



Adverse Childhood Experiences in Wisconsin:

Findings from the 2011-2012
Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

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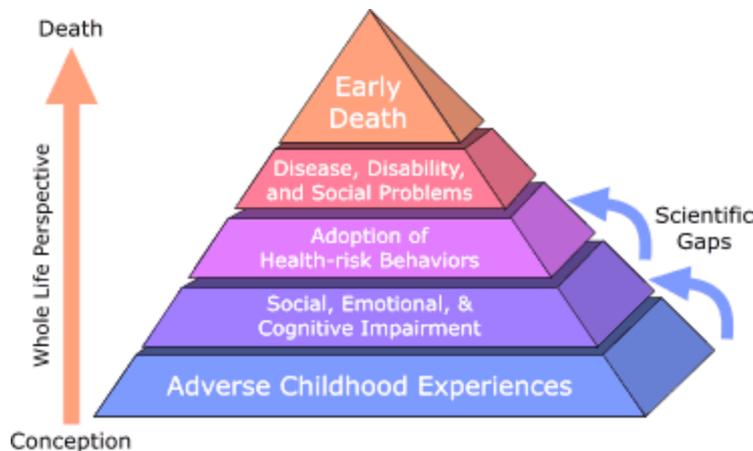
Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund

- **Vision:** All Wisconsin children grow up in healthy and nurturing environments - free from violence with an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.
- **Mission:** The Children's Trust Fund promotes the development of a sustainable, comprehensive prevention infrastructure that reflects research and promising practices in child abuse and neglect prevention. Through strategic partnerships and investments, the Children's Trust Fund supports Wisconsin communities in the provision of services to prevent child abuse and neglect.



The Original ACE Study

- Conducted in 1995 through 1998 and was led by Dr. Vincent Felitti at Kaiser Permanente San Diego and Dr. Robert Anda at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



More than 17,000 participants:
75% white; 36% college educated; and
39% college graduates.

The ACE Study was originally designed to assess for “scientific gaps” in the origins of risk factors.

What is an ACE?

An ACE—adverse childhood experience—is exposure to any of the following before the age of 18:

1. Recurrent physical abuse
2. Recurrent emotional abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. An alcohol or other drug abuser in the household
5. An incarcerated family member
6. A household member who was chronically depressed, mentally ill, institutionalized or suicidal
7. Violence between adults in the home
8. Parental separation or divorce



Original ACE study: General Findings

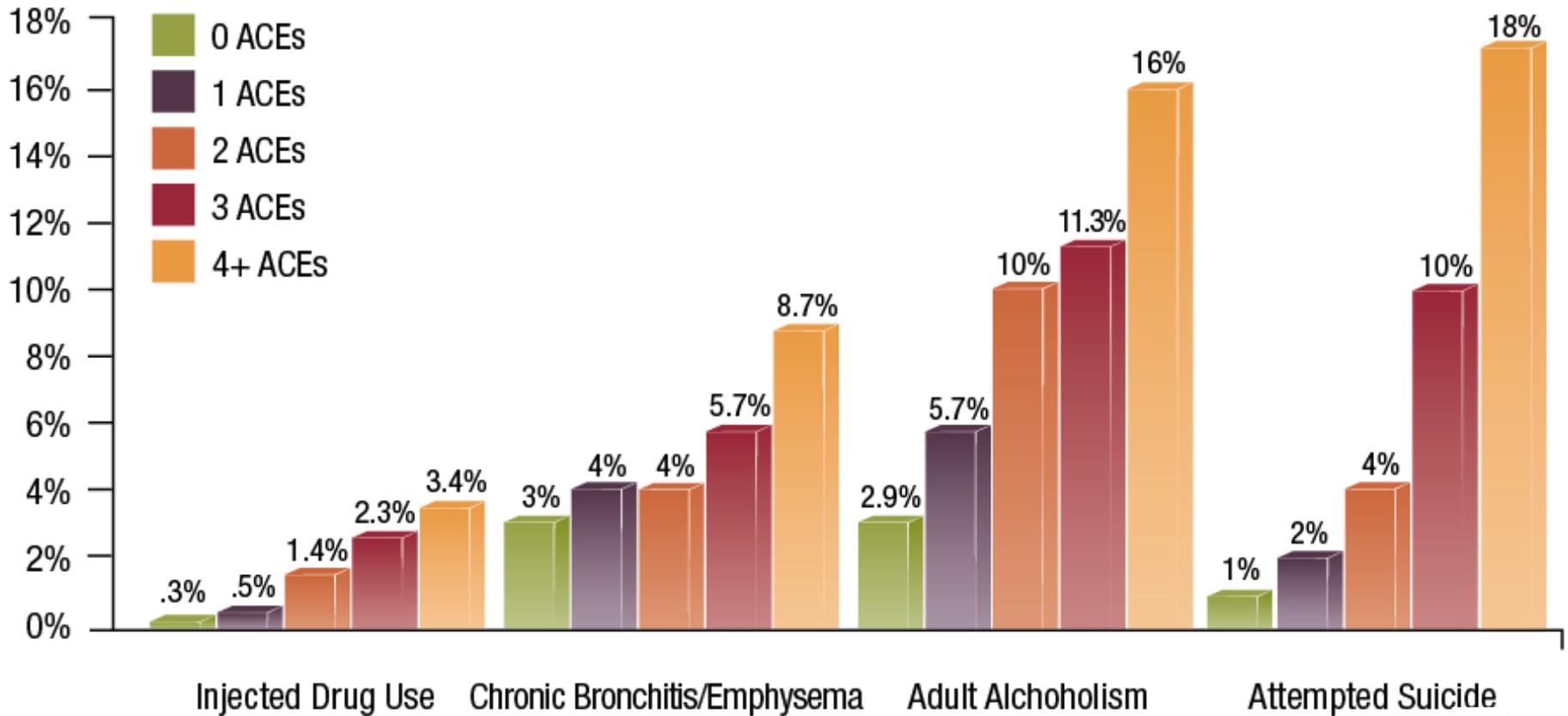


ACEs:

- are common
- have long-term, damaging consequences
- can happen in any family
- have a cumulative effect—the higher the score, the higher the likelihood of health risk behaviors and poor health outcomes
- are a leading determinant of public health spending



Original ACE Kaiser Findings



Original ACE Kaiser Findings

Examples of ACE-Attributable Problems

Alcoholism & Alcohol Abuse

COPD

Lung Disease

Coronary Heart Disease

Depression

Drug Abuse & Illicit Drug Use

Fetal Death

Intimate Partner Violence

Liver Disease

Mental Health Problems

Obesity

Sexual Behavior Problems

Smoking

Unintended Pregnancy

Violence

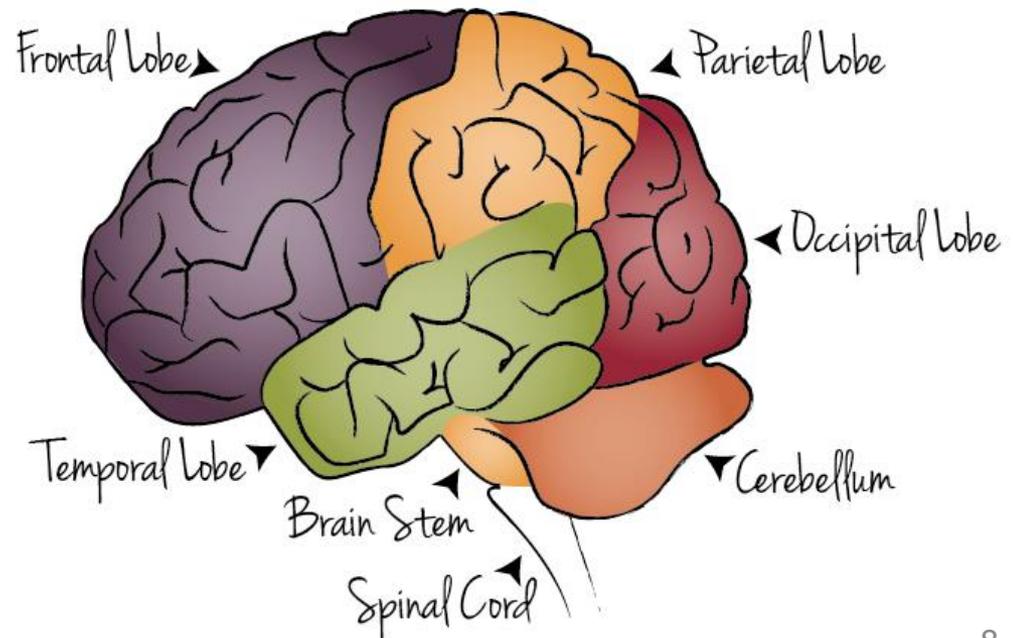
Workforce Problems



The Importance of Early Experiences

Early experiences – good and bad – shape a child's future and world view

- Brain development
- Effects of toxic stress
- Self-regulation
- Attachment
- Self-concept



