



ST. MARY'S HOME FOR BOYS

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February 22, 2017
OYA Public Testimony
of Francis Maher before the
Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

Co-chairs, Senator Winters, Representative Stark and members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you the treatment program at St. Mary's Home for Boys and our collaboration with the Oregon Youth Authority.

Clients referred to our agency and those currently placed in our care have not developed the emotional stability or appropriate behavioral patterns necessary to function successfully in society. For most of the young men, an unstable or abusive home environment, coupled with unresolved trauma issues, negative educational experiences and community influences, have plagued their young lives.

In the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study by Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control, researchers identified strong, graded relationships between 4 or more exposures to childhood traumatic stressors and numerous negative health behaviors, health care utilization and overall health outcomes later in life. A recent sample of our clients found 55% had experienced domestic violence and 85% had an ACE's score of 4 or more. The mean St. Mary's Home for Boys ACE's score was 6.1 and the mode was 8.

- Witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality
- Children who witness domestic violence are 4 times more likely to be arrested and 8 times more likely to commit suicide

In December of 2015 the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs in conjunction with OYA, DHS and OHA concluded a 16-month comprehensive review of the Behavioral Rehabilitation System. This unprecedented multi-agency collaboration resulted in crucial systemic recommendations related to developing and resourcing a trauma informed, developmentally appropriate, culturally sensitive and gender-responsive service array.

The Oregon Youth Authority is an authentic and highly effective community-based treatment partner. Their initiatives related to the Youth Reformation System, Positive Human Development and Young Women's Transition Program are but three examples of evidenced-based investment opportunities. The Oregon Youth Authority is a First-Rate organization with a return on investment that is accretive at every level. Their leadership and resourcing priorities are wholly synergistic with treatment providers in addressing and ameliorating root causes of juvenile delinquency.

Sincerely,

Francis Maher

Executive Director

St. Mary's Home for Boys



ACEs in St. Mary's Home for Boys: Children Need Our Help

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

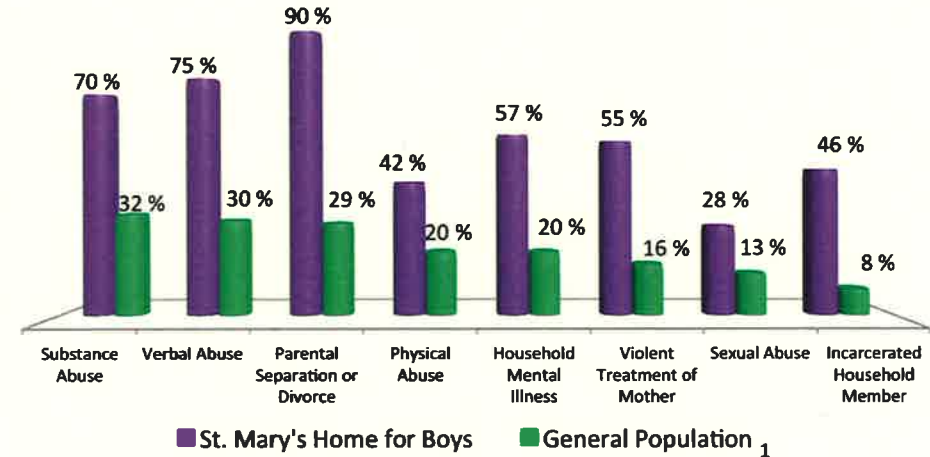
“The more types of ACEs events – physical abuse, an alcoholic father, an abused mother, etc. – the higher the risk of heart disease, depression, diabetes, obesity, being violent or experiencing violence. Have an ACE score of 4 or more? Your risk of heart disease increases 200%. Your risk of suicide increases 1200%.”

