
STATE STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF TOXIC STRESS IN CHILDHOOD

MATERIALS PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

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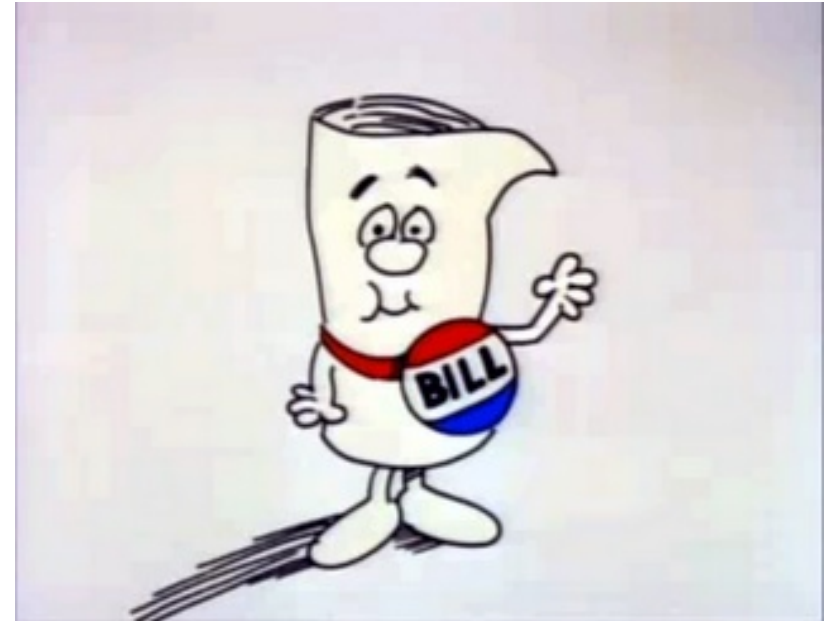
OUTLINE

- About NCSL
- Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect
- Home Visiting
- Other State Strategies



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

- Bipartisan, membership organization
 - Each of the 50 states and all territories
 - 7,383 state legislators
 - 30,000+ state legislative staff
- Research, education, technical assistance
- Mission:
 - Improve the quality & effectiveness of state legislatures
 - Promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures
 - Ensure states have a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system



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



ACES OVERVIEW

Abuse

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual

Neglect

- Physical
- Emotional

Household Challenges

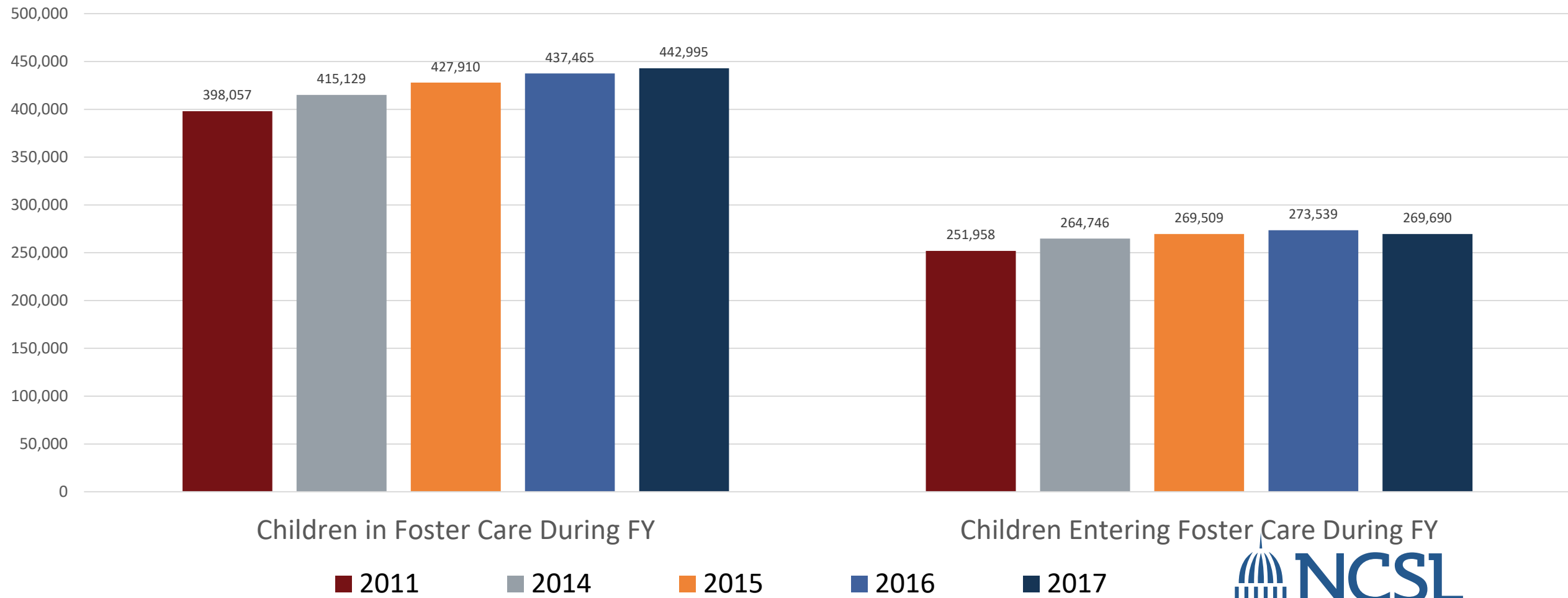
- Mental Illness
- Incarcerated Parent
- Domestic Violence
- Parental Substance Abuse
- Divorce

