

TASN ATBS SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE WEBINAR SERIES

Guidance for Trauma Screening in Schools

Presented by:
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Presenter Information

- Eric Rossen, PhD, NCSP
 - Dad
 - Chess Player (0-1 lifetime record)
 - Nationally Certified School Psychologist
 - NASP Director, Professional Development and Standards
 - Author/Editor – *Supporting and Educating Traumatized Students* (2013); Oxford University Press
- Katie Eklund, PhD, NCSP
 - Soon to be mom!
 - Runner and new to Missouri (MU School Psych faculty)
 - Worked in schools for 10 years as administrator and school psychologist



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Learner Objectives

This presentation will help participants:

1. Describe the role and function of universal and targeted screening in schools
2. Identify considerations and cautions when implementing trauma screenings in schools
3. Plan for implementation and follow-up after trauma screening

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What is Trauma?

- Exposure to conditions that:
 - Cause harm to physical or psychological/emotional well-being
 - Overwhelm the ability to cope
 - Interfere with daily life or ability to function
- Trauma is subjective

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What do the
data say?

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

- Maltreatment
 - Physical Abuse
 - Emotional Abuse
 - Sexual Abuse
 - Neglect
- Family Dysfunction
 - Incarcerated family member
 - Mentally ill family member
 - Substance abusing family member
 - Domestic Violence
 - Absence of parent (divorce, separation, death)

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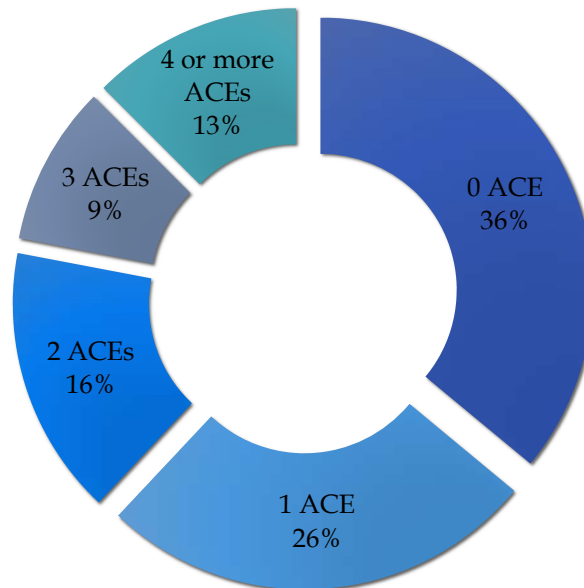
ACE Results

Collected b/w 1995
and 1997
(N=17,000+)

Negative Outcomes
Among Youth

Negative Outcomes
Among Adults

Dose-Response



www.cdc.gov/ace/index.htm

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Dose-Response

- ACE score
- Quantifies “dose” of adversity
 - Alcoholism
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - Depression
 - Fetal death
 - Illicit drug use
 - Liver disease
 - Risk for intimate partner violence
 - STDs
 - Smoking
 - Suicide Attempts
 - Unintended pregnancy

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How does Kansas rank?

- 1 ACE
 - Kansas: 23.4%; National: 25.3%
- 2 or more ACE
 - Kansas: 24.0%; National: 22.6%
- Safe neighborhood; Never or only sometimes safe
 - Kansas: 9.2%; National: 13.4%
- Safe schools; Never or only sometimes safe
 - Kansas: 5.2%; National 7.4%

Also check out

http://www.kdheks.gov/brfss/PDF/ACE_Report_2014.pdf

Source: National Survey of Children’s Health 2011/2012
Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health: <http://childhealthdata.org/> SMHI 2017 Webinar Series

Adverse Childhood Experiences...

- Are pervasive
- Often begin at an early age
- Are often chronic and reoccurring
- Impact schools

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Why Is This the School's Problem?



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Polling question

True or False:

Screening entails administering an interview or rating scale to a group of individuals you believe may be at-risk of a particular condition or disorder.