ACEs in Wisconsin

- ACE module has been included in the Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) since 2010.
- Standard BRFS methods used
 - Stratified random sample of telephone numbers
 - One household member, 18 or older, selected to participate
- Over 10,000 adults participated in the 2011 and 2012 survey combined.
- Results are weighted by CDC statistical staff to represent Wisconsin's adult population with landline and cellular telephones.

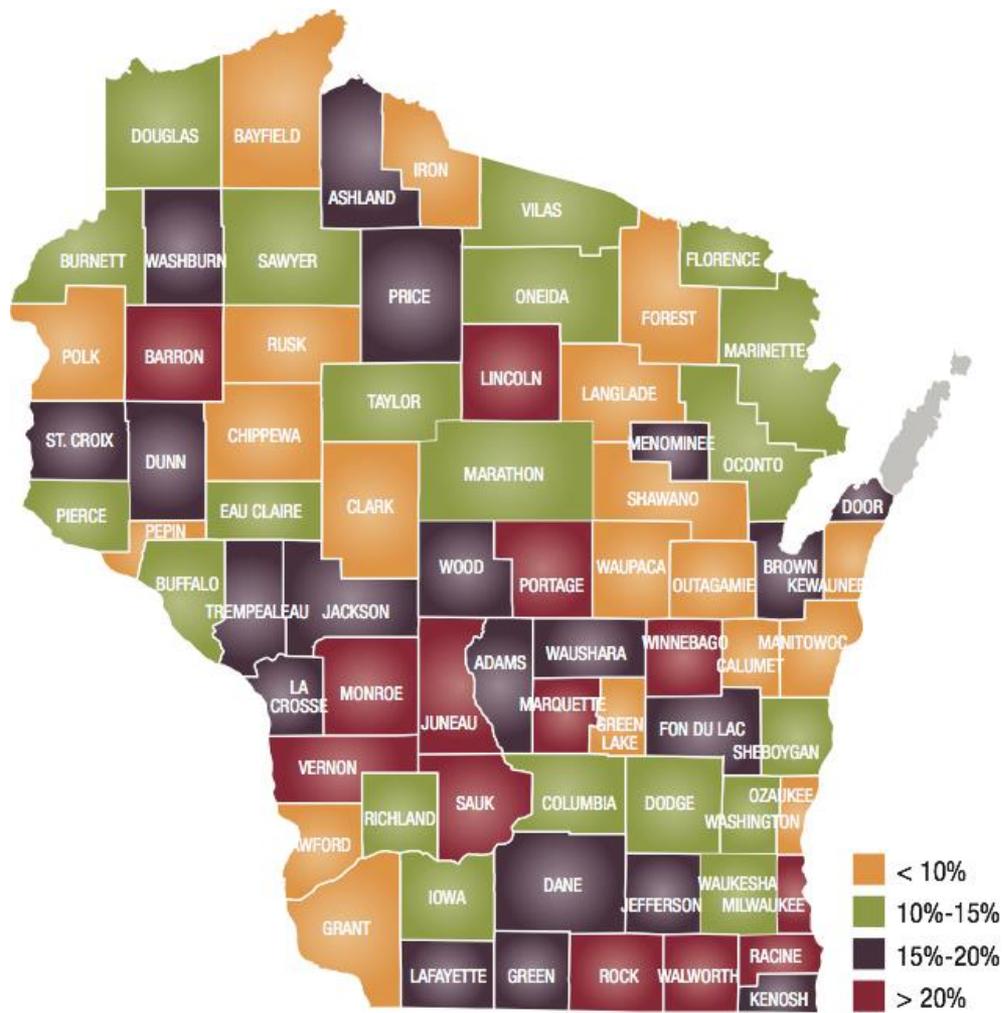


ACEs in Wisconsin: Findings

- ACEs are common
- ACEs are interrelated
- ACEs are associated with:
 - Mental Health Outcomes
 - Health Risk Behaviors
 - Physical Health Outcomes
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - Medicaid/Badger Care Enrollment
 - Quality of Life



