

Adverse Childhood Experiences International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ)

0		DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION	
0.1 [C1]	Sex (<i>Record Male / Female as observed</i>)	Male Female	
0.2 [C2]	What is your date of birth?	Day [][] Month [][] Year [][][][] Unknown (<i>Go to Q.C3</i>)	
0.3 [C3]	How old are you?	[][]	
0.4 [C4]	What is your [<i>insert relevant ethnic group / racial group / cultural group / others</i>] background?	[<i>Locally defined</i>] [<i>Locally defined</i>] [<i>Locally defined</i>] Refused	
0.5 [C5]	What is the highest level of education you have completed?	No formal schooling Less than primary school Primary school completed Secondary/High school completed College/University completed Post graduate degree Refused	
0.6 [C6]	Which of the following best describes your <u>main</u> work status over the last 12 months?	Government employee Non-government employee Self-employed Non-paid Student Homemaker Retired Unemployed (able to work) Unemployed (unable to work) Refused	
0.7 [C7]	What is your civic status?	Married (<i>Go to Q.M2</i>) Living as couple Divorced or separated Single Widowed (<i>Go to Q.M2</i>) Other Refused	
1		MARRIAGE	
1.1 [M1]	Have you ever been married?	Yes No (<i>Go to Q.M5</i>) Refused	
1.2 [M2]	At what age were you first married?	Age [][] Refused	
1.3 [M3]	At the time of your first marriage did you yourself choose your husband/wife?	Yes (<i>Go to Q.M5</i>) No Don't know / Not sure Refused	
1.4 [M4]	At the time of your first marriage if you did <u>not</u> choose your husband/wife yourself, did you give your consent to the choice?	Yes No Refused	
1.5 [M5]	If you are a mother or father what was your age when your first child was born?	Age [][] Not applicable Refused	

2		RELATIONSHIP WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS	
When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .			
2.1 [P1]	Did your parents/guardians understand your problems and worries?	Always	Most of the time
		Sometimes	Rarely
		Never	Refused
2.2 [P2]	Did your parents/guardians really know what you were doing with your free time when you were not at school or work?	Always	Most of the time
		Sometimes	Rarely
		Never	Refused
3			
3.1 [P3]	How often did your parents/guardians not give you enough food even when they could easily have done so?	Many times	A few times
		Once	Never
		Refused	
3.2 [P4]	Were your parents/guardians too drunk or intoxicated by drugs to take care of you?	Many times	A few times
		Once	Never
		Refused	
3.3 [P5]	How often did your parents/guardians not send you to school even when it was available?	Many times	A few times
		Once	Never
		Refused	
4		FAMILY ENVIRONMENT	
When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .			
4.1 [F1]	Did you live with a household member who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or misused street or prescription drugs?	Yes	No
		Refused	
4.2 [F2]	Did you live with a household member who was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal?	Yes	No
		Refused	
4.3 [F3]	Did you live with a household member who was ever sent to jail or prison?	Yes	No
		Refused	
4.4 [F4]	Were your parents ever separated or divorced?	Yes	No
		Not applicable	Refused
4.5 [F5]	Did your mother, father or guardian die?	Yes	No
		Don't know / Not sure	Refused
These next questions are about certain things you may actually have heard or seen IN YOUR HOME. These are things that may have been done to another household member but not necessarily to you.			

When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .		
4.6 [F6]	Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being yelled at, screamed at, sworn at, insulted or humiliated?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
4.7 [F7]	Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being slapped, kicked, punched or beaten up?	Refused
		Many times
		A few times
		Once
4.8 [F8]	Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being hit or cut with an object, such as a stick (or cane), bottle, club, knife, whip etc.?	Never
		Refused
		Many times
		A few times
These next questions are about certain things YOU may have experienced. When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .		
5		
5.1 [A1]	Did a parent, guardian or other household member yell, scream or swear at you, insult or humiliate you?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
5.2 [A2]	Did a parent, guardian or other household member threaten to, or actually, abandon you or throw you out of the house?	Refused
		Many times
		A few times
		Once
5.3 [A3]	Did a parent, guardian or other household member spank, slap, kick, punch or beat you up?	Never
		Refused
		Many times
		A few times
5.4 [A4]	Did a parent, guardian or other household member hit or cut you with an object, such as a stick (or cane), bottle, club, knife, whip etc?	Once
		Never
		Refused
		Many times
5.5 [A5]	Did someone touch or fondle you in a sexual way when you did not want them to?	A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
5.6 [A6]	Did someone make you touch their body in a sexual way when you did not want them to?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
5.7 [A7]	Did someone attempt oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to?	Refused
		Many times
		A few times
		Once

