How many people are exposed to ACEs in Ohio?
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur during childhood (ages 0-17). There is variation among researchers in what is considered an ACE. However, ACEs can generally be grouped into three categories: abuse, household challenges and neglect.

In 2015, nearly two-thirds of Ohio adults (61%) reported exposure to ACEs, with 25% reporting exposure to one ACE and an additional 36% reporting exposure to two or more ACEs (see figure 1).

Prevalence by type of ACE
Among Ohioans who reported exposure to at least one ACE, the most common type of ACE reported was emotional abuse (57%), followed by substance use by a household member (41%) and divorce (36%). Figure 2 displays prevalence estimates for exposure to all ACEs included in the 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) ACEs module.

Which Ohioans are most at risk for experiencing ACEs?
Ohioans of color, with low incomes, with disabilities and who are residents of urban or Appalachian counties were more likely to report exposure to two or more ACEs.

Ohioans of color
Black Ohioans (44%) and Ohioans who are a race other than white or Black (48%) were more likely to report being exposed to two or more ACEs than white, non-Hispanic Ohioans (34%) (see figure 3).

Although not captured in the BRFSS, racism and other forms of discrimination are also ACEs. The 2017-2018 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) includes parental reporting of a child’s experience of racism as an ACE. According to NSCH data, in Ohio, the percent of Black, non-Hispanic...
and Hispanic children who experience two or more ACEs is about twice as high as the percent of white, non-Hispanic children who experience multiple ACEs.2

Annual household income
Ohioans with low incomes were more likely to report exposure to two or more ACEs. In 2015, the percent of Ohioans with annual household incomes below $15,000 who reported experiencing two or more ACEs (53%) was about 1.7 times higher than Ohioans with annual incomes of $50,000 or more (32%).

The impacts of ACEs can persist across generations, affecting outcomes such as educational attainment and poverty. For more information on the generational impacts of ACEs, see Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Health Impact of ACEs in Ohio.

Disability status
Adult Ohioans with disabilities were more likely to report exposure to two or more ACEs than Ohioans without disabilities. The percent of adult Ohioans with disabilities who reported two or more ACEs (49%) was more than 1.5 times higher than Ohioans without disabilities (32%).

Notes

HPIO contracted with researchers from the Ohio University Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Affairs to analyze the most-recently available BRFSS ACEs module data for Ohio (from 2015).

This fact sheet is an excerpt from the HPIO publication

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
Health impact of ACEs in Ohio

View the complete report at
www.hpio.net/adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-health-impact-of-aces-in-ohio

More ACEs resources page are available at:
www.hpio.net/resource-page-ohio-adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-impact-project