



Joint Lunch and Closing Plenary: Up and Down the Prevention Continuum

Wednesday | 09.14.22

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Expert Presenter



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Prevent Child Abuse America

President and Chief Executive Officer

www.preventchildabuse.org



Melissa T. Merrick, PhD
President & CEO

September 14, 2022 * NCSL Policy Fellows Closing Plenary

Up and Down the Prevention Continuum



Mission:

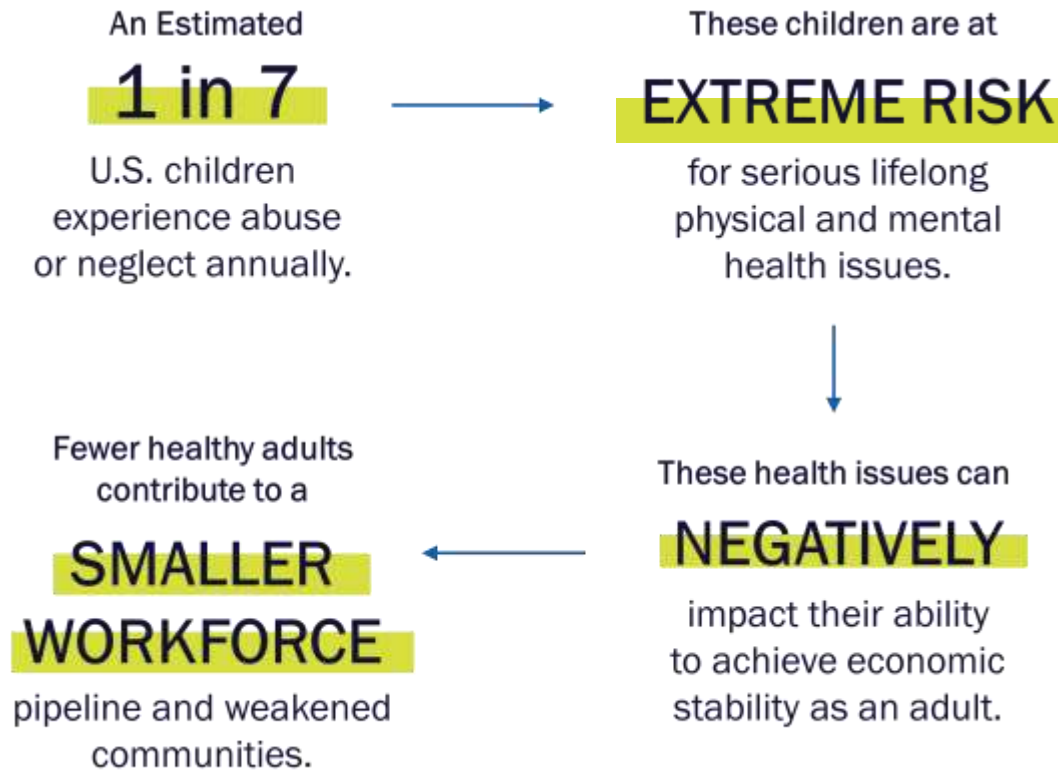
*To prevent the abuse and neglect
of our nation's children.*

Vision:

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

WHY TAKE ACTION?

Because child abuse and neglect affects all of us.