ACEs in Wisconsin

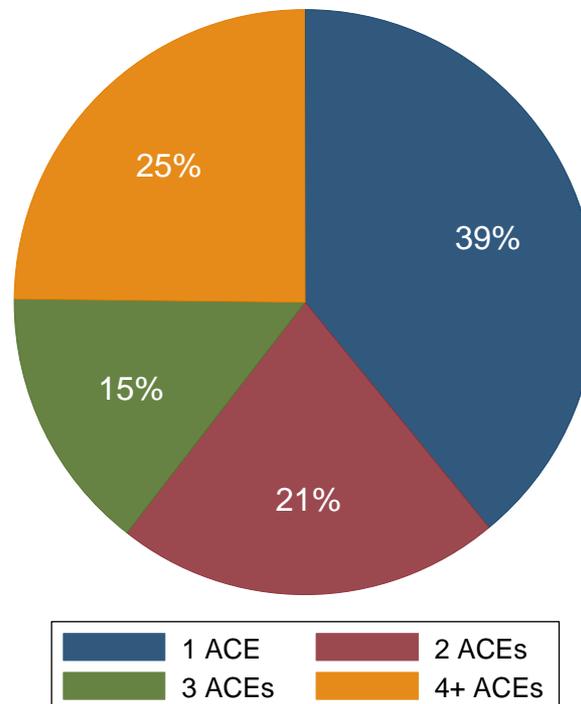


ACEs are Common

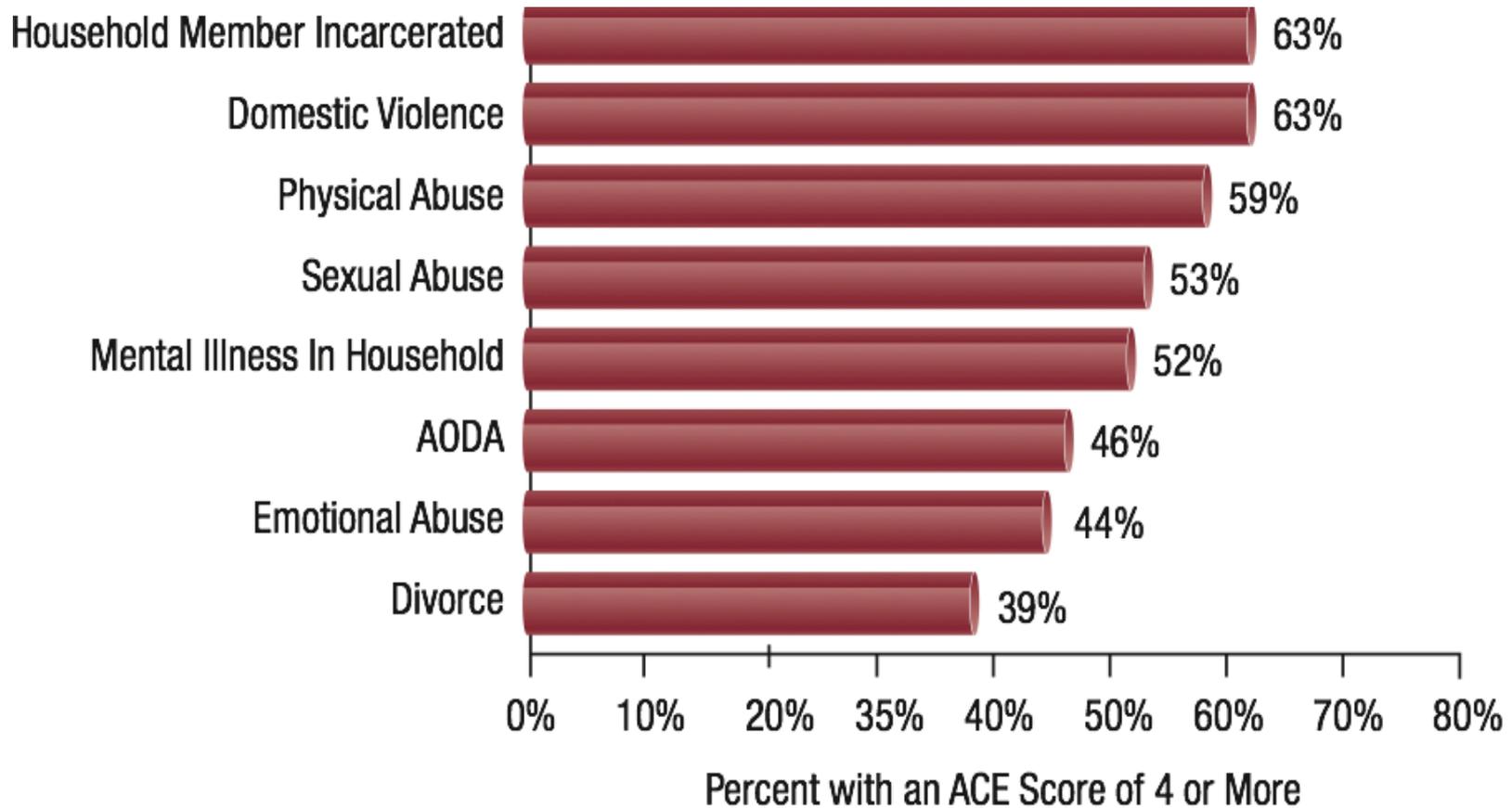
58% of Wisconsin adults reported growing up experiencing at least one ACE

Of those **25%** reported having 4 or more ACEs.

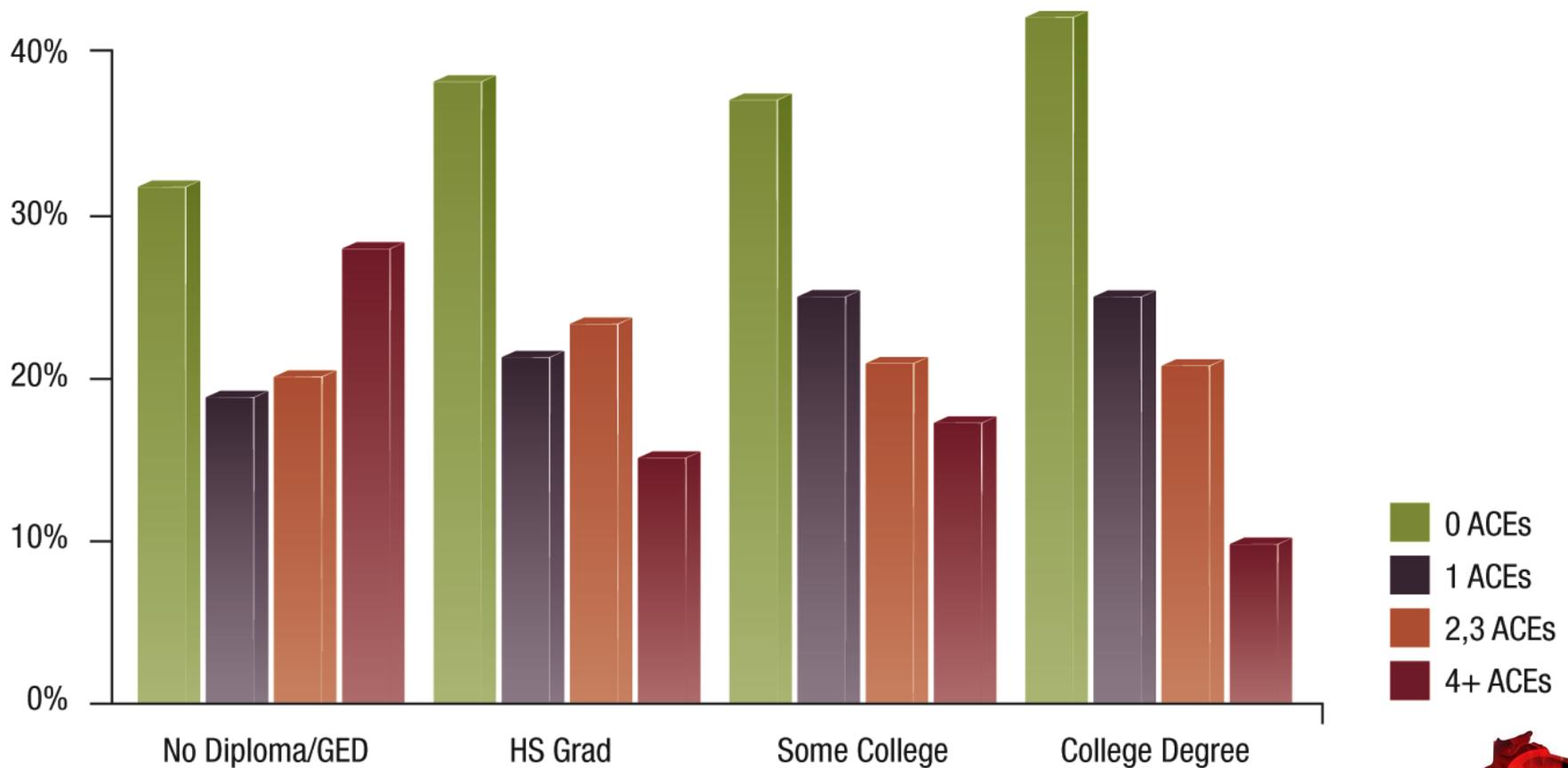
Figure 1. Distribution of ACE Scores among Those with Any ACEs



