informed process

Must be close to the point of care: Primary Care

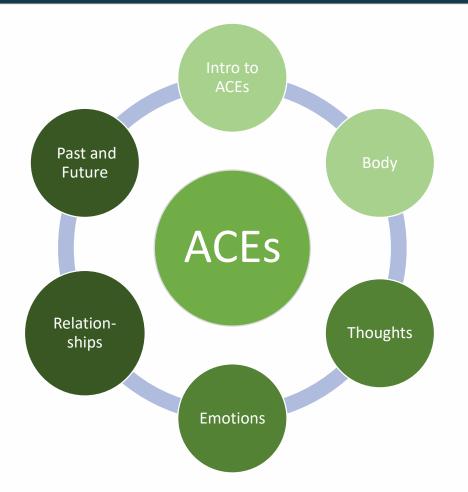
Multidisciplinary effort

 "Layers of players" provides for a more integrated model of treatment, support and care

Key Decisions in Developing the Treatment

- Individual vs. Group
- Skill building vs. Processing the Trauma
- Short-term vs. Long-term
- Stepped Care Approach

The embrACE Program



- ✓Initial ACE screening
- ✓ Meeting with GP and Clinician
- ✓Inclusion/exclusion criteria
- ✓Invited to join the skillsbased group
- ✓ Follow up at 3 & 6
 months to assess health
 outcomes

Format of Each Meeting

- 1. Today's topic
- 2. Review of homework
- 3. Relaxation exercise
- 4. Skill building, discussion, practice
- 5. Check out and homework



Development of a Self-Care Plan

- Lists of all the skills taught in the 6 sessions
- Participants indicate their favourite skills
- Participants make a plan for using those skills in the future
- Participants share their plan with GP and/or clinician after the end of the group



Retrieved from: www.keepcalm-o-matic.co.uk

embrACE Study – Phase 3

- Phase 3 Open Trial
- Goal was to develop and provide "Proof of Concept" data for an ACEsinformed treatment for patients in primary care
- Inclusion criteria:
 - An ACE score of 3 or more
 - Age 18 or older
 - Physician referral
- Exclusion criteria:
 - Active addiction requiring rehab
 - Active psychosis
 - Personality factors judged to be disruptive to group participation

Meeting 1: Introduction

The Child is the Father of the Man --William Wordsworth, 1802





Meeting 1: Content



- Why are we here?
- Presentation: ACEs and You
- Relaxation exercise
- Review and practice
- Bull's eye exercise
- Introduction of self-care plan
- Check-out





Meeting 2: Taking care of my body

Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live.
--Jim Rohn



Meeting 2: Content

- Goals
- Relaxation exercise
- Check-in
- Six key areas:
 - Sleep
 - Nutrition
 - Exercise
 - Relaxation
 - Self-nurturing rituals
 - Grounding strategy
- Check-out





Meeting 3: Taking care of my thoughts

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.

--Abraham Lincoln



Meeting 3: Content

- Goals
- Relaxation exercise
- Check-in
- Thinking traps:
 - Identify thinking traps
 - Create alternate thoughts/beliefs
 - Additional strategies for changing thinking traps
- Check-out

Meeting 4: Taking care of my emotions



If you are faced with a mountain, you have several options. You can climb it and cross to the other side. You can go around it. You can dig under it. You can fly over it. You can blow it up. You can ignore it and pretend it's not there. You can turn around and go back the way you came. Or you can stay on the mountain and make it your home.

--Vera Nazarian

Meeting 4: Content

- Goals
- Relaxation exercise
- Check-in
- Values and feelings
- Acceptance--hands as thoughts and feelings exercise
- Four techniques to cope with unpleasant emotions
- Check-out



Meeting 5: Taking care of my relationships

You don't develop courage by being happy in your relationship every day. You develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity
--Barbara de Angelis (adapted from Epicurus)







Meeting 5: Content

- Goals
- Relaxation exercise
- Check-in
- Potential impact of ACEs on relationships
- Common characteristics in nurturing and supportive relationships
- Boundaries in relationships
- Communication styles in relationships
- Assertiveness communication techniques
- Check-out



Meeting 6: Taking care of my past and living a valued life



Owning our story and loving ourselves throughout that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.

