

Connections between Criminal Justice and Health: Impacts on Children and Families

February 12, 2024



VISION

Ohio is a model of health, well-being and economic vitality

MISSION

To advance evidence-informed policies that improve health, achieve equity, and lead to sustainable healthcare spending in Ohio.



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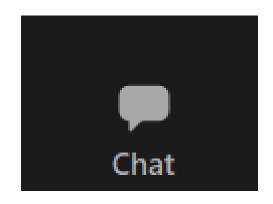
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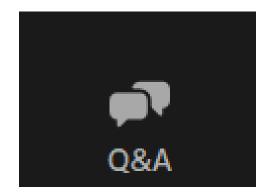






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Agenda

- Overview of Criminal Justice and Health: Impact on Children and Families brief
- Updates from the Ohio Department of Children and Youth



Ways to influence policy

- Write letters, emails or make phone calls
- Provide district specific data
- Provide analysis of a bill
- Provide testimony at a legislative hearing
- Provide a one-page fact sheet
- Organize community partners to visit key policymakers
- Invite policymakers to visits your organization or speak at a meeting you host

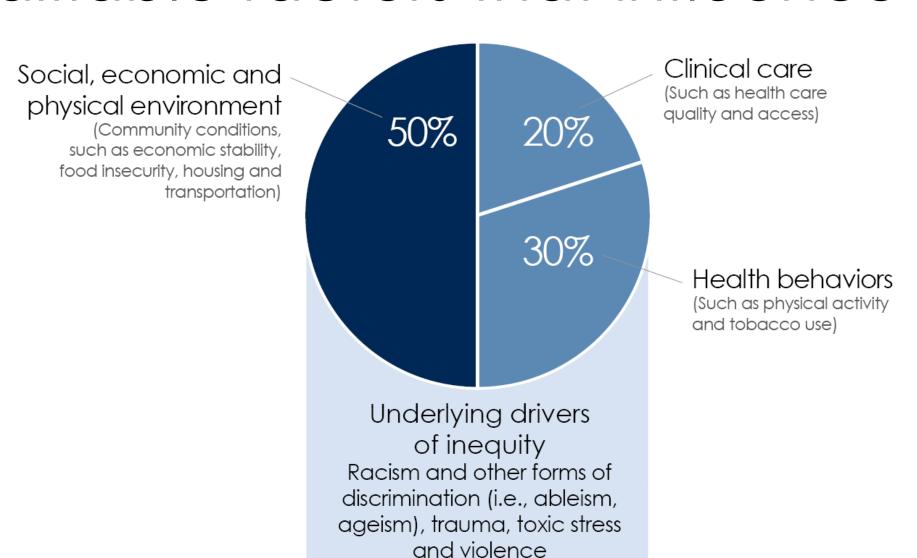
Connections between Criminal Justice and Health:

Impacts on Children and Families



Jacob Santiago
Policy and Evaluation Specialist, HPIO

Modifiable factors that influence health



Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

Health

Health, including substance use and mental health, can impact criminal justice outcomes, such as:

- Arrest
- Pretrial detention
- Incarceration
- Community and collateral sanctions

Engagement with the criminal justice system impacts health, safety and well-being at all levels of society



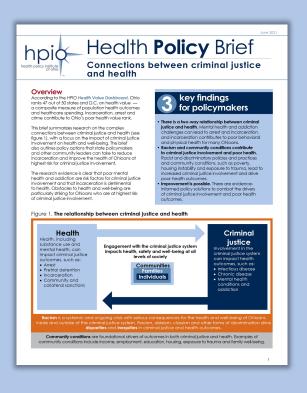
Criminal justice

Involvement in the criminal justice system can impact health outcomes, such as:

- Infectious disease
- Chronic disease
- Mental health conditions and addiction

Racism is a systemic and ongoing crisis with serious consequences for the health and well-being of Ohioans inside and outside of the criminal justice system. Racism, ableism, classism and other forms of discrimination drive **disparities** and **inequities** in criminal justice and health outcomes.

