





## Policy Guidance: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

suggests parental drinking is predictive of adolescent alcohol use<sup>58</sup> and exposure to maternal substance use disorder is found to increase a child's risk for an alcohol use disorder at ages nineteen and twenty-six.<sup>59</sup> Similarly, another study found that young individuals exposed to drugs, either through prenatal drug exposure or witnessing parental addiction, during their developmental age were characterized by elevated rates of neuropsychological impairments.<sup>60</sup>

To address the negative health impact of household substance use on children throughout their life course, health care providers should be encouraged to screen for ACEs.<sup>61</sup>

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Intervening during or prior to the adolescent developmental period may ameliorate risky sexual behaviors and related health outcomes among children of incarcerated parents.<sup>94</sup> Support for policies that lower incarceration rates, criminal justice reform, and early intervention for children at risk



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<sup>66</sup> Ridout, K.K., Khan, M.J., and S.J. Ridout. Adverse Childhood Experiences Run Deep: Toxic Early Life Stress, Telomeres, and Mitochondrial DNA Copy Number, the Biological Markers of Cumulative Stress. *Bioassays*. Sept 2018; 40(9): 1800077. DOI: 10.1002/bies.201800077

<sup>67</sup> Goodman, S.J., et al. Children's biobehavioral reactivity to challenge predicts DNA methylation in adolescence and emerging adulthood. *Developmental Science*. March 2019; 22(2):e12739. DOI: 10.1111/desc.12739

<sup>68</sup> Lucenko, B.A., et al. Childhood adversity and behavioral health outcomes for youth: An investigation using state administrative data. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2015 Sep;47:48-58. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.07.006. Epub 2015 Jul 31.

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<sup>70</sup> Teicher, M.H. Childhood trauma and the enduring consequences of forcibly separating children from parents at the United States border. *BMC Medicine*. Aug 2018; 16(1): 146. doi: 10.1186/s12916-018-1147-y

<sup>71</sup> Ridout, K.K., Khan, M.J., and S.J. Ridout. Adverse Childhood Experiences Run Deep: Toxic Early Life Stress, Telomeres, and Mi

