

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**Presentation to the
State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup
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ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

- What are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)?
 - Events/experiences that occur prior to age 18 such as abuse, neglect, and household functioning problems including substance use
- Why are ACEs important?
 - Exposure to ACEs is common
 - ACE exposure has been shown to correlate with adoption of health risk behaviors and development of chronic health problems
 - ➔ Given the prevalence of exposure and impact on health, ACEs are being called a major public health problem
 - Understanding ACEs provides opportunities for prevention and intervention to promote health and wellbeing

ACE DATA SOURCES

SURVEY	DATA COLLECTION	# PARTICIPANTS	ACE EVENTS
Kaiser/CDC	1995-97	17,377	<p>10 ACEs</p> <p>Physical, sexual, emotional abuse; physical, emotional neglect, divorce/separation, household mental illness, household substance use, incarceration, domestic violence</p>
Delaware Household Health Survey (DHHS)	2015	2,609	<p>12 ACEs</p> <p>Physical, sexual, emotional abuse; physical, emotional neglect; divorce/separation; household mental illness; household substance use; incarceration; domestic violence; discrimination; bullying</p>
National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)	2011-12	1,824	<p>9 ACEs</p> <p>Divorce/separation; household mental illness; household substance use; incarceration; domestic violence; Economic hardship; parental death; community violence; discrimination</p>

ITEM WORDING

- **Mental Illness**

- Kaiser and DHHS: “Was a household member depressed or mentally ill or did a household member attempt suicide?”
- NSCH: “Did [child] ever live with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal, or severely depressed for more than a couple of weeks?”

- **Substance Use**

- Kaiser and DHHS: “Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?”
- NSCH: “Did [child] ever live with someone who had a problem with alcohol or drugs?”

KAISER/CDC ACE STUDY n=17,377

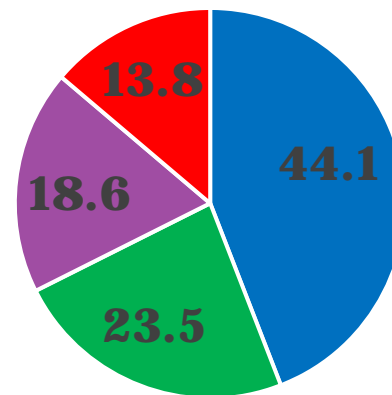
- Study found that ACEs
 - were common
 - co-occured
 - had a dose-response relationship with a wide range of physical and behavioral health outcomes including depression, suicide and substance use problems

http://vetoviolenace.cdc.gov/apps/phl/resource_center_infographic.html

DELAWARE ADULT ACE DATA n=2,506

- The Delaware Public Health Institute conducted a household survey of Delaware adults via landline/cell phone
 - Survey asked a variety of health indicators including overall health, diagnosis of mental illness and substance use problems

