
Definition: Estimated percentage of women with a live birth who before age 14 experienced childhood hardships (e.g., an estimated 7.5% of California women with a live birth in 2013-2014 experienced four or more childhood hardships).


What It Is
Childhood adversity and resilience measures on kidsdata.org originate from three separate data sources and provide a rich and conceptually-related perspective on childhood adversity. Taken together, they present a broad framework to look at childhood adversity across the lifespan and provide useful data to inform and facilitate interventions. However, due to differences in methodology, data from the three sources should not be compared. The data sources are:

- National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)
- Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA)
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Each of these separate data sources produces at least one overall index of childhood adversity. An overall index should be viewed as a more comprehensive measure than any one of its individual items alone because it captures the cumulative magnitude of experiencing hardships.

Why This Topic Is Important
Childhood adversity—such as child abuse, exposure to violence, family alcohol or drug abuse, and poverty—can have negative, long-term impacts on health and well-being (1, 2). Nearly half of U.S. children have experienced at least one adverse childhood event (3). Early experiences affect brain structure and function, which provide the foundation for learning, emotional development, behavior, and health (4). The toxic stress associated with traumatic, and often cumulative, early adverse experiences can disrupt healthy development and lead to behavioral, emotional, school, and health problems during childhood and adolescence (2, 3, 5, 6). It also can lead to serious behavioral, emotional, and health issues in adulthood, such as chronic diseases, obesity, alcohol and other substance abuse, and depression (1, 2, 3). The more traumatic and toxic events experienced by a child, the more likely the impact will be substantial and long-lasting (7).

Resilience, an adaptive response to hardship, can mitigate the effects of adverse childhood experiences (6, 8). It is a process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, threats, or...

Children with Two or More Adverse Experiences (Parent Reported): 2016; Showing Counties

Definition: Estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 who have experienced two or more adverse experiences (e.g., in 2016, an estimated 16.4% of California children had experienced two or more adverse experiences).


How Children Are Faring

Childhood adversity is common among California children, and many children experience multiple traumatic and negative events. The most timely assessment of childhood resilience and adversity comes from the National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH), in which parents report on the current status of their children. NSCH data from 2016 show that 52% of California children were resilient while 16% of children had experienced two or more adverse childhood events. According to the 2013-2014 Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA), 25% of postpartum women in California experienced two or more childhood hardships before age 14. The California Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Module, combining data from 2008 to 2013, shows that 17% of adults in households with children experienced at least four ACEs before age 18.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic: https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/95/childhood-adversity-and-resilience/summary

More Data: www.kidsdata.org
Sign Up for Data Updates: www.kidsdata.org/signup
This PDF Was Generated On: 3/18/2020