



**Center for
Deaf Health Equity**

Adverse Childhood Communication Experiences (ACCE): A form of adverse childhood experiences

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ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



Divorce

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

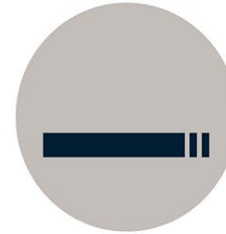
(ACE)

ADVERSE
CHILDHOOD
EXPERIENCES
(ACE) ARE LINKED
TO...

BEHAVIOR



Lack of physical activity



Smoking



Alcoholism



Drug use



Missed work

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH



Severe obesity



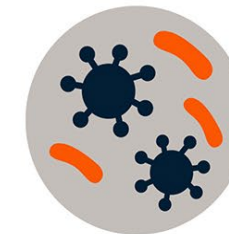
Diabetes



Depression



Suicide attempts



STDs



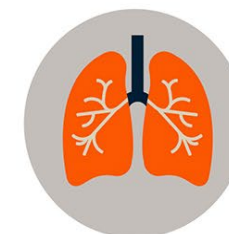
Heart disease



Cancer



Stroke



COPD



Broken bones

What about Adverse Childhood Communication Experiences (ACCCEs)?



A Party of One; acrylic on canvas; 2012
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THE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCES STUDY

KUSHALNAGAR, P., RYAN, C.,
PALUDNEVICIENE, R., SPELLUN,
A., & GULATI, S. (2020). ADVERSE
CHILDHOOD COMMUNICATION
EXPERIENCES ASSOCIATED WITH
AN INCREASED RISK OF
CHRONIC DISEASES IN ADULTS
WHO ARE DEAF. *AMERICAN
JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE
MEDICINE*

The largest study of its kind ever
done to examine the health
effects of adverse childhood
communication experiences
over the lifespan

