

Community Health Priority:

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

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Vision

Preventing or reducing the impact of potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being. These experiences range from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse to parental divorce or the incarceration of a parent.

Goal Statements

- ✓ To establish an ACEs Collaborative Initiative in Marathon County
- ✓ Increase community providers and the public's understanding of the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences and overall mental and physical well-being

What are ACEs?

An Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) is traumatic experience prior to the age of 18.

The 10 ACEs are defined as:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse -Emotional abuse
- Physical neglect
- Emotional neglect
- Growing up in a household with a family member who is:
 - Depressed or mentally ill
 - Addicted to alcohol or other drugs
 - In prison
 - Witnessing a mother being abused
 - Separation or divorce of parents

Background

There is a need to increase the public's awareness and understanding how one's mental well-being impacts their overall physical health. ACEs can negatively impact a child's brain development and physical, mental, and social behaviors increasing risk for poorer mental health, teen pregnancy and juvenile delinquency. Adults with higher ACEs have poorer health outcomes, such as increased levels of toxic stress, higher risk for alcoholism, illegal drug use, depression, suicide, partner violence, smoking, obesity, and heart disease. The impact of ACEs is multi-generational. Building resiliency in parents and children is crucial in reducing the impact of childhood trauma. Changing our social norm in Marathon County from "What is wrong with you?" to "What has happened to you?" is pivotal.

Data

- 10-15% of Marathon County residents have 4 or more ACEs
- 18% of youth reported that their parent(s) have a history of alcohol abuse and 16% of youth reported that their parent(s) have a history of drug abuse
- 39% of juvenile referrals to social services indicated that someone living in the family home had been in jail or spent time in prison
- 27% of juvenile referrals to social services indicated that youth did not believe that they had a positive adult relationship outside of school or their family
- Neglect is the most frequent form of substantiated maltreatment in Marathon County
- 73.2% of 2015 LIFE Community Survey respondents were concerned about family violence or abuse of adults and children

Shared Measurement

Number of ACEs trainings provided in Marathon County and number of groups and individuals trained, Baseline: To be determined, Source: To be determined

Percentage of high school students that reported having at least one teacher or other adult in their school who they can talk to if they had a problem, Baseline: 73%, Source: 2015 Marathon County Youth Risk Behavior Survey