



Door County Department of Human Services is embarking on an exciting organizational change initiative to integrate trauma-informed care principles in our agency and community. We have been selected by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to participate in a statewide initiative, **Fostering Futures**, to guide us on this journey.

Over the course of the next year, we will be participating in a peer learning collaborative and will be assisted by a mentor from the National Council on Behavioral Health. Our team will receive training and technical assistance and will be provided with tools to develop a comprehensive plan to help create a more trauma-informed, educated and responsive workforce, and safe and secure environments.

Why Trauma?

Trauma shapes our identity. It impacts our core beliefs, our worldview and spirituality. Research suggests that most of the adverse effects of maltreatment and other forms of trauma are concentrated in the social, emotional and behavioral domains. Problems in these areas have negative repercussions that ripple across the lifespan, limiting an individual's chances to succeed in school, work and relationships.

Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences

National and state studies have been conducted on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). An ACE is a traumatic experience which occurs prior to the age of 18, such as child physical or sexual abuse, exposure to domestic violence, parental divorce, incarceration of a parent or mental illness in the household. ACEs have been linked to a wide range of negative outcomes in adulthood.

Evidence shows that exposure to ACEs can lead to disrupted neurodevelopment (actual physical changes in the brain). This in turn leads to social, emotional and cognitive impairments. A higher number of ACEs is associated with adoption of high-risk behaviors, higher prevalence of many diseases and disabilities, and early death.

ACEs Prevalence in Wisconsin & in Door County

The map to the right shows the counties in Wisconsin with the highest rate of four or more ACEs. These rates are based on the combined 2011-12 ACEs survey responses which, when weighted, are representative of the state's population.

Yellow = <10%
Green = 10 – 15%
Purple = 15-20%
Red = >20%

- *15-20% of Door County residents report having 4 or more ACEs.*

