



Adverse Childhood Experiences NCSL Opioid Fellows and Maternal & Child Health Fellows Joint Session

January 22, 2022



VISION

We envision a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.

MISSION

To prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.



Our approach works at two levels—boots-on-the-ground programs and actions that impact systems-level change.



State Chapter Network

Prevention happens in partnership. We support a 50-state chapter network that drives regional initiatives and policies.



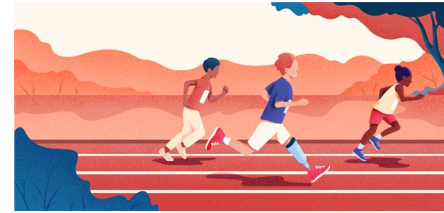
Home Visiting

Healthy Families America (HFA) is one of the leading family support and evidence-based home visiting programs in the U.S., with nearly 600 sites serving more than 70,000 families annually.



Research

Our team of experts ensures that the best available data and evidence guide our prevention strategies, elevating lessons learned from the field and advancing knowledge of what works.



Public Policy

We operate on both the national and state level to mobilize non-partisan policies and push for equitable solutions that deliver prevention and impact for families in all communities.



Public Awareness

We raise public awareness and engagement to increase individual and community support, mobilize resources and knowledge sharing, and stimulate meaningful action.





