



Trauma within the Commercial Sex Industry

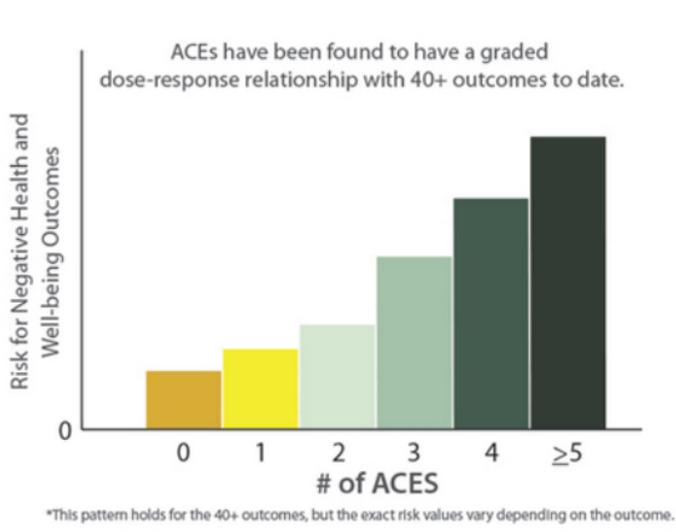
A REPORT FOR LIONS BEAUTY QUEENS

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Point 1: Trauma has lifetime health implications

The connection between traumatic experiences, especially those experienced in childhood, and health has been established through research conducted by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other mental health experts. In 1990's the CDC created a ten question survey called the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Questionnaire that has since been taken by tens of thousands of people worldwide. The survey allows the respondent to calculate an "ACE Score" that acts as a measure of trauma with zero indicating no or little traumatic childhood experiences and ten representing a high level of traumatic childhood experiences.

Researchers have documented a strong correlation between high ACE Scores and poor lifetime health outcomes.



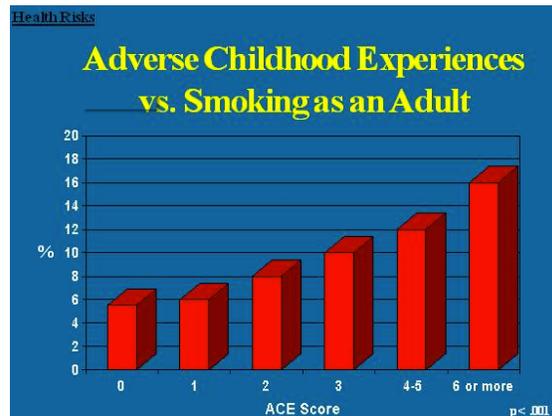
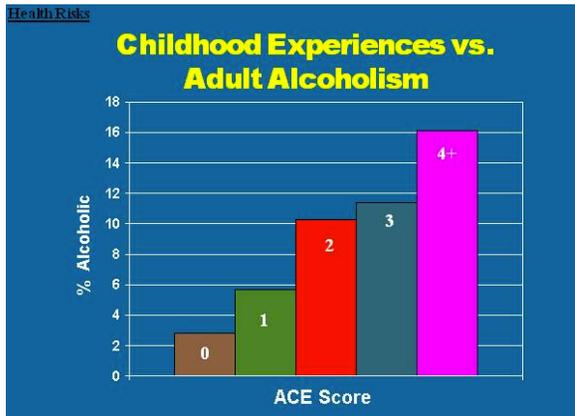


Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

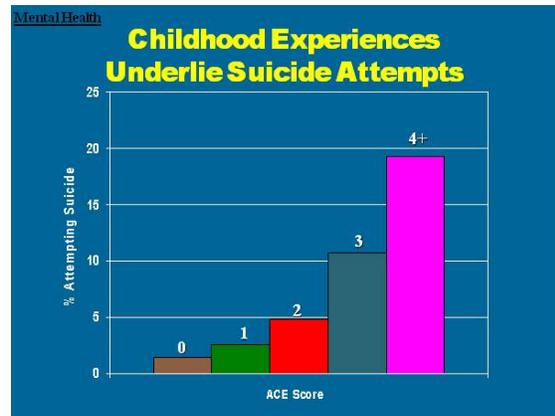
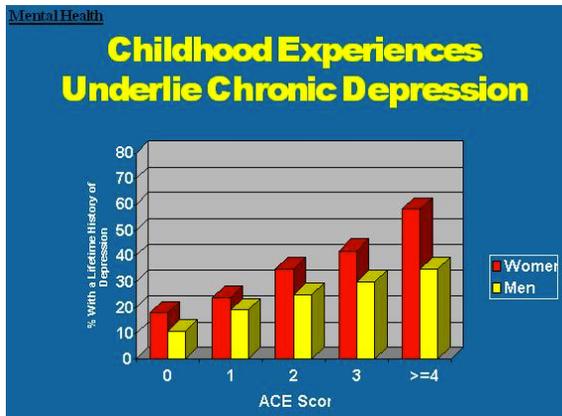
As ACE scores increase, so do the prevalence of negative health outcomes. For example, a child that experiences repeated sexual abuse in which no adult intervenes and no therapy is received, may seek solace in the use of substances like drugs, alcohol or smoking. This in turn can lead to other health complications. Abuse and neglect can contribute to depression, anxiety and the myriad ways in which low self esteem can impact ones life.

The following graphs produced by the CDC further illustrate the correlations:

Substance Abuse



Mental Health

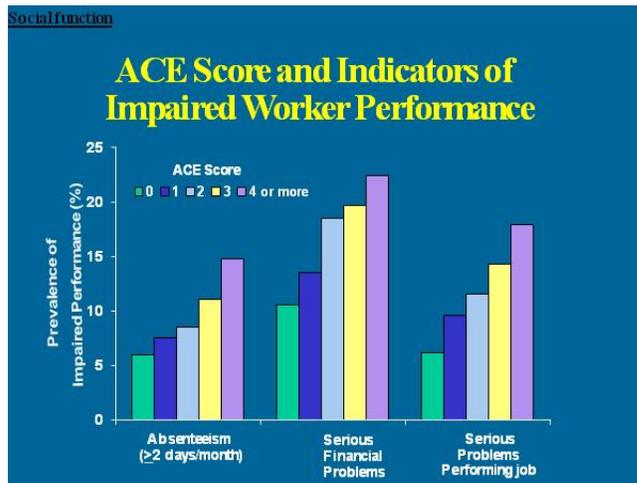


Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Well Being



Social Functioning



Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Point 2: The prevalence of childhood trauma among those who work in the commercial sex industry is disproportionately high

Women who work in the commercial sex industry, including venues like strip clubs, have come from backgrounds that include levels of trauma that are disproportionate to the general population (Farley, 2006). It is a misconception that women work in the commercial sex industry as a choice. Choice in the true sense of the word means that one has a range of options from which to choose, and the choice is fully informed. The reality is that most are forced, coerced or engage in it out of desperation. Some women working in strip clubs are under the control of a trafficker, or will meet their trafficker through their work at the club. It is also true that due to lack of regulatory enforcement, minors are often working in strip clubs, a circumstance that meets criteria under federal law to be defined as human trafficking.

LBQ founder Dana McCartney-Candillo BSN, RN spent seven years as a dancer in strip clubs. Her childhood prior to that is characterized by abuse, neglect and abandonment, vulnerabilities that lead to further exploitation within the commercial sex industry. She

