



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

Racial Identity and the Developmental Considerations/Conditions Infants and Toddlers

Understanding the impacts of intergenerational trauma and lived experiences with institutional and interpersonal racism...



Equity Statement

- Today's young children are more diverse than at any other time in our nation's history. More than half of babies in the United States are children of color.
- At ZERO TO THREE, we embrace the changing portrait of our nation's babies and their families and are working to ensure all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life. We envision a society that has the knowledge and will to support all infants and toddlers in reaching their full potential. We recognize that opportunities to grow and flourish are not shared equally by the nation's infants, toddlers, and families due to past and present systemic barriers rooted in racism and limited access to critical resources, such as quality health care services, stable housing, reliable income and employment, and quality childcare.
- Therefore, ZERO TO THREE is committed to helping build a just and inclusive world. We are examining and improving our internal policies, procedures, and culture while humbly committing ourselves to continuous self-reflection and action to address racism. ZERO TO THREE aspires to listen, learn and develop solutions in partnership with those most affected by racism, including members of our staff and Board, and with partners and communities we serve.
- With the power and influence of our collective voices, we commit to actions that promote just, equitable, and anti-racist systems, practices, and policies to create lasting, transformative change for children, their families and our future.

Who we are

Our policymakers have a responsibility to prioritize babies

We are a **non-partisan, research-based center** working at all levels of government and across multiple issue areas that affect babies and their families. Our work includes:

- Federal policy
- State and local policy
- Advocacy through Think Babies™
- A focus on Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health across our work
- Child welfare transformation through Safe Babies



What we do



Shaping systems to support babies

ZERO TO THREE has decades of experience fighting for policy changes that improve the lives of babies and their families. No other organization has our track record of influencing decision makers to consider how their choices affect our babies.

- We build resources that illustrate how babies, and their families are faring across the country.
- We recruit powerful parent advocates and work with state partners to ensure their voices are heard by policymakers at every level of government.
- We support policy and advocacy leaders in states building better systems and working toward policy wins for babies.
- We advocate and lobby for policies that affect millions of families with young children.

Racial Identity and the Development of Infants and Toddlers

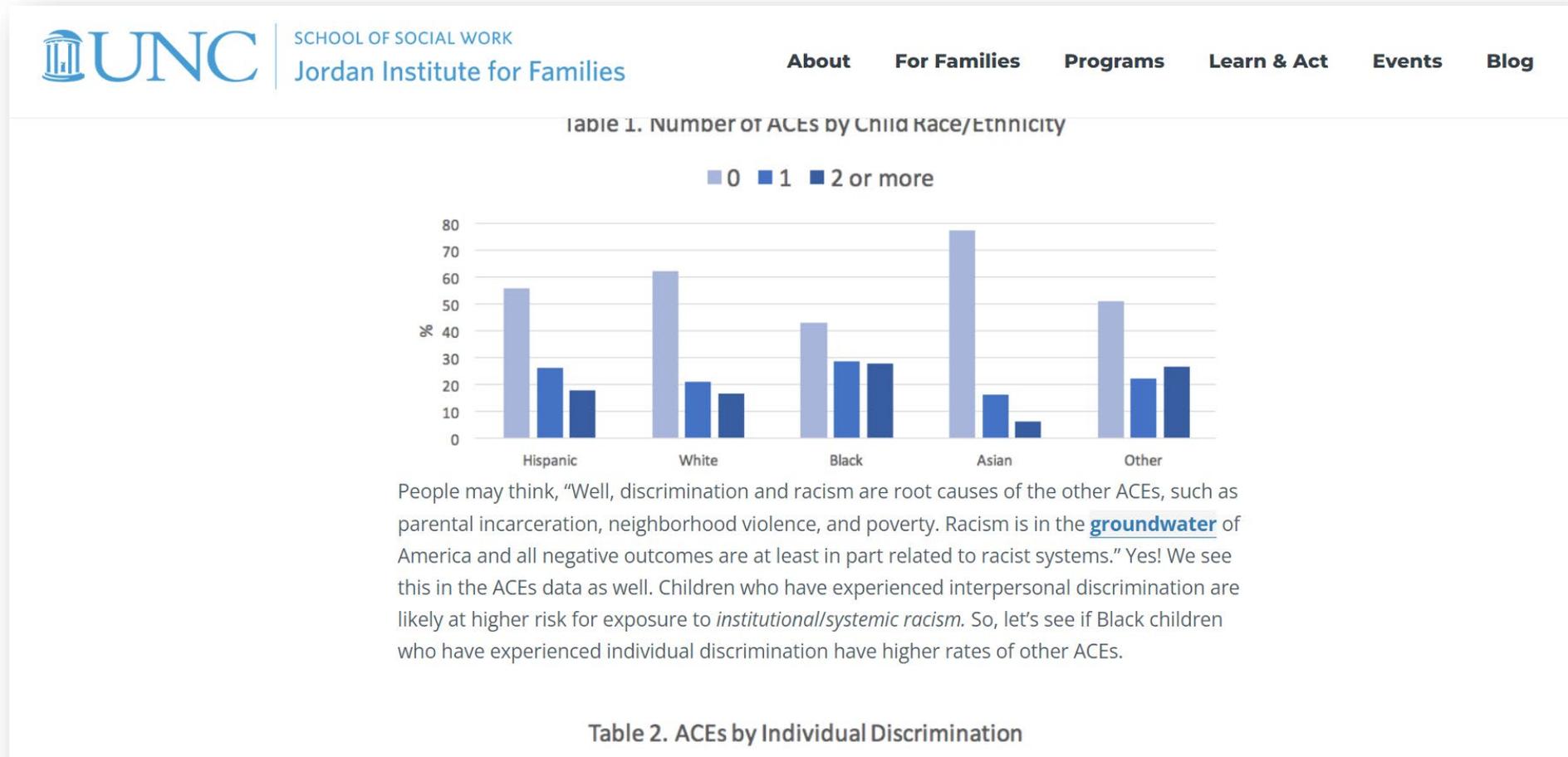
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During the first three years of life, emotionally nourishing relationships lay the foundation for lifelong health and well-being.

- Research and clinical experience demonstrate that a baby's earliest relationships and experiences with their parents and other caregivers dramatically influence brain development, social-emotional and cognitive skills, and future health and success in school and life.
- Whether babies are born healthy with the potential to thrive as they grow depends on maternal well-being—not just during pregnancy, but even prior to conception. *This is particularly true among people of color and their babies due to intergenerational trauma and lived experiences with institutional and interpersonal racism.*



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)



(Verbiest, 2020)

Supporting Infants & Toddlers

Our specific work

Healthy Steps

Safe Babies

National Center on Early Childhood Development Teaching and Learning

- Supporting the School Readiness and Success of Young African American Boys



Linktree Resources (Scan to Access)



Safe Babies
A Program of ZERO TO THREE