1 in 7 U.S.
Children
EXPERIENCE
VIOLENCE OR
NEGLECT
ANNUALLY

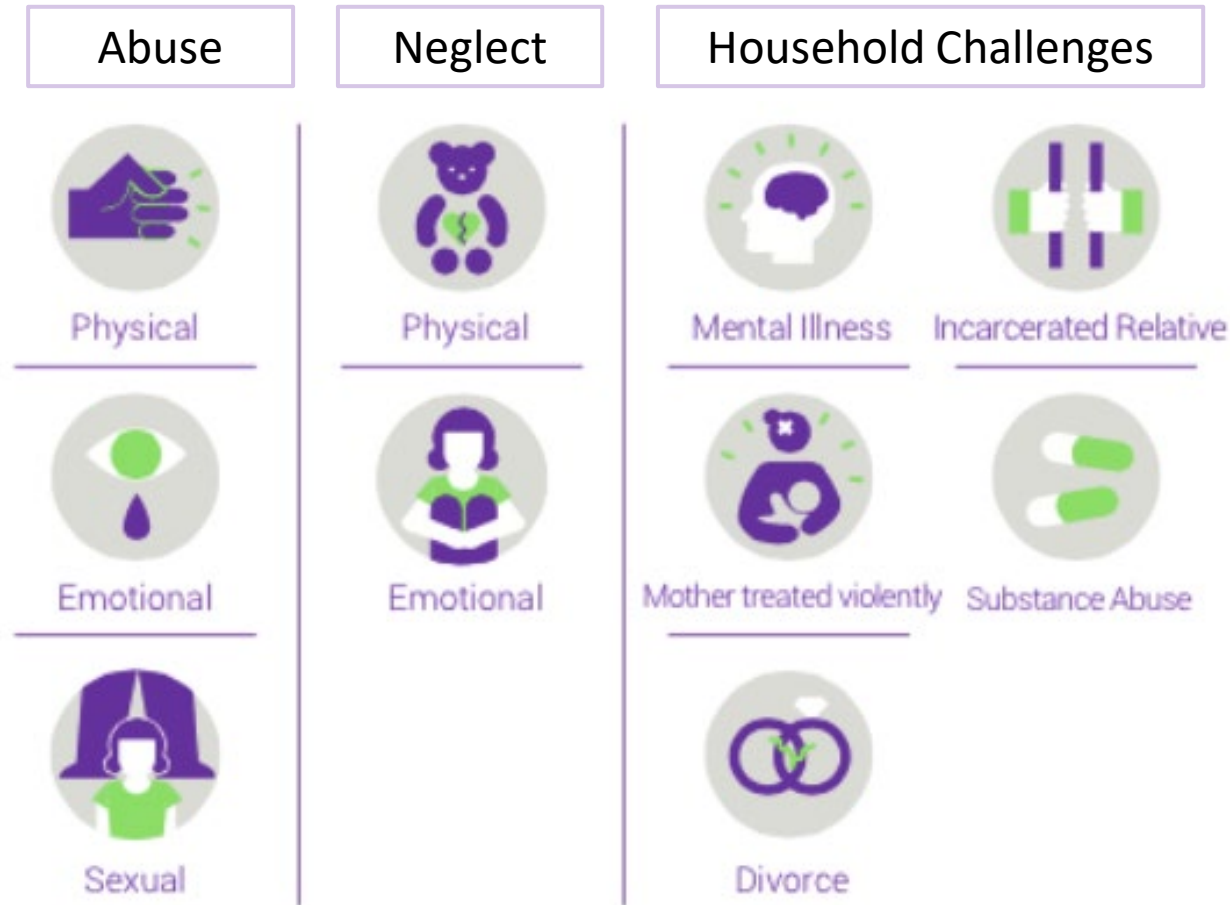


Evidence shows that stress and trauma can interrupt healthy child development, putting children at risk for lifelong health issues.



Adverse Childhood Experiences

ACEs are experiences that may be traumatic to children and youth during the first 18 years of life such as experiencing violence or other types of emotionally disturbing exposures in their homes and communities.



ACEs not included in the traditional measure:

- Bullying
- Teen dating violence
- Peer to peer violence
- Witness violence in community or school
- Homelessness
- Death of a parent

