



# Tribal Adverse Childhood Experiences Project

National Indian Health Board Conference  
Thursday, May 4, 2023 | Anchorage, Alaska

**Antoinette Medina**, MPA, Gabrielino Tongva Nation,  
California Tribal Epidemiology Center

**Aurimar Ayala**, MPH, Director Research & Public  
Health, California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.

**Kelley Milligan**, MPH, Senior Evaluation Associate,  
Allyson Kelley & Associates







# Presentation Resources

Scan QR code to view presentation resources and attachments.



[bit.ly/TACEResources](https://bit.ly/TACEResources)



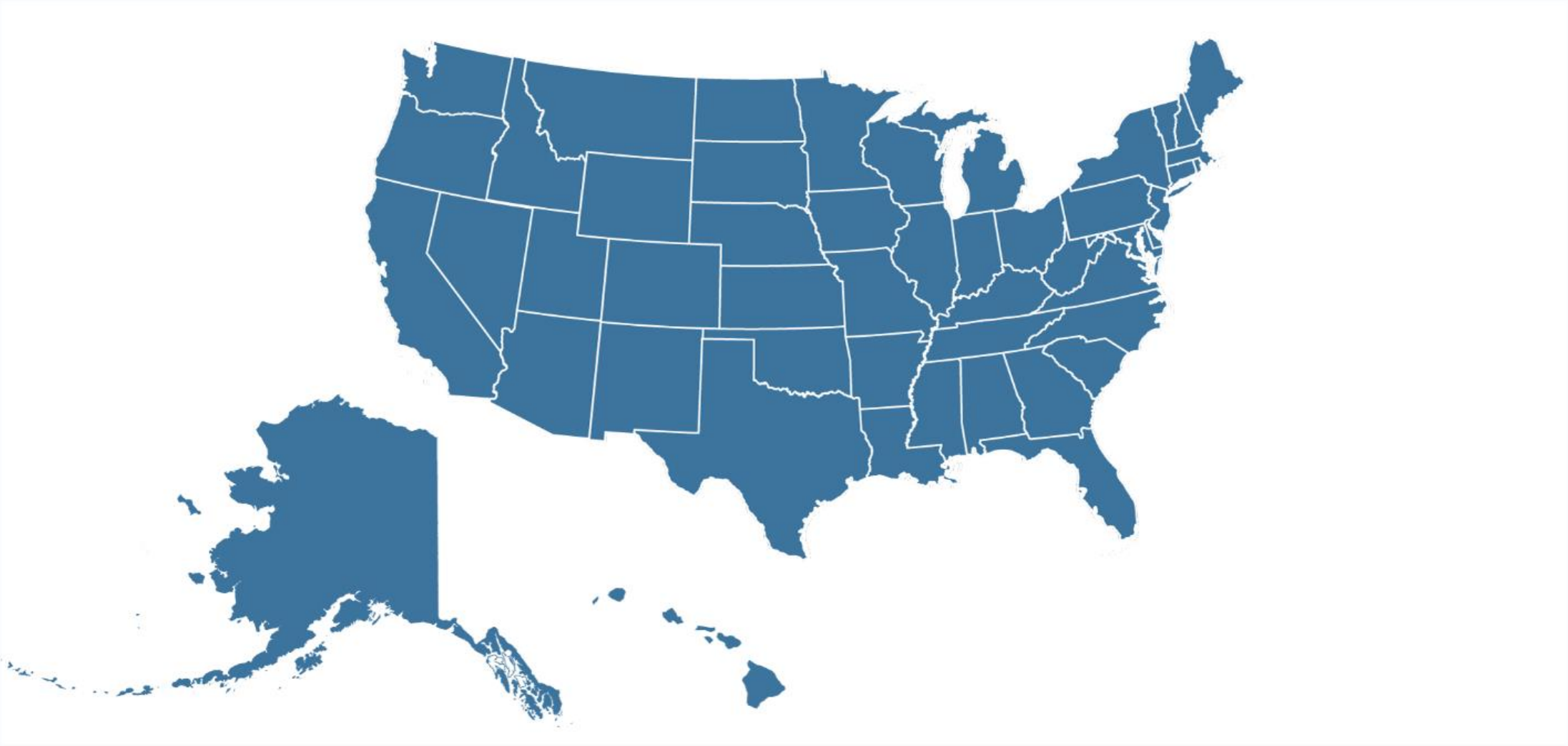
# Land Acknowledgement



We respectfully acknowledge that we are in the traditional lands of the Alaska Native peoples of this land - the Dena'ina.



