



Translating ACEs Research into Action in School Settings

Elaine Fletcher-Janzen, Ed.D., NCSP, ABPdN

Anna Craven, B.S., EdS., Doctoral Student

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

ACEs Questionnaire

- The CDC-Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations of childhood abuse and neglect and later-life health and well-being.
- 10 questions about
 - Types of abuse
 - Events (not frequency)
 - Prior to age 18

ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



Divorce

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study



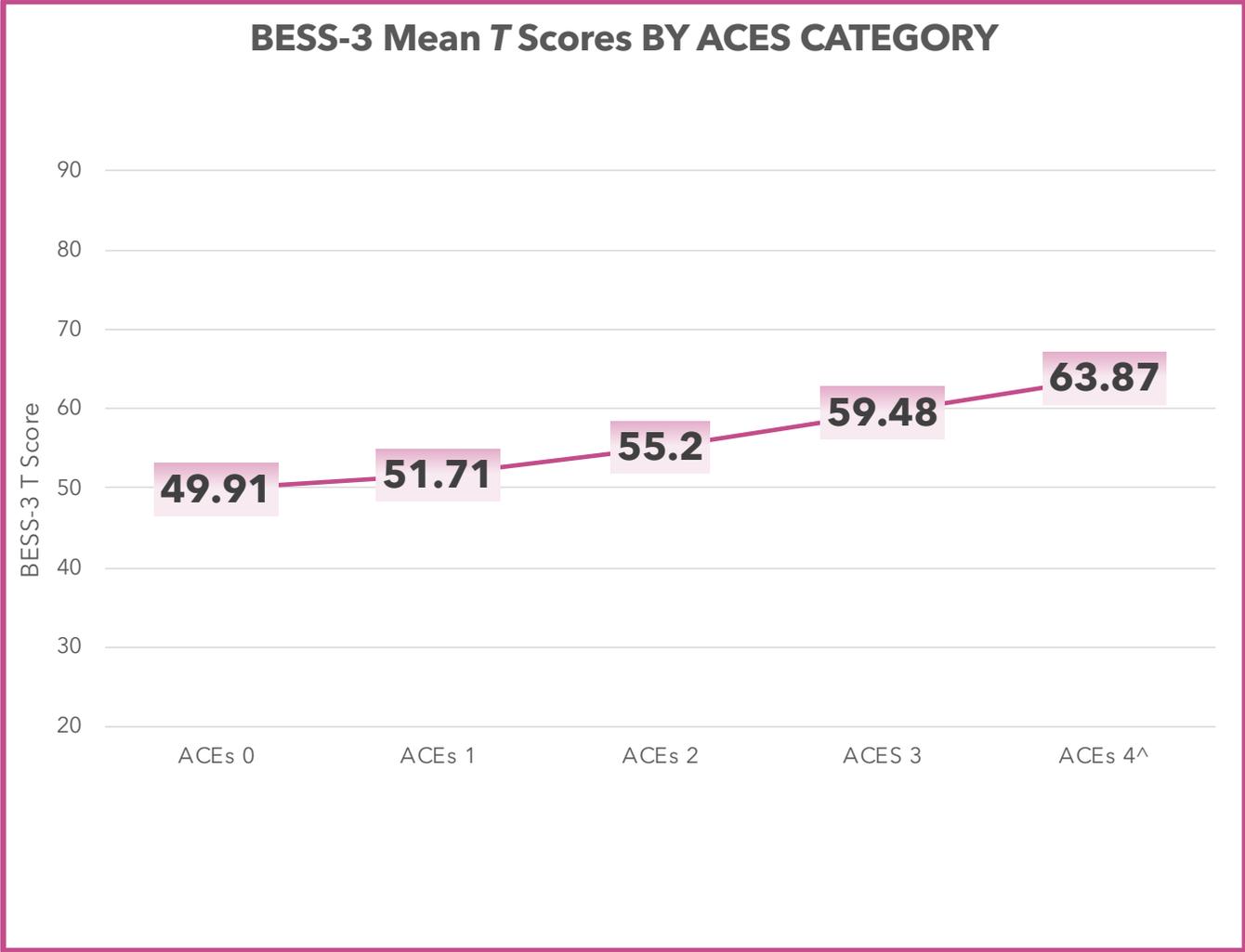
Fletcher-Janzen & Harrington (2020) ACEs Study

- **Purpose**

- Assist school district in estimating the number and level of services needed for initiation of Social and Emotional Learning MTSS
- Find out how many students in the school district had high ACEs (past history of adverse experiences) and high BESS (current distress)
- Find out if the BESS and BASC could give us a predictable psychological profile so that insight could be gained into what treatments and interventions are most likely to work.

