

MICHIGAN ACES STATE ACTION PLAN

Contributors:

Central Michigan
University

Children's Trust Fund

Michigan ACE Initiative

Michigan Association of
Health Plans Foundation

Michigan Department
of Education

Michigan Department
of Health & Human
Services

Michigan Public Health
Institute



Michigan ACEs State Action Plan

BACKGROUND

In 2020, Michigan's House & Senate passed Concurrent Resolutions 02 & 08 declaring ACEs to be a critical public health issue, committing the Michigan Legislature to action, and encouraging the Governor to direct agencies to assess and report progress on reducing ACEs. This plan was developed to dismantle intergenerational trauma and transform environments by leveraging community and organizational strengths to create resilient, inclusive, and prosperous environments where children, youth, and families can thrive.

PROBLEM

Michigan has a strong history of addressing the social determinants of health and childhood trauma in the maternal and infant health space and is leveraging that momentum to move forward. Pervasive racism and fragmented systems demand private and public partnerships, cross-sector alignment and engagement, and intentional approaches to ensure equity and build resiliency. Michigan faces structural inequities and intergenerational transmission of trauma that perpetuate ACEs across the life course.

GOAL

The goal of the Action Plan to Address Adverse Childhood Experiences in Michigan is to lead the charge to dismantle intergenerational trauma and transform environments by leveraging community and organizational strengths to create resilient, inclusive, and prosperous environments where children, youth and families can thrive

KEY PARTNERS

Michigan has numerous partners engaged in this work. The partners listed below are the key partners that were integral in the development of the action plan. Michigan recognizes the need to expand key partnerships and relationships and has intentional plans to engage additional partners in future, specific efforts.

- 1) Central Michigan University
- 2) Children's Trust Fund
- 3) Michigan ACE Initiative
- 4) Michigan Association of Health Plans Foundation
- 5) Michigan Department of Education
- 6) Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- 7) Michigan Public Health Institute

PRINCIPLES

- **Equity:** Examine how systemic and interpersonal racism, discrimination, and unconscious bias influence occurrences of trauma.
- **Resilience:** Create safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments that build resilience.
- **Social Determinants of Health:** Incorporate and align social determinants of the health and identify how they can promote or compromise resilience.
- **Innovation:** Consider both evidence-based and innovative strategies to disrupt norms and behaviors.
- **Geography:** Explore the unique needs of rural and urban communities.
- **Systemic Approach:** Explore root causes, focus on mindsets, policies, practices, formal and informal rules that currently govern the system as opposed to an exclusively programmatic response.
- **Resident and Beneficiary Engagement:** Include the voice of residents and/or service beneficiaries in meaningful ways.
- **Evaluation:** Identify shared metrics to measure progress and generate outcomes.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Examine disaggregated data to better understand disparities and inequities and drive strategies and implementation.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Build in opportunities to identify what is working and what needs to be adjusted.

WORKING AGREEMENTS

Key partners commit to:

- 1) **Collaboration:** authentic and respectful engagement among key partners and stakeholders.
- 2) **Focus on Quality:** implementing routine data-driven continuous quality improvement (CQI) activities to ensure all strategies and actions steps are assessed and scaled up as warranted.
- 3) **Inclusion:** engaging individuals of all races, genders, ethnicities, and sexual orientations into all state-wide ACEs work.
- 4) **Shared Ownership:** advancing this work for the benefits of the common good. All products, learnings, and results will be shared and used to advance the health and well-being of Michigan children, youth and families.
- 5) **Transparency:** ensuring transparency in decision making and both internal and external communication.
- 6) **Critical Engagement:** having difficult conversations to improve health equity and abolish structural inequities.

OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

In order to achieve this goal, Michigan's Adverse Childhood Experiences Collaborative aims to:

Increase the adoption of evidence-based and evidence-informed primary prevention strategies to prevent the occurrence of ACEs and build resilience in Michigan's most vulnerable children, youth and families.

- Build a state-wide inventory of regional and state prevention efforts to align and expand to prevent ACEs to identify critical prevention and capacity gaps.
- Continue to educate and engage decision makers and policy makers in building public health approaches to injury violence and prevention.
- Increase the number and reach and access to evidence-based and evidence-informed primary prevention strategies across the state, focusing on high need areas, identified by data.
- Align and advance Michigan's rich array of evidence-based training initiatives (i.e. Community Champions, ACEs Master Trainers, Strengthening Families, etc.) to equip families, service providers, and communities with the tools and skills to build resilience.
- Create a coordinated multi-sectoral partnership plan with strong leadership collaboration from all partners and sectors to create a trauma-informed workforce and workplaces that play a critical role in healthy development for youth.

Expand access to and use of high-quality state-wide surveillance data to support the identification of populations with disproportionate socioeconomic and societal burden with increased propensity for ACEs.

- Engage multi-sector partners to identify/formulate shared metrics including but not limited to ACEs and SDoH metrics, to collect and analyze at the county, regional, and state level.
- Identify the populations at the highest risk of experiencing ACEs to focus strategic preventative efforts.
- Increase the representativeness of state data by increasing school opt-in rates and youth participation rates in the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) to gain a better understanding of local-level ACEs burden among youth across Michigan.
- Increase the representativeness of state data by increasing participation rates in the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS).
- Provide Michigan public schools, local public health departments/social service providers, and non-profit hospitals with data that can inform their respective school district improvement plans, community health assessments, and community health needs assessments.
- Develop capacity to utilize and benchmark state surveillance data sources relevant to other national and Michigan ACEs and resilience data.

Ensure sustained leadership capacity and commitment to advance widespread collaboration, coordination, and infrastructure to address ACEs and build resilience among children, youth, and families.

- Cultivate, nurture, and maintain cross-sector relationships and collaborative networks to expand the ACEs network.
- Nurture ACEs leaders within the public and private sector to ensure sustainable financial models.
- Steward ongoing public, private, and philanthropic investment across local, regional, and state partners for ACEs prevention.
- Establish long-term commitment to sustain tracking and monitoring of resources and supports.
- Develop and maintain the technical infrastructure required to oversee and track an ACEs data dashboard.

Advance advocacy efforts and public will-building to expand and sustain strategies and initiatives that support health and wellbeing across the life course through access to funding, resources, and supports to minimize the prevalence of trauma and build resilience among Michigan children, youth and families.

- Create inventory of state-specific bills, policies, legislative positions that involve ACEs.
- Align and advance policy efforts that address ACEs related issues/opportunities.
- Maintain funding for social welfare programs that positively impact the mitigation of ACEs.
- Leverage state and federal funding sources to advocate for and incorporate ACEs-focused investment.
- Maintain communication strategies to keep all Michiganders aware of ACEs.
- Engage and support communities in advocacy and public will-building efforts to ensure equitable access to systems and environments that mitigate and prevent ACEs.