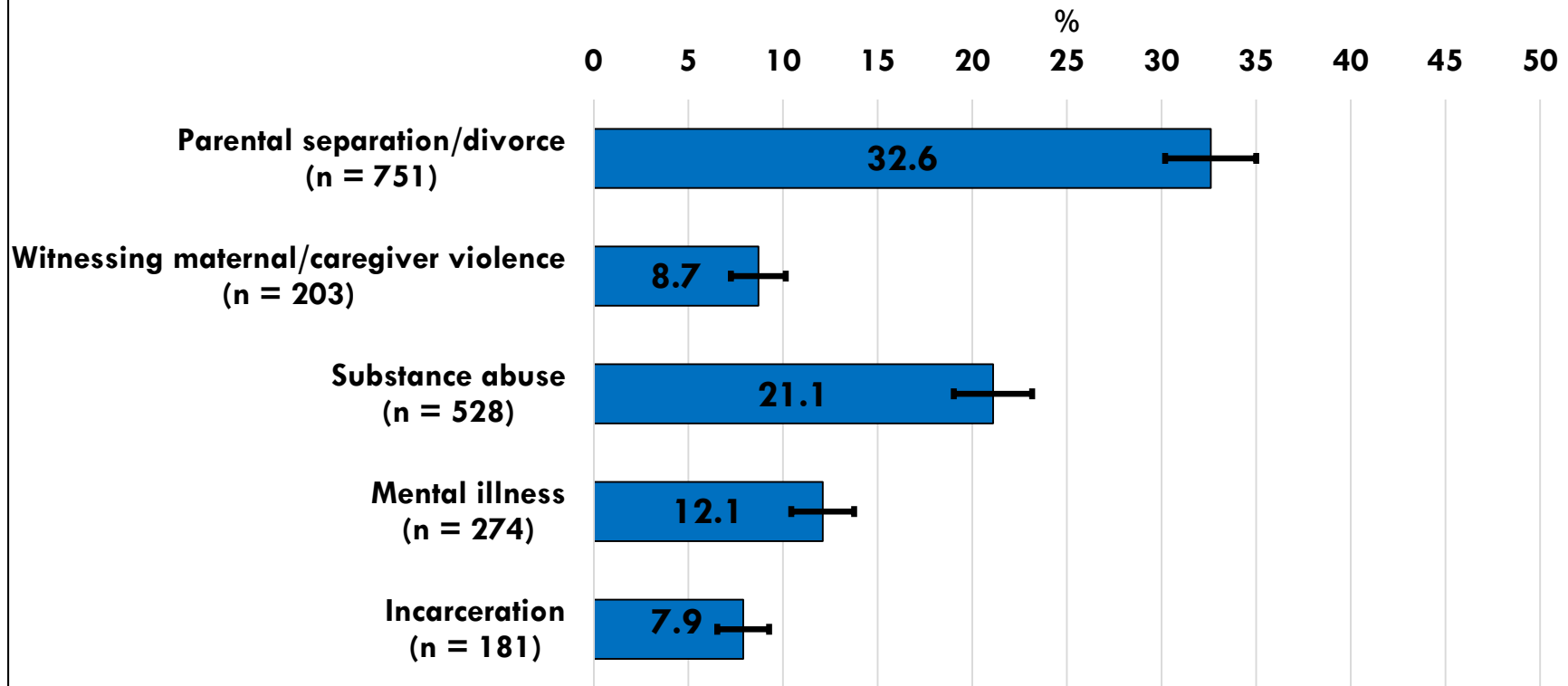
Percent



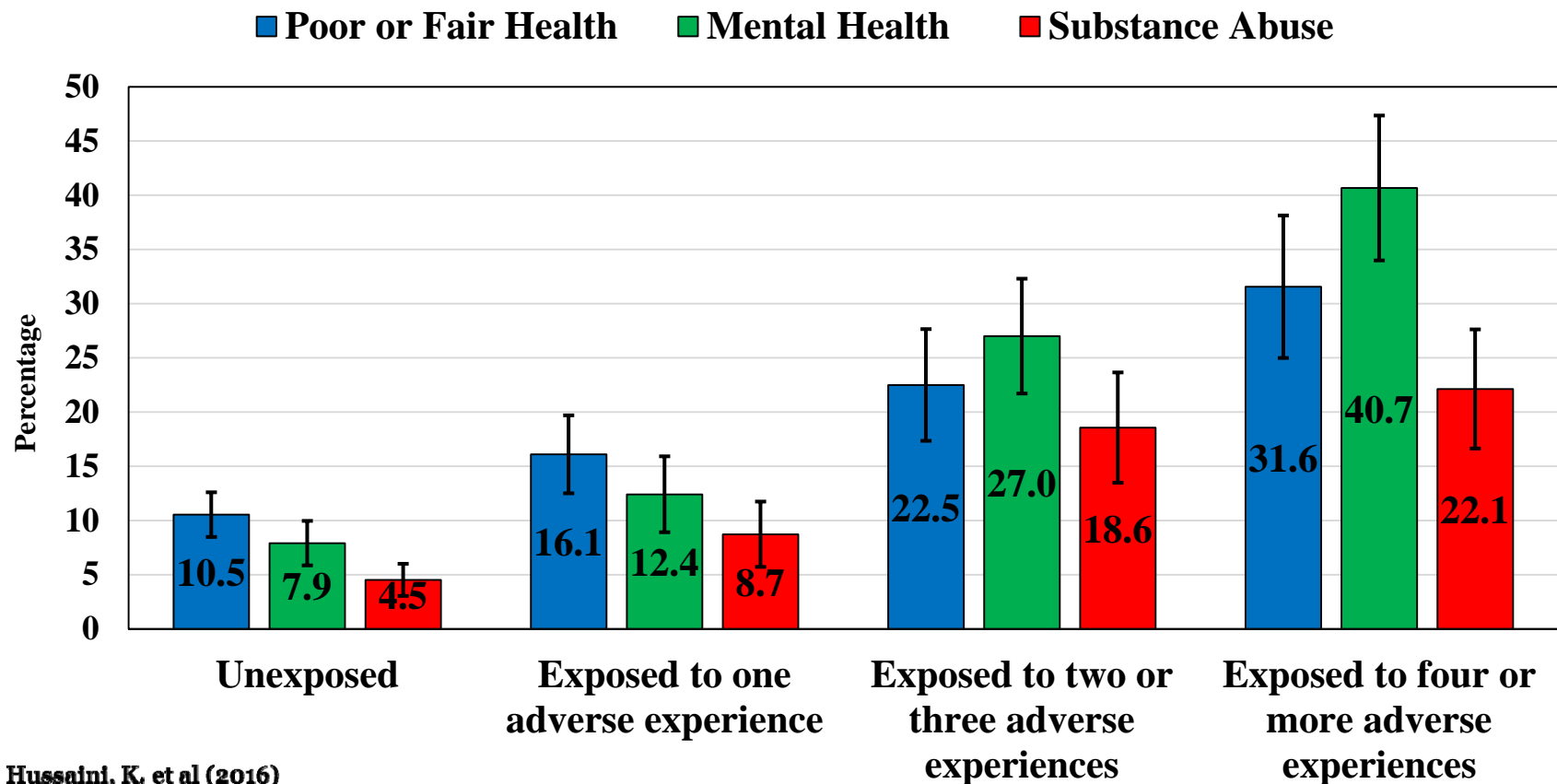
■ 0 ACEs ■ 1 ACE ■ 2-3 ACEs ■ 4 or more Aces

EXPOSURE TO HOUSEHOLD FUNCTIONING PROBLEMS

Percent of Delaware Adults 18 and older who indicated having a dysfunctional household, 2015



