

A Public Health Approach to Preventing and Treating Child Abuse and Neglect

Melissa T. Merrick, PhD
President & CEO

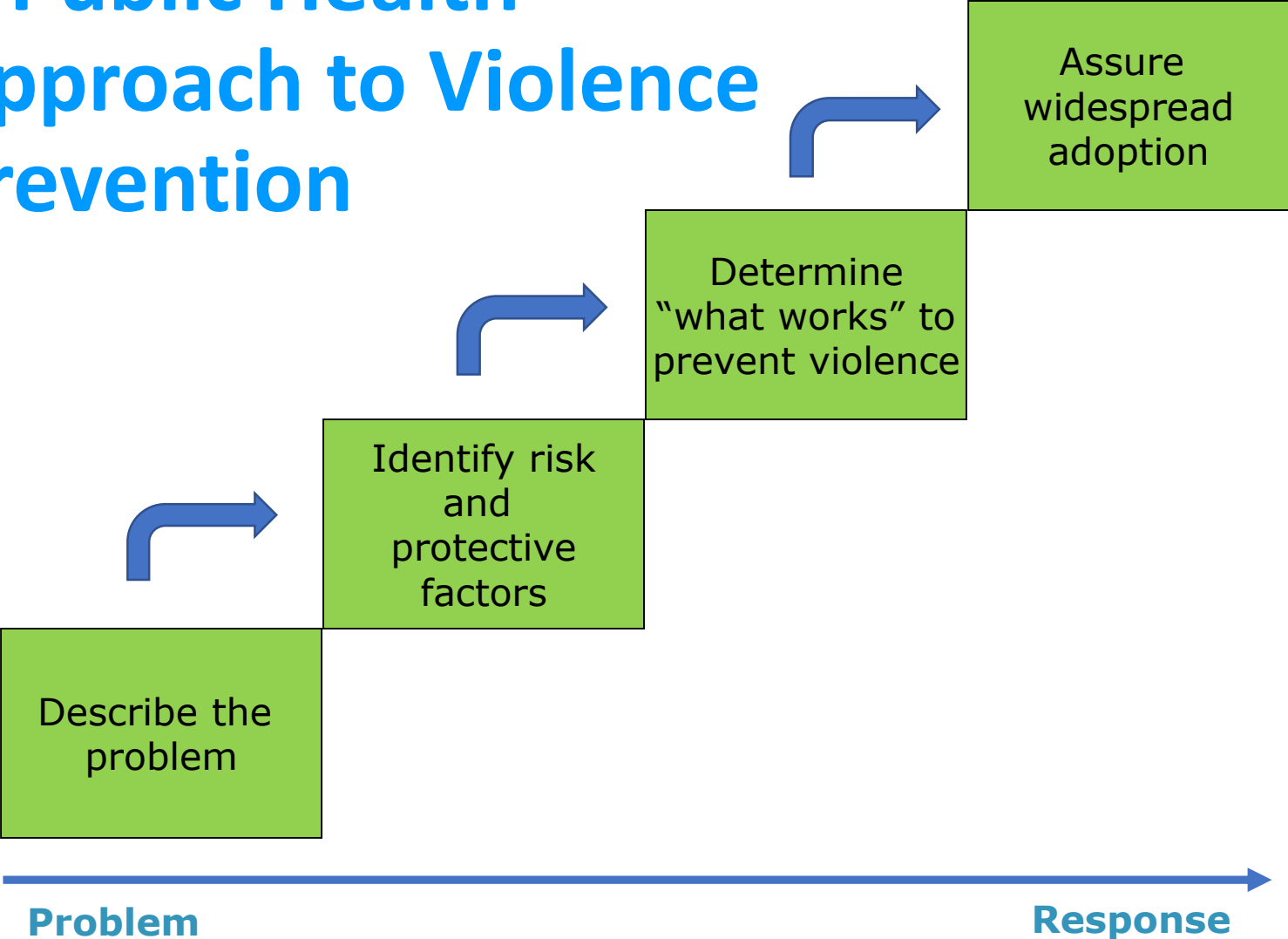
National Governors Association's Annual Policy Institute for Governors' Human Services Advisors

September 11, 2019 * Chicago, IL

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Institute of Medicine
The Future of Public Health, 1988 & 1997

A Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

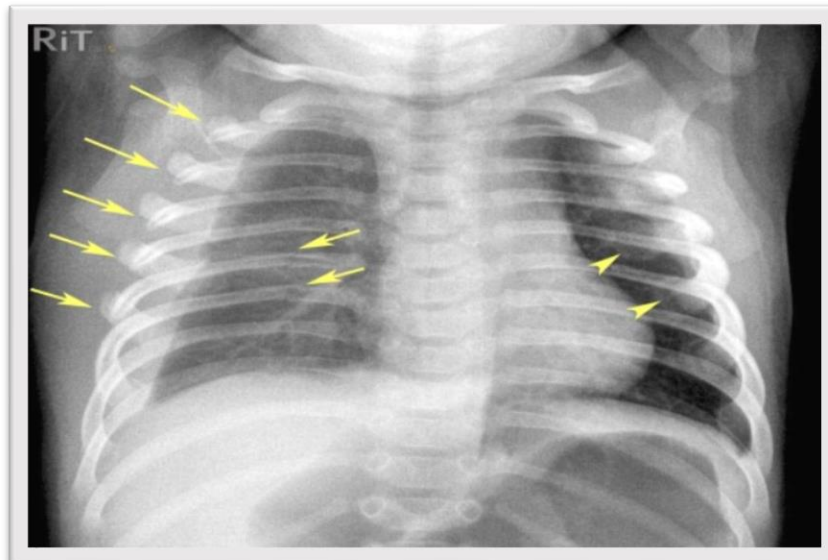
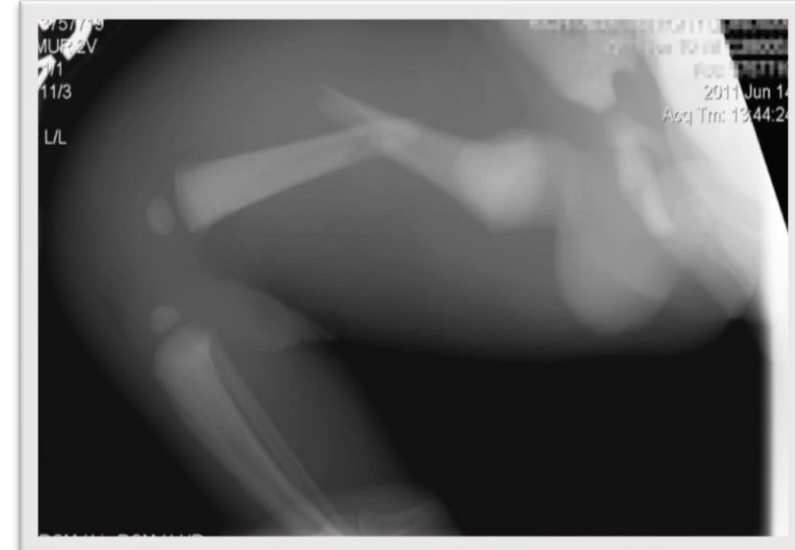


A young girl with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a white school shirt and a dark skirt, is focused on writing on a chalkboard. The chalkboard is covered in faint, illegible writing. In the background, other students in school uniforms are visible, some sitting at desks and others standing. The scene is set in a classroom with warm lighting.

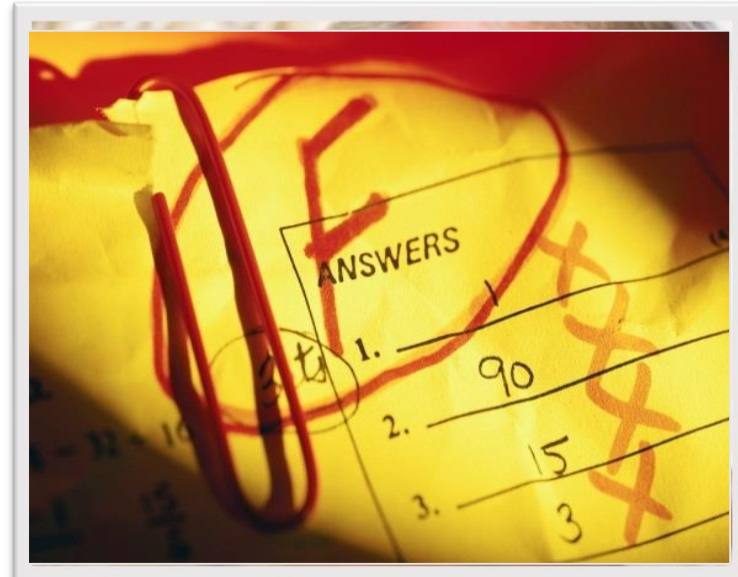
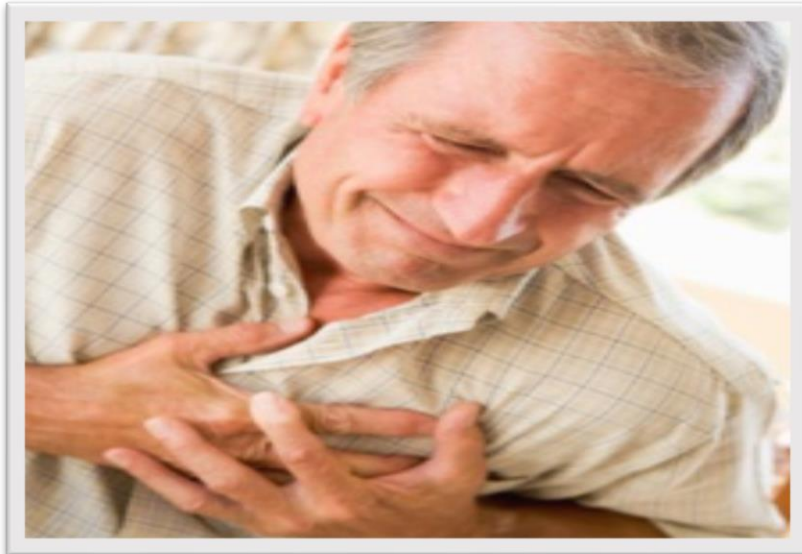
the issue

