What is ACE?

ACEs, or adverse childhood experiences, is a term that describes the cumulative exposure of abuse, neglect and other traumatic experiences that occur among children younger than 18 years of age.

Type of ACEs

**Abuse**
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse

**Family Challenges**
- Violence between adults in household
- Substance abuse in household
- Parental separation/divorce
- Mentally ill household member
- Incarcerated household member

How ACEs impact health and well-being?

The CDC-Kaiser ACE study linked early traumatic experiences to the development of health-related issues that lead to early death.  


How is ACE data collected in Kansas?

- CDC developed a standardized ACE Module in 2008. Kansas included this ACE module in the 2014 and 2015 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The ACE module is comprised of 11 questions which reflects 8 types of ACEs.

- Kansas BRFSS is a random digit dial telephone survey of health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions & use of preventive services among non-institutionalized adults 18 years & older adults, living in households and college housing with landline and/or cellphone service.

How are ACEs scored?

ACE score is calculated based on the 8 types of ACEs assessed. Exposure to a single type counts as one point toward a cumulative exposure. ACE scores range from 0 to 8 (0: No ACE, 1-2: Low ACE, 3+: High ACE).

4,637

Respondents answered all 11 ACE module questions and were therefore included in the 2014-2015 Sedgwick County ACE analysis.
Where is Sedgwick County in Kansas?

Prevalence of no, low and high ACE in Sedgwick County, Kansas

![Map of Kansas with Sedgwick County highlighted.]

**Kansas**
- 0 (No ACE) 45.2%
- 1 to 2 (Low ACE) 33.9%
- 3+ (High ACE) 20.9%

**Sedgwick County**
- 0 (No ACE), 23.0%
- 1 to 2 (Low ACE), 34.8%
- 3+ (High ACE), 42.2%

57.8%

Sedgwick County adults have at least 1 ACE

How common are ACEs in Sedgwick County, KS?

### Abuse
- 27.6% Emotional abuse
- 16.4% Physical abuse
- 13.4% Sexual abuse

### Family Challenges
- 29.1% Parental separation/divorce
- 26.3% Substance abuse in household
- 18.0% Mentally ill household member
- 17.0% Violence between adults in household
- 7.1% Incarcerated household member


High (3+) ACE Disparities

**Race/ethnicity**
- NH White: 24%
- NH African American: 25%
- NH Other/Multiracial: 30%
- Hispanic: 23%

**Annual household income**
- Less than $15,000: 39%
- $15,000 to $24,999: 29%
- $25,000 to $44,999: 29%
- $45,000 to $64,999: 24%
- $65,000 or more: 18%

**Education**
- Less than H.S.: 30%
- H.S. grad or G.E.D.: 26%
- Some college: 25%
- College graduate: 15%

*Prevalence estimates for race and ethnicity were age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population. NH= non-Hispanic. Source: 2014-2015 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE.*

High ACE is significantly higher among Sedgwick County adults who are females, younger than 65 years old, those who have less than $50,000 annual household income, lower than college graduate education attainment and those who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual.
What impact do ACEs have on health?

As ACE score increases, so does the prevalence of negative health outcomes.

Compared with those who did not experience any ACEs, Sedgwick County adults with high (3+) ACE scores showed significantly higher prevalence for the following risk behaviors & health conditions after statistical adjustment*:

An example for how to interpret the following data:
Sedgwick County adults who experienced high ACE have 5.2 times greater odds of experiencing depression.

What is Kansas doing about ACE?

Kansas is implementing CDC's Essentials for Childhood Framework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Successes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Raise awareness and commitment to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments</td>
<td>1. Securing private funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Use data to inform action</td>
<td>2. Monitoring long-term impacts statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Create the context for healthy children and families through norms change and programs</td>
<td>3. Engaging high-level partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Create the context for healthy children and families through policies</td>
<td>&quot;As people who never knew each other before this project work together, I'm starting to see they all had ties to building safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments in Kansas. Significant things are happening while these partners develop trust and learn more about one another.&quot;</td>
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See the full two year Kansas ACE report here: [http://www.kansaspowerofthepositive.org/](http://www.kansaspowerofthepositive.org/)

Partners:

- Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
- Kansas Children's Service League
- The Junior League of Wichita

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AMONG KANSAS ADULTS

2014-2015 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

March 2017