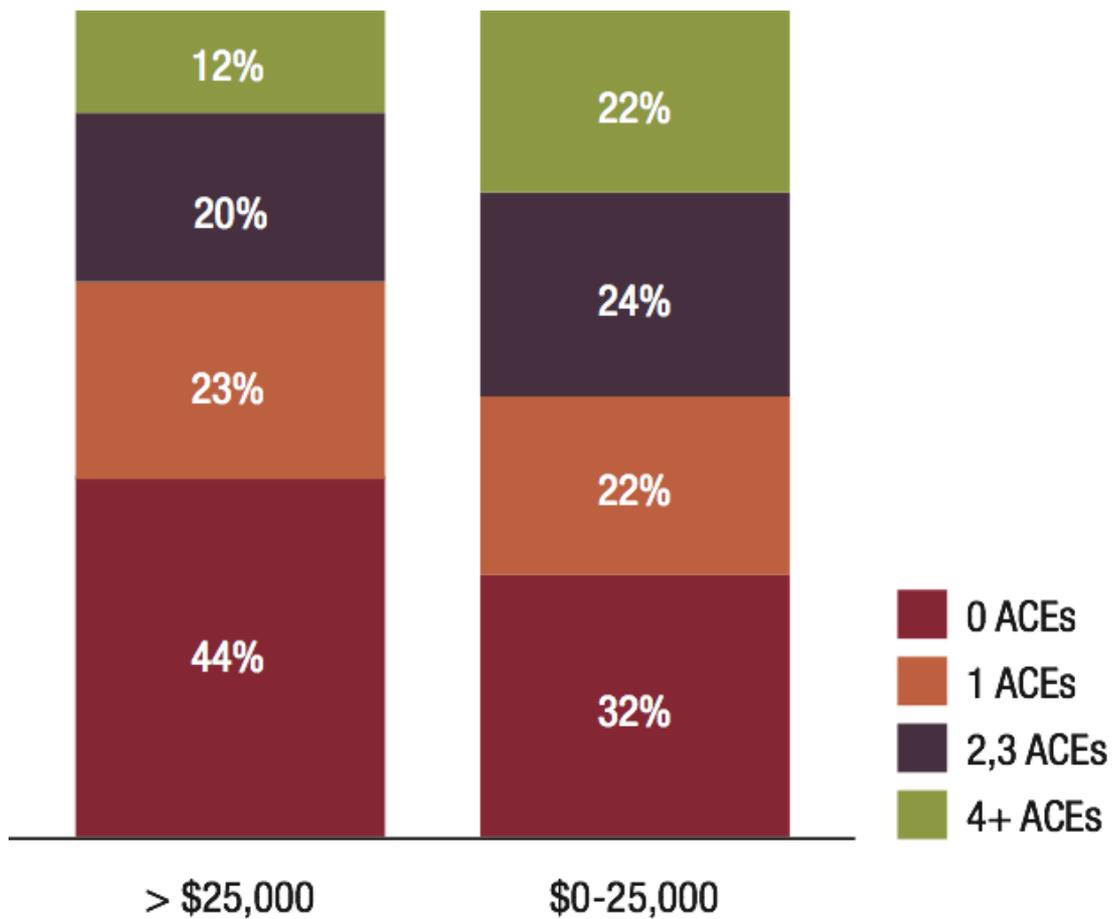
High ACE Scores Among Those with Specific ACE Types



