

Identification and Assessment of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



Key Findings from Rapid Literature Review and Thought Leader Interviews

BROAD COLLABORATIVE ACTION

It is important that ACEs identification is implemented as part of broader collaborative action on adversity, trauma, and resilience that includes prevention, response, and ACE informed and/or trauma-informed practice. To facilitate broader collaboration and alignment, a shared understanding of the scope and meaning of ‘ACEs approaches’ is needed.



HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT

Holistic assessment approaches that capture the scope, impact, and context of adversity and resilience are supported by emerging evidence as effective to guide response.

The exclusive use of ACEs questionnaires and scores to identify experiences of adversity and guide response is not supported by evidence at this time.



PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS

Practice considerations include the importance of settings and practitioners that allow for trusting relationships, skillful inquiry, and adequate support and follow-up. This includes being responsive to diverse contexts and populations and taking power differentials and vulnerability into account.



ACES RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Research and evaluation regarding the effectiveness and outcomes of ACEs identification practice needs to be strengthened to support a stronger evidence- and knowledge-base for ACEs policy and practice.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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