Adverse Childhood Experiences: Longitudinal outcomes in the context of risk and intervention

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

TRADITIONAL CONCEPTUALIZATION OF ACES (KAISER/CDC)

Abuse, Neglect, & Household Dysfunction





TRADITIONALLY EXAMINED OUTCOMES

Behavior & Physical/Mental Health



Graphics: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Original ACE sample: Not exactly diverse

The original ACE research participants:

- <10% African American</p>
- 75% white
- >75% had some college or were college graduates
- Nearly half over 60 years of age

 Of those, men, non-whites, less educated, and less financially secure participants evinced poor outcomes at higher rates, but sample sizes of some of these groups were relatively small (Anda & Felitti, Demographic information is from the entire ACE Study sample (n=17,337).

Demographic Information for CDC-Kaiser ACE Study Participants, Waves 1 and 2.

	Demographic Information	Percent (N = 17,337)	
	Gender		
	Female	54.0%	
	Male	46.0%	
	Race/Ethnicity		
<	White	74.8%	>
	Hispanic/Latino	11.2%	
	Asian/Pacific Islander	7.2%	
	African-American	4.5%	
	Other	2.3%	
	Age (years)		
	19-29	5.3%	
	30-39	9.8%	
	40-49	18.6%	
	50-59	19.9%	
<	60 and over	46.4%	\geq
	Education		
	Not High School Graduate	7.2%	
	High School Graduate	17.6%	
/	Some College	35.9%	
5	College Graduate or Higher	39.3%	

Where does poverty fit in?

In childhood:

- High poverty contexts can amplify the effects of adverse experiences
- Certain circumstances that are a result of poverty can be adverse experiences
 - Not being able to afford adequate food or medical care
 - Living in a high-crime neighborhood
 - Witnessing or being the victim of a violent crime

In adulthood:

Research has linked broader measures of well-being, like educational attainment and crime, to adversity as well

Generalizing to non-white and higher neighborhood poverty populations

Previous ≥4 ACEs and Well-Being, 0-18 research with the current, higher-4.5 4.5 3.9 risk sample Δ (Giovanelli, 3.1 3.5 2.8 3 Reynolds, Mondi, 2.5 & Ou, 2016) showed strong 1.5 ACE effects, 0.37 0.5 suggesting Ω High school Health Juvenile arrest Adult felony Depression generalization graduation compromising behaviors Giovanelli et al., 2016

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

EXPANDED CONCEPTUALIZATION

EXPANDED OUTCOMES

Abuse, Neglect, & Household Dysfunction



+ broader environmental ACEs





Behavior & Physical/Mental Health

Broken bones

 BEHAVIOR

 Second of physical set Withy
 Second of physical set W

Heart disease

Possible Risk Outcome

+ broader measures of well-being





What now?





Chicago Longitudinal Study sample

Original sample

- 1,539 children beginning preschool at age 3 in
 1983-1984 or age 4 in 1984-1985
 - (CPC = 989; Comparison group = 550)
- Matched group, quasi-experimental design
 - Born in 1980
 - Resided in high poverty neighborhoods
 - Attended Chicago Public Schools
- 93% African-American; 7% Latino
- 49.7% male, 50.3% female

Current sample

- 1,202 participants with ACE data
 - Retrospective data gathered at 22-24
 - Administrative data collected from 0-18
- 94% African-American, 6% Latino
- 45.9% male, 54.1% female



Primary Research Questions:

- 1. Do cumulative ACEs predict well-being in a primarily African American sample?
- 2. Are associations between cumulative ACEs and outcomes in adulthood strongest for males and for participants attending schools in the highest poverty neighborhoods?
- 3. Do 5 Hypothesis Model (5HM) mediators explain the effects of ACEs?

Predictors: ACEs

Abuse, Neglect, & Household Dysfunction + broader environmental ACEs









ACE Prevalence: Current Sample vs Kaiser/CDC



How Common are ACES?



ACE prevalence by neighborhood poverty



Subgroups

SEX



NEIGHBORHOOD POVERTY

Participants in school neighborhoods with ≥60% poverty vs all other



Mediation





Mediators: 5 Hypothesis Model (Reynolds & Ou, 2016)



Mediators

 Examination of mechanisms of effects aids intervention design by identifying malleable environmental conditions (e.g., school quality) that can be modified to improve children's success. These factors then can be manipulated to improve outcomes for affected children (Reynolds, Ou, & Topitzes, 2004).

•Cognitive Advantage

Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Kindergarten and 8th grade

•Social Adjustment

- Teacher-rated classroom socio-emotional adjustment, grades 1-6
- Teacher-rated task orientation and frustration tolerance, grades 6-7

•Family Support

• Parent involvement in school and at home, elementary school

Oschool Support

• Magnet school attendance and number of school moves, grades 4-8

Motivational Advantage

School commitment, grades 5-6

Outcome Measures

Education

High school graduation

Health

• Smoking

Criminal justice system involvement

- Juvenile arrest
- Adult felony

Socioeconomic well-being

- Occupational prestige
 - Continuous (0-8)
 - Dichotomized (≥4)



Research Question 1

Do cumulative ACEs predict well-being in a primarily African American sample?

