

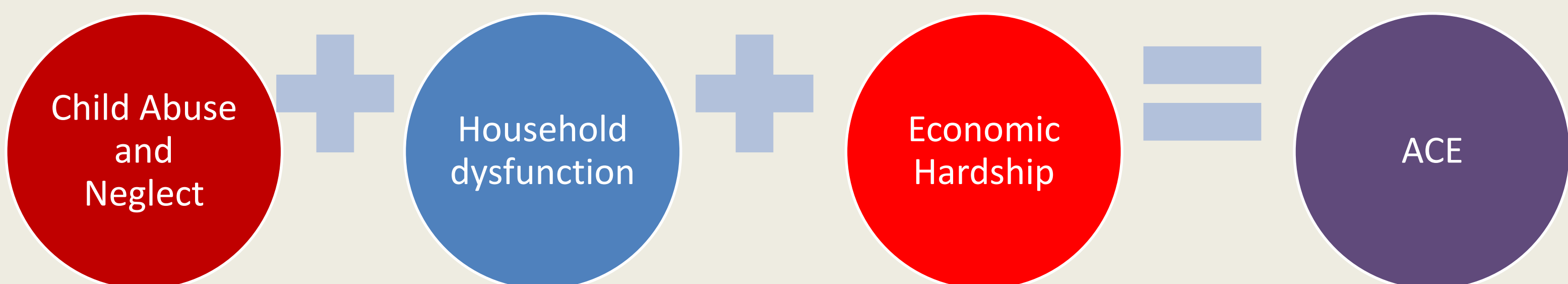
Association between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Bullying among Adolescents in the United States

Afolabi, M. B.Sc.,¹⁻² Salinas, A., MD, PhD.,¹ Kirby, RS. PhD.¹

College of Public Health, ¹ Department of Community and Family Health, ² Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Background

- Bullying is a prevalent problem in the schools in the United States that leads to poor health consequences.
- Understanding the risk factors for bullying is a necessary step for preventive action.



- Very few studies have examined the association between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and bullying using recent National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH).

Objective

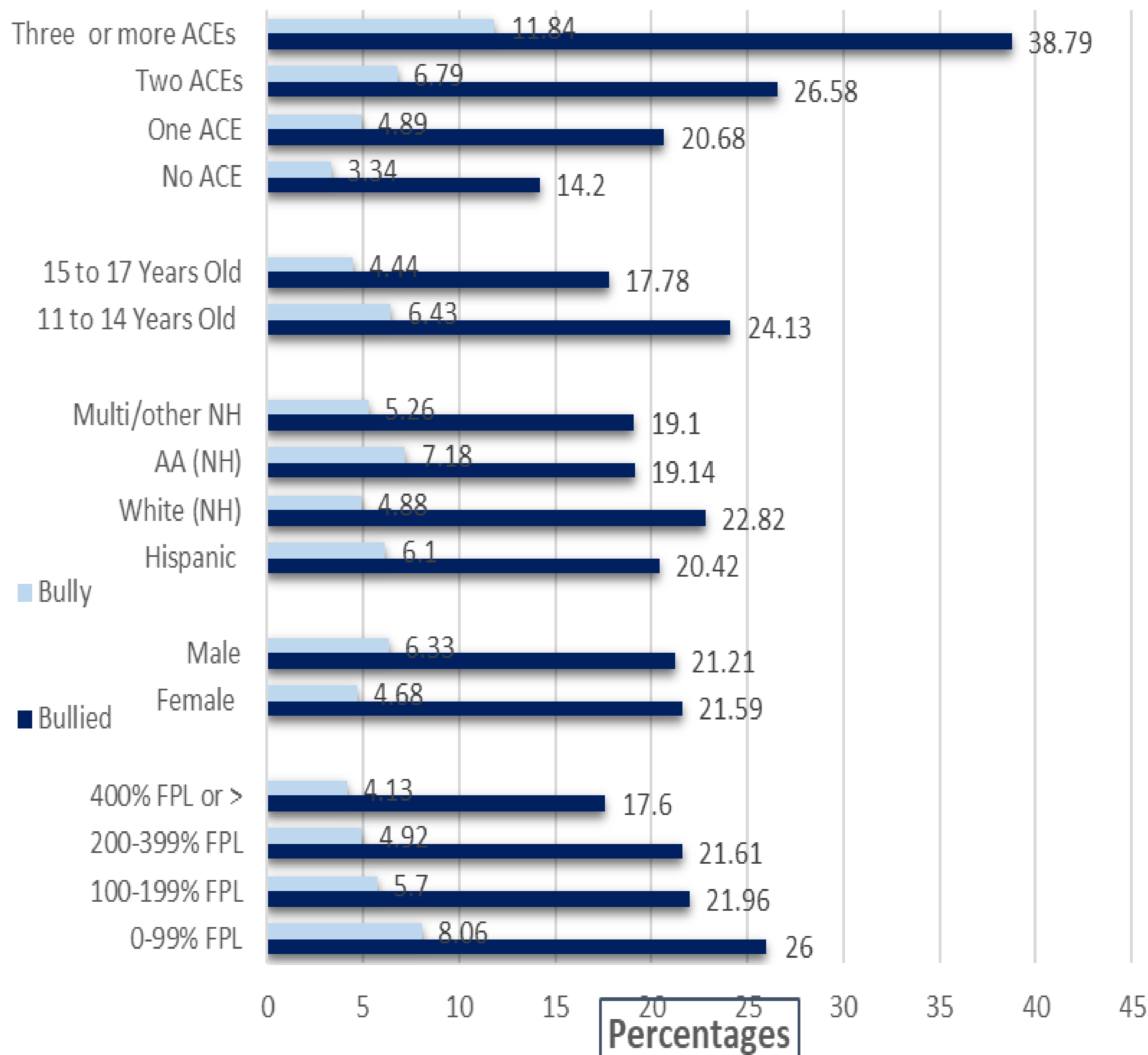
- To examine the association between ACEs and bullying behaviors among adolescents ages 11-17 in the United States.

