METHOD

Participants

- 95 mothers and their infants identified as high-risk by their pediatrician due to family factors or medical complexity were invited to participate in HS at a pediatric primary care facility in rural Oregon. Caregivers completed measures as part of routine care during well-child visits. Based on the available data, caregiver responses from 45 participants were included in this study.

Measures

- Caregivers completed an ACE questionnaire at the 1-month well-child visit, which yielded a total ACE score.

The Survey of Well-Being of Young Children (SWYC) was administered to caregivers at the 2-, 4-, and 6-month well-child visits. Of interest in the current study was the 10-item developmental milestone checklist in which higher scores indicate better developmental progress.

Procedure

- Families identified as high-risk for adverse experiences and complex health needs were invited to participate in the HS program.
- Participants received extra support from a HS early childhood “specialist” during well-child visits beginning when the child was 2 weeks old, with the opportunity to continue with the HS program up to 3 years old.
- De-identified child and caregiver sociodemographic characteristics, caregiver ACE score, and developmental scores measured by the SWYC were provided by the pediatric primary care clinic to the researchers.

RESULTS

- Mothers reported an average of 3 ACEs (M = 3.13, SD = 3.17; range = 0-10)
- Results did not support our hypotheses.
  - There was not a significant relationship between caregiver ACEs and infant developmental outcomes at 2 months of age (r = .18, p = .43).
  - Infant developmental outcomes did not significantly improve across timepoints.

Table 1. RM-ANOVA in developmental milestones

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Measure/Effect</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sig</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SWYC-6</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SWYC-2</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWYC-4</td>
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</table>

DISCUSSION

- Results were inconsistent with previous research finding that caregiver ACEs have a negative impact on child development (Folger et al., 2018).
- The small sample size and restricted range of ACE scores (i.e., most mothers reported few to none ACEs) may have limited our ability to detect significance. We also examined infants’ developmental trajectory within a relatively short time frame of 6 months, and we cannot say with certainty whether or not HS bolsters development as infants near toddlerhood and beyond.
- Future research efforts should explore infant development across a longer developmental timespan and among a larger sample with a broader range of ACE scores.