Community conditions are foundational drivers of outcomes in both criminal justice and health. Examples of community conditions include income, employment, education, housing, exposure to trauma and family well-being.



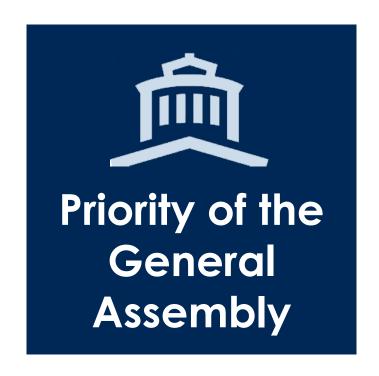






Statewide priority: Children and families







Generational cycle of justice involvement

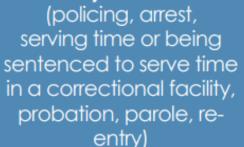
Generational effects



Exposure to parental justice involvement, and resulting negative outcomes and trauma, increases risk of future justice involvement for children throughout their lives, including juvenile justice involvement.



Involvement in the criminal justice system





Negative effects on the health and well-being of children and family members

- Increased risk of poverty
- Reduced family stability
- Increased exposure to ACEs
- Worsened educational outcomes
- Increased housing instability

- Worsened physical and mental health
- Increased substance use
- Increased risk of delayed child development
- Increased risk of children services involvement

Foundational drivers of criminal justice involvement

Poor community conditions (e.g., limited economic and educational opportunities, inadequate housing) and exposure to racism and discrimination increase the risk of criminal justice involvement, drive poor health outcomes and create disparities and inequities in both.

3 key findings for policymakers

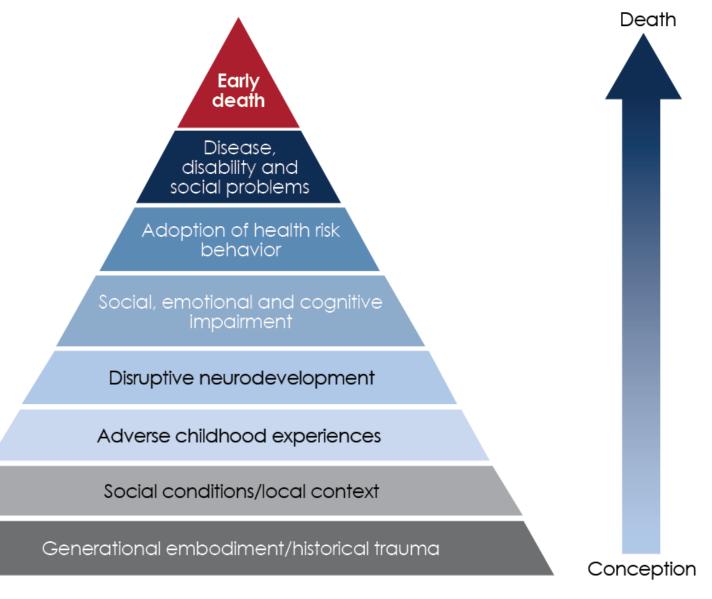
- Parental justice involvement negatively impacts the health, well-being and stability of children and families and increases the likelihood that children will become incarcerated later in life.
- Ohio has a strong foundation for supporting children and families, including several policies, programs and practices that connect parents with their children during re-entry from incarceration. Still, more can be done to prevent and mitigate the impacts of parental justice involvement.
- There are evidence-informed policy and program solutions to prevent and break generational cycles of justice involvement, support children and families who have an incarcerated parent, and improve community health and safety.

