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Pediatrics

Title

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Developmental Delay in Young US Children

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Authors

Nivens, Carleigh

Hoyt-Austin, Adrienne

Schwarz, Eleanor

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Data Availability

The data associated with this publication are not available for this reason: N/A

Introduction

- ACEs are:
 - Common
 - Associated with poor health outcomes
 - Associated with developmental delay in children
- Breastfeeding and reading may improve early developmental outcomes

Study Aim

- To explore the relationship between diagnosis of developmental delay and ACEs
- To examine how breastfeeding and early reading impact this relationship

Design/Sample

- Cross-sectional study design
- Population representative data
- National Survey of Children's Health, 2017-2018
- 7,837 children ages 3 to 5 years old



Analysis

- Multivariate logistic regression; adjusted for family, personal, demographic characteristics
- Breastfeeding
- Reading
- Birthweight
- Preterm birth

Results

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics of Children 3-5 years old, National Survey of Children's Health 2017-2018 (N= 7,837)

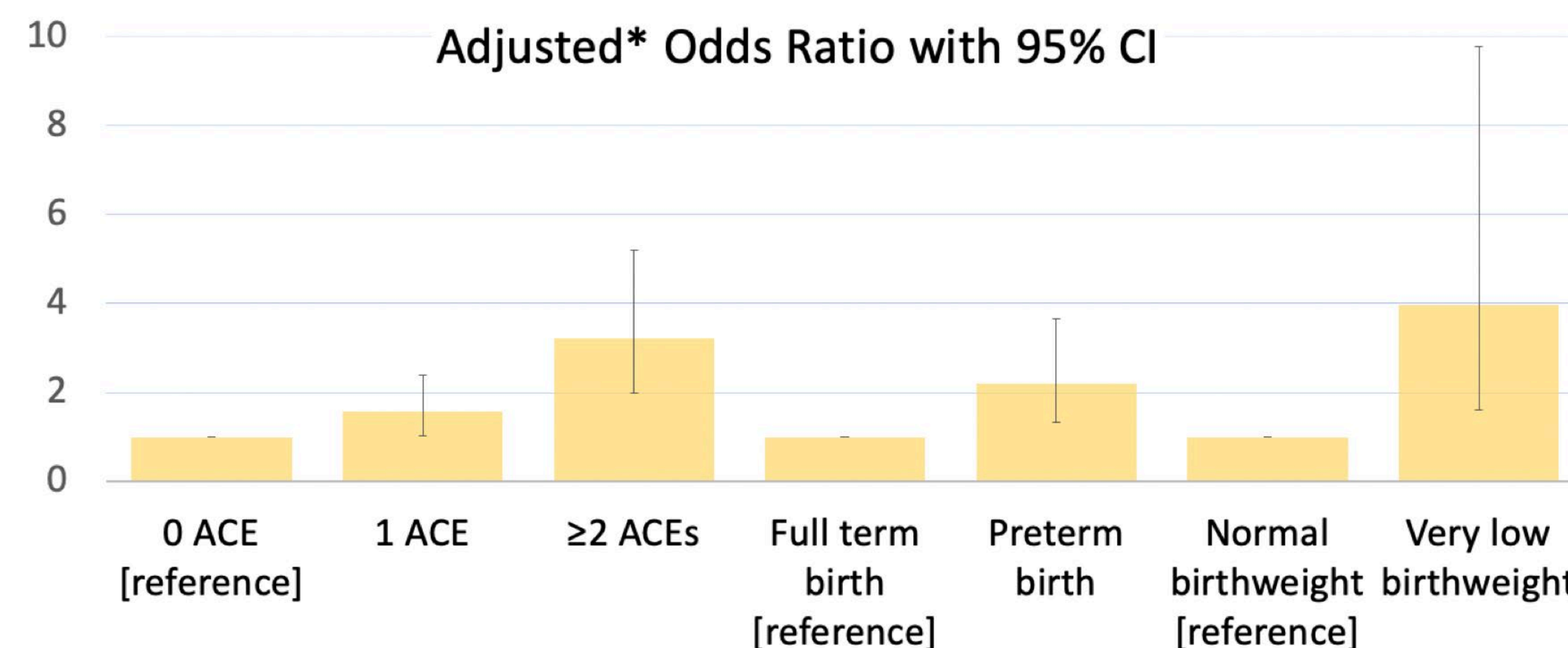
NSCH Characteristic	N (%)
Race/ethnicity	
Hispanic	896 (11.4)
White, non-Hispanic	5358 (65.4)
Black, non-Hispanic	472 (6.0)
Asian, non-Hispanic	391 (5.0)
Multi-racial/Other, non-Hispanic	720 (9.2)
Household income	
0-99% FPL	970 (12.4)
100-199% FPL	1287 (16.4)
200-399% FPL	2476 (31.6)
400% FPL or above	3104 (39.6)
Adult education level	
College degree or higher	4989 (63.7)
Some college/technical school	1788 (22.8)
High school degree or GED	935 (11.9)
Less than high school	125 (1.6)