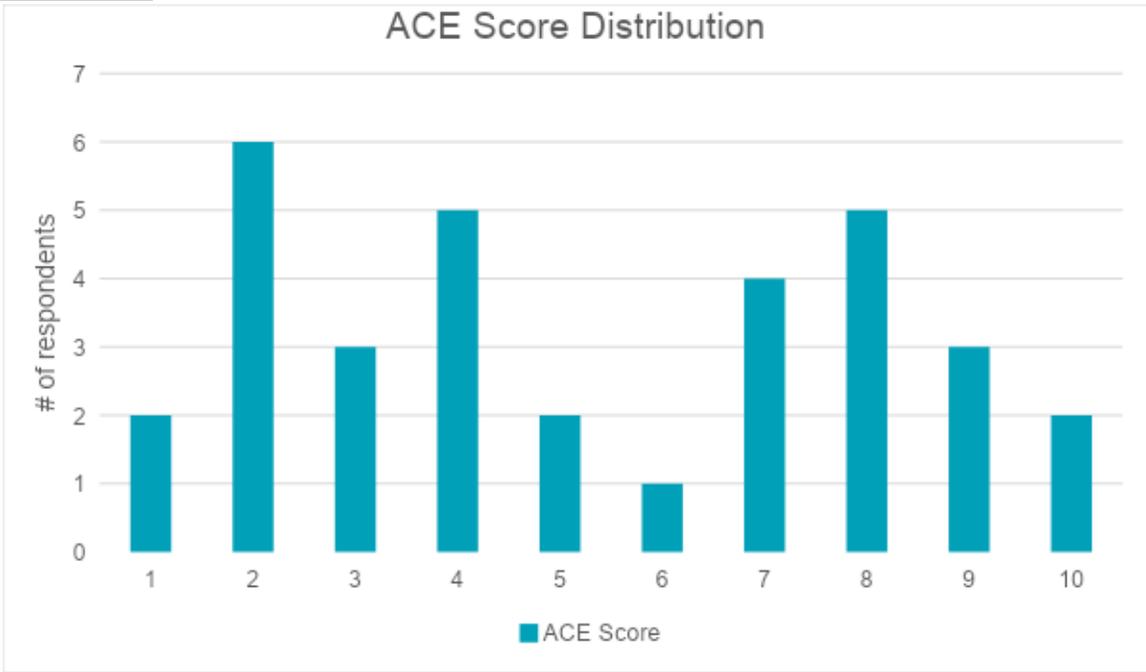
created the LBQ outreach program out of the knowledge of her own experiences and desire to reach other women caught in the same harmful cycle.

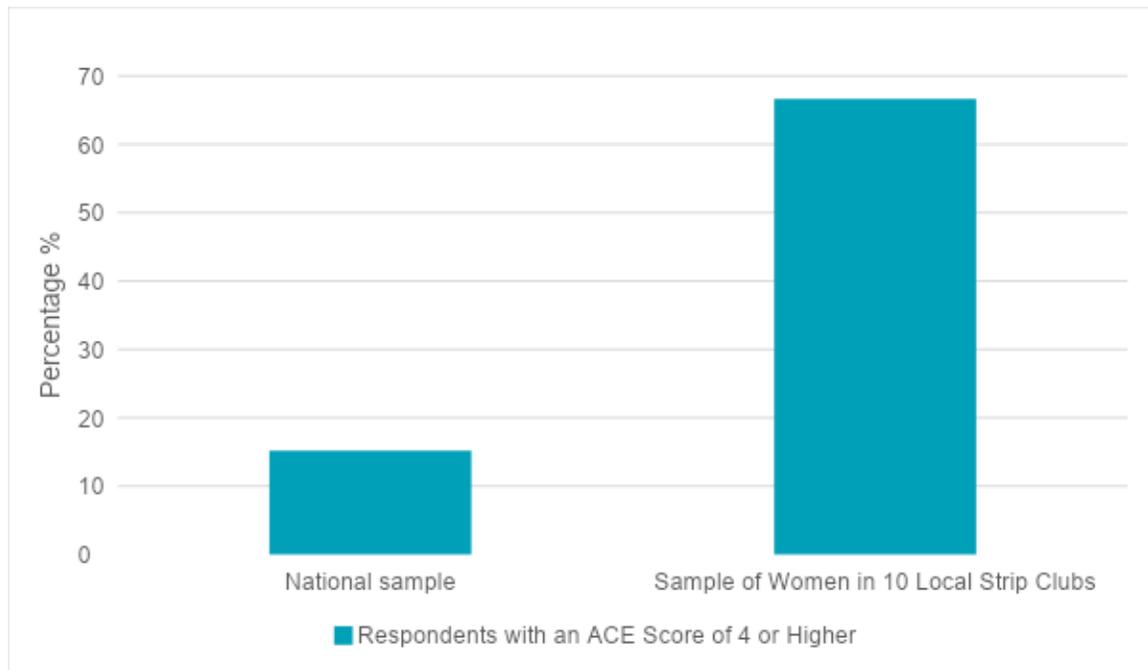
In 2018 and in preparation for this report, thirty three women with employment experience in ten Kansas City area strip clubs anonymously participated in the ACE's survey. It should be considered that ACE scores are calculated from childhood experiences (prior to age 18), and that it is assumed that employment in a strip club occurs after age 18. Therefore, it should not be inferred that the traumas indicated in the score were an occurrence at the strip club, but rather a condition *prior* to it. **The average ACE score for the 33 women was 5.3. In a national survey of over 17,000 people who took the ACE's survey only 15.2% of women had an ACE score of 4 or higher, yet in our sample, two-thirds 66.66% of the respondents had an ACE score of 4 or higher .** According to the CDC (1998), an ACE score of 4 or higher increases the likelihood of chronic pulmonary lung diseases by 390%, hepatitis by 240%, depression 460%, and attempted suicide by 1,220%.

