

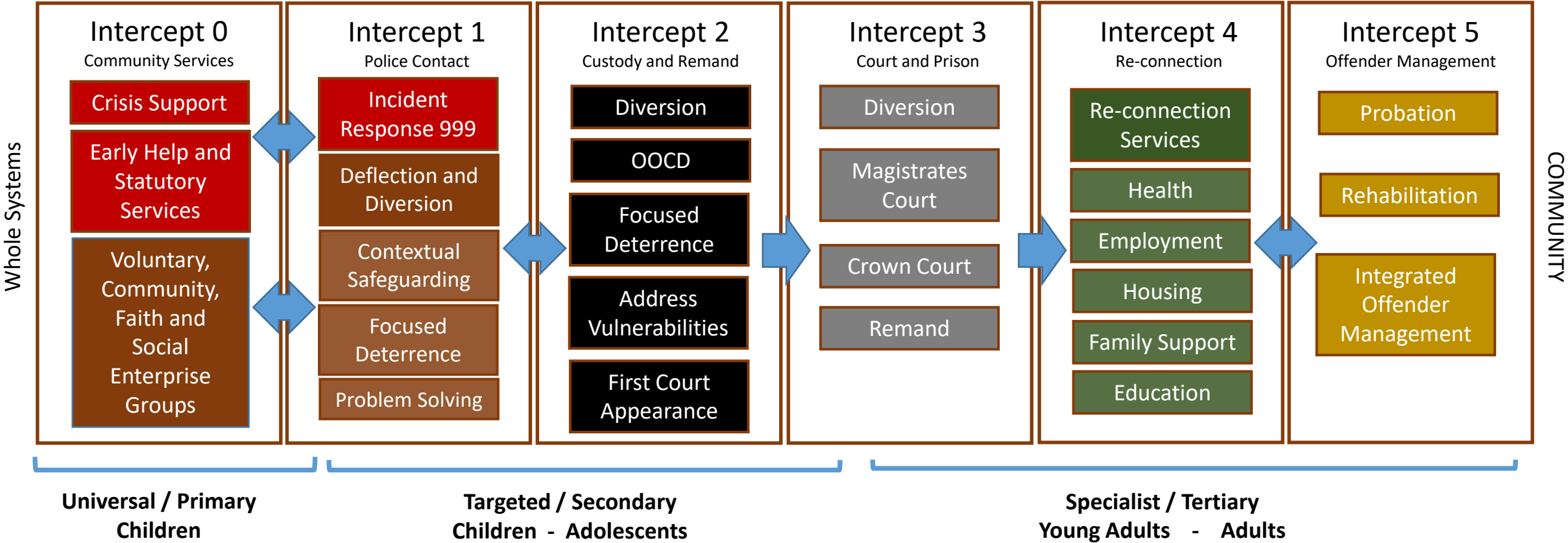


# Changing the Narrative: Adversity, Trauma, and Prevention

Stan Gilmour – Director VRU

TVDA July 2021

# The Thames Valley VRU Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)



# TVP Strategic Plan - Priority Outcome

**Improve how we protect the vulnerable:**

The Force will focus on improving how we:

- **identify,**
- **understand and**
- **reduce risk and harm.**

# Child abuse extent and nature, England and Wales: year ending March 2019

- Around half of adults (52%) who experienced abuse before the age of 16 years also experienced domestic abuse later in life; compared with 13% of those who did not experience abuse before the age of 16 years.
- [Child abuse extent and nature, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

# Trauma

“a common, expected outcome of exposure to dangerous and threatening circumstances.”

# Trauma Informed

- **Realise** the widespread impact of trauma
- **Recognise** the signs and symptoms of trauma in people (including family, staff and others involved in the system)
- **Respond** by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures and practices
- Seek actively to resist **Re-traumatisation**

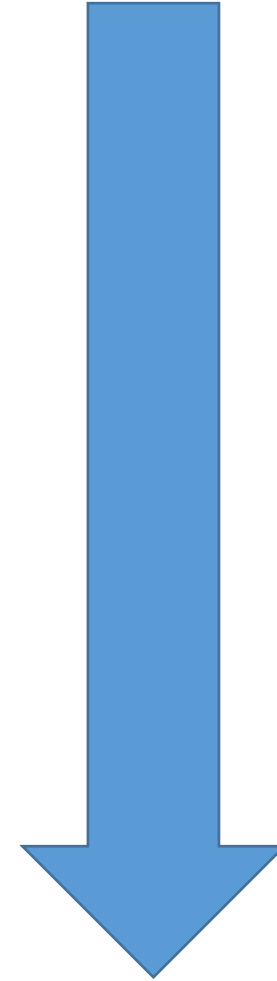
# HMIC (FRS)

HMIC is concerned about the **poor attitudes** that some police officers display towards victims of domestic abuse. **This may stem from a lack of understanding.**

- from: Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse

# Engagement

- **Pity**
  - I acknowledge what has happened to you
- **Sympathy**
  - I care about what has happened to you
- **Empathy**
  - I feel bad about what has happened to you
- **Compassion**
  - I want to make a difference



# IACP

It is our responsibility to prepare our officers to respond effectively and appropriately to both victims and offenders who have special challenges or are especially vulnerable.

- Paul M. Cell, “Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Communities,” President’s Message, *The Police Chief* 86, no. 7 (July 2019): p6.

