

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Questionnaire and Crittenton

The following is a summary of information collected through a pilot administration of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) survey with current consumers of services in Crittenton agencies in late spring of 2012. Data provides a glimpse into the level of exposure to trauma of children/youth across the country in Crittenton residential programs. Lessons learned through this process will inform the development of a process for institutionalizing the use of ACE across Crittenton agencies. While Crittenton agencies primarily serve girls and young women some agencies also serve boys and young men. As such the summary data presented in this document is for boys and girls, unless otherwise noted.

Demographics of Respondents

Agencies from 18 states participated in the pilot, including: Arizona, California (Southern), Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. A total of 1350 usable responses were received from 916 females (70%) and 435 males (30%). A total of 393 of the total responses were from youth in residential programs; 90 percent were females and 10 percent males. In terms of age, 66% were between the ages of 15 – 18 and 62 % were youth of color. Roughly 37% were referred by the juvenile justice system and 32% by the child welfare system.

Findings

A snap shot of some of the findings is found below. Chart A summarizes the percentage of each group with scores of 4+, 5+ and 10 by the setting in which they were receiving services. Chart B takes a look at the ACE scored for the specific population of young mothers in residential programs. The percentage of young mothers with very high scores is significantly higher than that of boys and girls as a group. Chart C summarizes the percentage of each group responding yes to a specific trauma category, again by setting. In both charts the highest score are highlighted in yellow. Chart D looks at the difference between boys and girls by total score in residential.

A. Total Score by Setting

Group	Total Score		
	4+	5+	10
Original CDC Study Women	15%		
All Girls and Boys (n=1350)	53%	42%	3%
Residential Boys and Girls (395)	67%	55%	4%
Community Based	58%	45%	3%
In Home - Birth	50%	35%	1%
In Home - Foster	62%	42%	0%

B. Total Score by Program/Treatment Setting for Young mothers

Group	Total Score		
	4+	5+	10
Residential	82%	73%	12%
Community based	51%	41%	3%
In/after school program	17%	17%	0%

C. Service Setting and Percentage “Yes” Responses for Boys and Girls

Category of Trauma	Residential	Community Based	In Home Birth	In Home Foster
1. Psychological abuse (by parents)	58%	51%	47%	54%
2. Physical abuse (by parents)	44%	42%	37%	33%
3. Sexual abuse (contact with anyone)	44%	24%	32%	23%
4. Emotional Neglect	53%	47%	42%	44%
5. Physical Neglect	33%	27%	17%	35%
6. Alcoholism or drug use in home	71%	67%	60%	70%
7. Loss of biological parent from home	39%	42%	32%	40%
8. Depression or mental illness in home	57%	53%	37%	46%
9. Mother treated violently	45%	50%	35%	39%
10. Imprisoned household member	46%	31%	23%	33%

D. Total Score for Residential Settings by Boys and Girls

Group	Total Score		
	4+	5+	10
Original CDC Study Women	15%		
All Girls and Boys (n=1350)	53%	42%	3%
Residential Boys and Girls (395)	67%	55%	4%
Residential Girls (353)	71%	58%	4%
Residential Boys (40)	40%	30%	2%