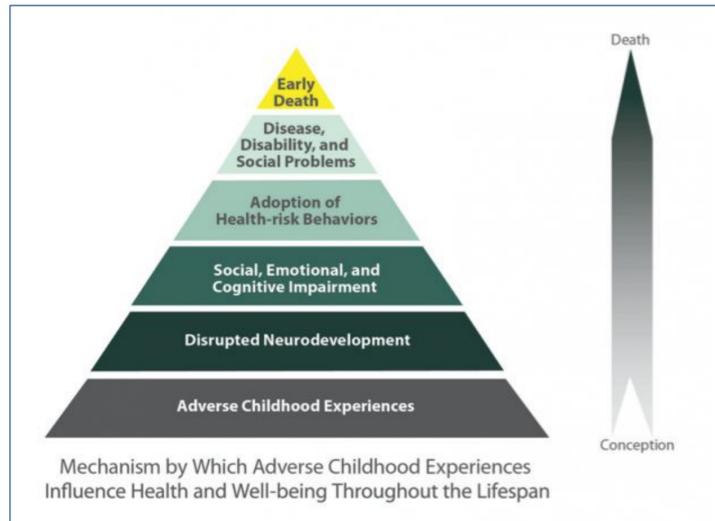


## Background

- Children with disabilities are more than four times as likely to experience violence than their non-disabled counterparts.
- People with disabilities experience sexual violence three times higher than people without disabilities.
- People with intellectual disabilities in particular experience sexual violence seven times higher than those without.



## The Call for a Lifecourse Approach

- It is important to note disability's position within the ACE pyramid: as a precursor to early death. This is especially pertinent for a person whose lifespan may already be compromised.
- The disability community's susceptibility to violence in childhood, disability's place in the mechanism by which ACEs move through the lifespan, and the elevated risk for negative health outcomes as the number of ACEs increases all point to a lifecourse framework.
- The combination of these findings emphasizes the need for tailored interventions with a trauma-informed approach.

## Objectives

- To create a comprehensive guide for healthcare professionals wishing to utilize a trauma-informed approach to care for people with disabilities.
- To encourage learning about the importance of trauma-informed care and offer tips for implementation that can be used by any individual or organization that provides services to the disability community.

## Implementing a Trauma-Informed Approach: A Toolkit

- What is Trauma?
  - "Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being".<sup>6</sup>
- The Trauma-Informed Approach
  - Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery.
  - Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others.
  - Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices.
  - Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.
  - Can be implemented in any type of service setting or organization by any person regardless of discipline or education level.
  - Adopts an upstream approach to health, seeking to prevent disease rather than merely treat it.

## Key Principles of Trauma-Informed Care



## Conclusion

### Professional Sectors of Focus

Education

Criminal Justice

Healthcare

### Guidance for Implementation

- Developing a trauma-informed approach requires change at multiple levels of an organization and purposeful alignment with the key principles of trauma-informed care.
- Understanding a trauma-informed approach may help practitioners and organizations meet their fiscal, social, and political goals and objectives.

### Final Thoughts

- Understanding trauma and the disability community's increased vulnerability to adverse experiences in youth and adulthood are important for effective prevention and treatment of trauma-exposure.
- This understanding addresses risk and protective factors, reduces overall violence, improves outcomes, and introduces opportunities for increased collaboration.

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