Local Survey Raw Scores:

ACE Score
1
8
8
4
9
3
7
4
2
1
10
5
5
6
4
8
7

7
8
2
4
2
3
4
8
2
3
9
10
2
7
9
2





Point 3: Working in adult entertainment businesses like strip clubs puts women at high risk for further trauma

Women who work in strip clubs are at high risk for physical and sexual assault, sex trafficking and more (Farley, 2005). A 2012 meta-analysis of 41 peer reviewed articles revealed lifetime prevalence of workplace violence within the commercial sex industry at rates between 45% and 75% (Deering et al., 2014). Holsopple (1998) documented physical and sexual assault during lap dances within strip clubs as common place, “blurring the lines between stripping and prostitution”.

In the Kansas City area alone, the prevalence of sex trafficking and assault within strip clubs is worth noting. Consider just these few local examples:

- A Lawrence strip club was closed in 2017 when it was discovered the owner was engaged in trafficking dozens of women who worked there. Many were lured into employment at the club through homeless shelters or were single mothers seeking support.

Source: <http://www.kcur.org/post/lawrence-club-owner-be-sentenced-major-human-trafficking-case>

- The body of a 21 year old UMKC student was found in the Missouri River after she had been missing for two months. She disappeared the morning after leaving her job at a local strip club called Chrome. The circumstances of her death remain suspect.

Source: <https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article152116632.html>

- In 2008, Jesse Herd was convicted of trafficking his 14 year old step daughter in at least three local strip clubs: Erotic City, Shady Lady and the Attic Lounge. Among the abuses that occurred at the clubs were gang rapes that involved over 20 men.
Source: <https://www.thepitchkc.com/news/article/20601604/the-people-vs-erotic-city>
- The strip club Shady Lady was temporarily shut down due to reports that the women working there had been drugged and raped.
Source: anonymous personal communication, September 2018

Point 4: Lions Beauty Queen provides strategic outreach to a high risk population

Just as businesses use strategic marketing efforts to reach their targeted customer demographic profile, LBQ is a targeted social service outreach effort to a vulnerable population. As a survivor lead organization, LBQ is uniquely positioned to reach a population of women that are at high risk for sex crime victimization and poor lifetime health outcomes.