Graphic Credit: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



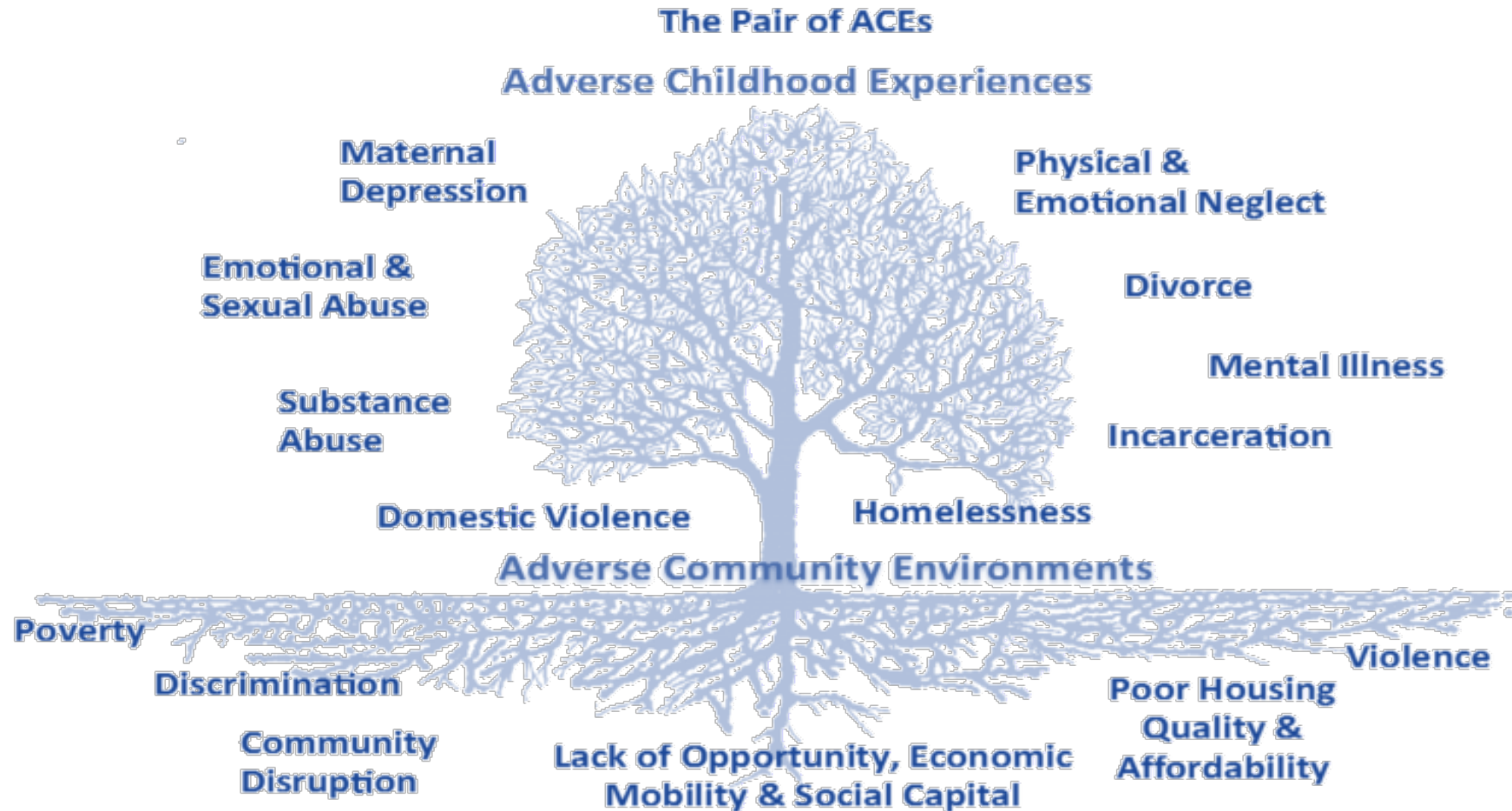
Early Adversity has Lasting Impacts



The Challenge

**Preventing child abuse and neglect
seems BIG, but prevention IS possible.**

IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS



Ellis, W., Dietz, W. (2017) A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. *Academic Pediatrics*. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011



Preventing ACEs could reduce many health conditions



UP TO

21 MILLION

CASES OF
DEPRESSION



UP TO

1.9 MILLION

CASES OF
HEART DISEASE



UP TO

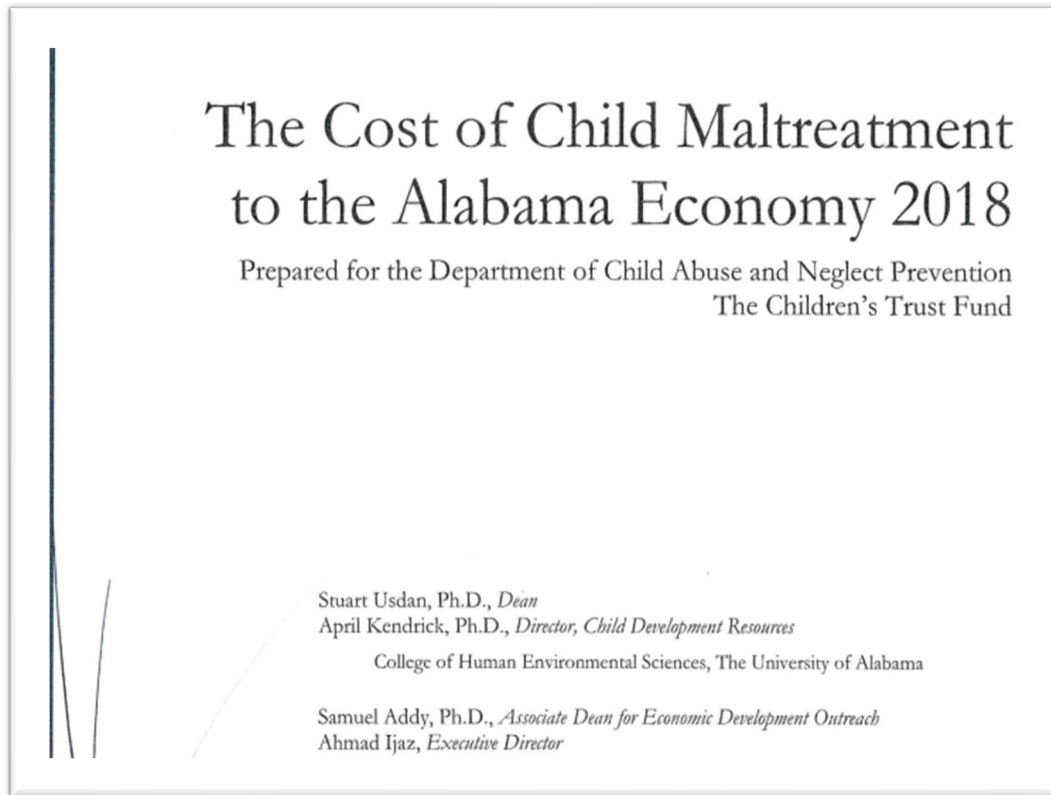
2.5 MILLION

CASES OF
OVERWEIGHT/OBESITY



The Economics of Child Maltreatment

Preventing and mitigating ACEs protects children, strengthens families and saves taxpayer dollars. Investing in prevention efforts upstream helps to prevent more serious problems in the future.



