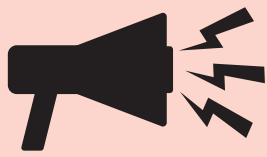


Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Luton

ACEs are stressful events occurring during childhood that directly affect a child (e.g. child maltreatment) or affect the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house where there is domestic violence)

How many adults in Luton have suffered each ACE?

CHILD MALTREATMENT



Verbal abuse
18%

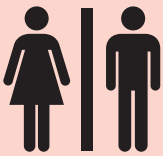


Physical abuse
11%



Sexual abuse
6%

CHILDHOOD HOUSEHOLD INCLUDED



Parental separation
15%



Domestic violence
15%



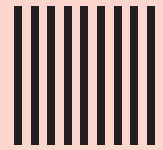
Mental illness
8%



Alcohol abuse
9%

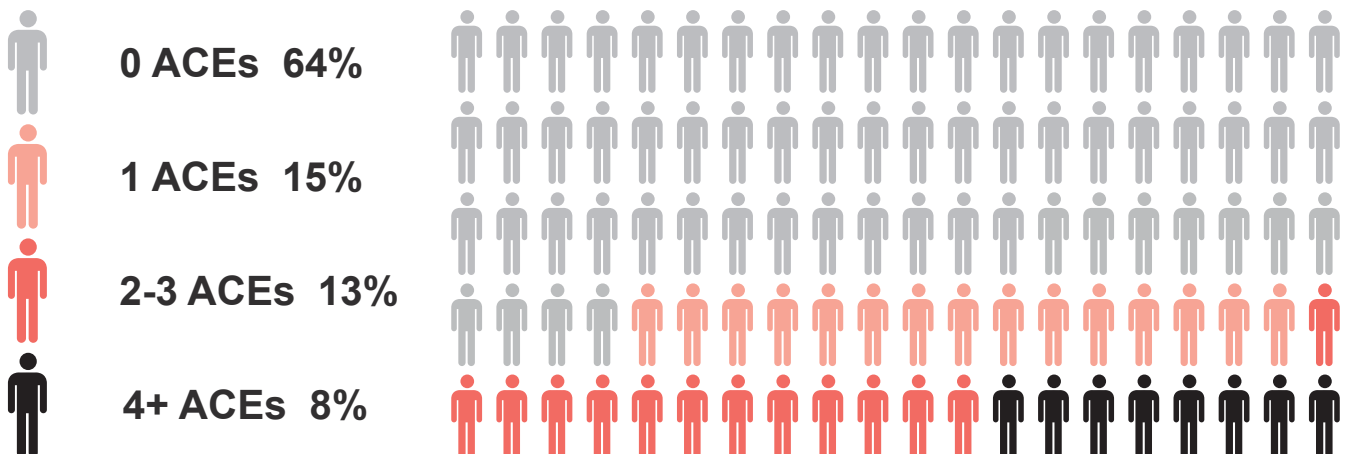


Drug use
3%



Incarceration
4%

For every 100 adults in Luton 36 have suffered at least one ACE during their childhood and 8 have suffered 4 or more



Figures based on population adjusted prevalence in adults aged 18-69 years in Luton. Some caution should be taken when interpreting the levels of ACEs identified in Luton. Previous studies have found associations between ACE prevalence and deprivation, thus a higher ACE prevalence for Luton may have been anticipated. The population in Luton is ethnically diverse, with almost a third of residents being of Asian ethnicity. This and other studies have found a much lower prevalence of ACEs reported among this population which may be due to cultural variations in reporting.

ACEs increase individuals' risks of developing health-harming behaviours

Compared with people with no ACEs, those with 4+ ACEs are*:

- 2 times more likely to currently binge drink or have a poor diet
- 3 times more likely to be a current smoker
- 4 times more likely to have had sex while under 16 years old or to have smoked cannabis
- 4 times more likely to have had or caused unintended teenage pregnancy
- 8 times more likely to have been a victim of violence in the last year or ever been incarcerated
- 10 times more likely to have been a perpetrator of violence in the last year

In Luton preventing ACEs in future generations could reduce levels of:



Early sex
(before age 16)
by 32%



Unintended teen pregnancy
by 39%



Smoking
(current)
by 20%



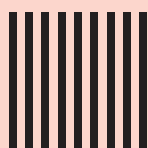
Binge drinking
(current)
by 19%



Cannabis use
(lifetime)
by 39%



Heroin/crack use
(lifetime)
by 50%



Incarceration
(lifetime)
by 45%



Violence perpetration
(past year)
by 56%



Violence victimisation
(past year)
by 51%



Poor diet
(current; <2 fruit & veg portions daily)
by 11%

*These figures relate to the full study sample.

The Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire and Luton ACE study interviewed nearly 5,500 residents (aged 18-69) in 2015. Around six in ten people asked to participate agreed to do so and we are grateful to all those who freely gave up their time. A report presenting the full methodology and results is available at www.cph.org.uk: Ford K, Butler N, Hughes K, Quigg Z, Bellis M. (2016) Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire and Luton. Liverpool: Centre for Public Health.

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