

Michigan ACEs State Action Plan





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. Since then, the importance of ACE prevention has become even more pronounced due to the youth mental health crisis and serious concerns around school safety, violence prevention, and substance use prevention among Michigan’s communities. Guided by a shared goal to prevent and mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences, stakeholders across Michigan adopted a collaborative impact model to collaborate and strategically align state and local ACE prevention efforts. To support and lead these efforts, the Michigan ACE Initiative hosted a statewide strategic planning session in May 2023. Over 230 partner organizations from across Michigan participated in facilitated action planning discussions where key priority areas and recommended action steps and strategies were discussed and prioritized. Feedback from these stakeholders has been integrated into this updated 2023 Michigan ACEs State Action Plan. This plan will provide strategic direction to stakeholders in how to align efforts to prevent potential traumatic or adverse experiences, 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. Exposure to ACEs is correlated to a wide range of poor physical, mental, social, and occupational outcomes, including mental health and substance use conditions for young people and adults. By preventing and mitigating the impact of ACEs on its communities, Michigan can help reduce rates of substance use, mental health conditions, and violence and support individuals, families, and communities to live happier, healthier, and more productive lives.

GOAL

The goal of the Michigan ACEs State Action Plan is to lead the charge to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences, dismantle intergenerational trauma, and transform environments by leveraging community and organizational strengths to create trauma-informed service and public health systems and resilient, inclusive, and prosperous environments where children, youth, and families can thrive.

KEY PARTNERS

Michigan has numerous partners dedicated to this work. This set of diverse stakeholders recognizes the critical importance of inclusive and collaborative action to prevent and mitigate adverse childhood experiences across the state. To this end, Michigan has adopted a collective impact model to sustain and build upon the work begun through collaborative efforts. In March 2023, the Statewide Advisory Council convened to oversee and champion the work of these partners through the Michigan ACE Initiative. Key goals and objectives of the Michigan ACE Initiative are to leverage collective impact to address the key goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in this action plan.

Michigan aims to engage cross-sector collaborators and center the voice of children and adult community members in its ACE prevention efforts. At our May statewide convening, over 200 partner organizations participated in action planning to prioritize the Initiative's goals and activities. While seven key partners supported the development of the 2020 Michigan ACEs State Action Plan, feedback from additional organizations and partners played an integral role in updating the current plan (* = indicates an original contributor to the 2020 State Action Plan). **For more information on the Michigan ACE Initiative, the State Advisory Board, and our partner organizations, please visit <https://www.miace.org/structure>.**

Contributors:

Central Michigan University*

Children Trust Michigan*

Michigan ACE Initiative*

Michigan Association of Health Plans Foundation*

Michigan Department of Education*

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services*

Michigan Public Health Institute*

[Over 200 Individual and Community Partners](#)

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 health and identify how they can promote or compromise resilience.
- **Innovation:** Consider 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, and 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 understand disparities and inequities better and drive strategies and implementation.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Build opportunities to identify what is working and what needs to be adjusted.

WORKING AGREEMENTS

Key partners commit to:

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

OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

To achieve this goal, the Michigan ACE Initiative 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 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 policymakers in building public health approaches to injury violence and prevention.
- Increase the number, reach, and access to evidence-based primary prevention strategies across the state.
- Engage programs and services that work with pregnant moms, infants, and young children to support strong starts for all of Michigan's children.
- Increase buy-in and implement evidence-based programs across sectors, including healthcare, justice, housing, and business sectors.
- Ensure all programs are culturally responsive and consider the unique needs, strengths, context, and social determinants of health experienced by the communities they serve.
- Support the early identification of children and families in need to ensure they are provided the support and services they desire.
- Intentionally focus on upstream programs and system changes that can have a lasting impact in preventing ACEs and promoting health equity.
- Support implementing evidence-based screenings and assessment protocols when appropriate in various clinical and service settings.

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 levels.
- 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), Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), and the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) to increase the representativeness of state data and gain a better understanding of local-level ACEs burden among youth across Michigan.

- Increase education and available resources on effectively using data to guide decision-making and the importance of collecting data that center the experiences of Michigan's youth.
- Increase dissemination and data sharing of ACEs data (e.g., the Michigan ACE Data Dashboard) across communities and sectors.
- Provide Michigan public schools, local public health departments/social service providers, and non-profit hospitals with data to 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.
- Develop and maintain the technical infrastructure to oversee and track an ACEs data dashboard.
- Partner with local public health departments, universities, and others, collecting ACE surveillance data to share and disseminate local and regional data.
- Ensuring responsible data collection and sharing practices.

Develop and provide trauma-informed training and education to a wide variety of service sectors to create and strengthen a trauma-informed workforce across Michigan.

- Create a coordinated multi-sectoral partnership plan with strong leadership collaboration from all partners, sectors, and trauma-aware leaders to create a trauma-informed workforce and workplaces that play a critical role in healthy development for youth.
- Collectively identify, align, and advance Michigan's rich array of evidence-based training initiatives to equip families, service providers, and communities with the tools and skills to build resilience.
- Incorporate evidence-based programs and training into higher education programming so that the next generation of teachers, physicians, social workers, etc., have strong training in trauma-informed and ACE prevention approaches.
- Increase sector-specific trainings on a variety of topics associated with ACEs, resilience, promoting protective factors, skill building, health equity, and culturally responsive care,
- Emphasize strengths, positive childhood experiences, and skill and resource building for children, families, and communities throughout all training and education.
- Ensure training and educational materials are readily available and accessible in multiple formats and languages.
- Develop educational resources and trainings for youth, parents, and other community members.
- Co-create and design programs for youth, parents, and those with lived experience that could include their perspective.

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 an inventory of state-specific bills, policies, and legislative positions that involve ACEs.
- Educate, 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.
- Cultivate, nurture, and maintain cross-sector relationships and collaborative networks and influence community leaders and policymakers.
- Nurture ACE leaders within the public and private sectors to ensure sustainable financial models and the promotion of ACE-aware, trauma-informed policies.
- Identify and acknowledge ACE leaders and trauma-informed care organizations to steward ongoing public, private, and philanthropic investment across local, regional, and state partners for ACEs prevention.
- Establish a long-term commitment to sustain tracking and monitoring of resources and supports.