

BRFSS Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Module Updated (as of 2021)

Prologue: I'd like to ask you some questions about events that happened during your childhood. This information will allow us to better understand problems that may occur early in life, and may help others in the future. This is a sensitive topic and some people may feel uncomfortable with these questions. At the end of this section, I will give you a phone number for an organization that can provide information and referral for these issues. Please keep in mind that you can ask me to skip any question you do not want to answer. All questions refer to the time period before you were 18 years of age. Now, looking back before you were 18 years of age---

- 1) Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal?
- 2) Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?
- 3) Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medications?
- 4) Did you live with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in a prison, jail, or other correctional facility?
- 5) Were your parents separated or divorced?
- 6) How often did your parents or adults in your home ever slap, hit, kick, punch or beat each other up?
- 7) Not including spanking, (before age 18), how often did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way?
- 8) How often did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down?
- 9) How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, ever touch you sexually?
- 10) How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, try to make you touch them sexually?
- 11) How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, force you to have sex?
- 12) For how much of your childhood was there an adult in your household who made you feel safe and protected? Would you say never, a little of the time, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time?
- 13) For how much of your childhood was there an adult in your household who tried hard to make sure your basic needs were met? Would you say never, a little of the time, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time?

Response Options

Questions 1-4

1= Yes
2=No
7=DK/NS
9=Refused

Question 5

1=Yes
2=No
8=Parents not married
7=DK/NS
9=Refused

Questions 6-11

1=Never
2=Once
3=More than once
7=DK/NS
9=Refused

Questions 12-13

1=Never
2=A little of the time
3=Some of the time
4=Most of the time
5=All of the time
7=DK/NS
9=Refused