-Brene Brown, The Gifts of Imperfection

Meeting 6: Content

- Goals
- Relaxation exercise
- Check-in
- Bull's eye exercise
- Self-compassion exercise
- Review of favorite self-care skills
- Self-care plan
- Check-out: What's next?



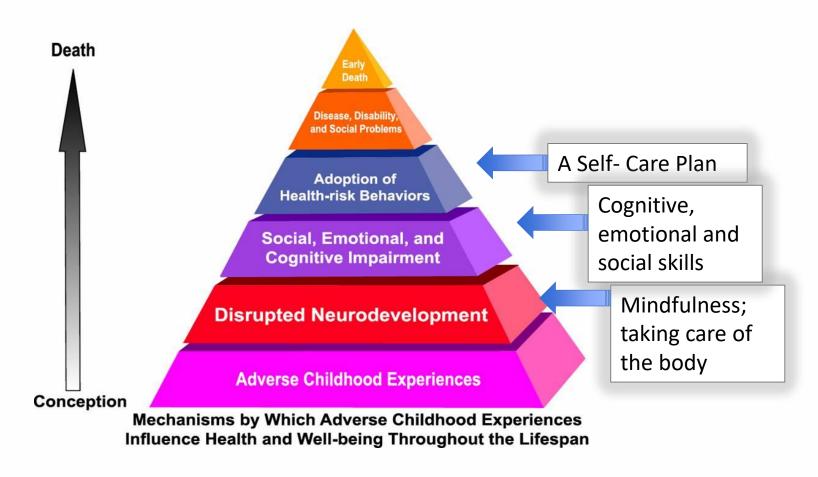


Self-Care Plan

Select the skills that have worked best and describe how you will use the skills in the future.

My Favourite Self-Care Skills	My Resolution
☐ Grounding Exercise	
□Bulls Eye Exercise	
□Increasing Movement	
□Sleep Hygiene	
□SMART goals	
□ Identifying Thinking Traps	
□Riding the Wave	

Lifetime Effects

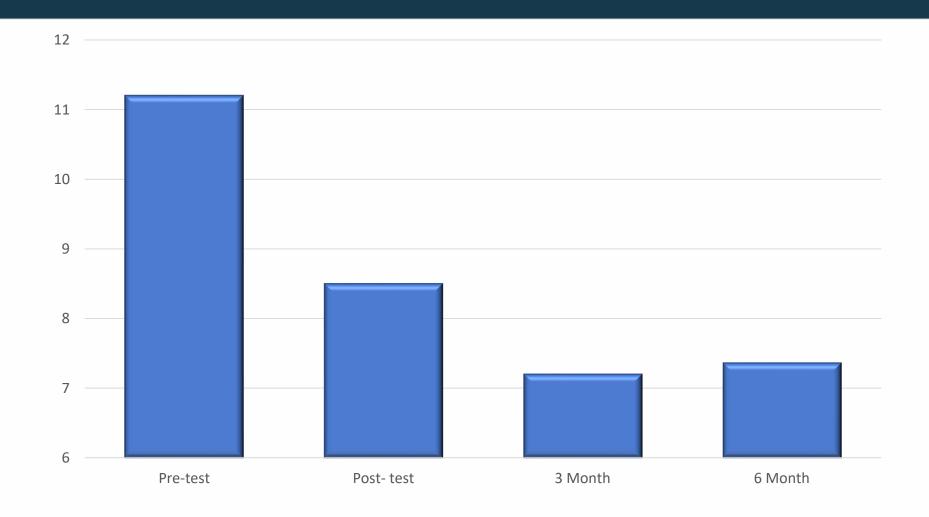


Preliminary Results from the Open Trial



Understand your past. Embrace your future.

