

Community Child Abuse Prevention Plan



A Call For Action

What Is Child Abuse and Neglect (Maltreatment)?

“Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act, which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.”



Using Prevention Science to Guide Community Action

Premise of Prevention Science

- To prevent a problem before it happens, the factors that predict the problem must be changed.

Advances in Prediction

- Longitudinal studies have identified predictors of child abuse and neglect - **Risk factors**.
- AND predictors of positive outcomes including success in school - **Promotive and protective factors**.

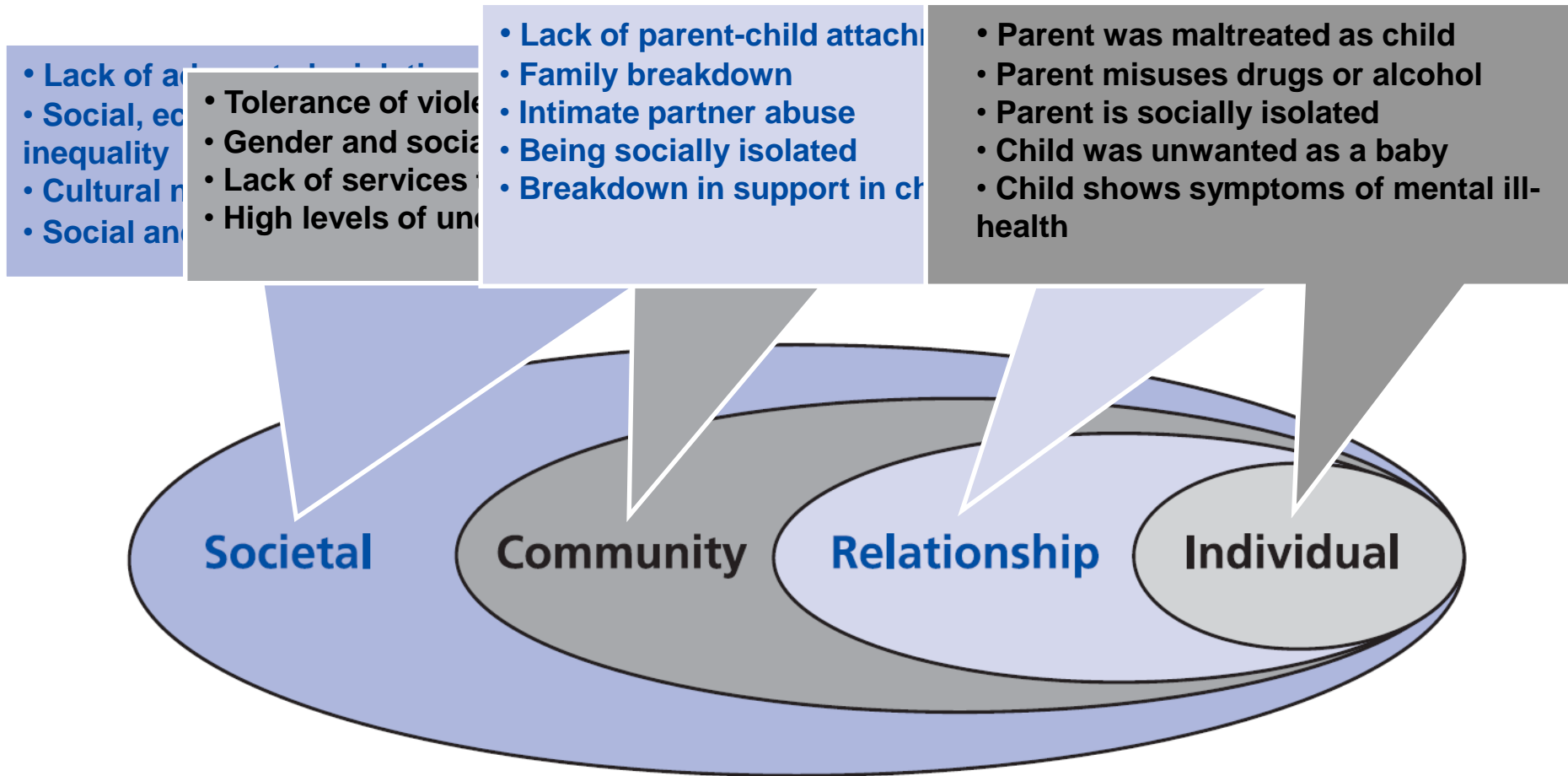


A Four-Pronged Approach to End Child Maltreatment

1. Understand Risk Factors
2. Understand Protective Factors
3. Use Evidence-based/informed Approaches to Serve Children and Families
4. Set of Core Metrics to Track Milestones Over Time to Increase the Impact of Their Work