*Sept 2014; ACE Study, Child trauma- Chronic disease, neurobiology; Jane Ellen Stevens

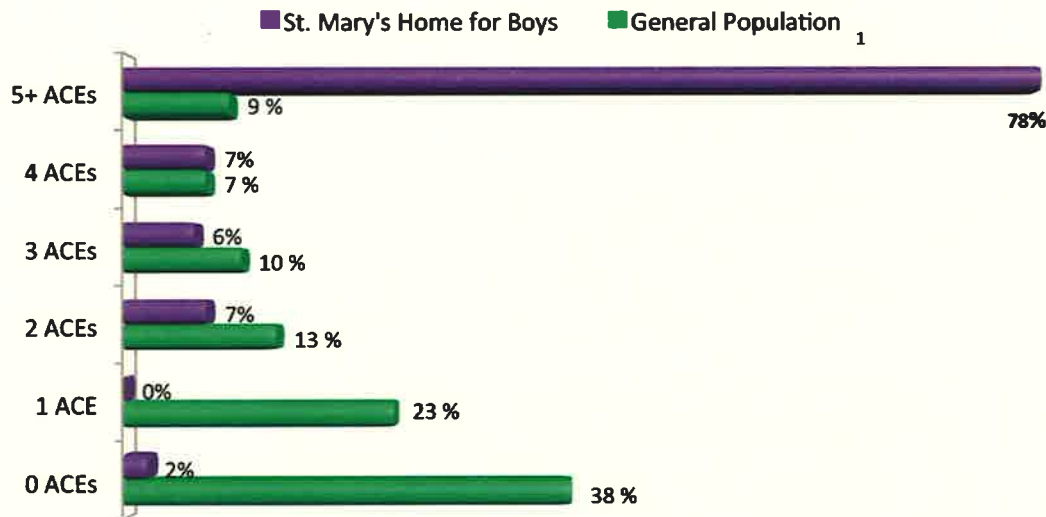
Achieve Outcomes: A Return on Investment and Savings

- There are strong graded relationships between exposure to childhood traumatic stressors and overall health status later in life
- 85 % of St. Mary's boys have an ACE score of 4 or more
- 20% of the population accounts for 80% of health care expenditures
- An investment in our boys today mitigates the probability they will become chronically-ill adults with complex and expensive needs

Adverse Experiences



ACE Score Comparison



What These Children Need

Support evidence-based programs and services that address or prevent trauma for all school aged children.

This commitment is necessary to achieve health care transformation and Oregon's education goals.

For more information, contact:

Francis Maher, Executive Director
St. Mary's Home for Boys
(503) 649-5651



¹2011 Oregon Health Authority study http://public.health.oregon.gov/Healthy_people/families/Datareprots/Documents/OregonACEsReport.pdf

Impact of ACEs

BEHAVIOR ISSUES¹

- Struggle with self-regulation, lack impulse control
- Lack ability to think through consequences before acting
- Unpredictable, oppositional, volatile and extreme
- React defensively and aggressively
- “Spacey”, Detached, Distant or out of touch with reality
- Engage in high-risk behaviors (self-harm, unsafe sexual practices, excessive risk-taking, illegal activities, alcohol and substance abuse, assault, running away, prostitution)

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES¹

- Problems thinking clearly, reasoning or problem-solving
- Hard to acquire new skills or take in new information
- Struggle with sustaining attention
- Show deficits in language development
- Learning difficulties that may require support in the academic environment
- Unable to plan ahead/anticipate the future

¹ US Dept. of Health & Human Services, US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), Center for MH Services, Duke University, UCLA—forming the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