		Never
		Refused
5.8 [A8]	Did someone actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
6	PEER VIOLENCE	
	<p>These next questions are about BEING BULLIED when you were growing up. Bullying is when a young person or group of young people say or do bad and unpleasant things to another young person. It is also bullying when a young person is teased a lot in an unpleasant way or when a young person is left out of things on purpose. It is not bullying when two young people of about the same strength or power argue or fight or when teasing is done in a friendly and fun way.</p> <p>When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .</p>	
6.1 [V1]	How often were you bullied?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never (<i>Go to Q. V3</i>)
		Refused
6.2 [V2]	How were you bullied most often?	I was hit, kicked, pushed, shoved around, or locked indoors
		I was made fun of because of my race, nationality or colour
		I was made fun of because of my religion
		I was made fun of with sexual jokes, comments, or gestures
		I was left out of activities on purpose or completely ignored
		I was made fun of because of how my body or face looked
		I was bullied in some other way
		Refused
	<p>This next question is about PHYSICAL FIGHTS. A physical fight occurs when two young people of about the same strength or power choose to fight each other.</p> <p>When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .</p>	
6.3 [V3]	How often were you in a physical fight?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
7	WITNESSING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE	
	<p>These next questions are about how often, when you were a child, YOU may have seen or heard certain things in your NEIGHBOURHOOD OR COMMUNITY (not in your home or on TV, movies, or the radio).</p> <p>When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .</p>	
7.1 [V4]	Did you see or hear someone being beaten up in real life?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
7.2	Did you see or hear someone being stabbed	Many times

[V5]	or shot in real life?	A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
7.3 [V6]	Did you see or hear someone being threatened with a knife or gun in real life?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
8	EXPOSURE TO WAR/COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE	
	<p>These questions are about whether YOU did or did not experience any of the following events when you were a child. The events are all to do with collective violence, including wars, terrorism, political or ethnic conflicts, genocide, repression, disappearances, torture and organized violent crime such as banditry and gang warfare.</p> <p>When you were growing up, during the first 18 years of your life . . .</p>	
8.1 [V7]	Were you forced to go and live in another place due to any of these events?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
8.2 [V8]	Did you experience the deliberate destruction of your home due to any of these events?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
8.3 [V9]	Were you beaten up by soldiers, police, militia, or gangs?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused
8.4 [V10]	Was a family member or friend killed or beaten up by soldiers, police, militia, or gangs?	Many times
		A few times
		Once
		Never
		Refused

Adverse Childhood Experiences International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ)

Guidance for Analysing ACE-IQ

Context The ACE-IQ is designed to be integrated within broader health surveys to allow analysis of associations between adverse childhood experiences and subsequent health outcomes and health risk behaviours. This means that there are some key aspects of its design which need to be understood so that it is applied properly, and so that the data generated is useful.

Coding

Question codes

As a standalone questionnaire the question numbers run from Q0 - Q8. However, as these questions will most often be integrated into other surveys we have coded them into six groups (C, M, P, F, A, V) to allow cross-referencing for researchers. Hence, whatever numbers are given to the questions when included within your own survey, please keep the letter codes present as well so that it's possible to easily refer between questionnaires.

Question codes:

Core questions: C

Marriage questions: M

Parents/guardian questions: P

Family questions: F

Abuse questions: A

Violence questions: V

Response codes

A numerical code has been ascribed to each possible response for a question. This number has been placed within square brackets [] and is there to allow the data to be entered and more easily processed within a spreadsheet for data analysis.