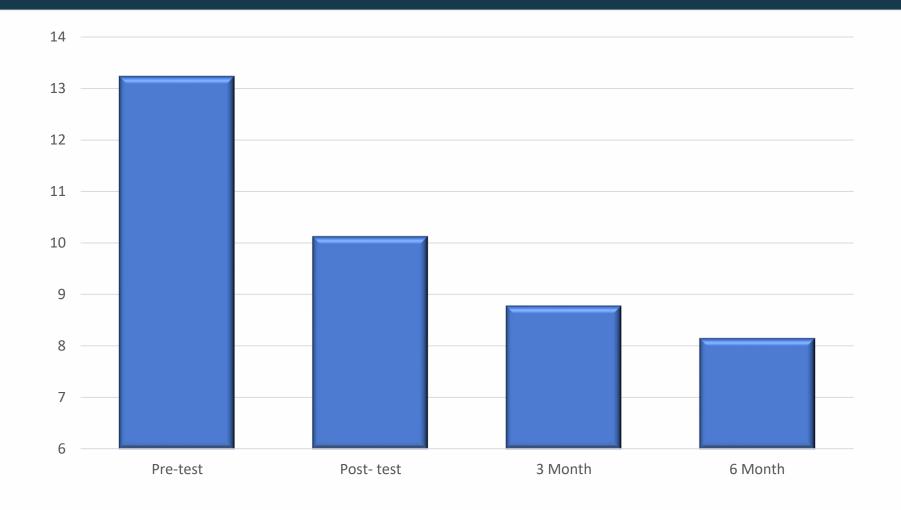
Changes over time- Anxiety





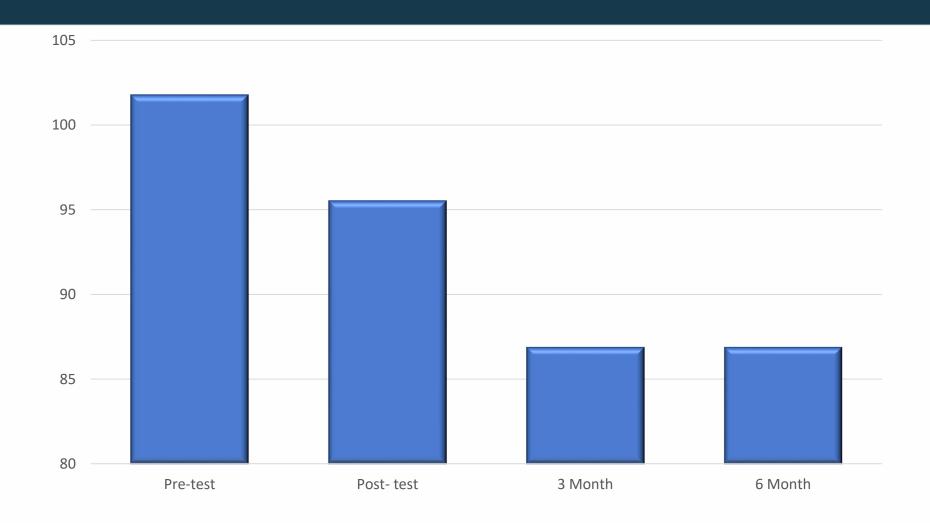


Changes over time- Depression





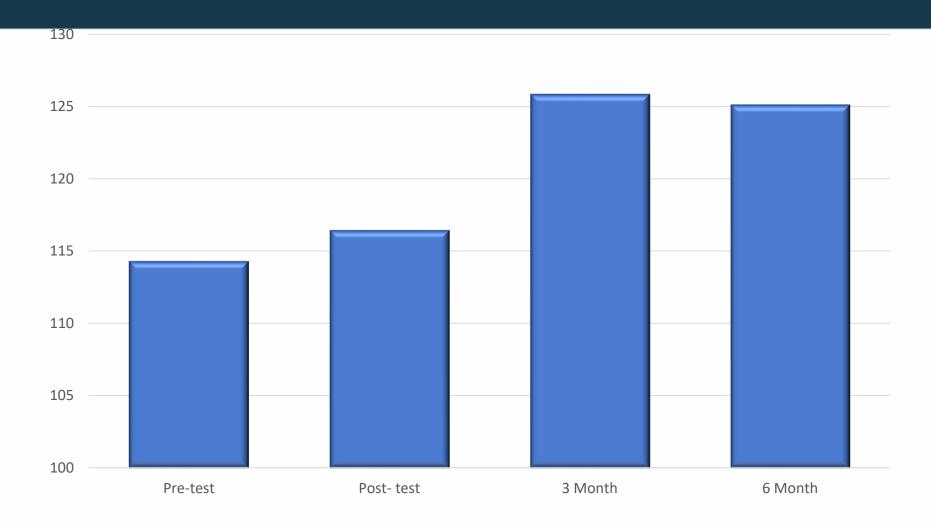
Changes over time- Emotion Dysregulation