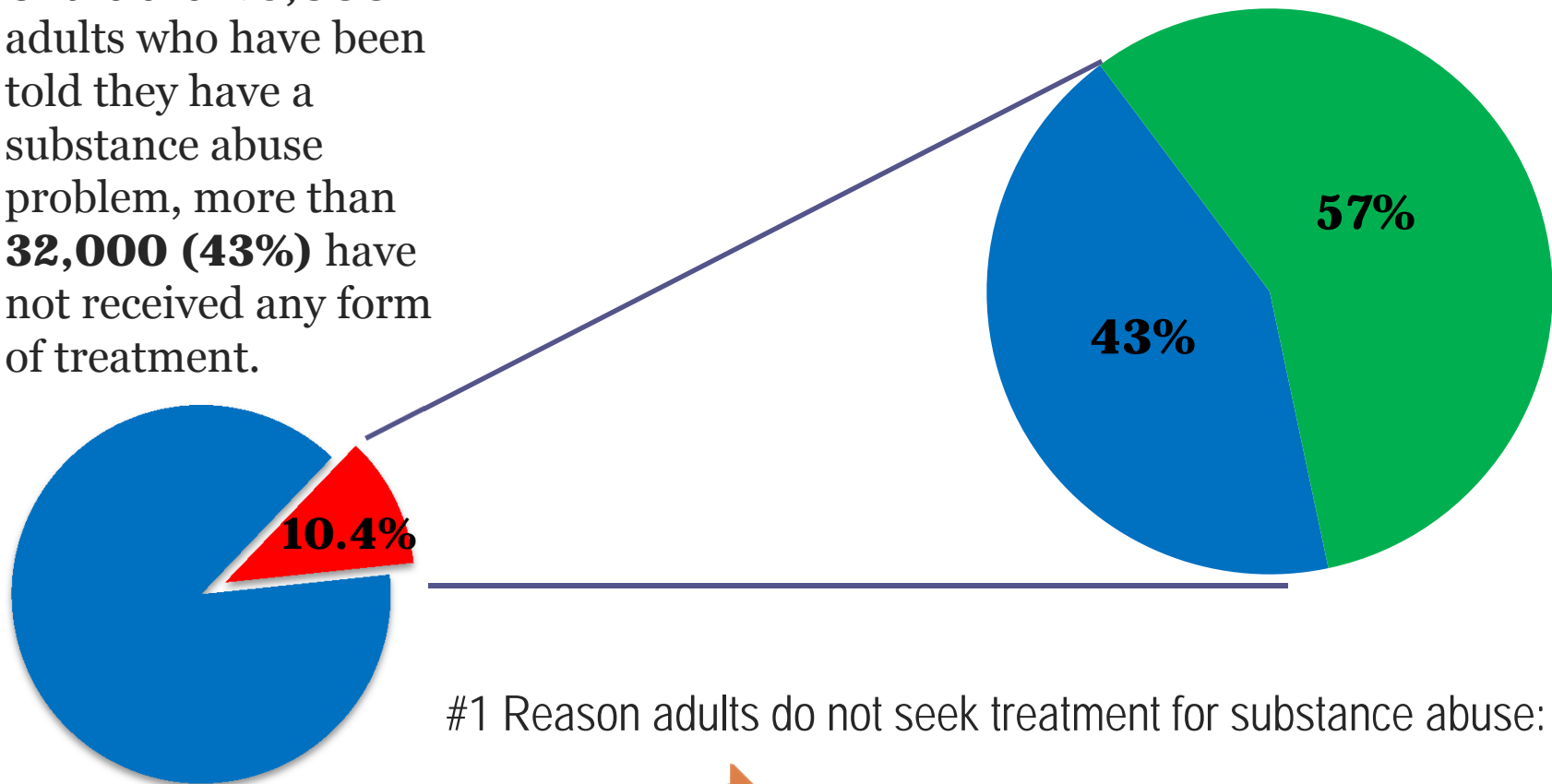
ACE EXPOSURE AND PHYSICAL & BEHAVIOR HEALTH



Hussaini, K. et al (2016)

SUBSTANCE USE AND TREATMENT

Of the over **75,000** adults who have been told they have a substance abuse problem, more than **32,000 (43%)** have not received any form of treatment.

