Introduction

- Rates of illicit drug use among women reproductive age significant national public health problem
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) associated with higher rates of prenatal depression and maternal childhood maltreatment
- ACE's prevalent in those with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

Aims of Study:
1. Determine prevalence of ACE's in a population of pregnant and parenting women in treatment for substance use disorder
2. Characterize ACE's
3. Compare our sample to Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Pennsylvania data

Methods

Research Design
Sub-Study of “Practicing Safety Mindfulness Project for Mothers in Drug Treatment” to collect prevalence data on ACE's

Participants
N=152 women between 28 weeks gestation and 48 months post-delivery were recruited from an inner city MAT program.

Procedures
Self-administered Ace and demographic assessment at baseline
Study years 2014-2018

Measures
- Sociodemographic questionnaire assessed respondents age, race, ethnicity, educational attainment, relationship status, employment status, receipt of public assistance, and number of children
- Adverse Childhood Exposures Tool (ACE): 8-item self-report measure assessing history of abuse, neglect and household dysfunction in 1st 18 years of life.

Analyses
- Descriptive Statistics used for sociodemographic variables and ACE items
- Summary ACE score calculated for 8 items to cumulate exposure to childhood trauma and adversity
- Score denotes number of different ACE's, not severity of ACE

Results

Main Results:
- Mean Ace score 4.3
- Only 5% of women reported 0 ACE's
- Nearly a third (32%) reported attempting suicide as a child and 27% reported living with someone who attempted suicide
- 49% report experiencing neglect as a child (psychological or emotional mistreatment)

Comparison of PSMDT Sample to PA BRFSS Data
- PSMDT sample (N=152) 65.0% report ≥2ACE's
- PA BRFSS sample (N=5,705 male and female PA respondents*) 12.0% report ≥2ACE's
- Of ACE items reported for PSMDT sample, 51.8% Emotional Abuse, 44.9% Physical Abuse, 42.9% Sexual Abuse
- Of ACE items reported for PA BRFSS sample, 35.0% Emotional Abuse, 16.0% Physical Abuse, and 11.0% Sexual Abuse

* PA BRFSS data includes general population of male and female respondents

Discussion

- Significantly higher ACE burden in our sample
- Implications for parenting women with SUD:
  - High prevalence of ACE's associated with 2.2 fold increase in high-perceived stress and 4.0 fold increase in difficulty controlling anger
  - ACE's associated with increased parental stress and decreased parental cognitive functioning
- Report of attempted suicide as child, living with someone who attempted suicide, ever homeless or living in shelter or temporary housing, running away from home for more than one day, and ever feeling abandoned or neglected
- Concern for intergenerational transmission of ACE's
- Limitation with PA BRFSS Data for comparison

Public Health Implications

- Valuable screener in pediatric and primary care
- De-stigmatization of those in treatment for SUD's
- Understanding intergenerational transmission of ACE's inform early intervention work with children of women in drug treatment

Acknowledgments