

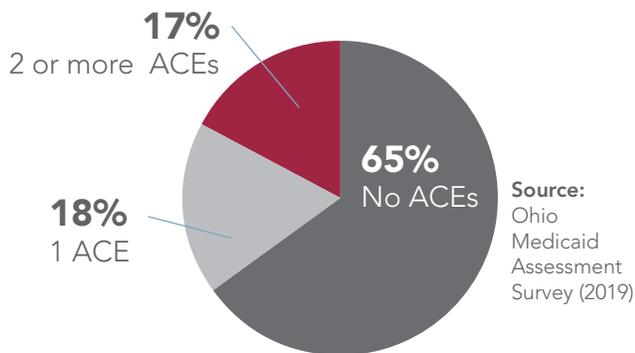


How is Ohio doing on early childhood adversity and trauma prevention?

Preventing childhood adversity and trauma is necessary to build a strong foundation for young children in Ohio. Exposure to adversity and trauma in childhood has both immediate and long-term negative impacts on health and well-being.

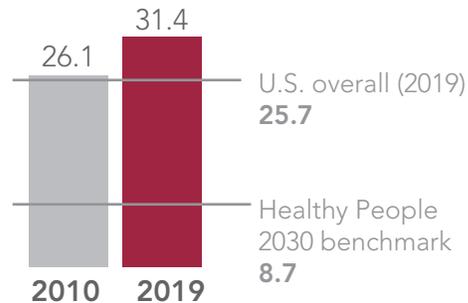
The data below provides a snapshot of Ohio's performance on childhood adversity and trauma prevention.

Nearly 1 in 5 Ohio children, ages 0-5, have been exposed to two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).



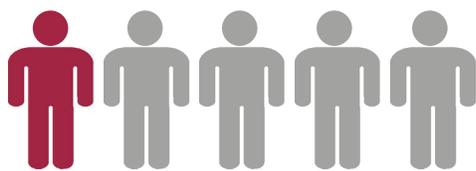
The rate of infant maltreatment in Ohio increased by more than 20% from 2010 to 2019.

Cases per 1,000 infants



Young children of color have increased risk for experiencing adversity and trauma, including racism, as compared to white children, ages 0-5.

Nearly one in five Black and Hispanic/Latino children, ages 0-5, were exposed to 2 or more ACEs, compared to one in six white children.



Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (2019)

Ohio's young children of color were also more likely to be treated or judged unfairly due to their race or ethnicity than white children according to parent reporting.

6.2 times worse for young Hispanic children

3.9 times worse for young Black (non-Hispanic) children

Source: Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (2019)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are "potentially traumatic events" that occur during childhood.¹⁹ ACEs can generally be grouped into three categories: abuse, household challenges, and neglect.²⁰ Other adverse events in childhood, such as experiencing racism and discrimination, food insecurity, not feeling safe in one's neighborhood, or being bullied can also have harmful and long-lasting impacts on a child's development. It is important to protect children from the negative impacts of ACEs at an early age when their brains are developing fastest.

Why is it important to prevent early childhood adversity and trauma?

Young Ohioans should be able to grow up in an environment that is supportive and nurturing of their mental and physical well-being. Unfortunately, many children in Ohio are exposed to adversity and trauma at an early age. Experiencing trauma such as abuse, household challenges or neglect early in life can increase the risk for poor health outcomes later in life.²¹ Long-term exposure to stressors related to these and other ACEs can lead to:

- Disrupted neurological development and emotional, social, and cognitive impairment
- Adoption of behaviors that increase risk of poor health outcomes
- Social problems, such as lower educational attainment, reduced earning potential, and unemployment
- Disease, disability, and early death²²

Not every child exposed to ACEs suffers poor outcomes. Access to resources like neighborhoods with safe and affordable housing, high-quality early learning experiences, and positive friendships and relationships can build resilience and buffer children from the harms of trauma and adversity.²³ Children’s early experiences are foundational for their physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth. It is never too early in a child’s life to invest in preventing adversity and trauma, but it can be too late.

Ohio’s performance

	Most recent	Trend	Ohio compared to U.S.
Early childhood adversity and trauma prevention			
Protective custody, young child. Percent of children in Public Children Services Agency custody who are ages 0-6 (SFY 2021)	44.5%	No change	N/A
Racism, young child. Percent of children, ages 0-5, whose parent reported that they were treated or judged unfairly because of race or ethnicity (2019)	1.9%	N/A	N/A
Maltreatment, infants. Number of children who experienced maltreatment (child abuse and/or neglect), per 1,000 infants under age 1 (2019)	31.4	Worsened	Worse
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), young child. Percent of children, ages 0-5, who were exposed to ACEs (2019)			
No ACEs	64.8%	N/A	N/A
1 ACE	18.1%	N/A	N/A
2 or more ACEs	17%	N/A	N/A

For additional information on data and analysis, see the data appendix.