

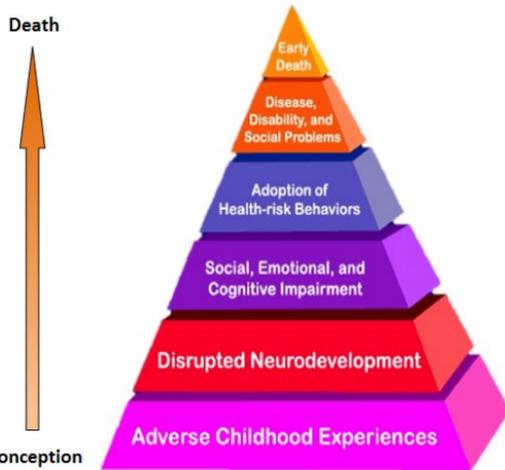
Trauma and Substance Use in Wisconsin

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Substance Use

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traumatic experiences prior to the age of 18 which include abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. Exposure to any single ACE condition is counted as one ACE or point. National and state survey findings suggest that as a person's ACE score increases, quality of life decreases and the risk factors for disease, death, and disability increase.

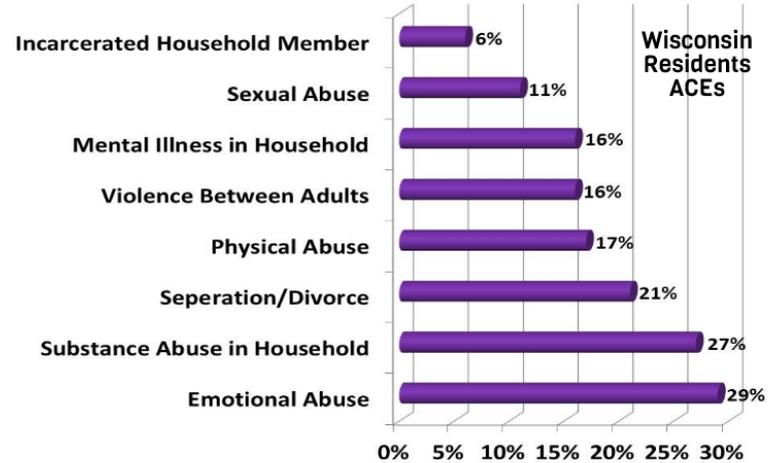
The national ACE study found the compulsive use of alcohol or other drugs increased with the number of ACEs in a person's childhood.

Results showed individuals with exposure to 4 or more ACEs were 7 times more likely to engage in alcohol abuse and 10 times more likely to have injected street drugs.



Wisconsin ACEs 2010

The ACE module in the 2010 Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Survey consisted of eight ACE survey questions. 56% of those surveyed in Wisconsin had at least one ACE, 14% had 4 or more ACEs. Nationally, 64% of those surveyed had at least one ACE, 13% had 4 or more.

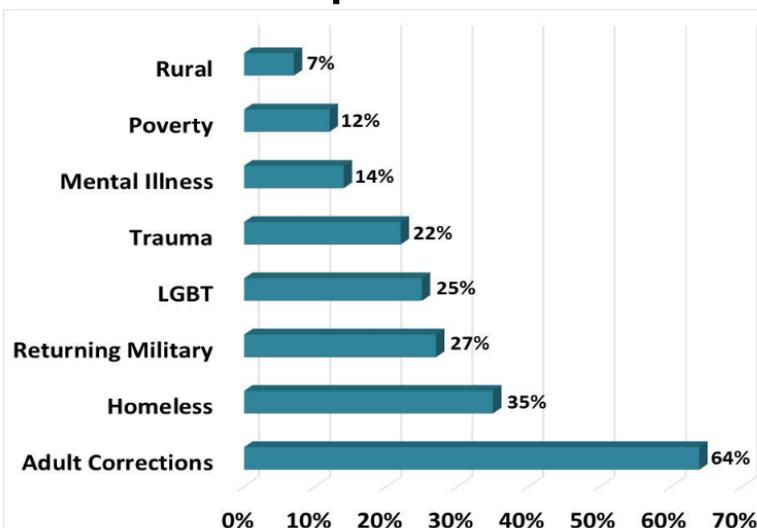


27% of Wisconsin residents grew up with someone in their household abusing alcohol or other drugs. For those with an ACE score of 4 or more, the number increased to 86%.

In Summary

Exposure to traumatic experiences, especially those occurring in childhood, has been linked to substance use disorders. ACE studies suggest that for many adults ACEs in their young lives follow them into adulthood in the form of physical, mental, and behavioral health struggles that often include a variety of substance use-related behaviors. Substance use is prevalent in Wisconsin resident populations who have experienced severe trauma. A movement towards service delivery efforts where there is a greater understanding of the role of trauma in individuals' lives is being forged in Wisconsin. Trauma-informed care recognizes the impact of trauma on health and the importance of substance abuse treatment service delivery settings and systems that empower clients. For more information visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tic/index.htm>.

Prevalence of Substance Use Disorders in Wisconsin Special Populations



In Wisconsin, substance use disorders are prevalent among 22% of individuals who have experienced severe trauma or have a trauma-related disorder.

Fast Facts

Wisconsin ACE Data

- For Wisconsin residents with any ACEs in 2011 and 2012: 61% had more than 1 ACE, and 25% had 4 or more ACEs.
- Prevalence of injection drug use in Wisconsin in 2010 rose from 0.3% for those with 0 ACEs to 3.4% for those with 4 or more ACEs.
- 2010 data shows there is a higher prevalence of heavy alcohol use among individuals with multiple ACEs, particularly men.

Childhood Trauma

- Nationally, up to 59% of youth with PTSD subsequently develop substance abuse problems. Over 70% of adolescents receiving treatment for substance abuse had a history of trauma exposure.
- Nationally, teens who have experienced physical or sexual abuse or assault are three times more likely to report past or current substance abuse than those without a history of trauma.
- 87% of children interviewed in the Wisconsin child welfare system from 2008-2010 were found to have been exposed to at least one traumatic event. Parents of the majority of these children experienced multiple traumas.