

Center for Youth Wellness brings you the latest news on toxic stress, ACEs, and highlights major developments in our organization.

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June Monthly Update

This month we focus on research, a core part of the Center for Youth Wellness mission to improve the health of children and adolescents exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). We conduct and disseminate promising, evidence-based research and knowledge about ACEs and their consequences. Today's

research increasingly focuses on biological links between ACEs and chronic disease.

Research highlights:

- The goal of the CYW Research Program is to align science with primary care clinical practice to benefit the community at large. Primary care pediatricians experience the manifestations of toxic stress and ACEs everyday with their patients and can play a pivotal role in screening, preventing and healing the consequences of ACEs
- ACEs have been shown to correlate with development of chronic diseases, such as asthma, obesity and diabetes; thus universal screening for ACEs in a primary health care setting can help prevent the development of these diseases. That is why the CYW Research Team is working on validating an ACE screening tool that can be used universally in the clinic
- Along with the ACE screening tool, the CYW Research Program is developing a series of clinical interventions that can heal ACEs once detected and we will test which are the best clinical interventions that can be scaled-up at a local and national level
- Our Research Program is being developed as a community-engaged program, and we are actively working to recruit community members to serve on our Community Research Advisory Board and help as research outreach workers
- Another major role of the Community Research Advisory Board is to increase capacity for research among the community by undergoing research training. Community members will be trained in research methods to be able to develop and pursue their own research questions
- By the end of 2014, we will have collected data on a community assessment to inform CYW on the research needs, assets, capacities and priorities of the community
- We will collect voices from the community and stories of resilience.

Announcements:

- Research is hiring for two amazing positions! [Research Assistant and Medical Assistant](#). Please share widely with your networks

We are proud to announce the approval of two Research grants:

- [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#) has approved the grant titled: Support for *Two-Generation* Housing Services. This grant includes measuring the validity of a modified Adverse Childhood Experience screening tool, evaluating the effectiveness of the ACE screening tool with post administration surveys; and conducting an assessment of how the screening tool is currently being integrated into [CPMC Bayview Child Health Center](#), our partner pediatric clinic.
 - *Why this grant matters to our work: The core of our model involves*

screening children in the primary care setting for the kinds of adversity that put them at risk for developing toxic stress and significant health problems later in life. Our experience has shown that if we can identify and assess risk early on, we have a better chance of offering interventions that build resilience and encourage healthy development.

- [Zellerbach Family Foundation](#) has generously agreed to fund our Research program as follows: Their grant will go to support efforts to engage the Bayview community in a research program on toxic stress through a community-based participatory research approach. Specifically, CYW will establish a Community Research Advisory Board-- which will include community members who have an interest in health and science-- to assist the research team with finalizing the research agenda, setting priorities, and designing studies; collecting and analyzing the data; and disseminating the research results.
 - *Why this grant matters to our work: Our research program, led by [Dr. Simona Zompi](#), is organized as a community-engaged and community-based participatory research (CBPR) program. CBPR is an applied collaborative approach that allows members of the community to actively participate in the full spectrum of the research program.*
- If you are part of the Bayview community and would like more information about the program or how to participate, please [contact us](#).

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