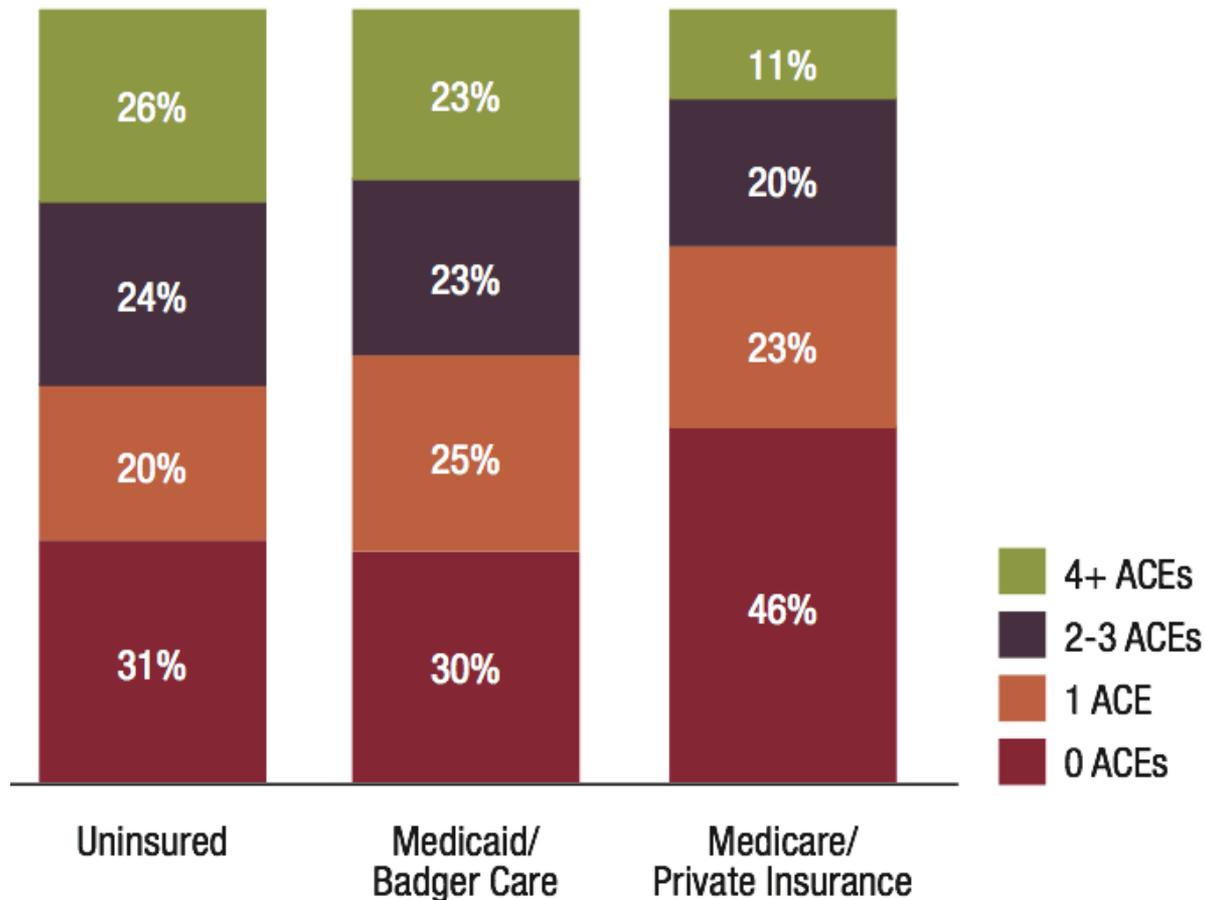
ACEs and Educational Attainment



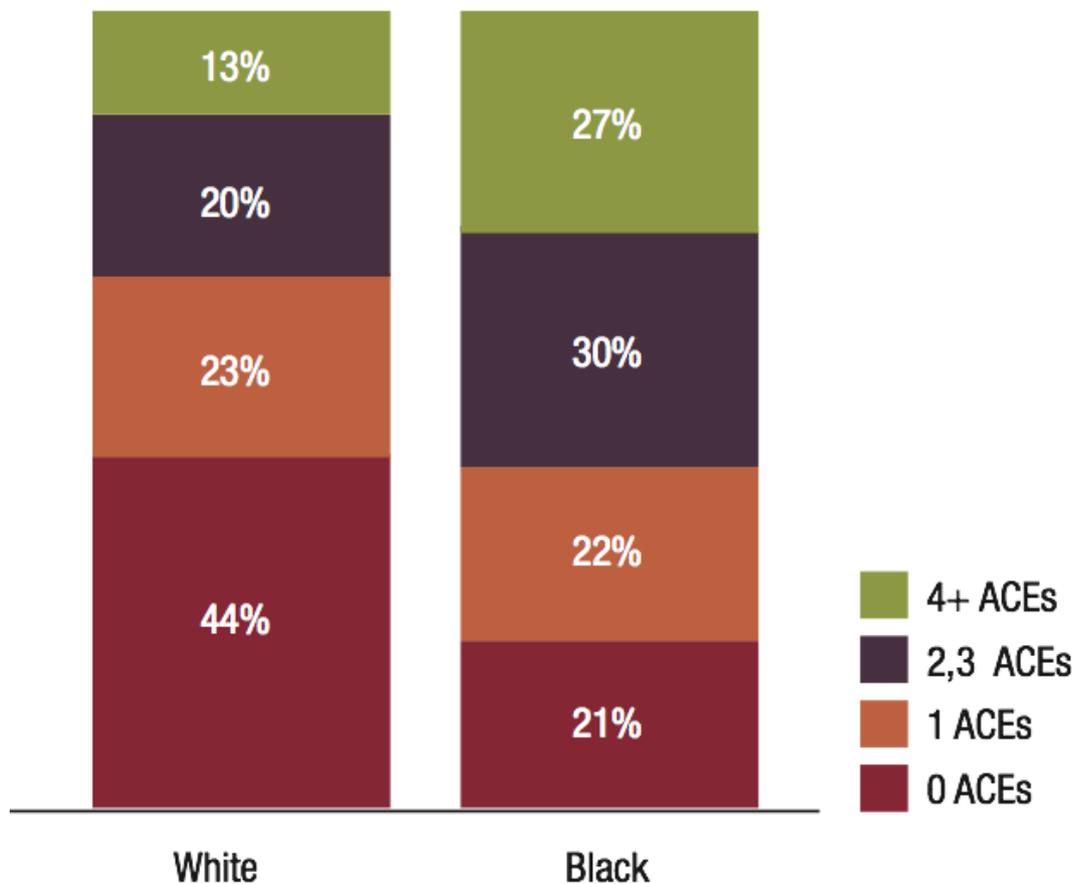
ACEs by Income



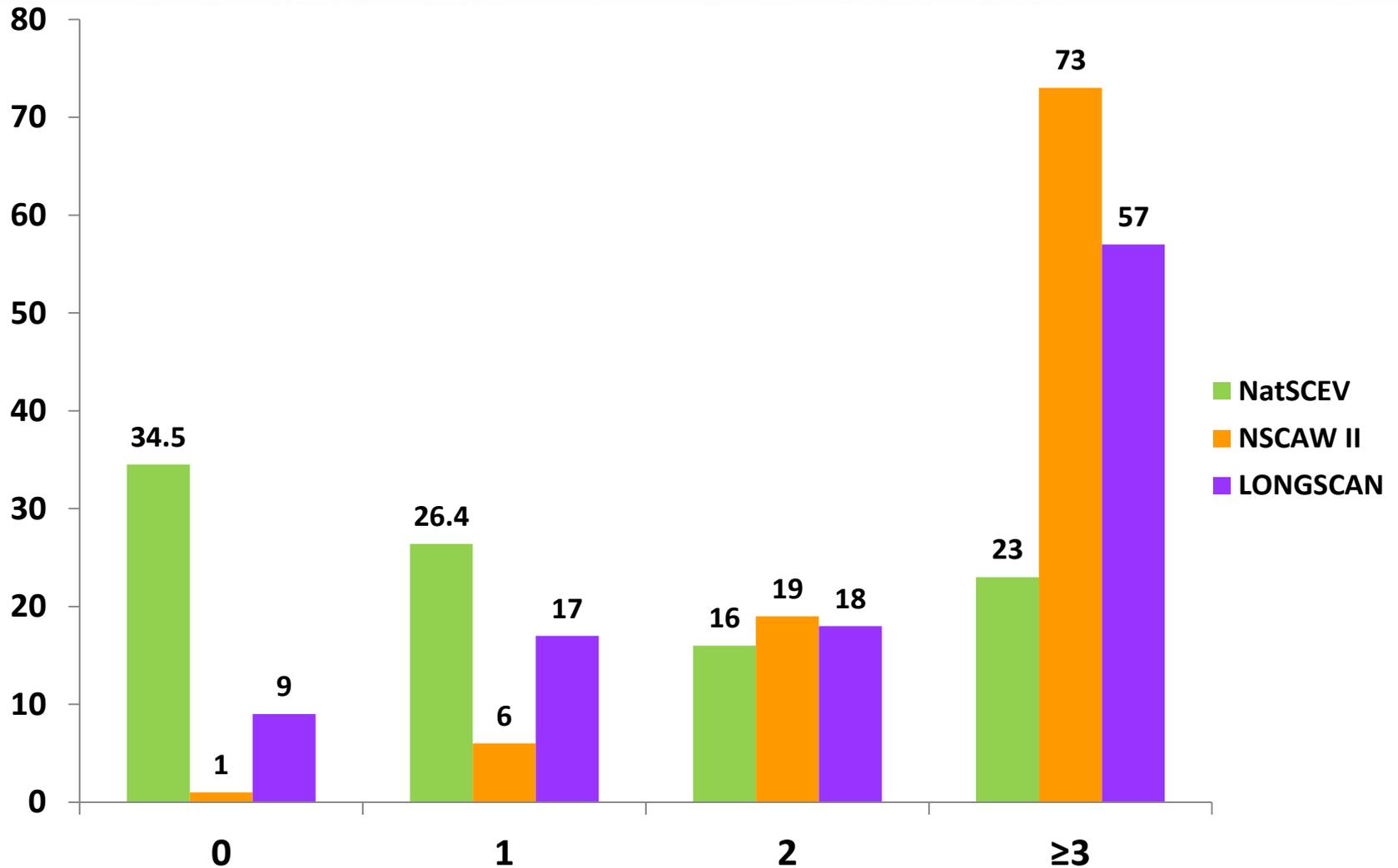
ACE Score by Insurance Type



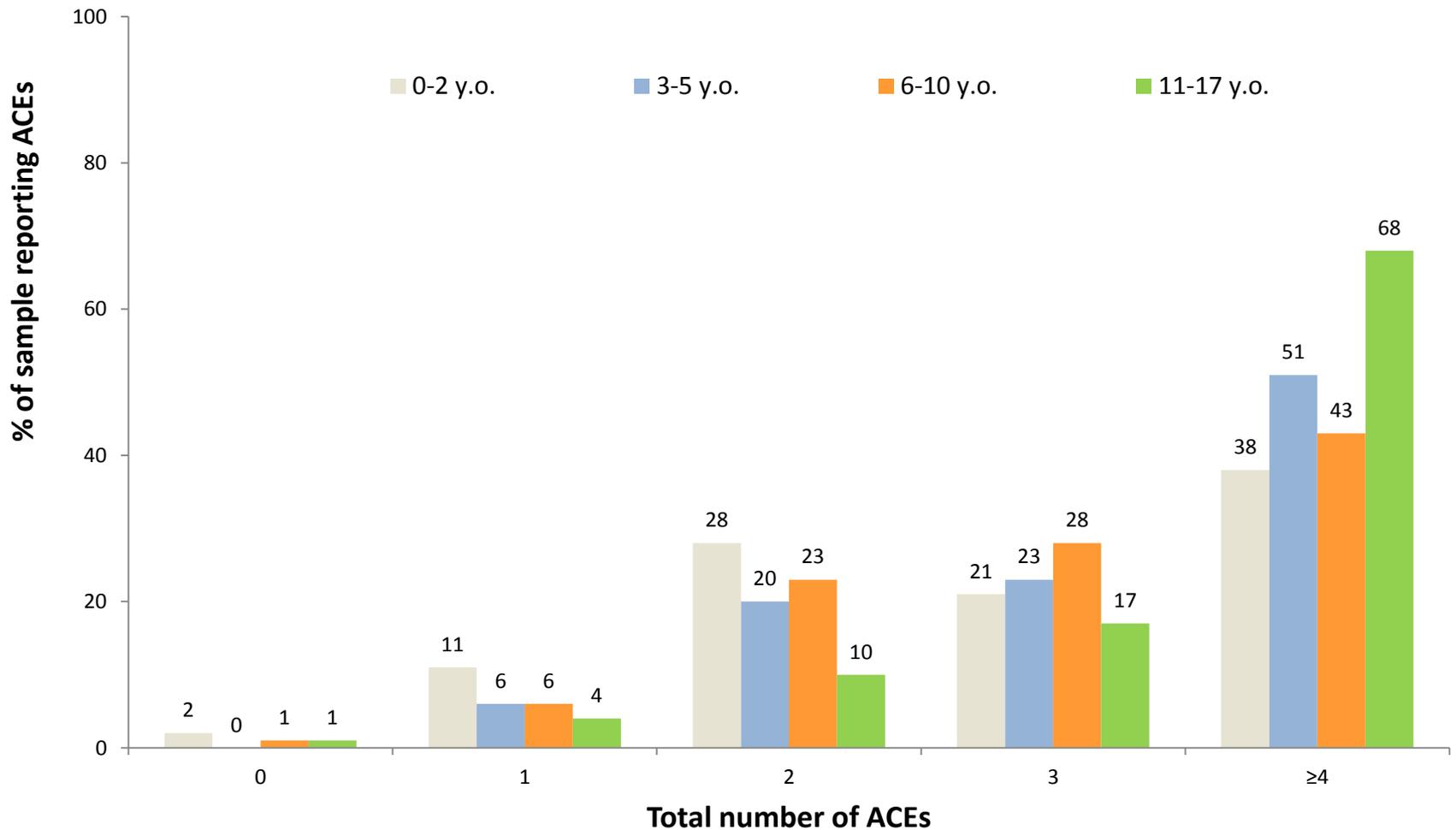
ACE Score by Race



