

# The Implementation of ACEs Assessment Tool in Case Management

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## Introduction and Background

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are negative child experiences which include sexual abuse, loss of family members, physical abuse, witnessing violence, imprisonment of a family member, and substance abuse (Leitch, 2017).
- Typically, the conversation concerning ACEs in health care is focused primarily on pediatric populations.
- While concentrating on the impact of ACEs within the pediatric population may be an important, much attention is needed to address the impact of ACEs that may not have previously been addressed in adults.
- Providers such as nurse case managers (CM) who are constantly engaging with adult patients who display risky adult health behaviors, experience mental health challenges and chronic disease, have little to no background on how ACEs could affect their patients.
- Research has shown that there is an association between ACEs, risky adult health behaviors and disease (Felitti et al., 2019; Bryan, 2019).

## Purpose and Aims

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.

1. Improve CMs' knowledge of assessing ACEs in their patients over a 12-week period by creating an educational module to assess for ACEs in adult patients
2. Evaluate CMs likelihood of utilizing the ACEs assessment questions to identify and intervene with at-risk individuals over a 12-week period measured with Usability Survey
3. Evaluate CMs' self-reported benefit of discussing ACEs with their patients over a 12-week period measured their comments at the end of the survey tool.

## Methods

**Project Design:** This quality improvement project integrates a pretest/posttest design and survey.

**Setting:** The project was originally designed for an urban population health center. However, due to unforeseen circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic this site became unavailable to the DNP student and a virtual site was created for learning purposes only.

**Sample:** The sample consists of CMs who are providing care coordination services to patients during the implementation period. Inclusion criteria will include CMs who provide care coordination to patients .

**Sample Size:** 40 simulated CM participants .

## Intervention

- Develop education module
- ACEs Assessment Tool Pretest
- Educate CM's on ACEs and ACEs Assessment Tool
- ACEs Assessment Tool Posttest
- ACEs Assessment Usability Tool
- Descriptive statistics and word cloud was performed at the end of the 12- week implementation period.

## Results

- Table 1: Pre and Post Test Knowledge Based Assessment Comparison

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P Value
Pretest	40	3.63	1.750	
Posttest	40	4.22	1.349	0.000

Figure 1: Word Cloud



## Conclusion

- The results demonstrate that the education the case manager received was significant and based on the results of the pre and posttest, the results showed added value to the education.
- The results from the usability survey demonstrated that the care managers agree that there would be added value of integrating the ACEs Assessment Tool to their practice.

## Dissemination

- The findings from this project will be utilized to assist with raising awareness on the ACEs Assessment Tool and ACEs.
- Findings will be presented to leadership and staff during a monthly clinical staff meeting..