



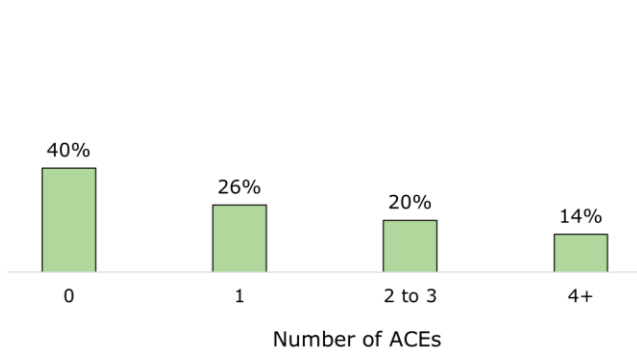
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Among Mothers

Wisconsin Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS): 2023

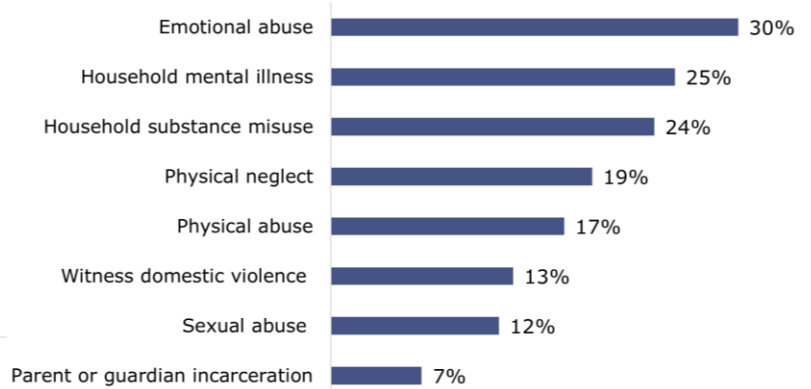
What are ACEs?

ACEs are very stressful events or circumstances that happen during childhood. They can have significant effects on physical health, mental health, development, and social functioning. Without support, people can continue to be impacted by ACEs throughout their lives, including during pregnancy. People with ACEs are at greater risk of pregnancy-related complications such as gestational diabetes, depression, low birth-weight infants, and preterm delivery.¹

ACE count among Wisconsin mothers, 2023
Percent of mothers



Specific ACE types among Wisconsin mothers, 2023



How do ACEs impact people who are pregnant?

Poor health outcomes in adulthood are more common among people with multiple ACEs. In Wisconsin, 60% of mothers* have multiple ACEs. Wisconsin mothers most commonly report emotional abuse, living with someone with mental illness, and substance misuse in the household.

How can we address ACEs in Wisconsin?

Screening pregnant patients for ACEs would help providers ensure that patients at greater risk for complications receive timely and vital pre and post-natal care and support. Safe and supportive relationships and environments set kids up for a positive future, regardless of whether they have ACEs. Communities can support positive childhood experiences through²:

- Skill-building programs for parents and children.
- Economic supports for families.
- Connecting kids to caring adults.
- Strong early-childhood programs (for example, home visiting).

*The population represented in these data include women, gender non-conforming people, and transgender men who can become pregnant and give birth.

¹ Mamun, et al. (2023). Adverse childhood experiences, the risk of pregnancy complications and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ open*, 13(8), e063826. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2022-063826>

² [Prevention Resources for Action | Violence Prevention | CDC](#) | This report was made possible by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) under the non-research cooperative agreement CDC-RFA-CE21-2101: Core State Injury Prevention Program (Core SIPP) through the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the CDC.