

Pathways to Prevention: Transforming Child Welfare Systems

NCSL Legislative Summit | August 14, 2023 | Indianapolis

Session Overview



Presentation



Presenter Discussion



Audience Q&A



Presenters



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President and CEO, Casey Family Programs



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Founder, Mosaic ParentHub



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.*

...because childhood lasts a lifetime!

Vitalsigns™

#vitalsigns
NOV. 2019

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Preventing early trauma to improve adult health

Want to learn more?
www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces

1 in 6

1 in 6 adults experienced four or more types of ACEs.

5 of 10

At least 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death are associated with ACEs.

44%

Preventing ACEs could reduce the number of adults with depression by as much as 44%.

Overview:

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs can include violence, abuse, and growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems. Toxic stress from ACEs can change brain development and affect how the body responds to stress. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood. However, ACEs can be prevented.



PROBLEM:

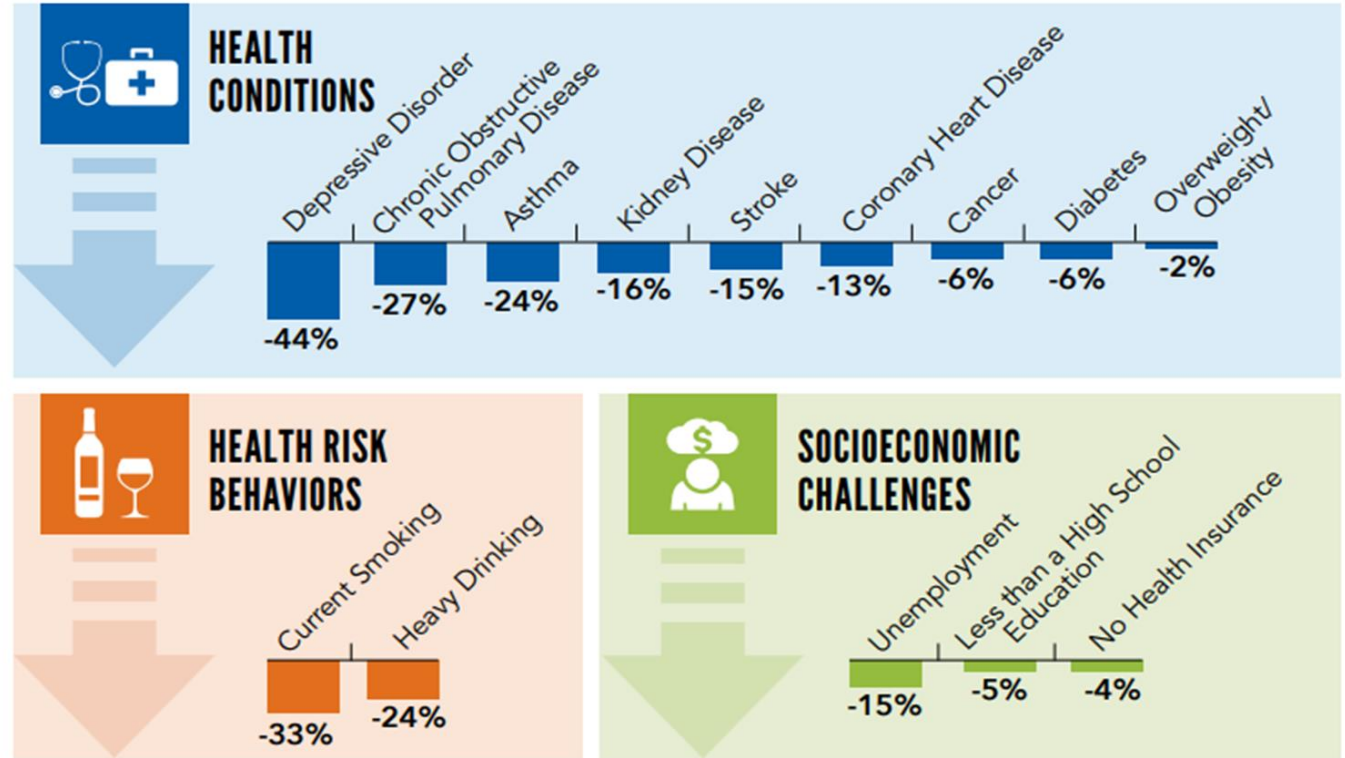
Adverse Childhood Experiences impact lifelong health and opportunities.

ACEs are common and the effects can add up over time.

- 61% of adults had at least one ACE and 16% had 4 or more types of ACEs.
- Females and several racial/ethnic minority groups were at greater risk for experiencing 4 or more ACEs.
- Many people do not realize that exposure to ACEs is associated with increased risk for health problems across the lifespan.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control



SOURCE: BRFSS 2015-2017, 25 states, CDC Vital Signs, November 2019.

