

Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Homeless Population in Cork

Graham Gill-Emerson

ACE Progression

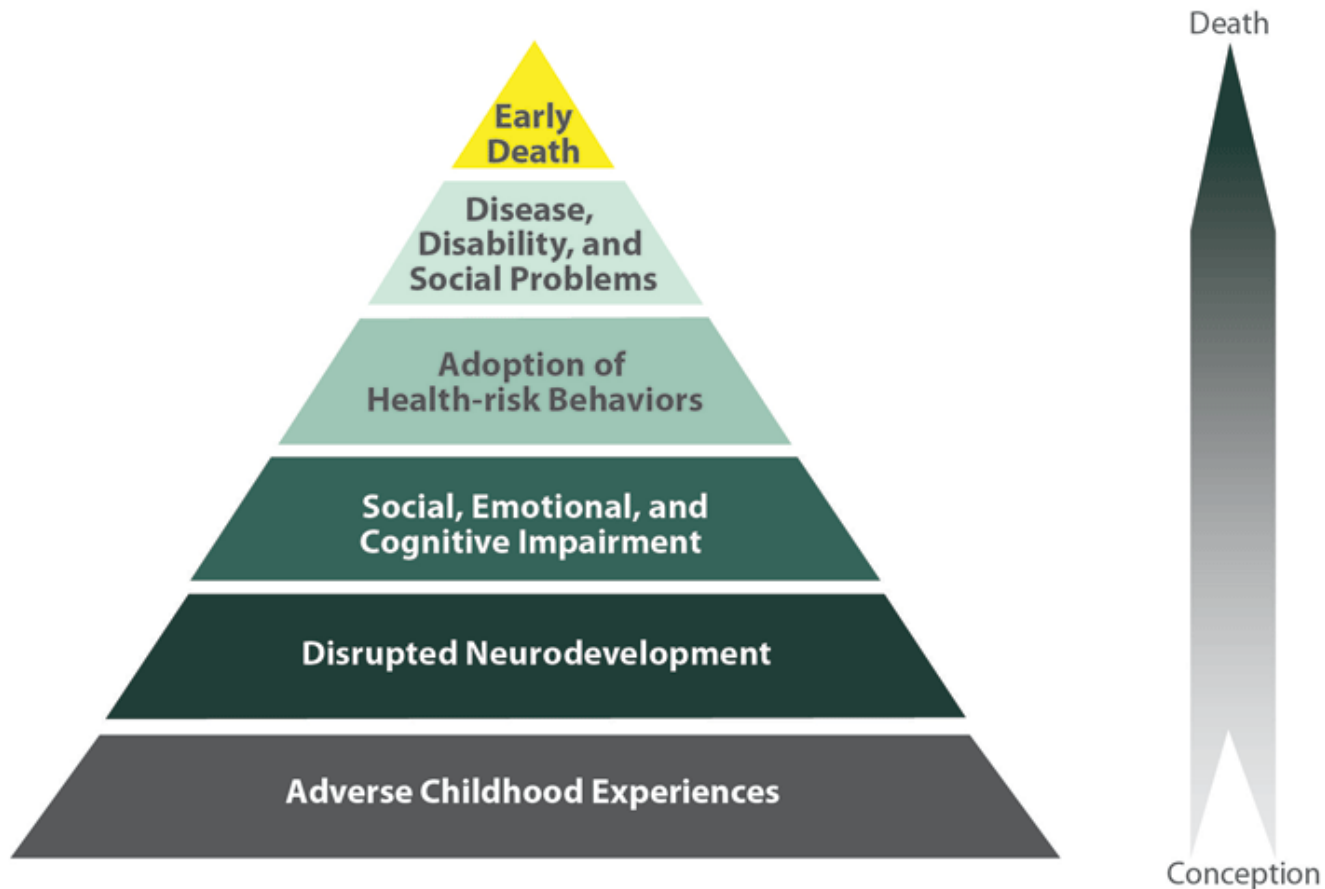
•Did you often or very often feel that...no one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? Or your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?

[YES/No]

•Did an adult or person at least five years older than you ever...touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? *Or* attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?

