April 24th, 2019

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health: Why It Matters & How We Can Help

Wisconsin Children's Caucus

Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health

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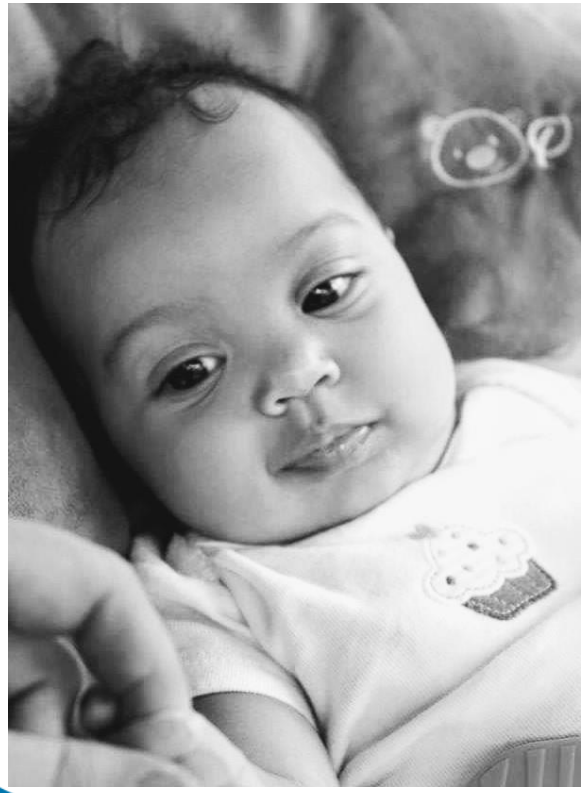
What is Infant / Early Childhood Mental Health?



The developing capacity from birth to 6 “to experience, regulate, and express emotions; to form close relationships; and to explore the environment and learn”[1] — all in the context of family, community, and culture

