

## Philadelphia Adverse Childhood Experiences (PHL ACEs)

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:** Adult

**Duration:** 3-5 minutes

**Reading Level:** < 6th grade

**Number of items:** 21

**Answer Format:** This survey uses multiple answer formats. Please see the scoring instructions below for more information.

### Scoring:

The Conventional ACE subscale contains nine categories: emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional neglect, physical neglect, domestic violence, household substance abuse, household mental illness, and incarcerated household member.

Bolded responses indicate the threshold for for adversity.

The *emotional abuse* category contains Q1 and Q2. The answer format for these questions is: **1 = More than once**; 2 = Once; 3 = Never.

The *physical abuse* category contains Q3. The answer format for this question is: **1 = More than once**; 2 = Once; 3 = Never. The physical abuse category also contains Q4. The answer format for this question is: **1 = More than once**; **2 = Once**; 3 = Never.

The *sexual abuse* category contains Q5 and Q6. The answer format for these questions is: **1 = Yes**; 2 = No.

The *emotional neglect* category contains Q7. The answer format for this question is: 1 = Very often true; 2 = Often true; 3 = Sometimes true; **4 = Rarely true**; **5 = Never true**.

The *physical neglect* category contains Q8. The answer format for this question is: **1 = Very often true**; **2 = Often true**; 3 = Sometimes true; 4 = Rarely true; 5 = Never true.

The *domestic violence* category contains Q9. The answer format for this questions is: **1 = Many times**; **2 = A few times**; 3 = Once; 4 = Never. The domestic violence category also contains Q10. The answer format for this question is: **1 = Many times**; **2 = A few times**; **3 = Once**; 4 = Never.

The *household substance abuse* category contains Q11 and Q12, the *household mental illness* category contains Q13 and Q14, and the *incarcerated household member* category contains Q15. The answer format for these questions is **1 = Yes**; 2 = No.

The Expanded ACE subscale contains five categories: witness violence, felt discrimination, adverse neighborhood experience, bullied, and lived in foster care.

The *witness violence* category contains Q16. The answer format for this question is: **1 = Many times**; **2 = A few times**; 3 = Once; 4 = Never.

The *felt discrimination* category contains Q17. The answer format for this question is: **1 = Very often true**; **2 = Often true**; **3 = Sometimes true**; 4 = Rarely true; 5 = Never true.

The *adverse neighborhood experience* category contains Q18 and Q19. The answer format for this question is: 1 = All of the time; 2 = Most of the time; **3 = Some of the time**; **4 = None of the time**.

The *bullied* category contains Q20. The answer format for this question is: **1 = All of the time**; **2 = Most of the time**; 3 = Some of the time; 4 = None of the time.

The lived in foster care category contains Q21. The answer format for this question is: **1 = Yes**; 2 = No.

To calculate the total score for each participant, sum the number of responses that indicate adversity, as noted above by the bolded items. Then, categorize responses into the following groups:

- 0 Adverse Childhood Experiences
- 1-2 Adverse Childhood Experiences
- 3+ Adverse Childhood Experiences

0 expanded ACEs, 1-2 Expanded ACEs, 3+ Expanded ACEs.

### **Sources:**

Cronholm, P. F., Forke, C. M., Wade, R., Bair-Merritt, M. H., Davis, M., Harkins-Schwarz, M., Pachter, L. M., & Fein, J. A. (2015). Adverse childhood experiences: Expanding the concept of adversity. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 49(3), 354-361.

**Instructions:** Please circle your answer below.

1. While you were growing up how often did a parent, step-parent, or another adult living in your home swear at you, insult you, or put you down?

More than once

Once

Never

2. While you were growing up how often did a parent, step-parent, or another adult living in your home act in a way that made you afraid that you would be physically hurt?

More than once

Once

Never

3. While you were growing up did a parent, step-parent, or another adult living in your home push, grab, shove, or slap you?

More than once

Once

Never

4. While you were growing up did a parent, step-parent, or another adult living in your home hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?

More than once

Once

Never

5. During the first 18 years of life, did an adult or older relative, family friend, or stranger who was at least five years older than yourself ever touch or fondle you in a sexual way or have you touch their body in a sexual way?

Yes

No

6. Attempt to have or actually have any type of sexual intercourse, oral, anal or vaginal with you?

Yes

No

7. There was someone in your life who helped you feel important or special.

Very often true      Often true      Sometimes true      Rarely true      Never true

8. Your family sometimes cut the size of meals or skipped meals because there was not enough money in the budget for food.

Very often true      Often true      Sometimes true      Rarely true      Never true

9. How often, if ever, did you see or hear in your home a parent, step parent, or another adult who was helping to raise you being slapped, kicked, punched, or beaten up?

Many times      A few times      Once      Never

10. How often, if ever, did you see or hear in your home a parent, step parent, or another adult who was helping to raise you being hit or cut with an object, such as a stick, cane, bottle, club, knife or gun?

Many times      A few times      Once      Never

11. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?

Yes      No

12. Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medications?

Yes      No

13. While you were growing up, did you live with anyone who was depressed or mentally ill?

Yes

No

14. Did you live with anyone who was suicidal?

Yes

No

15. Did you live with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in a prison, jail, or other correctional facility?

Yes

No

16. How often, if ever, did you see or hear someone being beaten up, stabbed, or shot in real life?

Many times

A few times

Once

Never

17. While you were growing up, how often did you feel that you were treated badly or unfairly because of your race or ethnicity?

Very often true

Often true

Sometimes true

Rarely true

Never true

18. Did you feel safe in your neighborhood?

All of the time

Most of the time

Some of the time

None of the time

19. Did you feel people in your neighborhood looked out for each other, stood up for each other, and could be trusted?

All of the time

Most of the time

Some of the time

None of the time

20. How often were you bullied by a peer or classmate?

All of the time

Most of the time

Some of the time

None of the time

21. Were you ever in foster care?

Yes

No