1 BILLION
CHILDREN EXPERIENCE
VIOLENCE ANNUALLY

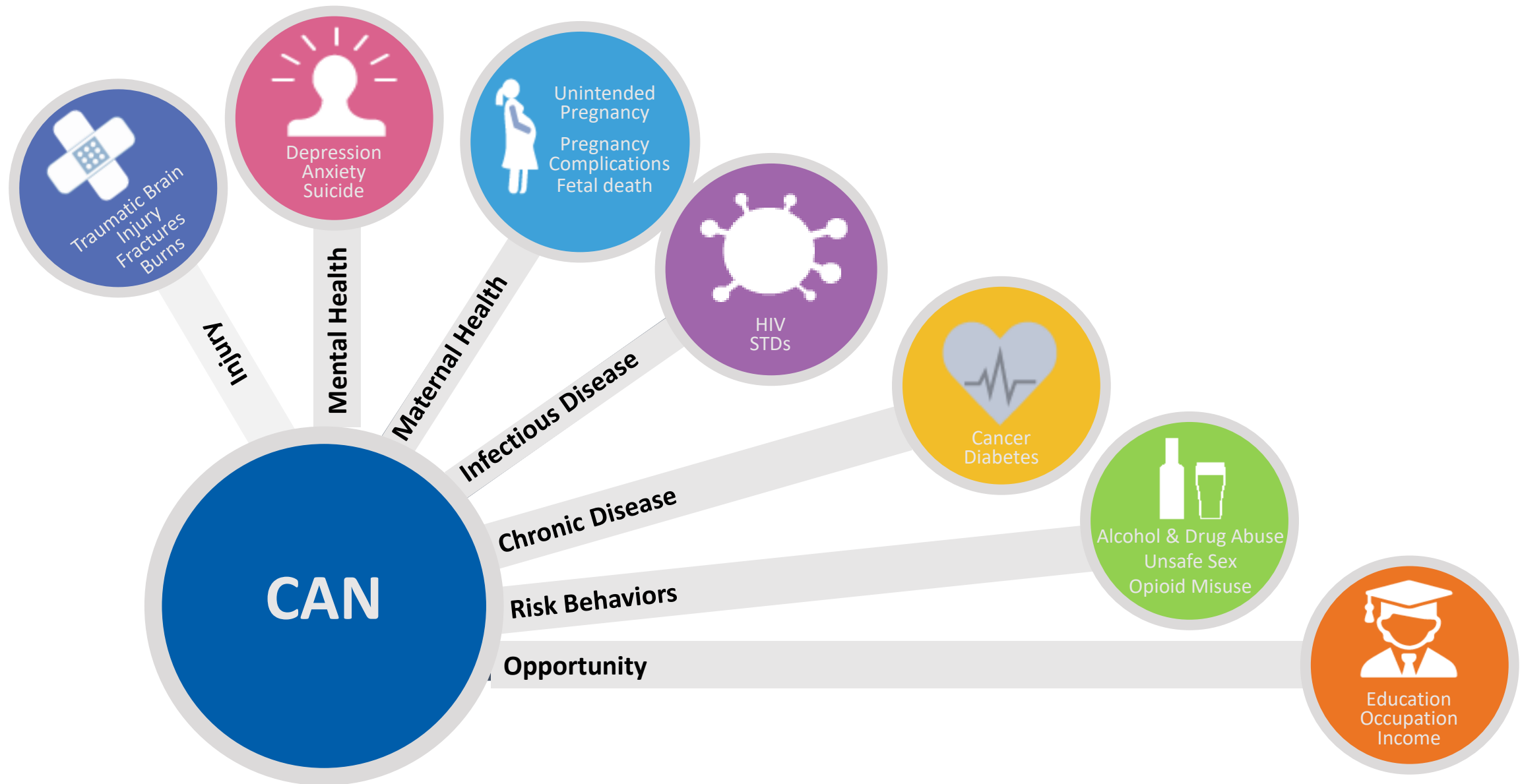
When people think of child abuse & neglect, they often picture this...



...but probably not this



Early Adversity has Lasting Impacts



Adverse Childhood Experiences

ACEs are experiences that may be traumatic to children and youth during the first 18 years of life such as experiencing violence or other types of emotionally disturbing exposures in their homes and communities.

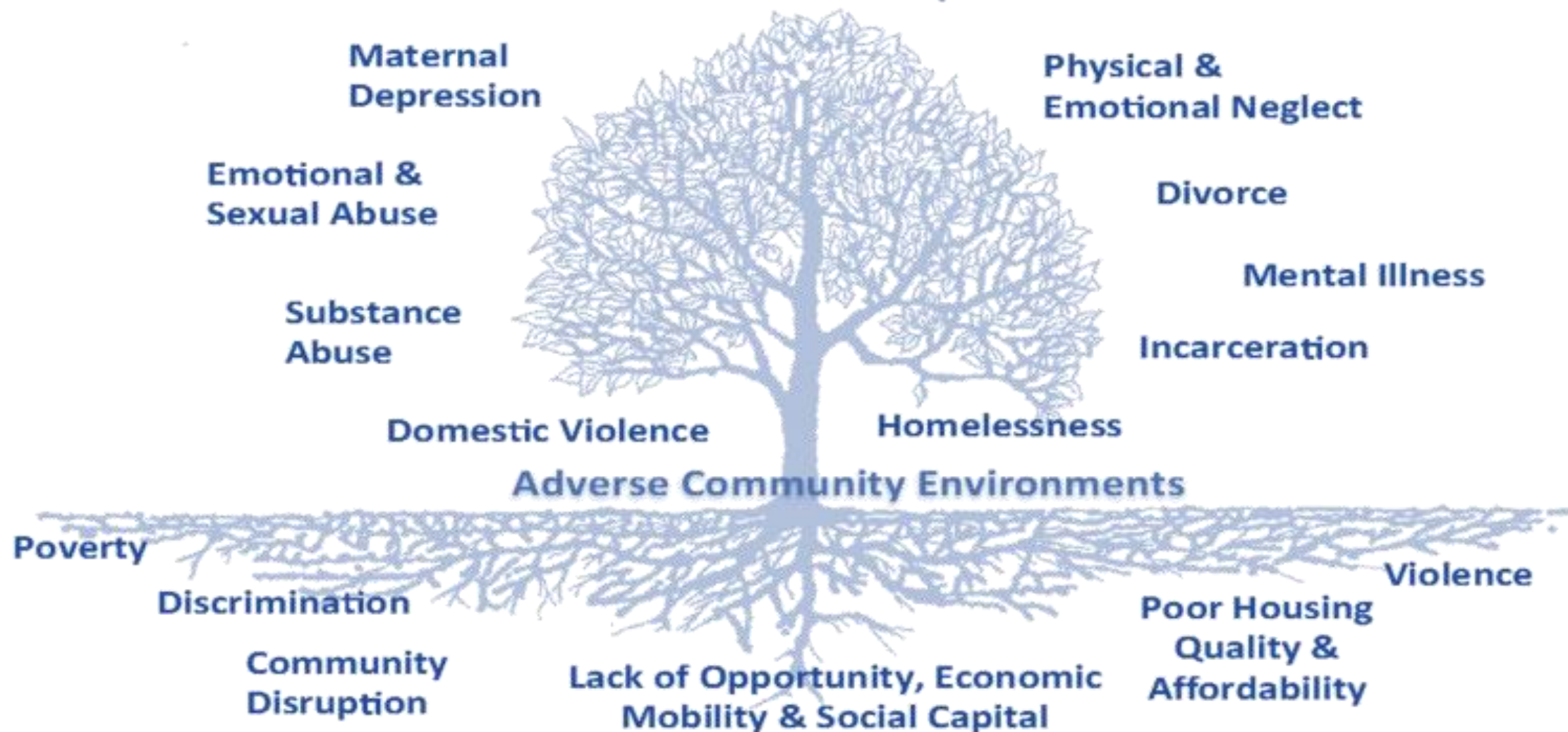


ACEs not included in the traditional measure:

- Bullying
- Teen dating violence
- Peer to peer violence
- Witness violence in community or school
- Homelessness
- Death of a parent

