

Title: *ACEs and Resilience Assessment in SBHCs*

Adverse Childhood Experiences are a well-known risk factor for lifelong physical, emotional and behavioral health problems, and are seen daily in primary care practice, often unbeknownst to the provider. The original ACE study was published over 20 years ago, and clearly connected ten specific early childhood traumas – abuse / neglect as well as household dysfunctions – with lifelong health and mental health conditions, as well as shortened lifespan. It is now recognized that ACEs play a significant role in childhood developmental delays, kindergarten readiness, behavior problems, mental illnesses, and myriad other conditions that affect school performance and engagement.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' 2012 policy statement advises primary care pediatricians to assess for common precipitants to toxic stress that are common in their practice settings. However, pediatric providers remain largely unaware of ACEs and their effects, and less than 5% of practices across the country currently do any assessments of ACEs in practice. Additionally, the policy statement did not provide clear recommendations about preferred tools, a recommended periodicity, or a specific clinical response. Many providers are fearful of assessing for ACEs due to concerns about time, patient resistance to assessments, and a lack of available resources. This workshop will review current best practices in assessing ACEs and Resilience in primary care, with a focus on applicability to SBHCs.



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Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma, Pediatrics, and Pediatric Annals. As a consultant, he educates providers, patients, and policy makers on the effects of ACEs on lifelong health and wellness; and specifically on the effects of parental trauma on child development. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Health Share, the largest Medicaid Coordinated Care Organization in Oregon.