

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

SUCCESS STORY 2019

Intentional and Unintentional Injury Prevention

Data Support Kids' Healthy Development

Public Health Issue: Too many children experience early adversity and toxic stressors that impact their developmental trajectories and produces multiple behavioral and health consequences including risky maladaptive behaviors and chronic diseases and conditions. More than 62% of Californian adults report experiencing least one ACE before age 18; 16% report experiencing 4 or more.

Intervention: As part of CDPH IVP Branch's Violence Prevention Initiative and its CDC-funded Essentials for Childhood Initiative grant and in partnership with both the University of California, Davis Violence Prevention Research Program and the All Children Thrive, California (ACT-CA) program, multiple years of data (i.e., 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017) from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) (funded through the CDC Prevention Block Grant) module in the California BRFSS were combined and analyzed to produce state, county and (first ever) city level estimates of adult recall of childhood ACEs. These data are being prepared and formatted for distribution through a coordinated, multi-faceted media and communication plan, including fact sheets, social media, release on web-based platforms for Let's Get Healthy California, Kidsdata.org, California Action and Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Initiative ACEs Connection sites and ACT-CA, as well as coordinated releases to cities supported by the ACT-CA project.

Impact: Combining multiple years of data has increased the overall sample size for better local estimates. Using advanced estimation techniques, this is the first time that not only state and county, but also city level data are available for over 400 California cities, providing data to support local awareness and organizing efforts. These data are being shared among multiple partners in a systematic effort to align and mutually reinforce messages across multiple channels and to support prevention and intervention activities. At the state level, the California Surgeon General is using these data to champion a new state policy to screen all Medi-Cal clients for trauma, approximately 5.3 million children and 6.3 million adults could be impacted. These new ACEs data are also being uploaded to several well established web-based platforms to provide easy access to local data. At the county level, local ACEs Connection (and potentially EfC Initiative), groups will have relevant information about their own communities. For the first time, city level data are available to assist in ACT-CA organizing efforts at the city level.