

Practice Considerations for ACEs Identification

Key Findings from Rapid Literature Review and Thought Leader Interviews



There is emerging evidence that ACEs identification practice, when implemented within appropriate settings and by qualified and skilled practitioners, can support self-compassion and sense-making in service users and empathy and stronger relationships with service providers. There are guiding considerations about the settings and practitioners that are appropriate and equipped to support these positive experiences with ACEs identification.



Safe & Compassionate Environment

ACEs identification needs to occur in a safe, sensitive, and compassionate environment with adequate follow-up to mitigate potential unintended consequences.



Clear Communication

Service providers need to clearly communicate the purpose of asking individuals to disclose ACEs, this can help manage expectations and minimize shame and stigma, and is important for informed consent.



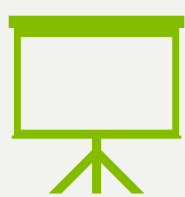
Existing Relationship & Rapport

Lack of connection can be a barrier when asking about ACEs. Service users need to be comfortable in the setting and with the person asking ACEs questions, in order to establish trust and answer the questions accurately.



Capacity to Respond to Disclosure of Adversity or Trauma

Existing resources and capacity to respond to disclosures from ACEs identification are crucial for effective and ethical ACEs identification in alignment with established public health and screening standards.



Professional Scope of Practice & Training

Conducting ACEs inquiry outside of one's scope of practice or without adequate skill and expertise can increase the risk of losing a relationship with service users. Screening parents with untrained interviewers has been found to increase parent's feeling of guilt or shame, and may lead to re-traumatization

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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