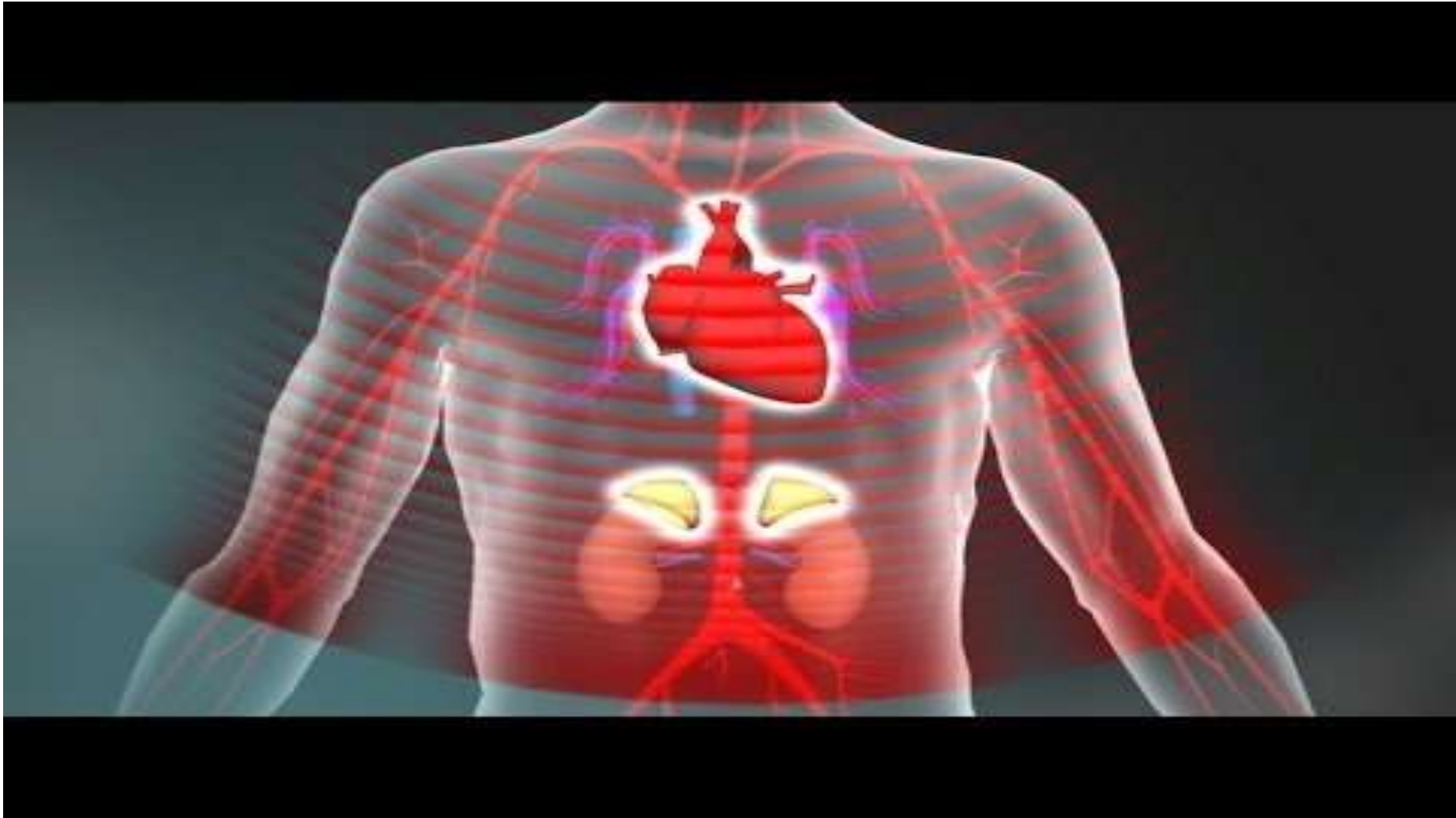

HELPING EARLY LEARNERS OVERCOME BARRIERS TO HEALTHY SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

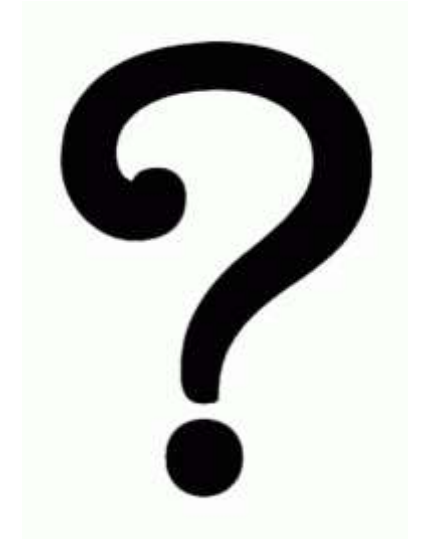
EARLY LEARNING FELLOWS | AUGUST 26, 2019



Brain: Biology + Experience







How can policymakers help early learners overcome barriers to healthy social emotional development?

- **Meghan McCann, J.D., NCSL**
 - *What are adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their effects?*
 - *What are policy options to address and prevent ACEs?*
 - *What are strategies to support resiliency in early learners?*
- **Gail Joseph, PhD., University of Washington**
 - *How is social emotional development supported in early learning settings?*
 - *What do early educators need?*
 - *What are the policy implications?*

NCSL'S WORK ON ACES

- Collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop resources and disseminate them to state legislatures
- Track 50-state legislation on ACEs
- Connect legislators with national experts
- Highlight state innovations
- One-stop webpage



ACEs or other
traumatic
experiences

ACEs or other
traumatic
experiences

Toxic stress

Toxic stress



Mental health
problems and
challenging
behavior



Resiliency
factors



Adults and
caregivers

ACES OVERVIEW

Abuse

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual

Neglect

- Physical
- Emotional

Household Challenges

- Mental Illness
- Incarcerated Parent
- Domestic Violence
- Parental Substance Abuse
- Divorce

EFFECTS OF ACES

Behavior

- Lack of physical activity
- Smoking
- Alcohol abuse
- Drug use
- Missed work
- Early sexual initiation
- Multiple sexual partners

Physical & Mental Health

- Severe obesity
- Diabetes
- Depression
- Suicide attempts
- STDs
- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Stroke
- COPD
- Adolescent pregnancy and unintended pregnancy
- Quality of life

Other Outcomes

- Lack of school readiness
- Poor academic achievement/
Low educational attainment
- Low workforce preparation
and poor work performance
- Financial stress
- Continued disparities/cycle of
poverty
- Intergenerational ACEs



COST OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

ECONOMIC TOLL

The lifetime cost of non-fatal child maltreatment (which covers 5 of 10 ACEs) incurred annually in the United States is **\$401 billion**.



Peterson, C., Florence, C., & Klevens, J. (2018). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States, 2015. *Child abuse & neglect*, 86, 178-183.