<https://ctf.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Cost-of-Child-Maltreatment-2018-Final-Report.pdf>



<https://safeandsound.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Safe-Sound-2019-CA-Report.pdf>

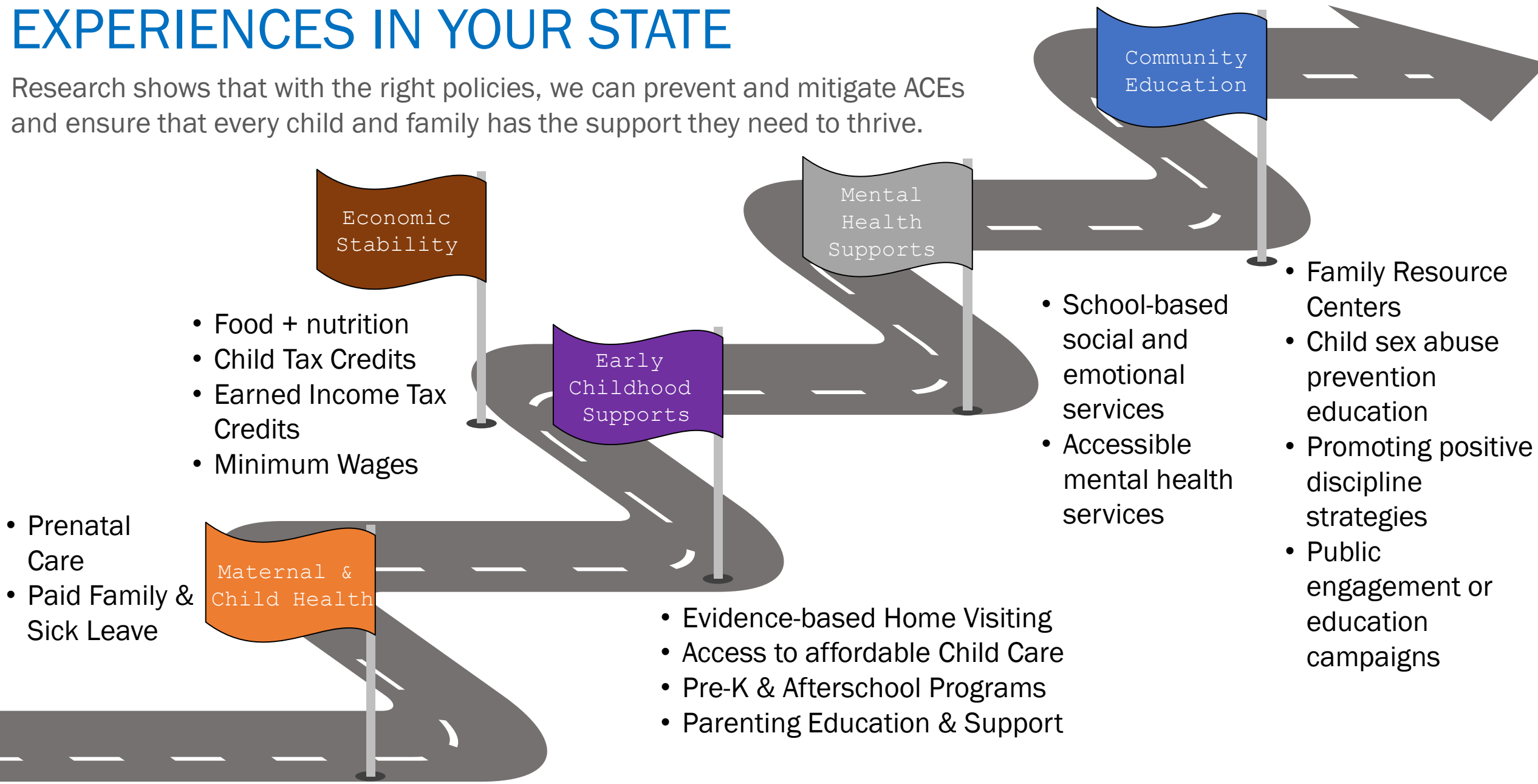


**Policy Opportunities
to prevent and mitigate the impact of
childhood trauma or ACEs &
Promote Positive Childhood Experiences**



A ROADMAP TO PREVENT ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES IN YOUR STATE

Research shows that with the right policies, we can prevent and mitigate ACEs and ensure that every child and family has the support they need to thrive.