The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences



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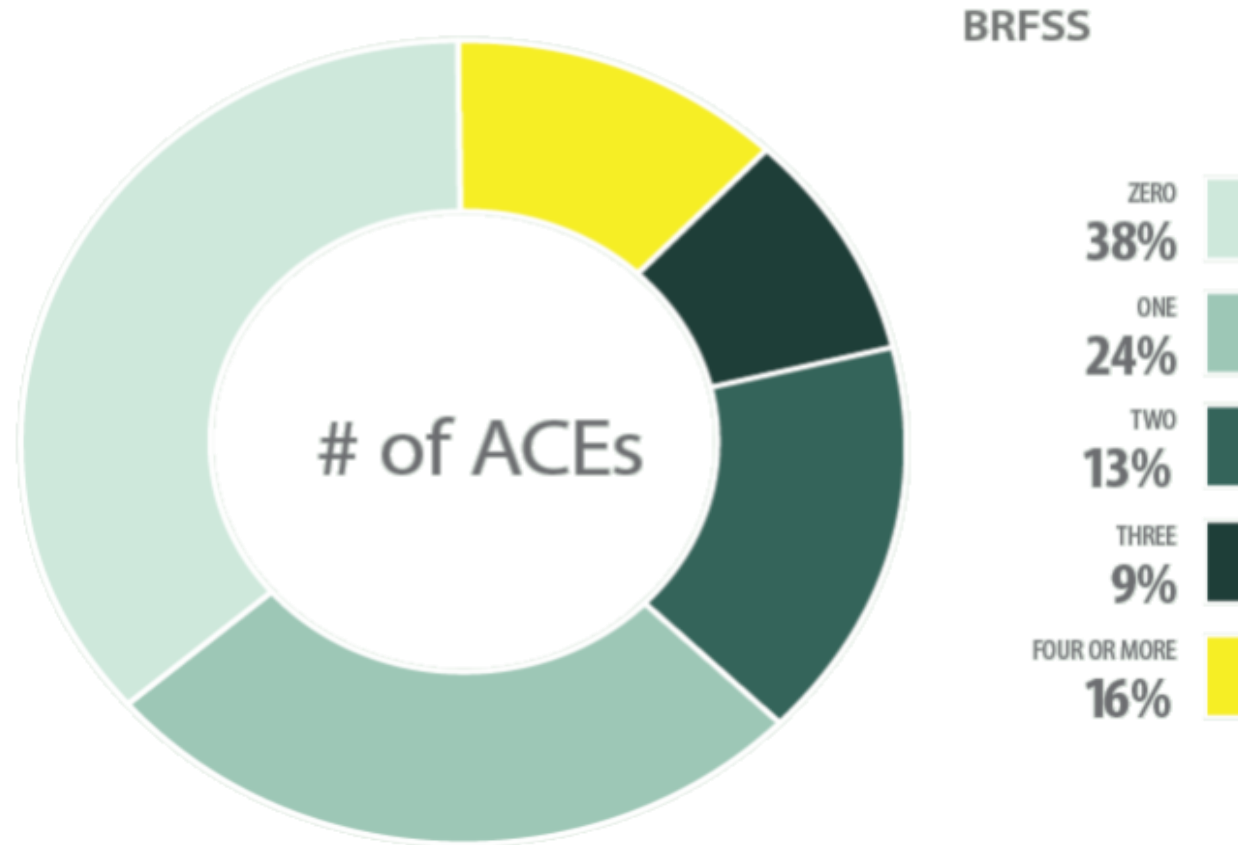
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Adverse childhood experiences or adverse childhood socioeconomic conditions?

[David C Taylor-Robinson](#) , [Viviane S Straatmann](#), [Margaret Whitehead](#)

How Common are ACEs?

ACE Score Prevalence for Participants
Completing the ACE Module from the 2011-2014 BRFSS



ACES can have lasting effects on....



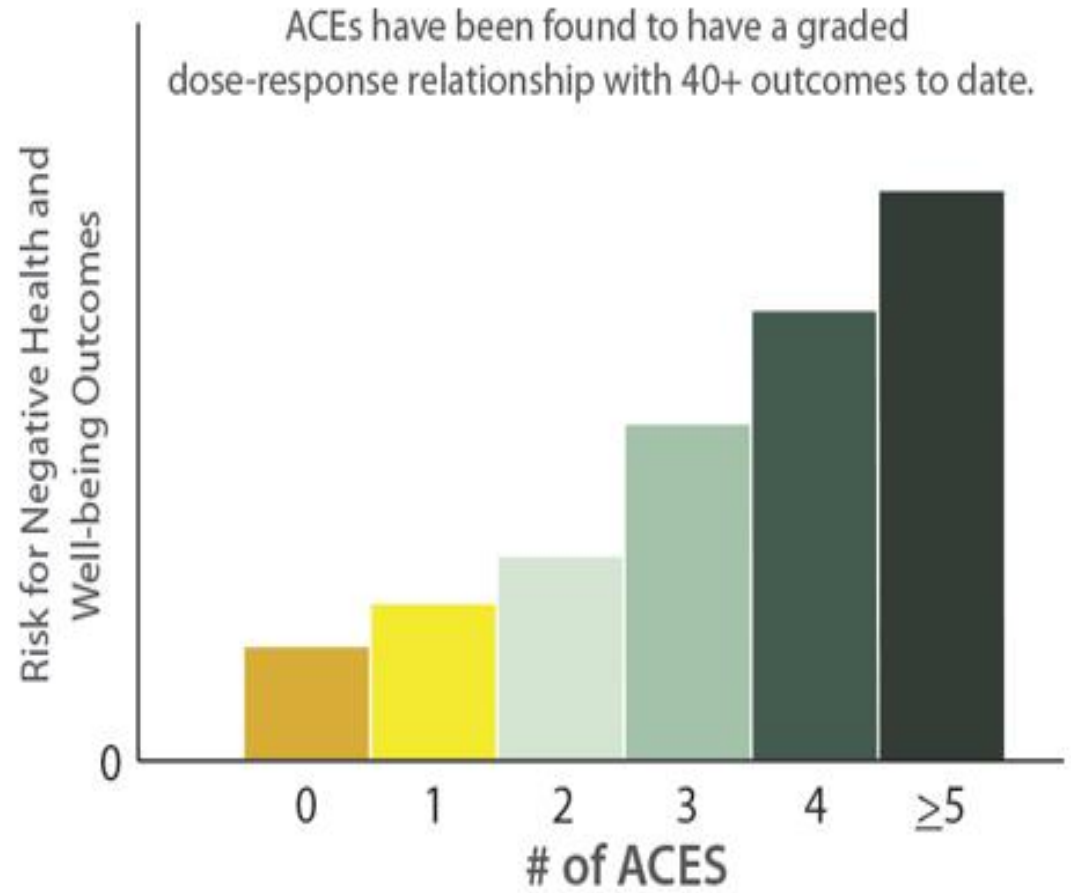
Health (obesity, diabetes, depression, suicide attempts, STDs, heart disease, cancer, stroke, COPD, broken bones)



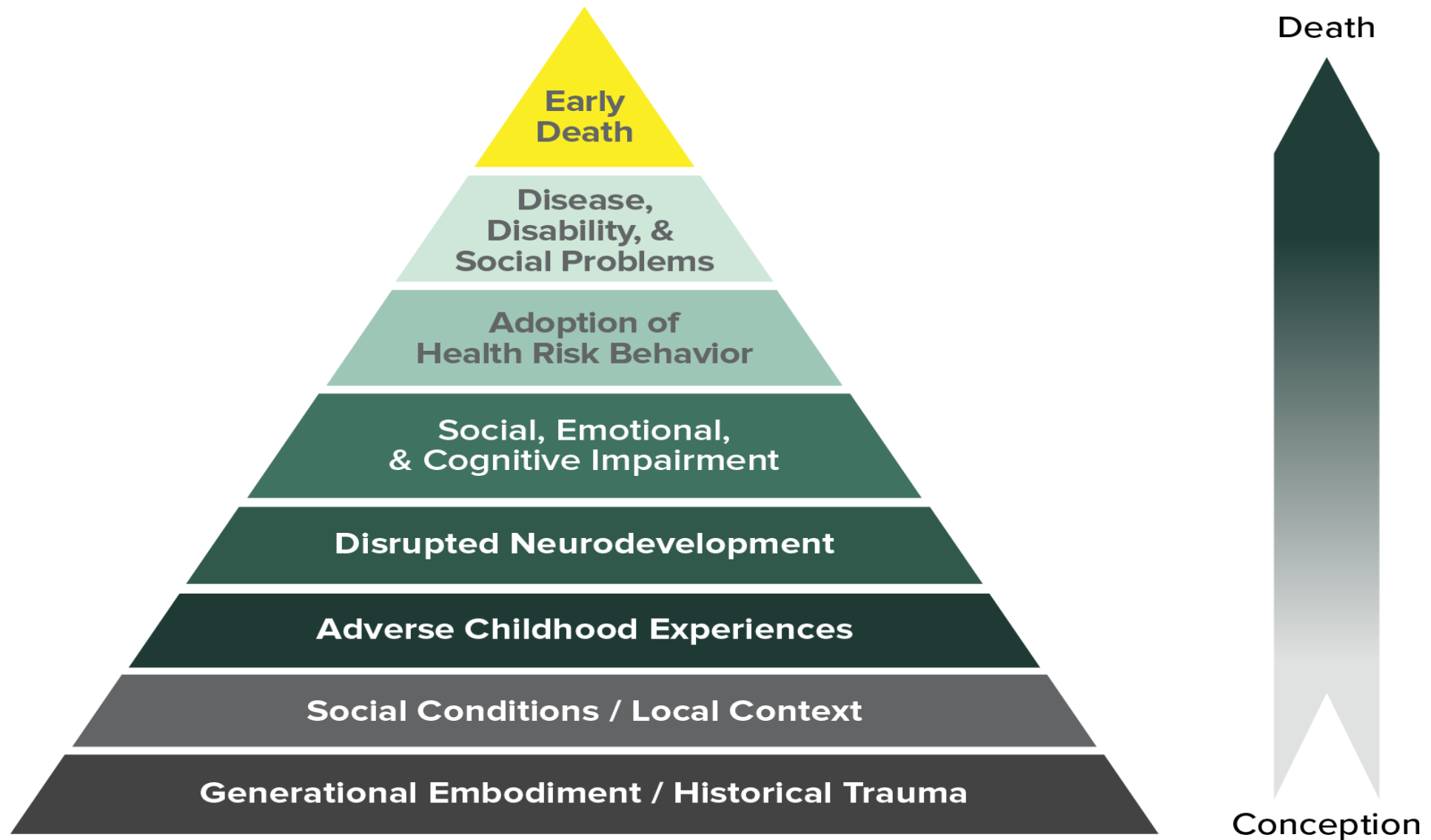
Behaviors (smoking, alcoholism, drug use)



Life Potential (graduation rates, academic achievement, lost time from work)



*This pattern holds for the 40+ outcomes, but the exact risk values vary depending on the outcome.