# Where is home?



Powered by  **Poll Everywhere**

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at [pollev.com/app](https://pollev.com/app)

# Presentation Objectives

01

Increase knowledge on how to implement a Tribal Adverse Childhood Experiences (TACE) tool through meaningful project parameters.

02

Describe adverse childhood experiences and resilience experiences from a Tribal community perspective.

03

Increase knowledge on how to adapt a TACE tool for use in other Indigenous communities.





Produced by



**HAPPY VALLEY FILM CO.**

HappyValleyFilmCo@Gmail.com

## **ACEs Podcast: Episode 2 – Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc.**

Melinda Davis, Bishop Paiute, Behavioral Health Coordinator, Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc.

Happy Valley Film Co.: Isaiah Meders & Hannah Redlich

# What are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)?

**ACEs are traumatic or negative events that happen before the age of 18.**

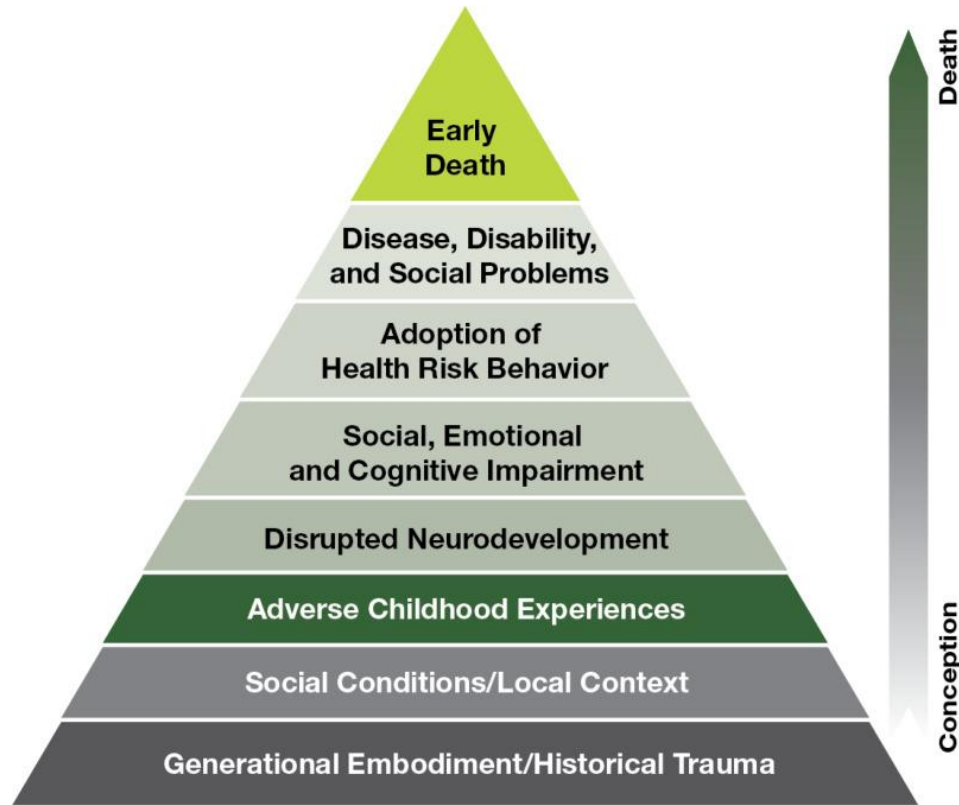
ACEs can include violence, abuse, neglect, or family challenges such as mental illness, substance use, or divorce.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Kaiser ACEs Study

ACEs tool has been used for 30+ years to document high rates of trauma in all populations

Only screens for individual-level childhood traumas – Abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction

