

**Generic Clearance for CDC/ATSDR  
Formative Research and Tool Development**

**OMB# 0920-1154**

**Title: Formative Research for ACEs Prevention Message Development**

Supporting Statement B

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### **1. Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods**

For the survey: General population participants will be recruited through the survey platform Survey Monkey, which has an extensive national participant panel. General population participants will be adults (18 years of age or older) who reside in the U.S. These participants will be recruited through the SurveyMonkey Audience recruitment feature, to ensure that the demographics of the sample generally align with the U.S. adult population in terms of gender, age, and household income.

For focus groups: General consumers/trusted adults and parents/caregivers will be recruited using a professional recruitment firm. The direct service providers audience - defined as people who work with children in a formal way (e.g., child care providers, teachers, housing organizations, child welfare, substance abuse and mental health providers) - will be recruited through DVP contacts at organizations like Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) and through DVP's VetoViolence network (through the VetoViolence Digest or email listserv).

For interviews: NCIPC and DVP will work with the contractor to identify and then contact CDC Partners that are within DVP's and NCIPC's networks and partnerships.

All recruitment materials will be in English. Recruitment materials will include information on the purpose of the data collection, eligibility requirements, contact information for additional questions, and a link to a screening survey for individuals to express their interest in participating.

### **2. Procedures for the Collection of Information**

#### *Survey*

A survey will be conducted online via Survey Monkey. Recruitment of survey participants will be conducted through Survey Monkey's extensive participant panels. These extensive panels allow for national recruitment which reaches wider, more diverse audiences. Recruited survey participants will be provided with informed consent at the beginning of the survey. If they consent to participate in the survey, they will be asked to proceed to fill out the survey. A total of 200 participants will participate in the survey. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.

Quantitative survey data will be analyzed using the survey platform's built-in analytics, and Excel software, to conduct descriptive statistics. Qualitative survey data will be exported into Excel and analyzed using thematic analysis strategies. Survey findings will be used to answer the research questions and develop recommendations to inform the revision of ACEs messaging.

#### *Focus Groups and Interviews*

Focus groups will include 24 participants across all audiences (Parents/Caregivers, Trusted Adults/Consumers, and Direct Service Providers).

Focus group recruitment materials will be sent out via the previously described methods and will contain a screening survey that will gather preliminary information on general consumers/trusted adults, parents/caregivers, and direct service providers, in addition to demographic characteristics that will help segment individuals into an appropriate focus group.

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Interviews will include 5 participants. Interview recruitment will take place by email, via the previously described methods.

Each focus group or interview will last no longer than 60 minutes and will be conducted virtually via Zoom, an online video conferencing platform, for convenience to participants. Each focus group or interview will be audio-recorded and the data will be transferred and stored on a shared information system with access restricted to authorized study personnel. Focus group and interview participants will be provided with a copy of the informed consent document for review before the focus group or interview. Once participants have joined the Zoom meeting, the facilitator will introduce themselves, describe the study, review the informed consent document, and answer any questions participants may have. After obtaining verbal consent from participants, the facilitator will follow a predetermined list of questions to guide the focus group or interview. Each focus group or interview will be transcribed and imported into qualitative data analysis software (e.g., Atlas.ti) for coding, with personally identifying information (PII) removed.

Analysis of focus group and interview data will utilize thematic analysis strategies to answer the research questions and identify translatable findings into communication strategies. A codebook will be developed consisting of deductive and inductive codes to identify and compare themes within and across focus groups. The same will be done to code interview data.

Findings from the survey, focus groups, and interviews will be compiled into a report that will highlight themes and recommendations for message and material development.

### **3. Methods to Maximize Response Rates and Deal with No Response**

Survey Monkey's extensive participant panels, and ability to actively recruit participants throughout the survey period based on participation metrics, will help maximize the survey response rate.

Each focus group and interview participant will receive a gift card as a token of appreciation for their participation. Providing incentives to respondents is necessary to successfully recruit individuals. Incentives can increase the likelihood of obtaining a diverse sample of participants, which would include individuals in hard-to-reach and minority populations who encounter complex social problems that place limitations on their desire and time to volunteer for research studies (Ellard-Gray et al. 2015; Knoll et al. 2012).

### **4. Tests of Procedures or Methods to be Undertaken**

To inform the data collection instruments (survey questionnaire, focus group guide, interview guide), the consulting agency held meetings with DVP and NCIPC staff to identify priority audiences for ACEs messaging, determine communication priorities for each priority audience, and prioritize ACEs messaging for data collection.

For this study, the survey, focus group, and interview questions were reviewed by multiple staff within the consulting agency and by multiple staff within NCIPC and DVP.

#### *Survey*

The questions within the survey intend to:

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- Uncover variations in audience knowledge, opinions, and perceptions of ACEs and their prevention.
- Compare variations of similar ACEs prevention messages to ascertain which resonates with the audience and produces the intended response.
- Determine audience response to ACEs prevention messages in terms of understanding, agreement, memorability, and importance.
- Assess audience reactions to example images and/or graphics that accompany specific ACEs prevention messages.

### *Focus Groups*

The questions in the focus group guides intend to:

- Gain a greater understanding in and facilitate discussion of audience knowledge, opinions, and perceptions of ACEs prevention across audience subsets.
- Gain a greater understanding of audiences' reactions to and opinions on ACEs prevention messages.

### *Interviews*

The questions in the interview guide intend to:

- Gain a greater understanding in and facilitate discussion of CDC partner opinions, and perceptions of ACEs prevention across their organization, networks, and audiences.
- Gain a greater understanding of CDC partners' reactions to and opinions on ACEs prevention messages.

## **5. Individuals Consulted on Statistical Aspects/Individuals Collecting and/or Analyzing Data**

This information collection request does not employ advanced statistical methods. CDC staff consulted are in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) and the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP), including: Tessa Burton, Brooke Aspinwall, Sarah Roby, Carmen Goman, and Amanda Baynes. These staff are involved in a similar ongoing study to test messages related to preventing child abuse and neglect (Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Message Development (CAN)), which was approved by OMB on 2/13/2024 under "Generic Clearance for CDC/ATSDR Formative Research and Tool Development" (OMB# 0920-1154).. These staff were consulted about the methodological design of the study being proposed. Their recommendations were incorporated into the study design and instruments on an ongoing basis. The health communications consultancy will be responsible for overseeing and executing the data collection and analysis.

**References**

Ellard-Gray, A., Jeffrey, N. K., Choubak, M., & Crann, S. E. (2015). Finding the Hidden Participant: Solutions for Recruiting Hidden, Hard-to-Reach, and Vulnerable Populations. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 14(5), 1609406915621420. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406915621420>

Knoll, M., Soller, L., Ben-Shoshan, M. et al. The use of incentives in vulnerable populations for a telephone survey: a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Res Notes* 5, 572 (2012). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1756-0500-5-572>