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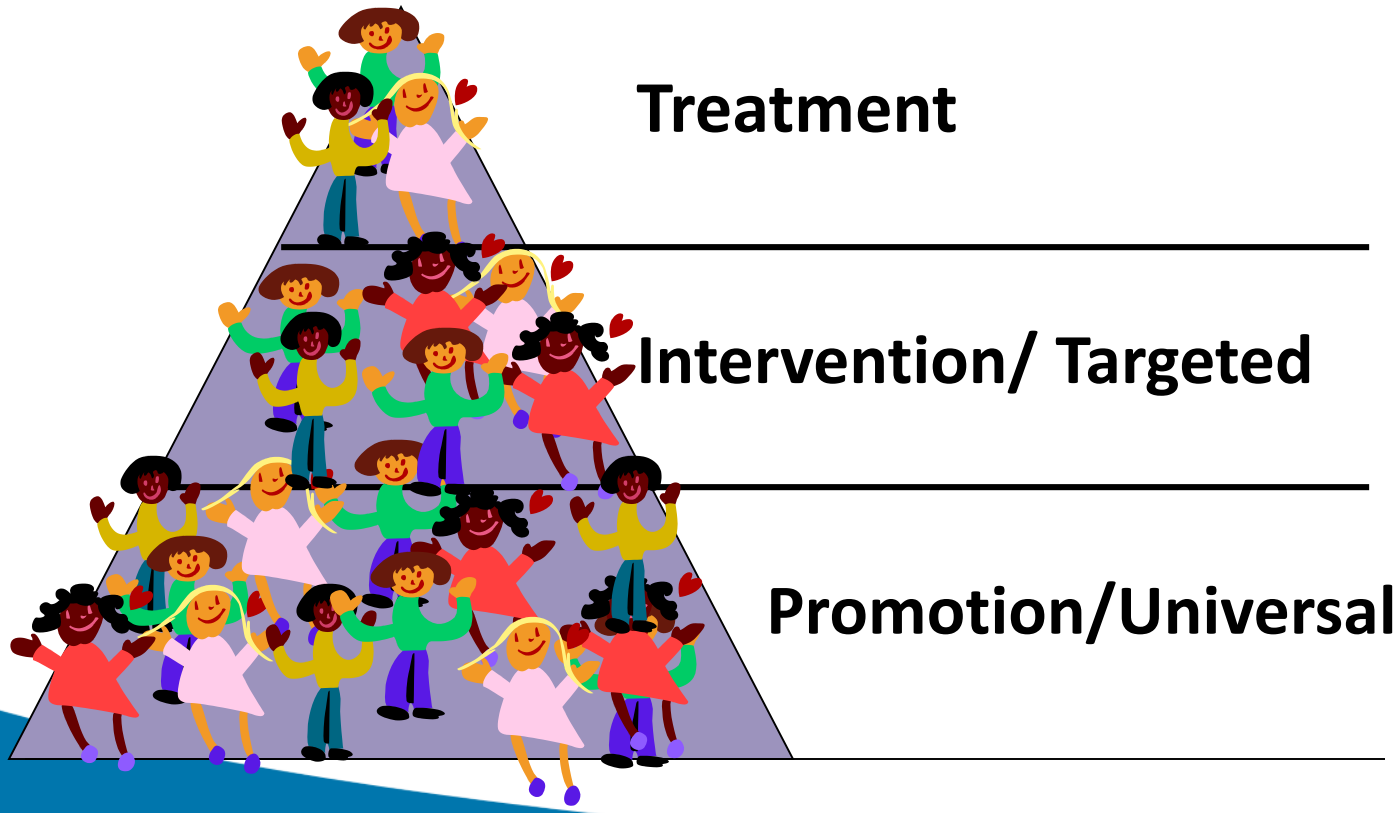
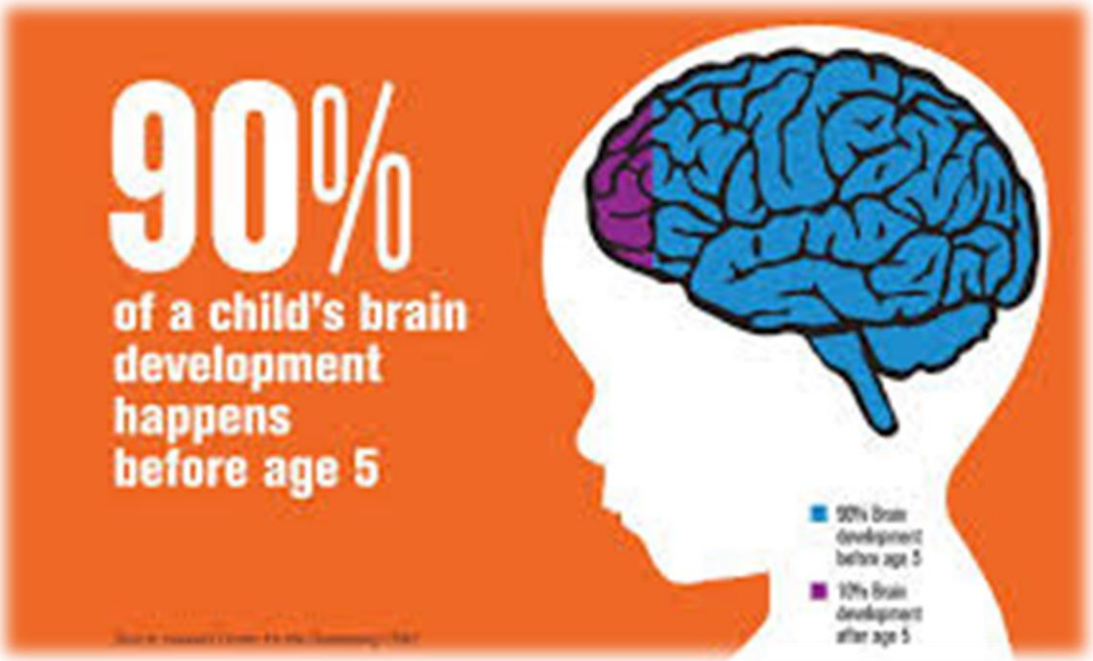
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH
Early Relationships Matter

Infant Mental Health – as a field…

Comprehensive System of Care



Why is Infant / Early Childhood Mental Health Important?