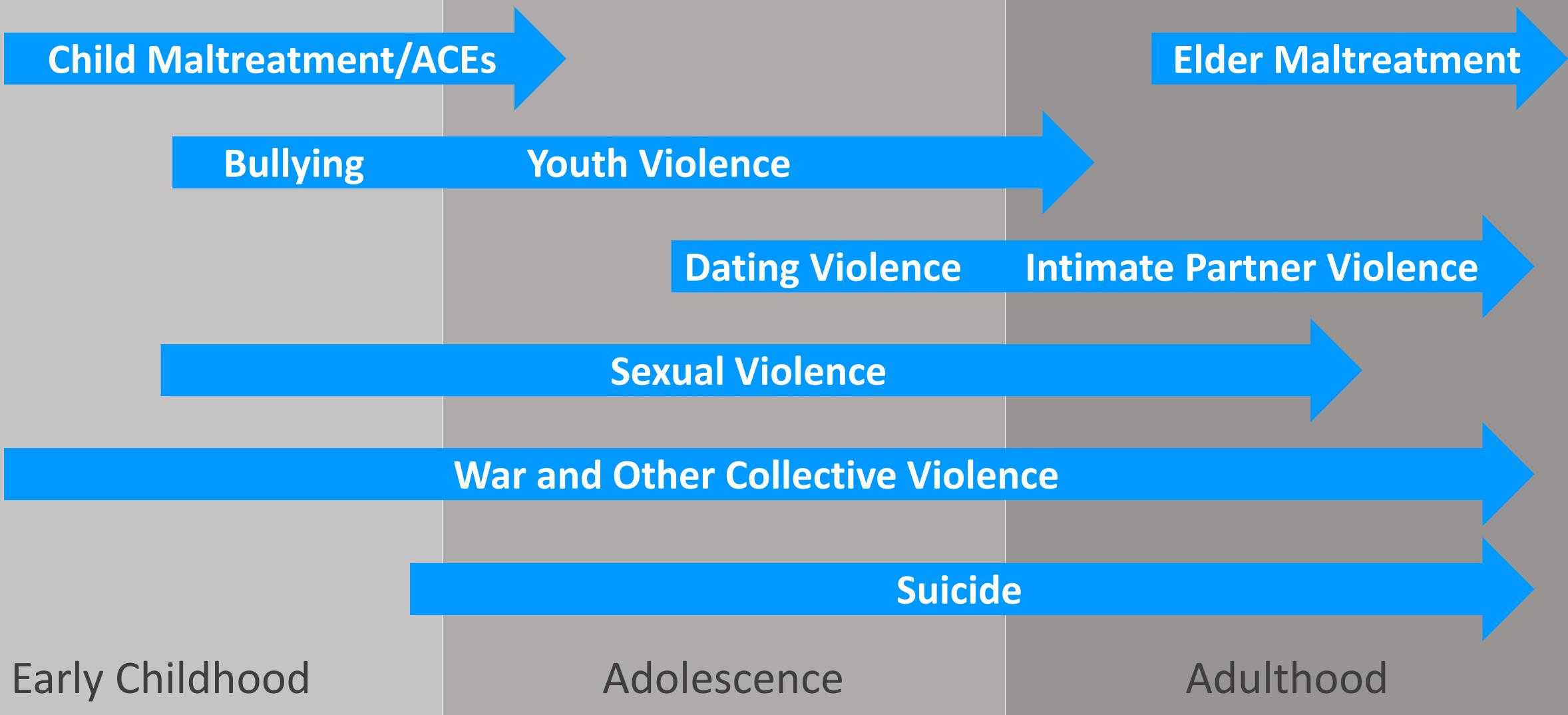


Mechanism by which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan

Leading Causes of Death in the U.S. in 2017

1. Heart disease
2. Cancer
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Violence Across the Lifespan



Role of Public Health in Violence Prevention



ROLE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CHILD WELFARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTHCARE

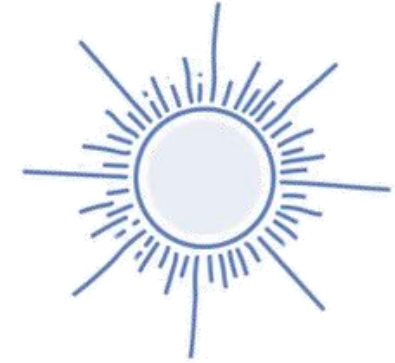


Our Mission:

**To prevent
the abuse and neglect
of our nation's children**

Our Vision:

**For every child to have
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Assuring



**Safe, Stable,
Nurturing Relationships
and Environments**

For All Children





Creating the Conditions for

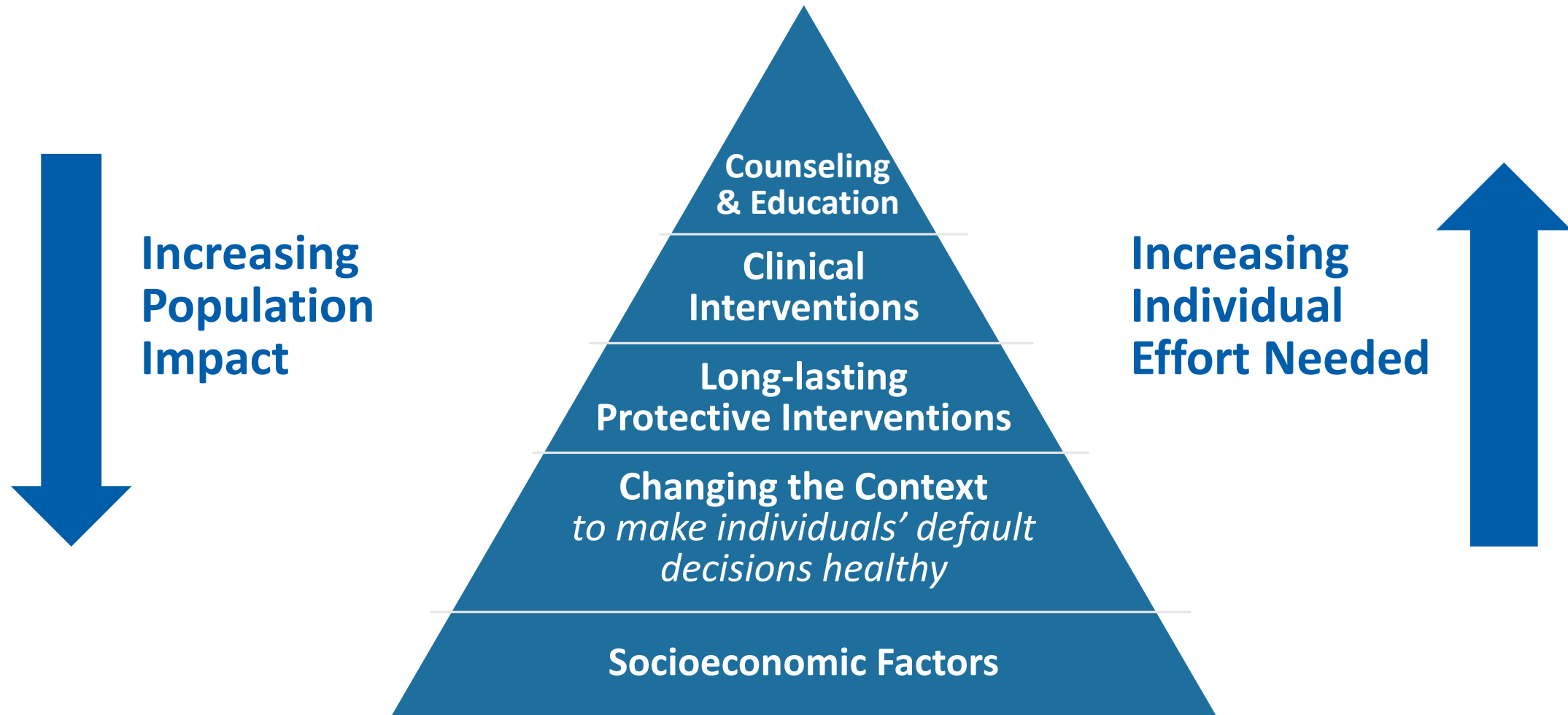
**STRONG
THRIVING
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and Communities where
Children are Free From Harm




Prioritize Environmental Change

The Health Impact Pyramid





Helping States and Communities Take Advantage of the Best Available Evidence





Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect:
A Technical Package for Policy, Norm, and Programmatic Activities

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Division of Violence Prevention