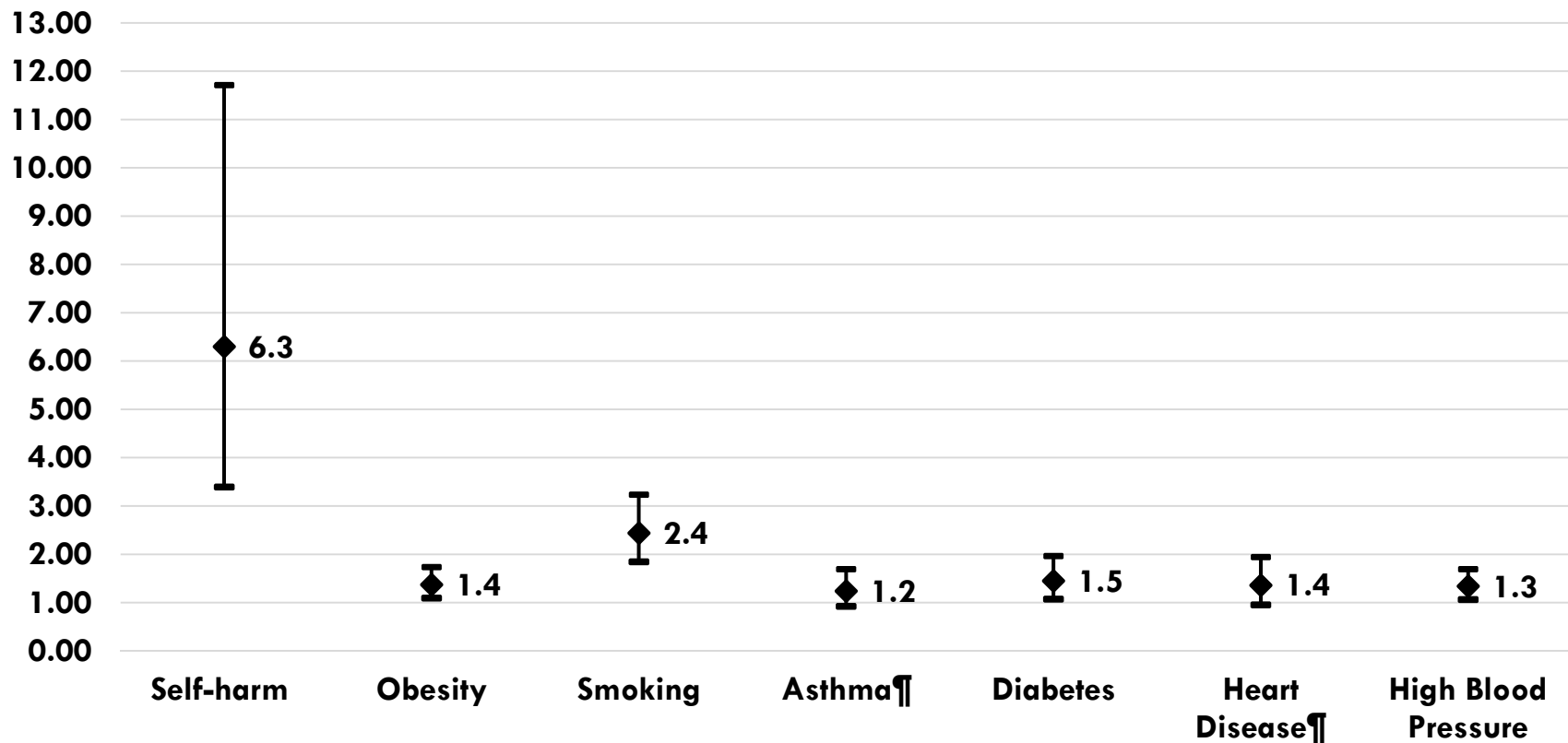


#1 Reason adults do not seek treatment for substance abuse:

 *"I don't have a problem."*

ACES AND ADULT HEALTH OUTCOMES

Adjusted Odds Ratio* with 95% Confidence Intervals for Exposure to any ACEs and Health Conditions



Notes: ACE variable is a dichotomous variable with "unexposed" as referent category

*Adjusted for gender, age, and race and ethnicity.

¶Not statistically significant

Hussaini, K. et al (2016)