# Ways that trauma confuses us

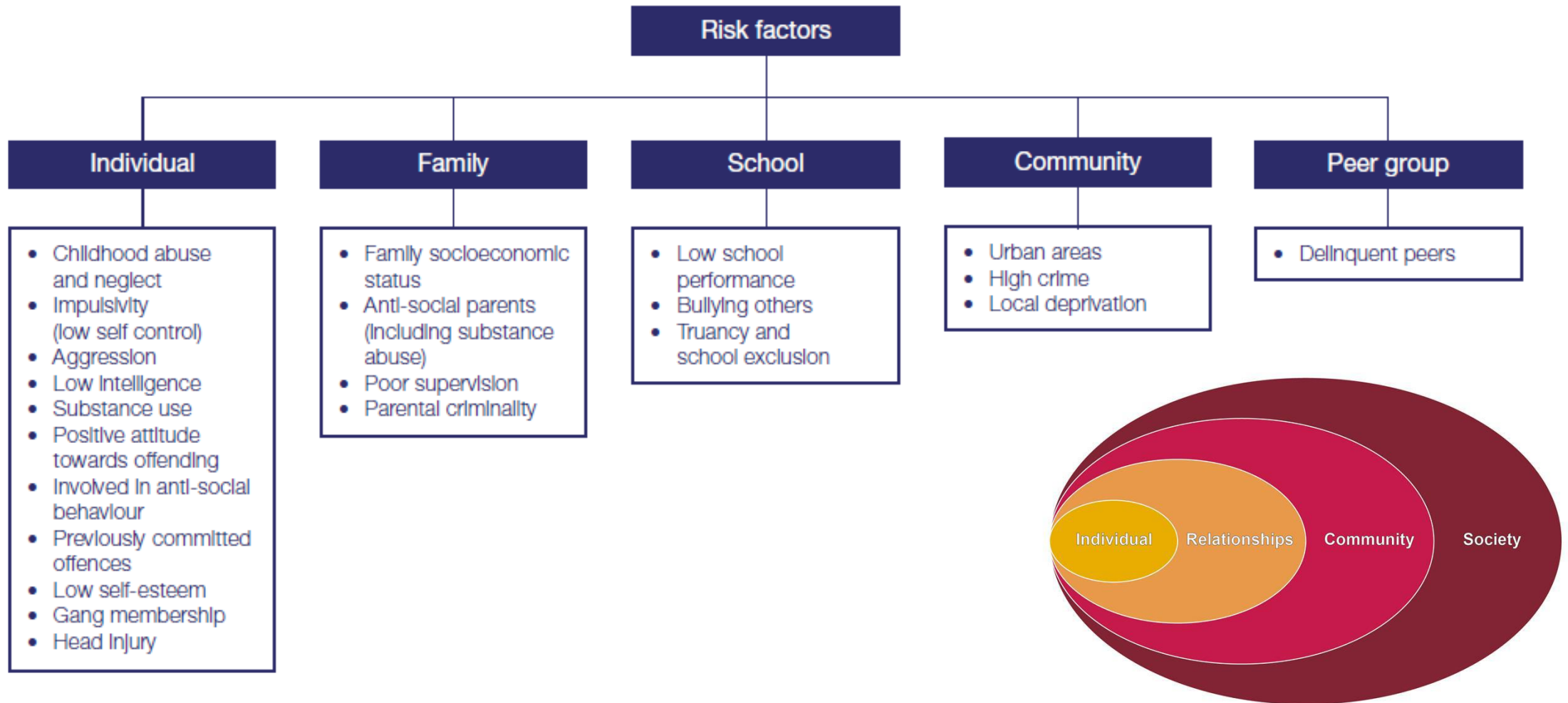
- **How we identify lying (Deception Detection):**
- Vague on details, freeze up, lack of eye contact, fiddling with hair, version changes over time, aggressive when challenged.
- **What we see in a trauma response:**
- Vague on details, freeze up, lack of eye contact, fiddling with hair, version changes over time, aggressive when challenged.



THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
RESEARCHING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION,  
VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING



# Serious Violence Risk Factors



# Understanding: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- There is now widespread agreement that experiences of adversity and trauma are prevalent within our society and have the potential to significantly affect the quality of a person's life over the course of their lifetime, particularly where these experiences occur in childhood and are not buffered by supportive adults.
- Children who experience adversity and trauma are, in adulthood, more likely to become parents at a young age, experience poor mental health, use substances, have contact with the criminal justice system, experience poor physical health and die prematurely.