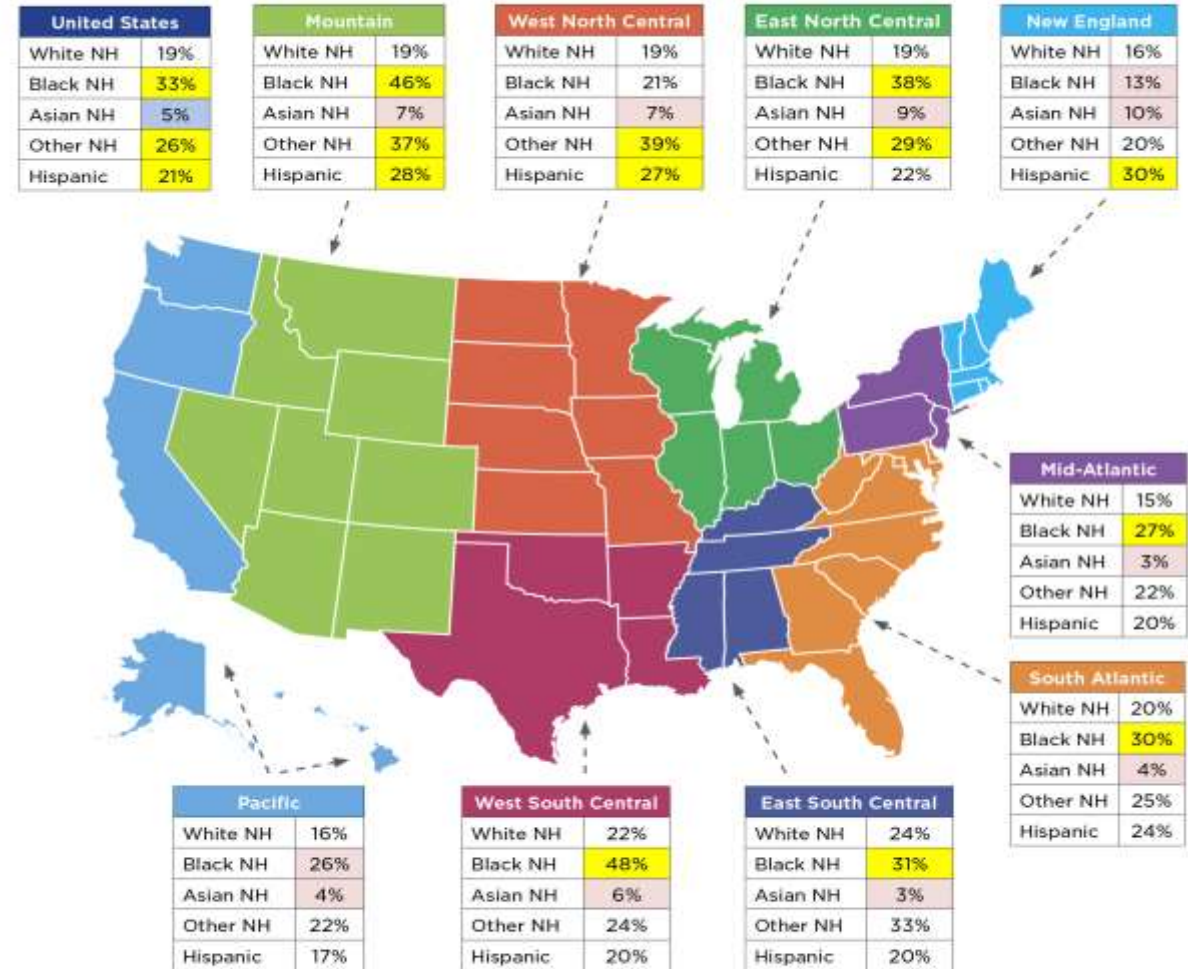
The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2015 non-fatal child maltreatment estimates

Percentage of children with 2 or more ACEs

According to a 2018 Child Trends report:

- Just under half (45 percent) of children in the United States have experienced at least one ACE.
- One in ten children nationally has experienced three or more ACEs, placing them in a category of especially high risk.
- Children of different races and ethnicities do not experience ACEs equally. National percentages of children experiencing at least one ACE:
 - 61 percent of black non-Hispanic
 - 51 percent of Hispanic children
 - 40 percent of white non-Hispanic children
 - 23 percent of Asian non-Hispanic children.



NH=Non-Hispanic

Yellow shading = Percentage is higher than white non-Hispanic children at a statistically significant level.
 Blue shading = Percentage is lower than white non-Hispanic children at a statistically significant level.
 Red shading = Estimate should be interpreted with caution, because the relative confidence interval is greater than 120 percent. See the "About the data used in this report" section for more information.

