



# Assessing and Treating the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences

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# Kid

# “START”



Screening

Triage

Assessment

Referral

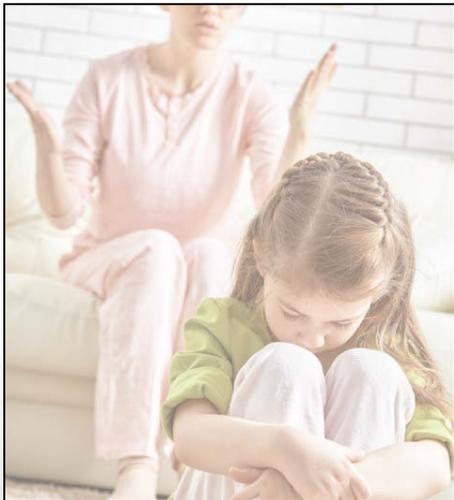
Treatment

KidSTART serves children birth to age 5 in San Diego County, with complex needs, primarily in the areas of:



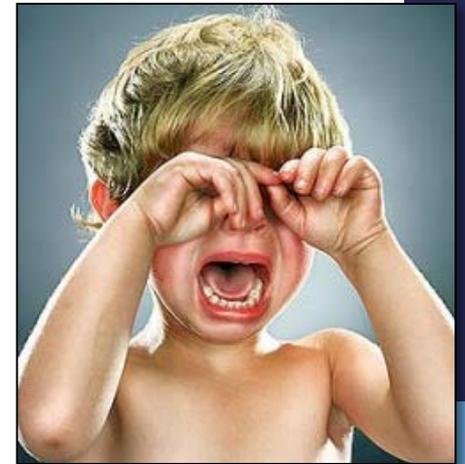
- **Developmental**
- **Social/behavioral/mental health**
- **Medical**
- **Family**

Using a trans-disciplinary approach to assessment and treatment



# What does an “Eligible” Child Look Like?

- Inconclusive assessment results
- Poor response to intervention
- Expulsions from early childhood education
- Intensive care coordination needs





# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Survey

## Child Abuse

- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse

## Child Neglect

- Emotional neglect
- Physical neglect

## Household Dysfunction

- Parents separated/divorced
- Intimate partner violence exposure
- Parent substance abuse
- Parent mental health problems
- Parent incarceration/criminal involvement

# KidSTART Center Administration

## Who?

- Licensed Clinical Psychologist

## When?

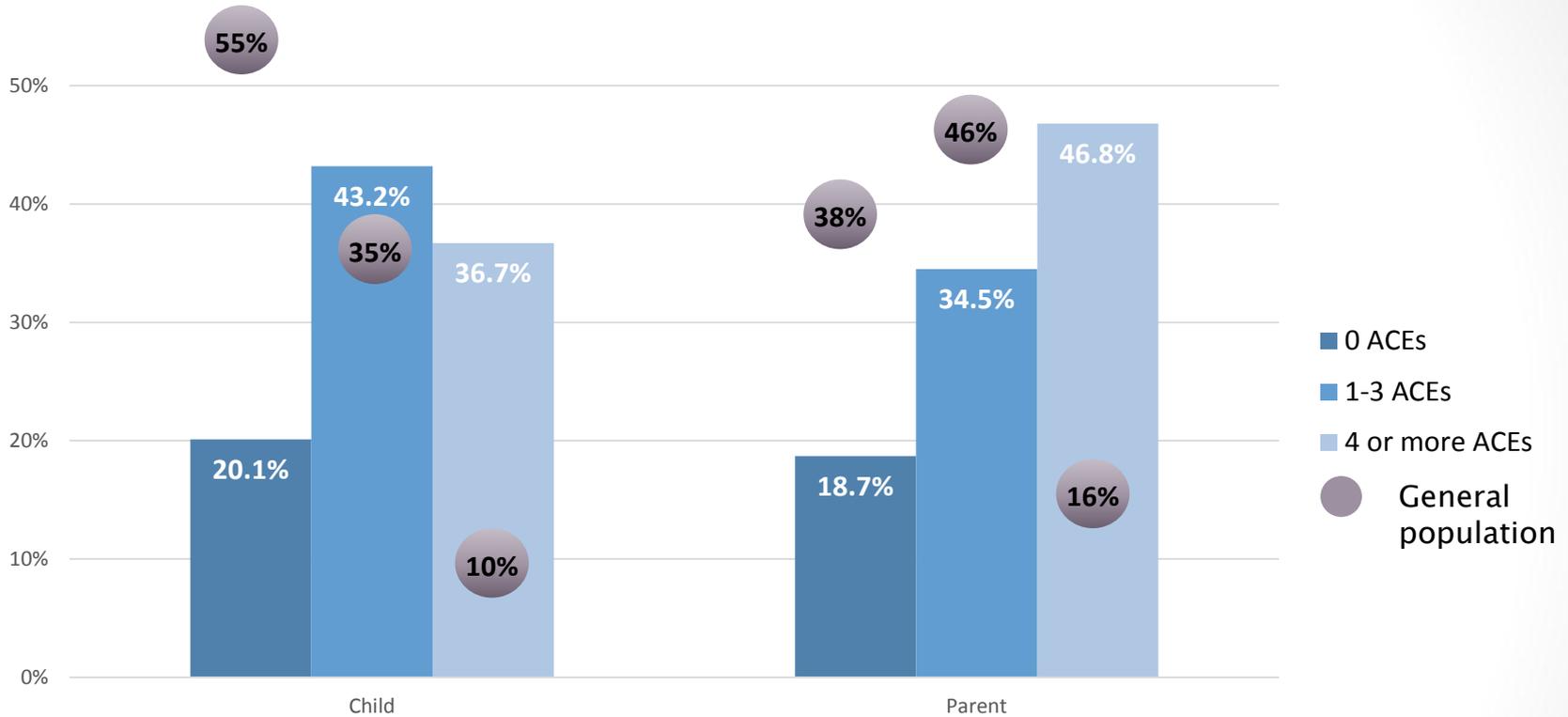
- During triage evaluation  
(comprehensive developmental evaluation)

## How?

- Paper and pencil with discussion afterward
- If literacy in question, then verbally administered



# ACE Profile at KidSTART



Data Source: Sacks, V., Murphy, D., Moore, K. (2014). Adverse Child Experiences: National & State-Level Prevalence. Child Trends. Publication #2014-28.

Data Source: Merrick, M.T., Ford, D.C., Ports, K. A., Guinn, A. S. (2018). Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences From the 2011-2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in 23 States. JAMA Pediatrics, 172(11), 1038-1044



# A Child's Story



# Administration Considerations

- Staff training and experience to discuss sensitive information
- Value of understanding both child and parent experiences
- Resources to support families after trauma history is identified
- Opportunity to educate parents on impact of early experiences on child's mental health

# Systems Level Implications

- Survey could be used to meet medical necessity threshold for infants and our youngest children, whose symptoms may not be obvious (yet)
- Opportunity to educate providers on the relationship between early experiences and health (development, mental health, medical, and family systems)

# Questions

