

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)

June 2023- Revisions were made to the exposure coding and scoring methodology based on ACEs and PCEs Analytic Guidance from the CDC; therefore, some prevalence estimates have changed from the previous version. The guidance document can be found on the CDC ACEs resources page at this link [ACEs Resources](#)

In 2021, the Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) added 13 questions on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and three questions on Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs). Ten **Core** ACEs questions covered: physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; witnessing parental/intimate partner violence; household challenges; and physical neglect. Three **Expanded** ACEs questions covered discrimination and community violence. Respondents 18 years and older were excluded from this analysis.

Core ACEs

- **69.2%** Reported that a parent or other adult in their home **ever** swore at them, insulted them, or put them down.^{1,2}
- **53.9%** Reported that a parent or other adult in their home swore at them, insulted them, or put them down **one or more times**.^{3,4}
- **29.7%** Reported that a parent or other adult in their home **ever** hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt them in any way.^{1,2}
- **12.0%** Reported that a parent or other adult in their home hit, beat, kicked, or physically hurt them in any way **one or more times**.^{3,4}
- **20.8%** Reported their parents or other adults in their home **ever** slapped, hit, kicked, punched, or beat each other up.^{1,2}
- **8.2%** Reported that an adult in their household **rarely or never** tried hard to make sure their basic needs were met (such as looking after their safety and making sure they had clean clothes and enough to eat).^{1,2}
- **8.5%** Reported that an adult or person at least 5 years older than them made them do sexual things they did not want to do (counting such things as kissing, touching, or being made to have sexual intercourse).^{1,5}
- **35.8%** Ever lived with someone who was having a problem with alcohol or drug use.^{1,5}
- **40.4%** Ever lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal.^{1,5}
- **17.9%** Ever been separated from a parent or guardian because they went to jail, prison, or a detention center.^{1,5}

Expanded ACEs

- **19.8%** **Ever** saw or heard someone get physically attacked, beaten, stabbed, or shot in their neighborhood.⁵
- **32.8%** **Ever** felt that they were treated badly or unfairly because of their race or ethnicity.^{1,2}
- **24.1%** **Ever** felt that they were treated badly or unfairly because of their sexual orientation.^{1,2}

PCEs

PCEs questions included having an adult or friend in their life they could talk to about their feelings, and feeling close to people in their school.

- **43.0% Most of the time or always** felt that they are able to talk to an adult in their family or another caring adult about their feelings.^{1,2}
 - **48.9% Most of the time or always** felt that they are able to talk to a friend about their feelings.^{1,2}
 - **54.5% Agreed or strongly agreed** that they feel close to people at their school.⁶
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ACEs Composite Score

Total score possible is 11. Although there were 13 ACEs questions, due to the similarities between the lifetime and recent physical abuse questions, answering “ever” or “1 or more times” to either or both questions counted as one ACE; the same procedure was applied to lifetime and recent emotional abuse. Only respondents who answered five or more ACEs questions were included in the composite scoring.

- **14.2%** of students experienced 0 ACEs
- **17.2%** experienced 1 ACE
- **32.1%** experienced 2-3 ACEs
- **36.5%** experienced 4 or more ACEs

PCEs Composite Score

Total score possible is 3. Only respondents who answered all three PCEs questions were included in the composite scoring.

- **22.1%** reported 0 PCEs
 - **56.1%** reported 1-2 PCEs
 - **21.8%** reported All 3 PCEs
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1. During their lifetime.

2. Answer options were: never, rarely, sometimes, most of the time, or always. **Ever**=rarely, sometimes, most of the time, or always.

3. During the 12 months before the survey.

4. Answer options were: 0 times, 1 time, 2 or 3 times, 4 or 5 times, or 6 or more times.

5. Answer options were Yes or No.

6. Answer options were: strongly agree, agree, not sure, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Data from the 2021 YRBS were weighted and are representative of all 9th-12th grade public school students in Oklahoma. The YRBS is a descriptive, cross-sectional study, and reflect one point in time. Students interpret the questions and form their answers without any external assistance; students may have different interpretations of the YRBS questions. Students who attended school online, attend private institutions, were home-schooled, or did not attend any school were not represented in this study. For more information on the YRBS, please visit oklahoma.gov/health/yrbs or call 405.426.8092.