ACEs

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

-Frederick Douglass
What are ACEs?

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events that have a broad and profound impact on an individual’s development and subsequent emotional, cognitive, social and biological functioning.

- Economic adversity
- Substance abuse or mental illness of a caregiver
- Homelessness
- Parental incarceration
- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Racial/ethnic discrimination
- Witnessing violence
- Living in unsafe neighborhoods
Why do ACEs Matter?

“There are experiences, particularly early in childhood, that make it extremely predictable that individuals are at substantially higher risk for involvement with violence, be it interpersonal, youth violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence, or child abuse.”

- Howard Spivak, MD, Director, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Negative Outcomes

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

source: CDC (2019), The ACE Pyramid
# National Comparison

## Table 1: Prevalence of Individual ACEs, U.S. and NM, 2016

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<td>5%</td>
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<td>Parent or guardian divorced or separated</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>32%*</td>
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<td>Lived with anyone who has a problem with alcohol or drugs</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%*</td>
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<td>Parent or guardian served time in jail</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saw or heard physical violence by parents or other adults in home</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>Death of parent of guardian</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>Victim of or witness to neighborhood violence</td>
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- Legal advice
- Home navigators
- Education support

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Unique Approach

Heart: Family members of youth participating in the ADOBE program can also receive wrap-around services.

People: On average ADOBE serves 2 additional individuals per client.

House: This approach recognizes the importance of changing the environment the youth come from as an important part of successful re-integration.
ADOBE Dramatically Lowers Recidivism Rate

70%
Incarcerated Juvenile Recidivism Rate

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- 1,271 client visits
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Of incarcerated youth,

- 96.4% diagnosed with a substance use disorder
- 50% have an incarcerated parent
- 16.4% received prenatal drug or alcohol exposure

Proposed expansion of ADOBE: work with DA Office substance abuse diversion programs to identify at-risk families (with parental SUD) for early intervention to prevent future drug use and system involvement.
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The "Key Drivers" of Family Stability

Result: Resilient children & families, free from adverse childhood experiences

Goal: Reduce ACEs by 50% by 2030 in Central New Mexico

Secure & Stable Homes

Safety & Well-Being

Support for Students & Working Families

Equitable Access to Needed Resources

Knowledge and Skill Development

Ability to Live Affordably

Goals

Outcomes

Key Drivers
Framework

- Physical & mental health
- Substance abuse

Treat underlying conditions
- Health literacy
- Parenting skills
- Out-of-school time
- Life skills
- Education
- Job skills

Build skills, create holistic educational opportunities
- Transportation
- Housing
- Child care
- Basic Needs

Lay the foundation

Connect resources, meet families where they are
- Capacity building
- Case management
- Effective referrals
- Wraparound supports
Integrated Data - The Key to Timely Interventions

- Crime Data
- Health Data
- Education Data
- Protective Services Data
Foundational Principles of Restorative Justice

1) Crime causes harm and justice should focus on repairing that harm.

2) The people most affected by the crime should be able to participate in its resolution.

3) The responsibility of the government is to maintain order and of the community to build peace.
Pima County

• **Accountability** – All participants are required to write apology letters to those affected by their actions.

• **Financial** – Participants may be required to pay restitution to victims and/or reimburse their parents.

• **Community Service** – Some youth are required to perform community service. The assignments must be meaningful, strength-based or competency-building opportunities.

• **Educational or Career Plans** – Many participants are required to create educational or career plans.

• **Behavior Modification or Educational Programs** – Many participants are required to complete programs focused on changing their behavior.
More effective solution?

