

Some Sobering Statistics

- 60% of adults report experiencing abuse or other difficult family circumstances during childhood. (1)
- 26% of children in the United States will witness or experience a traumatic event before they turn four. (1)
- Four of every 10 children in American say they experienced a physical assault during the past year, with one in 10 receiving an assault-related injury. (2)
- 2% of all children experienced sexual assault or sexual abuse during the past year, with the rate at nearly 11% for girls aged 14 to 17. (2)
- Nearly 14% of children repeatedly experienced maltreatment by a caregiver, including nearly 4% who experienced physical abuse. (2)
- 1 in 4 children was the victim of robbery, vandalism or theft during the previous year. (2)
- More than 13% of children reported being physically bullied, while more than 1 in 3 said they had been emotionally bullied. (2)
- 1 in 5 children witnessed violence in their family or the neighborhood during the previous year. (2)
- In one year, 39% of children between the ages of 12 and 17 reported witnessing violence, 17% reported being a victim of physical assault and 8% reported being the victim of sexual assault. (3)
- More than 60% of youth age 17 and younger have been exposed to crime, violence and abuse either directly or indirectly. (4)
- More than 10% of youth age 17 and younger reported five or more exposures to violence. (4)
- About 10% of children suffered from child maltreatment, were injured in an assault, or witnessed a family member assault another family member. (4)
- About 25% of youth age 17 and younger were victims of robbery or witnessed a violent act. (4)
- Nearly half of children and adolescents were assaulted at least once in the past year. (4)
- Among 536 elementary and middle school children surveyed in an inner city community, 30% had witnessed a stabbing and 26% had witnessed a shooting. (5)
- Young children exposed to five or more significant adverse experiences in the first three years of childhood face a 76% likelihood of having one or more delays in their language, emotional or brain development. (6)
- As the number of traumatic events experienced during childhood increases, the risk for the following health problems in adulthood increases: depression; alcoholism; drug abuse; suicide attempts; heart and liver diseases; pregnancy problems; high stress; uncontrollable anger; and family, financial, and job problems. (6)



People who have experienced trauma are:

- 15 times more likely to attempt suicide
- 4 times more likely to become an alcoholic
- 4 times more likely to develop a sexually transmitted disease
- 4 times more likely to inject drugs
- 3 times more likely to use antidepressant medication
- 3 times more likely to be absent from work
- 3 times more likely to experience depression
- 3 times more likely to have serious job problems
- 2.5 times more likely to smoke
- 2 times more likely to develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- 2 times more likely to have a serious financial problem

References:

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- (2) Kilpatrick DG, Saunders BE. (1997). "Prevalence and Consequences of Child Victimization: Results from the National Survey of Adolescents." National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina. (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=181028>)
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- (5) "Building Resilience in Children and Youth Dealing with Trauma," Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (http://www.samhsa.gov/children/trauma_resilience.asp)
- (6) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (http://www.samhsa.gov/children/social_media_apr2011.asp)

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- Felitti and Anda (1998). "Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults - The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study." AJPM, 14:245-258. (<http://www.theannainstitute.org/ACE%20folder%20for%20website/4RCH.pdf>) Also go to these websites for more: <http://www.theannainstitute.org/ACE%20STUDY%20FINDINGS.html> and <https://acestoohigh.com>)