



## CHILDHOOD RISK

### ACE: Death of a Parent

#### INDICATOR

Percent of children who experienced the death of one or more parent or guardian.

**Numerator** Number of children who experienced the ACE

**Denominator** 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, “Did [child's name] ever live with a parent or guardian who died?”

#### IMPORTANCE

Death of a parent or caregiver was not in the original list of ACEs, but has been included in the National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) because of its impact on a child's psychological well-being, both short- and long-term (Nickerson, 2011).

#### LIMITATIONS

- This metric does not account for the death of non-parent caregivers or siblings, nor a parent who lived outside the home. This metric also does not include the death of a parent who the child did not live with, even if they had a relationship with them.

#### ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

##### Wisconsin Analyses

Race/Ethnicity
Data not available.

##### National Analyses

Race/Ethnicity	% of Children Experiencing Parent Death
Black, non-Hispanic	6.8%
Hispanic	3.0%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.1%
White, non-Hispanic	2.7%

#### SOURCE

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](http://www.childhealthdata.org).

Nickerson, A., Bryant, R. A., Aderka, I. M., Hinton, D. E., & Hofmann, S. G. (2013). The impacts of parental loss and adverse parenting on mental health: Findings from the National Comorbidity Survey-Replication. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 5(2), 119.

YEAR:		2016	
WI	US	Best	Worst
2.6%	3.3%	0.7%	6.2%
		SD	GA
PAST YEAR:		2011/2012	
WI	US		
2.6%	3.1%		