

# Using ACE Data to Impact Substance Misuse Prevention

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At the time of this publication, Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D, served as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The opinions expressed herein are the view of PTTC Network and do not reflect the official position of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), SAMHSA. No official support or endorsement of DHHS, SAMHSA, for the opinions described in this document is intended or should be inferred.

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# Our Roadmap Today

- ✓ Learning Objectives
- ✓ Overview of the ACE Study
- ✓ Identifying Risk Factors
- ✓ An Expanded Framework for Prevention
- ✓ Evaluation Planning
- ✓ Additional Resources
- ✓ Feedback



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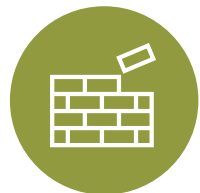
# Learning Objectives



Demonstrate how adverse childhood experiences (ACE) data can be used to identify risk factors that contribute to substance misuse in a community.



Describe how ACE data can be used to measure the impact of prevention efforts.



Create a plan to advance the prevention of ACE with community-led prevention efforts.



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# What is the ACE Study?

01/12/14

**NEWS**

## Early Adversity Increases Physical, Mental, Behavioral Problems, Scientists Report



Dr. Robert Anda & Dr. Vincent Felitti  
Investigators

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention,  
Kaiser Permanente Study

Over 17,000 study participants

The ACE Study confirms, with scientific evidence,  
that adversity early in life increases physical, mental  
and behavioral problems later in life.

