"Does This Still Bother You Today?:" Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) In Adult Primary Care Patients

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Background

- ACEs are common¹ and can negatively impact long term health²
- Widespread screening of ACEs in primary care clinics is not currently recommended³
  - Providers feel screening for ACEs would overwhelm the visit⁴
  - Providers feel there are not enough services available to handle long term ACEs sequelae⁴
- Much focus on children with ACEs, less on adults with ACEs

Methods

- 7 clinical sites across New England
- Paper surveys administered prior to visit
- Questions on ACEs and emotional resiliency
- If desired, ACEs discussed in visit and patients referred to counselling
- Providers record if ACEs discussed, and if referrals made

Results

- 238 participants
- 60% with at least 1 ACE, 27% with 4 or more ACEs
  - Positive responses for 10 individual ACEs varied 8% to 34%
  - Percent of respondents who are still bothered by a given ACE varied from 15% to 25%
  - Few of those still bothered wanted to talk today: 5% to 17% depending on the ACE

Works Cited