## ABUSE



Physical



Emotional

## NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

## HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Mother treated violently

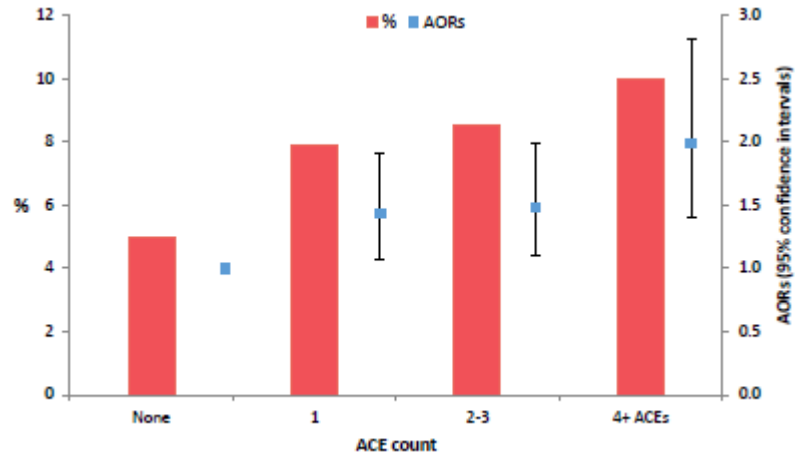


Incarcerated Relative

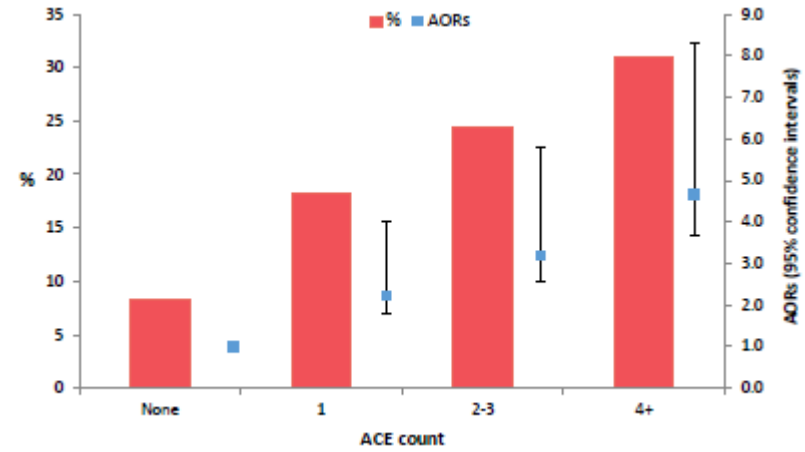


Substance Abuse

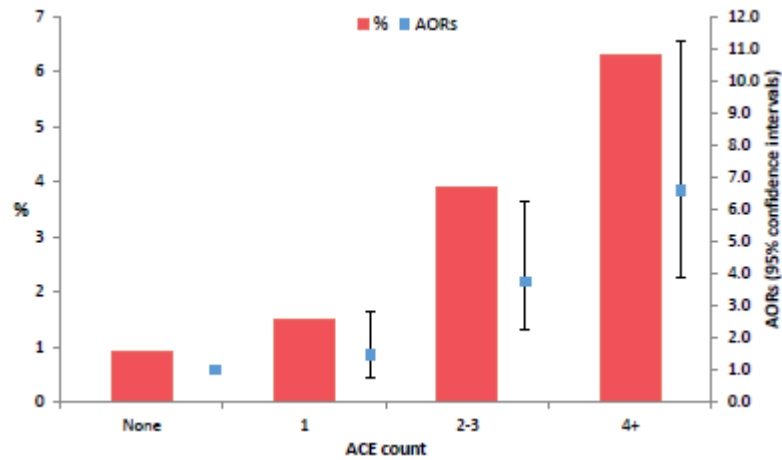
## Binge Drinking



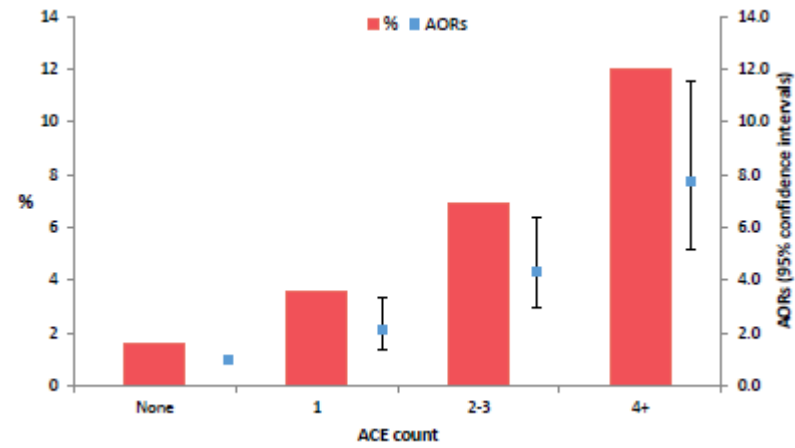
## Cannabis Use



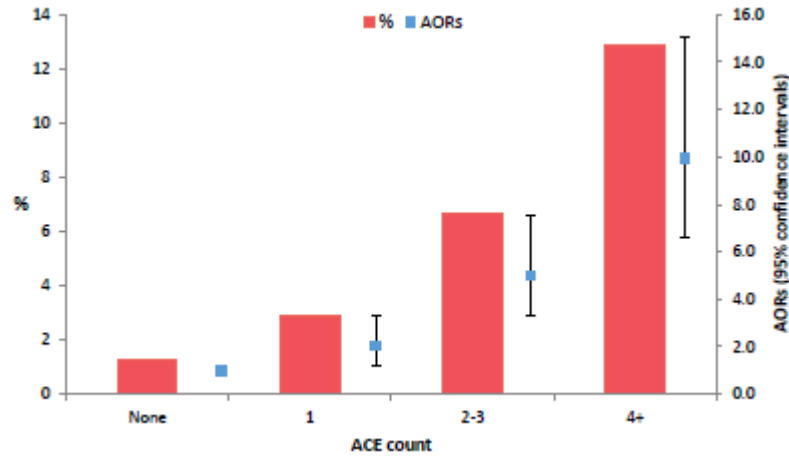
## Crack and Heroin Use



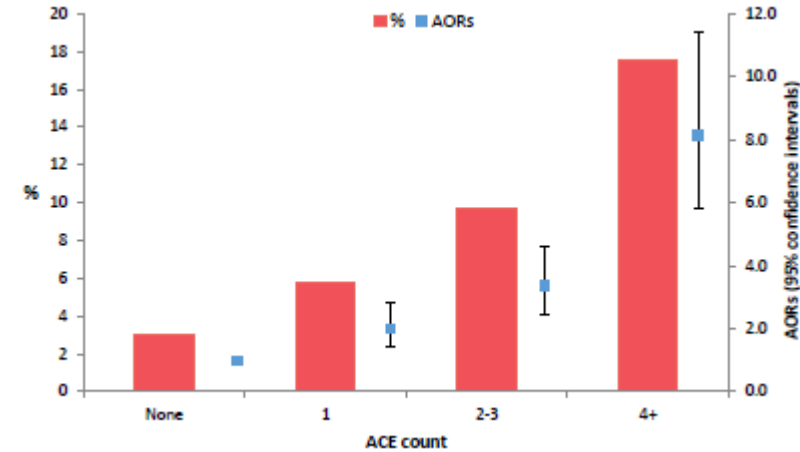
## Violence Victimization



## Violence Perpetration



## Incarceration



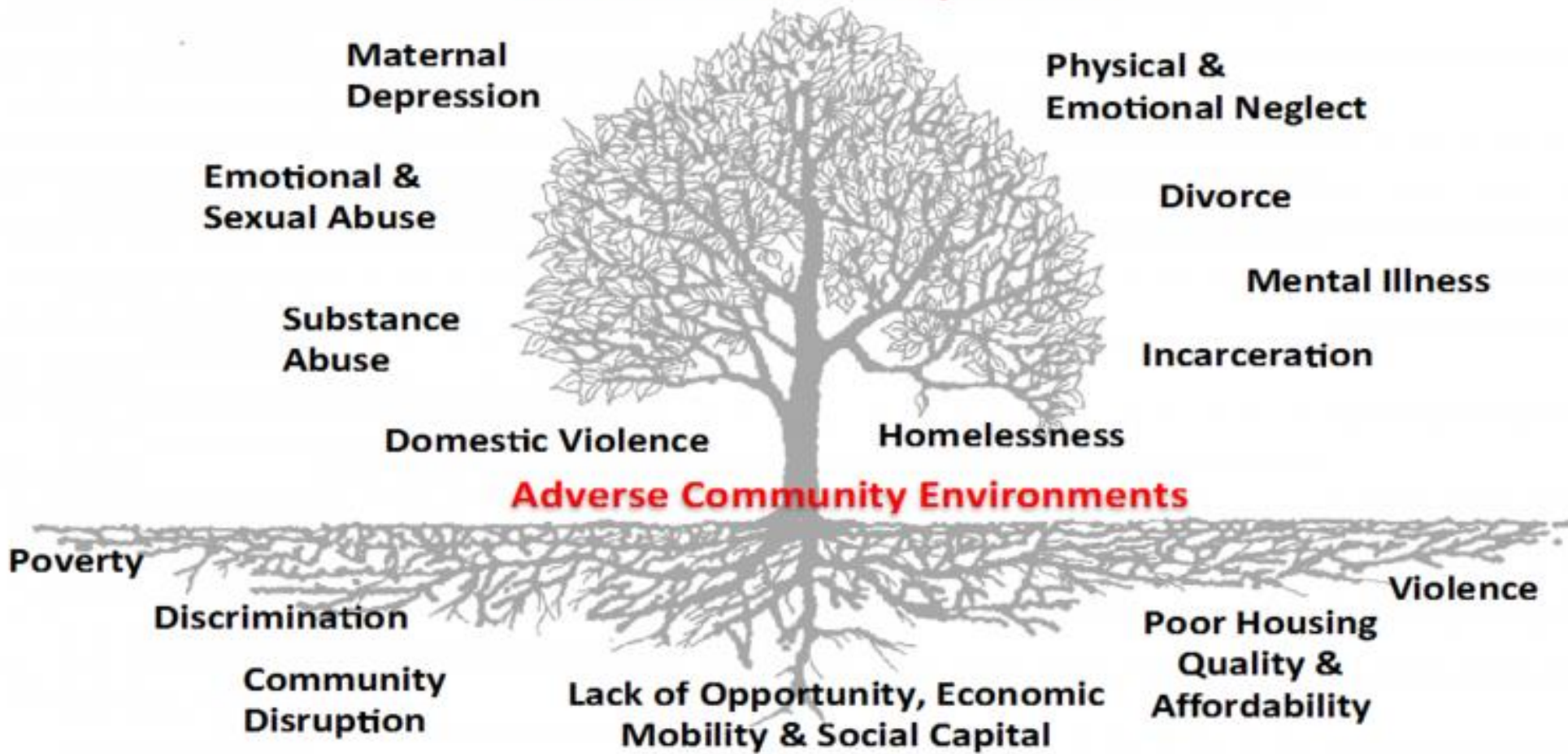
## Opportunities if ACES could be reduced to zero to drop:

- Binge drinking by 22%
- Cannabis use by 45%
- Crack and heroin use by 54%
- Violence victimisation by 56%
- Violence perpetration by 61%
- Incarceration by 50%

**Individuals exposed to ACEs develop poorer executive control over impulses, lower tolerance for stress and difficulties with trust and socialising. Mark Bellis &c 2017**

## The Pair of ACEs

### Adverse Childhood Experiences



Ellis, W., Dietz, W. (2017) A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. *Academic Pediatrics*. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011

# Public Health (Multiagency) Approaches

**Policing, Health and Social Care  
consensus: working together to protect  
and prevent harm to vulnerable people**

February 2018



## **Public health approaches in policing**

A discussion paper



Helen Christmas and Juliette Srivastava



Protecting and improving the nation's health

## **Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending in children (CAPRICORN)**

A resource for local health & justice  
system leaders to support collaborative  
working for children and young people  
with complex needs



Protecting and improving the nation's health

## **A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention**

A resource for local system leaders  
in England

# Understanding: Neuro Adversity

- Young people with neurodevelopmental impairments are prone to diagnosis of behavioural problems rather than cognitive impairments:
- ‘What manifests in the classroom as a ‘behaviour problem’ (e.g. failure to negotiate appropriately with other children around access to equipment) may in fact be more appropriately described as a skill deficit, i.e. an inadequate repertoire of socially sanctioned linguistic skills to enable prosocial engagement with others and attainment of goals.’