Risk Factors for Child Maltreatment



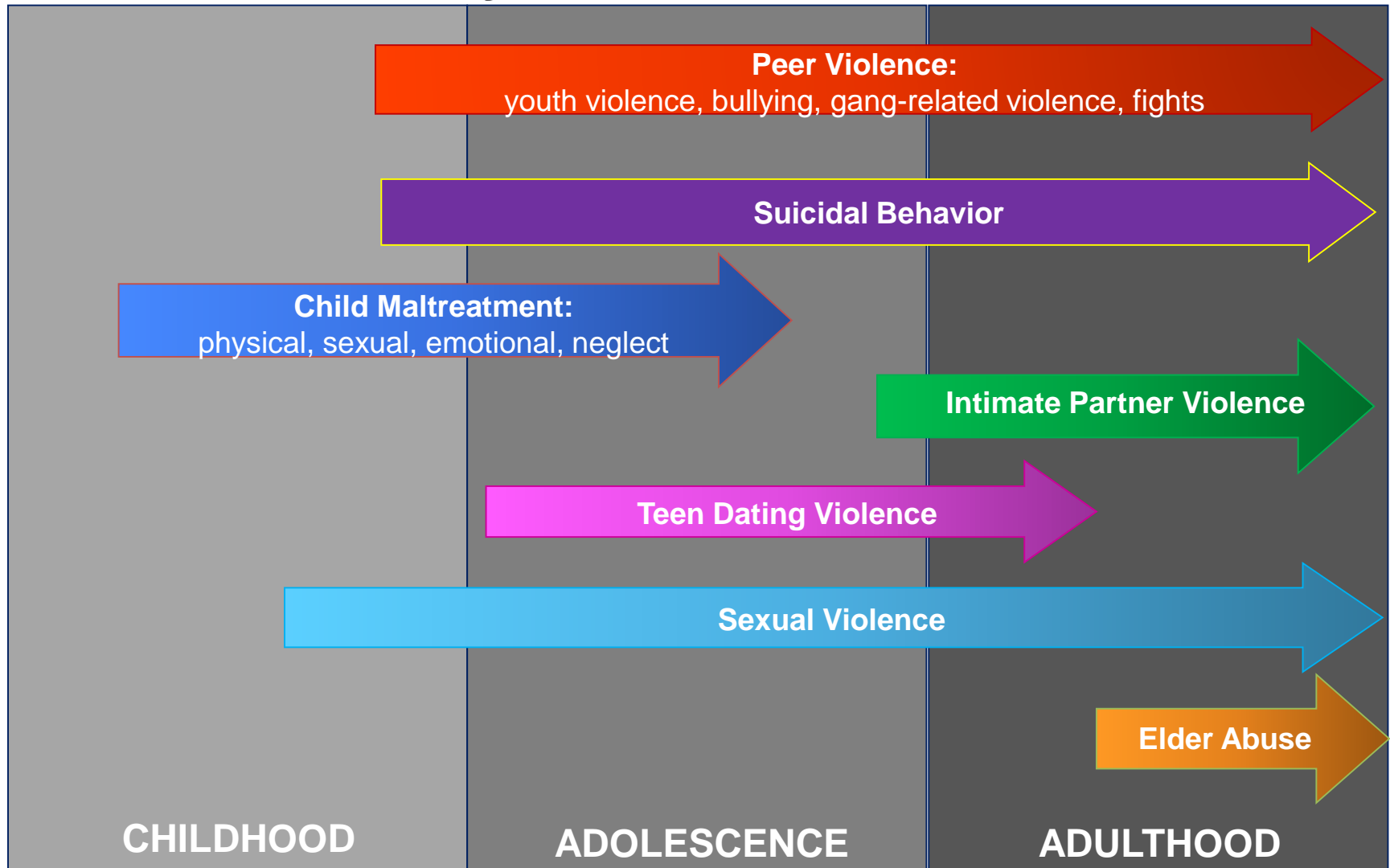
Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse ChildresshoodExperiences (or ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences that occur prior to the age of 18.