² October 2013 ACES TOO HIGH Newsletter

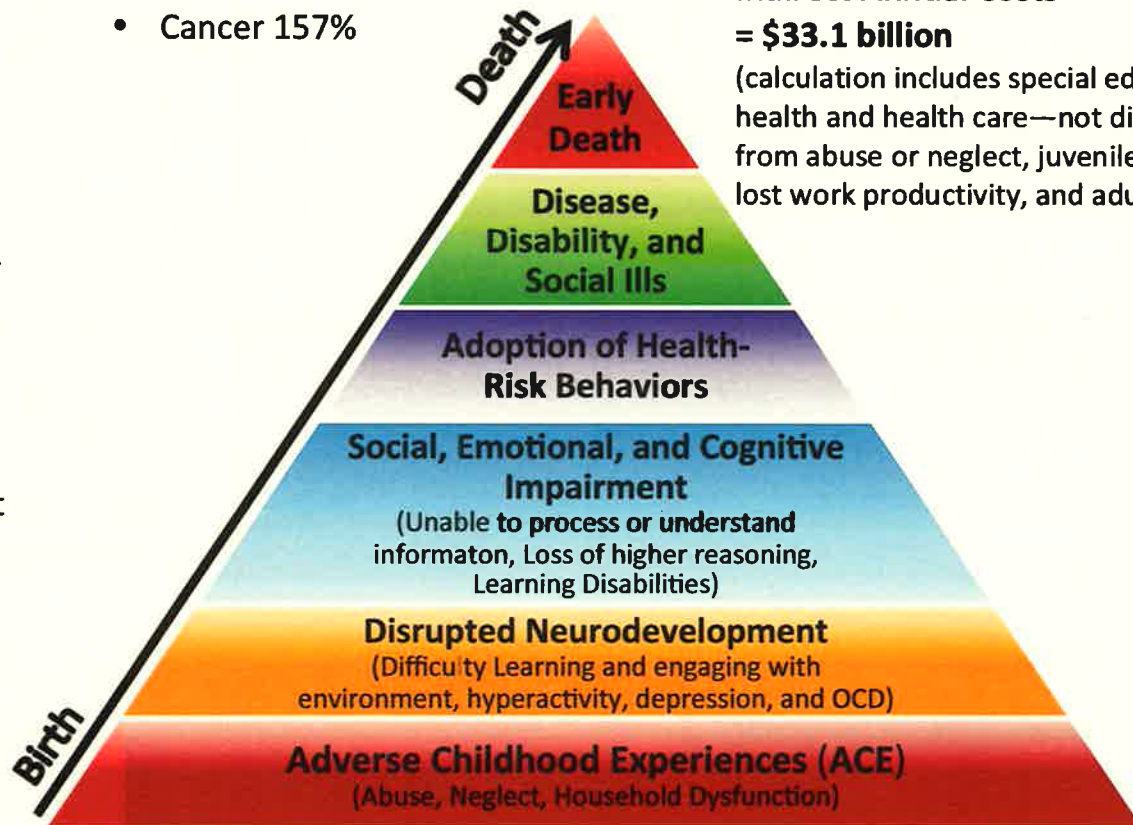
HEALTH ISSUES²

A score of 4⁺ Increase Odds of Chronic Disease and Early Death

- Suicide 1200%
- COPD (lung) 399%
- Kidney Disease 263%
- Arthritis 236%
- Heart Attack 232%
- Asthma 231%
- Stroke 218%
- Diabetes 201%
- Cancer 157%

ECONOMIC IMPACT¹

- National Annual Cost (conservative estimation) = **\$103.8 billion** (2007 values)
- Immediate Direct Cost = **\$70.7 billion** (calculation includes hospitalization, chronic health problems, mental health costs, cost incurred by the child welfare system, law enforcement, and cost of judicial system)
- Indirect Annual Costs = **\$33.1 billion** (calculation includes special education, mental health and health care—not directly resulting from abuse or neglect, juvenile delinquency, lost work productivity, and adult criminality)



Mechanism by which adverse childhood experiences influence health and well-being throughout a lifespan

ACEs in Oregon: Children Need Our Help

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

“The more types of ACES events -- physical abuse, an alcoholic father, an abused mother, etc — the higher the risk of heart disease, depression, diabetes, obesity, being violent or experiencing violence. Got an ACE score of 4 or more? Your risk of heart disease increases 200%. Your risk of suicide increases 1200%.”

**Sept 2014; ACE Study, Child trauma - Chronic disease, Neurobiology; Jane Ellen Stevens*

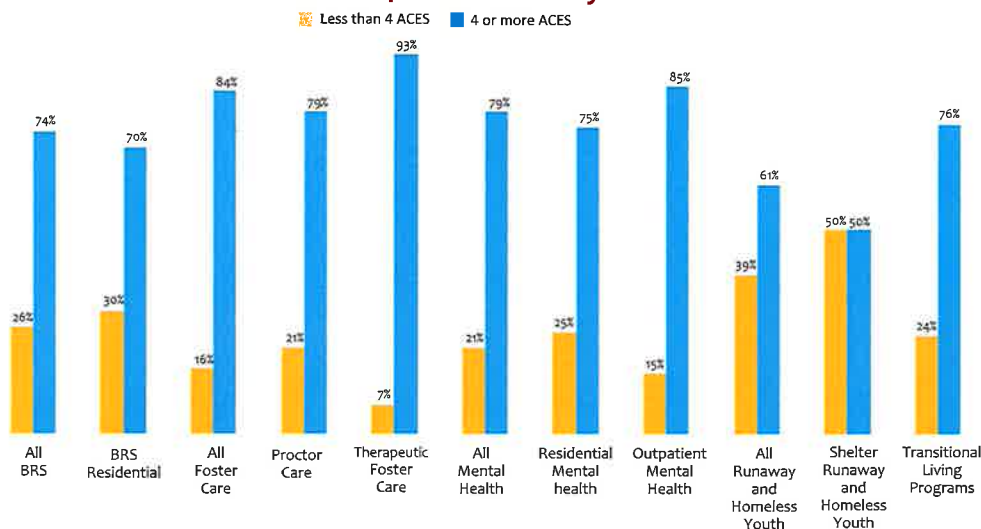
In 2014 the provider members of the Oregon Alliance of Children’s Programs researched the ACE scores of children in its programs. Nearly 800 surveys, for children and youth 3-25 years of age, were submitted by community shelters, services, and treatment programs, these are the results:

- Children of color represent 36% of the respondents
- Males 63% | Females 36%

Invest for Success

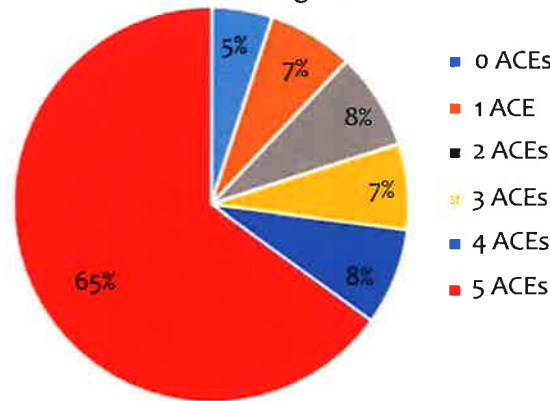
An investment in children today means they will not become the chronically ill adults with complex, expensive needs, tomorrow. Together we can help children achieve health, graduation, and the ability to become working adults who will raise their own healthy families.

ACEs of 4 or more by Service

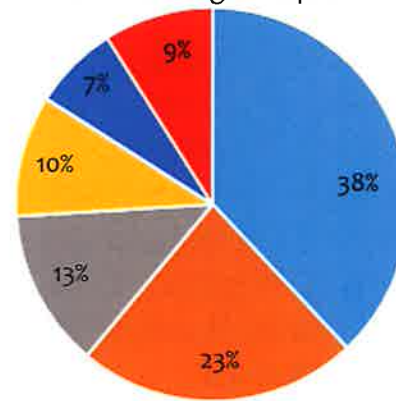


ACE Trauma level of children in community programs and services, compared to Oregon’s general public:

Children in Service Programs ²



General Oregon Population ¹



What These Children Need Now

Support for evidence-based programs and services that address or prevent trauma for all school aged children. This commitment is necessary to achieve health care transformation and to reach Oregon’s education goals.

For more information, contact:
Janet Arenz, OACP Executive Director

503-399-9076

Doug Riggs, NGrC President

503-597-3866



OREGON
Alliance
of Children's Programs

¹ 2011 Oregon Health Authority study <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/DataReports/Documents/OregonACEsReport.pdf>

² 2014 Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs Study

The Impact of ACEs

BEHAVIOR ISSUES¹

- Struggle with self-regulation, lack impulse control
- Lack ability to think through consequences before acting
- Unpredictable, oppositional, volatile and extreme
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- Engage in high-risk behaviors (self-harm, unsafe sexual practices, excessive risk-taking, illegal activities, alcohol and substance abuse, assault, running away, prostitution)

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES¹

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- Hard to acquire new skills or take in new information
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- Learning difficulties that may require support in the academic environment
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¹Center for Disease Control and Prevention, www.vetoviolenecdc.gov, 2016 resource center infographic.

²October 2013 ACES TOO HIGH Newsletter
Revised August, 2016

HEALTH ISSUES²

Scores of 4+ Increase Odds of Chronic Disease and Early Death

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- Diabetes 201%
- Cancer 157%

ECONOMIC IMPACT¹

- Estimated conservative annual cost to America—\$124 billion
- Immediate Direct Costs of \$91.8 billion (includes hospitalization, chronic health problems, mental health costs, costs incurred by the child welfare system, law enforcement, and costs of the judicial system)
- Indirect Costs of \$29.6 billion (Includes special education, mental health and health care - not directly resulting from abuse or neglect, juvenile delinquency, lost work productivity, and adult criminality)

