

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

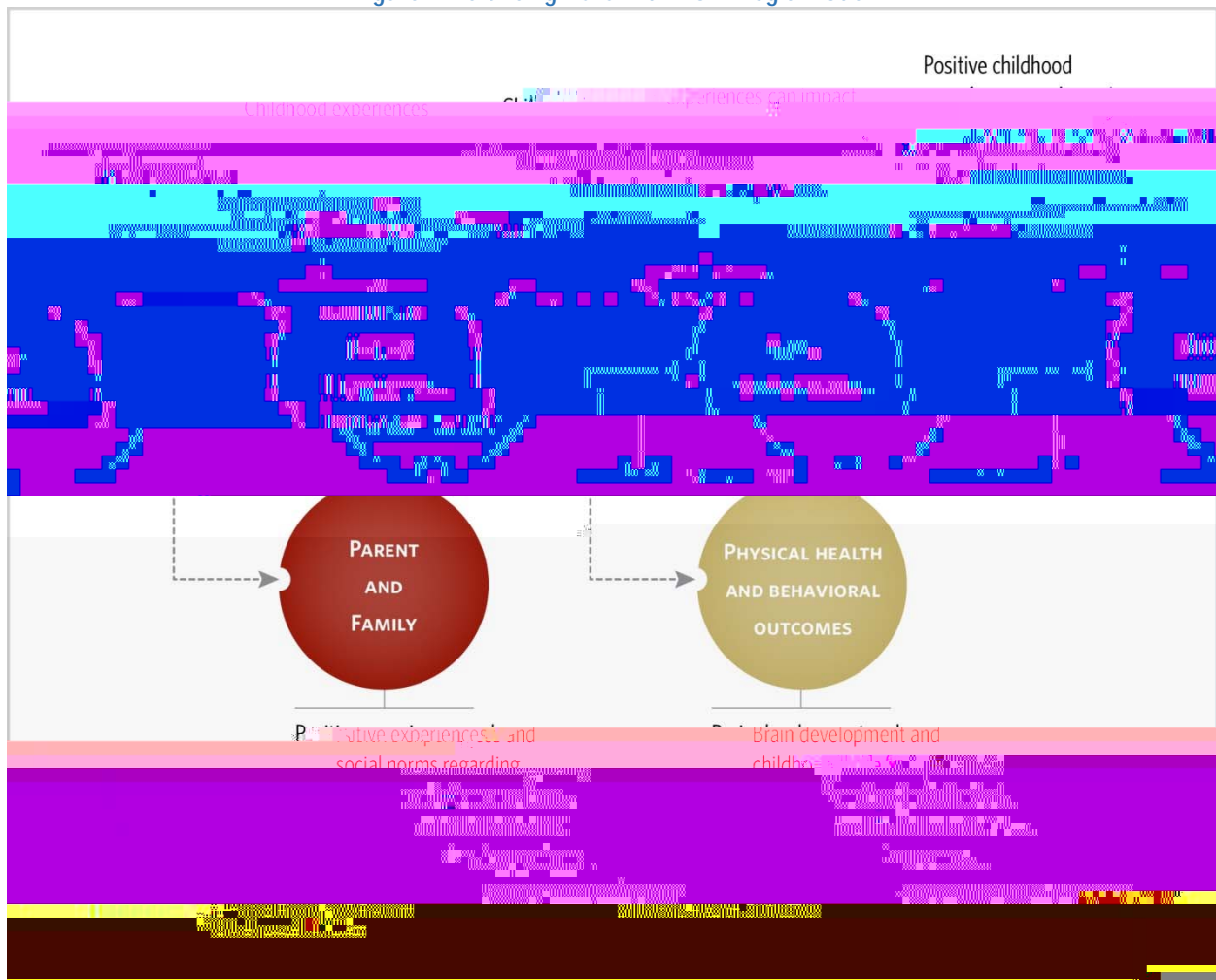
BALANCING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES WITH HOPE:

New Insights into the Role of Positive Experience on Child and Family Development
in society from agricultural to industrial

to post industrial, there have been tremendous changes in the environments in which children live and grow. What have we learned that will help us, as a society, best position them to learn and grow?

There has been a great deal of focus, rightly so, on the impact of childhood adversity on healthy child development. At the same time, mounting evidence suggests that we can create the conditions that allow children to experience the safety, stability, and nurturance necessary for healthy development. This report, produced in partnership with Casey Family Programs, illuminates the importance of HOPE – Health Outcomes of Positive Experiences – a framework that studies and promotes positive child and family well being (Sege and Brown, 2017).

Figure 1. Balancing ACEs with HOPE Logic Model



We present newly released, compelling data that reinforce the need and opportunity to support families and communities in the cultivation of relationships and environments that promote healthy childhood development. This approach, which adds to the growing body of work on the Science of Thriving, seeks to foster strong families and promote the prevention, mitigation, and healing from adversity. This report contains information derived from four recent population surveys to:

- ◁ Explore the role of positive experiences on child and adult health,
- ◁ Assess the cultural and political readiness to support children and their families,
- ◁ Demonstrate the contribution of positive relationships and experiences to the development of healthy children and adults, and
- ◁ Describe current social norms regarding parenting practices, particularly those associated with healthy child development.

FINDINGS

1. The 2011–12 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) demonstrates those aspects of a nurturing environment that contribute to the development of psychological resilience in children, including prevention of many of the effects of adversity.
2. Data from the 2015 Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) suggests that positive childhood experiences promote adult health, even among adults who reported adverse childhood experiences.
3. Population surveys released for this report by the CDC Essentials for Childhood Program (EFC) and Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) demonstrate the social and political support for a positive approach to parenting. This support and these practices have been linked to reductions in certain adverse experiences – in particular, reductions in child neglect and physical abuse.

CONCLUSION

This report presents evidence for HOPE (Health Outcomes of Positive Experiences) based on newly released, compelling data that reinforce the need to promote positive experiences for children and families in order to foster healthy childhood development despite the adversity.