 ACE Interface © 2014

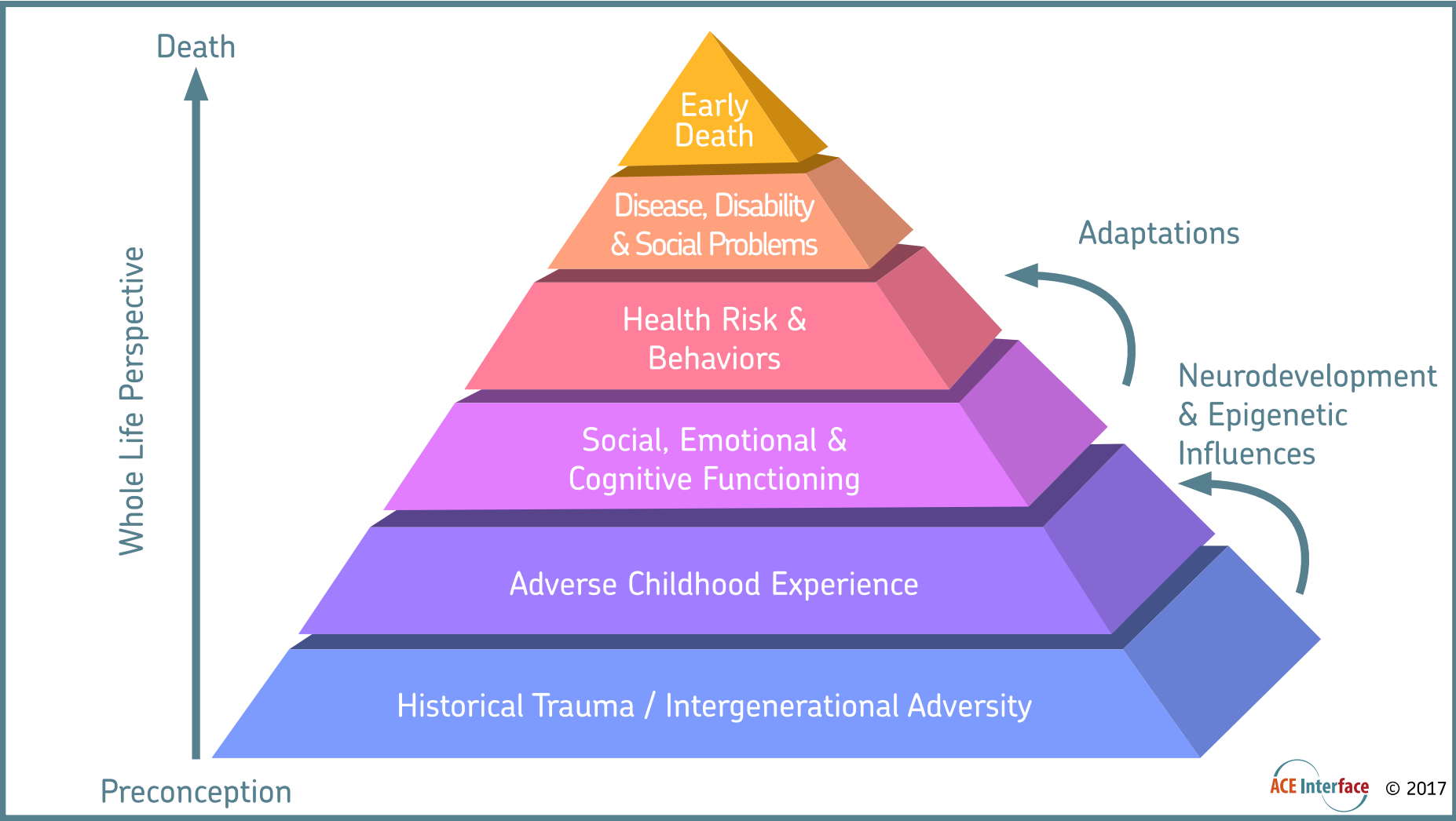


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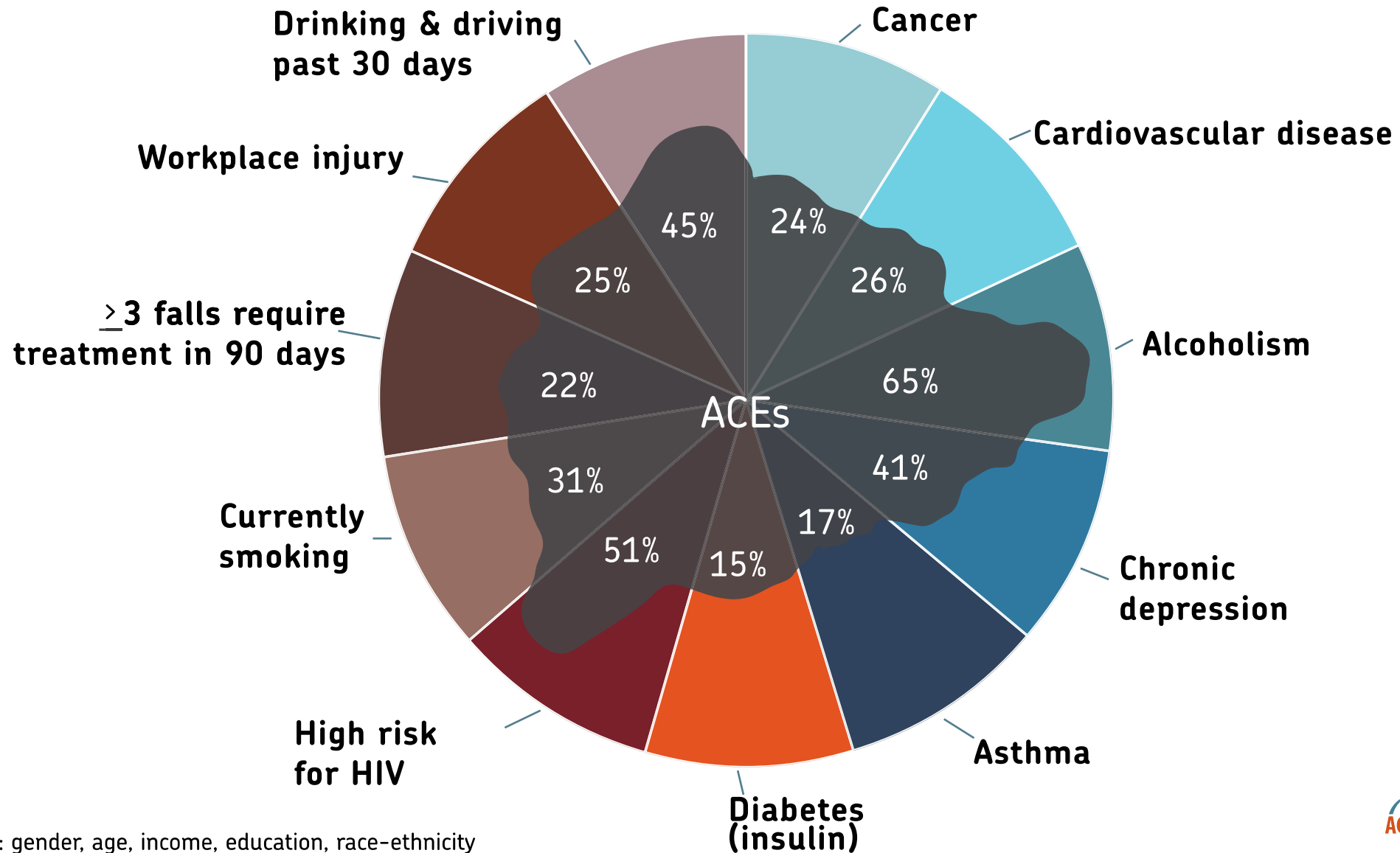
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# The ACE Pyramid



