

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their Relationship to Crime and Victimization

Training & Technical Assistance Outline



Abstract

In 2016, juveniles committed nearly 10 percent of violent crimes reported to law enforcement agencies, with two-thirds perpetrated by minors ranging between the ages of 15 and 18. Although the overall trend in crime has decreased significantly since 1997, youths continue to participate in and fall victim to violent crime at alarming rates. These experiences are often traumatizing and have adverse effects that children and adolescents carry with them throughout adulthood. Further, when people experience violence repeatedly, they sometimes believe that violence is normal and engage in crime to survive or respond to various issues in their lives. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have been shown to have extreme negative effects on physical and mental health in children, lasting well into adulthood.

Communities and various actors in the criminal justice system have proposed that law enforcement can play a critical role in addressing crime by considering how ACEs may increase the likelihood that a person will be victimized or engage in violent crime. This training will educate and empower law enforcement officers with the knowledge and practical tools needed to recognize and respond to children in at-risk environments and provide leadership, guidance, and trauma-informed support to mitigate the detrimental effects of ACEs.





Learning Objectives

- Understand what ACEs are and how they affect adolescents and adults
- Identify the ways in which ACEs are correlated to violent crime and victimization
- Identify best practices for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to respond to and combat against the effects of ACEs

Methodology

The principles in which this training is centered upon were developed by assessing various training tools and resources focused on ACEs. This training will use research, discussion questions, and videos to present the material in an engaging format, and conclude with a case study designed to summarize and critically think about the topics covered. This training is designed to be presented as a whole or in portions on a case-by-case basis, depending on what is most relevant to the site seeking technical assistance. Course modules can be presented in person or in a digital format via webinar or other available methods.

Agenda

- What are ACEs?
 - How prevalent are ACEs in the United States, and which demographics are most affected?
 - What are the lasting impacts of ACEs?
 - How do ACEs affect crime and victimization?
 - What can be done to limit the effect of ACEs on crime?
 - Community and law enforcement responses to ACEs
 - Case Study: Successful State Initiatives
 - Quiz
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