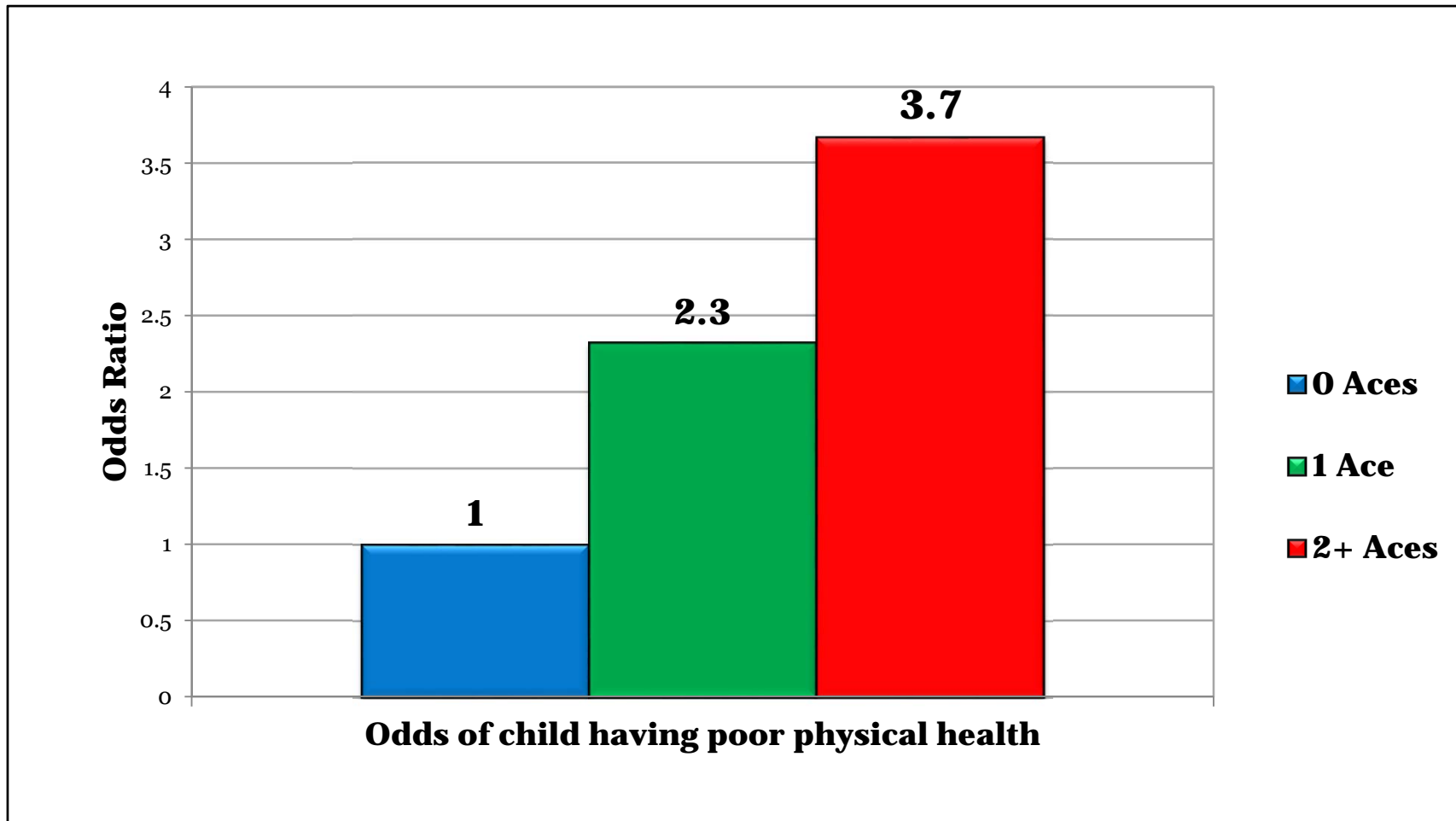
NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH (NSCH)

- Over 100 indicators of child health & wellbeing as reported by the child's parent or guardian
 - Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau; conducted by the CDC and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics
 - Primarily landline
 - 2011-12 survey added 9 ACE events
 - Health indicators include overall health status, chronic health conditions, flourishing, ADHD, Autism, use of medication for behavioral health, developmental delay

NSCH DELAWARE CHILD ACE DATA (n=1,824)

- Prevalence of exposure
 - 48% of children had been exposed to at least one
- Most frequent ACE types
 - Economic hardship= 25% often or somewhat
 - Divorce/separation=21%
 - **Neighborhood violence=12%**
- Number of ACE exposures was correlated with:
 - health status
 - flourishing