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Universal & Targeted Screening in Schools

- Designed to identify students at-risk of future behavioral and emotional concerns
- Supported by current educational policies & practices



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Universal & Targeted Screening in Schools

- Implementation considerations
 - Use of ratings scales and/or multiple gating strategies
 - Multiple measures available
 - Parent, teacher, and/or self-reports
 - Consent
- Use of data to guide interventions

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Considerations for Trauma Screening

- Should we do it????
 - Can create stigma
 - Takes attention away from creating safe whole-school environments for all children (Cole et al., 2013)
- Very little data available on how best to screen for trauma

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Considerations for Trauma Screening

- What should we screen for?
 - ACEs
 - Individual reactions that may indicate trauma
 - School failure
 - Risk factors



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Considerations for Trauma Screening

- Why are we screening?
 - Identify school or district-level concerns
 - Identify students in need of targeted or intensive interventions
 - School-level considerations about where to focus resources

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Considerations for Trauma Screening

- Parent consent
 - Active vs. passive
 - Self-selection bias
- Improving consent rates (Blodgett, 2012)
 - Ensure caregivers know rationale
 - Describe potential benefit
 - Increase trust

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Considerations for Trauma Screening

- Who completes the screening?
 - Teacher
 - Parent
- Student
 - Developmentally appropriate
 - Reading level
 - Comprehension of questions

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Considerations for Trauma Screening

- Time
 - Range from 5 to 25 minutes (Gonzalez et al., 2016)
 - Self-report – average of 15 minutes
 - Build in time for:
 - Parental Consent & Student Assent
 - Interpretation of Results
 - Analysis
 - Follow-up → Interventions

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Screening Measures

- **Childhood Trauma Questionnaire** (CTQ; Bernstein & Fink, 1998)
- **Traumatic Events Screening Inventory for Children - Brief Form** (TESI-C-Brief; Davis et al., 2000; Ford et al., 2002)
- **Trauma Symptom Checklist-Child Version-Posttraumatic Stress Subscale** (TSCC-PTS; Briere, 1996)
- **UCLA Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Reaction index** (RI; Pynoos, Rodriguez, Steinberg, Struber, & Fredrick, 1998)
- Check out www.nctsnet.org/trauma-types/complex-trauma/standardized-measures-assess-complex-trauma
 - National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (n.d.). *Standardized measures to assess complex trauma.*

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Polling Question

Multiple Choice

When asking children questions about their behavioral or emotional functioning through interviews or rating scales, schools are required to do which of the following?

- a. Obtain active parental consent
- b. Obtain active or passive parental consent
- c. Schools are not required to obtain parental consent
- d. It depends on the laws of the current state

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A Note About Interventions

- Pervasive nature of ACEs suggests need for Trauma-Informed Schools
 - Shift from “What is wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?”
- Trauma-Informed Schools:
 - School-wide focus
 - Dedicated to a safe school environment
(Cowan, Vaillancourt, Rossen, & Pollitt, 2013)
 - Build student capacities
 - Build staff capacities
- But still....

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A Note About Interventions

- ...targeted interventions have a role
 - Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS; Jaycox, Kataoka, Stein, Langley, & Wong, 2012)
 - Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT; Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2012)
 - Head Start Trauma Start (Holmes et al., 2014)

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Presentation Summary

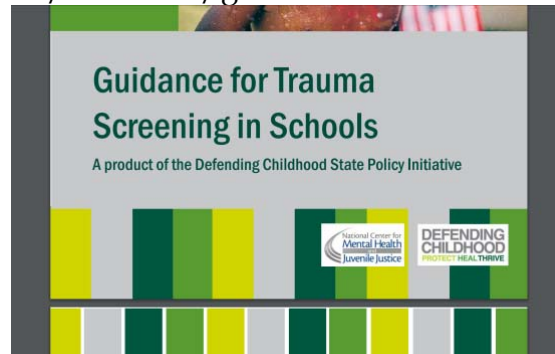
- ACE or trauma screening can help determine potential risk for stress or trauma among students in schools
- Consider active parental informed consent for screening
- Screening tools administered to students may be most accurate, though must be provided at a developmentally appropriate level
- Screenings can help identify the severity or degree of need in a school community and help direct resources
- Supports should be provided through an MTSS framework with a trauma-informed approach
- Individual services should not be determined solely through the screening process

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Resource

- Check out Guidance for Trauma Screening in Schools

<http://www.ncmhjj.com/resources/guidance-trauma-screening-schools/>



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THANK YOU!

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