



## CHILDHOOD RISK

### ACE: Parent or Relative with Mental Illness

#### INDICATOR

Percent of children who lived with anyone with mental illness.

**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. This question asks parents, "Did [child's name] ever live with anyone who was mentally ill or suicidal, or severely depressed for more than a couple of weeks?"

#### IMPORTANCE

Living with someone with a mental illness is a measure of potential household dysfunction, as mental illness may preclude a parent from fully engaging with his or her children, in addition to potentially exposing a child to additional stressors due to direct (e.g. abuse) and indirect (e.g. poverty) causes (Petterson, 2001). Parental mental illness is correlated with children's negative behavior and general poor mental health (Goodman, 2011).

#### LIMITATIONS

- The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) does not distinguish between treated or untreated mental illness.

#### ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

##### Wisconsin Analyses

###### Federal Poverty Level

Data not available.

##### National Analyses

Federal Poverty Level	% of Children with a Parent with Mental Illness
Under 100% FPL	19%
100-200% FPL	11%
200-400% FPL	6%
Over 400% FPL	5%

#### SOURCE

- Goodman, S. H., Rouse, M. H., Connell, A. M., Broth, M. R., Hall, C. M., & Heyward, D. (2011). Maternal depression and child psychopathology: a meta-analytic review. *Clinical child and family psychology review*, 14(1), 1-27.
- 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).
- Petterson, S. M., & Albers, A. B. (2001). Effects of poverty and maternal depression on early child development. *Child development*, 72(6), 1794-1813.