[YES/NO]

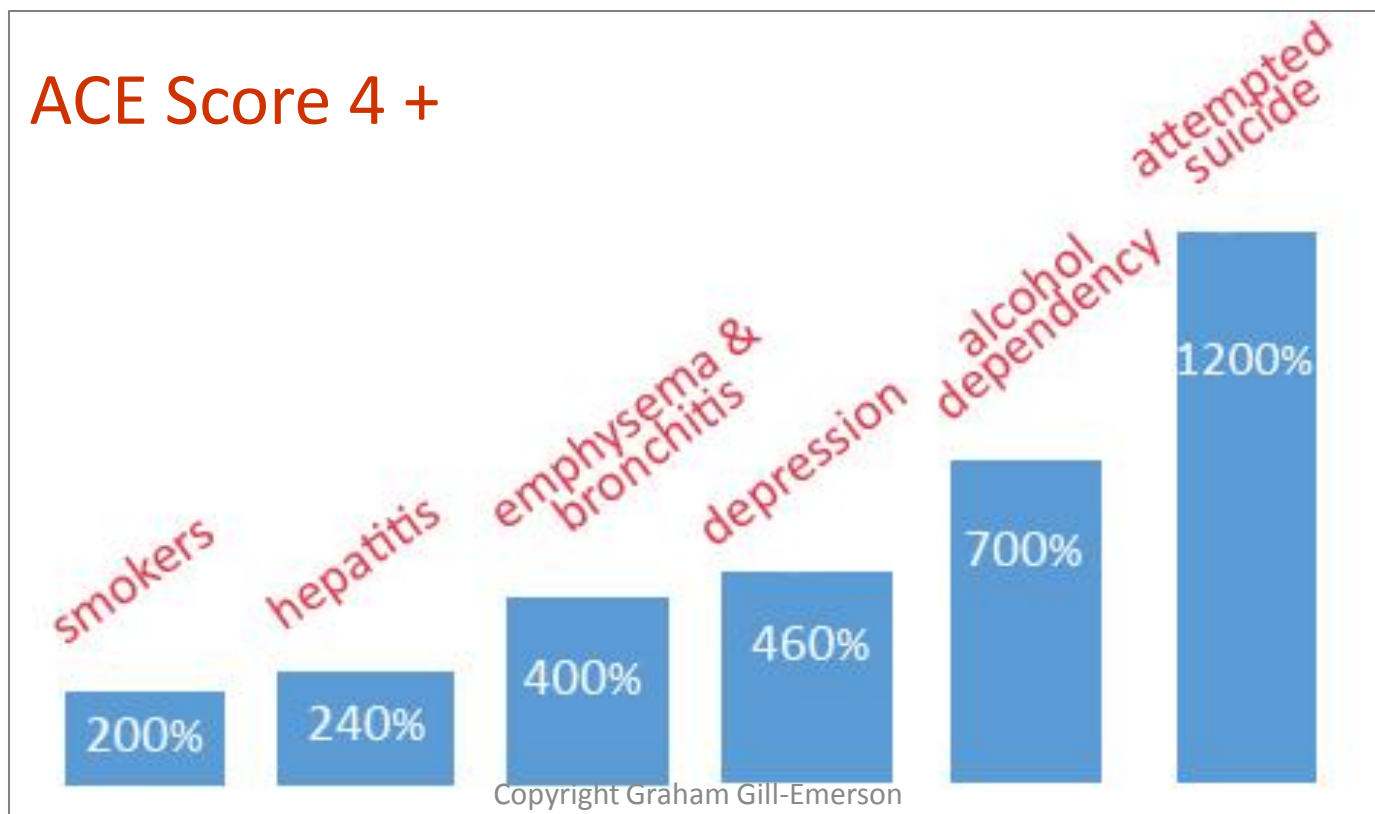
ACE Progression



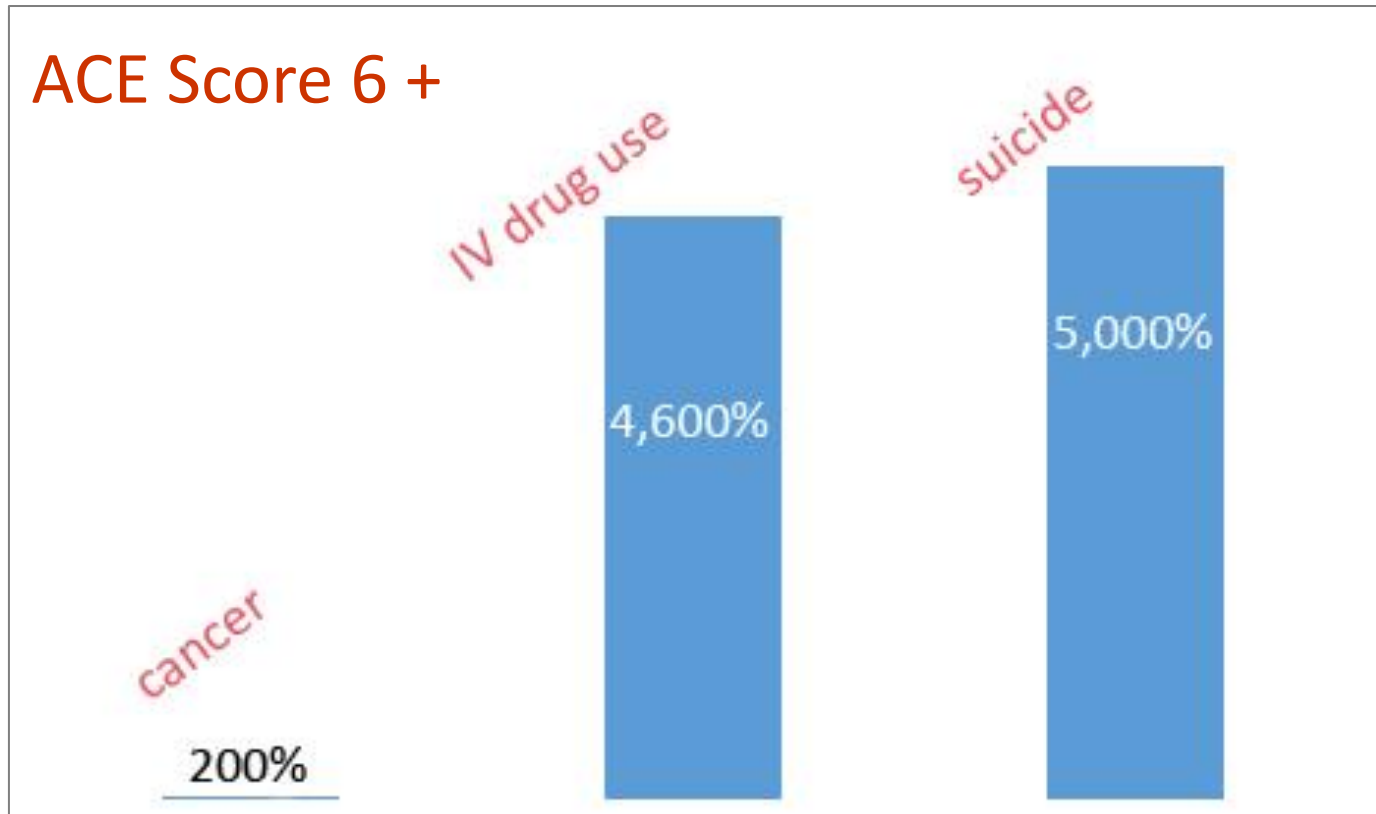
Mechanism by Which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan

ACE Dose Responses (Felitti et al, 1998)

ACE Score 3 Marks threshold of pathological risk



ACE Dose Responses (Felitti et al, 1998)