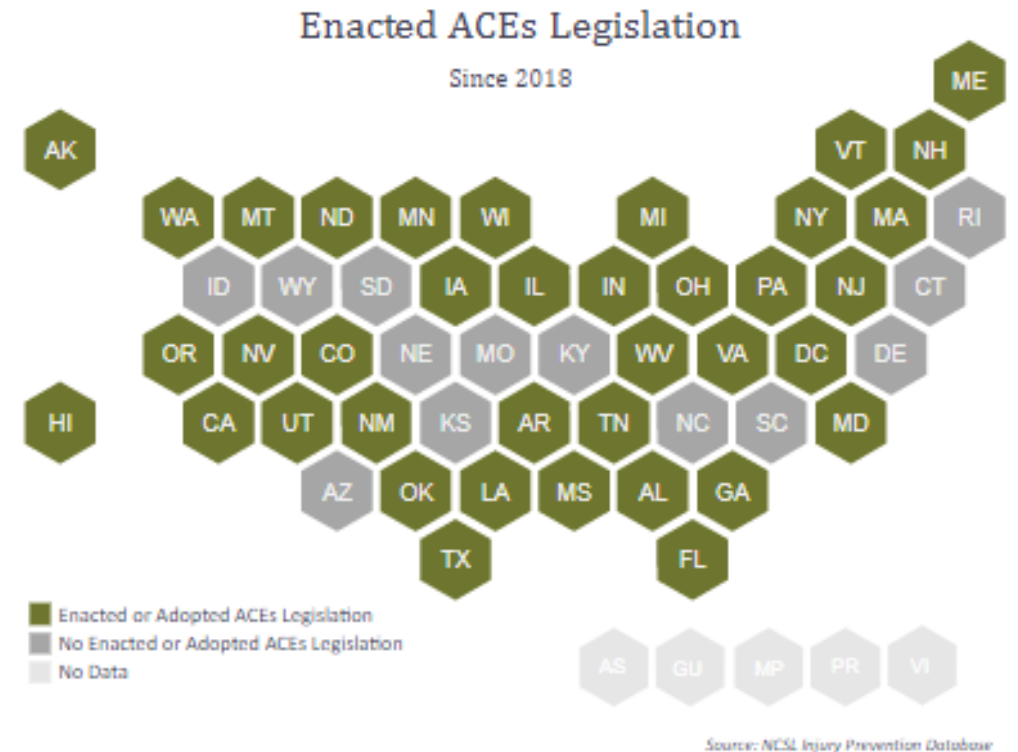
State Policies to Prevent ACEs

- More than 20 states increased their minimum wages for workers in 2021
- 9 states plus DC offer Paid Family and Medical Leave
- 7 states have enacted a state Child Tax Credit
- 24 states plus DC have a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit
- 31 states have legislation in place that promotes positive discipline strategies in schools or public institutions
- 33 state and DC have laws that address child sexual abuse prevention education in schools



Prevention policy strategies to support children, families, and communities.

- ACEs Legislation or Resolution
- 1-800 Warm lines
- Voluntary evidence-based Home Visiting programs
- Trauma-informed care in schools and child care centers
- Task Forces or Commissions



<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/adverse-childhood-experiences-aces.aspx>



Continuum of prevention policy strategies to support children, families, and communities.

- Family Resource Centers
- Parenting education and skill building programs
- Prevention awareness / public awareness campaigns
- Positive fatherhood engagement programs
- Infant Safe Sleep
- Child neglect laws
- Abuse Head Trauma prevention programs / Shaken Baby Syndrome
- State prevention planning
- Quality Early Child Care and Education





Approaches to Preventing Child Maltreatment in Arizona

Claire Louge

Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona



...strengthening families and protecting children through collaboration, education and advocacy.



