

Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence

Background

- **“Connecting the Dots” Brief**
 - **What it is:** Brief document that translates research about the connections between different forms of violence (e.g. shared risk and protective factors)
 - **Audience:** Public health and violence prevention practitioners and their partners
 - **Purpose:** Help violence prevention practitioners and their partners 1) Better **understand** and **make the case** for the connections between multiple forms of violence, 2) Think **strategically and creatively** about **ways to prevent** all types of violence from occurring in the first place

The findings and conclusions in this presentation do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Gang Violence

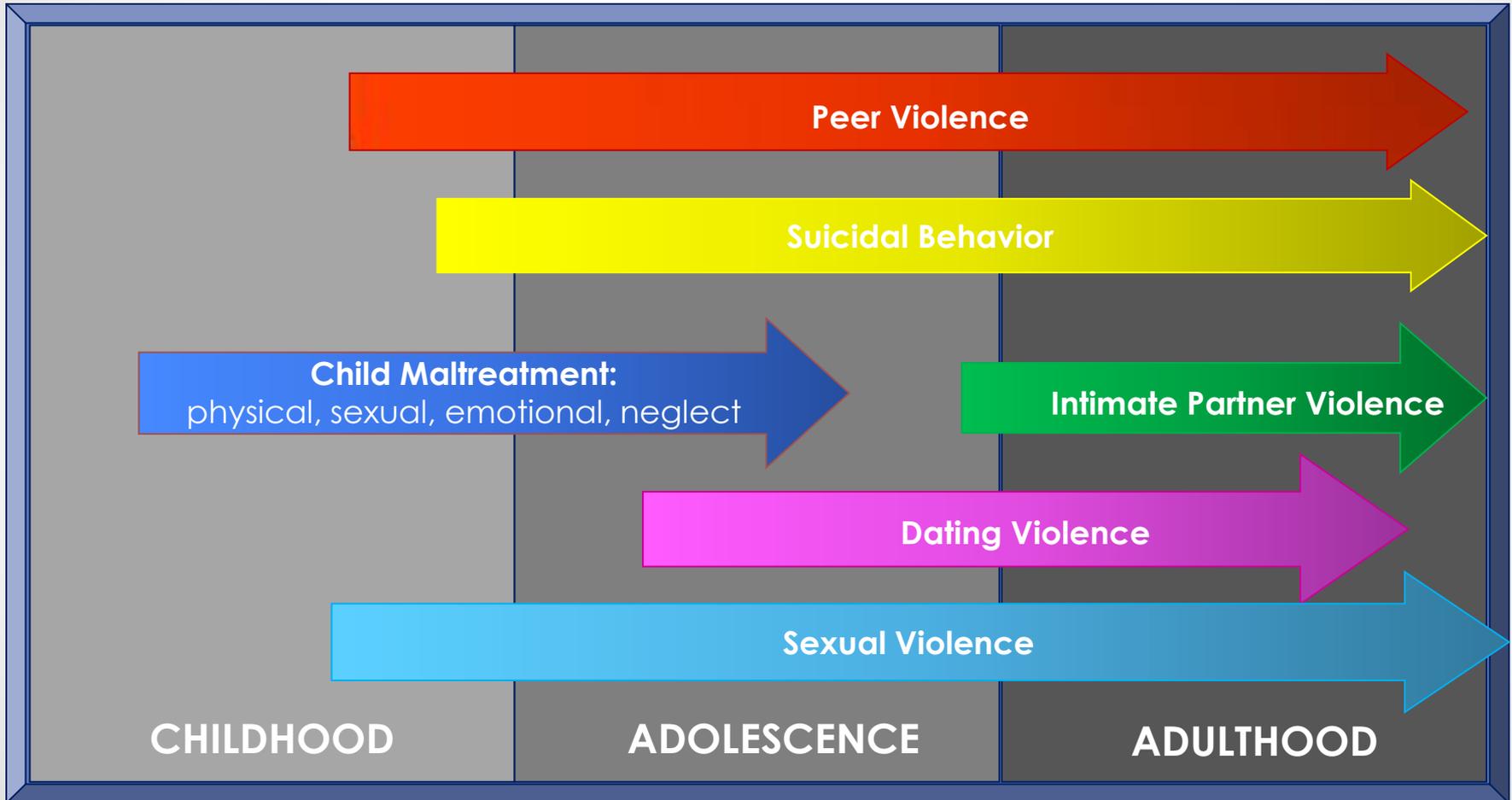
“Gang violence is connected to bullying is connected to school violence is connected to intimate partner violence is connected to child abuse is connected to elder abuse is connected. It’s all connected.”

-Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Adjunct Professor, Harvard School of Public Health



Source: Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Klevens, J. (2014). **Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence**. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.

Different Forms of Violence



Why Focus on Shared Risk and Protective Factors?

- ❑ Prevent multiple forms of violence simultaneously
- ❑ Develop new partnerships
- ❑ Leverage resources/funding streams
- ❑ Consider a larger pool of strategies

Defining Shared Risk and Protective Factors

- ❑ Research on risk and protective factors for violence is continuously evolving
- ❑ In the tables on the following slides:
 - Risk and protective factors are collapsed into general categories, but may have been measured differently across different violence areas/different studies*
 - “X’s” indicate the existence of at least one study published in a peer reviewed journal demonstrating an association between the risk or protective factor and that type of violence.

*For more information on how each factor was measured, please refer to the “Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links between Multiple Forms of Violence” brief where references for each study can be found.



Societal Risk Factors

	CM	TDV	IPV	SV	YV	Bullying	Suicide	Elder Abuse
Norms supporting aggression*	X	X	X	X	X			X
Media Violence				X	X	X	X	
Societal income inequality	X		X		X	X		
Weak health, educational, economic, and social policies/laws	X		X	X			X	
Harmful gender norms*	X	X	X	X	X	X		

NOTE: CM (Child Maltreatment), TDV (Teen Dating Violence), IPV (Intimate Partner Violence), SV (Sexual Violence), YV (Youth Violence)

*Norms are generally measured at the individual level

- Source: Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Klevens, J. (2014). **Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence**. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.

Neighborhood Risk Factors

	CM	TDV	IPV	SV	YV	Bullying	Suicide	Elder Abuse
Neighborhood poverty	X		X	X	X		X	
High alcohol outlet density	X		X		X		X	
Community Violence	X			X	X	X		
Lack of economic opportunities	X		X	X	X		X	
Low Neighborhood Support/ Cohesion*	X	X	X		X		X	

NOTE: CM (Child Maltreatment), TDV (Teen Dating Violence), IPV (Intimate Partner Violence), SV (Sexual Violence), YV (Youth Violence)

*Neighborhood support/cohesion typically measured at the individual level

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Neighborhood Protective Factors

	CM	TDV	IPV	SV	YV	Bullying	Suicide	Elder Abuse
Coordination of services among community agencies	X		X				X	X
Access to mental health and substance abuse services	X						X	
Community support and connectedness*	X		X	X	X		X	X

NOTE: CM (Child Maltreatment), TDV (Teen Dating Violence), IPV (Intimate Partner Violence), SV (Sexual Violence), YV (Youth Violence)

*Community support and connectedness typically measured at the individual level

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Relationship Level Risk Factors

	CM	TDV	IPV	SV	YV	Bullying	Suicide	Elder Abuse
Social isolation	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Poor parent-child relationships	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family conflict	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Economic stress	X		X		X		X	X
Association w/ delinquent peers		X	X	X	X	X		
Gang involvement		X	X	X	X			

NOTE: CM (Child Maltreatment), TDV (Teen Dating Violence), IPV (Intimate Partner Violence), SV (Sexual Violence), YV (Youth Violence)

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Relationship/Individual Level Protective Factors

	CM	TDV	IPV	SV	YV	Bullying	Suicide	Elder Abuse
Family support/connectedness	X	X			X	X	X	X
Connection to a caring adult		X			X		X	
Association w/prosocial peers		X			X	X		
Connection/commitment to school		X		X	X	X	X	
Skills solving problems non-violently	X	X			X		X	

NOTE: CM (Child Maltreatment), TDV (Teen Dating Violence), IPV (Intimate Partner Violence), SV (Sexual Violence), YV (Youth Violence)

