

BACKGROUND

- ACEs are traumatic events that occur between birth and 18 years of age
- A score of ≥ 4 indicates predisposition for high-risk behaviors, comorbid conditions, and mental health problems
- Priority issues within the NC county where the project took place were substance abuse, heart disease, and suicide


PROJECT AIM

- Initiate an 8-week program of screening and referral for ACEs
- Develop a plan for providing appropriate interventions to patients with positive screens
- Highlight the potential impact of ACEs screening and resiliency programs

PROJECT DESIGN / STRATEGY

- Pregnant or postpartum patients were given ACEs questionnaire to complete prior to appointment
- If score was ≥ 4 , patient was given educational materials and contact information for counseling services to help them with past trauma

CHANGES MADE (PDSA CYCLE)

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- P** – Develop plan for screening and referral for ACEs
 - D** – Screen patients before appointments and offer referrals as needed
 - S** – Collect screening tools and analyze findings weekly
 - A** – Identify ways to improve screening process



RESULTS / OUTCOMES

- Out of 311 who met criteria, 100% were screened for ACEs
- 41 positive screens (13%)
- All patients with positive screens were offered referral information
- 13 patients refused referral information (32%)
- Of 270 patients with negative screens, 31 patients requested or accepted referral information

LESSONS LEARNED

- Need to screen for resiliency factors in addition to ACEs
- Potential significance of assessing ACEs impact on children by screening mothers in pediatric clinics
- Increase awareness of ACEs study, particularly those in the health science community

NEXT STEPS

- Site to continue screening for ACEs in primary care clinic
- Present data to health department and other community stakeholders
- Incorporate ACEs in health science curriculums for better awareness

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thank you to Dr. King for your ongoing support and guidance throughout this process
- Thank you to Ms. Layton for introducing me to ACEs and instilling in me a passion for public health
- Thank you to my project site for your steadfast dedication