The Protective Factors™ Framework

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Children's Social and Emotional Competence



Lean On Me AZ

We know how to report child abuse.
Do we know how to **prevent** it?

Can we be not just mandated reporters, but
mandated supporters?

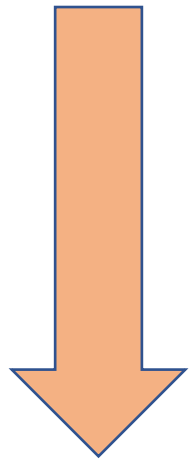
“Once, an older couple walked up to me while my four-year old son was melting down, and said ‘you’re doing great.’ I felt so supported, I was walking on air.”

pcaaz.org/LeanOnMeAZ



State Initiatives focused on Preventing and Addressing Substance Use

Triple P – Positive Parenting Program



- Parent depression
- Parent Anxiety
- Parent Stress
- Child behavior problems
- Rates of child maltreatment
- Out-of-home placements
- Child injuries due to maltreatment



- Parent self-regulation skills
- Parent competencies
- Family communication skills
- Family relationship strength

Local foundation investments and state agency State Opioid Response funding has grown AZ's capacity to offer Triple P to 200+ practitioners statewide.

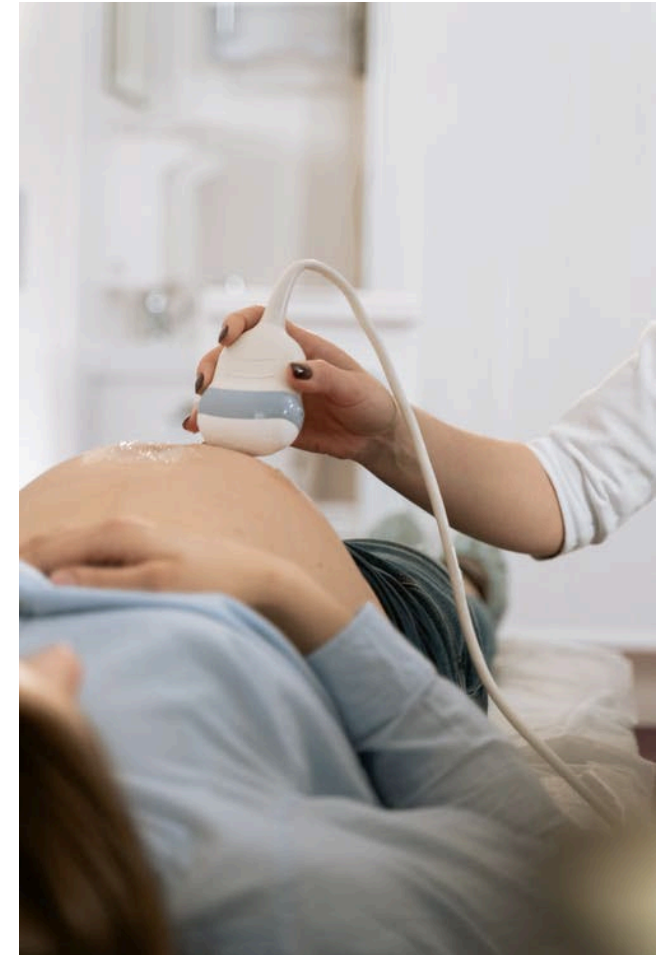


State Initiatives focused on Preventing and Addressing Substance Use

SHIFT - Safe, Healthy Infants and Families Thrive

Coordination of local providers able to offer services to pregnant people using substances

- early identification of prenatal substance exposure
- reduce time-to-service engagement for parents and infants
- increase cross-system coordination
- keep families safely together



Resources

- Prevent Child Abuse America: <https://preventchildabuse.org/>
- Prevent Child Abuse Arizona: www.pcaaz.org
- Adverse Childhood Experiences One-Pager: <https://preventchildabuse.org/resources/adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-one-pager/>
- Lean On Me AZ toolkit: www.pcaaz.org/LeanOnMeAZ
- Triple P: <https://www.triplep.net/>
- SHIFT (Safe, Healthy Infants and Families Thrive): <https://maricopashift.com/>
- Video, The Upstream Solution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn2akD5joXM>





**Together, we can prevent child
abuse...because
childhood lasts a lifetime.**

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