# Influence of ACEs and toxic stress on health and wellbeing



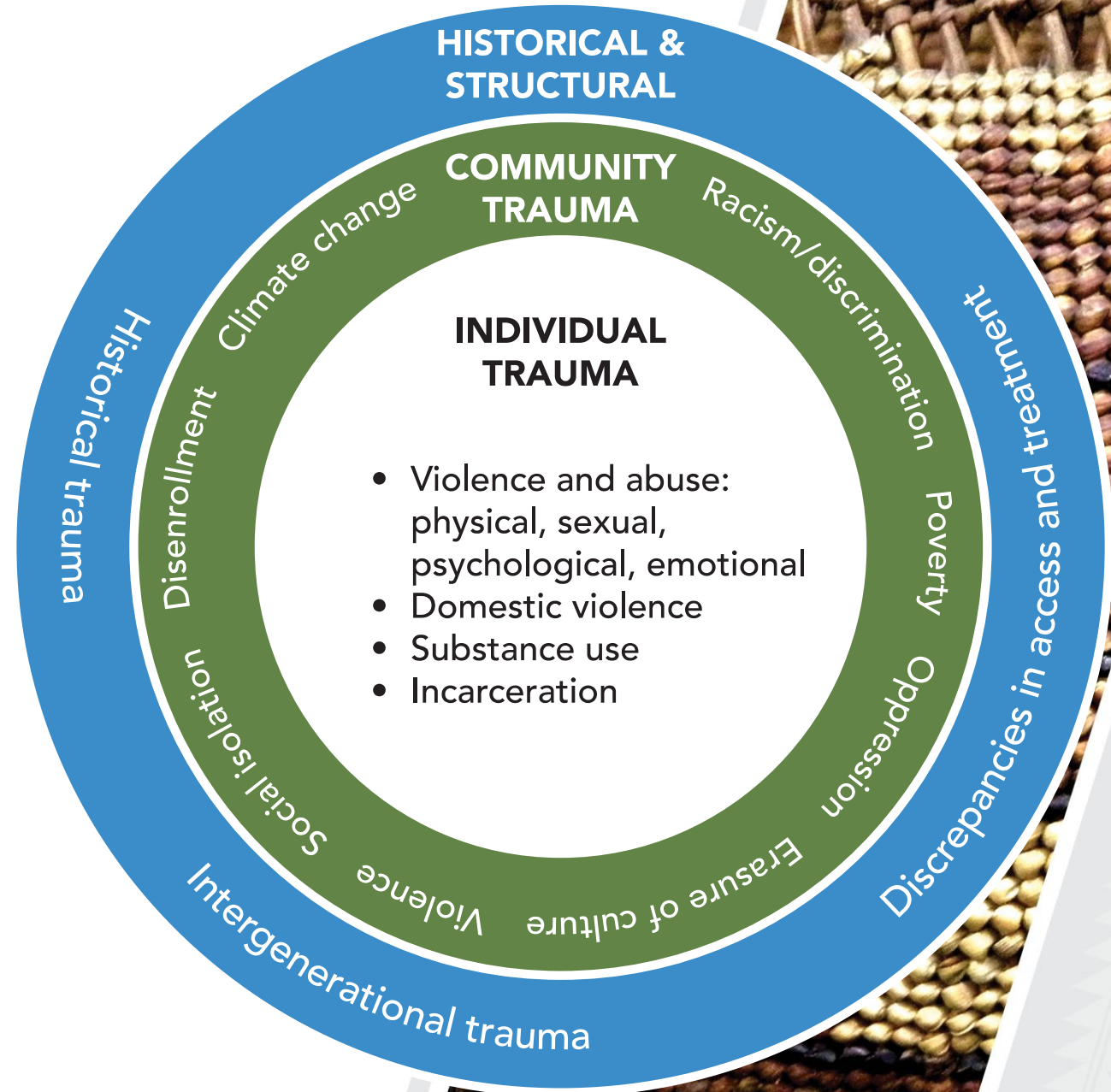
ACE Pyramid – created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mechanisms by which adverse childhood experiences influence health and well-being throughout the lifespan: The ACE Pyramid. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/corehtml/pmc/pmcgifs/wm-hhsa.gif>





# Indigenous Communities Experience Trauma and Demonstrate Resilience

Learn more about how we gathered this information.



# ACEs Tool in Tribal Communities

Advantages to ACEs screening



# ACEs Tool in Tribal Communities

## Perspectives from Tribal Professionals

**How can trauma screening tools be more responsive to Indigenous experiences and communities?**

Incorporate community traumas as well as individual traumas into screening tools

Capture measures of resilience including community and culture

Develop tools by the community for the community

Conduct cross-cultural validity testing

Deliver screening tools in a culturally appropriate way

Employ screening tools to promote healing – follow screening with interventions and strategies aimed at addressing community and individual traumas

**“There is no way  
to recover, unless  
we uncover.”**

- Darnell Aparicio, Manchester Pt. Arena Band of Pomo Indians,  
Public Health Outreach Manager,  
Lake County Tribal Health Consortium, Inc.



