Philanthropy Addressing ACEs in Michigan

Children Under Stress: Preventing ACEs and Supporting Childhood Well-Being
August 23, 2022

Audrey J. Harvey, MPH, CPH
Executive Director & CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation

Myra M. Tetteh, MPP, Ph.D.
Senior Program Officer
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation

Letitia Williams
Program Director
Friends of Children-Detroit

Leon El-Alamin
Founder & Executive Director
M.A.D.E. Institute

Rodlescia S. Sneed, MPH, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Wayne State University
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Commitment to Health

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Michigan Youth

• Since 1980 the BCBSM Foundation has focused on key public health issues in the State of Michigan investing over $1.5 million each year through six grant programs. Today we are proud to share details regarding our work addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). For more information go to www.bcbsm.com/foundation.

• Michigan ranks 20th nationwide in the percentage of youth reporting 2+ ACEs

• Six out of ten Michigan youth under 18 years old reported having at least one ACE
  • 15% experienced 4+ ACEs
  • 22% experienced 2-3 ACEs
  • 26% experienced 1 ACE

• Health risks Michigan youth report:
  • 72% of youth with 4+ ACEs reported feeling sad/hopeless compared to 17% of youth with no ACEs
  • 46% of youth with 4+ ACEs have considered suicide and 21% of youth with 4+ ACEs have attempted suicide
  • 63% of youth with 4+ ACEs reported no condom use during intercourse compared to 39% with fewer than 4 ACEs
  • 44% of youth with 4+ ACEs reported alcohol use and 44% of youth with 4+ ACEs reported marijuana use
  • 43% of youth with 4+ ACEs reported vaping

• Since 2020, we awarded 25 grants addressing ACEs and its detrimental outcomes. Three notable programs:
  • TRAILS (Transforming Research into Action to Improve the Lives of Students), training schools in mental health interventions, received $50M in state appropriations
  • Washtenaw Area Council for Children, teaching children 3-7 years old about body agency
  • Ruth Ellis Center, Inc., assisting LGBTQ+ youth that are housing insecure

Today, you’ll hear from two of the peak innovative programs we funded:

• Community-University Partnership
  • Unique combination of research and on-the-ground knowledge of the community to examine feasibility.
    • M.A.D.E. Institute and Wayne State University

• Nationwide program
  • Replication of an existing program demonstrates success in multiple communities (race/ethnicity, rural, urban, suburban).
    • Friends of Children - Detroit