

## Program Overview: All Children Excel

Please note that the accuracy of the contents of this inventory cannot be guaranteed until the program director has reviewed this summary for accuracy. Changes may be pending.

Category	Behavior Improvement Programs	<i>Definitions/ Notes</i>
<b>Program Name</b>	All Children Excel	
<b>History of Program</b>	All Children Excel (ACE) is a prevention program developed in Ramsey County, MN that aims to promote resiliency in children at high risk for delinquency, substance abuse, and school failure. The program grew out of research indicating that most chronic, violent adult offenders begin their criminal careers before the age of twelve. ACE uses an assessment process to evaluate both the personal and environmental strengths and risks of juvenile offenders and assign them to either short or long-term intervention. In this manner, ACE attempts to funnel resources to those youth most at risk of committing serious and violent crime.	
<b>Description of Program as it Relates to addressing Children's Exposure to Violence</b>	ACE uses a public health prevention approach to prevent children from entering the criminal justice system, reduce truant and problematic behaviors, and increase academic success. As such, it focuses on early intervention of risk factors associated with delinquency and coordinates services across systems of care (including police, schools, and community agencies). ACE programming is rooted in attachment theory, and posited on the belief that a strong and positive relationship with one adult can make a profound difference in the life of a child. Therefore, the principle mechanism of	

Highlighted text indicates program components are currently under review. Changes may be pending.

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	<p>intervention is intensive, long-term, case management. Case managers meet weekly with children from the time they are referred to the program until they the child turns eighteen. Case managers work with children and their families in major areas of development including attachment-based mentoring, educational advocacy, pro-social activities, and assessment of mental and physical health.</p>	
<b>Service Continuum</b>	Secondary/Selective Intervention	
<b>Primary Exposure Type</b>	Domestic Violence Maltreatment (non-specific)	
<b>Target Population</b>	Family Systems Individual Children/ Youth Parent/Caregivers(s) Siblings	
<b>Target Age</b>	Middle Childhood (6 - 12)	All Children Excel is designed to target early offenders and is used with children who commit otherwise prosecutable offenses before their tenth birthday.
<b>Target Gender</b>	Both	
<b>Primary Settings</b>	Juvenile Justice/Correctional	
<b>Persons or Entities in charge of delivering Program</b>	Home Visitors Child Welfare Workers Juvenile Justice/Correctional Line Staff	The ACE program is guided by an integrated service delivery team that generally includes personnel from child welfare, financial assistance, the county attorney, and corrections. The county partners with community agencies to implement ACE services through case managers.

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<b>Primary Components</b>	Assessment/ Triage/Screening Referrals Case Management	

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## Resource & Capacity Planning

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<b>Length/Duration of Program</b>	ACE provides services for children from ages 10-18.	ACE commits to long-term provision of services until the child is eighteen. In limited circumstances, including significant and sustained improvement, services may be terminated before the child's eighteenth birthday.
<b>Required Materials</b>	Manuals/Program materials Computer Software/ Special Technology Fidelity Checklists/Assessments	Program manuals are required in order to ensure the intervention is implemented with fidelity. A cornerstone of the ACE program is the Risk Factor Profile® assessment system which requires use of computers and software.
<b>Training Requirements</b>		No formal training is available. Manuals describing the intervention as it was implemented in Ramsey County, Minnesota are available at <a href="http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm">http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm</a>
<b>Provider Certification/ Training/ Requirements</b>	No Degree /Certification/ Training/ requirements stated	No certification is provided. See implementation manuals at <a href="http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm">http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm</a>
<b>System or Agency Recommendations for Serving CEV Populations</b>	<p><b>Cross Systems/Sectors Support &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>One goal of the ACE program is to coordinate services between the many sectors involved in the lives of clients; therefore, the ability to form effective and sustainable partnerships is essential to the success of the program. Furthermore, collaboration between the county and community agencies requires an investment beyond the actual payments made to agencies. Counties must be prepared to devote resources, including but not limited to staffing time to build capacity between agencies, monitor the</p>	

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	interventions, and ensure fidelity.	
<b>Costs of Implementation</b>	<p><b>Estimate based on implementation (costs not disaggregated):</b>            On average, Ramsey County spends \$687,996 to deliver the ACE program to 65 youth for a one year period. The ACT program states that this is considerably less than the projected cost of continued delinquency within the county.</p>	

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## Evidence for Children's Exposure to Violence

