

Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences in Primary Care:  
A Quality Improvement Project

Charnita Bryant MS, CPNP  
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner,  
Johns Hopkins Harriet Lane Primary Care Clinic  
200 N. Wolfe Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21287  
443-287-9052

Brigit VanGraafeiland DNP, CRNP  
Assistant Professor, Acute and Chronic Care  
Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing  
525 N. Wolfe Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
410-502-3254

Key Words: adverse childhood experiences, primary care, trauma

Charnita Bryant and Brigit VanGraafeiland report no financial interests or potential conflicts of interest.

## Abstract

The evidence shows a strong correlation between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the increase risk for poor physical and mental health outcomes. For those children living in poverty, the prevalence is much higher. The purpose of this Quality Improvement (QI) project in this large, urban, academic-based pediatric primary care clinic was to increase pediatric provider's awareness on ACEs through education and to increase the utilization of an ACEs screening tool in this vulnerable population. A pre-post design was performed to evaluate the effectiveness of the educational model and utilization of the screening tool by providers and patients were completed.