1 ACE associated with 57% higher risk of developmental delay

≥ 2 ACEs associated with >200% higher risk of developmental delay

Increased risk of developmental delay with preterm birth and low birthweight

No association between developmental delay and reading at home or breastfeeding



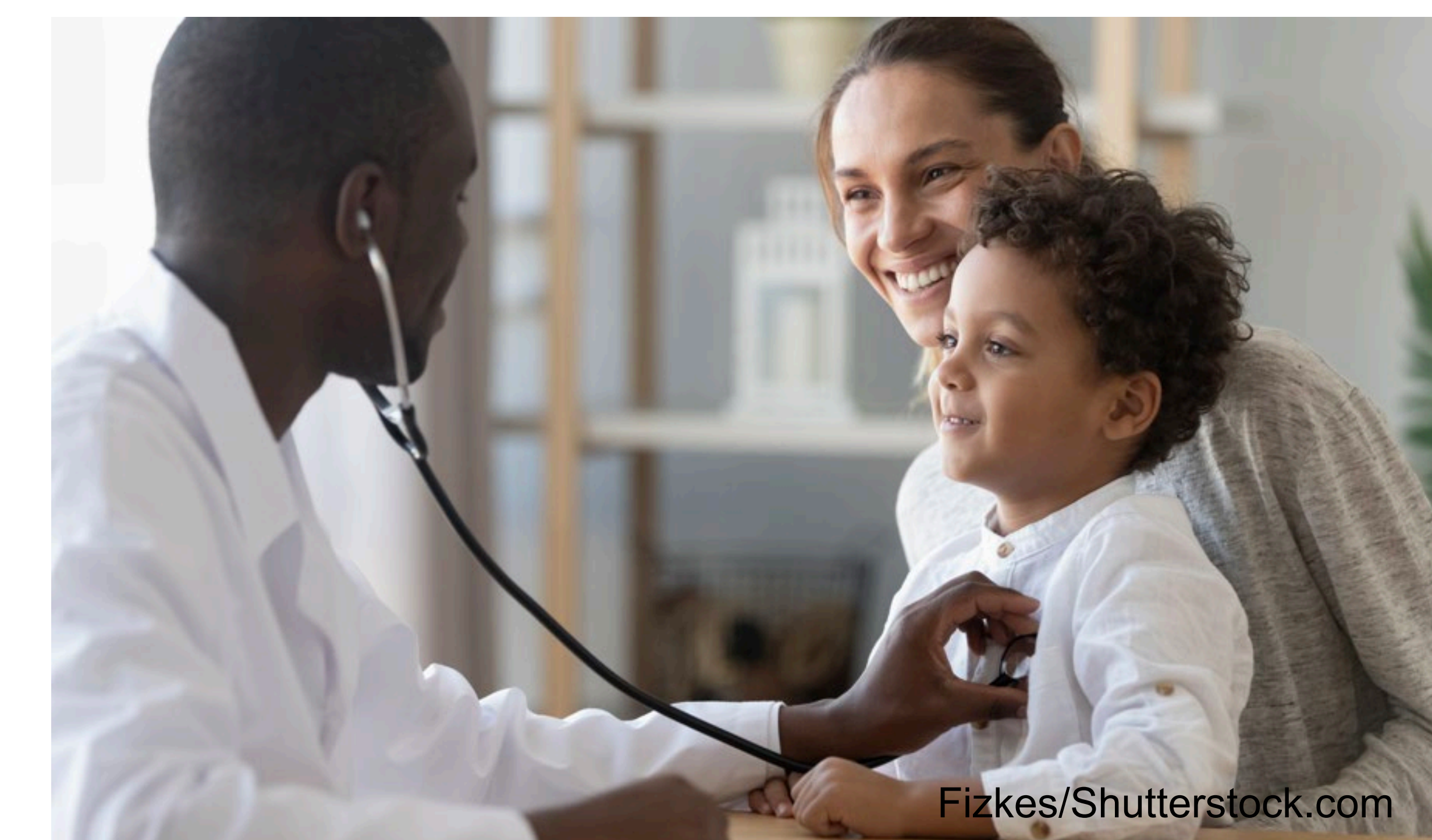
*Adjusted for: preterm birth, birthweight, race/ethnicity, income, parental education, breastfeeding history, reading at home

Conclusions

- US children with early ACEs are at higher risk for diagnosis of developmental delay
- Health-promoting behaviors such as breastfeeding and daily reading were not protective of developmental delay in children with and without ACE exposure

Implications for pediatric primary care:

1. Implementation of trauma-informed care
2. Screening for ACEs
3. Application of appropriate interventions
4. Promotion of resilience factors



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