ACES AND OVERALL HEALTH OF DE CHILDREN

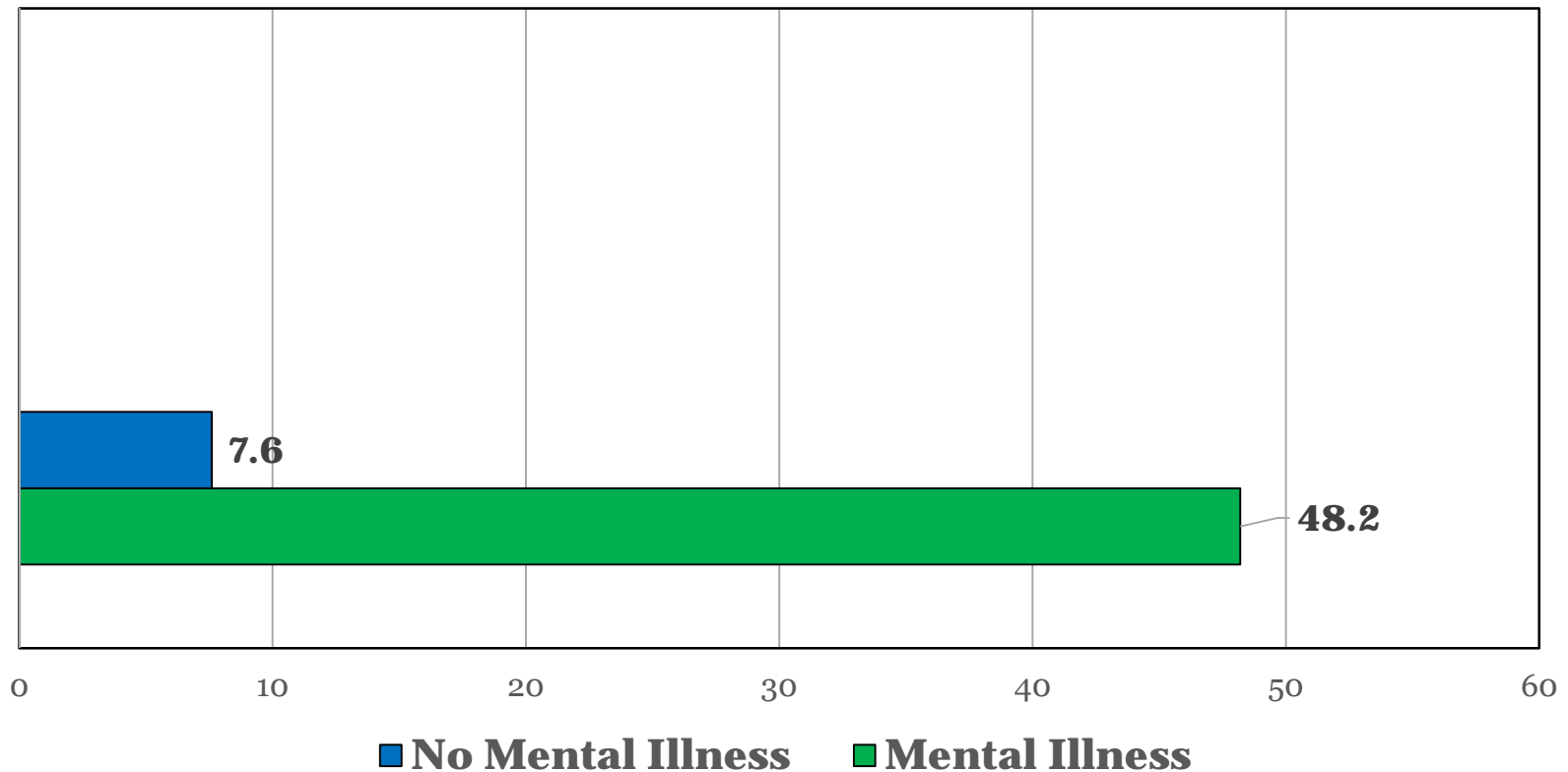


HOUSEHOLD MENTAL ILLNESS

- Delaware children living with an *adult with mental illness* were significantly more likely to:
 - be exposed to 5 or more of the other ACEs
 - experience separation from a caregiver
 - 7 times more likely to have parent incarcerated
 - 3 times more likely to have parent who died
 - 4 times more likely to have parents separated/divorced
 - be described as having poor health and chronic health conditions
- **More likely to be living with an adult with substance use**

RELATIONSHIP HOUSEHOLD SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**% Delaware Children Exposed to Household
Substance Use Problems**



ACE DATA LIMITATIONS

- Exposure type differences across surveys
- Question wording different across surveys
 - Original ACE survey suicide question: Have you ever attempted to commit suicide?
 - DHHS suicide question: During the past 12 months, was there ever a time you felt so sad or hopeless that you wanted to do something to purposely hurt yourself or end your life
- Survey administration differences
- Correlational data

DISCUSSION?



THANK YOU!