

Traumatic/Adverse Childhood Experiences

All of the traumatic experiences /adverse childhood event items are static indicators. In other words, these items indicate whether or not an individual experienced the particular trauma. **If s/he has ever had one of these experiences it would always be rated in this section, even if the experience were not currently causing problems or distress in the individual's life.** Thus these items are not expected to change except in the case that the individual has a new trauma experience or a historical trauma is identified that was not previously known.

These ratings are made based on LIFETIME exposure of trauma or adverse childhood experiences. The following categories and action levels are used:

0 = No evidence of any trauma of this type.

1= A single incident of trauma occurred, or suspicion exists of this trauma type.

2 = The individual has experienced multiple incidents or moderate degree of this trauma type.

3 = Repeated and severe incidents of trauma with medical/physical consequences.

Question to Consider for this Domain: Has the Individual experienced adverse life events that may impact his/her behavior? **Please rate within the Individual's lifetime.**

46. SEXUAL ABUSE* - This item rates the severity and frequency of sexual abuse.

Questions to Consider

- Has the caregiver or Individual disclosed sexual abuse?
- How often did the abuse occur?
- What was the Individual's relationship to the perpetrator?
- Did the abuse result in physical injury?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that Individual has experienced sexual abuse.
- 1** Individual has experienced one episode of sexual abuse or there is a suspicion that Individual has experienced sexual abuse but no confirming evidence.
- 2** Individual has experienced repeated sexual abuse.
- 3** Individual has experienced severe and repeated.

*A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on this item will trigger the **Sexual Abuse Sub-Module located in the Trauma Module.**

47. PHYSICAL ABUSE - This item rates the severity and frequency of experiences of physical abuse.

Questions to Consider

- Has the individual or caregiver disclosed a history of physical abuse?
- Is physical discipline used in the home? What forms?
- Has the individual ever received bruises, marks, or injury from physical discipline?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has experienced physical abuse.
- 1** Individual has experienced one episode of physical abuse or there is a suspicion that individual has experienced physical abuse but no confirming evidence.
- 2** Individual has experienced repeated physical abuse.
- 3** Individual has experienced severe and repeated physical abuse that causes sufficient physical harm to necessitate hospital treatment.

48. NEGLECT - This rating describes the degree of severity of neglect an individual has experienced. Neglect can refer to a lack of food, shelter or supervision (physical neglect) or lack of access to needed medical care (medical neglect), or failure to receive an academic instruction (educational neglect).

Questions to Consider	Ratings & Definitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Is the individual getting adequate supervision? → Are the individual's basic needs for food and shelter being met? → Is the individual allowed access to necessary medical care by caregivers? → Do the caregivers prevent the individual from accessing education? 	<p>0 There is no evidence that individual has experienced neglect.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Individual has experienced minor occasional neglect. Individual may have been left home alone for a short period of time with no adult supervision or there may be occasional failure to provide adequate supervision of individual</p> <hr/> <p>2 Individual has experienced a moderate level of neglect. Individual may have been left home alone overnight or there may be occasional failure to provide adequate food, shelter, or clothing with corrective action.</p> <hr/> <p>3 Individual has experienced a severe level of neglect including multiple and/or prolonged absences by adults, with minimal supervision, and failure to provide basic necessities of life on a regular basis.</p>

49. EMOTIONAL ABUSE - This item rates the severity and intensity of experiences of emotional abuse, including belittling, shaming, and humiliating an individual, calling names, making negative comparisons to others, or telling an individual that he or she is, "no good."

Questions to Consider	Ratings & Definitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → How does the caregiver talk to/ interact with the individual? → Is there name calling or shaming in the home? 	<p>0 There is no evidence that individual has experienced emotional abuse.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Individual has experienced mild emotional abuse.</p> <hr/> <p>2 Individual has experienced emotional abuse over an extended period of time (at least one year).</p> <hr/> <p>3 Individual has experienced severe and repeated emotional abuse over an extended period of time (at least one year).</p>

50. MEDICAL TRAUMA - This item rates the severity of medically related trauma, including inpatient hospitalizations, outpatient procedures, and significant injuries.