Repeated measures ANOVA, F (3/39) = 9.05, p < .001

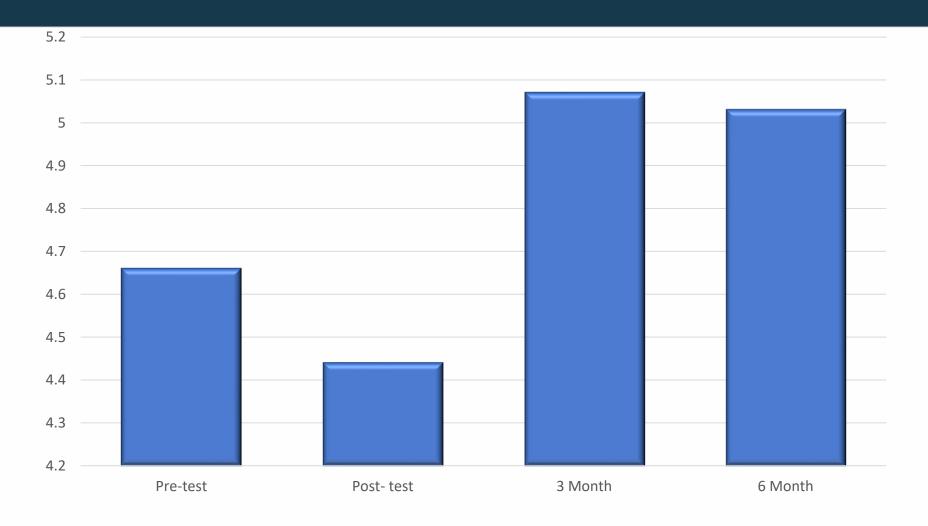


Changes over time- Mindfulness



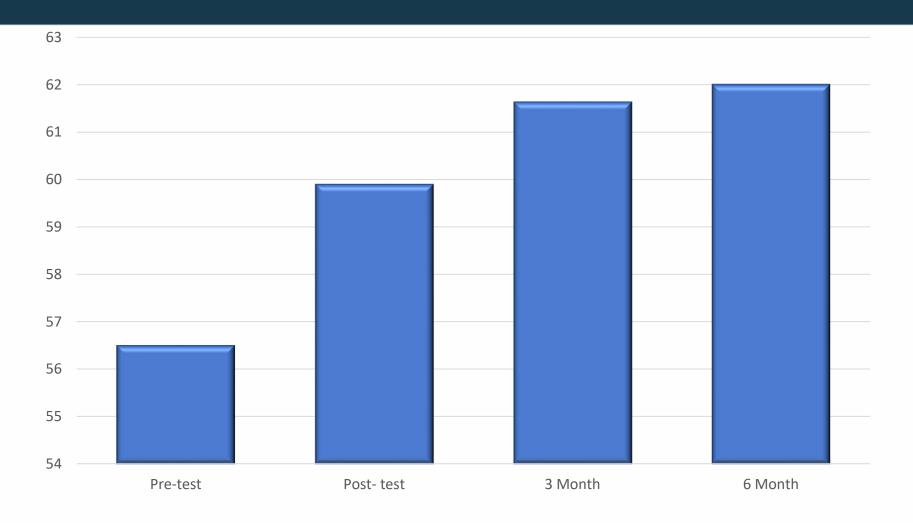


Changes over time- Perceived Social Support





Changes over time- Resilience





A Testimonial



Thank you!



Comments and Questions...

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Linda Ligenza, LCSW

Linda is a licensed clinical social worker and Clinical Services Director for the National Council for Behavioral Health. She provides guidance and technical assistance to SAMHSA-HRSA grantees on integrating primary care and behavioral health on behalf of the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS).

Linda's expertise in trauma and trauma-informed care further assists the CIHS audience to improve practices, policies, procedures and outcomes.

Ms. Ligenza has a background in clinical, administrative and public policy work based on her 30 year career. She worked first with the New York State Office of Mental Health and subsequently with HHS Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in their Traumatic Stress Services branch of the Center for Mental Health Services.