STOP SV:
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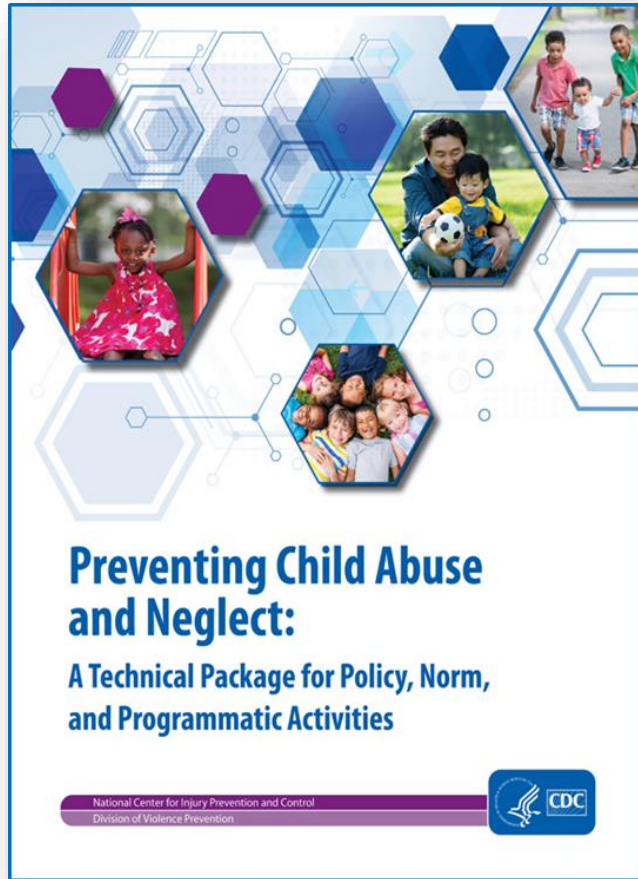


Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan:
A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices

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5 Strategies to Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect



Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting



Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development



Strengthen economic supports for families



Provide quality care and education early in life



Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

TOGETHER We Can Prevent Early Adversity





Thank you



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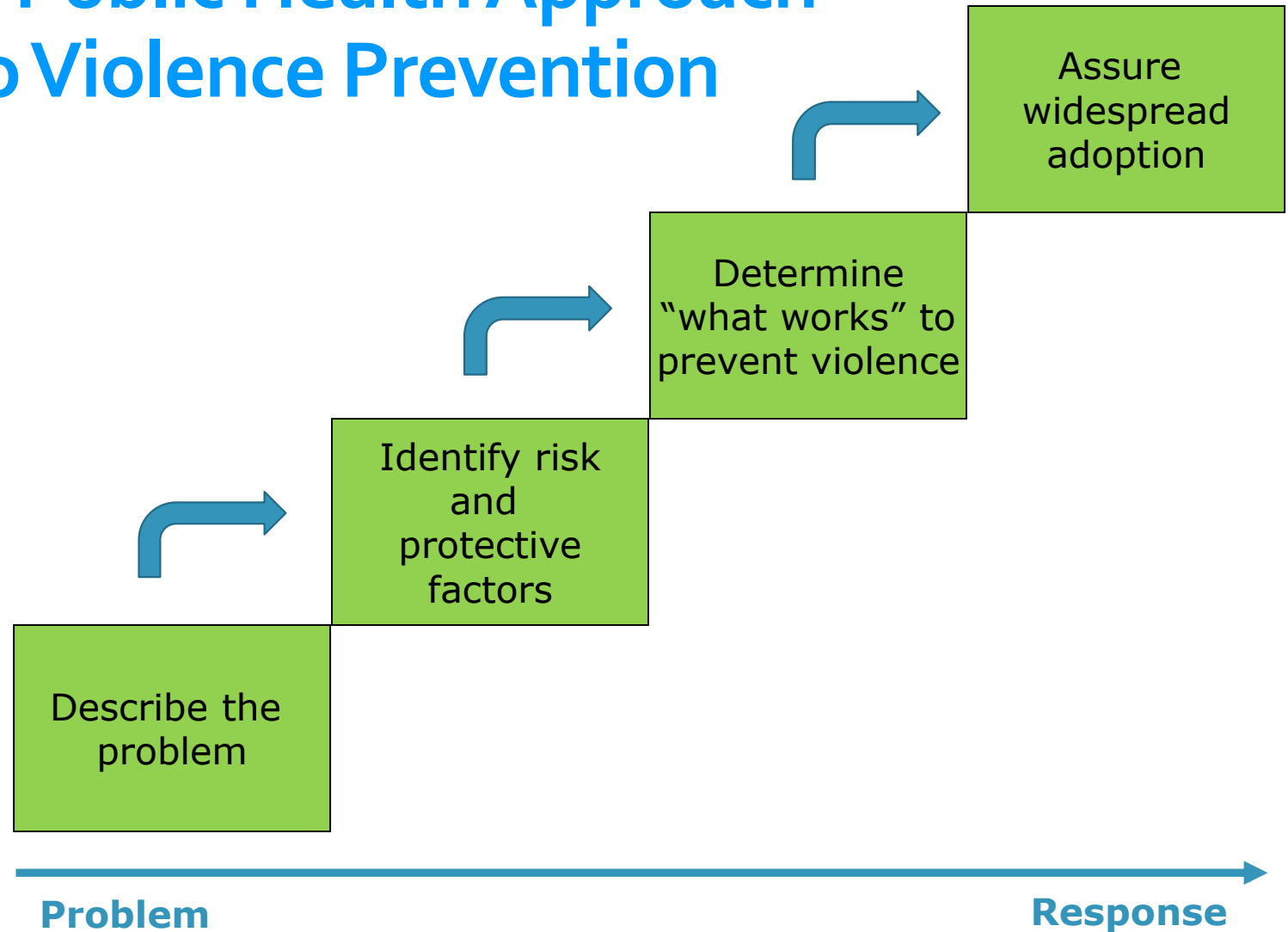
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A Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

Public health approach:

- 4-steps based on science
- population-based vs. care of the individual
- emphasis on prevention and collective action drawing upon multiple disciplines and sectors

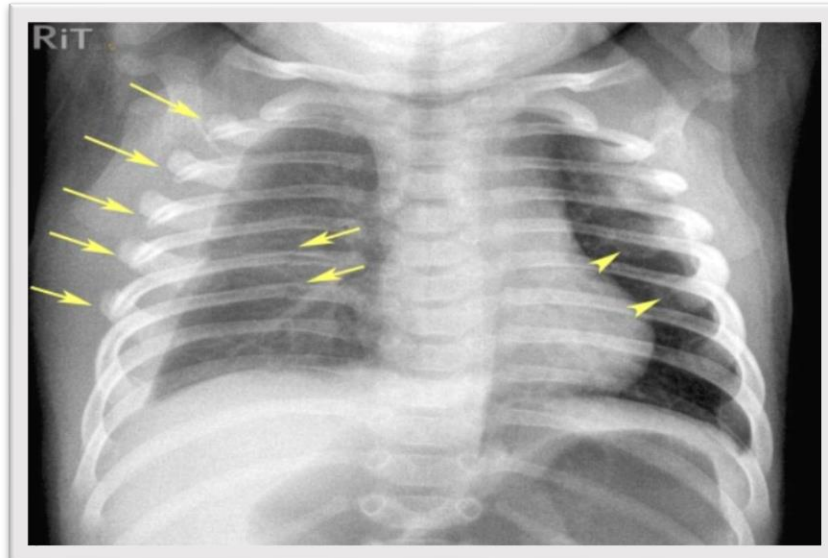
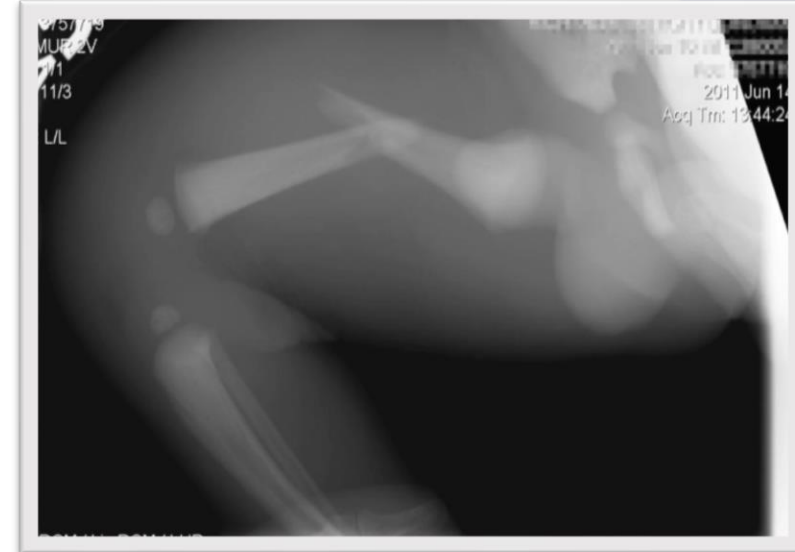


