

As an ACEs Screen

This paper provides evidence that the Family Map is a useful tool to screen for Adverse Childhood Experiences.



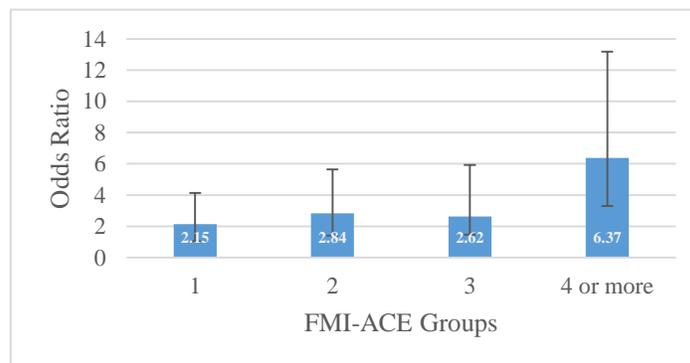
McKelvey, L., Whiteside-Mansell, L., Conners-Burrow, N. A., Swindle, T., Fitzgerald, S. (in press). Assessing Adverse Experiences from Infancy through Early Childhood in Home Visiting Programs. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

Findings from the Adverse Early Childhood Experiences (ACE) study articulated the deleterious effects of childhood trauma on long-term health and social outcomes. While it is the general aim of early intervention and home visiting programs to support families to minimize the adverse experiences of their children, assessing children's exposure to these risks can be complicated and uncomfortable.

Home visiting programs in a southern state implemented the Family Map Inventories (FMI) as a comprehensive family assessment. Family assessment and child screenings (N=1282), completed within one month of enrollment were used to demonstrate the assessment of children's exposure to ACEs (FMI-ACEs) and examine associated parental risk for child abuse and neglect and child social-emotional functioning. Children (mean age 33 months, SD = 20) were exposed at rates of 27% to one, 18% to two, 11% to three, and 12% to four or more FMI-ACEs.

FMI-ACEs were associated with increased risk for parenting beliefs and behaviors related to child abuse and neglect. FMI-ACEs also significantly predicted the likelihood of having at-risk social-emotional development. As seen in the table below, **children with 4 or more FMI-ACEs were over 6 times more likely than those with none to have at-risk scores in social-emotional development.** The findings add to our understanding of the negative impact of trauma on children and families. Assessing these risks as they occur in a family-friendly manner provides a platform for home visiting programs to work with families to increase family strengths and reduce adverse experiences.

Odds Ratios for Problematic Social-Emotional Development across Levels of Family Map Inventories - Adverse Childhood Experiences*



*Compared to children in families with no FMI-ACEs.