[bit.ly/TACeresources](https://bit.ly/TACeresources)



# TACEs Project – Overview


Project Period



# TACEs Project Goals

A circular icon containing a white geometric pattern of nested diamonds and triangles on a blue background.

Understand the trauma and resilience experience of the communities served by the sites.

A circular icon containing a white geometric pattern of nested diamonds and triangles on a light green background.

Utilize a data-to-action approach to address trauma and promote trauma-informed care (TIC) among the community and health providers.

A circular icon containing a white geometric pattern of nested diamonds and triangles on a dark green background.

Create and validate a more culturally responsive ACEs tool.



# TACEs Project Overview (Phase I)



# TACEs Tool

Scan QR code to view the TACE survey.



[bit.ly/TACEresources](https://bit.ly/TACEresources)

**Tribal Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Survey**

*Survey Instructions:* Please read each question carefully. Sections are separated by titles with a blue header. You may skip any questions you do not want to answer. The results from this survey will be kept confidential and are solely for the purpose of developing strategies, resources and trainings to address adverse childhood experiences in your community.

**Section 1: Demographics**

1a. Which best describes your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Two-spirit
- Other: (e.g., gender fluid, non-binary)

1b. What is your highest level of education?

- Elementary
- Some high school
- High school graduate
- College graduate
- Other(specify): \_\_\_\_\_

1c. What is your current employment status?

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Unemployed and currently looking for work
- Student
- Retired
- Taking care of home and/or family
- Self-employed
- Unable to work

1d. What is your age? Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

*you are not 18 or older please stop and give the survey to the staff member onsite*

1e. How many people under the age of 18 years currently live in your household? Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

1f. Do you identify as Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish?

- Yes
- No

1g. Are you a California Indian?

- Yes
- No, please see question 1i.

1h. If you are California Indian, please list the tribe that you are most closely affiliated with. Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

1i. Are you American Indian/Alaska Native?

- Yes
- No

If no, do you have a family member who is American Indian/Alaska Native? If so, please list your relationship with this person: \_\_\_\_\_

1j. If yes, in addition to American Indian/Alaska Native, do you identify with other racial groups?

- No, I identify only as American Indian/Alaska Native
- Not Applicable
- Yes, I also identify with other racial groups

If yes, which one or more of the following would you say is also your race? (Select all that apply)

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Other: (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

1





Produced by



HAPPY VALLEY FILM CO.  
HappyValleyFilmCo@Gmail.com

**ACEs Podcast: Episode I – Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.**

Silver Galleto, Southern Pomo, Coast Miwok, Chief Operations, Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.  
Happy Valley Film Co.: Isaiah Meders & Hannah Redlich



# Development Timeline

September  
2017

Obtained grant  
funding

Literature review on  
trauma and resilience  
tools for Indigenous and  
non-Indigenous  
populations and the  
history of resilience of  
California Tribes

Identified  
standardized and  
validated screening  
and assessment tools

June  
2019

**Draft #1:** CRIHB staff and  
consultants identified the  
constructs and measures  
that were pertinent and  
relevant to the community  
based on these tools and  
developed the first draft

July  
2019

CRIHB Review  
Committee included  
American Indian  
Alaska Native (AIAN)  
staff, community  
members and  
content experts for  
pilot testing

# Development Timeline

August  
2019

**Draft #2:** Incorporated the review committee's feedback and presented the draft to the CTEC advisory committee (AC) for final comments

October  
2019

**Draft #3:** Incorporated feedback from AC

November  
2019

Pilot tested the draft with CRIHB AIAN staff

**Draft #4:** Revisions made from pilot test

December  
2019

**Final Draft**

Internal Review Board (IRB) submission and approval

# Development Timeline

March  
2020

December  
2021

August  
2022

Site implementation  
of the TACEs tool  
and trauma-  
informed care  
initiatives

2020 California Department of  
Health Care Services, California  
Health and Human Services  
Agency policy staff approves  
tool to screen Medi-Cal  
beneficiaries for ACEs.\*

Evaluation of site  
implementation

Validate the  
TACEs Tool

Project extended  
through November 2021  
due to COVID-19.  
Original implementation  
timeline March 2020 –  
July 2021.