ACE Scores in Children & Adolescents

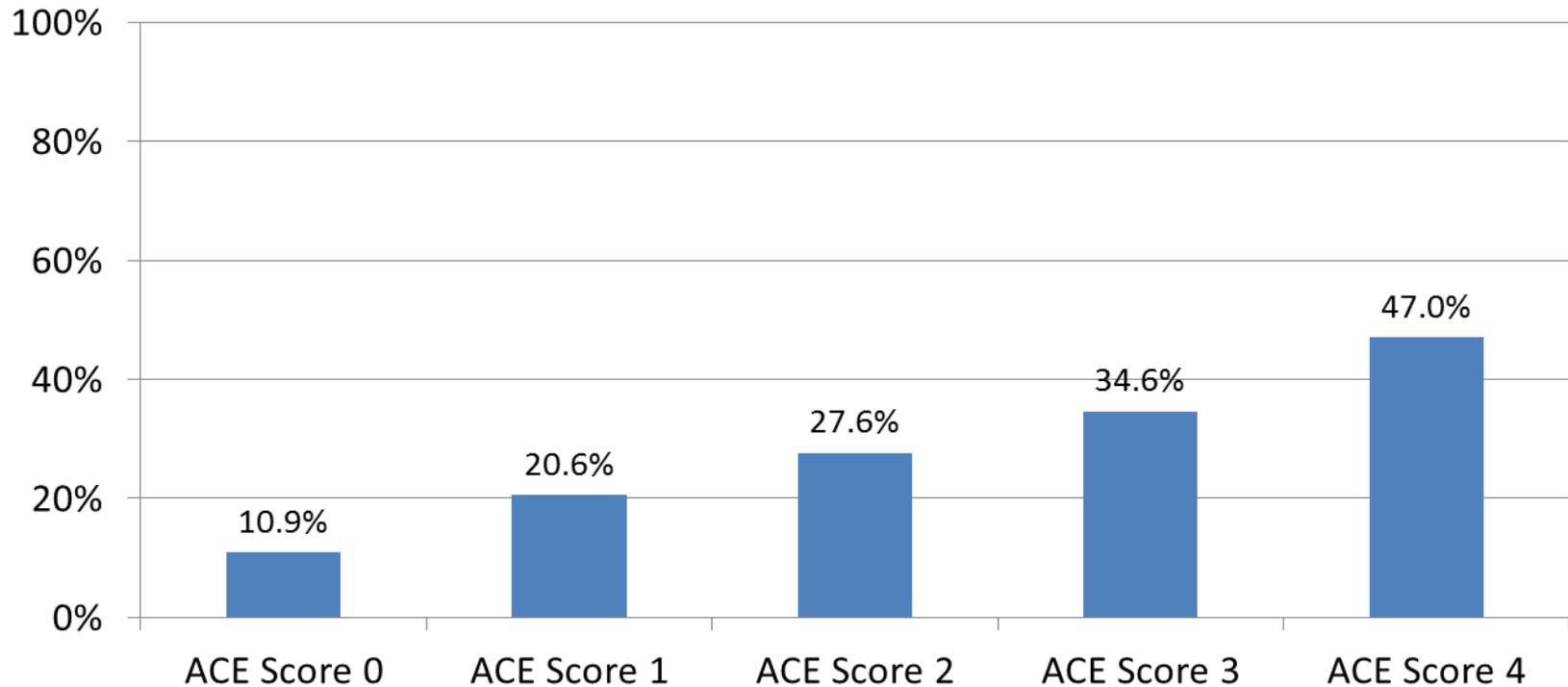


NSCAWM: ACE Scores by Age



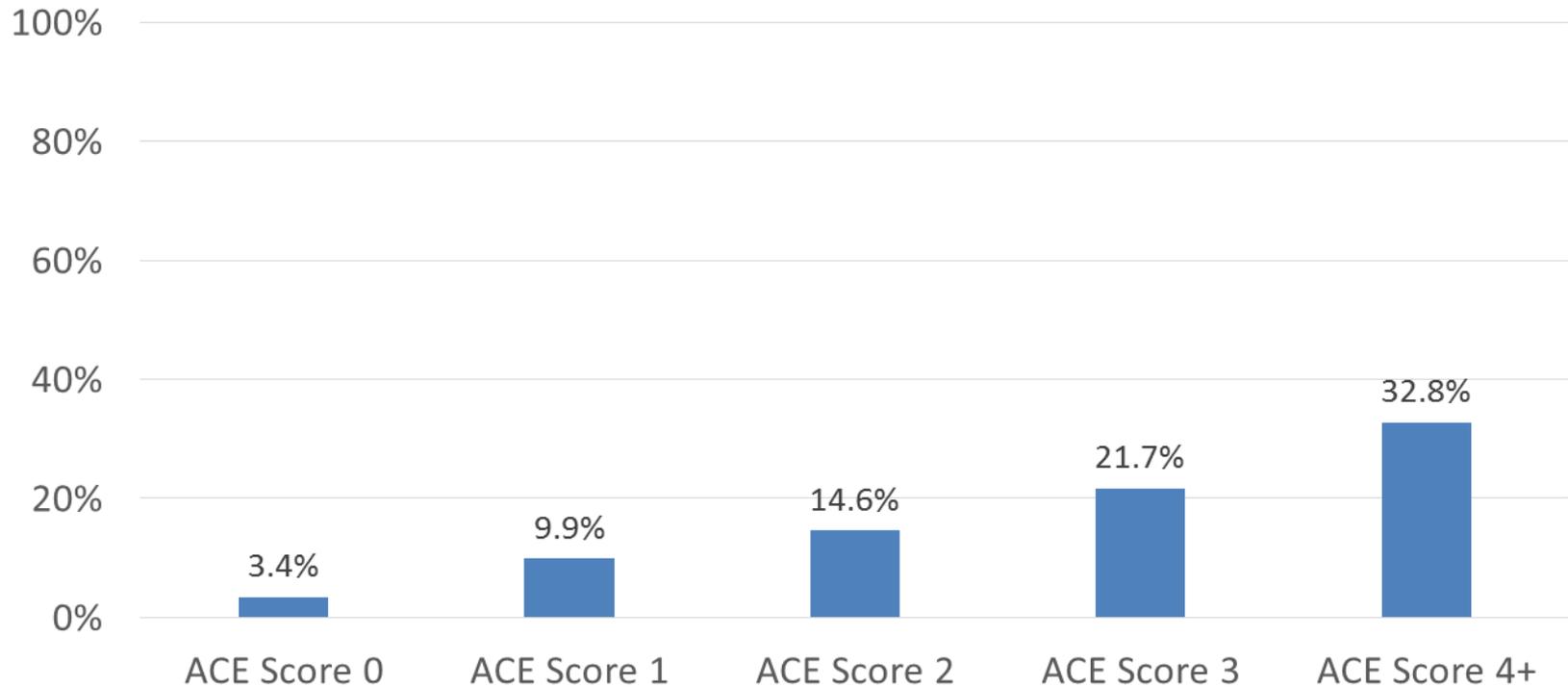
MN ACE Score & Past 30 Day Use

Minnesota 8th, 9th, and 11th Graders Reporting Any Past 30 Day Alcohol Use, by ACE Score, 2013 MSS