Methods

- This cross-sectional study utilized the 2016 NSCH dataset [n= 23,453 children ages 11-17 years].
- Outcomes examined were being bullied and being a bully.
- The exposure was the ACEs cumulative risk score.
- Covariates included age, gender, race/ethnicity, and household income.
- Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) were estimated with logistic regression models.
- Data Analyses were conducted using Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) 9.4

Demographics

Figure 1. Descriptive Statistics for some Independent Variables Included in Analyses, by Bullying: 2016 National Survey of Children's Health.



Results

Figure 2. Prevalance of Bully and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), among adolescents aged 11- 17 years: 2016 national survey of children's health.

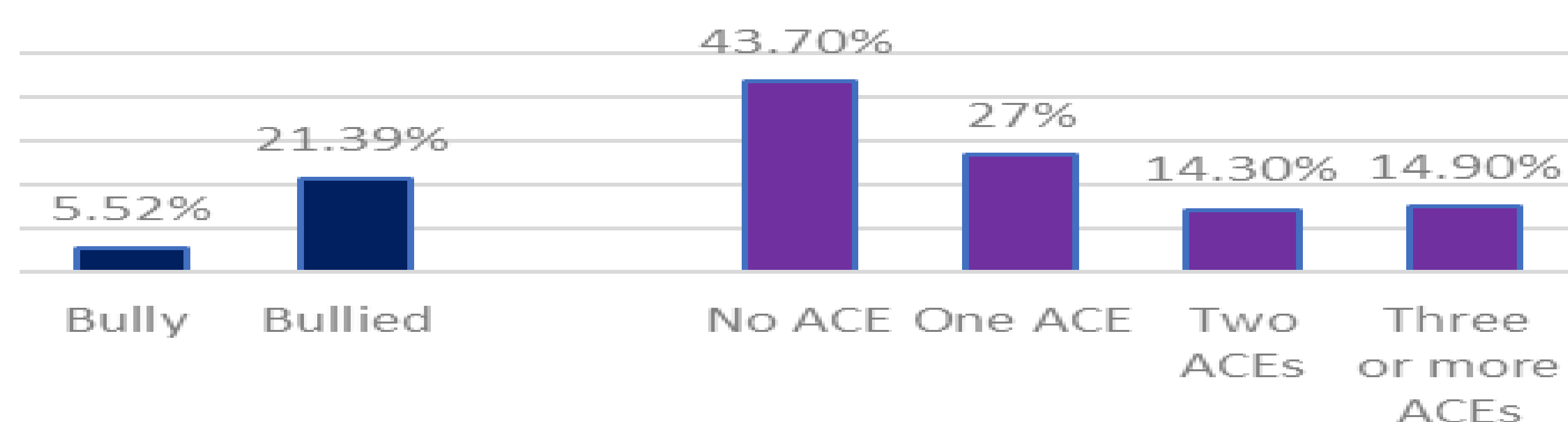
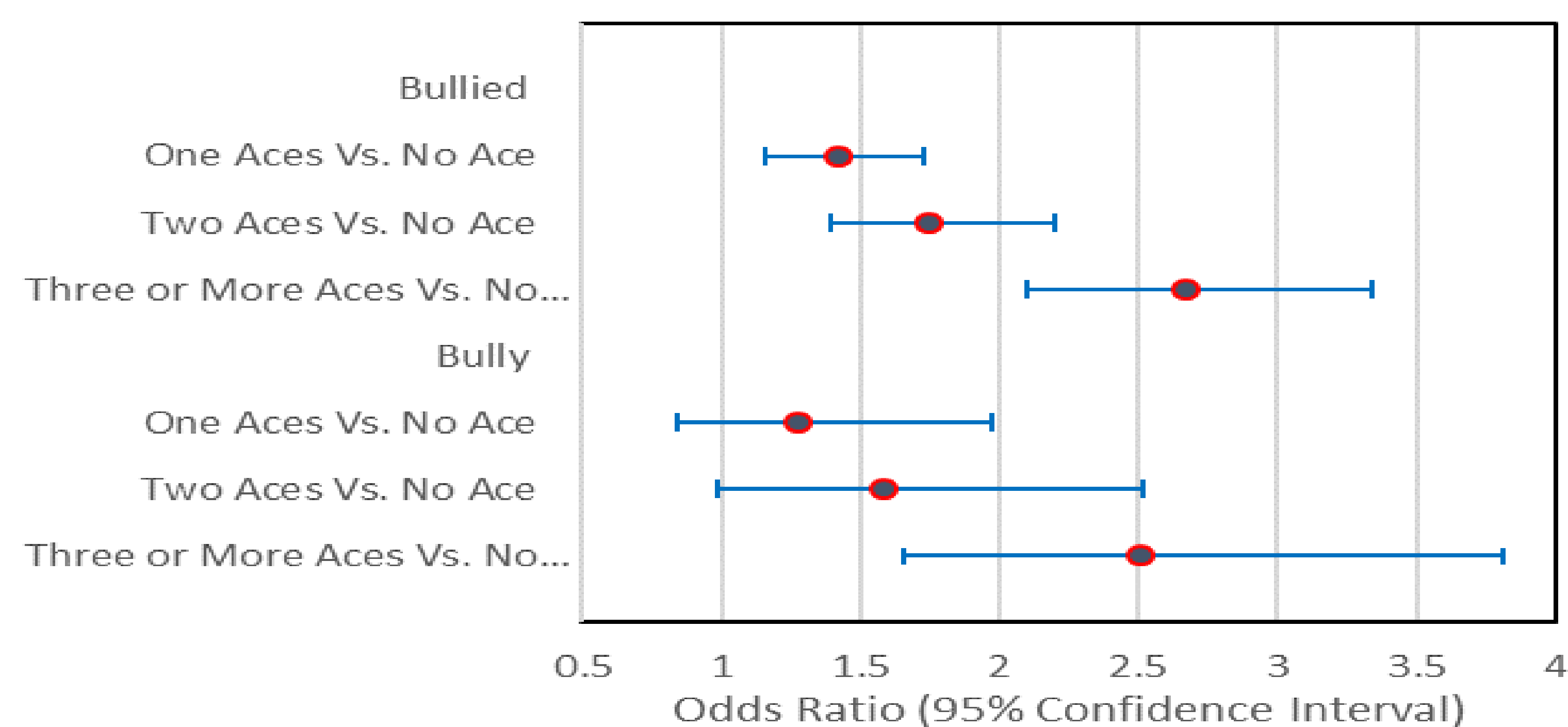


Figure 3. Logistics Regression Models Estimating the Association Between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Bullying: 2016 National Survey of Children's Health.



Conclusion

- This study found evidence of an association between childhood adversity and bullying behaviors. Bullying behaviors were more prevalent in children with higher ACE composite scores.
- The co-existing nature of bullying and ACEs indicate the need to address bullying behaviors with a life course perspective approach that examine individual's behaviors, family environment and other forms adversity.