Brain development depends on the quality of caregiving relationship

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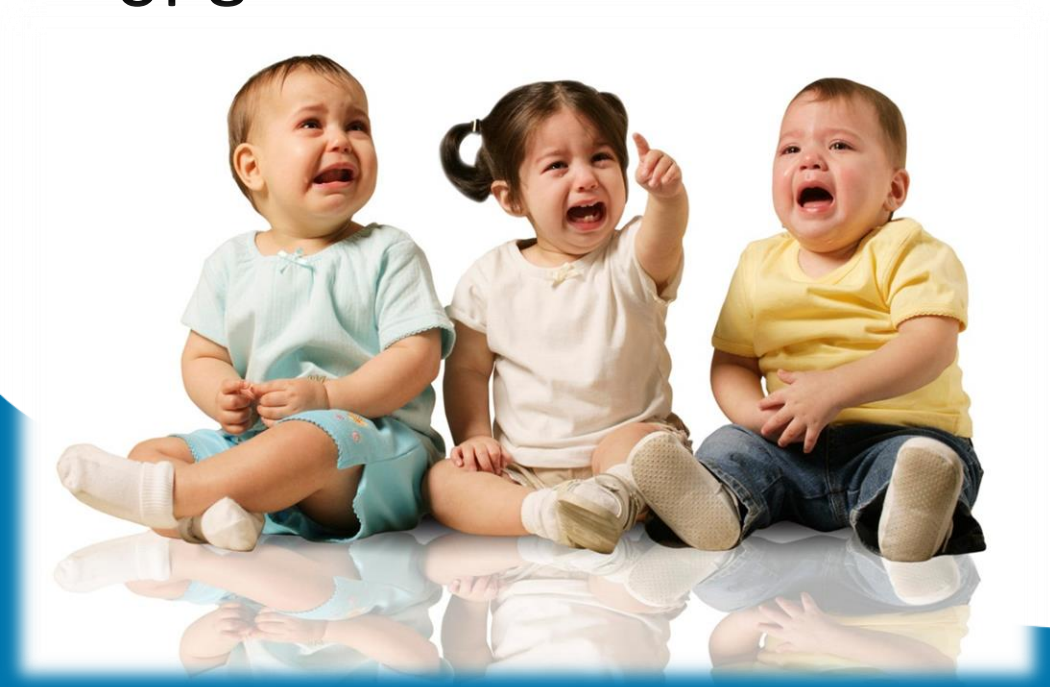
Why is Infant / Early Childhood Mental Health Important?

Children, ages birth to three, account for the largest number of victims of abuse and neglect and 57% of all victims are children under the age of 8



WI Department of Children and Families Annual Report (2017)

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Why is Infant / Early Childhood Mental Health Important?

It is estimated that between 9.5% and 14.2% of children age birth to 5 experience an emotional or behavioral disturbance. *That's 32,032 to 47,880 of Wisconsin's children birth to five.*

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Impact of Early Expulsion

3.5x

Children (ages 0-4) are expelled 3.5 times more than children in the K-12 education system.

(Gilliam, 2005)

Challenging behaviors are the **number one reason** children are expelled.

(Vitiola-Irvin, L., 2010)

8x

Children who are expelled or suspended are 8 times more likely to be incarcerated later in life.