The Problems with Juvenile Incarceration:

- Inability to effectively address recidivism
  - Nearly 67% of released prisoners re-offend within three years according to the Department of Justice

- High cost
  - The yearly cost of incarcerating one youth in New Mexico is $182,000 according to CYFD

- Focus on offenders rather than victims
Colorado: A Case Study

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- Of the 223 juveniles referred to MAP in 2012, 85% reported that after completing their program they were able to "articulate the harm they caused the community and knew how to make amends".
Community Solutions

CBCR

GVI
Community Based Crime Reduction

U.S. Department of Justice grant to integrate crime prevention and prosecution with economic development, community health, housing, and neighborhood safety programs

Data-Driven
Identify hot-spots and specific problems using data, assess evidence-based solutions, monitor progress

Community Oriented
Engage residents in identifying problems and selecting strategies while building trust with law enforcement

Spurs Revitalization
Revive problem properties such as unsafe parks, streets, and transit

Builds Partnerships
Partner with nonprofit and community leaders to bring more perspectives and initiate lasting change
Community Based Crime Reduction

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Neighborhood beautification, blight reduction, property rehabilitation and new homeowner and business investment
- Greater social cohesion and community-police collaboration
- Smarter resource deployment across sectors
- Reductions in crime and offending in targeted hot spots
Alameda County, CA: development of combined housing and retail spaces in a hot spot, a mobile food pantry and temporary space for pop-up retail and community events

Los Angeles, CA: After school programs to address behavior and skills development, gun buy back program, reentry initiatives for youth recently released from juvenile halls
Case Study: Rundberg, Austin, TX

Partnering with law enforcement to create a police led mentoring class for middle school students

Restore Rundberg Seven Priorities

The Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team (RT) identified seven community-wide priorities to improve the neighborhood and decrease crime:

1. Revitalization of Key Properties
2. Healthcare Access
3. After-school Programs
4. Code Compliance
5. Homelessness
6. Housing Affordability
7. Economic Development
Within one year, Rundberg saw:

- A 5% decrease in aggravated assault
- A 16% decrease in robbery
- A 40% increase in community's perception of safety in their neighborhood
- An 82% reduction in violent crime in 3 targeted CBCR hot spots
Community Leadership Council

- Endorphin Power Company
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Asset mapping is a fundamental part of community engagement and development. In order to increase community capacity, it is important to identify and connect local assets.

According to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, these are the steps:

Step 1- Define community boundaries
Step 2- Identify and involve partners
Step 3- Determine the type of assets to include: organizations, institutions, individuals
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Working Groups

During the very first community meeting, these five areas were identified by community members as areas to address:
Kids and Families

- Key objectives to combat ACEs
- Family stabilization
- Potential projects may include:
  - Intergenerational family programming
  - School interventions
  - Housing and basic needs programming
  - Programming to help prevent children from entering the criminal justice system
Infrastructure

- Identified language accessibility as a needed infrastructure
- More than 10 languages spoken in the district
- Potential projects may include:
  - Cultural competency workshops
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Behavioral Health

- Focus on crime, child welfare outcomes, and general community health
- Potential initiatives include:
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Economic Development

- Concentrate on workforce development
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Law Enforcement

- Potential initiatives include:
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Early Action Project
Sunday, October 20, 2019

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A partnership of community members, law enforcement, and social service providers:

- Directly engages with the small and active number of people involved in street groups and clearly communicates a credible moral message against violence
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Establish clear community standards against violence, to offer group members an “honorable exit” from committing acts of violence, and to provide a supported path for those who want to change.

Nationwide Implementation

GVI is designed to reduce street group-involved homicide and gun violence. Pioneered by NNSC Director David Kennedy and colleagues as “Operation Ceasefire” in Boston during the 1990s, it has been implemented widely nationally and has acquired a strong formal evaluation record. Today, GVI is active in dozens of cities:

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Detroit, MI
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Hartford, CT
High Point, NC
Jacksonville, FL
Kalamazoo, MI
Kansas City, MO
Los Angeles, CA
Minneapolis, MN
New Haven, CT
New Orleans, LA
New York City, NY
Newburgh, NY
Niagara Falls, NY
Oakland, CA
Paterson, NJ
Peoria, IL
Pittsburgh, PA
Savannah, GA
South Bend, IN
Stockton, CA
York, PA
Cincinnati: 41% reduction in group member-involved homicide

Boston: 63% reduction in youth homicide

Indianapolis: 34% reduction in homicide

New Haven: 70% reduction in homicide from 2012-2017
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Restoring Our Community 2019
District Attorney Raúl Torrez

Strategy

Adverse Childhood Experiences

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Community Solutions
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- Los Angeles, CA
- Minneapolis, MN
- New Haven, CT
- New Orleans, LA
- New York City, NY
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