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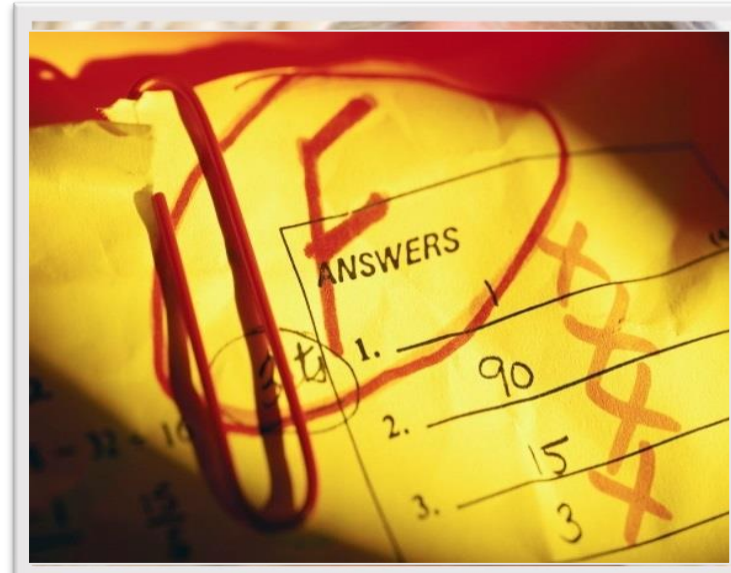
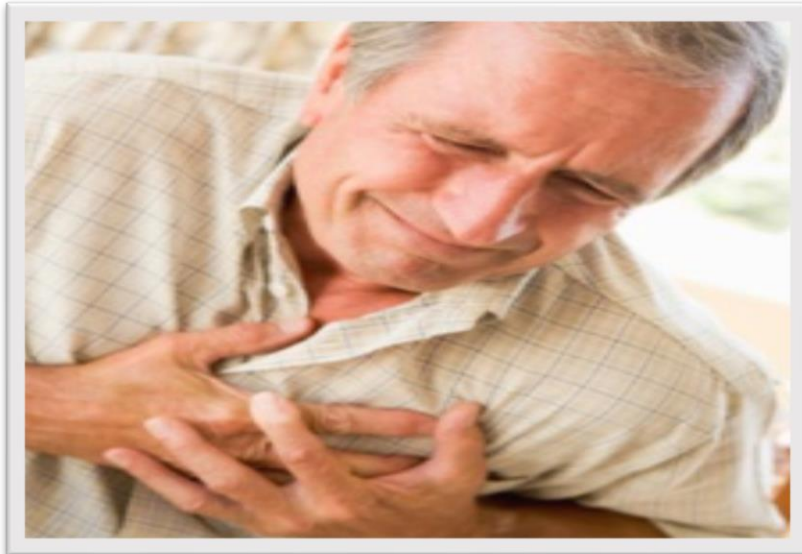
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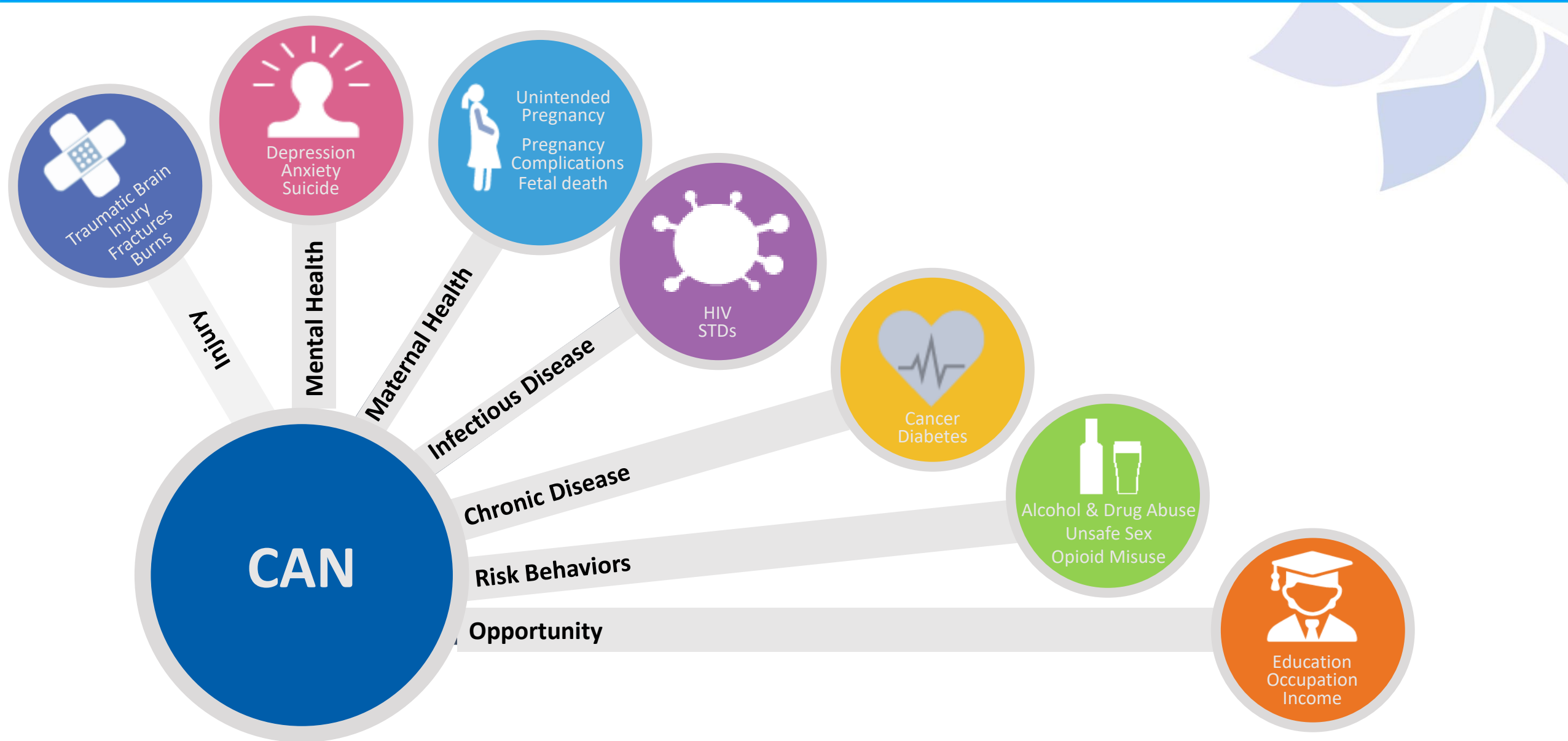
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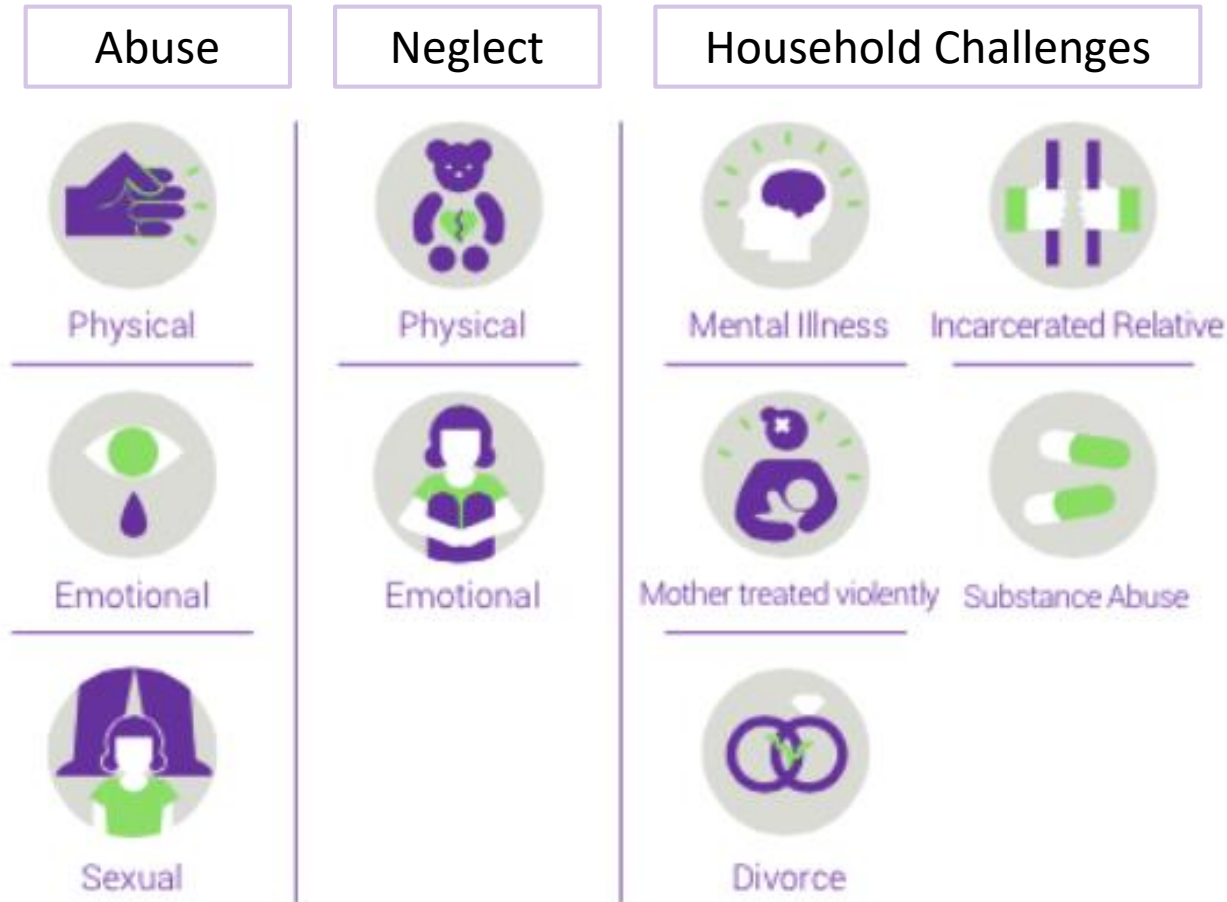


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The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Maternal
Depression