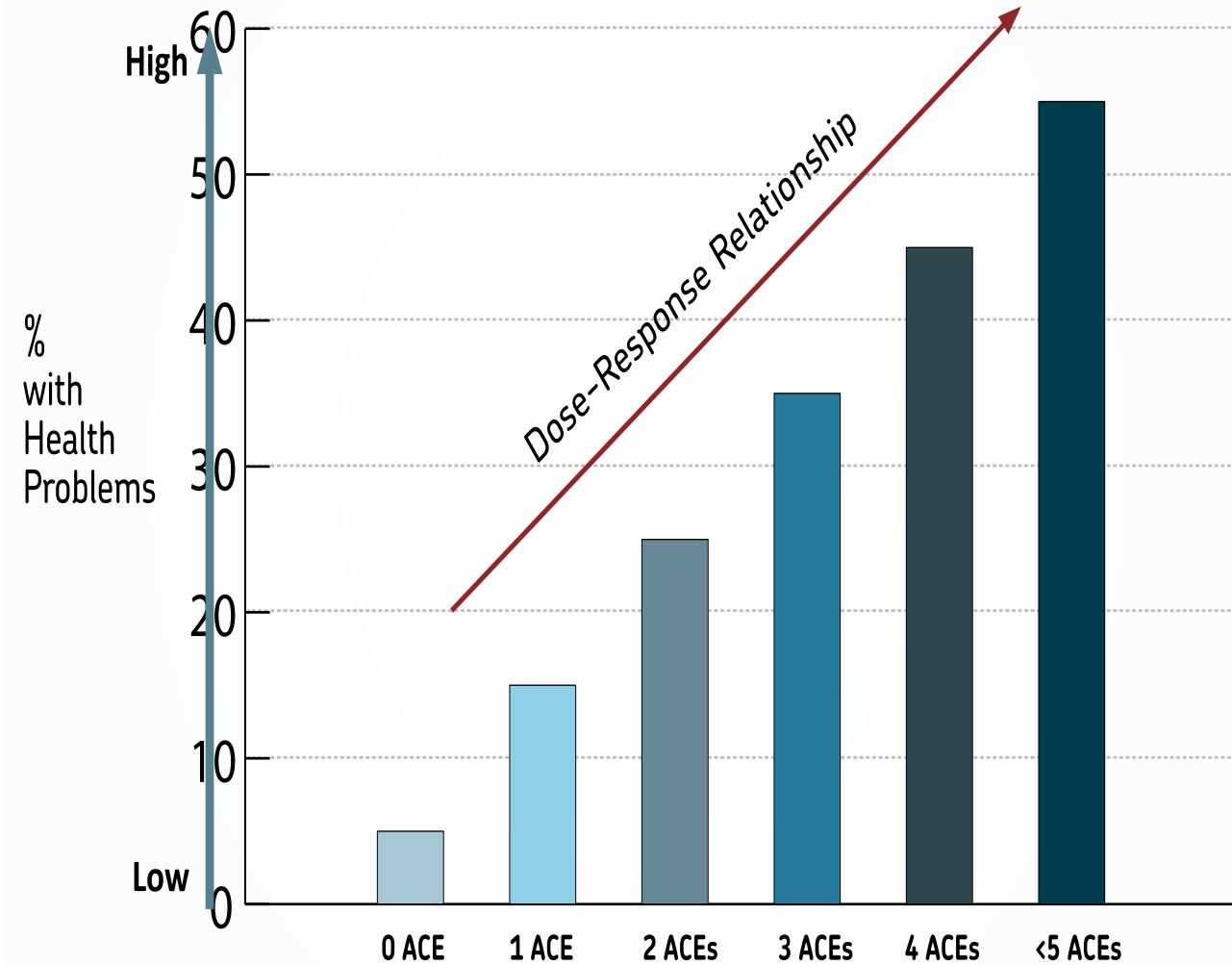
# Population Attributable Risk



Controls: gender, age, income, education, race-ethnicity

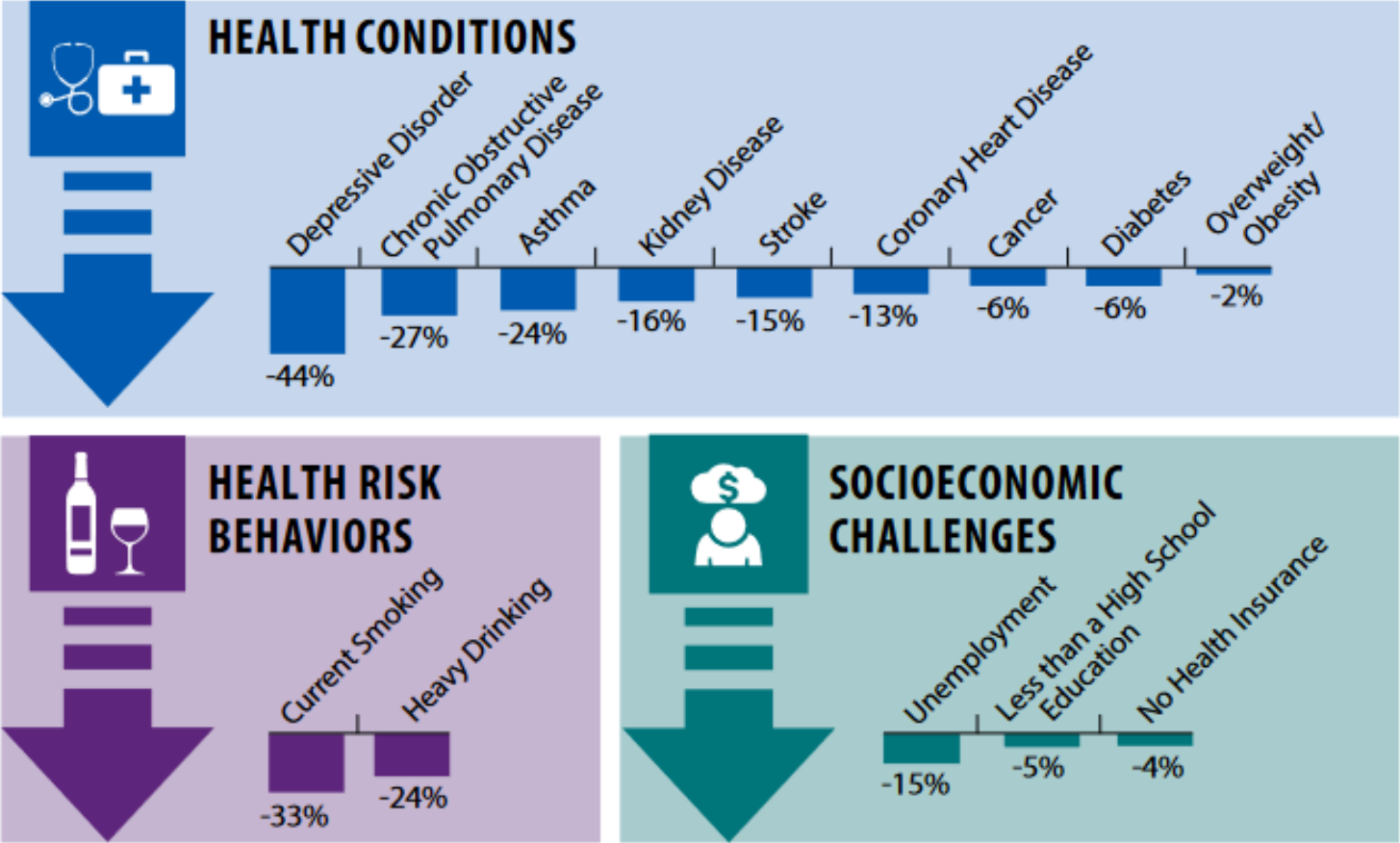


ACE Score and Health Problems



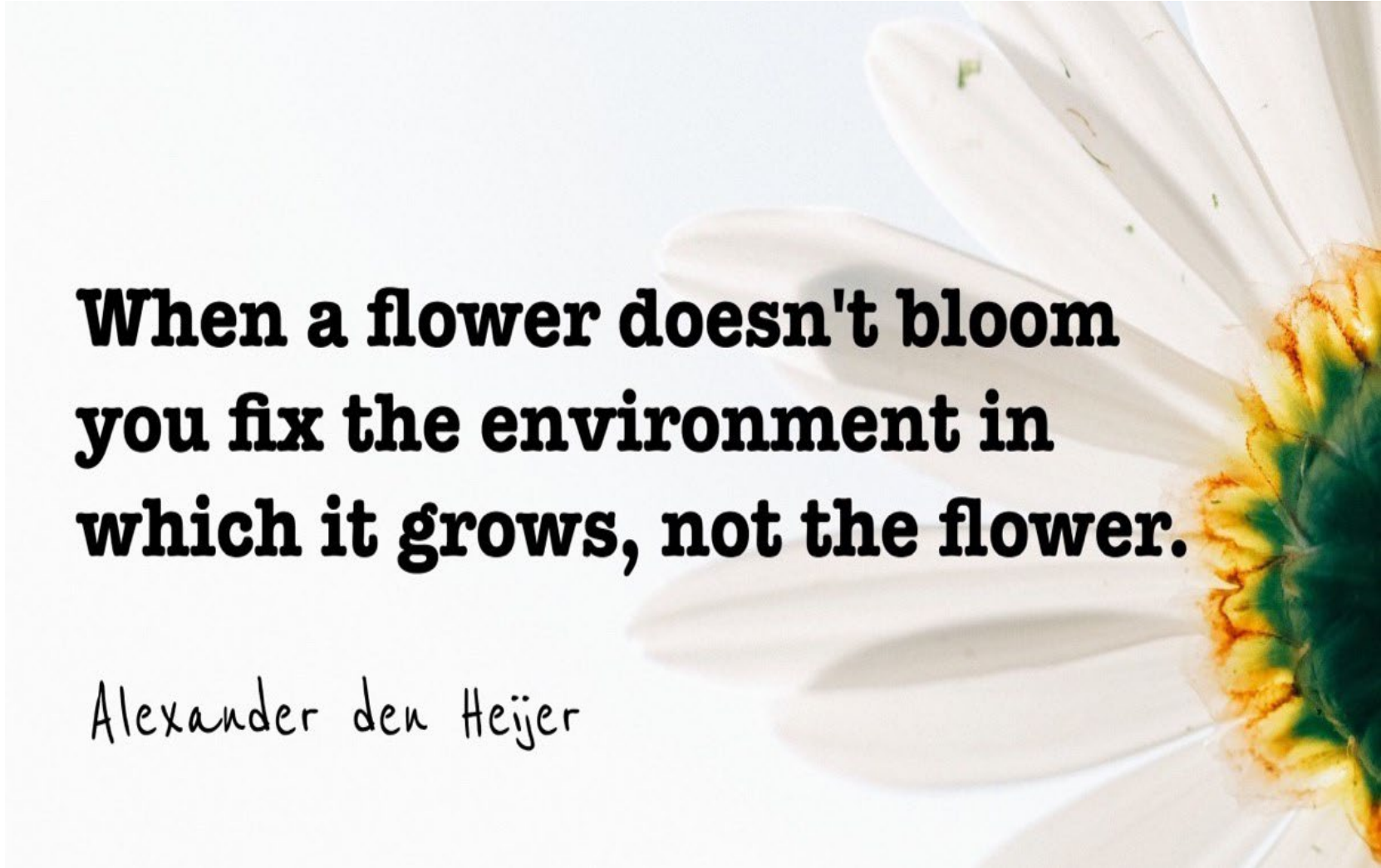
A Dose  
Response  
Relationship

# Potential Reduction of Negative Outcomes in Adulthood



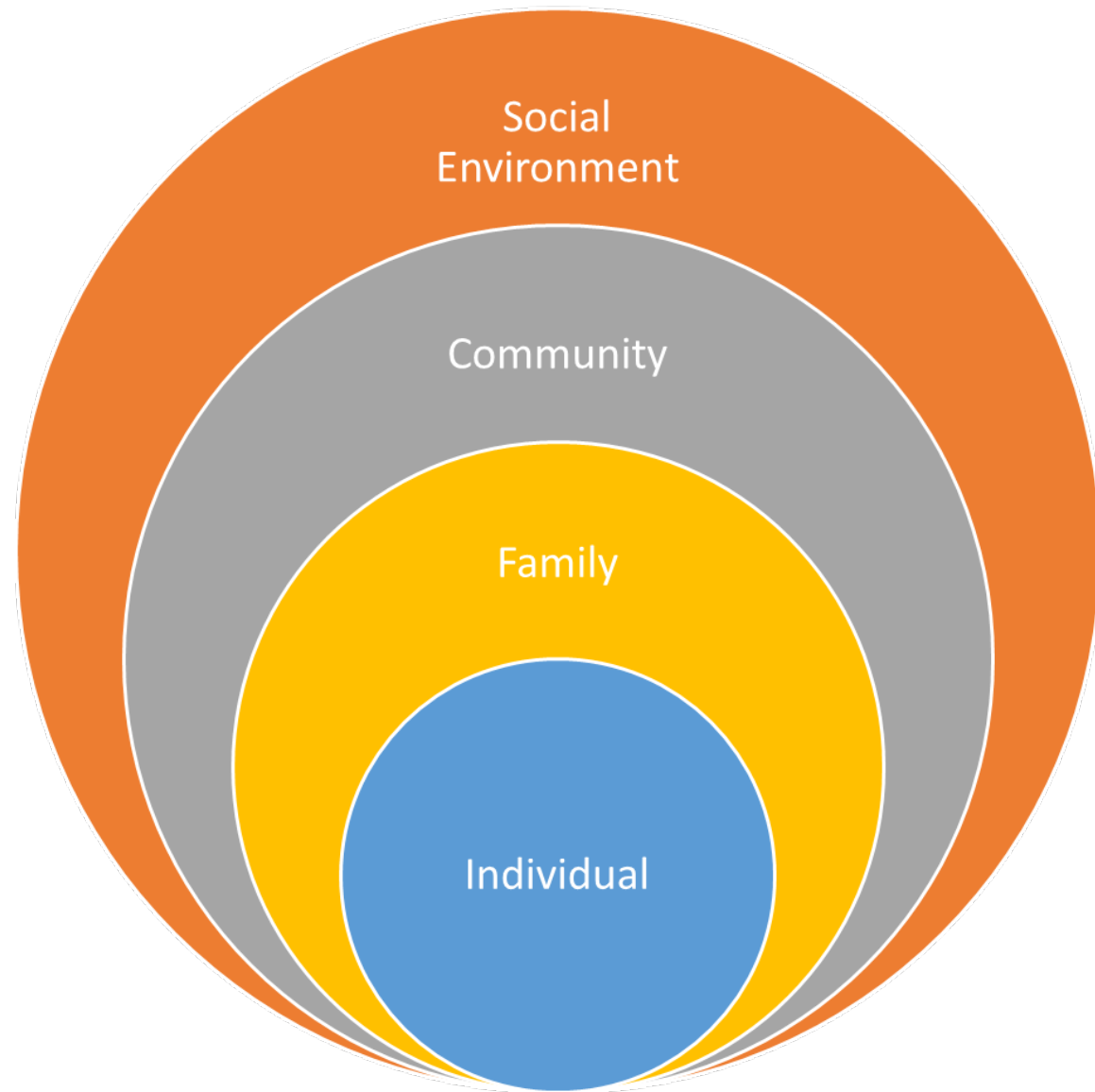
Source: Merrick et al, 2019 (ACEs Vital Signs)