MAKE PREVENTION THE PRIORITY

WHAT IS PRIMARY PREVENTION?

Stopping abuse *before* it occurs.

Primary prevention activities are **designed for the general population to provide support to prevent ACEs and minimize risks before they occur.**

WHAT IS SECONDARY PREVENTION?

Targeted responses to at-risk populations.

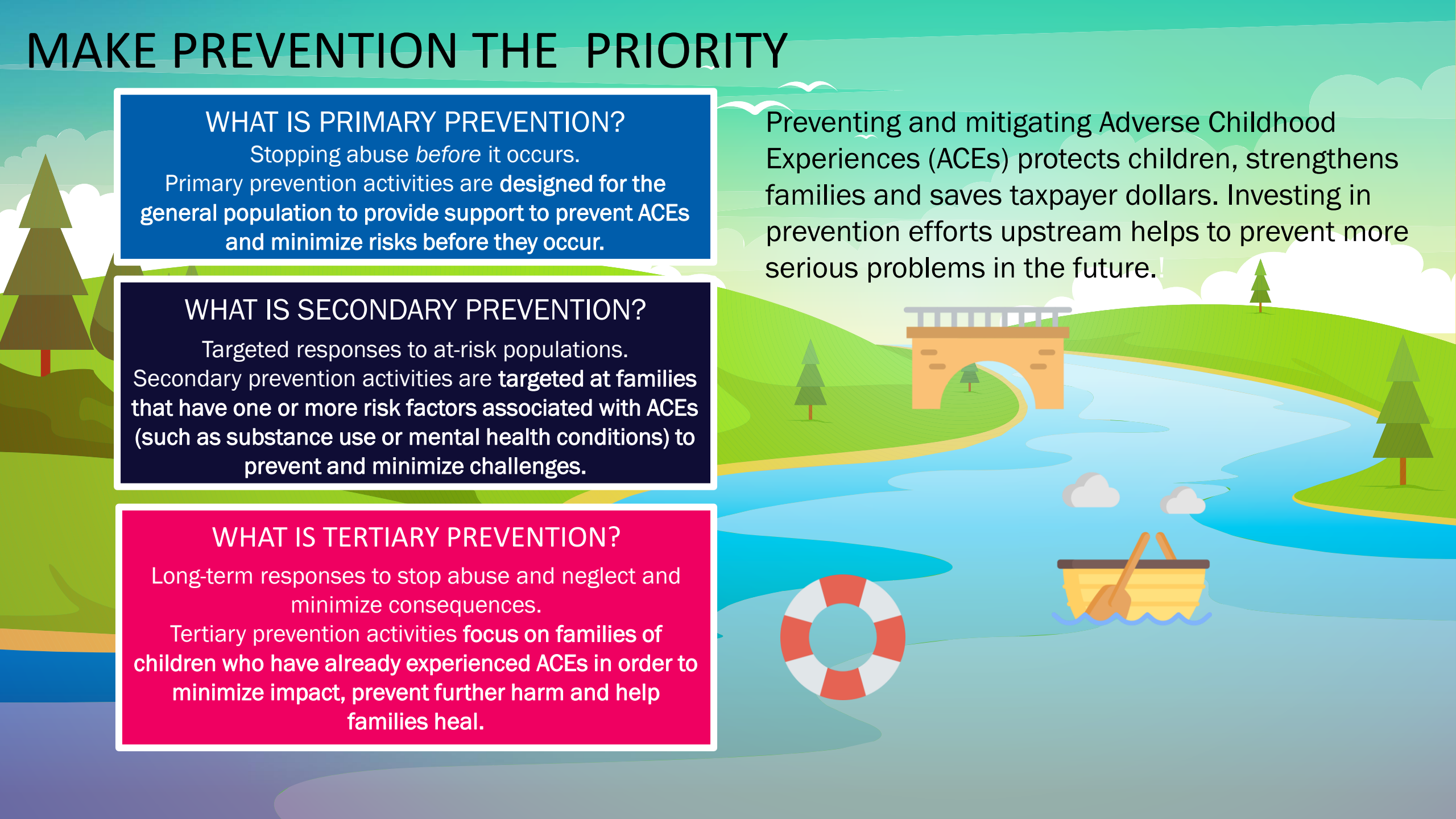
Secondary prevention activities are **targeted at families that have one or more risk factors associated with ACEs (such as substance use or mental health conditions) to prevent and minimize challenges.**

WHAT IS TERTIARY PREVENTION?

Long-term responses to stop abuse and neglect and minimize consequences.