ACE and Homeless Study



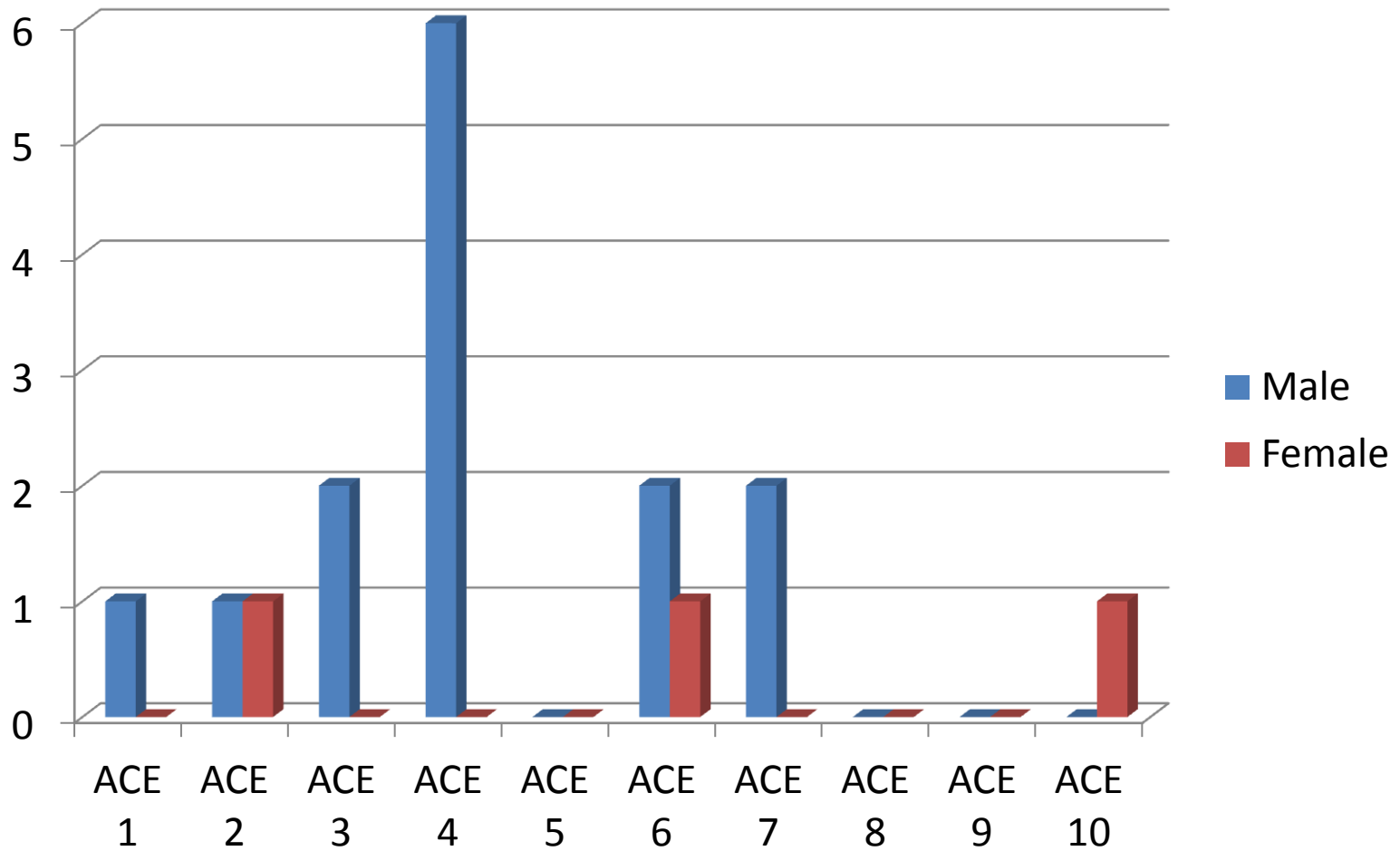
Goals:

- Prevalence and severity
- Relationship
- Implications

Participants

- Projected number of participants: **50**
- **No. of participants:** 17 (M14, F3)
- **Age Range:** 26 – 45
- **Nationality:**
 - Irish – 12
 - English – 2
 - Other – 3
- **ACE Scores:** **Average 5** (Range 1 – 10)

ACE Scores



Substance Use Information

- 53% had abused **alcohol** in the past
- 59% had abused **heroin**
 - 18% currently IV users
- Longest period **substance free** average – 20 months
- 53% on current **benzodiazepine** prescription

Physical Health

- Averaged 13 trips to **A&E** (Range 4 – 40)
- 35% had experienced **serious head injuries**
- 65% people had at least 1 **overdose**:
 - 53% accidental
 - 18% deliberate
- 41% reported **self harm** while 65% reported having had **suicidal thoughts**

Other Results

- All participants had **criminal charges**
- **Levels of distress** average 4 out of 10 (range 1 – 8)
- **Interviewers experiences:**
 - At times interviewers reported **higher levels of distress** than clients

Researchers

Cork Simon Community – Graham Gill-Emerson (Addiction Counsellor)

University College Cork – Dr. Sharon Lambert (Forensic psychologist) & Mary Tobin (statistical analysis)

Health Service Executive - Dr. Aidan Horan (Methadone GP) & Dr. Anna Marie Naughton (GP)

Ethical approval was granted through UCC School of Applied Psychology

References

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