Physical &
Emotional Neglect

Emotional &
Sexual Abuse

Divorce

Substance
Abuse

Mental Illness

Incarceration

Domestic Violence

Homelessness

Adverse Community Environments

Poverty

Discrimination

Community
Disruption

Lack of Opportunity, Economic
Mobility & Social Capital

Poor Housing
Quality &
Affordability

Violence

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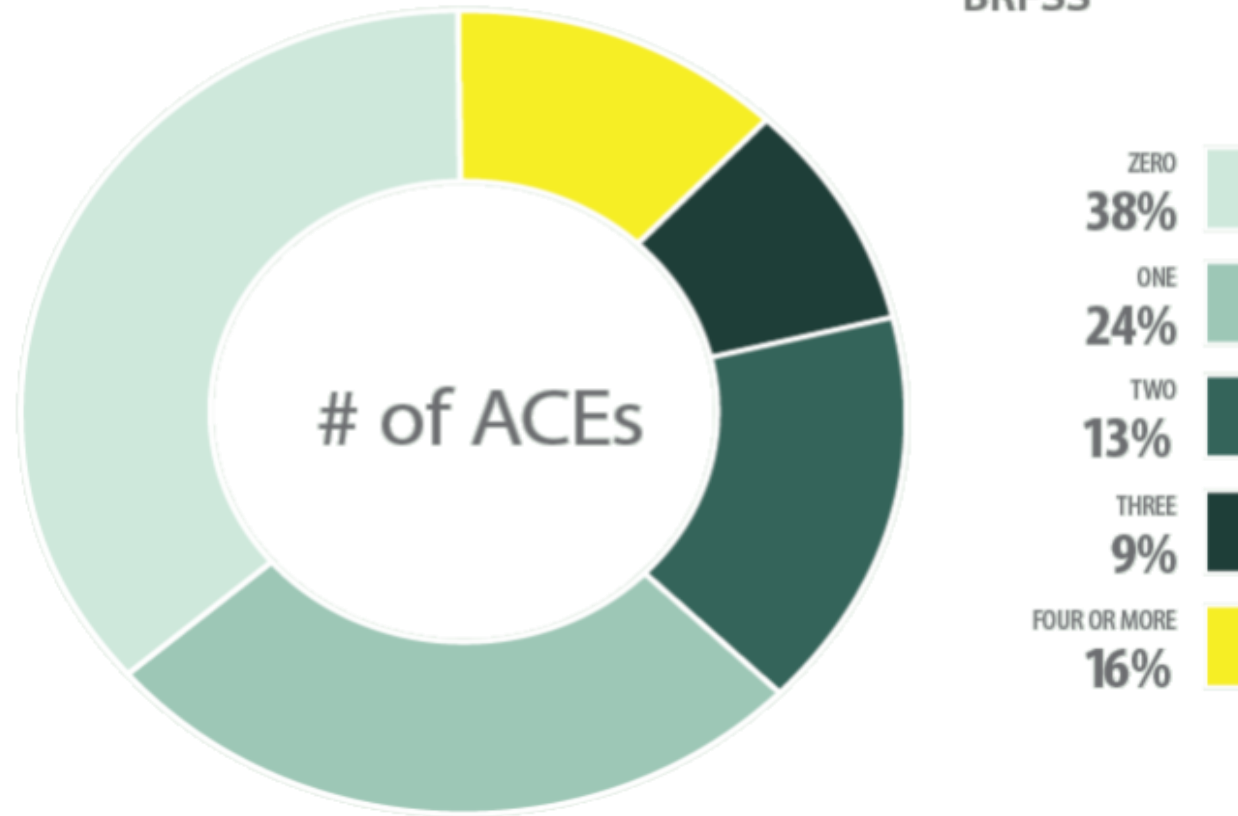
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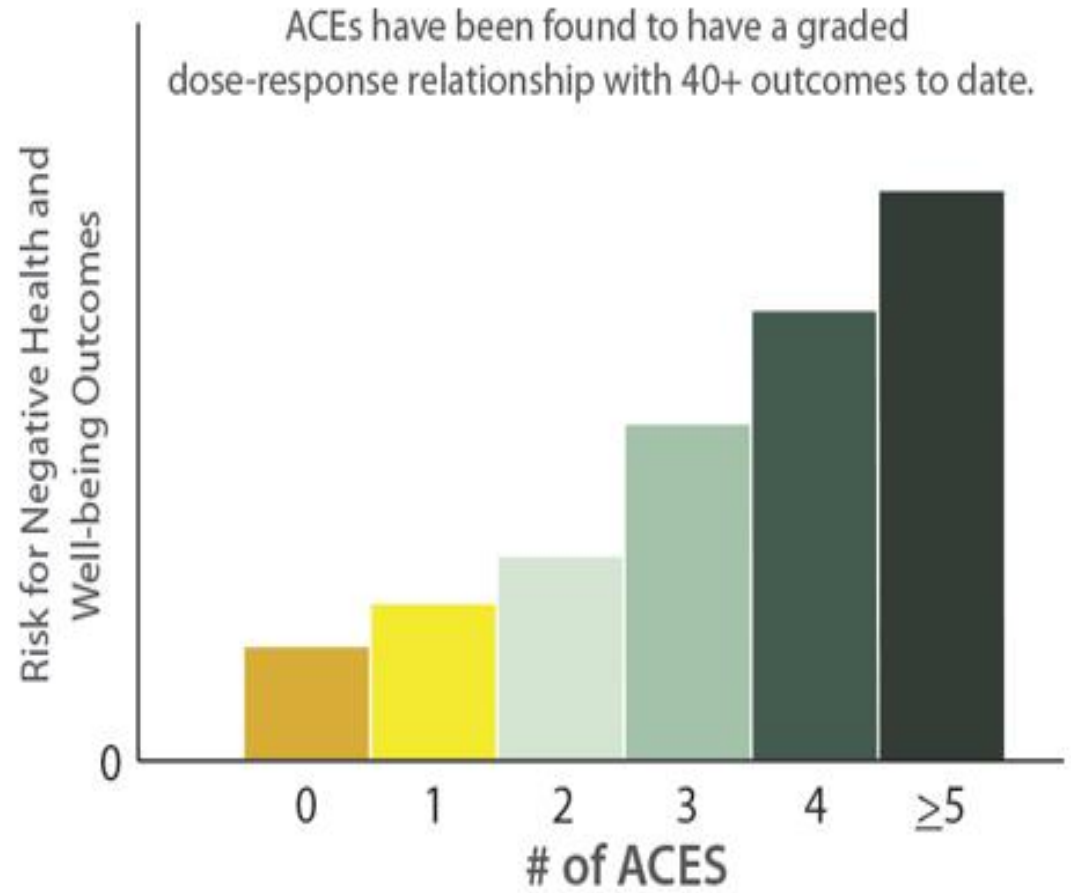
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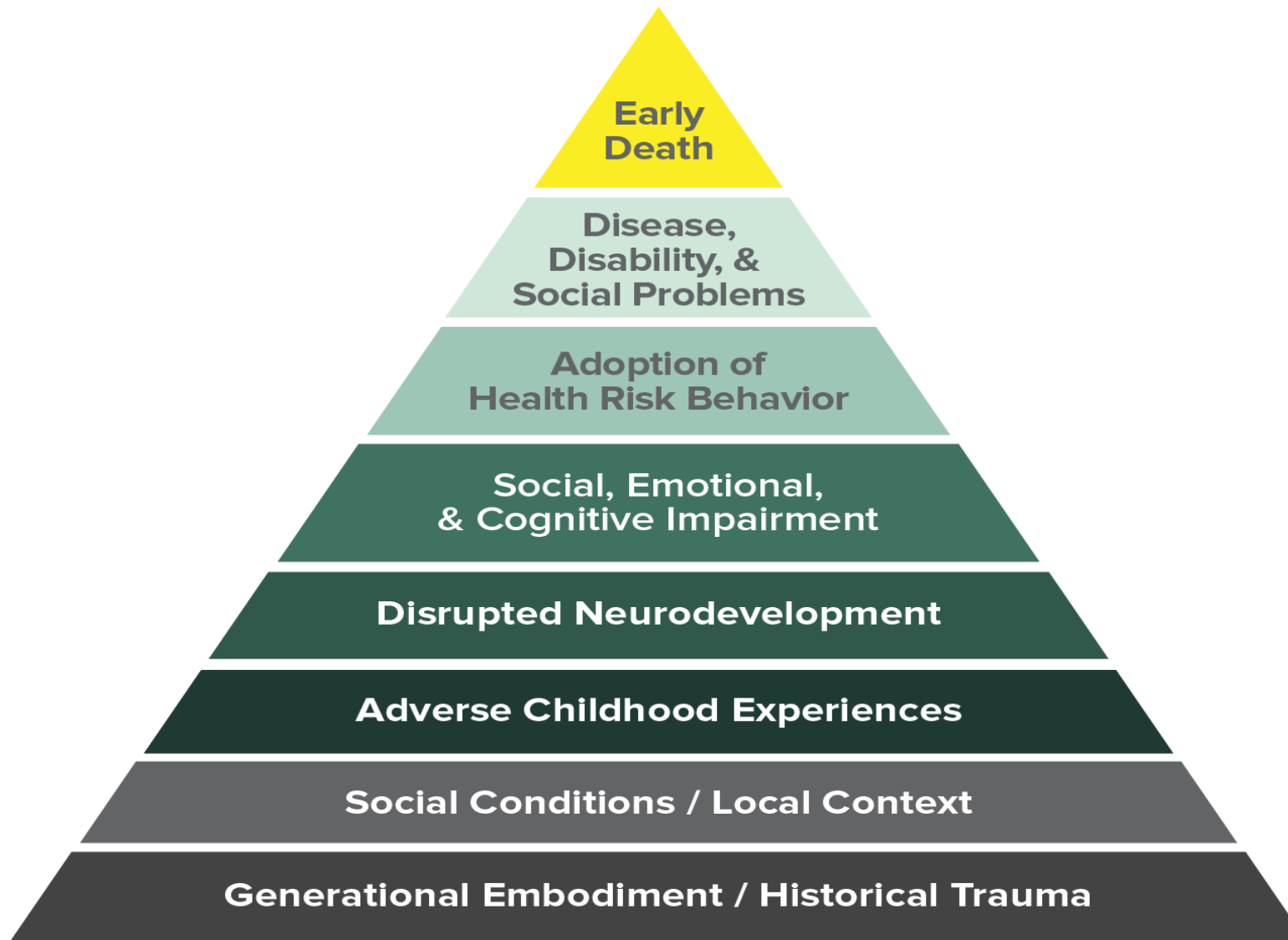
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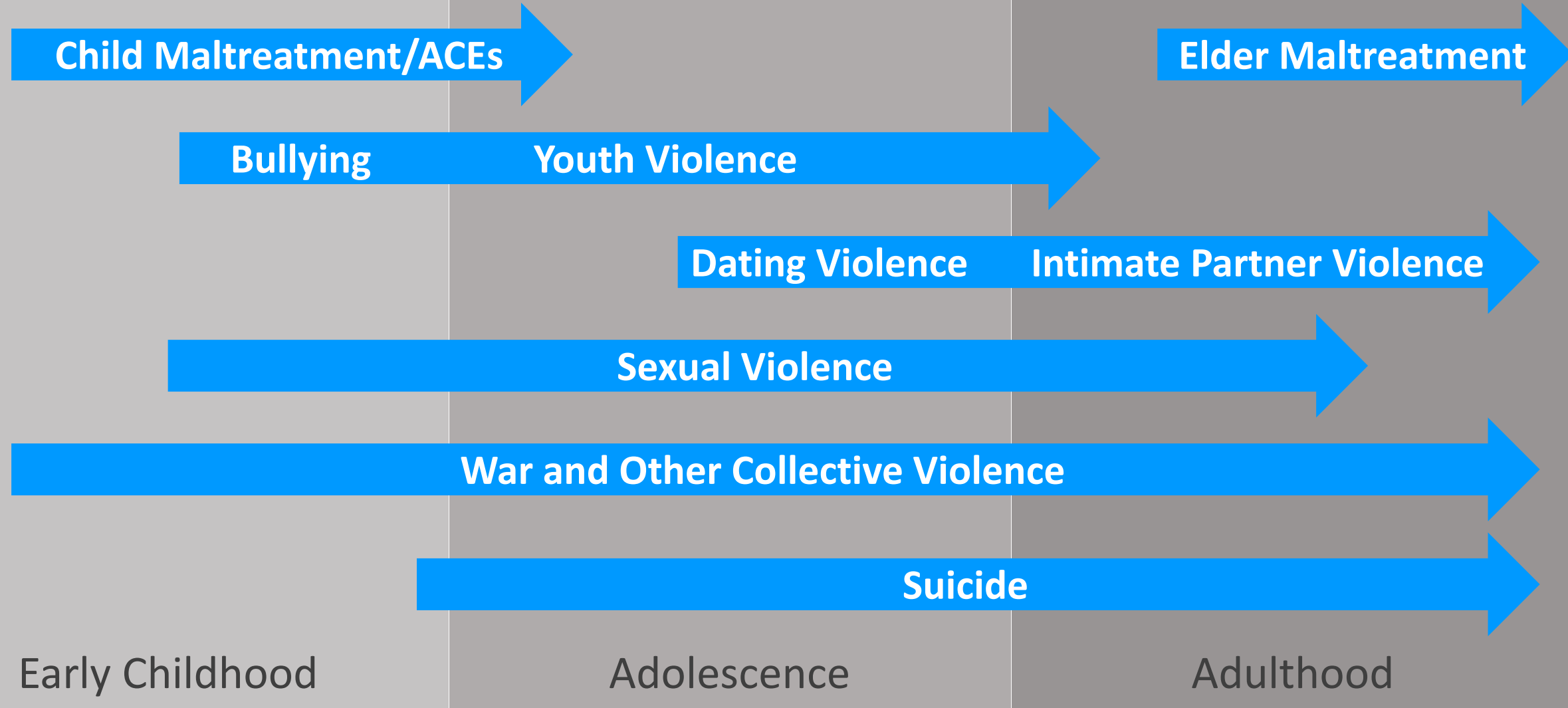