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Individual Level Risk Factors

	CM	TDV	IPV	SV	YV	Bullying	Suicide	Elder Abuse
Low education	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Lack of non-violent problem solving skills	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Poor behavior/impulse control	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Violent victimization	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Witnessing violence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mental Health Problems	X	X	X		X		X	X
Substance use	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

NOTE: CM (Child Maltreatment), TDV (Teen Dating Violence), IPV (Intimate Partner Violence), SV (Sexual Violence), YV (Youth Violence)

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Survivors of one form of violence are more likely* to be victims of other forms of violence

- **Girls who are sexually abused are more likely to:**
 - suffer physical violence and sexual re-victimization
 - engage in self-harming behavior
 - be a victim of intimate partner violence later in life
- **Youth who have been physically abused by a dating partner are also more likely to have:**
 - suffered abuse as a child
 - been a victim of sexual assault
 - witnessed violence in their family
- **Women and girls involved in gangs:**
 - often experience physical, emotional and sexual abuse by other gang members
 - are more likely to have been physically or sexually abused as children



***Likelihood refers to the probability of re-victimization as compared to non-victims. It never means always.**

Source: Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Klevens, J. (2014). **Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the**

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...(Cont.) Survivors of one form of violence are more likely* to be victims of other forms of violence

❑ Youth who report attempting suicide:

- are approximately five times more likely to have been in a physical fight in the last year

❑ Children who have been bullied:

- are at greater odds for becoming involved in physical violence (e.g. weapon carrying, physical fighting)



*Likelihood refers to the probability of re-victimization as compared to non-victims. It never means always.

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● **Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence.** Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, ●

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Survivors of Violence are at Risk for Other Negative Health Behaviors/Outcomes

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

As ACEs “score” goes up, so does risk for...

- Risky Behaviors
 - Physical Inactivity, Smoking, Drug/Alcohol Abuse, Early Sexual Activity
- Chronic Disease
 - Obesity, COPD, Asthma, Diabetes, Liver Disease, Heart Disease
- Other Health Outcomes
 - Teen Pregnancy, STDs, Miscarriage, Depression, Suicide Attempts, Early Death, Job Problems/Lost Time from Work, Perpetration of IPV



ACES CAN HAVE LASTING EFFECTS ON BEHAVIOR & HEALTH...

Simply put, our childhood experiences have a tremendous, lifelong impact on our health and the quality of our lives. The ACE Study showed dramatic links between adverse childhood experiences and risky behavior, psychological issues, serious illness and **the leading causes of death**.