# So, What Can Prevention Professionals Do?



**When a flower doesn't bloom  
you fix the environment in  
which it grows, not the flower.**

Alexander den Heijer



# Identifying Risk Factors for ACEs



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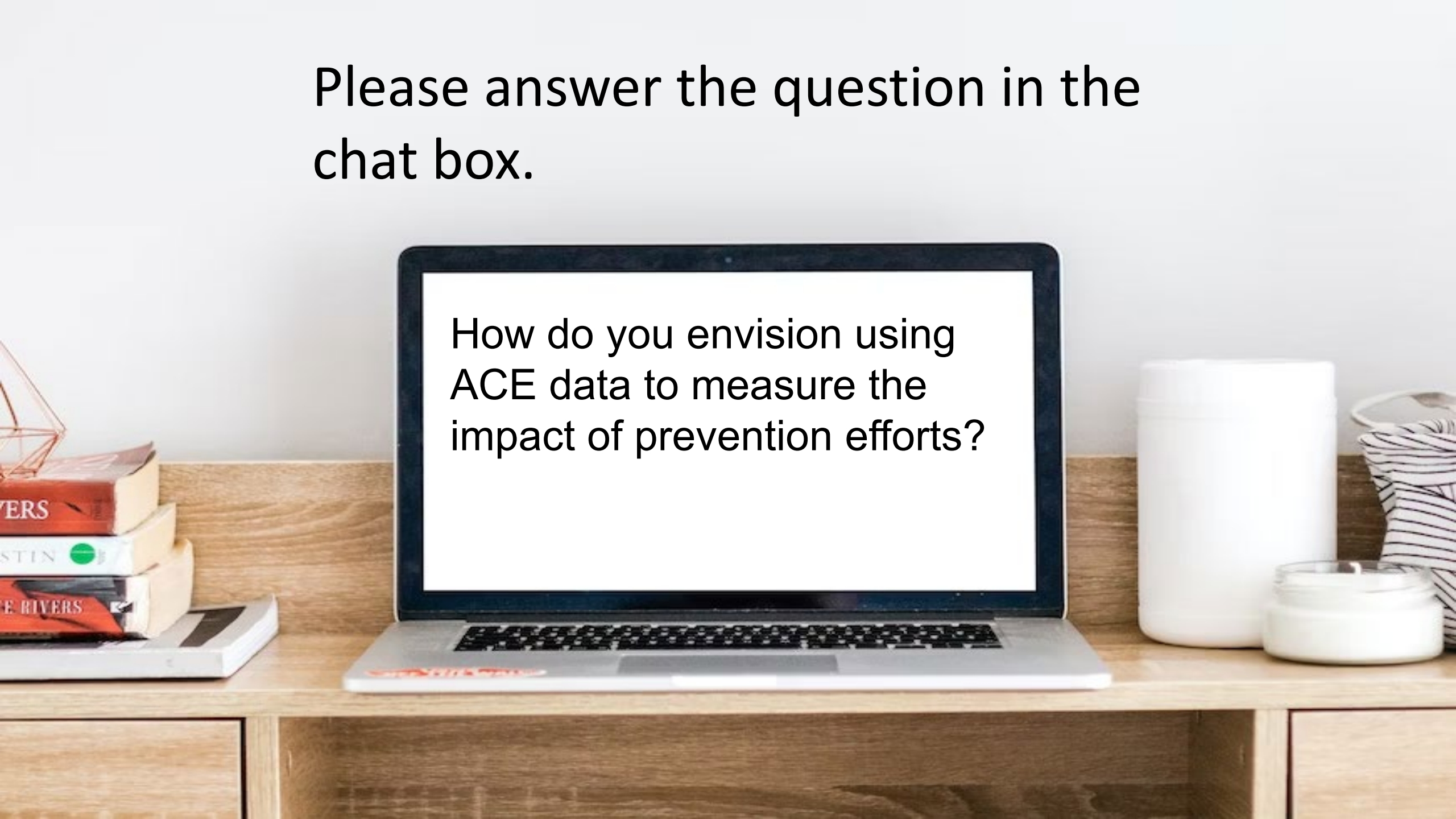
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*“What is  
predictable is  
preventable.”*

