

# Holistic Assessment for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Identification and Response



Key Findings from Rapid Literature Review and Thought Leader Interviews

Individuals respond to, and are impacted by, adversity in different ways. For a comprehensive understanding of an individuals' experience, it is recommended that ACEs information is collected as part of a broader holistic assessment rather than solely through an ACEs score. Emerging evidence indicates that holistic assessment approaches that capture the scope, impact, and context of adversity and resilience are effective to guide intervention and response.

## What Is Holistic Assessment?

Holistic assessment collects information on a range of factors, including:



## What Are Potential Outcomes of Implementing Holistic Assessment?



### More Responsive Supports and Services

Literature suggests that holistic assessment promotes a person-centered approach to care, which can allow for the opportunity to understand experiences and impacts of trauma, lead to more appropriate supports and services, and identify and build on protective factors and resilience.



### Stronger Understanding

Holistic assessment approaches engage service users in conversations to create a comprehensive understanding of an individual's experiences for both the service provider and the service user.



### Better Use of Resources

Holistic assessment can support the use of resources towards treating underlying issues instead of presenting symptoms or coping mechanisms, potentially resulting in fewer repeat referrals.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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