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<b>Evidence for Preventing or Addressing Violence Exposure</b>	<p>In general, when implemented with <i>minimal</i> fidelity this program demonstrate <i>promising (perhaps inconsistent)</i> empirical findings showing reductions in risk of exposure or ameliorating the effects of exposure using a <i>reasonable conceptual framework</i> and a <i>limited evaluation</i> design (single group pre-post-test) that requires causal confirmation using more appropriate experimental techniques.</p>	
<b>Violence Exposure-Related Outcomes</b>	<p><b>Child</b> (Briefly Describe)  According to case status ratings as determined by case managers, over half of the children in the ACE program showed positive improvements during the course of treatment.</p> <p>Children receiving intensive case management through the ACE program showed a significant improvement in behavior towards others. No statistically significant changes in social and affective strengths were found. The percentage of children who were in the clinical range for social problems at the beginning of treatment declined significantly by the end of treatment, and the percentage of children in the normal range increased dramatically. A positive reduction was reported for the percentage of children in the clinical range for attention problems, with a corresponding increase of children moving to the normal range. There was a significant increase in the percentage of children judged to be in the clinical range for academic performance.</p> <p>Compared to children on a waitlist, children who received intensive case management were less likely to be truant, to be charged with a felony against a</p>	

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	<p>person, and to spend time in incarceration.</p> <p>Based on survival analysis, the time from enrollment in the ACE program to subsequent first offence is significantly greater for children receiving the ACE intervention. By comparison, children receiving community standard care were 2.5 times more likely to recidivate than children receiving intensive case management through the ACE model.</p> <p><b>Parent</b> (Briefly Describe) No significant differences were found over time in caregiver resources or home role performance.</p> <p><b>Family</b> (Briefly Describe) Family engagement with the ACE program was somewhat sporadic, though program awareness and service utilization of non ACE services increased. Families indicated a high degree of satisfaction with ACE program, with</p>	
<p><b>Additional Research Information</b></p>	<p>Briefly describe the <b>research design, setting, participants, and outcome measures</b> for the above noted CEV outcomes. List by Study 1, Study 2, etc.</p> <p>Study 1: <b>Design, Setting, Participants:</b> Beginning in 1999, all children under ten who are committed a prosecutable offense in Ramsey County were evaluated using the Risk Factor Profile®. Scores on the RFP, along with clinical judgment of other factors, were used to assign youth either to the intensive case management program (ACE) or to community treatment as usual . Because the number of ACE participants is limited due to restrictions on case manager workload, some children that were determined to be in need of intensive case</p>	<p>Study 1: Schmitz, C., &amp; Luxenberg, M. (2004). Final report and summative evaluation plan for the Ramsey county ACE program. Retrieved March 8, 2010 from <a href="http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm">http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm</a>.</p>

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	<p>management were assigned to a wait list and treated with an after school care program until space became available.</p> <p><b>Outcome Measures:</b> All youth were rated by the case manager according to how engaged the child and the child's family were with the program. Caregiver resources and home role performance were measured using the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS). Youth functioning was measured with the (CAFAS). The Behavioral and Emotional Ratings Scales were used to measure social and affective strengths in children. Children's problematic behaviors, thoughts, and feelings, as well as adaptive functioning and academic performance were measured with the Teacher Report Form.</p>	
<p><b>Conceptual Framework/ Theoretical Design</b></p> <p>( For internal use)</p>	<p>Reputable</p>	<p>Blank</p>
<p><b>Is this Program an Evidence-Based Practice in other Family/ Youth Development Areas?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>OJJDP Model Program <a href="http://Findyouthinfo.gov">Findyouthinfo.gov</a></p>	<p>Program has been shown to be effective in reducing recidivism for youth offending before their tenth birthday.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Designs of other evaluations</b></p>	<p>Quasi-experimental design</p>	<p>This study used a non-equivalent comparison group.</p>
<p><b>Sources</b></p>	<p>OJJDP Model Programs <a href="http://Find Youth Info">Find Youth Info</a></p>	

## Contact Information

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## Selected Publications/References

ACE: Deflecting children from the path of violence. Retrieved March 8, 2010 from [http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace\\_reports.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm).

All Children Excel: A program guide to promoting optimal development in child offenders. (2007). Retrieved March 8, 2010 from [http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace\\_reports.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm).

Beuhring, T., & Melton, H. (2002). "Best bet" intervention strategy: Report to Ramsey county board of commissioners on implications of ACE research. Retrieved March 8, 2010 from [http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace\\_reports.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm).

Schmitz, C., & Luxenberg, M. (2004). Final report and summative evaluation plan for the Ramsey county ACE program. Retrieved March 8, 2010 from [http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace\\_reports.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/ace_reports.htm).