



# ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can include physical or emotional abuse, neglect, witnessing violence, and other potentially traumatic events. Knowing more about ACEs and their impact on a child's lifelong health and opportunities can inform tribal child welfare professionals in their considerations of the supports needed for future healthy development. These resources focus primarily on ACEs – and their counterpart, Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) - and American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

## **National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Information Hub**

Find background information, training, and resources on ACEs compiled specifically for American Indian and Alaska Native individuals, families, communities, professionals, and leaders. Visit the “Resource Basket” to find peer-reviewed articles, community examples, and accessible tools used to conduct ACEs research with Tribal Nations.

## **Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resilience in Native American Families and Communities**

Authors of this 2021 article discuss the impact of ACEs on American Indian and Alaska Native children and women and the role of resilience and historical trauma. The researchers also offer a framework for measuring historical oppression as a clinical tool and a family resilience inventory to assess protective factors across generations. “Participation in indigenous practices, family support, and social connectedness can contribute to the resilience needed to cope with the adverse impact of ACEs.”

## **Honoring Children: Treating Trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities: Culturally Enhanced Treatment for ACEs**

While offering a brief overview of ACEs, this 2018 article describes two efforts to adapt evidence-based practices in a culturally appropriate way: Honoring Children, Mending the Circle and Honoring Children, Respectful Ways. “Understanding the intersection of ACEs and historical trauma within the context of grief and trauma for AI/AN populations is critical.”

One author, Delores Subia BigFoot, also presented on a [2013 webinar](#) to discuss findings from the Kaiser Permanente Study and adverse childhood experiences with a focus on American Indian and Alaska Native children.



### American Indians and Alaska Natives Must Be Included in Research on ACEs

Authors of this 2018 Child Trends article advocate for an equity lens to be applied to ACEs research. A history of ACEs research, combined with current American Indian and Alaska Native population data, helps highlight the need for deliberate inclusion efforts.

### Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE)

Developed by the Tufts Medical Center, HOPE training focuses on positive childhood experiences (PCEs) that support healthy growth and development and mitigate the effect of ACEs. [Learn more about four building blocks of HOPE.](#)

In this featured blog post, [Positive Childhood Experiences in Ojibwe Culture](#), Zhawin Gonzales (Wasegabo) shares cultural teachings with HOPE.

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC has a webpage dedicated to sharing ACEs information and tools. Included here are details from the CDC-Kaiser Permanente Study, a large investigation of the long-term effects of ACEs.

### Child Welfare Information Gateway

A collection of ACEs resources and research compiled for child welfare professionals can be found on this website funded by the Children's Bureau.



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