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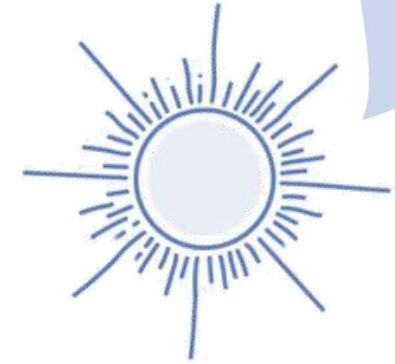


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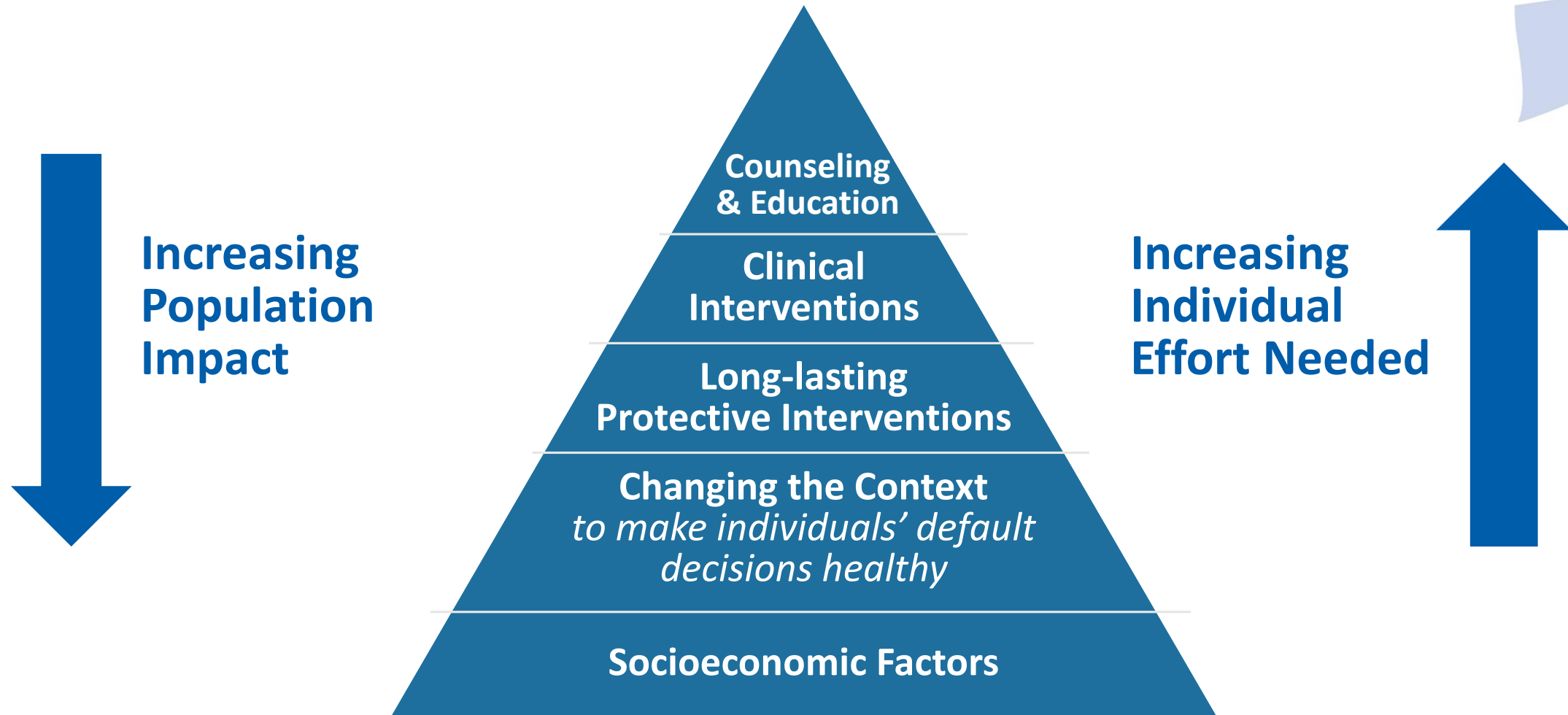
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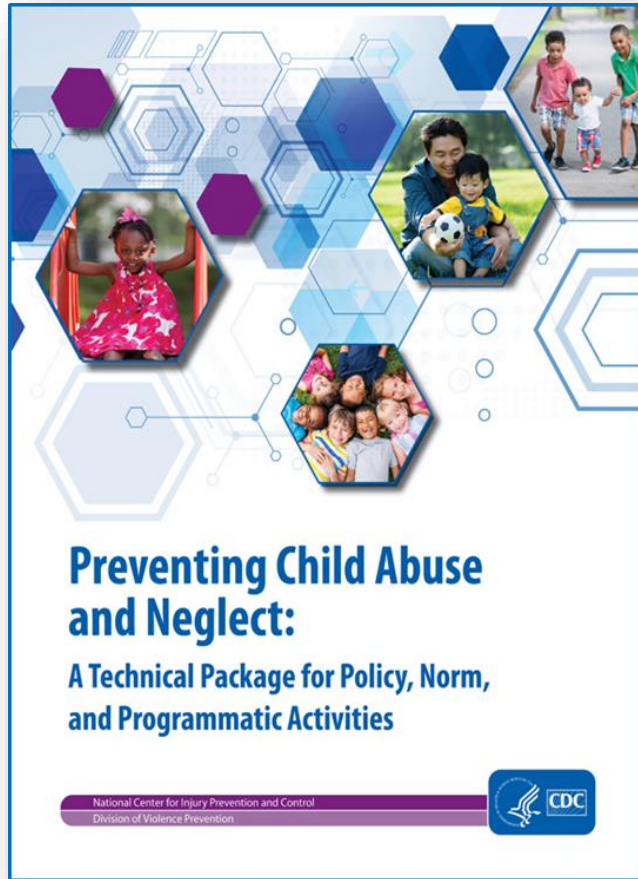


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