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- Number of children in foster care is increasing
- Children under the age of 1 entering foster care is increasing
- Child abuse and neglect is costly to states
- Home visiting as a prevention strategy



INCREASING FOSTER CARE CASELOADS AND ENTRIES

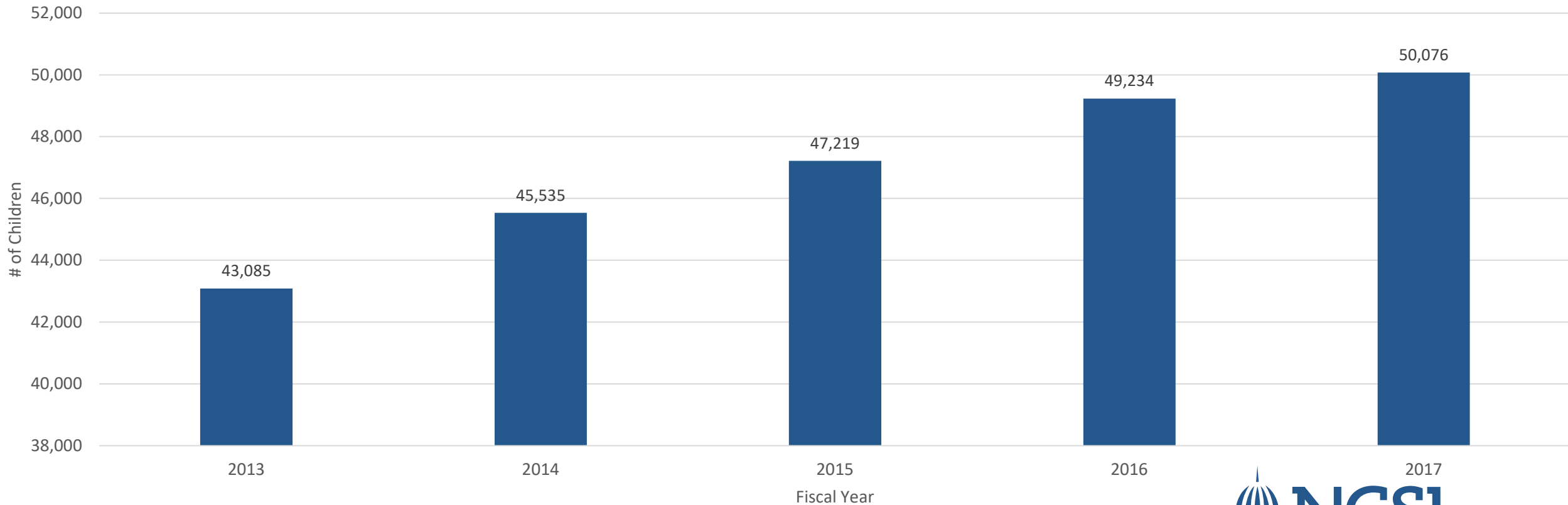


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Source: AFCARS

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 1 ENTERING FOSTER CARE IS INCREASING, THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE, BY AGE GROUP, OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE

of Children Under Age 1 Entering Foster Care during FY
Represents 19% of all Entries



