

# Washington County ACEs Initiative

## *A Community Response to Adverse Childhood Experiences*



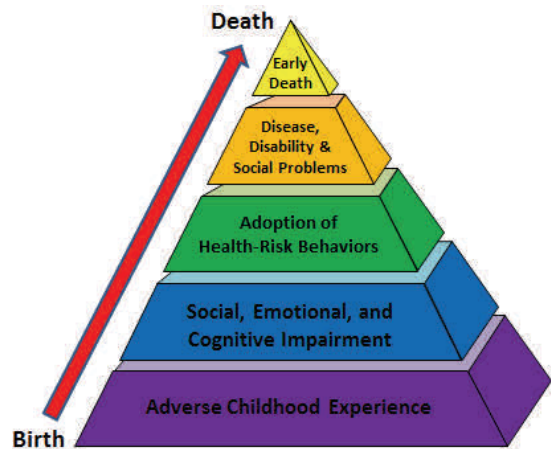
### WHAT ARE ACEs?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic or stressful events that occur prior to the age of 18.

Examples of adverse childhood experiences include: abuse, neglect, bullying, poverty, racial discrimination, community violence, substance abuse, domestic violence, natural disasters, mental illness, divorce or family separation.

### THE REALITY OF ACEs

- ACEs are common.
- ACEs often go unnoticed or unaddressed.
- ACEs are linked to developmental delays.
- ACEs are linked to maladaptive, antisocial behaviors.
- ACEs are linked to alcoholism and alcohol abuse.
- ACEs are linked to smoking and substance abuse.
- ACEs are linked to early initiation of sexually activity.
- ACEs are linked to depression and suicide attempts.
- ACEs are linked to intimate partner violence.
- ACEs are linked to chronic disease.



### COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Washington County Public Health conducted a county-wide assessment of 74 community stakeholders. The survey results showed that 81% of community members were familiar with the ACE Study and 70% are doing work that targets ACEs and/or resilience. The survey also found that only 41% of community partners were trained to provide trauma-informed services.

### CALL TO ACTION

Washington County hosted an ACEs Summit on March 4, 2015. The educational event had 98 attendees from three different counties across the state of Oregon. The summit served as a launch meeting for the Washington County ACEs Initiative, with participant feedback from the summit and community assessment survey informing the next steps for the collaborative response to ACEs.

### THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ACEs INITIATIVE SEEKS TO

- Raise awareness of ACEs and the life-long impact of childhood trauma.
- Mobilize comprehensive responses to ACEs across the lifespan.
- Support efforts to build resilience in families and communities as a way to overcome adversity.
- Support efforts to create safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children.
- Increase efforts to integrate a trauma-informed approach into practice, programs and policies.

### THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ACEs INITIATIVE MEETINGS

The ACEs Initiative currently has over 40 partners and meets quarterly at the Hillsboro Main Library.

For more information please contact:

Octavia Chambers at 503-846-3637 or [octavia\\_chambers@co.washington.or.us](mailto:octavia_chambers@co.washington.or.us)

# Resources

## Adverse Childhood Experiences:

Free Online Training:

- Futures Without Violence: <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>
- Iowa Department of Public Health: <http://www.iowaaces360.org/>

Additional Resources:

- ACEs Connection: <http://www.acesconnection.com/>
- ACE Response: <http://www.aceresponse.org/>
- ACEs Too High: <http://acestoohigh.com/>
- Adverse Childhood Experiences Study: [www.cestudy.org](http://www.cestudy.org)
- CDC's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/cestudy/>

## Trauma:

Free Online Training:

- Australian Childhood Foundation: <http://www.childhood.org.au/>
- Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: <http://ecmhc.org/index.html>
- Child Trauma Academy: <http://www.childtraumaacademy.com/>
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS): <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network: <http://www.nctsn.org/>

Additional Resources:

- Center on the Developing Child: <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>
- SAMHSA National Center for Trauma-Informed Care: [www.samhsa.gov/nctic](http://www.samhsa.gov/nctic)
- The Sanctuary Model: <http://www.sanctuaryweb.com/index.php>
- Trauma Informed Oregon: [www.traumainformedoregon.org](http://www.traumainformedoregon.org)
- The Trauma Informed Care Project: <http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org/>
- THRIVE: <http://thriveinitiative.org/thrivetraining/>

## Promoting Resilience, Healthy Families and Healthy Communities:

Free Online Training:

- FRIENDS Online Learning Center: <http://friendsnrcelearning.org/>
- National Children's Advocacy Center: <http://www.nationalcac.org/>
- The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds (Alliance): <http://www.ctfalliance.org/>
- VetoViolence: <http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/>

Additional Resources:

- Essentials for Childhood: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/essentials.html>
- Parenting Ideas Club: <http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Home>
- Resilience Trumps ACEs: <http://resiliencetrumpsaces.org/>