Familial justice involvement as an ACE



The ACE Pyramid

Mechanism by
which ACEs
influence health and
well-being
throughout the
lifespan



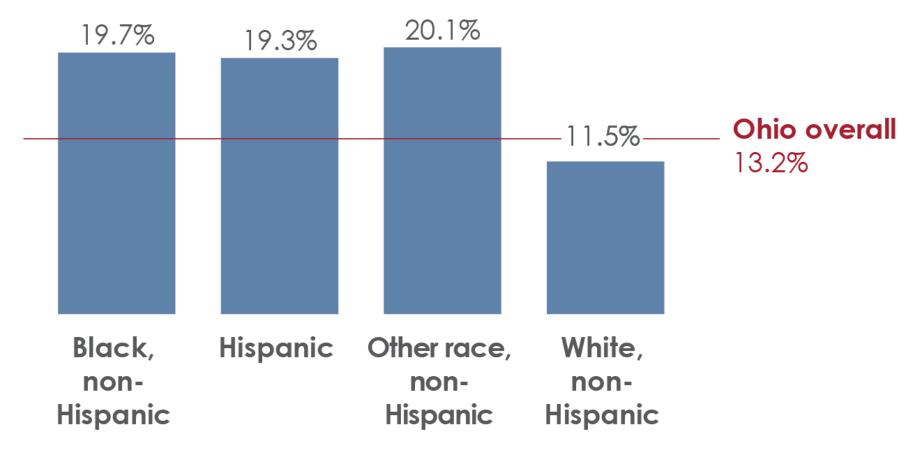
Source: Adapted from the CDC-Kaiser ACE Study." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed July 13, 2020.

ACEs with significant health impacts

Abuse	Household challenges	Neglect
Emotional abuse Physical abuse Sexual abuse	 Intimate partner violence Substance use in the household Mental illness in the household Parental separation or divorce Incarcerated member of the household 	Emotional neglect Physical neglect

Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio, "Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Health impact of ACEs in Ohio." Information from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Percent of adults who report having a parent or guardian serve time in jail after they were born, Ohio by race, 2021



Source: Data from the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey

Key finding #1 Parental justice involvement negatively impacts child health and well-being



Foundational drivers of justice involvement

Community conditions and safety





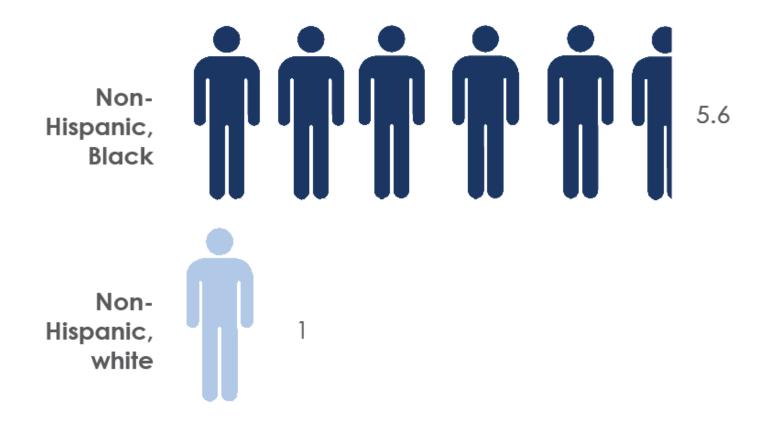








Ratio of people incarcerated in ODRC prisons, Per 100,000 population, by race, 2021



Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio policy brief, "Connections between Criminal Justice and Health: Impacts on children and families." Data from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction annual report and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates

\$6381

If racial disparities were eliminated, 40% fewer Ohioans would be incarcerated, with a savings of \$638 million per year in corrections spending.

Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio. "Unlocking Ohio's Economic Potential," July 2023.



Policing and community surveillance

18% of the 2.2 million investigated reports to child welfare agencies in 2015 originated through police surveillance

Source: Edwards, Frank. "Family Surveillance: Police and the Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect." RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences 5, no. 1 (2019): 50. doi: 10.7758/ rsf.2019.5.1.03



Prison and jail incarceration

Examples of upstream factors affected by parental incarceration

Child educational outcomes

Poverty and healthcare access

Family stability

Housing instability and homelessness

5 3 9 7

In 2022, 5,397 Ohio children were removed from the home due to parent/family issues, including parental incarceration.

Source: Foster Care and Adult Protective Services Dashboard, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Examples of child health outcomes affected by parental incarceration

Mental health

Physical and behavioral development

Physical health

Substance use

If household member incarceration (an ACE) was prevented, 12% fewer Ohioans would have limited healthcare access due to cost.