## Boy, 7, wrongly branded 'naughty' at school wins £30m payout

**A boy wrongly branded as “naughty” has secured a £30 million settlement after a court accepted that he suffered brain injury during a bungled birth at a top **London** hospital.**

The boy, now seven, had his delivery by emergency Caesarean delayed by negligence at **University College Hospital**, in Bloomsbury, in June 2012. He had to be resuscitated and was “cooled” for 72 hours in a bid to protect his brain.

He has spent most of his life being labelled naughty and disruptive due to “grossly abnormal behaviour” such as shouting and biting as well as being defiant and impulsive.

# Prevalence

Nobody made the  
connection:

The prevalence of neurodisability  
in young people who offend

October 2012



Neurodevelopmental disorder	Reported prevalence rates amongst young people in the general population	Reported prevalence rates amongst young people in custody
Learning disabilities <sup>3</sup>	2 - 4% <sup>4</sup>	23 - 32% <sup>5</sup>
Dyslexia	10% <sup>6</sup>	43 - 57% <sup>7</sup>
Communication disorders	5 - 7% <sup>8</sup>	60 - 90% <sup>9</sup>
Attention deficit hyperactive disorder	1.7 - 9% <sup>10</sup>	12% <sup>11</sup>
Autistic spectrum disorder	0.6 - 1.2% <sup>12</sup>	15% <sup>13</sup>
Traumatic brain injury	24 - 31.6% <sup>14</sup>	65.1 - 72.1% <sup>15</sup>
Epilepsy	0.45 - 1% <sup>16</sup>	0.7 - 0.8% <sup>17</sup>
Foetal alcohol syndrome	0.1 - 5% <sup>18</sup>	10.9 - 11.7% <sup>19</sup>

# Rates of Traumatic Brain Injury:

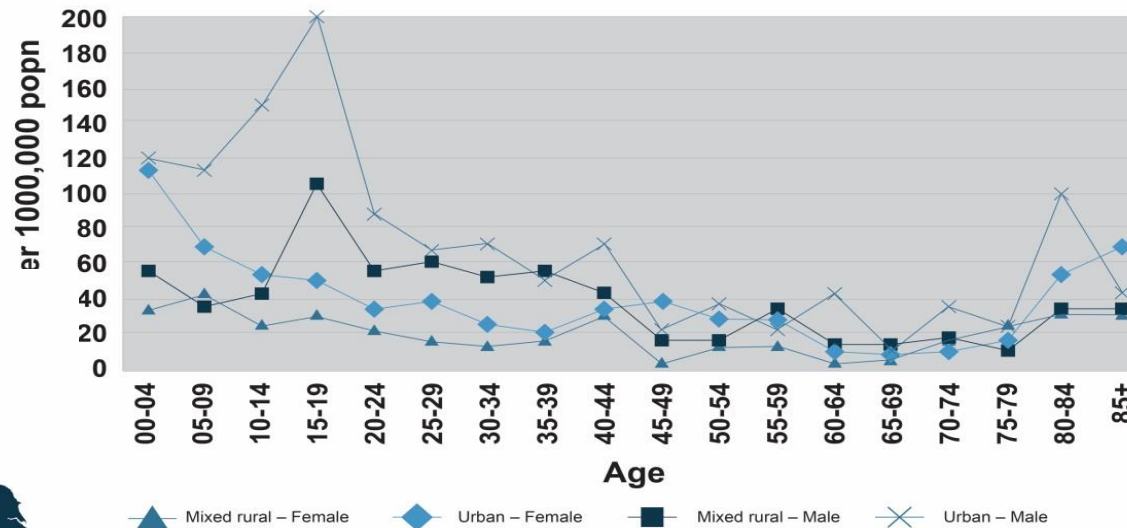
Injury & Violence –  
the two leading causes of  
death in 10-24 age group

[Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat.](#) 2013; 9:  
449–461.doi: [10.2147/NDT.S39776](#)  
Maturation of the adolescent brain  
[Mariam Arain](#), et al

**5 x 5 x 5**  
Under 5 years  
In poorest 5% =  
5 times more  
likely to be  
injured



TBI (RTAs, Falls, Assaults) –  
- **biggest causes of death and disability in  
children & young people WORLDWIDE**



Yates, Williams et al: Attendance rates for moderate to severe head injury  
per 100,000 population **Age, gender, urban location** and **social deprivation**  
as **key risk factors**



# Women



## Pioneering study into female offenders finds more than 64% of women with a history of brain injury

Our research found that of 173 women within HMP/YOI Drake Hall, who were screened using the Brain Injury Screening Index tool, 64% reported a history indicative of brain injury, and of those, almost all (96%) reported a history indicative of traumatic brain injury (TBI). From the women supported through the service, 62% reported they had sustained their brain injury through domestic violence.



# McMillan et al 2021

- Significant head injury (SHI) was found in 85 (78%) of 109 women, of whom 34 (40%) had associated disability.
- Repeat head injury was reported in 71 (84%) of the 85 women with SHI and, in most cases, this resulted from domestic abuse that had occurred over many years.
- Women with a history of SHI were significantly more likely to have a history of **violent offences** than those without a history of SHI (66 [79%] of 85 women...)