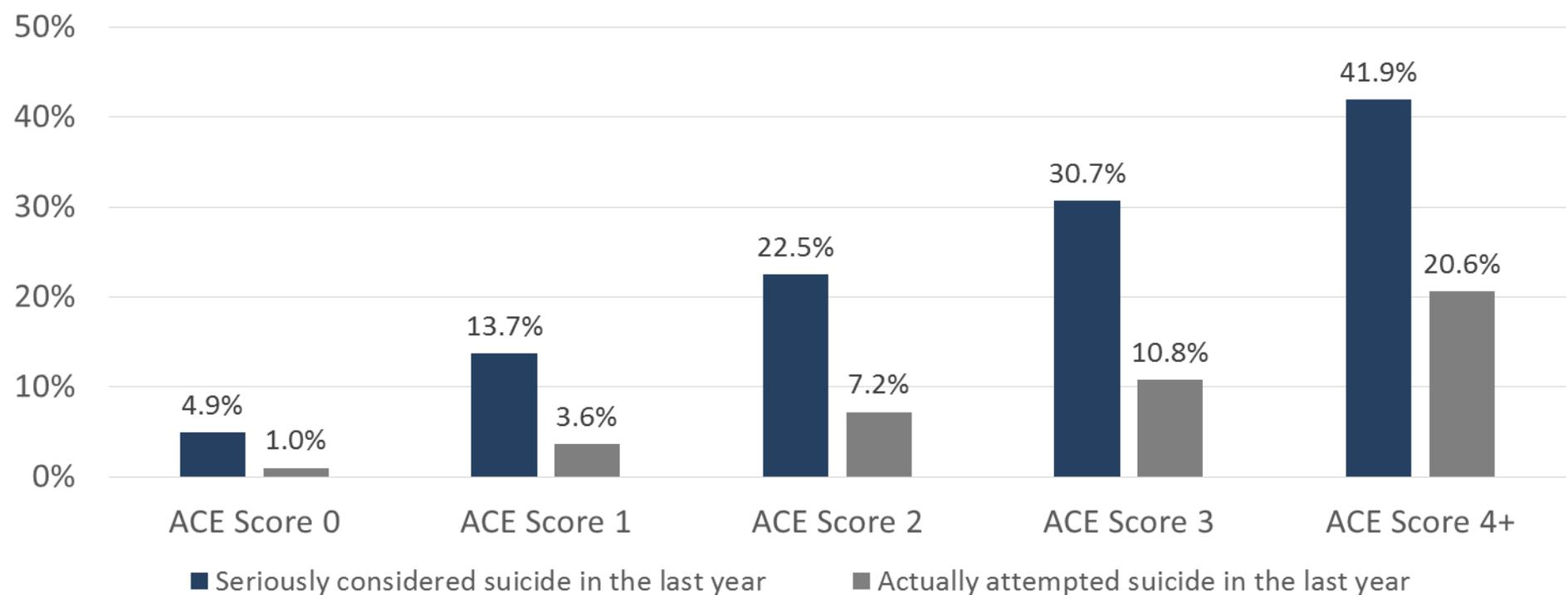
MN ACE Score & Cigarette Use

Minnesota 8th, 9th, and 11th Graders Reporting Any Past 30 Day Cigarette Smoking, by ACE Score, 2013 MSS



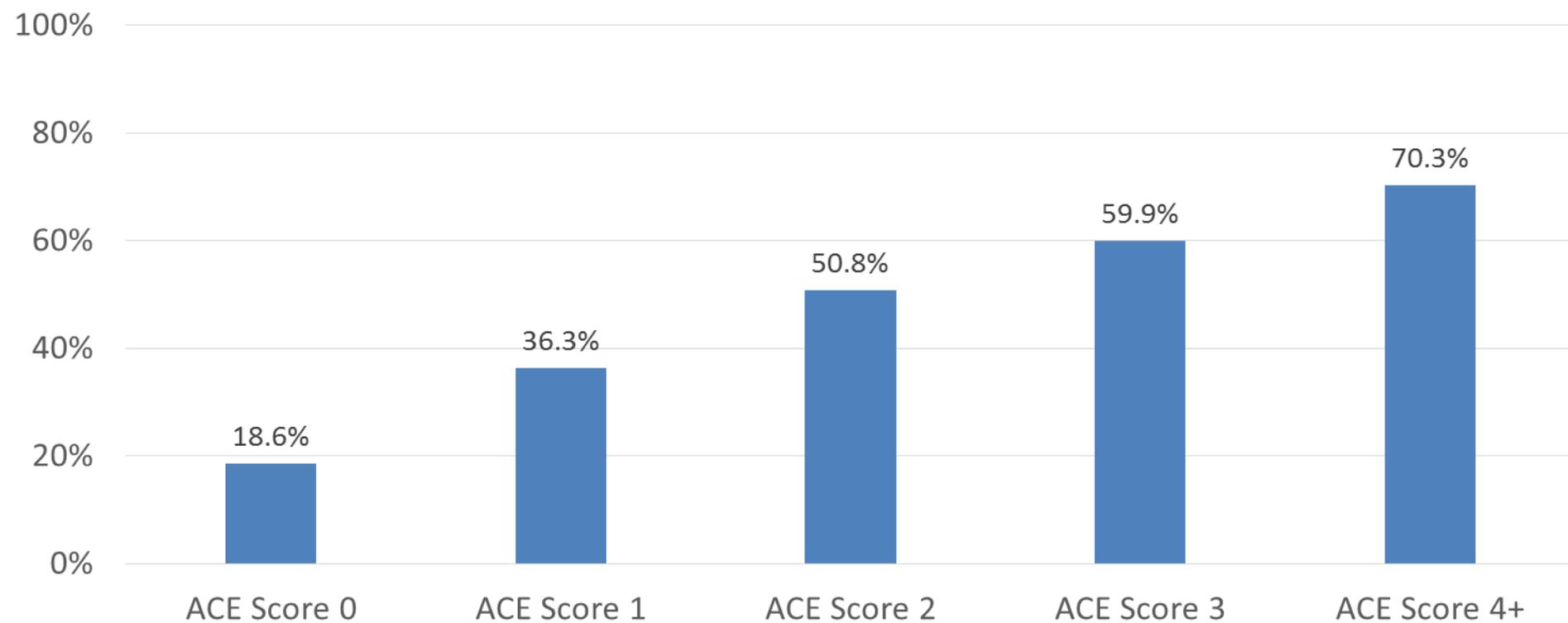
MN ACE Score & Suicide

Minnesota 8th, 9th, and 11th Graders Reporting Past Year Suicidal Ideation and Attempts, by ACE Score, 2013 MSS



MN ACE Score & Mental Health

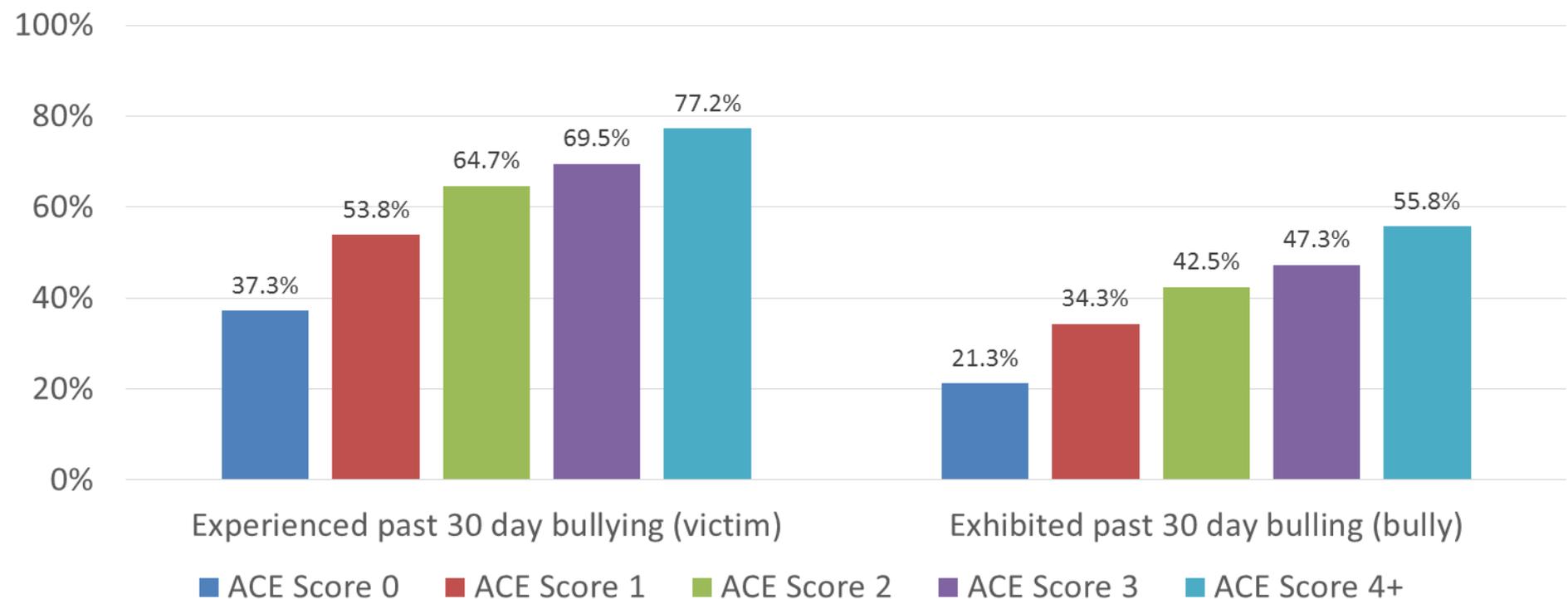
Minnesota 8th, 9th, and 11th Graders Reporting Having Significant Problems in the Last 12 Months with Feeling Very Trapped, Lonely, Sad, Blue, Depressed, or Hopeless About the Future, by ACE Score, 2013 MSS



