

BRFSS Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Module 2021—Current

Instructions

This fact sheet includes information about the ACEs content, including the item language and scoring, included in the BRFSS ACEs Module from 2021 to current years. This information can be used to help support public health practitioners who are interested in including the ACEs module on their BRFSS, or analyzing or using data from the BRFSS ACEs Module collected from 2021 to current years.

Item Content

I'd like to ask you some questions about events that happened during your childhood. This information will allow us to better understand problems that may occur early in life, and may help others in the future. This is a sensitive topic and some people may feel uncomfortable with these questions. At the end of this section, I will give you a phone number for an organization that can provide information and referral for these issues. Please keep in mind that you can ask me to skip any question you do not want to answer. All questions refer to the time period before you were 18 years of age. Now, looking back before you were 18 years of age---

Question	Response Options
1. Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal?	Yes (1) No (2) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
2. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?	Yes (1) No (2) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
3. Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medications?	Yes (1) No (2) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
4. Did you live with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in a prison, jail, or other correctional facility?	Yes (1) No (2) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
5. Were your parents separated or divorced?	Yes (1) No (2) Parents not married (8) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
6. How often did you parents or adults in your home ever slap, hit, kick, punch or beat each other up?	Never (1) Once (2) More than once (3) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)

Question	Response Options
7. Not including spanking, (before age 18), how often did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way?	Never (1) Once (2) More than once (3) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
8. How often did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down?	Never (1) Once (2) More than once (3) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
9. How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, ever touch you sexually?	Never (1) Once (2) More than once (3) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
10. How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, try to make you touch them sexually?	Never (1) Once (2) More than once (3) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
11. How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you or an adult, force you to have sex?	Never (1) Once (2) More than once (3) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
12. For how much of your childhood was there an adult in your household who made you feel safe and protected? Would you say never, a little of the time, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time?	Never (1) A little of the time (2) Some of the time (3) Most of the time (4) All of the time (5) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)
13. For how much of your childhood was there an adult in your household who tried hard to make sure your basic needs were met? Would you say never, a little of the time, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time?	Never (1) A little of the time (2) Some of the time (3) Most of the time (4) All of the time (5) Don't Know/Not Sure (7) Refused (9)

NOTE: Items 12 and 13 on emotional and physical neglect, respectively, were added to the BRFSS ACEs Module as of 2021. The numbers to the right of the response options in the second column reflect the coding that should be given to each item for data management and analysis purposes.