Source: HPIO, "Health Impacts of ACEs in Ohio," August 2020.

Youth residing in juvenile detention, correctional and/or residential facilities, Ohio vs. United States



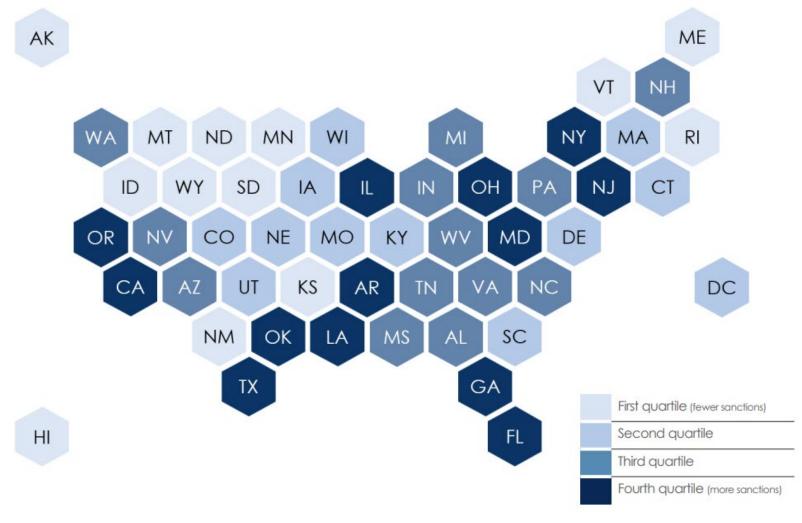
Source: Data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center.



Re-entry and collateral sanctions

Number of collateral sanctions

by state, 2021



Source: Data from the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction, Collateral Consequences Inventory.

Key finding #2 Ohio has a strong foundation for supporting children and families



Statewide priority: Children and families

What works example: Family health and well-being

Evidence-informed best practice

Trauma-informed schools.
Provide students with tiered trauma-informed programs for all students, and are beneficial for students with an incarcerated parent.

Ohio example

Student Wellness and Success Funds and Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid can be used by schools to mitigate the impacts of ACEs and trauma by support student mental health.

What works example: Alternative to incarceration and justice diversion

Evidence-informed best practice

Pre-arrest diversion programs. Connect individuals accused of low-level crimes with treatment in lieu of detention, aiming to divert people away from the criminal justice system.

Ohio example

Northeast Ohio Medical
University received a state
grant to develop a training
and technical assistance
program for local
communities to implement
pre-arrest diversion programs.

What works example: Re-entry supports and collateral sanctions

Evidence-informed best practice

Re-entry programs. Support individuals re-integrating into their community after incarceration.

Ohio example

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction issued **guidance on local re-entry coalitions**, which promote successful re-entry.

Other policy change examples

Fresh Start Act (133rd General Assembly)

Senate Bill 288 (134th General Assembly)

Second Chance Initiative

Key finding #3 There are evidenceinformed policy and program solutions

Foundational drivers of criminal justice involvement

Prioritize strategies that reduce disparities

Engage and listen to communities at risk

Prioritize strategies
that address
foundational
drivers

Example policy option: Family health and well-being



State and local policymakers and other stakeholders can expand and support local implementation of Ohio Handle with Care, which notifies schools when a child has experienced an ACE

Example policy option: Policing practice



Ohio Department of Public Safety can develop guidance for local law enforcement to implement policies and procedures for protecting children who are present at a parent's arrest

Example policy option:
Alternatives to
incarceration and
Criminal justice diversion



State and local policymakers, including courts, can implement recommendations on Intervention in Lieu of Conviction from the Supreme Court of Ohio's HB 1 Impact Study Report

Example policy option: Incarceration



The Ohio Children of Incarcerated Parents Initiative can **leverage** state and philanthropic funding for the evaluation and expansion of Creating **Lasting Family Connections** and the Second Chance Initiative

Example policy option: Re-entry and collateral sanctions



The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and local governments can foster the development of local reentry coalitions

QUESTIONS?



- CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ohio Department of Children and Youth

Parental Justice Involvement: Impact on Children

Health Policy Institute of Ohio February 12, 2024







Bureau of Justice Statistics' Survey of prison inmates

- About half of people in state prisons are parents to children under 18
 - about 1 in 5 (19%) of those children is age 4 or younger
- The number of people in state prison almost exactly mirrors the number of impacted minor children
- Women in state prisons are more likely than men to be a parent of a minor child (58% of women, compared to 46% of men)
- Women were also more likely to have been living with their children prior to their imprisonment: About 52% of women with minor children report living with their child(ren) at the time of their arrest, compared to 40% of men
- Women were more likely to lead a single-parent household, as 39% of incarcerated mothers of minors lived with children but no spouse, compared to 21% of fathers

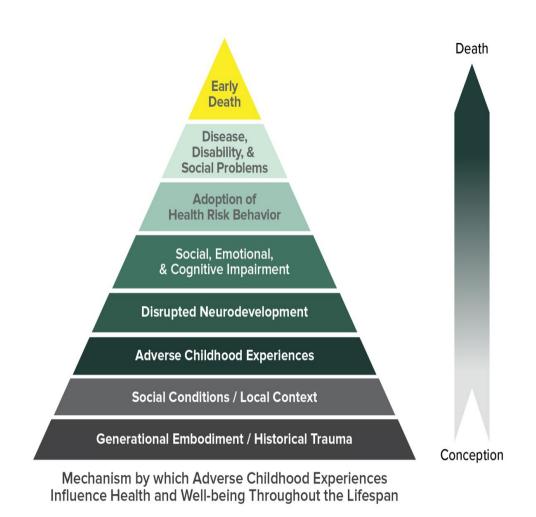


Like the state prison population overall, incarcerated parents themselves grew up in struggling households:

- 17% spent time in foster care
- 43% came from families that received public assistance (i.e., welfare) before they turned 18
- 19% lived in public housing before they turned 18
- 11% were homeless at some point before age 18
- 32% had (or currently have) an incarcerated parent of their own.



ACE Study



The **Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACE** Study) is a research study conducted by Kaiser Permanente health maintenance organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Participants were recruited to the study between 1995 and 1997 and have been in longterm follow up for health outcomes.



ABUSE

NEGLECT

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Physical



Physical



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Emotional



Emotional



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



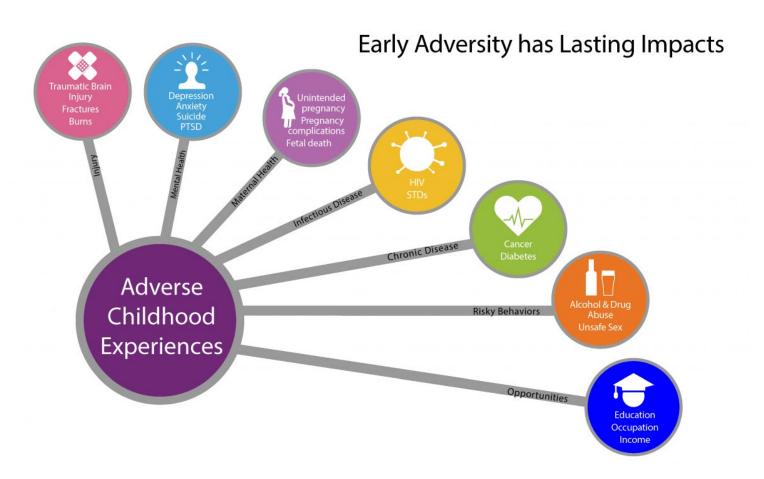
Sexual



Divorce /separation

As the ACE score increases, risk for these health problems increases in a strong and graded fashion:

ACEs have been robustly studied and demonstrated that childhood adversities are associated with an increased risk for poor social, emotional, and physical health; morbidity; and early mortality.





