

# Data Walk: Sedgwick County ACEs



Accessible Version

## What This Measures:

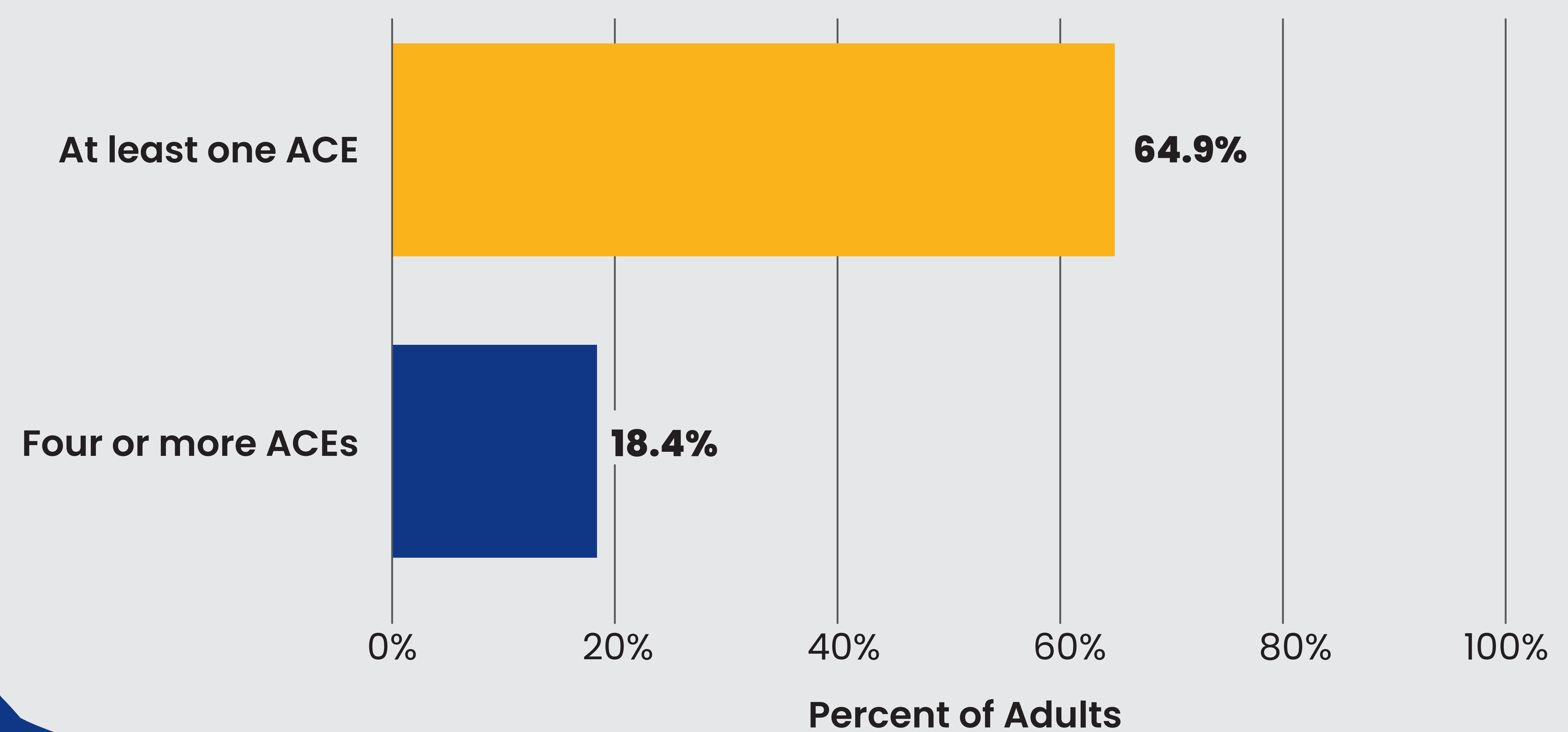
Percentage of adults reporting adverse childhood experiences. Four or more ACEs are recognized as higher risk for adverse health outcomes.

# About one in five adults in Kansas

(18.4 percent) have experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences.



Adverse Childhood Experiences of Kansas Adults, 2020



Note: ACE statistics are reported retrospectively by adults and include exposure to eight types of ACEs: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, witnessing intimate partner violence, household substance abuse, household mental illness, parental separation or divorce, and incarcerated household member. Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

**Why this is important:** Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) refer to **potentially traumatic childhood events**, such as exposure to violence, substance use and behavioral health challenges, family separation, poverty and discrimination. A person with four or more ACEs is recognized as high risk for adverse health outcomes; however, some people with fewer ACEs may still experience these outcomes depending on the ACE and its associated trauma. ACEs are linked to **lasting physical and mental health challenges into adulthood**. Toxic stress resulting from ACEs can negatively affect children's brain development. Adults with ACEs may face additional difficulty with achieving higher education, maintaining employment and forming healthy relationships. ACEs, including experiences of abuse and neglect, can contribute to reasons for a child's removal from their home. Children removed into foster care have been found to have more ACEs than the overall population. In Kansas, children in the foster care system with greater ACE exposure have been found to experience greater placement instability. **Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) such as community supports, strong family and community relationships and a sense of belonging and safety can protect against development of ACEs and are associated with lasting positive mental health outcomes.**

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Briggs et al. (2021) in American Psychologist, Administration for Children and Families, Liming et al. (2021) in Pediatrics, Bethell, et al. (2019) in JAMA Pediatrics)

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