Questions to Consider	Ratings & Definitions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Has the individual broken any bones? → Has the individual had to go to the emergency room or stay overnight in the hospital? 	<p>0 There is no evidence that individual has experienced any medical trauma.</p> <hr/> <p>1 Individual has experienced mild medical trauma including minor surgery (e.g. stitches, bone setting).</p> <hr/> <p>2 Individual has experienced moderate medical trauma including major surgery or injuries requiring hospitalization.</p> <hr/> <p>3 Individual has experienced life threatening medical trauma.</p>

51. NATURAL DISASTER - This rating describes the severity of exposure to either natural or man-made disasters.

Questions to Consider

- Has the individual been present during a natural or man-made disaster? These could include but are not limited to earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, fires, car accidents, plane crashes and bombings?
- Does the individual watch television shows containing these themes or overhear adults talking about these kinds of disasters?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has been exposed to natural or man-made disasters.

- 1** Individual has been exposed to disasters second-hand (i.e. on television, hearing others discuss disasters). This would include second-hand exposure to natural disasters such as a fire or earthquake or manmade disaster, including car accident, plane crashes, or bombings.

- 2** Individual has been directly exposed to a disaster or witnessed the impact of a disaster on a family or friend. For instance, an individual may observe a caregiver who has been injured in a car accident or fire or watch his neighbor's house burn down).

- 3** Individual has been directly exposed to multiple and severe natural or manmade disasters and/or a disaster that caused significant harm or death to a loved one or there is an ongoing impact or life disruption due to the disaster (e.g. house burns down, caregiver or individual loses job).

52. WITNESS TO FAMILY VIOLENCE -This item rates the severity and frequency of violence within the individual's home or family.

Questions to Consider

- Is there frequent fighting in the individual's family?
- Does the fighting ever become physical?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has witnessed family violence.

- 1** Individual has witnessed one episode of family violence or suspicion of exposure to family violence.

- 2** Individual has witnessed repeated episodes of family violence but no significant injuries (i.e. requiring emergency medical attention) have been witnessed.

- 3** Individual has witnessed repeated and severe episodes of family violence. Significant injuries have occurred as a direct result of the violence.

53. WITNESS TO COMMUNITY VIOLENCE - This item rates the severity and frequency of incidents of violence the individual has witnessed in his/her community.

Questions to Consider

- Does the individual live in a neighborhood with frequent violence?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has witnessed violence in the community.

- 1** Individual has witnessed fighting or other forms of violence in the community.

- 2** Individual has witnessed the significant injury of others in his/her community).

- 3** Individual has witnessed the death of another person in his/her community.

54. SCHOOL VIOLENCE - This item rates the individual's exposure to school based violence.

Questions to Consider

- Are there frequent fights or other acts of violence at the individual's school?
- Are weapons involved?
- Has the individual witness or directly experienced violence at the school?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has witnessed violence in the school setting.

- 1** Individual has witnessed occasional fighting or other forms of violence in the school setting. Individual has not been directly impacted by the violence (i.e., violence not directed at self or close friends) and exposure has been limited.

- 2** Individual has witnessed multiple instances of school violence and/or the significant injury of others in his/her school setting, or has had friends injured as a result of violence or criminal activity in the school setting, or has directly experienced violence in the school setting leading to minor injury.

- 3** Individual has witnessed repeated and severe instances of school violence and/or the death of another person in his/her school, or has been seriously injured or has had friends who were seriously injured as a result of violence or criminal activity in the school setting.

55. WAR AFFECTED - This rating describes the degree of severity of exposure to war, political violence or torture. Violence or trauma related to Terrorism is not included here.

Questions to Consider

- Has the individual or his/her family lived in a war torn region?
- How close was s/he to violence?
- Was the family displaced?
- What acts of war did the individual or family witness or experience directly?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has been exposed to war, political violence, or torture.

- 1** Individual did not live in war-affected region or refugee camp, but family was affected by war. Family members directly related to the individual may have been exposed to war, political violence or torture; family may have been forcibly displaced due to the war, or both. This does not include individual who have lost one or both parents during a war.

- 2** Individual has been affected by war or political violence. He or she may have witnessed others being injured in the war, may have family members who were hurt or killed in the war, and may have lived in an area where bombings or fighting took place. Individual may have lost one or both parents during the war or parents may suffer physical or psychological effects. Individual may have spent extended time in refugee camp.