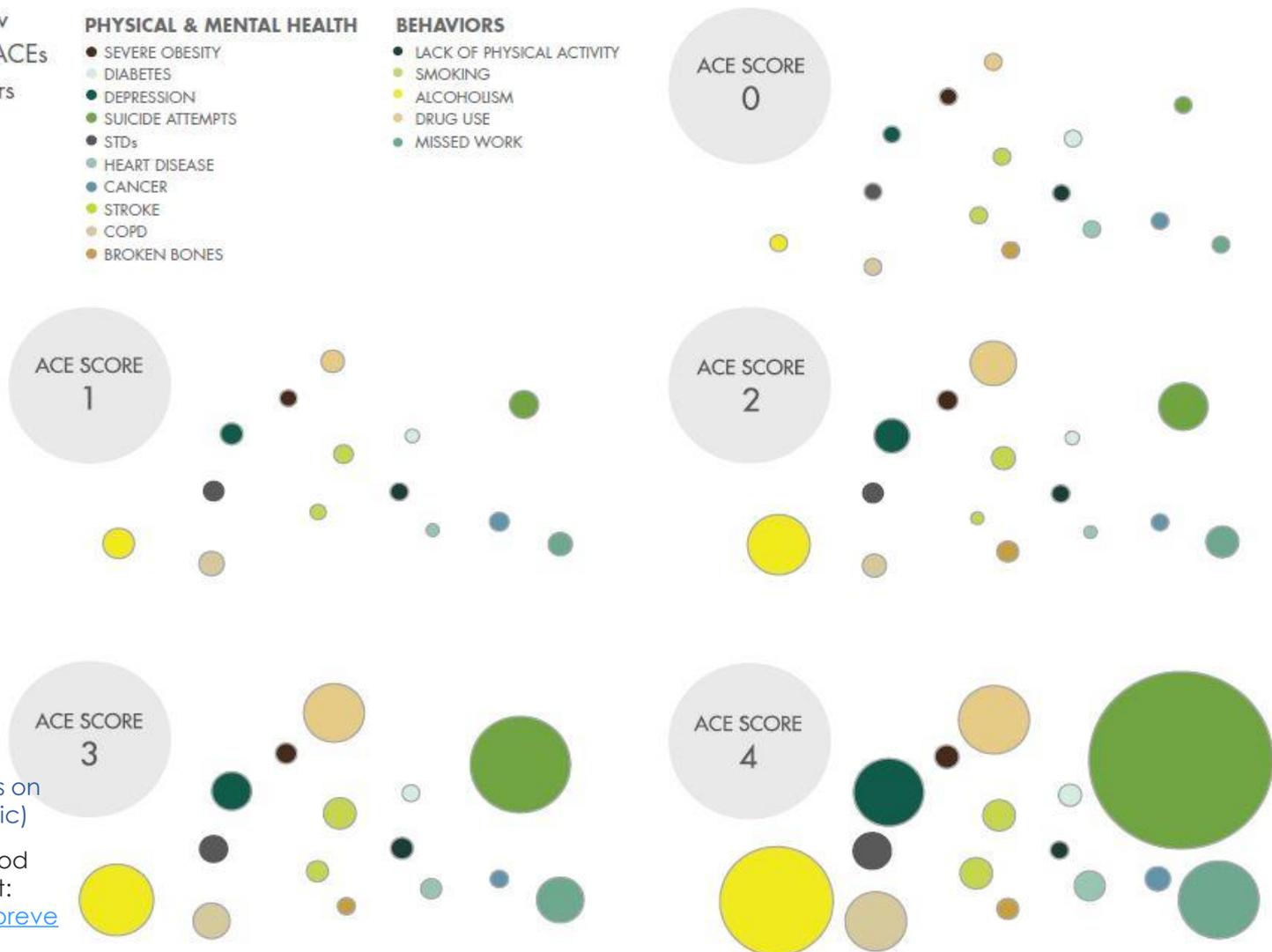
The following charts compare how likely a person with 1, 2, 3, or 4 ACEs will experience specified behaviors than a person without ACEs.

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

- SEVERE OBESITY
- DIABETES
- DEPRESSION
- SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
- STDs
- HEART DISEASE
- CANCER
- STROKE
- COPD
- BROKEN BONES

BEHAVIORS

- LACK OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- SMOKING
- ALCOHOLISM
- DRUG USE
- MISSED WORK



ACEs Can Have Lasting Effects on Behavior & Health (Infographic)

Source: CDC, Adverse Childhood Experiences Study. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>

Although most victims of violence do not behave violently, they are at higher risk for behaving violently

- **Children who experience physical abuse or neglect early in their lives are at greater risk for committing:**
 - violence against peers (particularly for boys)
 - bullying
 - teen dating violence
 - child abuse, elder abuse, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence later in life
- **Youth who have witnessed parental violence are more likely to:**
 - bully others



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People who behave violently are more likely to commit other forms of violence

- ❑ Adults who are violent toward their partners are at higher risk of also abusing their children.
- ❑ Youth who bully are more likely to:
 - carry weapons and be physically violent.
 - sexually harass peers
 - commit violence against partners as teens
 - commit violence against partners as adults



Examples of Potential Strategies for Addressing Multiple Forms of Violence

❑ Community/Societal level

- Norms change strategies
- Strategies/activities that enhance community support & connectedness
- Coordinated services

❑ Relationship level

- Strategies that support families under stress
- Strategies that connect youth with supportive adults, pro-social peers, and their schools

❑ Individual level

- Strategies that build youth and families' skills in solving problems non-violently
- Substance abuse prevention strategies



For More Information

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Between Multiple Forms of Violence**

CDC's Division of Violence Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/>