Title

1. Emotional abuse
2. Physical abuse
3. Psychological abuse
4. Sexual abuse
5. Neglect
6. Witnessing domestic violence
7. Household member with mental illness
8. Household member with substance abuse
9. Incarcerated parent
10. Loss of parent

Untreated Adverse Early Childhood Events Only Exacerbate Over Time



Protective Factors for Resilience Trump ACE's Every Time!

*Safe, cohesive
neighborhood*

*Basic needs met : Food,
Housing, etc.*

*Access to healthcare
and social services*

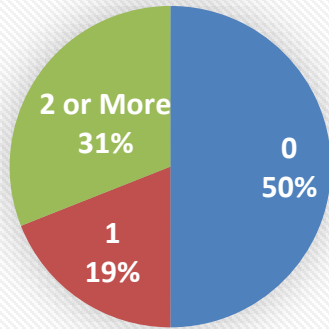
*Connection with a caring,
stable adult*



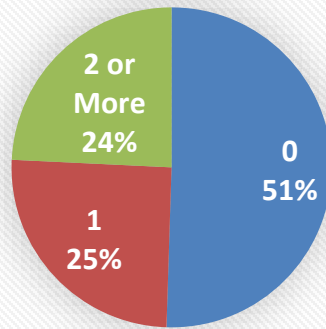
Safe home

What Can Be Done About ACES?

