

Health Disparities in the Medi-Cal Population

Adverse Childhood Experience



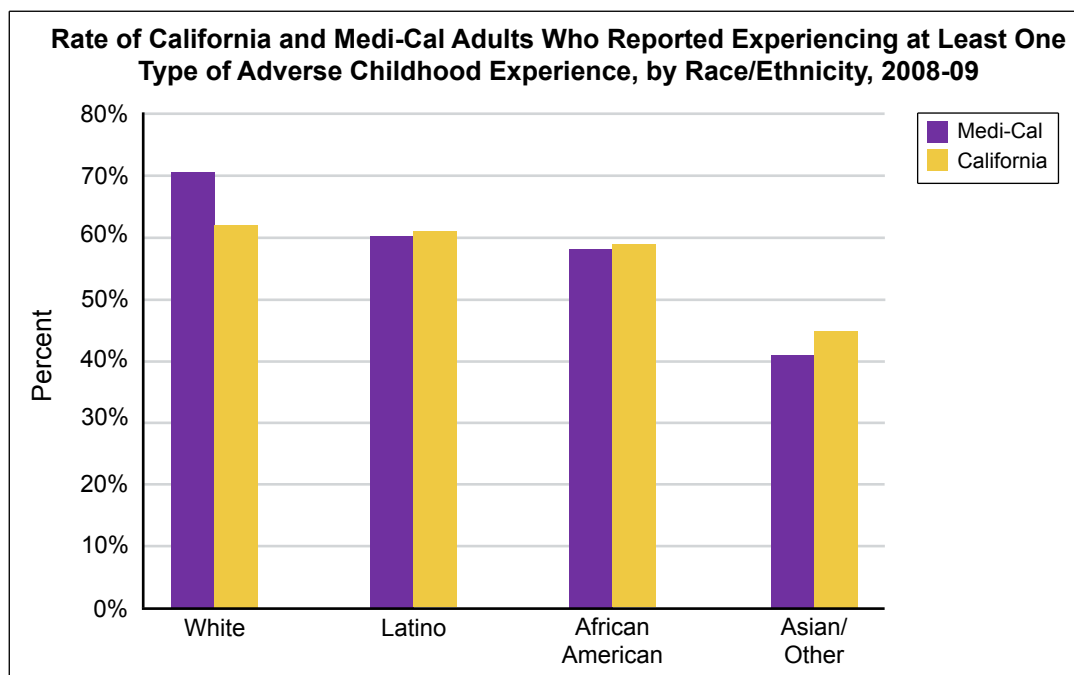
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) include psychological, physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and other family dysfunction experienced before the age of 18. Studies have shown a strong dose-response relationship between ACEs and negative health outcomes, including risky behaviors, mental disorders, physical illness, overall poor quality of life, and early death.¹⁻³ Research has noted that ACEs are widely prevalent among California's general adult population.⁴ It is therefore important to prevent ACEs.

Among adult Californians, Whites and Latinos reported higher rates of experiencing at least one type of ACE and Asians/Others reported the lowest rates (see Figure).

A similar pattern was found in the California adult Medi-Cal population with Whites and Latinos reporting higher rates of experiencing at least one type of ACE than African Americans and Asians/Others. With the exception of Whites, all race/ethnicity rates of ACEs were slightly higher for the statewide California population than in the Medi-Cal population.



Figure



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2008-2009 - California Data File.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adverse childhood experiences study. <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ACE/index.htm>. Accessed April 30, 2013.
2. Schneider R., Baumrind N., Kimerling R. Exposure to child abuse and risk for mental health problems in women. *Violence Vic.* 2001. 22 (5):620-631.
3. Pilowsky, D.J., Keyes, K.M. and Hasin D.S. Adverse childhood events and lifetime alcohol dependence. *Am J Public Health.* 2009. 99:258-263.
4. Induni M, Wirtz S, Edwards V, Davis B. Preliminary findings from California's BRFSS: Adverse childhood experiences and negative health outcomes. Presented at 26th Annual BRFSS Conference, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, March 16, 2009.

Link to Data Sources and Methods