



**Memo:** BRF5 2015 Adverse Childhood Experiences Items

**Project Heading:** BRF5

**Series Heading:**

**Date:** 2015-01-12

**To:** WCTF

**From:** Bob Cradock

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This document contains the BRF5 2015 Adverse Childhood Experiences items: the 11 standard CDC items, introduction, and ending (saac\_int to saac11, plus saac\_end); the 8 state-added poverty & neglect items (saac21-saac28); and the 6 state-added resilience items (saac31-saac36).

Text in parentheses is optional, and is read at the interviewer's discretion. Uppercase text is for interviewer instructions, and is not read directly to respondents.) Angle brackets (> <) denote item numbers.

>saac\_int<

I'd like to ask you some questions about events that happened during your childhood. This information will allow us to better understand problems that may occur early in life, and may help others in the future.

This is a sensitive topic and some people may feel uncomfortable with these questions. At the end of this section, I will give you a phone number for an organization that can provide information and referral for these issues. Please keep in mind that you can ask me to skip any question you do not want to answer.

All questions refer to the time period before you were 18 years of age. Now, looking back before you were 18 years of age ...

>saac01<

Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal?

1 = YES

2 = NO

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac02<

Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic?

1 = YES

2 = NO

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac03<

Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medications?

1 = YES

2 = NO

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac04<

Did you live with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in a prison, jail, or other correctional facility?

1 = YES

2 = NO

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac05<

Were your parents separated or divorced?

1 = YES

2 = NO

3 = PARENTS WERE NOT MARRIED

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac06<

How often did your parents or adults in your home ever slap, hit, kick, punch, or beat each other up?

Never, once, or more than once?

1 = NEVER

2 = ONCE

3 = MORE THAN ONCE

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac07<

Before age 18, how often did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way? Do not include spanking.

Never, once, or more than once?

1 = NEVER

2 = ONCE

3 = MORE THAN ONCE

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac08<

How often did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down?

Never, once, or more than once?

1 = NEVER

2 = ONCE

3 = MORE THAN ONCE

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac09<

How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you, or an adult, touch you sexually?

Never, once, or more than once?

1 = NEVER

2 = ONCE

3 = MORE THAN ONCE

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac10<

How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you, or an adult, try to make you touch them sexually?

Never, once, or more than once?

1 = NEVER

2 = ONCE

3 = MORE THAN ONCE

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac11<

How often did anyone at least 5 years older than you, or an adult, force you to have sex?

1 = NEVER

2 = ONCE

3 = MORE THAN ONCE

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac21<

How often were you hungry because your family could not afford food?

Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE.)

1 = NEVER

2 = RARELY

3 = SOMETIMES

4 = OFTEN

5 = VERY OFTEN

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac22<

How often were you homeless when you were growing up? By "homeless" we mean that your family could not afford a place to live.

Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE. THIS MEANS HAVING TO STAY SOMEWHERE LIKE A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM, A SHELTER, A HOTEL OR MOTEL PAID BY VOUCHER, SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME, A CAR OR OTHER VEHICLE, AN ABANDONED BUILDING, ANYWHERE OUTSIDE, OR ANYWHERE ELSE NOT MEANT FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE.)

(NOTE: R SHOULD REPORT ONLY ON PLACES WHERE THEY HAD TO STAY WHILE HOMELESS, NOT WHILE VACATIONING, CAMPING, OR VISITING RELATIVES.)

1 = NEVER  
2 = RARELY  
3 = SOMETIMES  
4 = OFTEN  
5 = VERY OFTEN

7 = DON'T KNOW  
9 = REFUSED

>saac23<

How often did you visit a dentist?

Would you say at least once every two years, at least once every five years, less often than that, or never?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE. IF FREQUENCY VARIED, ASK R TO GIVE A ROUGH AVERAGE.)

1 = AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS,  
2 = AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS  
3 = LESS OFTEN THAN THAT  
8 = NEVER

7 = DON'T KNOW  
9 = REFUSED

>saac24<

For how much of your childhood was there an adult in your household who made you feel safe and protected?

Would you say never, a little of the time, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE. THIS COULD BE ANY ADULT IN THE HOUSEHOLD, NOT JUST A PARENT.)

