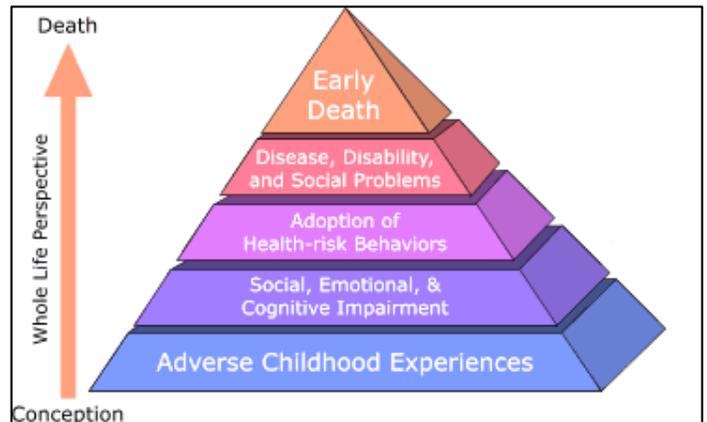


Why prevention matters

Protecting children now ensures a prosperous Louisiana in the future

- **80 percent of brain growth happens in the first three years of life.** Genes provide the basic blueprint, but experiences shape the brain's pathways and establish the foundation for health, learning and well-being.
- Children who experience abuse, neglect or household dysfunction are at **greater risk for poor outcomes throughout their lives**, including emotional, cognitive, physical or behavioral challenges.
- A **safe, stable and nurturing** environment is critical to a child's development. Children who grow up in those environments are more likely to become responsible, productive members of society.
- While there are methods of intervention and treatment for child abuse, neglect and household trauma, **the best chance for a child is to prevent abuse and neglect before it starts.**



Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The cost of doing nothing

- Child maltreatment affects more than 1 million children in the United States annually and **costs our nation \$220 million daily.**
- **Americans pay a staggering \$80 billion annually** to address the effects of child abuse and neglect. Louisiana is estimated to spend approximately **\$1.2 billion annually.**
- Adults with adverse childhood experiences **have higher rates of lost work time, higher health care costs, increased incarceration rates** and mental health outcomes that impair their ability to be mentally and emotionally prepared for work.
- The Centers for Disease Control estimates depression to cause **200 million lost workdays each year at a cost to employers of \$17 billion to \$44 billion.**
- Research proves that **focusing on prevention is a far more effective use of resources** to ensure children reach their full potential rather than treating the effects of abuse after it occurs.
- Yet, for every \$50 spent to treat abuse, **only \$1 is spent on prevention.**