

Trauma's Impact on Childhood Development

Young children exposed to 5 or more significant adversities in the first 3 years of childhood face a 76 percent likelihood of having one or more delays in their cognitive, language, or emotional development.

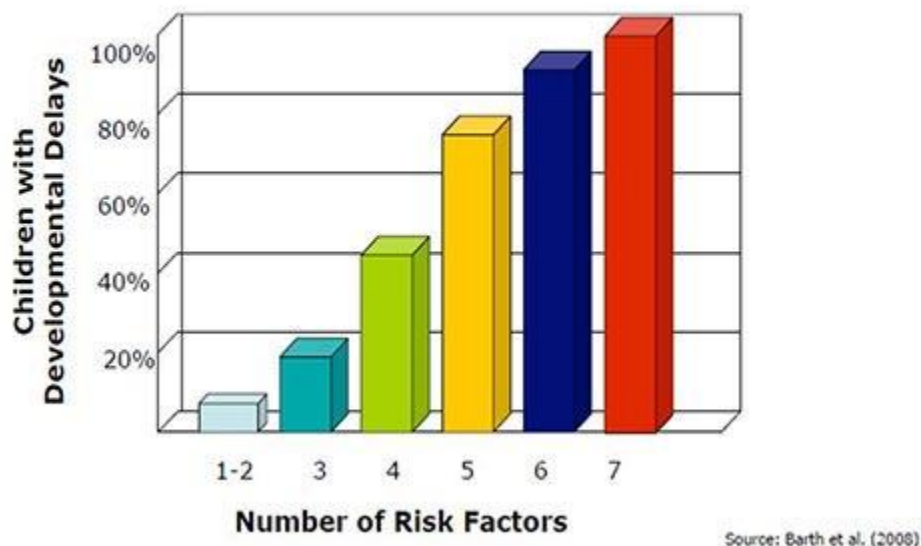
With help from families, providers, and the community, young children can demonstrate resilience when dealing with trauma.

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However, research has shown that caregivers can buffer the impact of stress and promote better outcomes for children even under stressful times when the following Strengthening Families Protective Factors² are present:


- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children


Significant Adversity Impairs Development in the First Three Years



[Text description of this chart is available on a separate page.](#)

Data Source:

1. Barth, R.P., Scarborough, A., Lloyd, E.C., Losby, J., Casanueva, C., & Mann, T. (2008). Developmental Status and Early Intervention Service Needs of Maltreated Children. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (Retrieved from: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/08/devneeds/report.pdf> [PDF - 496 KB] .
2. Horton, C. (2003). Protective factors literature review. Early care and education programs and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Center for the Study of Social Policy.

Graph was made available courtesy of the Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University. For more graphs and images from the Center about the importance of early childhood, please visit http://developingchild.harvard.edu/library/multimedia/interactive_features/five-numbers/ .