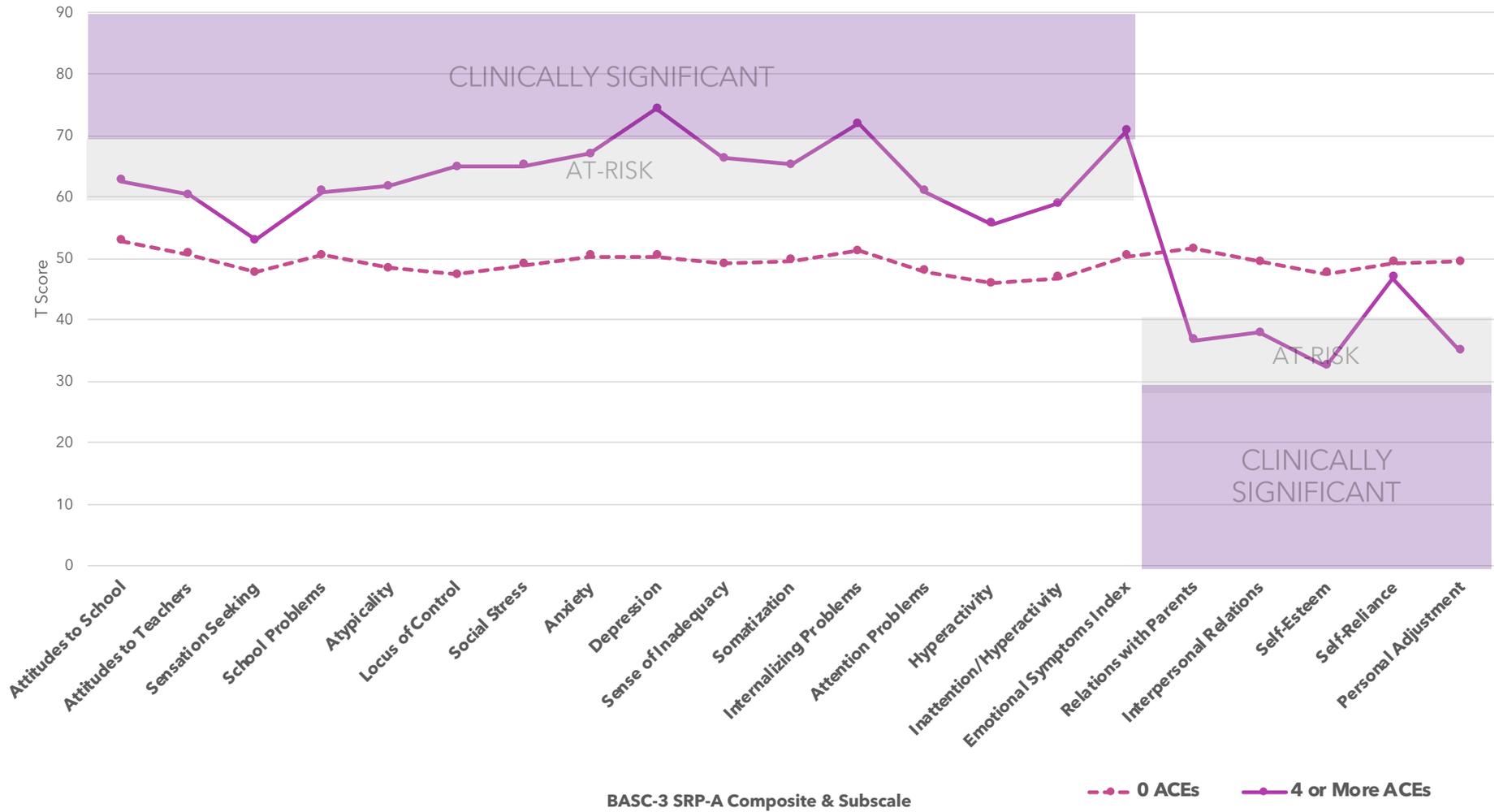
Study Measures & Sample

- Over 1,200 freshmen students in south-suburban HS District
- Administered ACE Questionnaire, BESS, and BASC-3
- Participants: # of ACEs, gender, SES, representative of national census with slight elevation in Black and Latinx groups



Fletcher-Janzen & Harrington ACEs Study (2020)

BASC-3 SRP-A Profile



BASC-3 SRP-A Composite & Subscale

--- 0 ACEs — 4 or More ACEs

Data-Based Decisions



Students with high ACEs are significantly at-risk for internalizing disorders that are often missed by data from teacher, parent, office referrals, suspensions/expulsions, records & observations.

Give a screening measure student form that has validity scales.