Anda and Felitti

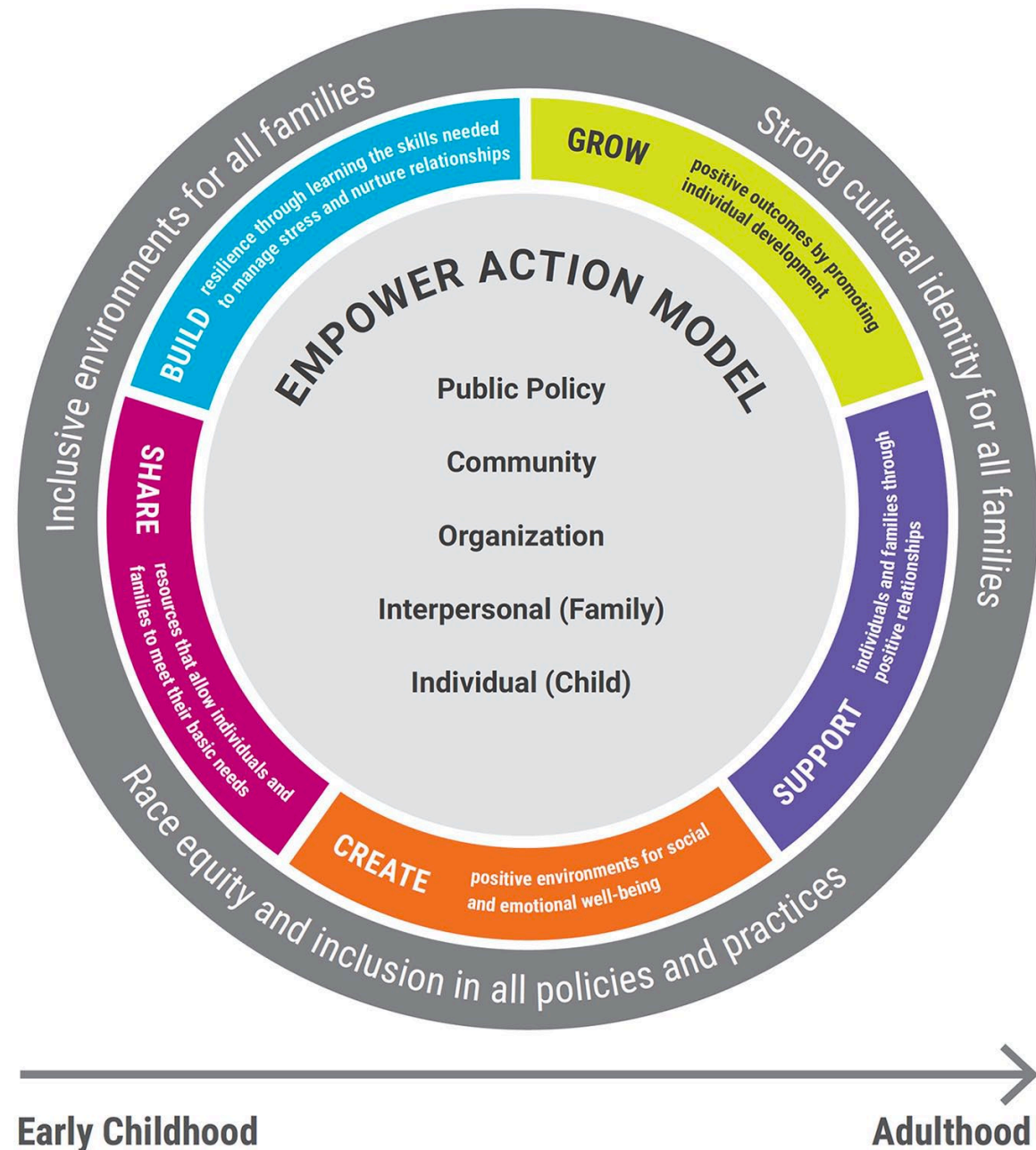


Please answer the question in the chat box.

A silver laptop sits on a light-colored wooden desk. The laptop screen is open and displays the text: "How do you envision using ACE data to measure the impact of prevention efforts?". To the left of the laptop, there is a stack of three books. The top book has a red cover with the word "WATERS" visible. The middle book has a white cover with "STIN" and a green circle. The bottom book has a red cover with "E RIVERS" visible. To the right of the laptop, there is a white cylindrical container, a small white jar with a lid, and a striped fabric basket.

How do you envision using ACE data to measure the impact of prevention efforts?

# An Expanded Framework for ACE Prevention



Srivastav et al.(2020)\*

# Incorporating ACE Prevention into Your Strategic Plan





# Step 1: Assessment

- Determine the ACE risk factors in your community.
- Examine national, state, and available local data.
- Select and prioritize prevention focus.



