



POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Flourishing Behaviors (Adolescents)

INDICATOR

Percent of adolescents who have behaviors and characteristics indicating that they are flourishing.

Numerator Number of adolescents about whom the parent responded "Definitely True" to all three measures of flourishing

Denominator Children and adolescents aged 6 to 17

DESCRIPTION

Flourishing as a concept contains multiple dimensions of physical health, mental and emotional health, caring, empathy and resilience. This is a composite measure created by child experts at the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) using three separate questions: (1) adolescent shows interest and curiosity in learning new things, (2) adolescent stays calm and in control when faced with a challenge, and (3) adolescent finishes tasks and follows through with plans.

IMPORTANCE

Protective factors can support children and youth's successful development. This benchmark provides context to the World Health Organization's specification that health is not simply the "absence of disease" but the existence of positive psychosocial functioning (Keyes, 2007). Flourishing is positively correlated with increased school success, being in a protective home and a generally safe environment, and decreased school absences. Furthermore, flourishing behaviors are seen less in adolescents with social, emotional, or behavioral diagnoses (Bethell, 2013).

LIMITATIONS

- The response options were changed from "Never, rarely, sometimes, usually, or always true" to "Definitely true, somewhat true, or not true" in 2016.
- This construct of flourishing is limited to a small set of variables defined by NSCH and could potentially include many more concepts.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Federal Poverty Level	% Children Flourishing
Under 100% FPL	Unreliable
100-200% FPL	Unreliable
200-400% FPL	40.5%
Over 400% FPL	43.4%

National Analyses

Federal Poverty Level	% Children Flourishing
Under 100% FPL	34.5%
100-200% FPL	39.5%
200-400% FPL	39.6%
Over 400% FPL	46.1%

YEAR:

2016

WI	US	Best	Worst
39.9%	40.4%	47.6% NJ	29.1% MS

PAST YEAR:

2011/2012

WI	US
49.7%	47.7%

SOURCE

Bethell, C. (2013, November). Resilience and protective factors in childhood: Understanding the relationship of positive health indicators to home, school, and community environment. In *141st APHA Annual Meeting (November 2-November 6, 2013)*. APHA.

Keyes, C. L. (2007). Promoting and protecting mental health as flourishing: a complementary strategy for improving national mental health. *American psychologist*, 62(2), 95.

National Survey of Children's Health. (2016). Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from www.childhealthdata.org.