

Adverse Childhood Experiences

This survey accompanies a measure in the SPARQTools.org [Measuring Mobility toolkit](#), which provides practitioners curated instruments for assessing mobility from poverty and tools for selecting the most appropriate measures for their programs.

Age: Teen, Adult

Duration: 3-5 minutes

Reading Level: < 6th grade

Number of items: 17

Answer Format: Yes/No

Scoring:

The Childhood Abuse subscale contains three categories: psychological, physical, and sexual. The psychological category items are Q1a, and Q1b. The physical category items are Q2a and Q2b. The sexual category items are Q3a, Q3b, Q3c, and Q3d.

The Exposure to Household Dysfunction Subscale contains four categories: substance abuse, mental illness, violent treatment of mother or stepmother, and criminal behavior. The substance abuse category items are Q4a and Q4b. The mental illness category items are Q5 and Q5b. The violent treatment of mother or stepmother category items are Q6a, Q6b, Q6c, and Q6d. The criminal behavior category item is Q7a.

Respondents are defined as exposed to a category if they respond “yes” to 1 or more of the questions in that category. To calculate the total score for each participant, sum all of the categories with an exposure for a score ranging from 0 (unexposed) to 20 (exposed to all categories).

Sources:

Felitti, V. J., Anda, R. F., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D. F., Spitz, A. M., Edwards, V., ... & Marks, J. S. (1998). Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14(4), 245-258.

Instructions: Please circle your answer below.

1. While you were growing up during your first 18 years of life, did a parent or other adult in the household

a. Often or very often swear at, insult, or put you down?

Yes

No

b. Often or very often act in a way that made you afraid that you would be physically hurt?

Yes

No

2. While you were growing up during your first 18 years of life, did a parent or other adult in the household

a. Often or very often push, grab, shove, or slap you?

Yes

No

b. Often or very often hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?

Yes

No

3. While you were growing up during your first 18 years of life, did an adult or person at least five years older ever

a. Touch or fondle you in a sexual way?

Yes

No

b. Have you touch their body in a sexual way?

Yes

No

c. Attempt oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?

Yes

No

d. Actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?

Yes

No

4. While you were growing up during your first 18 years of life, did you

a. Live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?

Yes

No

b. Live with anyone who used street drugs?

Yes

No

5. While you were growing up during your first 18 years of life,

a. Was a household member depressed or mentally ill?

Yes

No

b. Did a household member attempt suicide?

Yes

No

6. While you were growing up during your first 18 years of life, was your mother (or stepmother)

a. Sometimes, often, or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her?

Yes

No

b. Sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard?

Yes

No

c. Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes?

Yes

No

d. Ever threatened with, or hurt by, a knife or gun?

Yes

No

7. While you were growing up during your first 18 years of life,

a. Did a household member go to prison?

Yes

No