



CHILDHOOD RISK

ACE: Experienced Neighborhood Violence

INDICATOR

Percent of children who witnessed or were victims of neighborhood violence.

Numerator Number of children who experienced the ACE

Denominator Children aged 0-17

DESCRIPTION

This is a proxy measure for toxic stress and is included as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). This question asks parents, "Was [child's name] ever the victim of violence or witness any violence in [his/her] neighborhood?"

IMPORTANCE

Witnessing violence has been linked to increased child and youth violence, psychological distress and increased mental health issues (Kitzmann, 2003). Witnessing neighborhood violence was not an original part of the ACE study, but was added by the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), and the World Health Organization's ACE International Questionnaire, as a valid measure of acute and prolonged stress. Neighborhood cohesion provides a sense of "belonging" or "togetherness" among residents, which may be affected by witnessing or experiencing neighborhood violence. A number of studies have observed an association between youth living in a disadvantaged neighborhood and internalizing problems, such as depression and anxiety (Singh, 2012). Actual and perceived neighborhood safety can influence behavior. For example, youth living in neighborhoods where they do not feel safe may be less likely to participate in community activities (Leventhal, 2009).

LIMITATIONS

- The NSCH is completed by the parent or caregiver, who may not be aware of all of the instances of his/her child's exposure to community violence.

YEAR:

2016

WI	US	Best	Worst
4.4%	3.9%	2.0%	9.4%
		CA	DC

PAST YEAR:

2011/2012

WI	US
7.5%	8.6%

ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

Wisconsin Analyses

Race/Ethnicity
Data not available.

National Analyses

Race/Ethnicity	% of Children Experiencing Neighborhood Violence
Black, non-Hispanic	6.9%
Hispanic	4.5%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.1%
White, non-Hispanic	2.8%

SOURCE

Kitzmann, K. M., Gaylord, N. K., Holt, A. R., & Kenny, E. D. (2003). Child witnesses to domestic violence: a meta-analytic review. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 71*(2),339.

Leventhal, T., Dupéré, V., & Brooks-Gunn, J. (2009). Neighborhood influences on adolescent development. *Handbook of adolescent psychology*.

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 10/24/2017 from www.childhealthdata.org.

Singh, G. K., & Ghandour, R. M. (2012). Impact of neighborhood social conditions and household socioeconomic status on behavioral problems among US children. *Maternal and Child Health Journal, 16*(1), 158-169.