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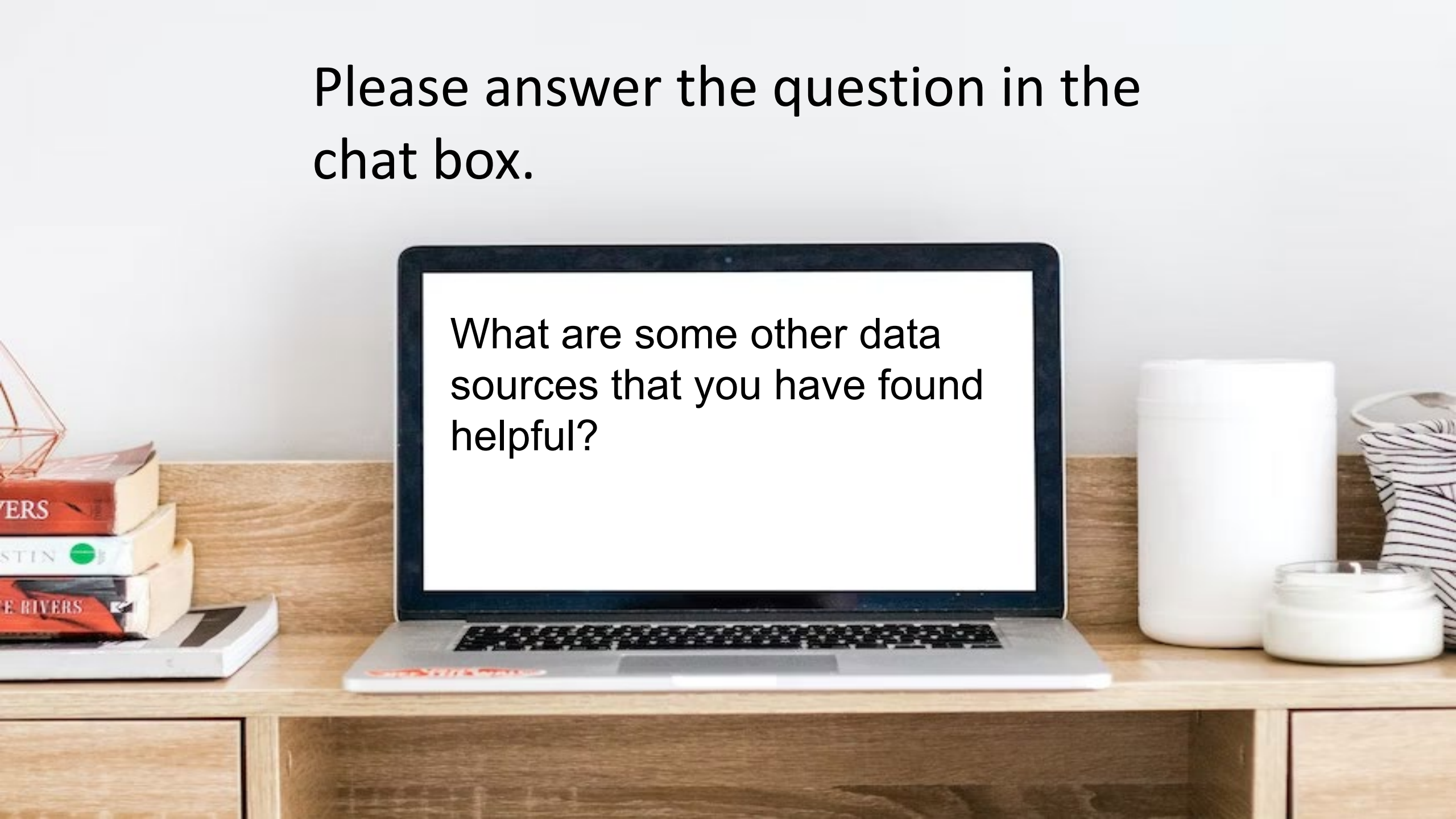
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# Potential Data Sources

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Youth Risk Behavior System (YRBSS)
- National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)
- National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence
- National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System



Please answer the question in the chat box.

A silver laptop is open on a light-colored wooden desk. The laptop screen displays a white background with black text. To the left of the laptop, there is a stack of three books with red and white covers, and a small white object. To the right, there is a white cylindrical container and a small white jar. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

What are some other data sources that you have found helpful?

# Step 2: Collaborate and Build Capacity

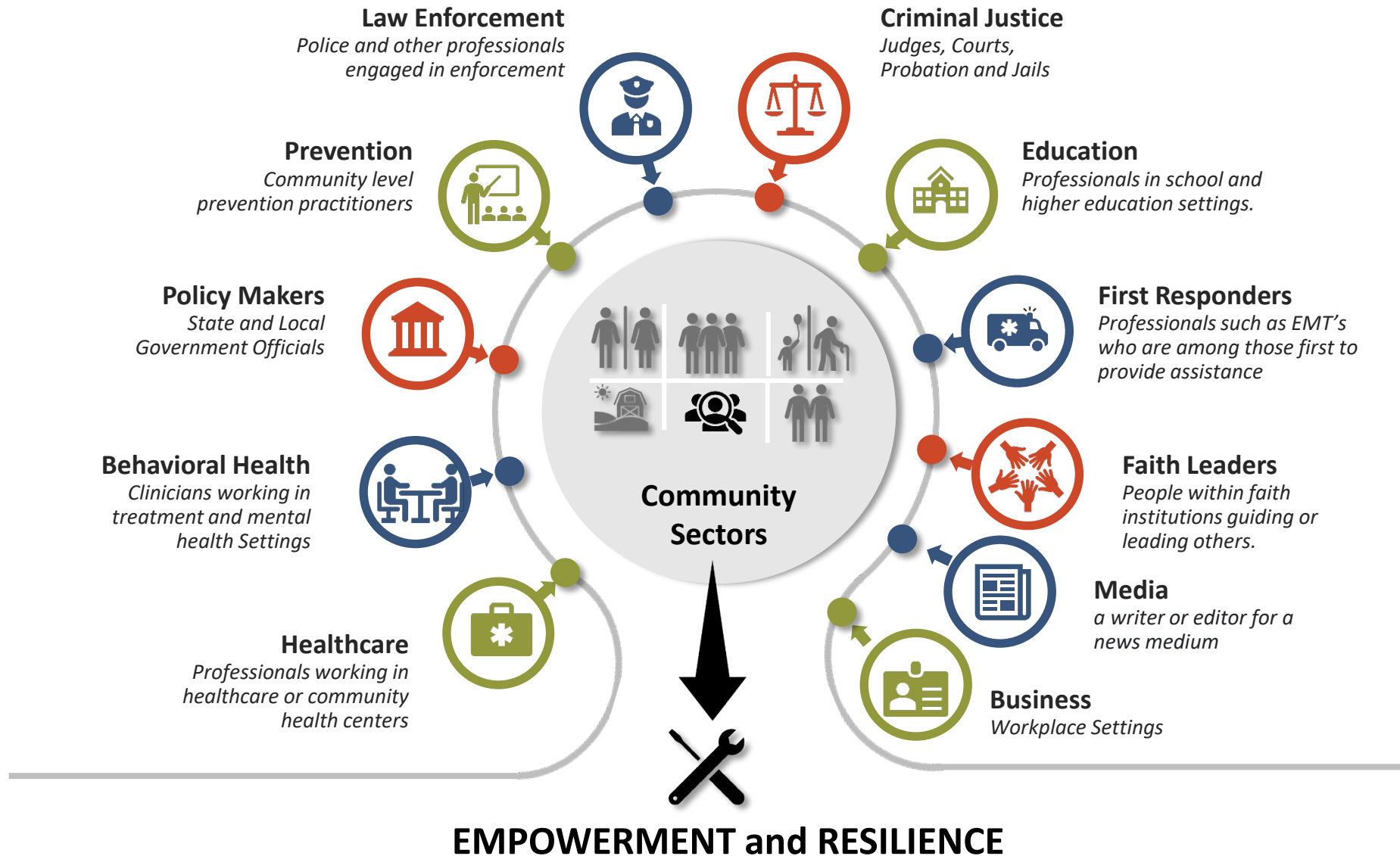


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# Sectors





Reconceptualizing our  
Prevention Efforts to  
Include the Prevention  
of ACE.