Over 1,500 Deaf/HH Adults answered ACCEs questions

*58% female

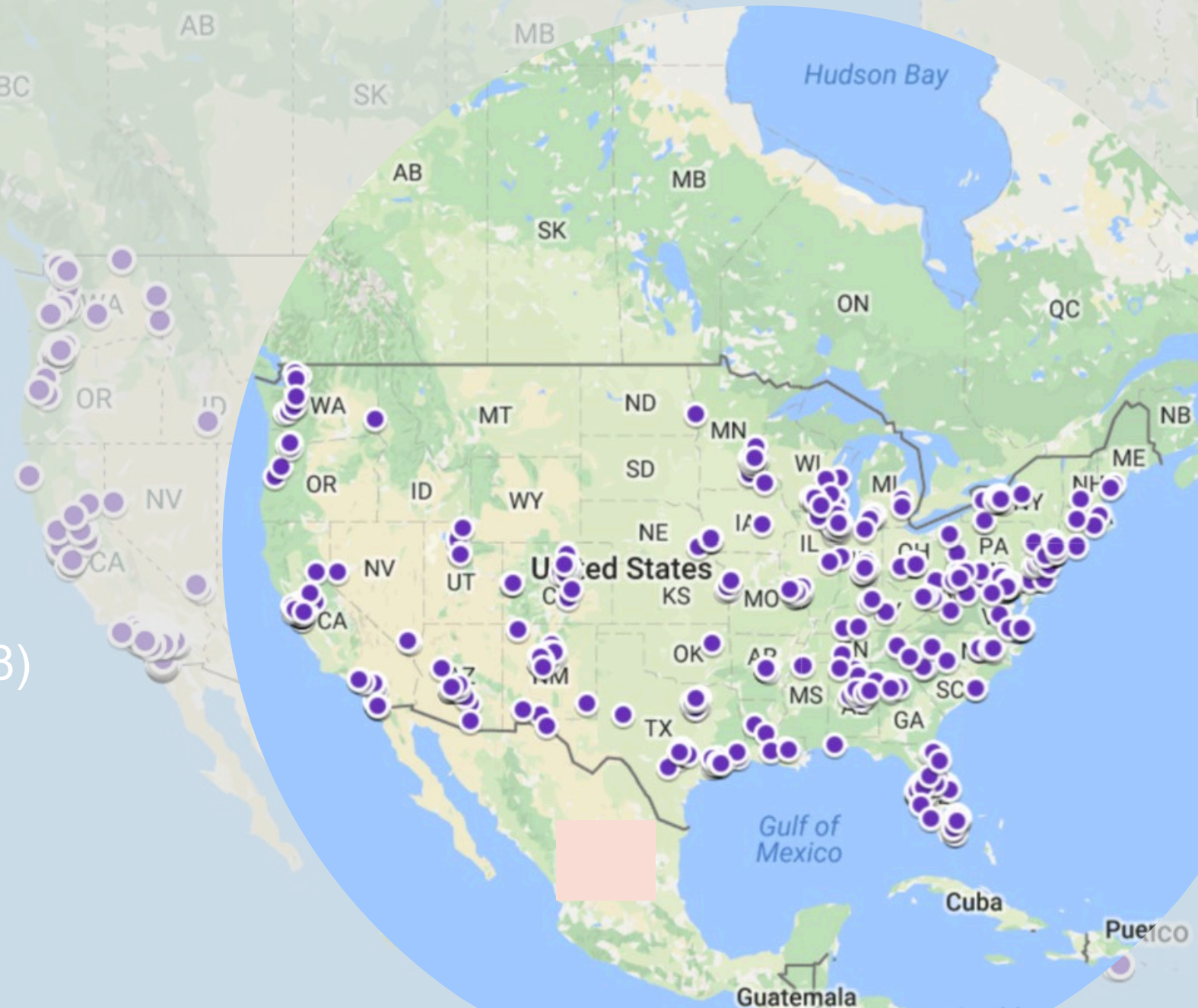
*28% LGBTQ

*34% people of color

*43% high school degree only

*Mean age: 46 years old (SD=18)

*Age range: 18 to 95 years old



ACCEs

Access to
communication and languages,

a **basic need** for all children
that many **deaf children** do not receive

**LANGUAGE DEPRIVATION AND
COMMUNICATION NEGLECT ARE
SEPARATE BUT RELATED
CONSTRUCTS**

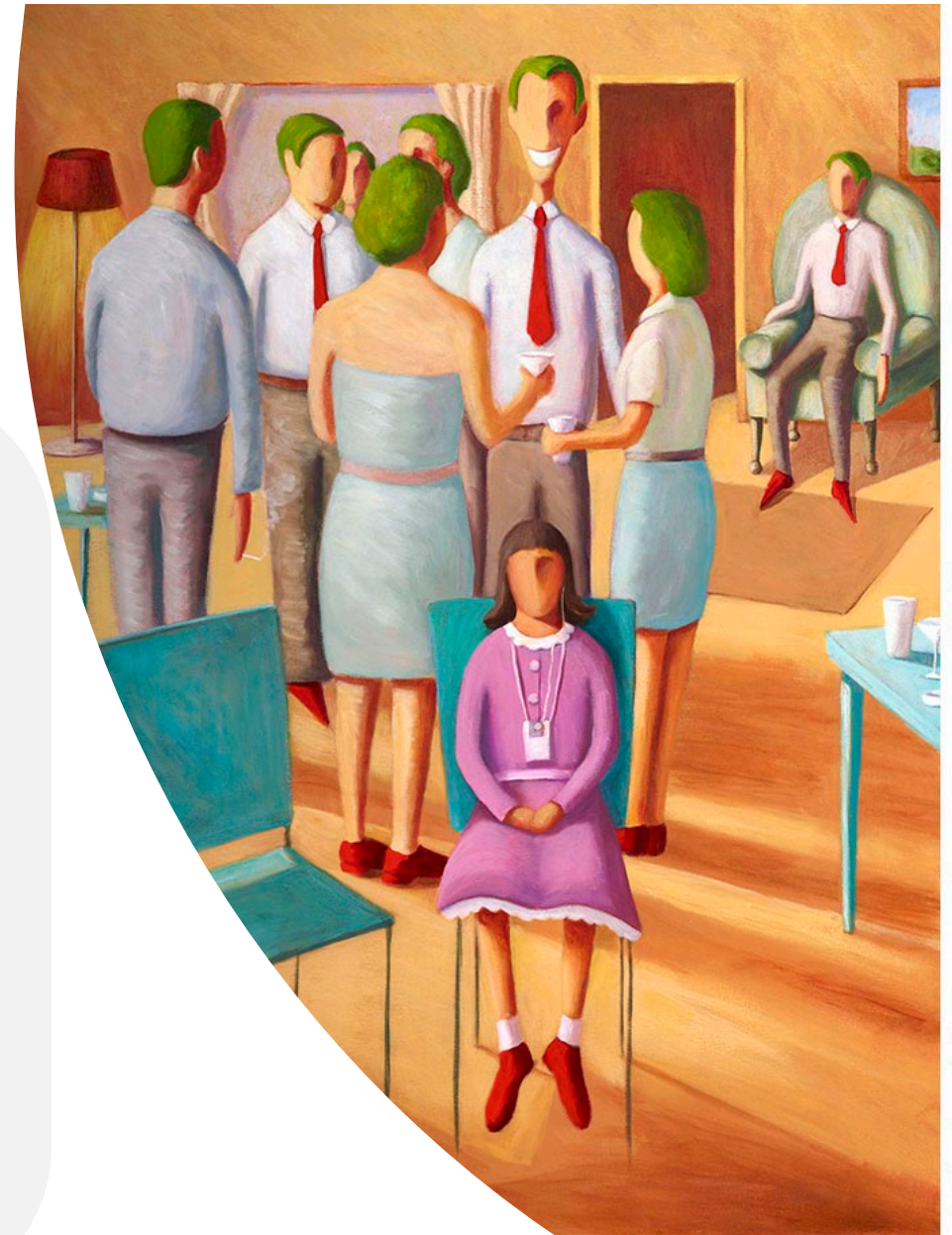
ACCE Screening Questions

1. Thinking about the person/caregiver/parent who took care of you the most when you were growing up,
 - how much did this person understand you?
 - how much did you understand this person?