Research Question 1



Effect Sizes, 3 and ≥4 ACE groups

Outcome	Effect Size for 3 ACE group	Effect Size for ≥4 ACE group
High School Graduation	41	39
Smoking	.32	.45
Juvenile Arrest	.43	.48
Felony Arrest		.39

Note: Effect size conventions: Small = .2, Medium = .5, Large = .8

Percentage Point Differences in Outcomes

- 3 and ≥4 ACE groups had significantly higher rates of all outcomes when compared to 0 ACE group.
- ≥4 ACE group had significantly higher rates of juvenile arrest and felony arrest.



Timing: Looking at just birth-5

Do cumulative ACEs predict well-being in a primarily African American

sample?



Effect Sizes, ≥2 ACE group

Outcome	Effect Size for ≥2 ACE group
Smoking	.23
Juvenile Arrest	.34
Felony Arrest	.21

Note: Effect size conventions: Small = .2, Medium = .5, Large = .8

Subgroup differences by neighborhood poverty, 0-5



Research Question 2

Are associations between cumulative ACEs and outcomes in adulthood strongest for males and participants in the highest poverty neighborhoods?





Subgroup differences by sex: ACEs on smoking



Subgroup differences by sex: ACEs on High school graduation



Subgroup differences by sex: ACEs on juvenile arrest



Subgroup differences by neighborhood poverty



Subgroup differences by neighborhood poverty



Subgroup differences by neighborhood poverty: ≥4 ACEs on smoking



Research Question 3

Do 5 Hypothesis Model (5HM) mediators help to explain the effects of ACEs?

Percent Reduction

Example:

Effect of ≥4 ACEs on High School Graduation: -.194

Effect of ≥4 ACEs on High School Graduation when social adjustment mediators added into the model: -.137

Percent reduction [percent of effect of ≥4 ACEs explained by social adjustment factors] =

> .194 - .137 / .194 .57/.194 = 29.4%



Individual Mediation Effects by Mediator, ≥4 ACEs



Individual Mediation Effects by Sex, ≥4 ACE groups



Mediators partially explained effects of childhood and adolescent ACEs on both males and females

Individual Mediation Effects by Neighborhood Poverty, ≥4 ACE groups



 Mediators partially explained effects of childhood and adolescent ACEs in both higher and lower poverty neighborhoods

Full Mediation Effects: Smoking



- 5 Mediators: family, school, social, cognitive, and motivation factors
 - 7 Mediators: Juvenile arrest, high school graduation

Full Mediation Effects: High School Graduation



- 5 Mediators: family, school, social, cognitive, and motivation factors
 - 7 Mediators: Juvenile arrest, high school graduation

Conclusions

Question 1: Participants with high ACEs were at significantly increased risk for multiple adverse outcomes by emerging adulthood • Links with occupational prestige were weak

Question 2: Generally, males showed stronger relations between ACEs and well-being in adulthood; effects were mixed for neighborhood poverty for ACEs from 0-18

- For males, even just 2 or 3 ACEs affected educational attainment, crime, and smoking outcomes
- ACE effects on smoking were stronger for the higher neighborhood poverty group

Conclusions

• Question 3: 5 HM mediators accounted for many of the effects of high ACEs on outcomes • Contributions from single mediators ranged from 1.6-64.3%

 Cognitive advantage was the only mediator that showed very few significant mediation effects

 When entered together, 5HM mediators partially to fully mediated the effects of ACEs on outcomes

• High school graduation and juvenile arrest further increased effects

Conclusions

Question 3, continued

•Sex differences in mediation

• For both sexes, social adjustment and school support were impactful

 Motivation mediated effects for males, while family support tended to mediate effects for females

• Poverty differences in mediation

 For the higher poverty group, social adjustment, motivation, and family support were most impactful

•For the lower poverty group, **school support** and **motivation** were most impactful (only on high school graduation)

Limitations

1. Retrospective self-report of household dysfunction

2. Underreporting for abuse and neglect

- 3. Limited ability to replicate given different ACEs
- 4. Limited assessment of expanded ACEs
 - E.g., involvement in gangs; out of home placement; homelessness

Implications

ACE effects generalize to low income and minority populations
 Poverty and male sex can confer higher vulnerability to these effects

 Reduced impacts of ACEs on the lower poverty participants, particularly for early childhood ACEs

 Even a small decrease in neighborhood poverty may have meaningful protective effects

• Critical need for primary prevention and for intervention efforts

 Programs targeting risk and protective factors at multiple levels of the child's ecological system

OUniversal screening at well-child visits or at preschool entry

Future Directions

- Replication with large, diverse, prospective longitudinal samples
- Does early childhood intervention program status moderate the effects of ACEs? Does dosage matter?
- Do different types or timing of ACEs differentially impact outcomes?
- Why and how do specific mediators differentially explain outcomes?
- What are the relations between ACEs and physiological indicators of biological processes and adult health (e.g., cortisol, obesity, telomere length)?

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