

## Adverse Childhood Experiences among teenage youth in San Francisco

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Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) place youth at risk of negative social, educational, behavioral, and health outcomes. Inner-city youth are at risk for exposure to unique stressors, however, research fails to fully capture the range and complexity of adversities that these youth experience. A community resident working for the Center for Youth Wellness (CYW), a health organization located in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco, engaged local high school students to share experiences of adversity with CYW. Students worked with CYW staff to develop a questionnaire to study 21 adversities (11 based on students' experiences in school, communities, and home). The aim of the community-based participatory research study was to understand the prevalence of the adversities in relation to socio-demographics and academic performance using a web-based, self-report survey administered to high school students. Student researchers also produced a hip-hop video about ACEs, which was used for education and recruitment of study participants. Findings reveal that local youth (n=92) experience adversities at disproportionately greater rates than youth participating in national population-based surveys. Exposure to adversity was also disproportionately represented across race/ethnicity and by gender. Finally, bullying victimization and drug use emerged as being significantly associated with poor academic performance. This community partnership informed the development of the CYW ACE-Questionnaire, which is used to screen youth for adversity in an integrated pediatric care model. CYW plans to continue to leverage youth expertise to understand protective factors and school-based interventions to address the consequences of adversity among youth.