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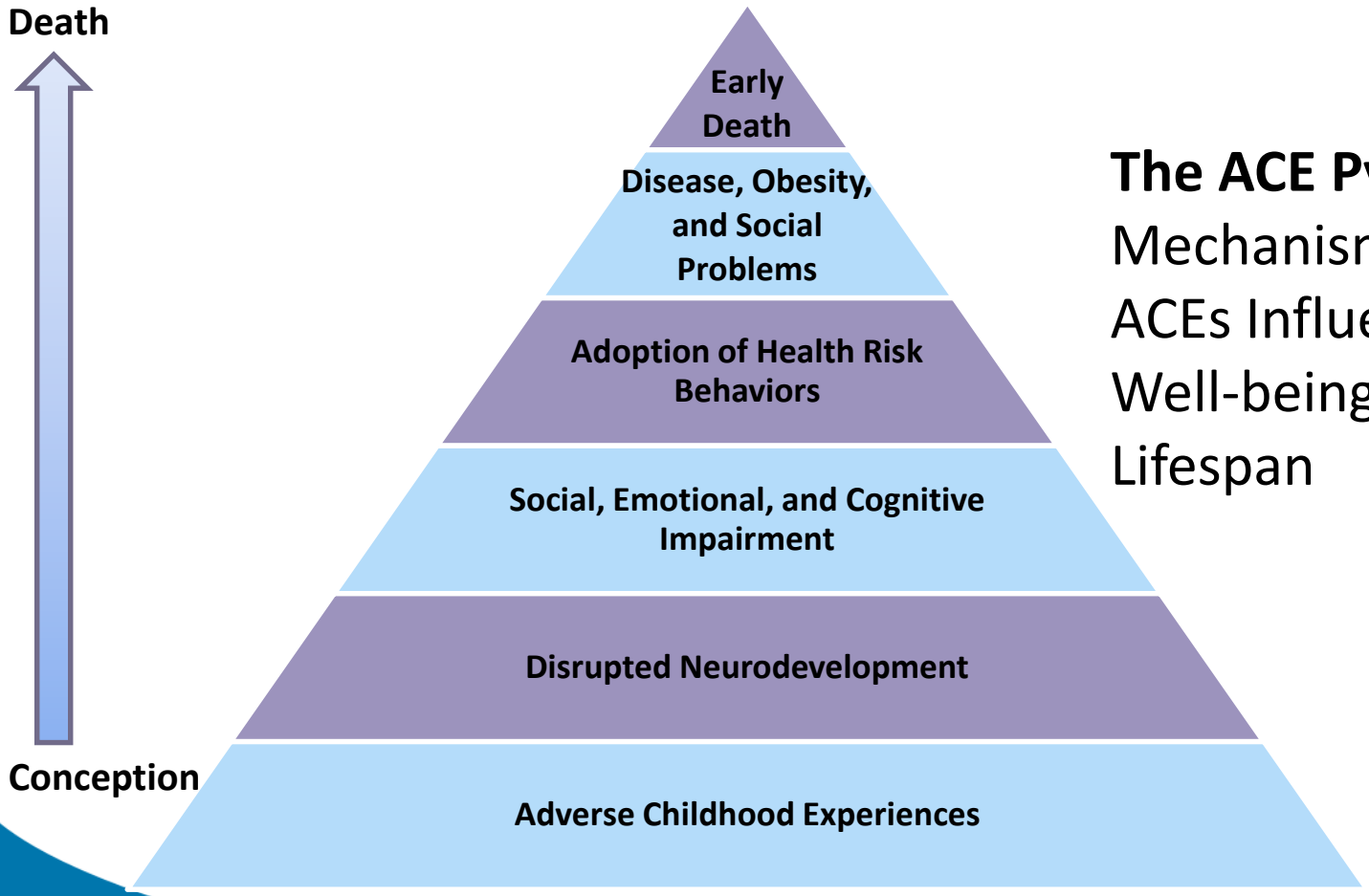
Impact of Childhood Trauma



The ACE Pyramid:
Mechanisms by which ACEs Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan

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What is Infant / Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation?

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is an ***evidence-based collaborative intervention provided by a professional with mental health expertise*** that improves outcomes for ***all*** children.

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“A mental health consultant in a child-care setting is a crisis manager, therapist, “couple’s counselor”, child development expert and organizational consultant all at once.”

