

## Abstract

**Background and Purpose:** Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have been known to have an association with poor health outcomes and mental health disorders. Due to the growing concerns of mental health disorders in today's society, understanding ACEs and its impact on adults is imperative. While the impact of ACEs on adults is essential to understand and screen, Care Managers (CM) are not equipped and knowledgeable on how to do so. The purpose of this project was to determine whether the ACEs assessment tool is helpful for CMs to integrate into their standard of care assessments to improve the quality of mental health care for all patients referred to a case management department.

**Methods:** To evaluate the effect of educating CM's on the ACEs Assessment Tool and the implementation of the tool in their practice, a pre-posttest intervention along with a usability survey was conducted in a virtual environment with 40 CM's simulated for use as participants.

**Results:** A total of 40 Care Managers were simulated for use as participants in a pre- and post-test project design. Total post-test correct responses were highly significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) than pretest responses. Other findings also indicated that the CM's were receptive to integrating the implementation of ACEs screening in their department.

**Conclusions:** Findings suggest the education on ACEs and the implementation of the ACEs Assessment tool in case management may be highly valuable. The CMs found that the integration of this tool in practice is beneficial to assess and screen for underlying health issues.

**Implications:** This project indicates the need to implement this project in a live department to gain the realistic understanding of the benefits of the training.

*Key Words:* Adverse Childhood Experiences, ACEs, Case Management, Care Management, mental health