

**Title: Gender differences in youth Adverse Childhood Experience scores: Exploring implications in a concurrent program**

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**Type:**

Oral presentation

**Abstract:**

To ensure that youth have a solid foundation for lifelong health and resilience, we need effective mental health treatment programs that incorporate knowledge of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). At CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health in Edmonton, AB, we have been exploring the utility of the ACE questionnaire in our Concurrent Addiction and Mental Health Program (CAMP) as part of the Change in Mind initiative. CAMP aims to effectively treat children and adolescents with concurrent disorders through the provision of evidence-based, trauma-informed, multidisciplinary assessment and treatment. Youth admitted to CAMP are almost three times more likely than the general population to have 4+ ACEs. We will present results from exploratory data analysis on gender differences in youth ACE scores and facilitate discussion around implications for program design and delivery. Our goal is to support improved understanding of the role of ACEs in youth addictions and to help identify next steps for using this information to best support youth and families with trauma-informed treatment.