1 = NEVER

2 = A LITTLE OF THE TIME

3 = SOME OF THE TIME

4 = MOST OF THE TIME

5 = ALL OF THE TIME

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac25<

Did your mother graduate from high school?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE. IF PARENT HAD GED, ENTER "YES". ONLY ENTER "YES" IF THE PARENT'S GRADUATION/GED OCCURRED BEFORE R'S 18<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY.)

(NOTE: IF R'S PARENTAL SITUATION IS COMPLICATED, SAY "the person you considered your mother when you were growing up".)

1 = YES

2 = NO

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac26<

Did your father graduate from high school?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE. IF PARENT HAD GED, ENTER "YES". ONLY ENTER "YES" IF THE PARENT'S GRADUATION/GED OCCURRED BEFORE R'S 18<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY.)

(NOTE: IF R'S PARENTAL SITUATION IS COMPLICATED, SAY "the person you considered your father when you were growing up".)

1 = YES

2 = NO

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac27<

For how much of your childhood did you live in a single-parent household?

Would you say never, a little of the time, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE.)

1 = NEVER

2 = A LITTLE OF THE TIME

3 = SOME OF THE TIME

4 = MOST OF THE TIME

5 = ALL OF THE TIME

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED



>saac28<

For how much of your childhood was there an adult in your household who tried hard to make sure your basic needs were met?

Would you say never, a little of the time, some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time?

(NOTE: OK TO PROBE. THIS COULD BE ANY ADULT IN THE HOUSEHOLD, NOT JUST A PARENT. BASIC NEEDS ARE FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSING, & MEDICAL CARE.)

- 1 = NEVER
- 2 = A LITTLE OF THE TIME
- 3 = SOME OF THE TIME
- 4 = MOST OF THE TIME
- 5 = ALL OF THE TIME

- 7 = DON'T KNOW
- 9 = REFUSED

>saac31<

The next questions also refer to the time before you were eighteen years of age.

How often did you feel that you belonged at your high school?

Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?

(NOTE: IF R ATTENDED MULTIPLE HIGH SCHOOLS, ASK R TO RESPOND ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN GENERAL.)

- 1 = NEVER
- 2 = RARELY
- 3 = SOMETIMES
- 4 = OFTEN
- 5 = VERY OFTEN

- 7 = DON'T KNOW
- 9 = REFUSED

>saac32<

How often did you feel supported by your friends?

Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?

(NOTE: IF R SAYS SOME FRIENDS DID/DIDN'T, ASK R TO ANSWER ABOUT FRIENDS IN GENERAL.)

1 = NEVER  
2 = RARELY  
3 = SOMETIMES  
4 = OFTEN  
5 = VERY OFTEN

7 = DON'T KNOW  
9 = REFUSED

>saac33<

How often were there at least two adults, other than your parents, who took a genuine interest in you?

(Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?)

1 = NEVER  
2 = RARELY  
3 = SOMETIMES  
4 = OFTEN  
5 = VERY OFTEN

7 = DON'T KNOW  
9 = REFUSED

>saac34<

How often did you feel that you were able to talk to your family about your feelings?

(Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?)

1 = NEVER  
2 = RARELY  
3 = SOMETIMES  
4 = OFTEN  
5 = VERY OFTEN

7 = DON'T KNOW  
9 = REFUSED

>saac35<

How often did you enjoy participating in your community's traditions?

Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?

(NOTE: IF R ASKS WHAT WE MEAN BY "COMMUNITY" OR "TRADITIONS", SAY "whatever it means to you".)

1 = NEVER  
2 = RARELY  
3 = SOMETIMES  
4 = OFTEN  
5 = VERY OFTEN

7 = DON'T KNOW  
9 = REFUSED

>saac36<

How often did you feel your family stood by you during difficult times?

(Would you say never, rarely, sometimes, often, or very often?)

(NOTE: IF R SAYS SOME FAMILY MEMBERS DID/DIDN'T, ASK R TO ANSWER ABOUT FAMILY IN GENERAL. IF R'S FAMILY SITUATION WAS COMPLICATED, SAY "whoever you considered your family when you were growing up".)

1 = NEVER

2 = RARELY

3 = SOMETIMES

4 = OFTEN

5 = VERY OFTEN

7 = DON'T KNOW

9 = REFUSED

>saac\_end<

As I mentioned when we started this section, I would give you a phone number for an organization that can provide information and referral for these issues. You can dial 211 or 1-800-422-4453 to reach a referral service to locate an agency in your area.