PREVENTCHILDAUSE.ORG



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



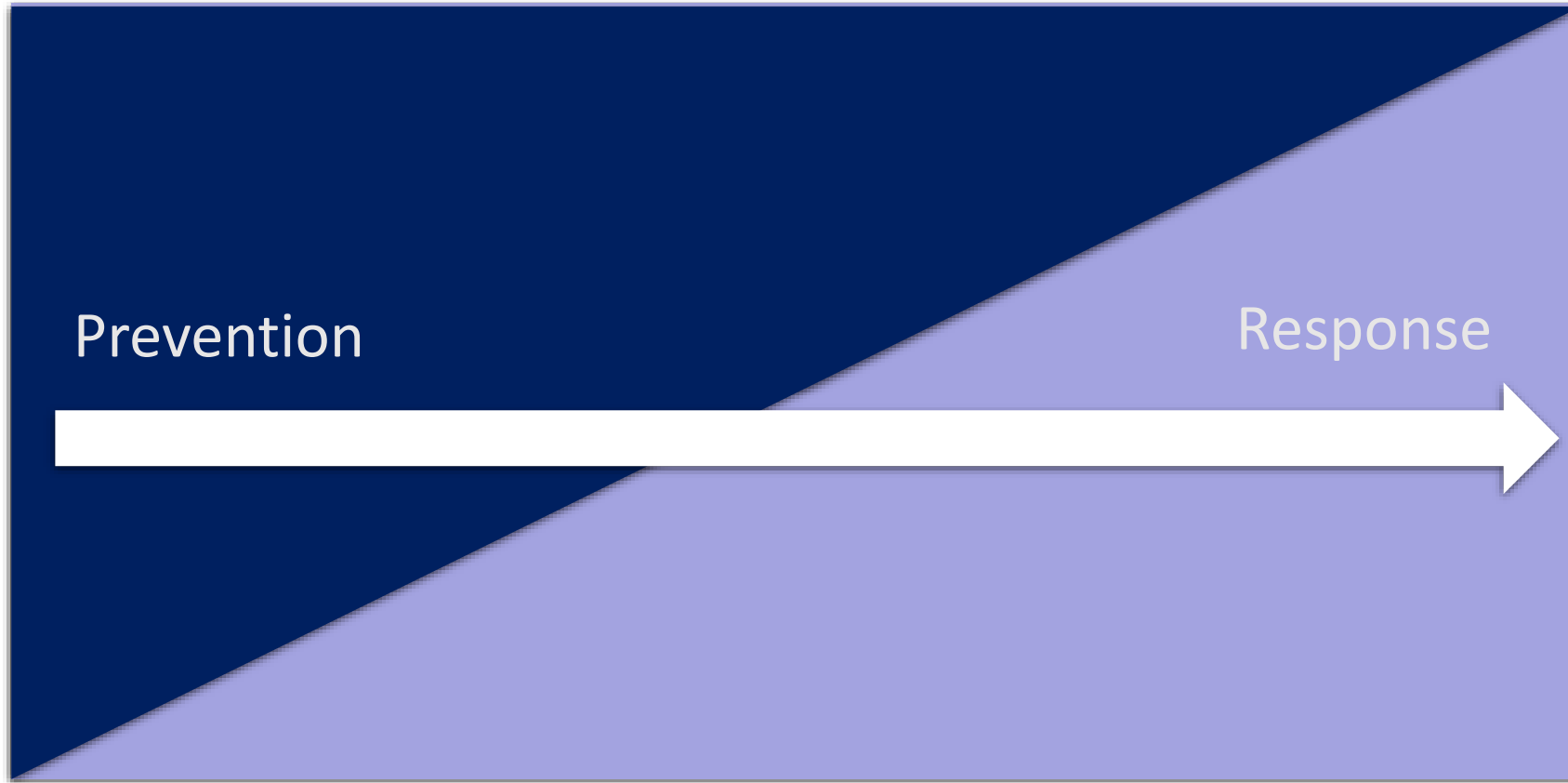
***Public health is what we, as a society, do
collectively
to assure the conditions in which (all) people
can be healthy.***

Institute of Medicine
The Future of Public Health, 1988 & 1997



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Role of Public Health in Violence Prevention



ROLE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CHILD WELFARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHCARE



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PREVE

**RENT
CAR PAYMENT
CHILD CARE
DEBT
INSURANCE
UTILITIES
CLOTHING
FOOD
FAMILY**

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



[PREVENTCHILDABUSE.ORG](https://www.preventchildabuse.org)

POLICY OPTIONS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

Maternal & Child Health

- Evidence-based Home Visiting programs
- Prenatal Care
- Enhanced primary care

Economic Stability

- Tax credits
- Minimum wage
- Income supports
- Paid Leave programs
- Nutrition programs

Community and Education & Awareness

- 1-800 Warm Lines
- Public education campaigns
- Family Resource Centers
- Child sex abuse prevention education

Early Childhood Supports

- Pre-K & Afterschool programs
- Parent support and education
- Quality and affordable childcare

Mental Health Supports

- Accessible mental health services
- Behavioral parent training programs
- Trauma informed care in schools and childcare centers



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**CHILD NEGLECT
IS A ~~PARENTING~~
~~ISSUE~~ PUBLIC
ISSUE.**

**CHILDHOOD
ADVERSITY IS
~~INEVITABLE~~
PREVENTABLE.**

**CHILDHOOD
ADVERSITY IS
~~UNSOLVABLE~~
SOLVABLE.**



www.preventchildabuse.org

My Wish For You...

**CHILDHOOD
ADVERSITY IS
~~INEVITABLE~~
PREVENTABLE.**

**MOM
COMMUNITY
SOCIAL SERVICES
FRIENDS
SCHOOLS
FAITH GROUPS
FAMILY**



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

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Questions

Comments



Closing Ceremony: You're Awesome, but Now What?

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A Special Message for You



Tim Storey

National Conference of State
Legislatures

Chief Executive Officer

www.NCSL.org



- NCSL's Child Welfare Fellows
- NCSL's Early Childhood Fellows
- NCSL's Youth Homelessness Fellows