

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Operational Definitions and Scoring Childhood Experiences Survey

Individual Items

- Q1: Family Financial Problems: ACE = Often or Very Often
- Q2: Food Insecurity: ACE = Sometimes, Often, or Very Often
- Q3: Homelessness: ACE = Rarely, Sometimes, Often or Very Often
- Q4: Psychological Abuse: ACE = Often or Very Often¹
- Q5: Peer Victimization: ACE = Often or Very Often
- Q6: Physical Neglect: ACE = Never, Rarely or Sometimes
- Q7: Emotional Neglect: ACE = Never, Rarely, or Sometimes
- Q8: Physical Abuse: ACE = Once or More than once¹
- Q9: Domestic Violence: ACE = Once or More than once¹
- Q10: Sexual Abuse: ACE = Once or More than once¹
- Q11: Household Mental Illness: ACE = Yes¹
- Q12: Household Alcohol Abuse: ACE = Yes
- Q13: Household Drug Abuse: ACE = Yes
- Q14: Household Crime: ACE = Yes¹
- Q15: Parental Divorce: ACE = Yes¹
- Q16: Parental Absence: ACE = Yes
- Q17: Death of parent or sibling: ACE = Yes
- Q18: Violent Crime Victimization: ACE = Yes

Aggregate Items

1. Chronic or Severe Poverty: If ACE endorsed for Q1, Q2, or Q3
2. Any Childhood Neglect: If ACE endorsed for Q6 or Q7
3. Parent Alcohol or Substance Abuse: If ACE endorsed for Q12 or Q13¹
4. Divorce or Parental Absence: If ACE endorsed for Q15 or Q16

¹ All 8 items included in Wave I of the Adverse Childhood Experiences study (see Felitti et al., 1998). Wave II of the ACE study added questions about physical and emotional neglect (See Dube et al., 2003).