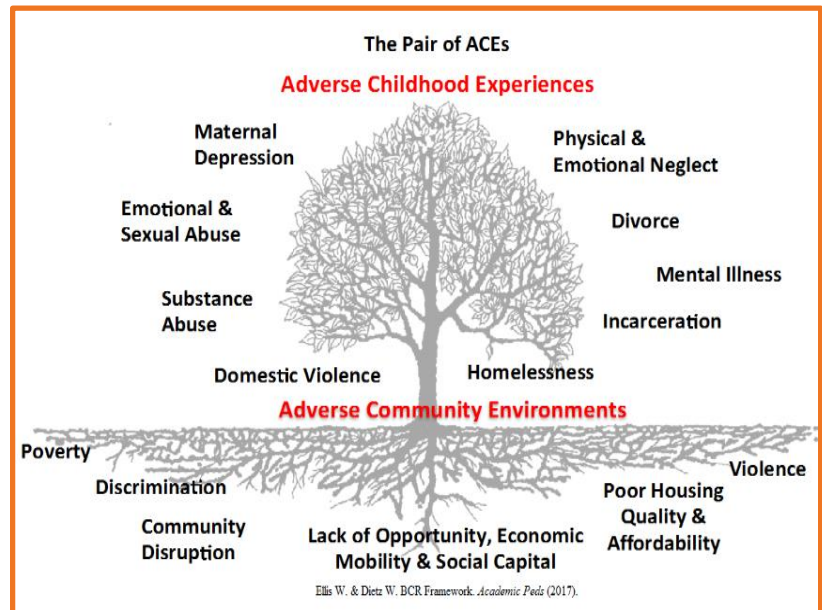


KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION BRIEF

The Pair of ACEs: Building Community Resilience

People with adverse childhood experiences often live in *communities* that are affected by widespread adversity. Significant health and well-being inequalities exist among the children and adults living in these adverse community environments. As illustrated in the “Pair of ACEs Tree,” [pictured right] adverse community environments can foster adverse childhood experiences. Current research addresses the interconnectedness of **Adverse Community Environments** (ACEs) and the **Adverse Childhood Experiences** (ACEs) that form the Pair of Aces (Ellis & Dietz, 2017).



The Pair of ACEs can inform communities on how to frame and address the adversity in their locality or population of interest. For example, children who live in poverty are three times more likely to be abused and seven times more likely to be neglected than children in higher socioeconomic status families (Sedlak et al., 2010). Therefore, when efforts are made to address adverse community environments like poverty, families may be less likely to experience chronic stress and more likely to meet their child’s basic needs; thus resulting in lowered adverse childhood experiences and greater **community resilience**.

“Fostering collaboration and developing strategic partnerships, multiple sectors can come together in an effort to build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities” (Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention & Wellness, 2017). Family strengthening professionals can partner with stakeholders and communities to utilize their existing strengths to build resilience and mitigate adverse childhood experiences and environments.

Take Action:

Start building **community resilience** today!

1. Challenge your organization to explore systemic issues when discussing adversity. Have your agency review the different tools and frameworks that are available for building community resilience and discuss their practicality for the communities you serve. Create steps to take toward implementation. There are a few tools and frameworks listed in the references and resources section to begin your review.
2. Engage in opportunities to join a Strategies 2.0 Learning Community, participate in a community collaborative, or join a network/coalition in your area. Engaging stakeholders and forming strategic partnerships is a critical part of building community resilience. Explore Strategies 2.0 Learning Communities at: StrategiesCA.org/learning-communities

3. Sign up for Strategies 2.0 training “The Pair of ACEs: Building Community Resilience”, where you will learn about the crucial foundations for building resilient communities and identify techniques for addressing the root causes of ACEs to help alleviate their effect in your community. Enroll today: StrategiesCA.org/trainings



Resources:

ACEs Connection: AcesConnection.com

ACEs Too High: AcesTooHigh.com

Pinderhughes, H., Davis, R., & Williams, M. (2015). *Adverse community experiences and resilience: A framework for addressing and preventing community trauma*. Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.

Porter L., Martin, K., & Anda, R. (2016, June). *Self-healing communities: A transformational process for improving intergenerational health*. Princeton, NJ: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Weinstein, E., Wolin, J., & Rose, S. (2014, May). *Trauma informed community building: A model for strengthening communities in trauma affected neighborhoods*. Retrieved from: <http://BridgeHousing.com/PDFs/TICB.Paper5.14.pdf>

References:

Ellis, W.R. & Dietz, W.H. (2017). A new framework for addressing adverse childhood and community experiences: The building community resilience model. *Academic Pediatrics*, 17(7s), S86-S93.

Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention & Wellness & Milken Institute School of Public Health. (2017, March). *Building community resilience: Coalition building and communications guide*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Sedlak et al., (2010). *Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4): Report to Congress*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

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Strategies 2.0

Strategies 2.0 is a collaborative partnership whose mission is to support the professionalization of California's family strengthening field. The Family Strengthening Field is expansive and includes, but is not limited to: OCAP network, family resource centers and family serving organizations, child abuse prevention councils, county agencies, mental/public health, probation, and law enforcement; First 5 Commissions, housing agencies, and education.

Strategies 2.0 offers training, consultation, peer learning, and other professional development opportunities both in-person and online at no cost to you. Services are designed to help organizations and individuals develop the skills, organizational structure, and collaborative relationships necessary to mitigate the risk factors of child abuse and neglect.

