Today’s piece was prepared by Chelsea Del Rosso, MD, based on a *New York Times* article [A Gun to His Head as a Child. In Prison as an Adult](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/15/us/childhood-trauma-prison-addiction.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fhealth&action=click&contentCollection=health&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=3&pgtype=sectionfront).

This article takes a personal view on the impact of childhood trauma on a child’s development.  The life of Rob Sullivan, the primary subject of the article, has had many episodes of violence inflicted upon him by those he trusted most throughout his life. His support system, riddled with drugs and violence, did not provide the supportive environment to foster positive development. His behaviors led him to prison and to perpetrate emotional abuse on his partners and children. The article addresses the study, [*Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study*](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(98)00017-8/pdf)*.* It describes the correlation between increased adverse childhood events (ACEs) and poor outcomes in adulthood using Mr. Sullivan’s story as a poignant example.

This article correctly highlights the research done on ACEs and how they can lead to poor outcomes in adulthood. The article correctly points out the correlation between ACEs and child development.  While this article highlights one story, there are countless narratives that lead to similar results if appropriate interventions are not taken. This article describes an opportunity for healthcare providers to become more in tune to patients’ past trauma experiences as having an effect on their development and overall health later in life.  Identifying at risk children early in childhood and allowing them the opportunity to have appropriate intervention may improve outcomes.

**RESOURCES ON ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EVENTS:**

[Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Lifelong Consequences of Trauma](https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/ttb_aces_consequences.pdf) *Research & info about the effects of childhood trauma*

[Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences and Other Types of Trauma in the Primary Care Setting](https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/ttb_addressing_aces.pdf) *Information about integrating screening for trauma into the primary care setting and how to respond once it is found.*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!