KEY FACTS SHEET
JULY 2022

Rural children with 4+ adverse childhood experiences often lack positive experiences

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Project Funded: 2020-2021
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can increase the likelihood of risky behaviors and poorer physical and mental health into adulthood. Our research has found that an estimated 10.7% of rural children experience four or more ACEs, placing them at risk.

OBJECTIVE
Our research examined the level of protective PCEs among rural children, sorted by whether they fell into the high-risk 4+ ACEs category.

RESULTS
- Nearly all rural children are reported to have a guiding mentor (94.6%), with no difference between children with a high level of ACEs exposure and other children.
- Unfortunately, however, children with high ACE exposure were less likely to be reported to have each of the six categories of positive experience shown below.

DATA SOURCES
2016-2018 National Survey of Children's Health obtained via the RTI Research Data Center

DEFINITIONS
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are defined as abuse, household dysfunction, poverty and neglect that children may experience between birth and 17 years of age. Positive childhood experiences foster healthy social emotional development, such as a nurturing, safe, and supportive environments, and can build resilience to mitigate the effects of ACEs.

RESEARCH APPROACH

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