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# Adverse Childhood Experience Questionnaire for Adults

California Surgeon General's Clinical Advisory Committee



Our relationships and experiences—even those in childhood—can affect our health and well-being. Difficult childhood experiences are very common. Please tell us whether you have had any of the experiences listed below, as they may be affecting your health today or may affect your health in the future. This information will help you and your provider better understand how to work together to support your health and well-being.

**Instructions:** Below is a list of 10 categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). From the list below, please add up the number of categories of ACEs you experienced prior to your 18th birthday and put the total number at the bottom. (You do not need to indicate which categories apply to you, only the total number of categories that apply.)

1. Did you feel that you didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, or had no one to protect or take care of you?

2. Did you lose a parent through divorce, abandonment, death, or other reason?

3. Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or attempted suicide?

4. Did you live with anyone who had a problem with drinking or using drugs, including prescription drugs?

5. Did your parents or adults in your home ever hit, punch, beat, or threaten to harm each other?

6. Did you live with anyone who went to jail or prison?

7. Did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down?

8. Did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way?

9. Did you feel that no one in your family loved you or thought you were special?

10. Did you experience unwanted sexual contact (such as fondling or oral/anal/vaginal intercourse/penetration)?

**Your ACE score is the total number of yes responses.**

Do you believe that these experiences have affected your health?

Not Much  Some  A Lot

Experiences in childhood are just one part of a person's life story.  
There are many ways to heal throughout one's life.

Please let us know if you have questions about privacy or confidentiality.

5/5/20

## **Behavioral Health Resources For Schools**

### Mental Health First Aid



#### **Mental Health First Aid USA (SAMHSA)**

- An 8-hour public education program.
- Introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental illness.
- Builds understanding of the impact of risk factors and provides overview of common supports.
- Like CPR, Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to interact with a person in crisis and connect the person with help.

**Find a Mental Health First Aid course near you using this search tool:**  
<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/find-a-course>