Note: in all cases, [66] is the code for "not applicable"; [77] is the code for "don't know/not sure" and [88] is the code for "refused".

Analysis

As the development of the ACE-IQ is at the pilot stage, we would like to adopt two methods of analysis to allow us to ascertain the most appropriate approach to determine an accurate overall ACE score for a participant. The first we'll call the binary version, the second the frequency version. In both cases the questions from the ACE-IQ about childhood experience have been sorted into 13 categories: emotional abuse; physical abuse; sexual abuse; violence against household members; living with household members who were substance abusers; living with household members who were mentally ill or suicidal; living with household members who were imprisoned; one or no parents, parental separation or divorce; emotional neglect; physical neglect; bullying; community violence; collective violence.

To calculate the ACE score using the binary version, check the participant's answers against Table 1 in "Calculating the ACE score from the ACE-IQ" (see below). If the participant answered in the affirmative (whether with once, a few times, or many times)

then that counts as a yes, and so that response should be circled, and a 1 placed in the final column. Once completed you will get an answer from 0 to 13. This is the ACE (binary) score for that individual.

To calculate the ACE score using the frequency version check the participant's answers against Table 2 in "Calculating the ACE score from the ACE-IQ" (see below). This time, only circle yes if the participant's answers **exactly match** the written question in the table (you'll note that for some questions only certain frequencies are included). As before, once completed you will get an answer from 0 to 13. This is the ACE (frequency) score for that individual.

Once you've calculated the two ACE scores, you can then look at the relationship between the ACE scores and the health outcome or health risk behaviour you're interested in by plotting a dose-response curve, or rather exposure (ACE score) - behaviour/health outcome curve. One important area to examine at this pilot stage is whether a relationship is seen between (binary) ACE score and health outcome/behavior or whether a relationship is only seen between ACE score and health outcome/behavior when the *frequency* ACE score is used (it is this latter phenomenon which is seen in the original ACE studies).

If you look at the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) website for the ACE study, you can see the different ways that the data generated can be analysed. Not only can you generate the dose-response curves discussed above, but you can also generate data on demographics and prevalence within certain populations from the ACE-IQ responses. See <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/data.htm>

Further details of health outcomes and behaviours which have been analysed to determine their relationship with exposure to ACEs can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/outcomes.htm>

Calculating the ACE score from the ACE-IQ

Table 1: Calculating the ACE score from the ACE-IQ - BINARY VERSION

All questions are yes/no - if the participant entered **yes** for any of the categories, mark a 1 in the response column

Category	Q	Written question	Response
Physical abuse	A3 A4	Did a parent, guardian or other household member spank, slap, kick, punch or beat you up? OR Did a parent, guardian or other household member hit or cut you with an object, such as a stick (or cane), bottle, club, knife, whip etc? Yes No	
Emotional abuse	A1 A2	Did a parent, guardian or other household member yell, scream or swear at you, insult or humiliate you? OR Did a parent, guardian or other household member threaten to, or actually, abandon you or throw you out of the house? Yes No	
Contact sexual abuse	A5 A6 A7 A8	Did someone touch or fondle you in a sexual way when you did not want them to? OR Did someone make you touch their body in a sexual way when you did not want them to? OR Did someone attempt oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to? OR Did someone actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to? Yes No	
Alcohol and/or drug abuser in the household	F1	Did you live with a household member who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or misused street or prescription drugs? Yes No	
Incarcerated household member	F3	Did you live with a household member who was ever sent to jail or prison? Yes No	
Someone chronically depressed, mentally ill, institutionalized or suicidal	F2	Did you live with a household member who was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal? Yes No	
Mother Household member treated violently	F6 F7 F8	Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being yelled at, screamed at, sworn at, insulted or humiliated? OR Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being slapped, kicked, punched or beaten up? OR Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being	