Tertiary prevention activities **focus on families of children who have already experienced ACEs in order to minimize impact, prevent further harm and help families heal.**

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



Concrete & Economic Supports as Prevention

- State spending on public benefits programs
- Earned-Income Tax Credits (EITC) & Child Tax Credits (CTC)
- Paid Family Leave (PFL)
- Childcare subsidies
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Minimum wage
- Medicaid

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

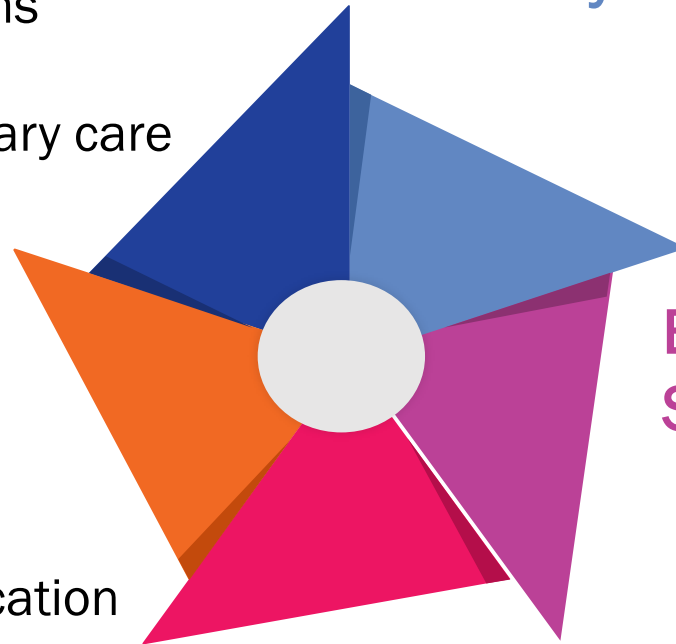
- 1-800 Warm Lines
- Public education campaigns
- Family Resource Centers
- Child sex abuse prevention education

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



Contact Information & Ways to Connect



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REDEFINING RESCUE

A TRANSFORMATIONAL SHIFT IN CHILD WELFARE

TAKKEEM MORGAN

My story of family began here

The City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

I was born and raised in the inner city of Philadelphia



**With My Father
1982**



**My Family
1985**



3rd Grade
1987



**5th Grade
1989**



**3 of 4 Siblings
1998**



**Aged Out of
Foster Care into
Penn State
University 2000**



**Completed a
Master's in
Business
Administration
2015**



**Executive
Director & Co-
Founder 2021**



**AGED OUT OF FOSTER CARE
LAST YEAR**

20,000

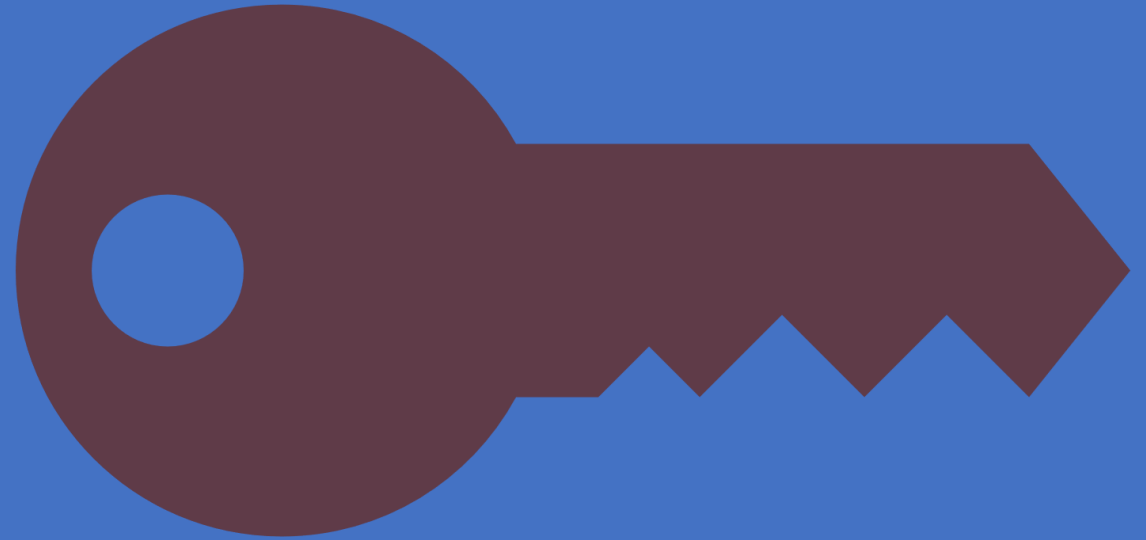


Audience Q&A



3 Key Questions to Take Home

- 1) What could a transformed child welfare system look like?
- 2) How can legislators create supports for families within the child welfare system?
- 3) How can legislators prevent families from entering the system?



NCSL Resources

[Policy Levers for Preventing Child Maltreatment](#)

[Child Welfare Database](#)

[Family First State Plans and Enacted Legislation](#)

[Economic Mobility Database](#)

[Economic Mobility Snapshot](#)



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