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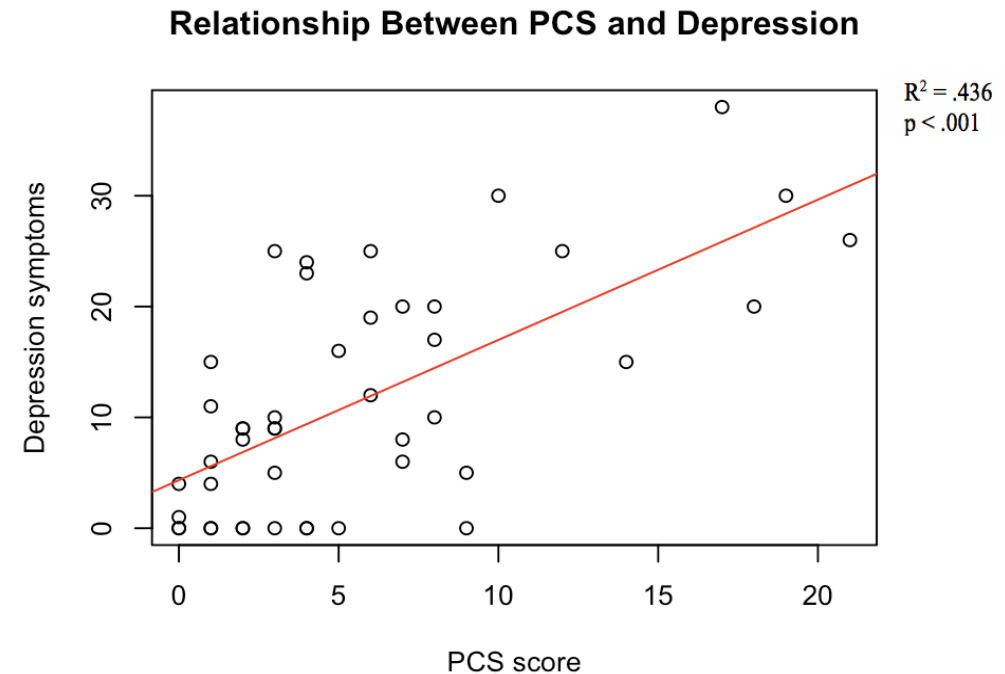
Associations between significant head injury and persisting disability and violent crime in women in prison in Scotland, UK: a cross-sectional study

*Tom M McMillan, Hira Aslam, Eimear Crowe, Eleanor Seddon, Sarah J E Barry*

# Factors associated with post-concussion symptoms:

**Depression.** Post-concussion symptoms were significantly associated with depression symptoms. This strongly suggests that symptoms of depression are more severe with increasing levels of PCS.

( $F_{(1,43)} = 33.215$ ,  $p < .001$ ). As depression symptoms increased by 1, PCS increased by .062. PCS accounted for 43.6% of the variance in depression scores ( $R^2 = .436$ ).

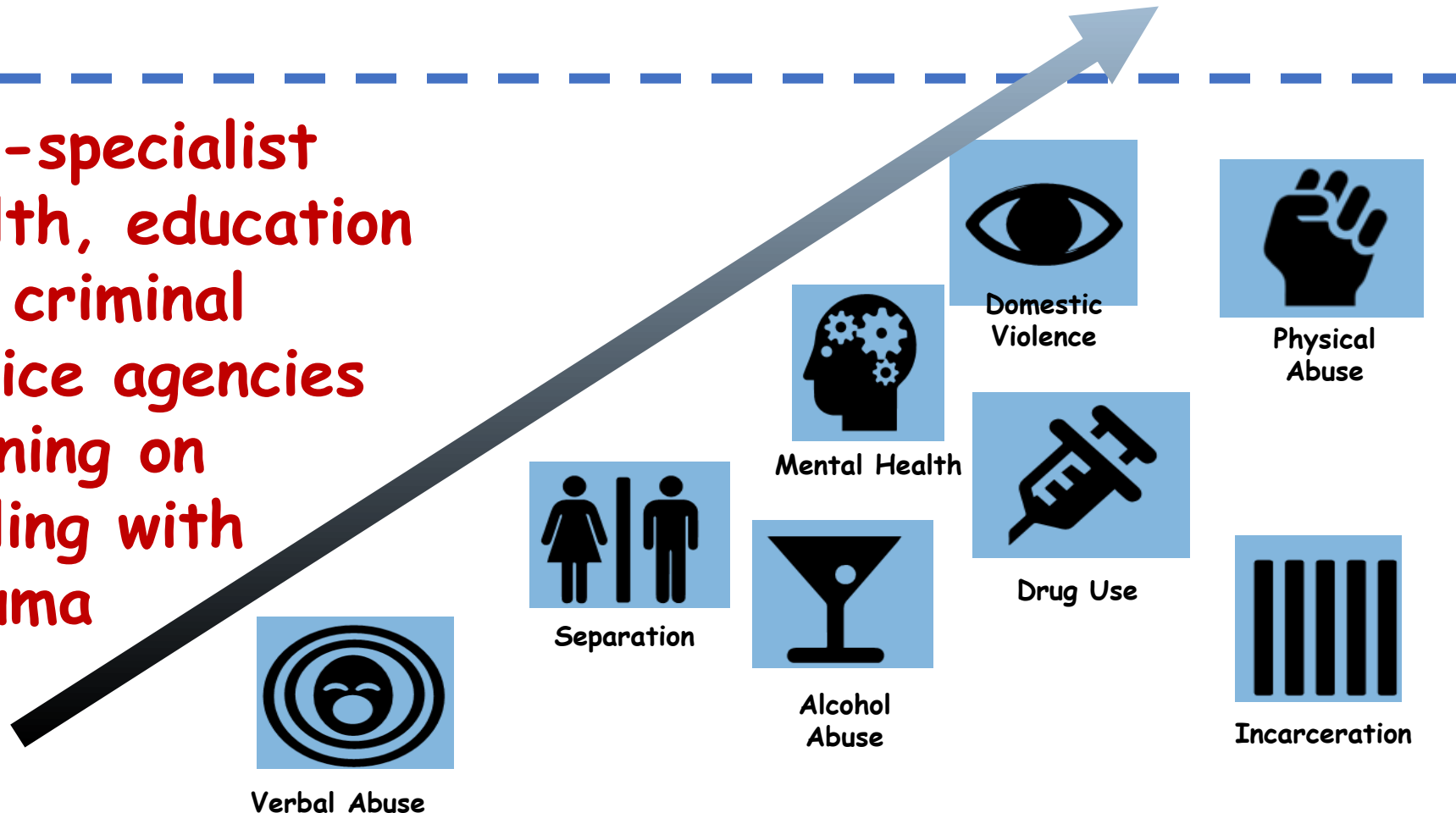


# TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACHES

Waiting for issues to reach a certain specialist threshold?