The Big Picture: Creating a Culture of Healing

ACEs Are Not Destiny

- Incidence of trauma, even within the general population is quite high
- The impact is profound
- Therefore there is a very high risk of retraumatization and adverse reactions given the ongoing stress caused by:
 - disparities such as poverty, racism, community violence and
 - devastating impact of climate change increasing numbers of and severity of disasters
- Healthcare settings can also be very stressful therefore, they have a responsibility to minimize risk of retraumatization by ensuring safety and trust through relationships, environment, policies and practices



Why is Adopting Trauma-Informed Approaches in Primary Care/Integrated Settings Important?

- Primary Care/Health Centers are typically first point of contact
- Many current conditions may be related to traumatic life experiences
- Opportunity for preventing and addressing ACEs in adults and children
- Benefits to the patient (safety leads to healing), staff and the organization
- Offers framework for effective care and outcomes
- Addresses the quadruple aim



Trauma-informed Approaches in Primary Care

- Minimizes reaction to triggers
- Improves adherence to treatment and use or overuse of services
- Helps people understand how trauma impacts their current health
- Connects people with appropriate services and resources

It's good medicine!
Trauma-informed Care is
Now the *EXPECTATION*, *NOT the Exception!*

Paradigm/Culture Shift



Begin to ask, "What happened to you?" rather than "What is wrong with you?"

And, "What's strong?" rather than "What's wrong?"

Definition of Trauma-Informed Care/Approach

A trauma-informed program, organization, or system (4 Rs):

Realizes

 Realizes widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery

Recognizes

 Recognizes signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system

Responds

 Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices

Resists

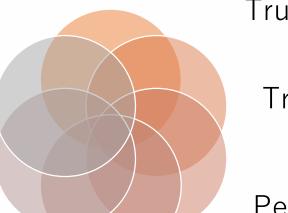
Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization



Trauma-Informed Care Principles

Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues

Empowerment, Voice, and Choice Safety



Collaboration and Mutuality

Trustworthiness and Transparency

Peer Support



National Council's Domains of Trauma-Informed Care

Domain 1: Screening and Comprehensive Assessment of Trauma

Domain 2: Patient Voice, Choice, and Collaboration

Domain 3: Workforce Development and Best Practices



Domain 4: Safe and Secure Relationships and Environment

Domain 5: Data Collection and Performance Improvement

Screening and Assessing for Trauma

- Sensitively, routinely and universally screen patients for trauma
- Sensitively inquire and respond to current adverse life experiences
- Address the connection between trauma and physical health concerns
- Complete comprehensive trauma assessment for patients with positive screens
- Identify patients needing/wanting treatment referral and follow up on referral process
- Ensure staff are educated and workflows are established

• Resources: TIP 57, Trauma Posters

Patient Voice, Choice and Collaboration

- Collaborate with patient on all aspects of care
- Monitor patient satisfaction and perception of care feedback on the safety and security of relationships, and the physical and psychological setting
- Include recipients of care in one or more organizational decision influencing meetings such as formal focus groups, providing feedback on service quality, advisory boards or other organization specific meetings/committees
- Engage Peer Wellness Coaches to provide individual and group wellness services
- Provide information to patients on the impact of adverse life events on a person's whole health
- Resources: Trauma Informational Brochures, Trauma Posters



Workforce Development and Best Practices

- Requires leadership support and direction
- Includes 'everyone' in the organization
- Improves staff competencies
- Reduces staff stress
- Increases staff retention / reduces costs
- Improves patient health outcomes
- Involves Human Resource and Training Departments
- Creates safety and respect for all
- Resources: SAMHSA TIP 57, SAMHSA's Concept Paper, Staff Training Survey, TIC Slides, Trauma Infographics