*(completely, mostly, moderately, **a little, not at all**)*

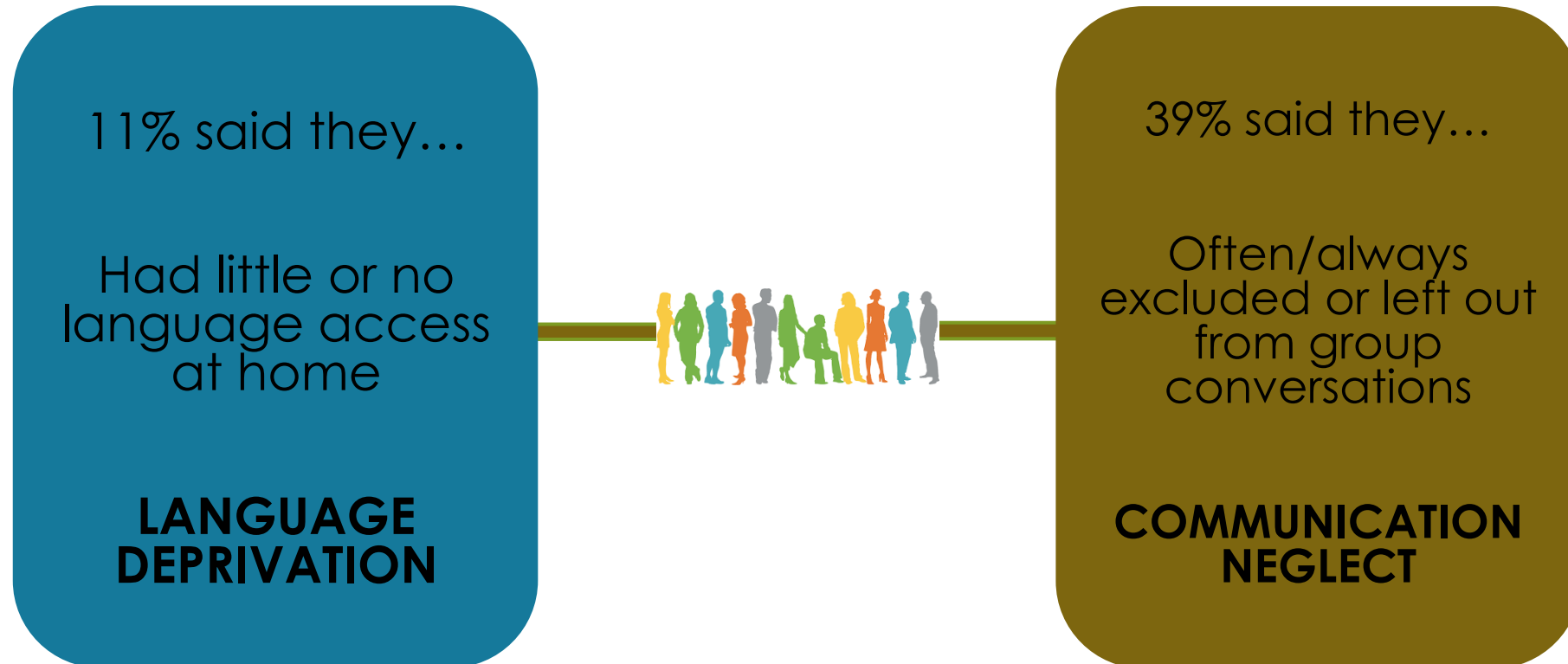
2. When you were growing up, how often did you feel included in family conversations or discussions?

*(**always, often**, sometimes, rarely, never)*



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Out of 1,524 respondents....



Much work has been done to increase awareness and prevent language deprivation in very young children...

We need to also raise awareness about communication neglect that happen to school-aged children who have language ...

Video Testimonial: Peer interactions in early years



Video testimonial: *"I have a question..."*



Video Testimonial: *"I'll tell you later"*



Video Testimonial: *Making a child feel included*



Video Testimonial: "*Bang, Bang...*"



Testimonials show similar experiences:

- Ability to engage in group communication is important
- Visual communication is vital to the child's ability to engage in active communication
- Family creates solutions that work for the child's engagement in communication
 - Solutions are highly dependent on family and child values.

Intersectionality : Issues to consider

- Deaf people from different communities can differ on self-perceptions of communication experiences.
 - Patient-reported outcomes approach can be useful
- External factors can play a role in buffering the negative impact of ACCEs on health outcomes.
- Design and evaluation of interventions must incorporate family-centered intersectional lens

Working Together

**Early detection prevents
communication neglect**



**Reduce health
disparity**

ACTIONS TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE ACCE

LANGUAGE DEPRIVATION AND COMMUNICATION NEGLECT



Develop a common, statewide lens around ACCEs



Improve the quality of ACCEs surveillance data



Implement ACCEs screening



Support systems transformation



Develop a comprehensive, ACCE trauma-informed system of care

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Every child
deserves **full**
language and
communication
access for healthy
development.



MANY THANKS TO OUR CO-AUTHORS AND COMMENTERS



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