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CREATE CHANGE

Childhood adversity and demographics: Lessons from the National Health Survey 2014-15

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Felitti et al. 1998

<p>Child maltreatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical abuse Emotional abuse Sexual abuse Material neglect Emotional neglect 	<p>Household dysfunction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents separated/divorced Domestic violence Mental health condition Substance use problem Incarceration
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Individual and cumulative impacts across the lifetime to health and wellbeing

ACEs, Parenting and SA Wellbeing | February 2020

Demographics associated with adversity

Associated with **cumulative** adversity:

- International evidence
- Low income household¹
- Parents with low education²
- Parents with low employment²

Associated with **individual** adversities:

- Australian evidence
- Low socioeconomic status area^{3,4}
- Remote area³
- Indigenous^{4,5}

Demographics and adversity in Australia

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    graph TD
      Demographics --> CumulativeAdversity[Cumulative Adversity]
      CumulativeAdversity --> Outcomes
      Demographics --> Outcomes
  
```

Demographics and adversity in Australia

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    graph TD
      Demographics --> CumulativeAdversity[Cumulative Adversity]
      CumulativeAdversity --> Outcomes
      Demographics --> Outcomes
  
```


National Health Survey 2014-15

Sample

- 4161 adults, living with 7747 children age 0-17
- Couple or single adult family with children (with up to one other relative)

- Age 18 – 82
 - M = 38.81; 99% aged 59 or under
- 42% Male, 58% Female
- 87% Spoke English at home
- 78% Employed
- Major cities, Regional and Remote
- All Australian states and territories

Adversities

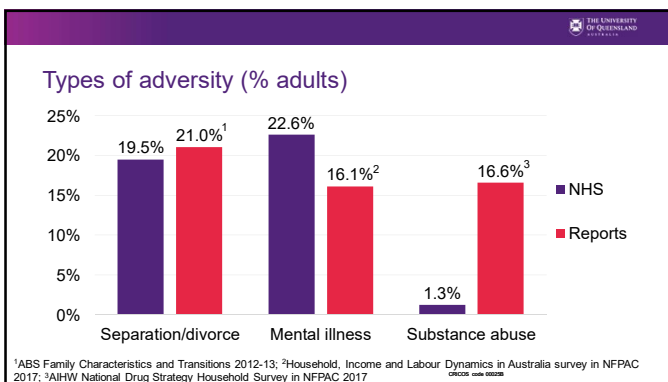
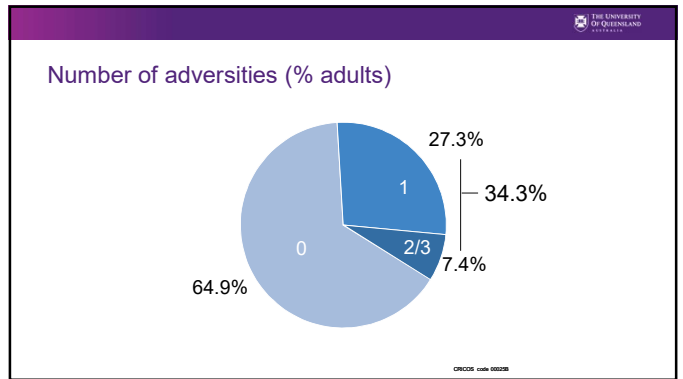


Individual, personal interview

Self reported:

- Separation or divorce
- Mental health condition
- Substance use problem

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Regression analysis

Is the level of adversity associated with certain demographics?

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Demographics entered into regression

- State / territory
- Language
- Employment
- Household income
- Area Socioeconomic Status (SEIFA decile) + interactions
- Education

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Demographics associated with higher adversity levels

- State / territory
- Language
- Unemployed/ Not in labour force
- Low household income
- Low Area SES
- Education

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Conclusions

Adversity in Australia

Very common, even with limited data
Associated with socio-demographics at multiple levels:

- Individual (employment)
- Household (income)
- Area (SES)



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Why is this important?

Identify families & communities likely to experience adversity & related outcomes

In practice, can **ask the right questions** to provide the right support

Inform policy, investment and practice to support children and families during and after adversity, and to prevent adversity

Help millions of children and families across Australia




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Next steps

Exploring links between adversity, demographics, parenting and child outcomes

Using Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and a new survey of emerging adults



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Thank you

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