



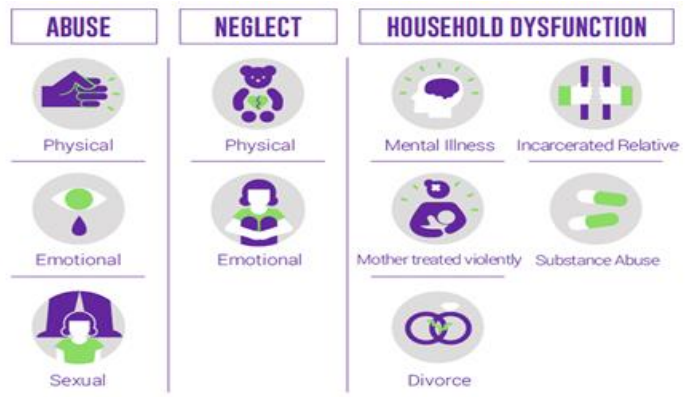
Background Information

Studies have demonstrated a strong link between exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and poor health outcomes in adulthood. While there is growing evidence of the consequences of ACEs and the need for intervention, there is little evidence on the prevalence of ACEs in rural and remote areas, including in Australia, and how interventions can be adapted for rural and remote contexts.

Royal Far West (RFW) is an Australian charity based in Manly, New South Wales that has been providing paediatric and allied health services for children in rural and remote NSW for 94 years. In 2016 RFW began a formal process of reorientating the organisation towards delivering care for families that better recognises the role of trauma in child development. This process has included establishing an active working group to understand the prevalence of ACEs in our client population and recommend ways to embed a trauma informed approach within the organisation.

This work is now being used to inform the redesign of RFW services and is also contributing to Royal Far West's advocacy for increased investment nationally in understanding and reducing the impact of ACEs in rural and remote Australia.

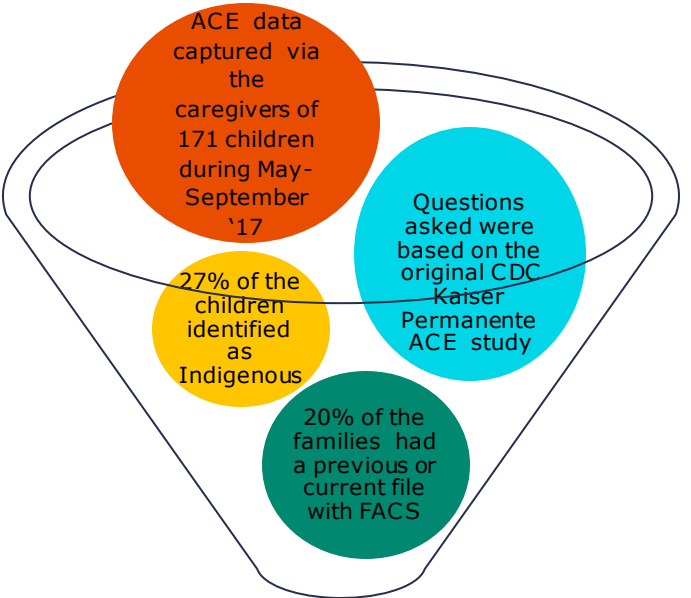
ACE Questionnaire



source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2013



Reorientation of Service

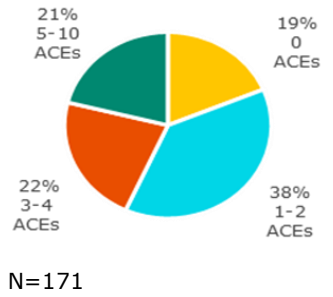


Results

Key Findings

- Significant co-occurrence of risk factors among children.
- Most common ACE reported was Mental illness in the household.
- This highlights the importance of incorporating support for caregivers in any treatment plan.
- 98% of caregivers reported difficulties accessing local support services.

Occurrence of ACEs among Participants



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