		hit or cut with an object, such as a stick (or cane), bottle, club, knife, whip etc.? Yes No	
One or no parents, parental separation or divorce	F4 F5	Were your parents ever separated or divorced? OR Did your mother, father or guardian die? Yes No	
Emotional neglect	P1 P2	Did your parents/guardians understand your problems and worries? OR Did your parents/guardians really know what you were doing with your free time when you were not at school or work? Yes No* * Note: for this question, it's the "no" answer which scores a "1".	
Physical neglect	P3 P4 P5	Did your parents/guardians not give you enough food even when they could easily have done so? OR Were your parents/guardians too drunk or intoxicated by drugs to take care of you? OR Did your parents/guardians not send you to school even when it was available? Yes No	
Bullying	V1	Were you bullied? Yes No	
Community violence	V4 V5 V6	Did you see or hear someone being beaten up in real life? OR Did you see or hear someone being stabbed or shot in real life? OR Did you see or hear someone being threatened with a knife or gun in real life? Yes No	
Collective violence	V7 V8 V9 V10	Were you forced to go and live in another place due to any of these events? OR Did you experience the deliberate destruction of your home due to any of these events? OR Were you beaten up by soldiers, police, militia, or gangs? OR Was a family member or friend killed or beaten up by soldiers, police, militia, or gangs? Yes No	

Table 2: Calculating the ACE score from the ACE-IQ - FREQUENCY VERSION

All questions are yes/no - if the participant entered **yes** for any of the categories, mark a 1 in the response column

Category	Q	Written question	Response
Physical abuse	A3 A4	Did a parent, guardian or other household member spank, slap, kick, punch or beat you up many times ? OR Did a parent, guardian or other household member hit or cut you with an object, such as a stick (or cane), bottle, club, knife, whip etc many times ? Yes No	
Emotional abuse	A1 A2	Did a parent, guardian or other household member yell, scream or swear at you, insult or humiliate you many times ? OR Did a parent, guardian or other household member threaten to, or actually, abandon you or throw you out of the house many times ? Yes No	
Contact sexual abuse	A5 A6 A7 A8	Did someone ever touch or fondle you in a sexual way when you did not want them to? OR Did someone ever make you touch their body in a sexual way when you did not want them to? OR Did someone ever attempt oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to? OR Did someone ever actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you when you did not want them to? Yes No	
Alcohol and/or drug abuser in the household	F1	Did you live with a household member who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or misused street or prescription drugs? Yes No	
Incarcerated household member	F3	Did you live with a household member who was ever sent to jail or prison? Yes No	
Someone chronically depressed, mentally ill, institutionalized or suicidal	F2	Did you live with a household member who was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal? Yes No	
Mother Household member treated violently	F6 F7 F8	Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being yelled at, screamed at, sworn at, insulted or humiliated many times ? OR Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being slapped, kicked, punched or beaten up a few times or many times ? OR Did you see or hear a parent or household member in your home being hit or cut with an object, such as a stick (or cane), bottle, club, knife,	

		<p>whip etc. a few times or many times?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	
One or no parents, parental separation or divorce	F4 F5	<p>Were your parents ever separated or divorced?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Did your mother, father or guardian die?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	
Emotional neglect	P1 P2	<p>Did your parents/guardians rarely or never understand your problems and worries?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Did your parents/guardians rarely or never really know what you were doing with your free time when you were not at school or work?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	
Physical neglect	P3 P4 P5	<p>Did your parents/guardians not give you enough food many times even when they could easily have done so?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Were your parents/guardians many times too drunk or intoxicated by drugs to take care of you?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Did your parents/guardians not send you to school many times even when it was available?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	
Bullying	V1	<p>Were you bullied many times?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	
Community violence	V4 V5 V6	<p>Did you see or hear someone being beaten up in real life many times?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Did you see or hear someone being stabbed or shot in real life many times?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Did you see or hear someone being threatened with a knife or gun in real life many times?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	
Collective violence	V7 V8 V9 V10	<p>Were you ever forced to go and live in another place due to any of these events?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Did you ever experience the deliberate destruction of your home due to any of these events?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Were you ever beaten up by soldiers, police, militia, or gangs?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Was a family member or friend ever killed or beaten up by soldiers, police, militia, or gangs?</p> <p>Yes No</p>	