- 3** Individual has experienced the direct effects of war. Individual may have feared for his/her own life. He/ She may have been injured, tortured, kidnapped or forced to become an individual soldier.

56. TERRORISM AFFECTED - This rating describes the degree to which an individual has been affected by terrorism. Terrorism is defined as “the calculated use of violence or the threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological.” Terrorism includes attacks by individuals acting in isolation (e.g. sniper attacks).

Questions to Consider

- Has the individual witnessed an act of terrorism?
- Was his/her community targeted in an act of terrorism?
- Does the individual know people injured or killed in an act of terrorism?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has been affected by terrorism.
Individual’s community has experienced an act of terrorism, but the individual was not directly impacted by the violence. Exposure has been limited to pictures on television terrorist activities.
- 1** Individual has been affected by terrorism within his/her community, but did not directly witness the attack. Individual may live near the area where attack occurred and be accustomed to visiting regularly in the past, infrastructure of individual’s daily life may be disrupted due to attack (e.g. utilities or school), and individual may see signs of the attack in neighborhood (e.g. destroyed building). Individual may know people who were injured in the attack.
- 2** Individual has witnessed the death of another person in a terrorist attack, or has had friends or family members seriously injured as a result of terrorism, or have directly been injured by terrorism leading to significant injury or lasting impact.
- 3**

57. WITNESS/VICTIM OF CRIMINAL ACTS - This item rates the individual’s proximity to criminal acts.

Questions to Consider

- Has the individual ever been the victim of a crime?
- Has the individual seen criminal activity in his/her community or home?
- Has someone in the individual’s family been the victim of a crime? Did the individual witness this?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual has been victimized or witness significant criminal activity.
- 1** Individual is a witness of significant criminal activity.
- 2** Individual is a direct victim of criminal activity or witnessed the victimization of a family or friend.
- 3** Individual is a victim of criminal activity that was life threatening or caused significant physical harm or individual witnessed the death of a loved one.

58. PARENTAL CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR (birth parents & legal guardians only) - This item rates the criminal behavior of both biological and stepparents, and other legal guardians, not foster parents.

Questions to Consider

- Do the individual’s parents engage in criminal acts?
- Is either of the parents in jail? If so, do they have contact with the individual?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that individual's parents have ever engaged in criminal behavior.
- 1** One of individual's parents has history of criminal behavior but individual has not been in contact with this parent for at least one year.
- 2** One of individual's parents has history of criminal behavior and individual has been in contact with this parent in the past year.
- 3** Both of individual's parents have history of criminal behavior.

59. DISRUPTION IN CAREGIVING/ ATTACHMENT LOSSES - This rating describes the extent to which the individual has been exposed to disruptions in caregiving involving separation from primary attachment figure(s) and/or attachment losses. Individuals who have experienced the death of a primary attachment figure, had placement changes, including stays in foster care, residential treatment facilities or juvenile justice settings can be rated here. Short-term hospital stays or brief juvenile detention stays, during which the individual's caregiver remains the same, would not be rated on this item.

Questions to Consider

- Has the individual ever been placed in foster care?
- Has the individual lost contact with a caregiver or had limited access to the caregiver?

Ratings & Definitions

- 0** There is no evidence that the Individual has experienced disruptions in caregiving and/or attachment losses.

- 1** Individual may have experienced one disruption in caregiving but was placed with a familiar alternative caregiver, such as a relative (i.e., individual's care shifted from biological mother to paternal grandmother). Individual may or may not have had ongoing contact with primary attachment figure(s) during this disruption. Shift in caregiving may be temporary or permanent.

- 2** Individual has been exposed to 2 or more disruptions in caregiving with known alternate caregivers, or the individual has had at least one disruption involving placement with an unknown caregiver. Individuals who have been placed in foster or other out-of-home care such as residential care facilities would be rated here.

- 3** Individual has been exposed to multiple/repeated placement changes (i.e., 3+ placements with a known caregiver or 2+ with unknown caregiver) resulting in caregiving disruptions in a way that has negatively impacted various domains of an individual's life (i.e., loss of community, school placement, peer group). Examples would include an individual in several short-term unknown placements (i.e., moved from emergency foster care to additional foster care placements and/or multiple transitions in and out of the family-of-origin (i.e., several cycles of removal and reunification).