Non-specialist  
health, education  
and criminal  
justice agencies  
training on  
dealing with  
trauma

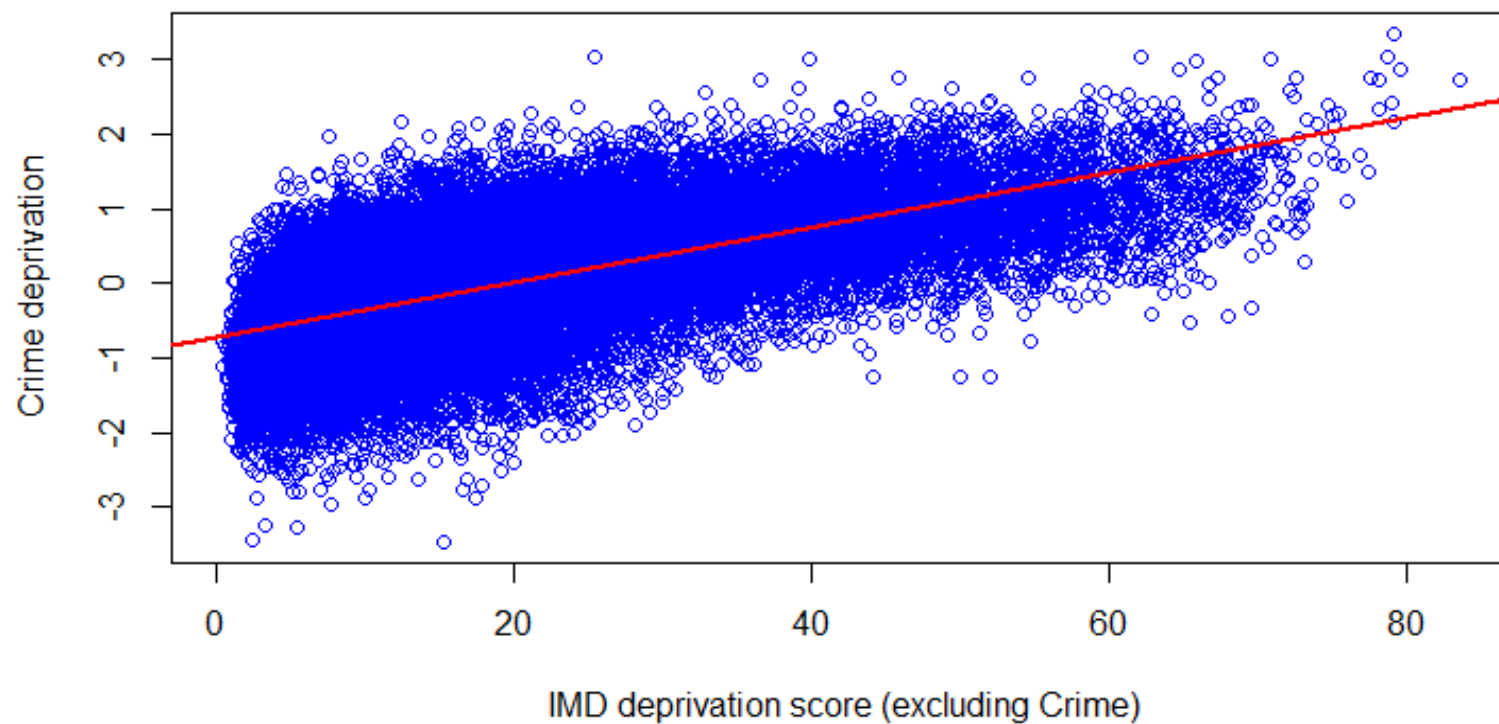


# *DA Matters* training 2019

- 2000 Frontline staff
- 200 Champions
- Trauma Informed Policing
- Other opportunities in planning...