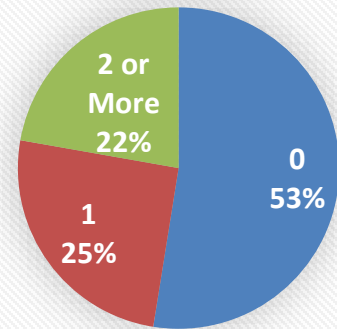
Cumberland



North Carolina



United States



Home visiting to pregnant women and families with newborns



Parenting training programs



Intimate partner violence prevention



Social support for parents



Parent support programs for teens and teen pregnancy prevention programs



Mental illness and substance abuse treatment

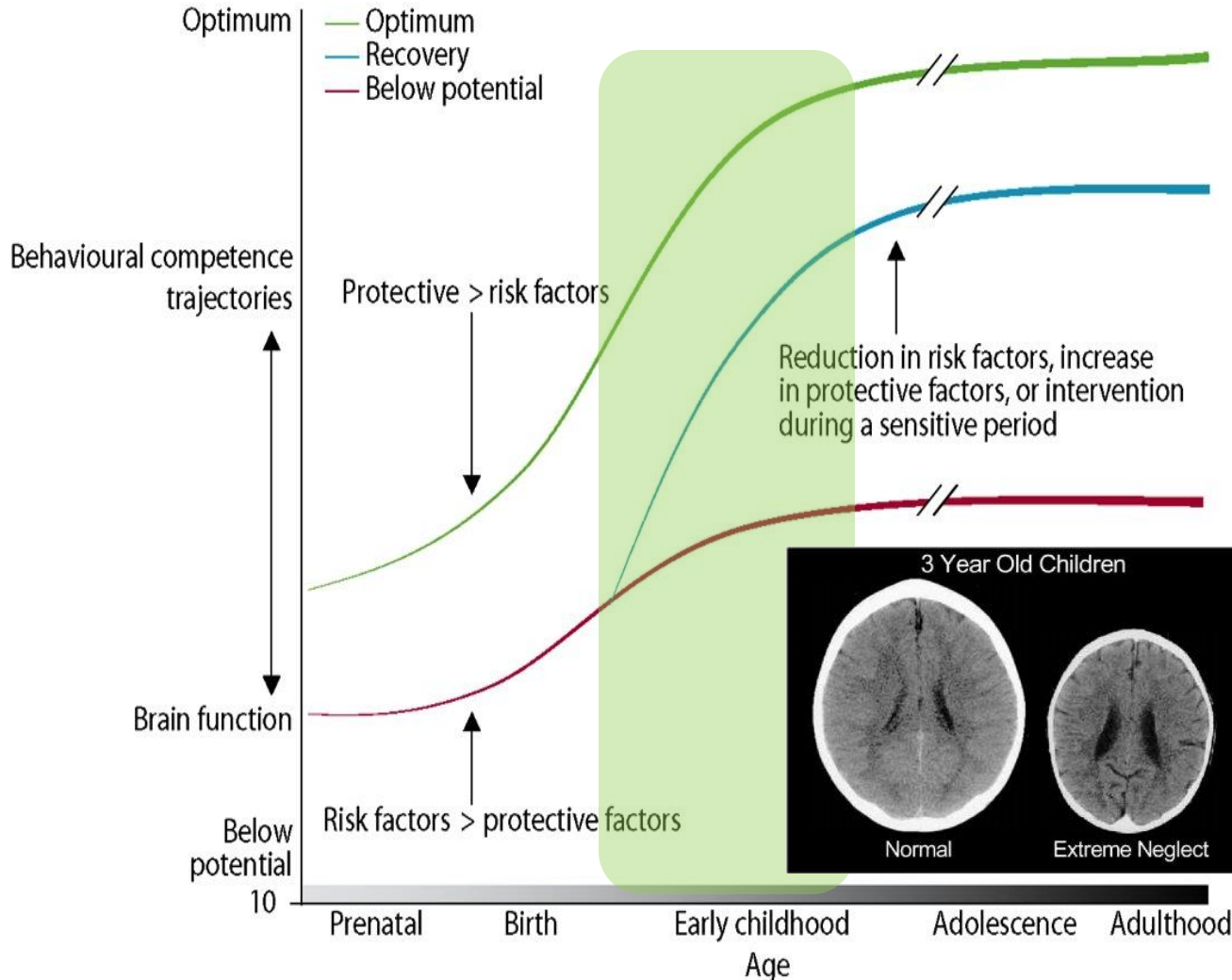


ABC High quality child care



Sufficient income support for lower income families

Equity Gaps Begin Early and Widen Progressively



Lancet, 2011

Biological risks

- ☹️ Chronic under-nutrition
- ☹️ Iron and iodine deficiency
- ☹️ HIV infection

Psycho-social risks

- ☹️ Poor caregiver-child interaction
- ☹️ Maternal depression
- ☹️ Institutional rearing
- ☹️ Exposure to violence
- ☹️ Poor learning environment

Protective factors

- 😊 Good nutrition
- 😊 Responsive & nurturing parenting
- 😊 Safe and stimulating environment
- 😊 Health care (prenatal, maternity, new born, infant)
- 😊 Adequate family income

Bridging The Chasm



**Child
health
as it
stands
today**

Involving those who don't yet realize that they are working on issues that represent the "downstream" wreckage of child abuse and neglect--and other adverse childhood experiences--in the effort to bridge the chasm.

**Child
health
as it
could
be**

Routine screening for trauma is needed

A Community Paradigm Shift For Children and Families

Moving Upstream

- Change the conversation from “What’s Wrong With You” To “What’s Happened To You”
- Move upstream by building protective factors and fostering resiliency
- Go where the kids already are
- Focus on ALL families
- Universal, non-stigmatizing, educational approach
- Acting before anything bad happens
- Measure results in growth of protective factors/family strengths
- A more universal, evidence-based model built on promoting resilience

Foundational Ideas

- A consideration of culture
- The strengths-base perspective
- The biology of stress
- Resiliency theory
- A focus on well-being
- The nature of risk and protective factors

To Get Involved, Contact

Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.

☺ Linda Blanton, Vice President
of Planning & Evaluation

☎ Phone: (+910) 574 – 6522

✉ e.mail: lblanton@ccpfc.org



*“Children are the living messages we
send to a time we will not see”.*

~John W. Whitehead, “The Stealing of America”