## Step 3: Planning

- Select the prevention target
- Review evidence-based strategies that “fit” your community
- Select a strategy(ies) that is a good conceptual and practical fit for your community.



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# Step 4: Implementation

- Select indicators that will tell you that the strategy is being implemented according to the plan (fidelity).
- Identify benchmarks that will help you monitor the progress and quality of implementation.







# Evaluation Planning: Selecting Indicators



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An indicator is ***measurable*** information used to determine if a program, practice, or policy is implemented as expected and is achieving desired outcomes.

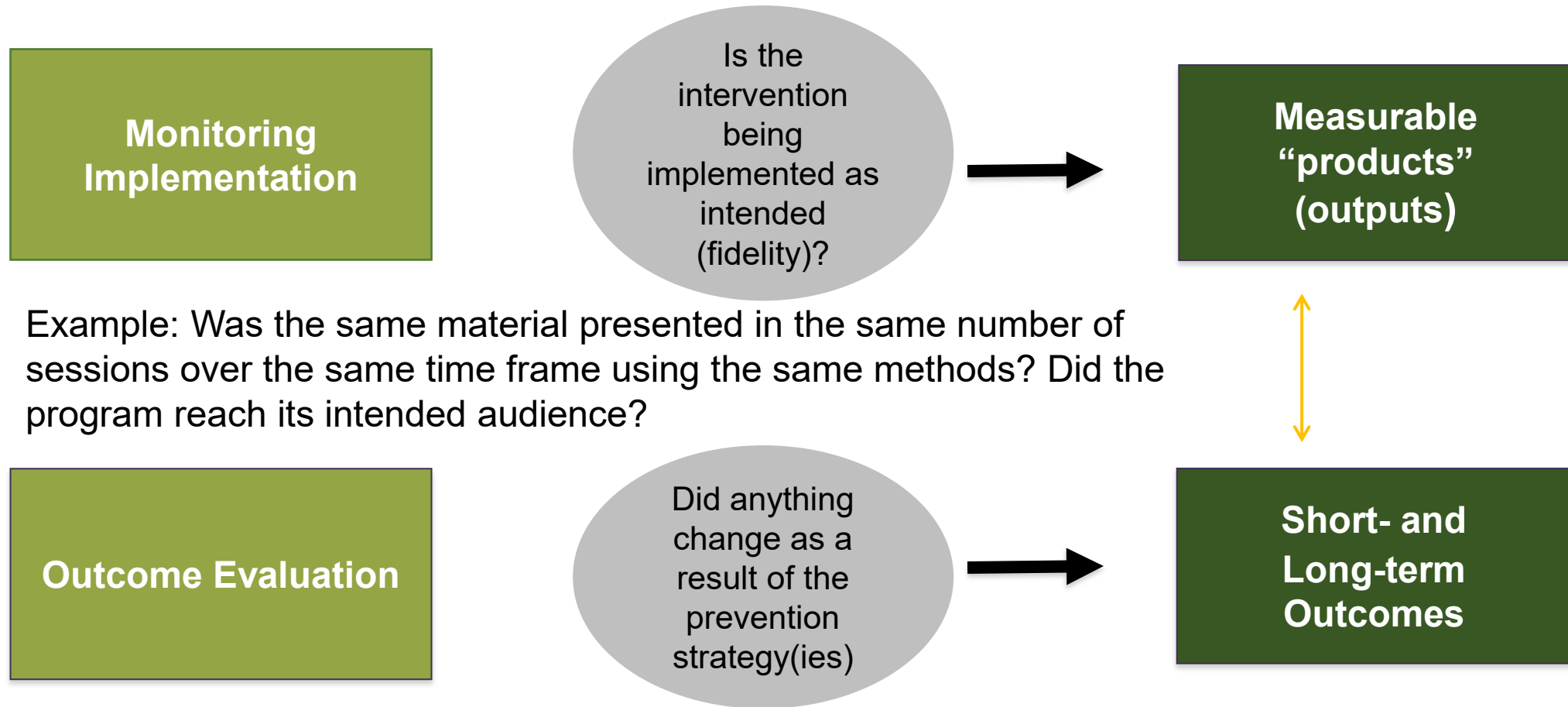


# How Will You Know Your Program Has Been Successful?



- ✓ Does the indicator logically relate to the problem and its desired outcomes?
  - ✓ Risk Factor?
  - ✓ Protective Factor?
  - ✓ Context?
- ✓ Is it *measurable*?
- ✓ Do you have the *capacity* to measure it?

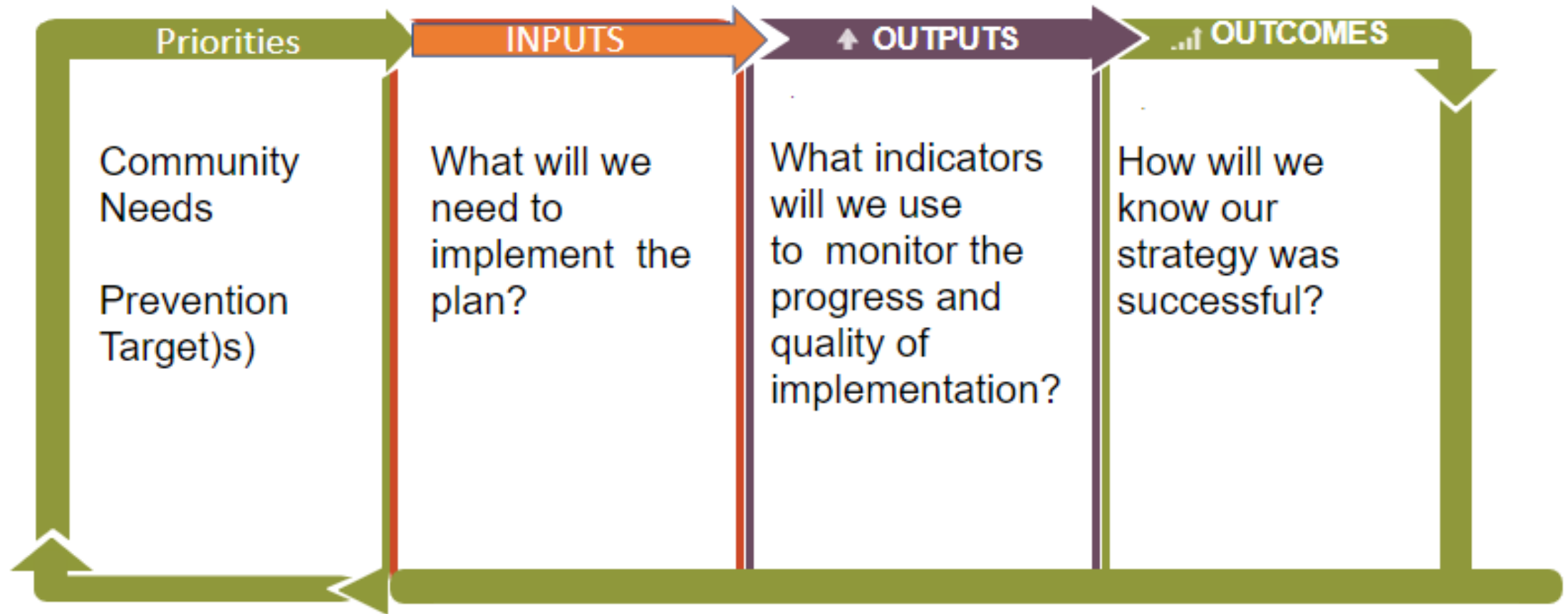
# Creating a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan



Example: Was the same material presented in the same number of sessions over the same time frame using the same methods? Did the program reach its intended audience?

Example: Did participants who participated in the program change their behavior?

# Creating a Logic Model



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# Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):

Leveraging the Best Available Evidence



National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Division of Violence Prevention



# Six Strategies for Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences



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# Six Strategies for Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences

## Six Strategies for Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences



Strengthen economic supports for families



Promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity



Ensure a strong start for children



Enhance skills to help parents and youths handle stress, manage emotions, and tackle everyday challenges



Connect youths to caring adults and activities



Intervene to lessen immediate and long-term harms



# Intervene to Lessen Immediate and Long-term Harms



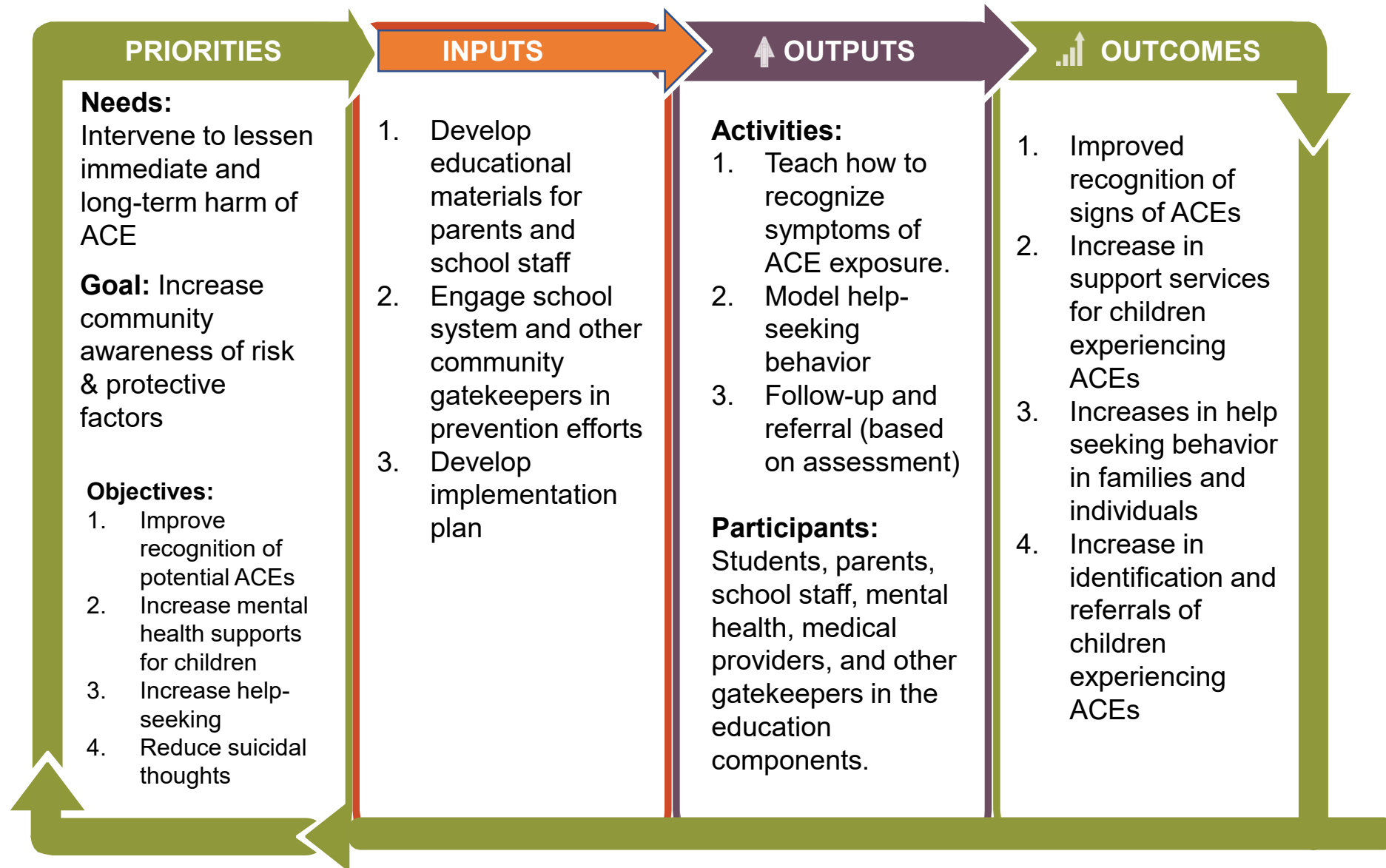
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# Creating a Logic Model





Let's hear from you!

What are your questions?

How does ACE prevention fit within your prevention plan/activities?



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# Case Studies

Learning from Oklahoma's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Story, Case Study,

CDC [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/pdf/ace\\_case\\_study\\_oklahoma.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/pdf/ace_case_study_oklahoma.pdf)

Appropriating federal funding for prevention of ACEs. Oklahoma has strategically applied for, received, and disseminated federal funding to address childhood adversity. These efforts address the impact of ACEs and shed light on the importance of prevention and treatment.

Learning from Washington's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Story, Case Study,

CDC [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/pdf/ACE\\_Case\\_Study\\_Washington.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/pdf/ACE_Case_Study_Washington.pdf)

Washington was one of the first states to add the ACE module to their Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in 2009 to assess the prevalence of ACEs in its adult population and inform prevention action. This case study highlights how Washington supported state-specific ACE data collection, how they used their data to inform prevention efforts and provides examples of Washington's next steps in child maltreatment prevention work.

Learning from Wisconsin's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Story, Case Study,

CDC [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/pdf/ACE\\_Case\\_Study\\_Wisconsin.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/pdf/ACE_Case_Study_Wisconsin.pdf)

Collecting ACE data provides the platform for a common language and directs prevention. Wisconsin utilized their ACE data to develop common language around child maltreatment that kept practitioners focused on the same goal, contributing to collaboration and prevention actions across multiple sectors.



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