Due to marginalization, stigma and misconceptions associated with strip clubs, conventional social service organizations are not reaching women in the commercial sex industry. Charitable giving tends to favor more sympathetic causes leaving these women and their children lacking resources and support systems.

Through the LBQ outreach efforts trust and rapport is created. Gift packages are given with self care products such as dental kits, feminine hygiene products, beauty products, hand sanitizer, and other personal care items. They also receive resource lists and invitation to attend a support group, church and bible study. At the date of this report, there are currently eight women attending the support group who bring a total of five children. The LBQ teams act as an intervention point, working to connect women in the sex industry with emotional and spiritual support as well as connect them with resources in order to help bring about a better life trajectory for them and their children.

In 2018, surveys were distributed to 71 women in eight strip clubs in the Kansas City area and one support group hosted by LBQ. The survey results reveal that the outreach efforts are resulting in meaningful connections.

- Approximately two-thirds (66.2%) report having used the personal care items (dental kit, feminine hygiene product, hand sanitizer, etc) given to them by LBQ.
- 50.7% reported that LBQ helped them with their physical needs
- 57.7% reported that LBQ helped them with their mental health needs
- 69% reported that LBQ helped provide emotional support
- 54.9% reported that LBQ helped them with their spiritual growth
- 90.1% reported that in general, they felt they could trust LBQ to help them
- 95.8% reported that they felt empowered to say no if solicited by a pimp

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Appendix

Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Questionnaire
Finding your ACE Score revised 10/24/06

While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life:

1. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often** ...
Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you?
or
Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
2. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often** ...
Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you?
or
Ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
3. Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you **ever**...
Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way?
or
Try to or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal sex with you?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
4. Did you **often** feel that ...
No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special?
or
Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
5. Did you **often** feel that ...
You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you?
or
Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
6. Were your parents **ever** separated or divorced?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
7. Was your mother or stepmother:
Often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her?
or
Sometimes or often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard?
or
Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
8. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
9. Was a household member depressed or mentally ill or did a household member attempt suicide?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____
10. Did a household member go to prison?
Yes No If yes enter 1 _____

Now add up your "Yes" answers: _____ This is your ACE Score



SURVEY

Ladies, thank you for helping us by filling out this brief survey! Please DO NOT put your name on the survey. This is simply a way of measuring our success in ways we are helping you! Thank you! You may always connect with us confidentially at The Lion's Beauty Queens, Inc. Facebook and/or www.lionsbeautyqueens.org/www.danacandillo.com
Please CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS

1. Have you used the toothbrush/dental kit/hand sanitizers we have provided you? Circle all that apply.

Yes, dental kit Yes, hand sanitizer No, I haven't used any of them

2. Have you used a pregnancy test or any hygiene product we have provided to you? Circle all that apply.

Yes, pregnancy test Yes, hygiene product No, I haven't used any of them

3. Have you visited our website with resources www.lionsbeautyqueens.org? If so, have you connected with any of our resources? Circle all that apply.

Churches	Women's shelters/transitional
Alcohol/Drug Help	Medical help living homes
Counseling/Mental Health	No, I haven't visited the website
Pregnancy Resource Centers	No, I haven't connected with any resources

4. Have you visited a doctor for routine care and/or a mammogram in the last 6 months - 1 year? Circle all that apply.

Yes, a routine doctor visit Yes, a mammogram No, I have not been to the doctor

7-20-2018

5. Do you need help to quit smoking and will you try the resources we provide to help you succeed?

Yes, I need help quitting No, I am not a smoker I am not interested in quitting

6. In which areas do you feel Lion's Beauty Queens helps you?
Circle all that apply.

Physical Mental Emotional Spiritual

7. Do you trust and feel you could reach out to LBQ or support in any of these 4 areas? If yes, circle all that apply.

Physical Mental Emotional Spiritual No, not at this time

8. Do you feel you now have the knowledge and power to SAY NO to a pimp or human trafficker if approached?

Yes No

9. Write us anonymously any prayer requests/or thankful thoughts.