Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic childhood events including physical, verbal, or sexual abuse, as well as family dysfunction.

**Joint Resolution HRJ002**

HRJ002 Joint Resolution Encouraging Discussion on the Effects of Child Sexual Abuse raises awareness to Utah residents about the prevalence of child sexual abuse. It recognizes that the traumatic experience of child sexual abuse, like other ACEs, may harm long-term mental and physical health across a survivor's lifespan.

During Fiscal Year 2020

7,334 confirmed cases of child abuse
14.3% included sexual abuse

*child abuse cases are underreported.

**Mental Health:** Higher risk for depression, eating disorders, learning difficulties, post traumatic stress, substance use, & suicidality.

**Physical Health:** Asthma, Obesity, Cancer, Heart Disease, sexually transmitted infections, early death.

**Possible Outcomes:** Higher risk for substance use disorder, lower graduation rates and academic achievement, difficulty achieving and maintaining good employment, early/unintended pregnancy, re-victimization, future perpetration, uncontrolled anger, difficulty maintaining employment and/or relationships.

**Utah Snapshot**

12.9% of Utah adults self-reported some sexual abuse as children. Those who said they were sexually abused as children were:

**Physical Health**

69% more likely to be in fair/poor health
12% more likely to be overweight or obese
74% more likely to smoke
36% more likely to have high blood pressure
38% more likely to have had a stroke or serious heart condition

**Mental Health**

2x more likely to have a depressive disorder
38% more likely to be a heavy drinker
2x less likely to participate in activities due to physical, mental, or emotional problems
5x more likely to have experienced a high numbers of ACEs

**Sexual Abuse History**

(as a victim or perpetrator) was a contributing factor in multiple 2019 child suicide deaths reviewed by the Child Fatality Review Committee.

Learn More: vipp.health.utah.gov/child-trauma/  
Questions: Contact Joey Thurgood, jthurgood@utah.gov