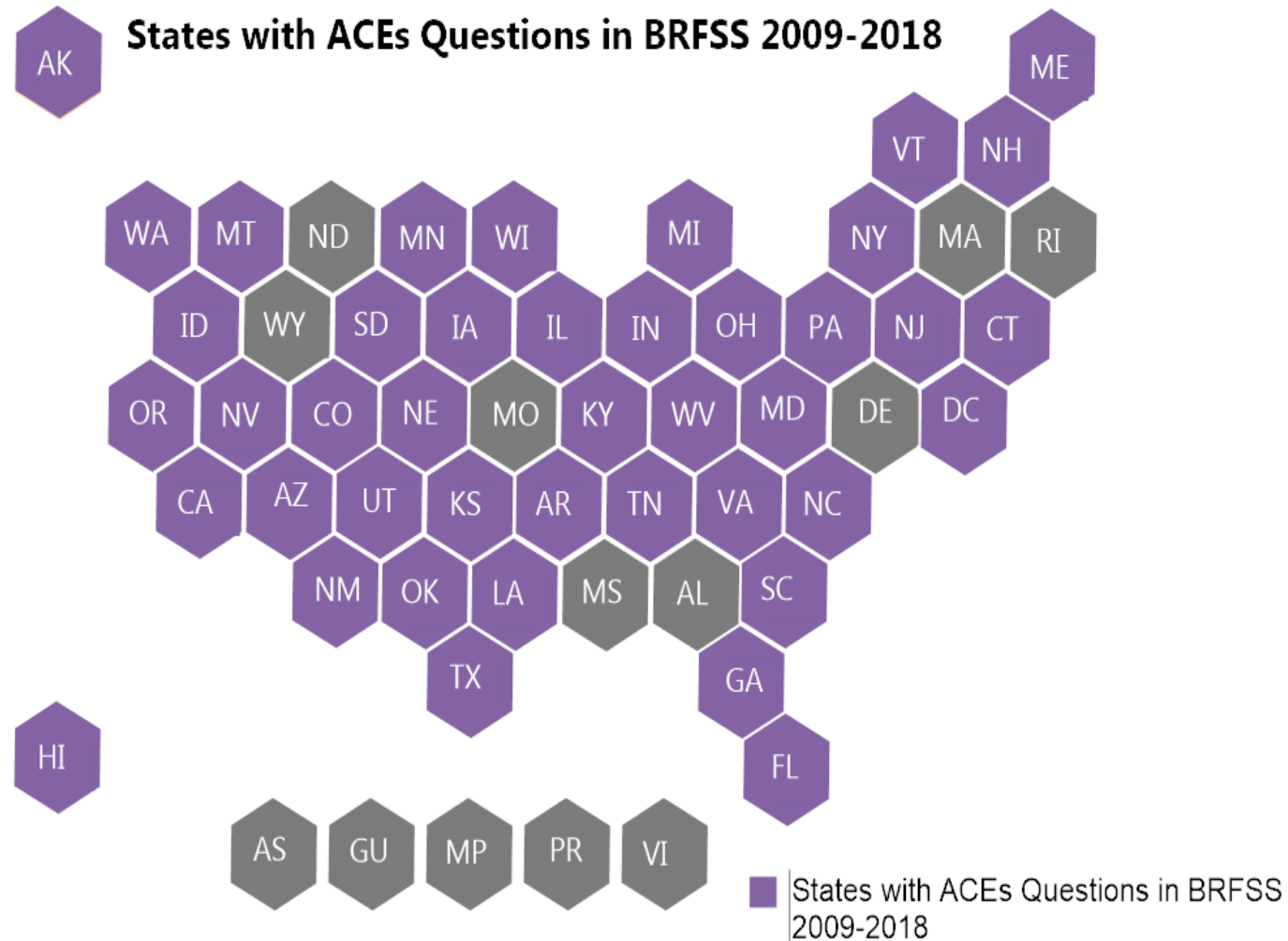
STATE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ACES AND PREVENT TRAUMA

- ACEs Specific Legislation
- Know the Data
 - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Statewide Approaches
- Family Economic Stability
- Increase Screening and Treatment
 - Mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Build Resiliency
 - Family Engagement
 - Quality early child care and education



BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (BRFSS)