Johnston, K & Brinamen, C. (2006)

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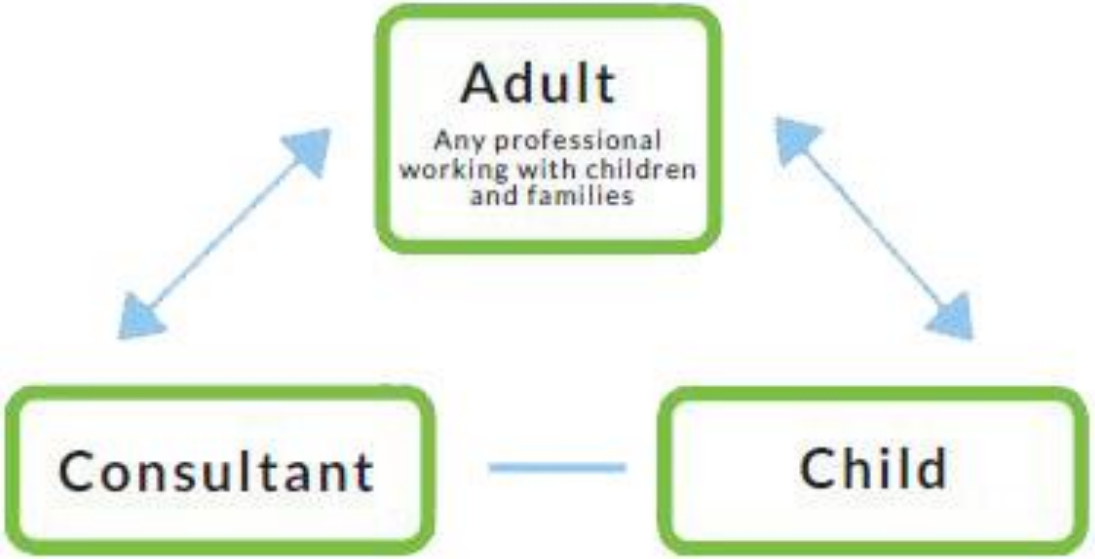
Universal Model



Helping Adults Help Children Succeed

50%

Fewer reported expulsions by teachers who have ongoing mental health consultation support.

(Perry, Brennan, Bradley, and Allen, 2006)

National Trends in Infant / Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

WA
OR
ID
MT
NV
UT
CO
AZ
NM
AK
HI
MN
WI
MI
IA
KS
MO
OK
TX
IN
OH
WV
VA
TN
MS
AL
SC
FL
NY
PA
NJ
MD
MA
CT
RI

Ireland

Western Australia
Northern Territory
Queensland
South Australia
New South Wales
Victoria
Tasmania
Australia

Japan

LEGEND

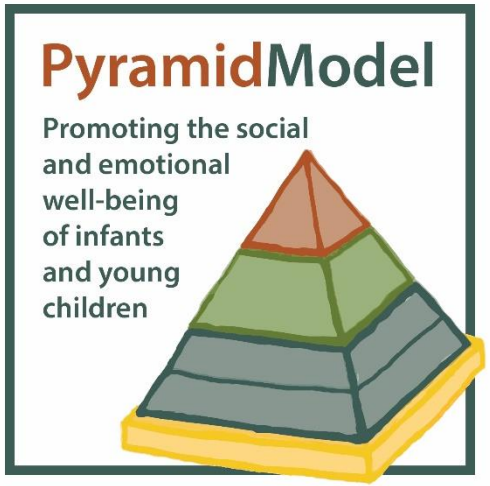
- Alliance Members (30 US states plus Australia and Ireland)
- Discovery Process (5 US states)
- Developed and owned by MI-AIMH

Alliance for the Advancement of
Infant Mental Health

How can Wisconsin's policymakers and community leaders help make this happen?

- Support Healthy Infant Courts in other Wisconsin counties (Milwaukee County)

- Invest in evidence based frameworks that support social-emotional development (Pyramid Model for social and Emotional competence)



How can Wisconsin's policymakers and community leaders help make this happen?

- Build state-wide capacity to provide infant/ early childhood mental health consultation across systems and disciplines that serve children

- Create a universal model that imbeds consultation into multiple systems with parts of consultation being billable to Medicaid

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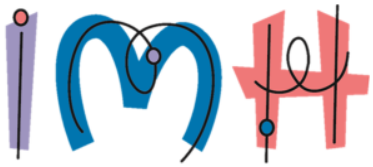
Any Questions



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