MN ACE Score & Bullying

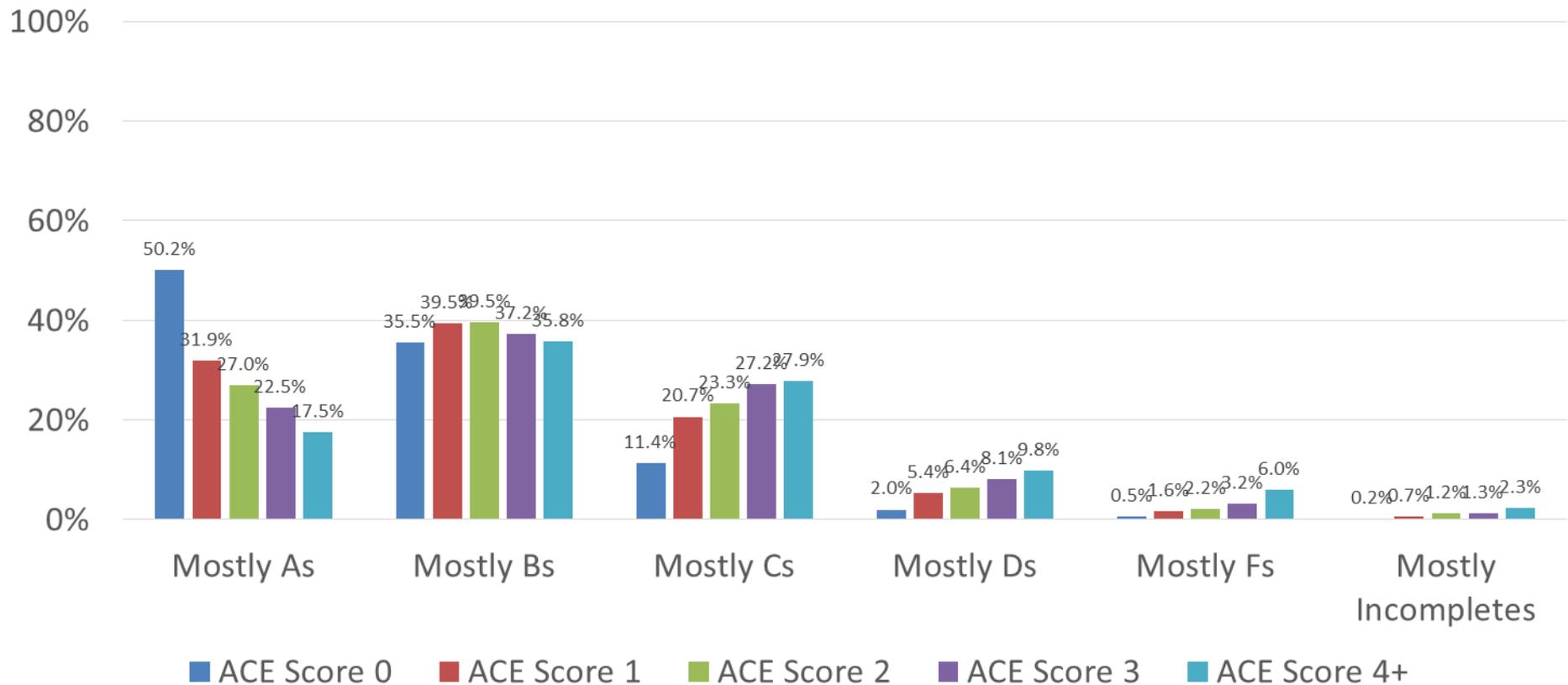
Minnesota 8th, 9th, and 11th Graders Reporting Experiencing or Exhibiting Bullying Behaviors in the Past 30 Days, by ACE Score, 2013

MSS



MN ACE Score & Grades

Minnesota 8th, 9th, and 11th Graders Describing Their Grades for the School Year, by ACE Score, 2013 MSS



Resilience

- The presence of protective factors are known to mitigate the consequences of adverse childhood experiences.
- A number of protective factors that can help build resilience include:
 - Caring and competent relationships
 - Good health & a history of adequate development
 - Good peer relationships
 - Hobbies and interests
 - Above average intelligence
 - Easy temperament
 - Positive disposition
 - Active coping skills
 - Positive self-esteem
 - Good social skills



Resilience

- Additional research is needed to better understand how some individuals and communities are able to thrive under difficult and traumatic circumstances.
- There is a need for a consistent and uniform definition of resiliency across systems.
- Trauma-informed care, including having professionals with skills in trauma-informed care may also help build resilience in individuals.



ACES in Wisconsin—Looking Ahead

Wisconsin's Four Key Priority Areas:

- 1) Increase public awareness;
- 2) Address co-occurrence of ACEs among children of incarcerated parents;
- 3) Expand the knowledge and use of ACE data within Medicaid/BadgerCare; and
- 4) Enhance ACE related data in Wisconsin.



Midwest Learning Collaborative on ACEs

Midwest Regional ACE Summit

- Featured national experts: Dr. Robert Anda, Laura Porter, Susan Dreyfus and Bryan Samuels
- State Peer Discussion Sessions on Policy, Practice, Community Engagement and Building Resiliency
- Next Steps: Advancing strategies identified in the peer discussion sessions and creating a community of practice surrounding ACEs.
- Next Midwest Regional ACE Summit to be hosted by Illinois.



Other State Strategies

Washington State

- High Capacity Communities
 - Ex. Children's Resilience Initiative in Walla Walla

California

- Center for Youth Wellness – *Nadine Burke Harris*
- Assembly Health Committee – ACE Resolution

Iowa

- ACEs 360



Policy Recommendations

- **Greater Investment in Prevention Strategies**
 - Project GAIN
 - Wisconsin's Community Response Program
 - Positive Community Norms Statewide Initiative
- **Medicaid Policy Changes**
 - Benefits package specific for individuals with ACEs and trauma
 - Reimbursement for evidence-based prevention initiatives
- **Design and Pilot Prevention and Intervention Strategies with Children and Parents involved in Corrections**
- **Invest in Research on Resilience**



Additional Information

- ACEs in Wisconsin
<http://wchildrenstrustfund.org/>
- ACEs Connection
<http://acesconnection.com/>
- ACE Study web page
<http://www.cestudy.org/>
- Center for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/ace/>
- Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/>
- Child Emotion Lab at University of Wisconsin-Madison
<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/childemotion/seth.html>