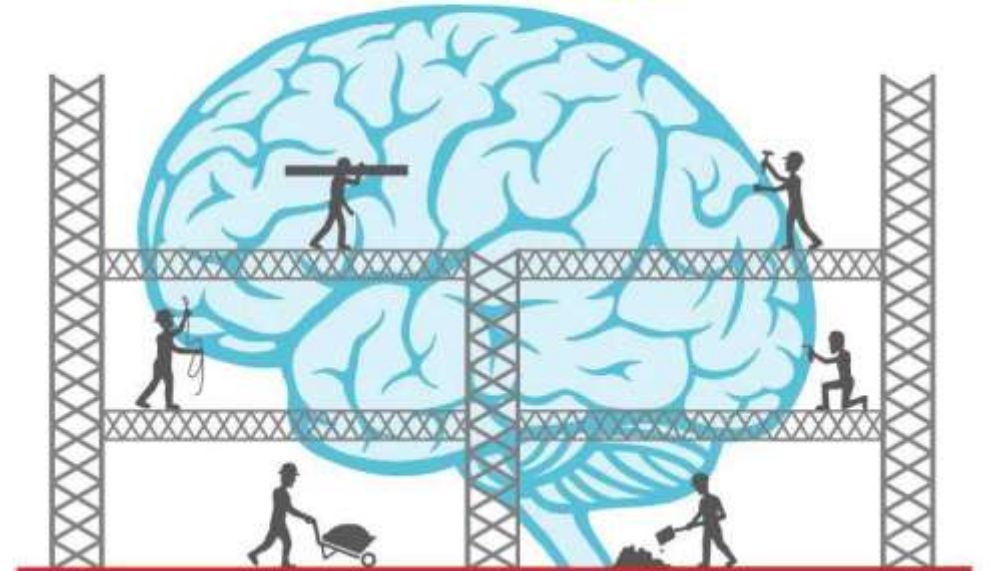
- There are BRFSS sites in all 50 states, D.C. and several territories
- 42 states and D.C. included ACE questions in their BRFSS survey for at least one year between 2009-2018
- Wisconsin has included ACE questions on this annual survey more frequently than other states



STATEWIDE APPROACHES

- Tennessee
 - Building Strong Brains
- Wisconsin
 - Fostering Futures
 - Children's Caucus
- South Carolina
 - Legislative Interviews Study

BUILDING STRONG BRAINS TENNESSEE



FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY

- Improving family economic stability can reduce parental stress and be seen as a prevention, as well as an intervention, strategy for addressing ACEs and mitigating their long-term effects.
 - Two-Generation Strategies
 - Home Visiting
 - Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
 - Child Support Policy