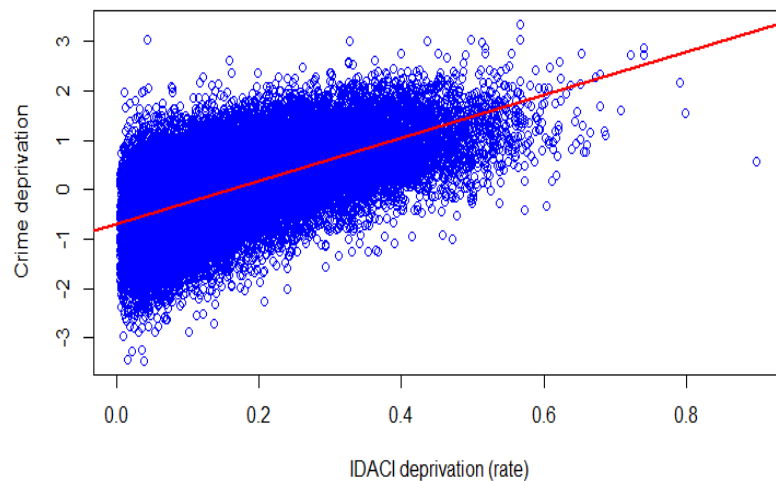


### Association of Crime against Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2019

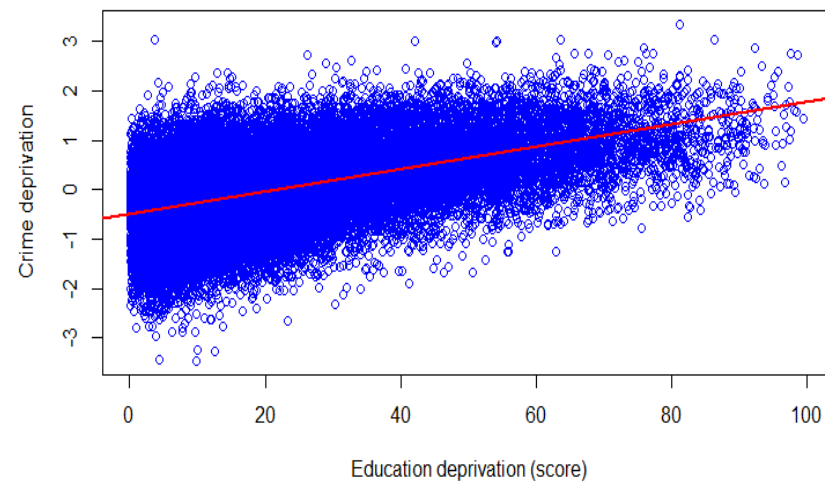


created by Noor Saeed ([noor.saeed@phe.gov.uk](mailto:noor.saeed@phe.gov.uk)), Senior Public Health Intelligence Analyst, Public Health England.

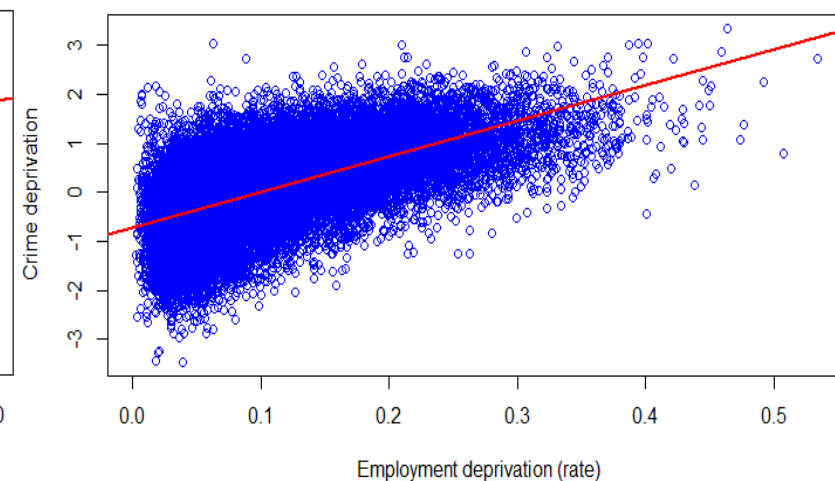
**Crime against Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (2019)**



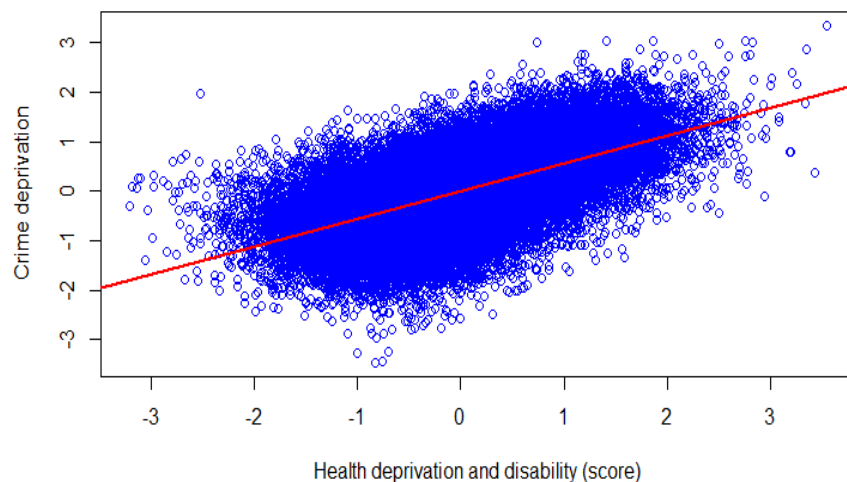
**Association of Crime against Education deprivation (2019)**



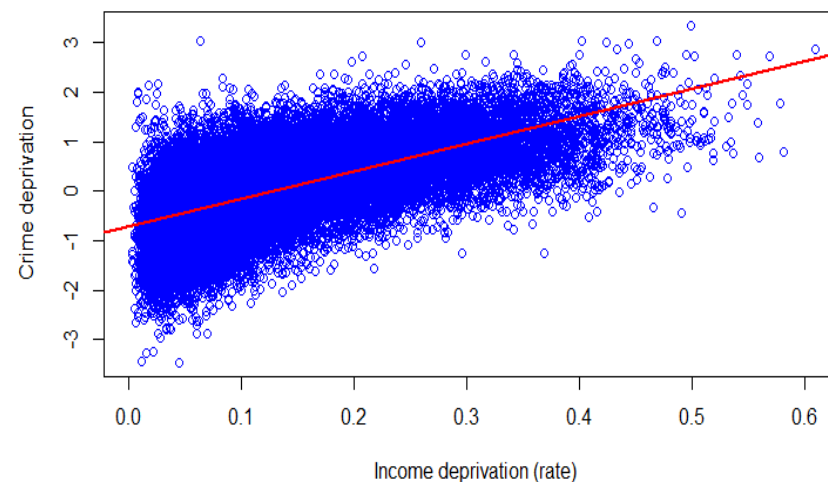
**Association of Crime against Employment deprivation (2019)**



**Association of Crime against Health deprivation and disability (2019)**



**Association of Crime against Income deprivation (2019)**



# Trauma Informed Cities and Communities



European Trauma  
Informed Cities and  
Communities Network