Impacts

Having a parent in prison can have an impact on a child's mental health, social behavior, and educational prospects	The emotional trauma that may occur and the practical difficulties of a disrupted family life can be compounded by the social stigma that children may face as a result of having a parent in prison or jail
Children who have an incarcerated parent may experience financial hardship that results from the loss of that parent's income	Some incarcerated parents face termination of parental rights because their children have been in the foster <i>care</i> system beyond the time allowed by law or have questions about child support
For children of parents on probation or parole had experiencing problems, they have lower-than-expected likelihood of receiving services	Sometimes parental incarceration brings welcome respite for some children from a delinquent or abusive parent while some mothers/fathers benefit from their partner's incarceration
Increased hardship and deprivation including food insecurity and relocation or displacement from home	



The impact of parental criminal justice involvement on children of color

- Children of criminal justice—involved parents, particularly children of color, are exposed to numerous risks that are magnified by multilevel, complex, and interrelated factors that present challenges to their overall well-being.
- The population has remained relatively hidden and largely underserved for decades. It is imperative that criminal justice and collaborating systems address these challenges to allay the risks associated with parental criminal justice involvement, with particular emphasis on the policy and practice contributors to the disproportionate and disparate representation of people of color in corrections.



- These children require support from local, state, and federal systems to serve their needs.
- They may have experienced trauma related to their parent's arrest or experiences leading up to it.
- Children of incarcerated parents may also be more likely to have faced other adverse childhood experiences, including witnessing violence in their communities or directly in their household or exposure to drug and alcohol use/misuse.
- Children of incarcerated parents may be more likely to have experienced violence within their communities and homes; prolonged exposure can affect brain development which can have lasting effects into adulthood



Parenting past trauma

- For adults who are living with the painful effects of their own childhood experience or environment, becoming a parent or caregiver may introduce a variety of emotional and functional challenges.
- It may cause an individual to challenge or question their sense of self and may cause them to re-examine traumatic childhood experiences that they may have thought were laid to rest.
- We know that childhood trauma can have long-term impacts.
- It rearranges the brain, lowers self-esteem, complicates relationships, and resides in the body, sometimes prompting medical and physical concerns.
- Despite efforts to heal from trauma's imprints, the intense nature of parenting or caregiving may highlight remaining scars.



There is a solution: A trauma-informed approach

Includes

- Realizing the types of traumatic experiences that these young people may have faced,
- Helping them recognize sign and symptoms and the presence of potential triggers,
- Acknowledging the role that trauma has played in their lives.
- Respond by implementing interventions specific to the trauma experienced by children of incarcerated parents
- Examine ways to reduce further trauma from their experiences with intervention services and systems.



DCY Goals

Reduce Infant Mortality.

• Help more children thrive and reach their first birthday.

Reduce Learning Gaps.

• Ensure continuation of care across the spectrum of ages, stages, and services to help children and youth achieve.

Reduce Involvement with Child Welfare.

 Help provide families with resources and support needed proactively, before a crisis within the family occurs.



DCY Pillars

• These essential components support our mission and goals. They are the strength behind the department.

Continuum of Care

Providing the level of support children and youth need, where and when they need it.

Workforce

• Attracting and maintaining quality, competent professionals working on behalf of children to match needs across the state.

Service Coordination

Working together to support the well-being and future success of all children.



Programs and services

• The programs under the direction of the Department of Children and Youth are proposed to include, but not be limited to:

Prevention/Early Identification

• Early Intervention, Home Visiting, Ohio Children's Trust Fund, Infant Vitality

Early Education

 Publicly Funded Child Care, Early Childhood Education, Preschool Special Education, Licensing, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio

Support

• Children Services (i.e., foster, adoptive, kinship), Ohio Fatherhood Commission, Ohio Family Children First Council, Healthy Beginnings at Home, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, Strong Families, Safe Communities



Resources

- Health Policy Institute of Ohio
 - Ohio ACEs Impact Project
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network
 - NCTSN Resources | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- National Institute of Justice
 - Hidden Consequences: The Impact of Incarceration on Dependent Children
- Youth.gov
 - Search | Youth.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences Preventions Resource for Action



THANK YOU!

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