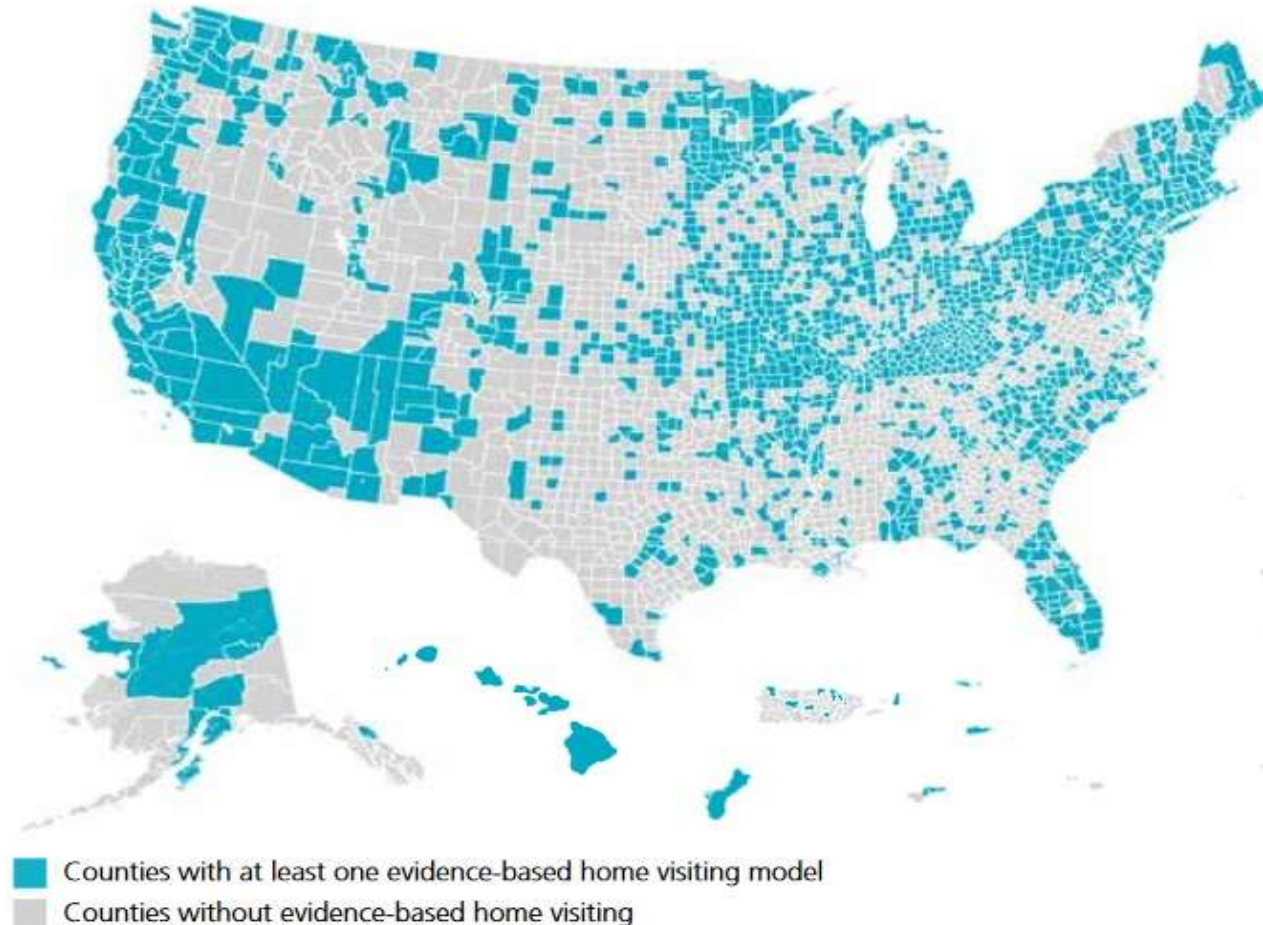
TWO-GENERATION STRATEGIES

- Two-generation, intergenerational, multi-generational or whole-family strategies simultaneously address the needs of parents and children to improve outcomes for the whole family.
- Born from the idea that when parents thrive, so do children, and vice versa.
- State Approaches:
 - Expanding existing programs
 - Connecticut is using home visiting to provide workforce support to parents
 - Coordinating multiple programs
 - Maine's Family Futures Downeast
 - Massachusetts: UTEC-Lowell
 - Statewide approach
 - Colorado, Connecticut, Mississippi, Tennessee



HOME VISITING AS PREVENTION STRATEGY

Evidence-Based Home Visiting by County, 2016



Source: National Home Visiting Resource Center, 2018

Prevention Strategy:

- Two-generation, or whole family, approach to preventing child abuse and neglect and other trauma
- Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) was cited as the only evidence based program known to reduce the likelihood of child fatality

Evidence-Based:

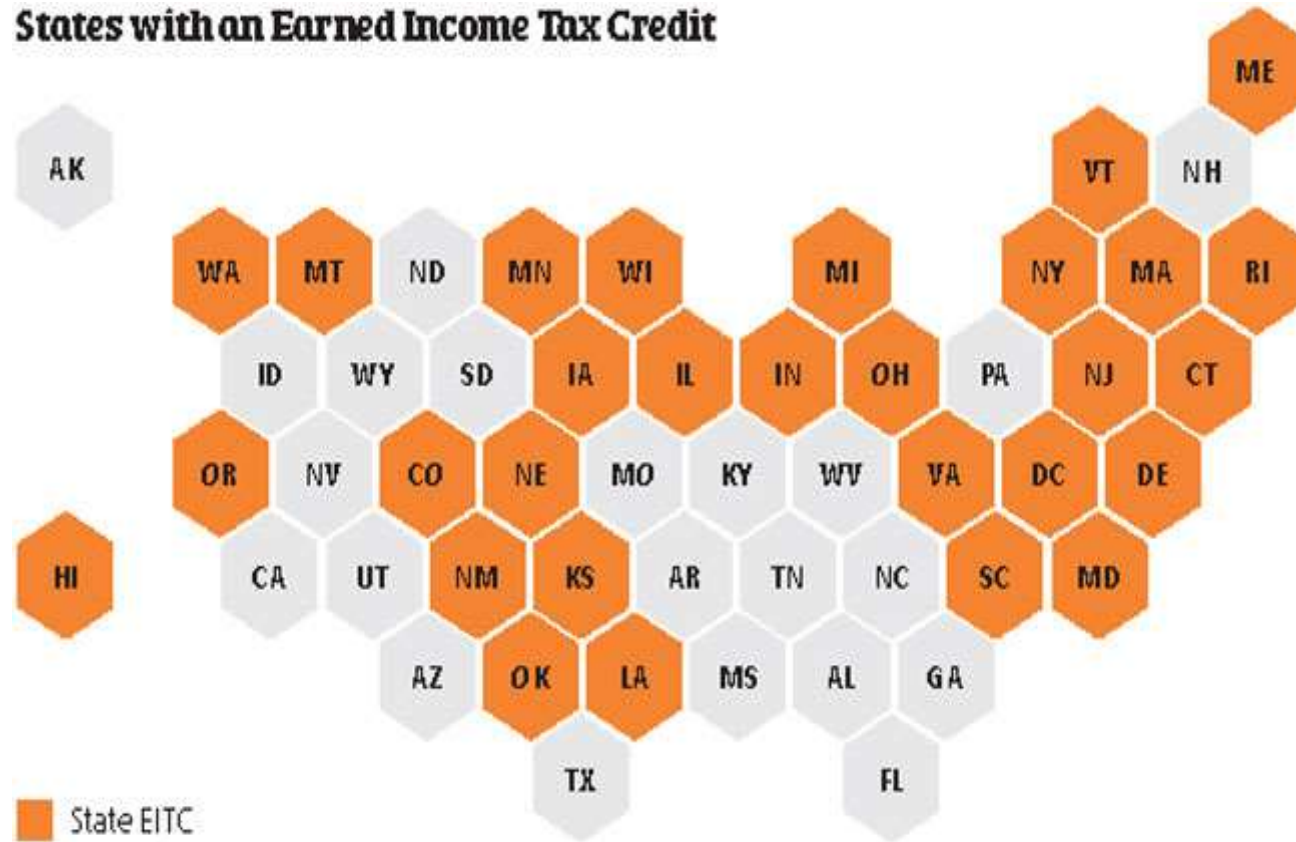
- As of Sept. 2017, 18 programs met federal evidence-based criteria.
- Family First Prevention Services Act



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

States with an Earned Income Tax Credit



- Federal EITC
- State EITC in 29 states, D.C., Guam and Puerto Rico
- In 2016, the EITC lifted nearly 6 million people, half of them children, out of poverty
- State Action
 - Increasing the amount
 - Staggering payment

CHILD SUPPORT POLICY

On average, child support payments represent 40 percent of income for poor custodial families who receive it, and lifted one million people above poverty in 2008.

Pass-Through and Disregard

- At least 25 states have a pass-through and disregard policy
- Range from \$50 to 100% of collections
- 96%, or \$27.4 billion, of distributed collections went directly to families in 2017

Child Support and Employment Services

- Partnerships between child support programs and temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) to provide employment services to noncustodial parents who owe child support
- Child Support Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED) Grantees
- Using TANF funds



BUILDING RESILIENCY

According to the Center for the Developing Child:

- Research has identified a common set of factors that predispose children to positive outcomes in the face of significant adversity.
 - Facilitating supportive adult-child relationships
 - Building a sense of self-efficacy and perceived control
 - Providing opportunities to strengthen adaptive skills and self-regulatory capacities; and
 - Mobilizing sources of faith, hope, and cultural traditions.

HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Why early care and education?

- Builds resiliency
- Promotes social and emotional development
- Supports school readiness
- Return on investment
 - Up to 13% return on investment
 - \$2-17 return for every \$1 spent

What have states considered?

- Affordability
 - Child care subsidies
 - State-funded Pre-K
- Access
 - Supporting growth of workforce
- Quality
 - Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)
 - Ensuring quality workforce
- Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)



QUESTIONS?



Meghan McCann

Senior Policy Specialist

NCSL's Children and Families Program

Meghan.McCann@ncsl.org

303-856-1404



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