*\*For DHCS billing purposes, providers need to calculate the total ACE score (0-10) in order to receive payment.*





Produced by



HAPPY VALLEY FILM CO.

HappyValleyFilmCo@Gmail.com

## ACEs Podcast: Episode 1 – Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.

Silver Galletto, Southern Pomo, Coast Miwok, Chief Operations Officer, Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.  
Dean Hoaglin, Community Outreach Specialist, Coast Miwok, Pomo, Wailaki, Yuki, Sonoma County Indian Health Project, Inc.

Happy Valley Film Co.: Isaiah Meders & Hannah Redlich

# What does the TACEs Tool Measure?

- Demographics
- ACEs
- Expanded ACEs – community level indicators
- Resilience
- Cultural connectedness

Survey Section	Construct	Published Screening & Assessment Tools Used	Notes
ACES	Trauma	Standard ACEs – Felitti et al., 1998 Expanded ACEs - WHO ACE-IQ, 2018	Adapted by CRIHB
Section 3: Resilience	Self esteem	Rosenberg 1965	3a, 3b,
	Social support	Zimmet et al 1988	3c
	Strengths	Kelley & Small 2016	3e-h
	Healthy coping	Kelley & Small 2016	3i
	Stress	Sinclair and Watson 2004	3h-l
Section 4: Culture and Community	Cultural Connections	Snowshoe et al., 2015	4a-4g

# TACEs Results

## ACEs

**53%** experienced **four** or more ACEs compared to

**VS**

**16%** nationwide

## Resilience

**96%** of TACE respondents **felt they had many good qualities**

**97%** showed respect and concern for other

## Community & Culture

**52%** had a **strong knowledge and connection to their culture**



# TACEs Results

Four statements were associated with lower ACEs scores:

1. Self-satisfaction

2. Life has a purpose

3. Talking with family about problems

4. Healthy relationships



# How is your Tribal community addressing trauma and promoting resilience?

Powered by  **Poll Everywhere**

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at [pollev.com/app](https://pollev.com/app)

# TACEs Tool Validation Project (Phase II)

Tested the dimensions, reliability, and validity of the TACEs survey.

## Highlights of the TACE Tool Validation

- First-ever Tribally-specific **validated tool** to measure ACEs while balancing constructs of resilience, community, and connections
- Encourages a culturally-informed response to addressing trauma and promoting resilience
- Can better equip providers, programs, and communities to develop and implement prevention and intervention strategies that address ACEs and build on community strengths

Access the TACEs Tool Validation Summary here



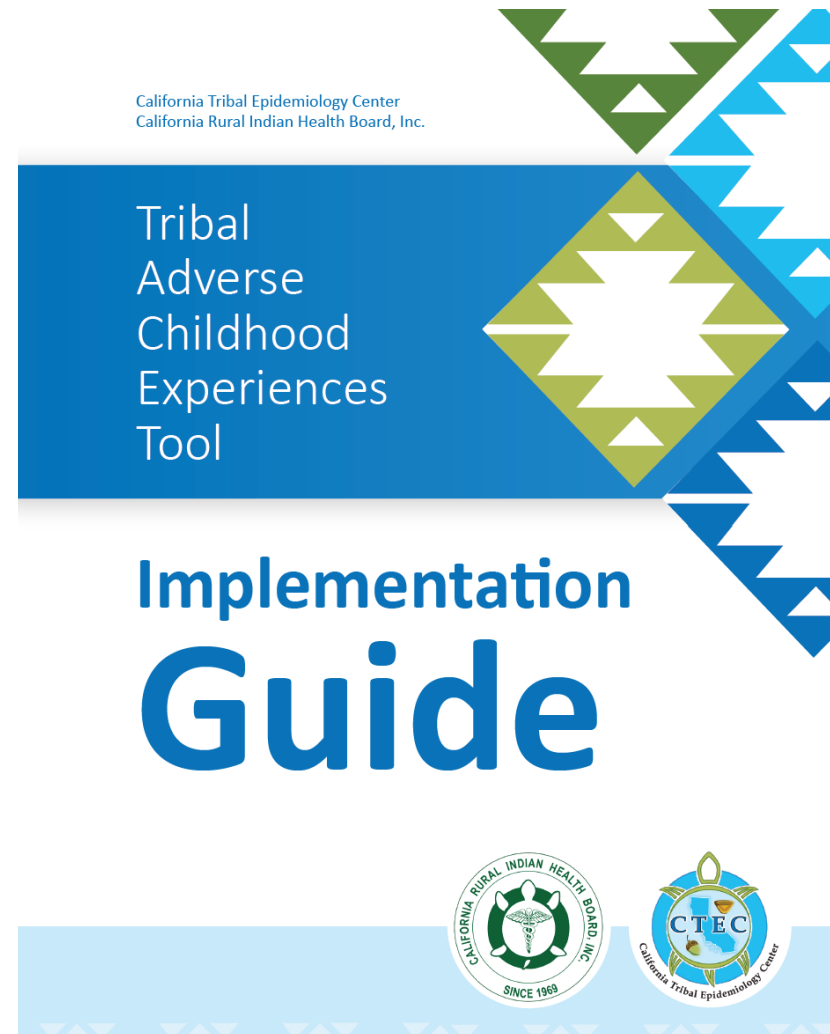
[bit.ly/TACEresources](https://bit.ly/TACEresources)



