

Supplemental materials for

Alvarado G, McBain R, Chen P, et al. Clinician and staff perspectives on implementing adverse childhood experience (ACE) screening in Los Angeles County pediatric clinics. *Ann Fam Med*. 2023;21(5)416-423.

## Supplemental Appendix

The Pediatric ACEs and Related Life-events Screener (PEARLS) is a tool that includes a first part that screens for ACEs and a second part that screens for additional adversities. The tool was developed by the Bay Area Research Consortium on Toxic Stress and Health (BARC), a partnership between the Center for Youth Wellness, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland (<https://www.acesaware.org/learn-about-screening/screening-tools/>). There are three versions of the tool depending on the child's age. For children ages 0 to 11 the screener is to be completed by a parent or caregiver, and for adolescents ages 12 to 19 there are two versions, one that can be filled out by a parent or caregiver, and a self-report version for adolescents to complete themselves.

Further, there are two general approaches to completing the PEARLS tool. One approach is the de-identified screening, in which the respondent counts the number of "Yes" responses and provides the total number, without specifying which specific ACEs they or their child have experienced. The second approach is the identified screening, in which the respondent marks next to each ACE whether they or their child have experienced it.

The tool is available to patients and families in many languages, including English and Spanish.

Below we present the PEARLS version in English for children ages 0 to 11 that is filled out by a

parent or caregiver. The version for adolescents 12 to 19 is exactly the same, with the exception of two additional questions in Part 2:

8. Have you ever been detained, arrested or incarcerated?

9. Have you ever experienced verbal or physical abuse or threats from a romantic partner? (for example, a boyfriend or girlfriend)

## Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener (PEARLS)

CHILD - To be completed by: **Caregiver**

At any point in time since your child was born, has your child seen or been present when the following experiences happened? Please include past and present experiences.

*Please note, some questions have more than one part separated by "OR." If any part of the question is answered "Yes," then the answer to the entire question is "Yes."*

### PART 1:

Please check "Yes" where apply.



1. Has your child ever lived with a parent/caregiver who went to jail/prison? ☐
2. Do you think your child ever felt unsupported, unloved and/or unprotected? ☐
3. Has your child ever lived with a parent/caregiver who had mental health issues?  
(for example, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, PTSD, or an anxiety disorder) ☐
4. Has a parent/caregiver ever insulted, humiliated, or put down your child? ☐
5. Has the child's biological parent or any caregiver ever had, or currently has a problem with too much alcohol, street drugs or prescription medications use? ☐
6. Has your child ever lacked appropriate care by any caregiver?  
(for example, not being protected from unsafe situations, or not cared for when sick or injured even when the resources were available) ☐
7. Has your child ever seen or heard a parent/caregiver being screamed at, sworn at, insulted or humiliated by another adult? ☐  
Or has your child ever seen or heard a parent/caregiver being slapped, kicked, punched beaten up or hurt with a weapon? ☐
8. Has any adult in the household often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped or thrown something at your child? ☐  
Or has any adult in the household ever hit your child so hard that your child had marks or was injured? ☐  
Or has any adult in the household ever threatened your child or acted in a way that made your child afraid that they might be hurt? ☐
9. Has your child ever experienced sexual abuse?  
(for example, anyone touched your child or asked your child to touch that person in a way that was unwanted, or made your child feel uncomfortable, or anyone ever attempted or actually had oral, anal, or vaginal sex with your child) ☐
10. Have there ever been significant changes in the relationship status of the child's caregiver(s)?  
(for example, a parent/caregiver got a divorce or separated, or a romantic partner moved in or out) ☐

How many "Yes" did you answer in Part 1?:

Please continue to the other side for the rest of questionnaire →



This tool was created in partnership with UCSF School of Medicine.

Child (Parent/Caregiver Report) – Identified

**PART 2:**

Please check "Yes" where apply.



1. Has your child ever seen, heard, or been a victim of violence in your neighborhood, community or school?  
*(for example, targeted bullying, assault or other violent actions, war or terrorism)* ☐
2. Has your child experienced discrimination?  
*(for example, being hassled or made to feel inferior or excluded because of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, learning differences, or disabilities)* ☐
3. Has your child ever had problems with housing?  
*(for example, being homeless, not having a stable place to live, moved more than two times in a six-month period, faced eviction or foreclosure, or had to live with multiple families or family members)* ☐
4. Have you ever worried that your child did not have enough food to eat or that the food for your child would run out before you could buy more? ☐
5. Has your child ever been separated from their parent or caregiver due to foster care, or immigration? ☐
6. Has your child ever lived with a parent/caregiver who had a serious physical illness or disability? ☐
7. Has your child ever lived with a parent or caregiver who died? ☐

How many "Yes" did you answer in Part 2?:



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Child (Parent/Caregiver Report) – Identified