Safe and Secure Relationships and Environment

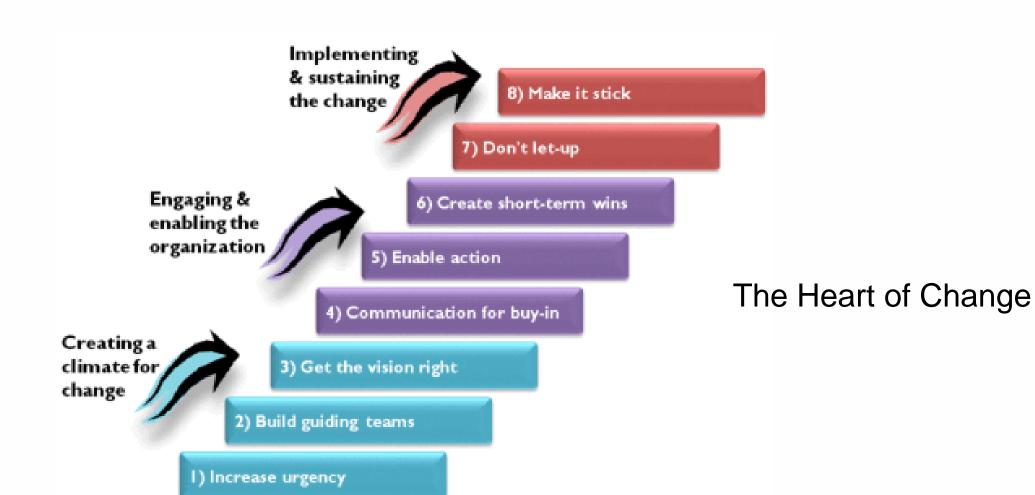
- Feedback from patients includes their experience of care and the environment including:
 - ✓ physical comfort and safety
 - ✓ respectful interactions
 - √ friendliness of staff
 - ✓ the degree to which patient concerns are listened to and addressed
 - ✓ the physical exam, procedures, diagnoses and treatment are explained and all questions answered with patience and sensitivity
- Staff Performance Reviews are used to ensure competencies
- Resource: Environmental Survey

Data Collection and Performance Improvement

- Collect and monitor data related to each of the domains
- Collect and monitor data related to organizational concerns (% of patients with trauma histories, decrease in incidents, increase in keeping appts, improvements in treatment adherence, reduction in ED use and hospitalizations, improvements in health outcomes
- Data used to track, measure, analyze performance improvement outcomes
- Informs and guides team, leadership, Board

Implementation Strategies

Implementation Science: John Kotter's Eight Stages of Change



Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)-Implementation & Sustainability

Implementation Tips:

- 1. Gain commitment from leadership
- 2. Form a TIC Implementation Team
- Build team consensus and vision
- 4. Educate all staff and establish communication systems
- Assess your organization using the domains
- 6. Develop an action plan and data system

Sustainability Tips:

- 1. Strengthen leadership commitment
- 2. Maintain team momentum
- 3. Continue staff training and use of all communication systems
- 4. Focus on Human Resource changes
- 5. Revise Policies, Procedures and Practices
- 6. Review and use data





Summary - A Trauma-Informed Healthcare Environment

- Emphasizes the importance of the relationship
- Feels physically and emotionally safe and respectful for all
- Routinely identifies past and current trauma experiences
- Prepares staff to engage patients around the connection between trauma and health
- Creates opportunities to engage patients in meaningful ways
- Considers trauma when:
 - ✓ patient frequently misses appointments
 - √ has difficulty adhering to treatment
 - ✓ shows up often without appointments
 - √ frequently visits the ED



SAMHSA Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach

Ten Implementation Domains – pages 12-16

https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA14-4884/SMA14-4884.pdf

Center for Healthcare Strategies

Advancing Trauma-Informed Care

https://www.chcs.org/project/advancing-trauma-informedcare/

Upcoming National Council Resource

Trauma-Informed Primary Care: Fostering Resilience and Recovery project, is being developed and piloted by the National Council with support by Kaiser Permanente, it will offer primary care practices field-informed methods, tools and resources to advance understanding and address the impact of trauma.



Resources

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html

SAMHSA/HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions Trauma Website

https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/trauma-informed

SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach

https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA14-4884/SMA14-4884.pdf

SAMHSA's Treatment Improvement Protocol 57-Trauma-Informed Care in Behavioral Health Services

https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/SAMHSA_TIP_Trauma.pdf

SAMHSA/HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions IPV Website https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/intimate-partner-violence



Questions?





CIHS News and Resources

Visit www.integration.samhsa.gov or e-mail integration@thenationalcouncil.org

> Free consultation on any integration-related topic!



Thank You

SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

The mission of HRSA is to improve health and achieve health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce, and innovative programs.

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