Universal screening measure (BESS-3 Student Form) is sensitive to levels of childhood trauma

Follow up on any student that has significant BESS-3 scores

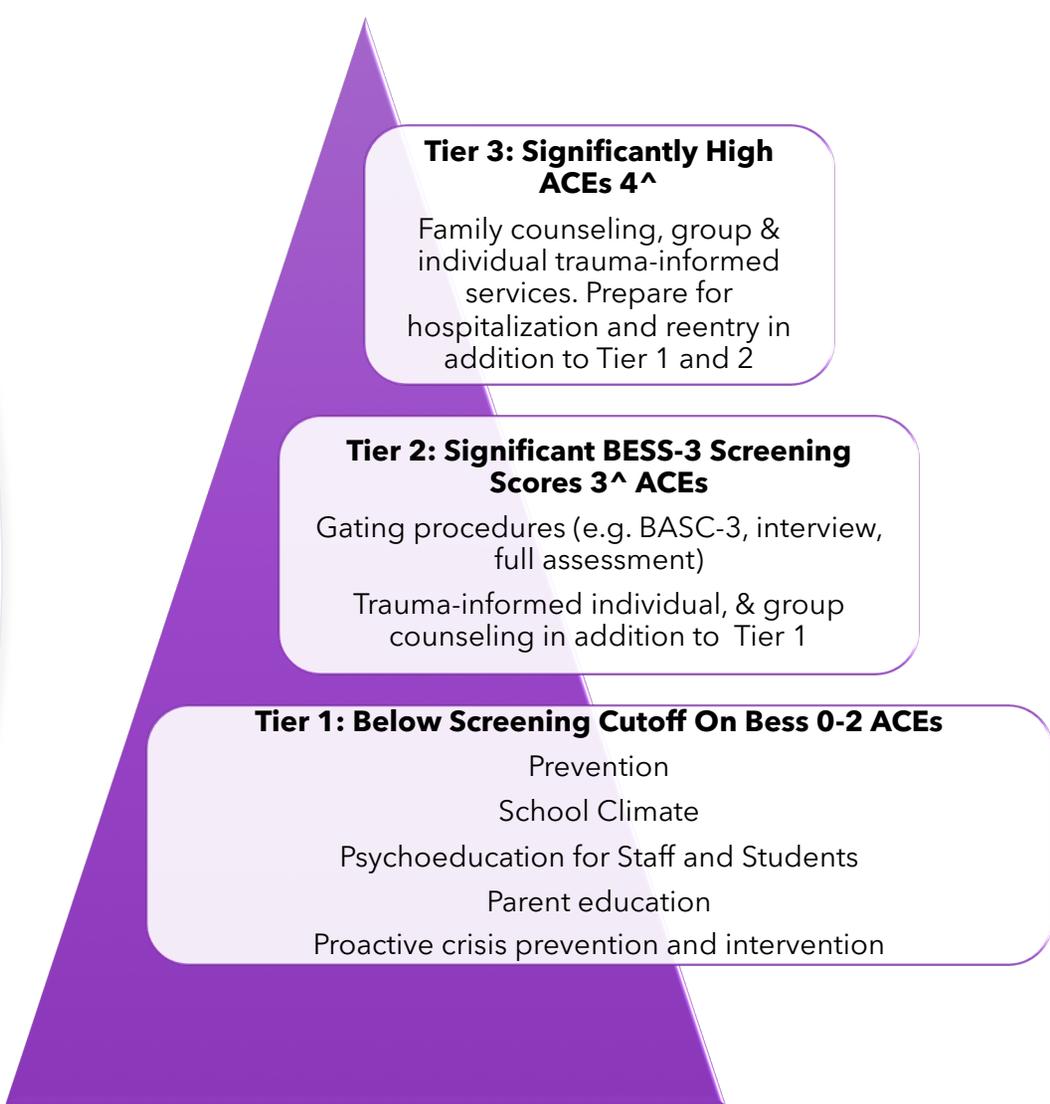


The BESS-3 and BASC-3 are highly correlated

Expect and prepare for follow-up assessment to reveal 2/3 of students clinically significant broad-based psychological distress with significantly few protective factors



Tiered Interventions



Tier 3: Significantly High ACEs 4^

Family counseling, group & individual trauma-informed services. Prepare for hospitalization and reentry in addition to Tier 1 and 2

Tier 2: Significant BESS-3 Screening Scores 3^ ACEs

Gating procedures (e.g. BASC-3, interview, full assessment)
Trauma-informed individual, & group counseling in addition to Tier 1

Tier 1: Below Screening Cutoff On Bess 0-2 ACEs

Prevention
School Climate
Psychoeducation for Staff and Students
Parent education
Proactive crisis prevention and intervention