# TACEs Tool Implementation Guide

- Provides guidance on:
  - How to screen for TACEs,
  - Considerations when screening for TACEs,
  - Prevention and intervention strategies for use in Tribal communities, and
  - Recommendations on next steps

Scan QR code to view the guide.



# What barriers do you foresee in implementing the TACE tool?



# Understanding the Outcomes Collecting Stories

Narrative  
evaluation  
methods

Collaborative,  
semi-structured  
interviews

Ten Tribal  
professionals

“An Indigenous model must reflect Indigenous reality. It must integrate the past, the present, and the people’s vision for the future. It must acknowledge resources and challenges and allow communities to build a commitment to identifying and resolving health concerns and issues.”

— Chino, M. & DeBruyn, L



# Outcomes of the TACEs Project

## OUTCOMES

**Increased access to culturally relevant trauma and resilience data** for local AIAN communities

**Increased culturally responsive screening tools** for AIAN accepted by Medi-Cal for reimbursement

**Increased awareness of TIC** among Tribal health care staff

**Established strong partnerships with ACEs initiatives** and at Tribal, national, state, and non-profit organizations

# Community Outcome

## Increased understanding

“With both ACEs and TACEs, it helps individuals, helps them recognize that things happened to them. When you’re living an experience, from childhood, infancy on, you’re so in it you can’t recognize the trauma or the effects, or the impacts. People get into self-loathing and self hatred, some self-medicate, it just piles on. After doing TACEs you can see...the explanation of why today, fifty years later, I have depression or substance use issues, it is not an excuse, but it helps you understand.”

## Started the process for healing

“There was a patient that had completed the screening tool...when they were done, they requested to talk to me. So, I went out visited with the patient and they went into some really hard stories about their youth... Afterward they said, ‘I’ve never told this story before.’ They told me that discussing and sharing that information allowed them to begin their journey to heal.” It was a very powerful healing moment, allowing them to begin to heal.”

# Provider Outcomes

## Improved understanding of trauma-informed care

“We were in a managers meeting and some thought that trauma informed care was the same as cultural sensitivity...so I used examples, and we discussed the differences between trauma-informed care and cultural sensitivity. That was an example of where, a group of managers and health care providers in the room were not informed, they were not trauma-informed. They were thinking we were already doing something that we really weren't...”

## Improved trauma-informed care agency wide

“Within our agency, managers and supervisors developed and implemented trauma-informed care action plans to carry-on staff training and create opportunities for supportive team-building interactions and self-care to promote a trauma-informed care environment not only with patients but with each other and ourselves. [As a result of the provider interventions], our staff increased self-efficacy at work and improved reactions to work.”





# Future Steps

## TACEs & Trauma-Informed Care

TACEs TOOL



Produced by



HAPPY VALLEY FILM CO.

HappyValleyFilmCo@Gmail.com

## **ACEs Podcast: Episode 2 – Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc.**

Kristian Orihuela, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Community Member, Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc.

Happy Valley Film Co., Isaiah Meders & Hannah Redlich



# Questions?

For additional questions, please contact:

- Antoinette Medina ([amedina@crihb.org](mailto:amedina@crihb.org))
- Aurimar Ayala ([aayala@crihb.org](mailto:aayala@crihb.org))





**What is one thing that you learned today that you could apply in your work?**



# Thank You!

Scan QR code to explore the TACE resources and attachments.



[bit.ly/TACEresources](https://bit.ly/TACEresources)