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COST OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Lifetime Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect = \$124 billion

\$83.5 BILLION
PRODUCTIVITY LOSS

\$25 BILLION
HEALTH CARE

\$4.6 BILLION
SPECIAL EDUCATION

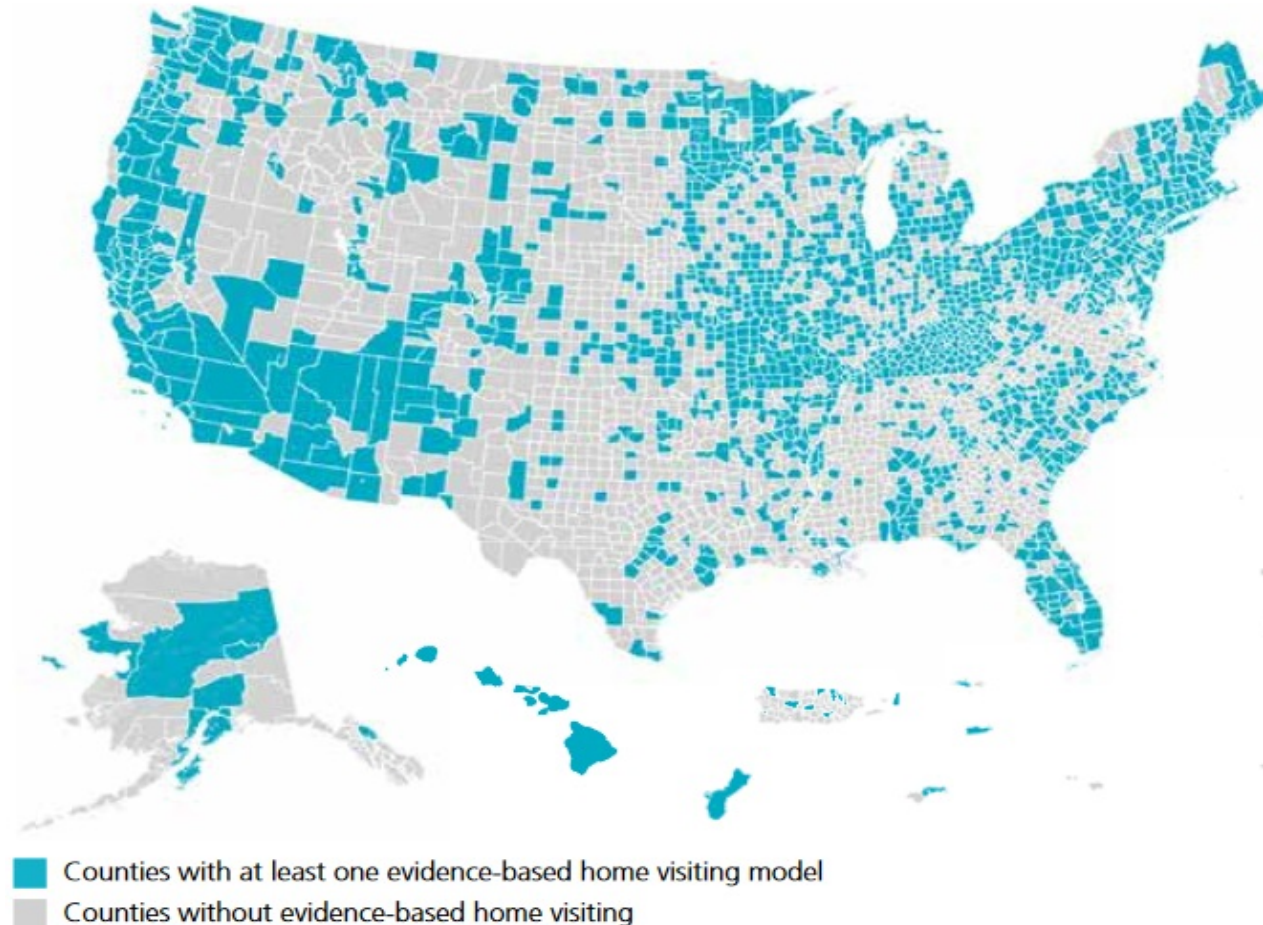
\$4.4 BILLION
CHILD WELFARE

\$3.9 BILLION
CRIMINAL JUSTICE



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:

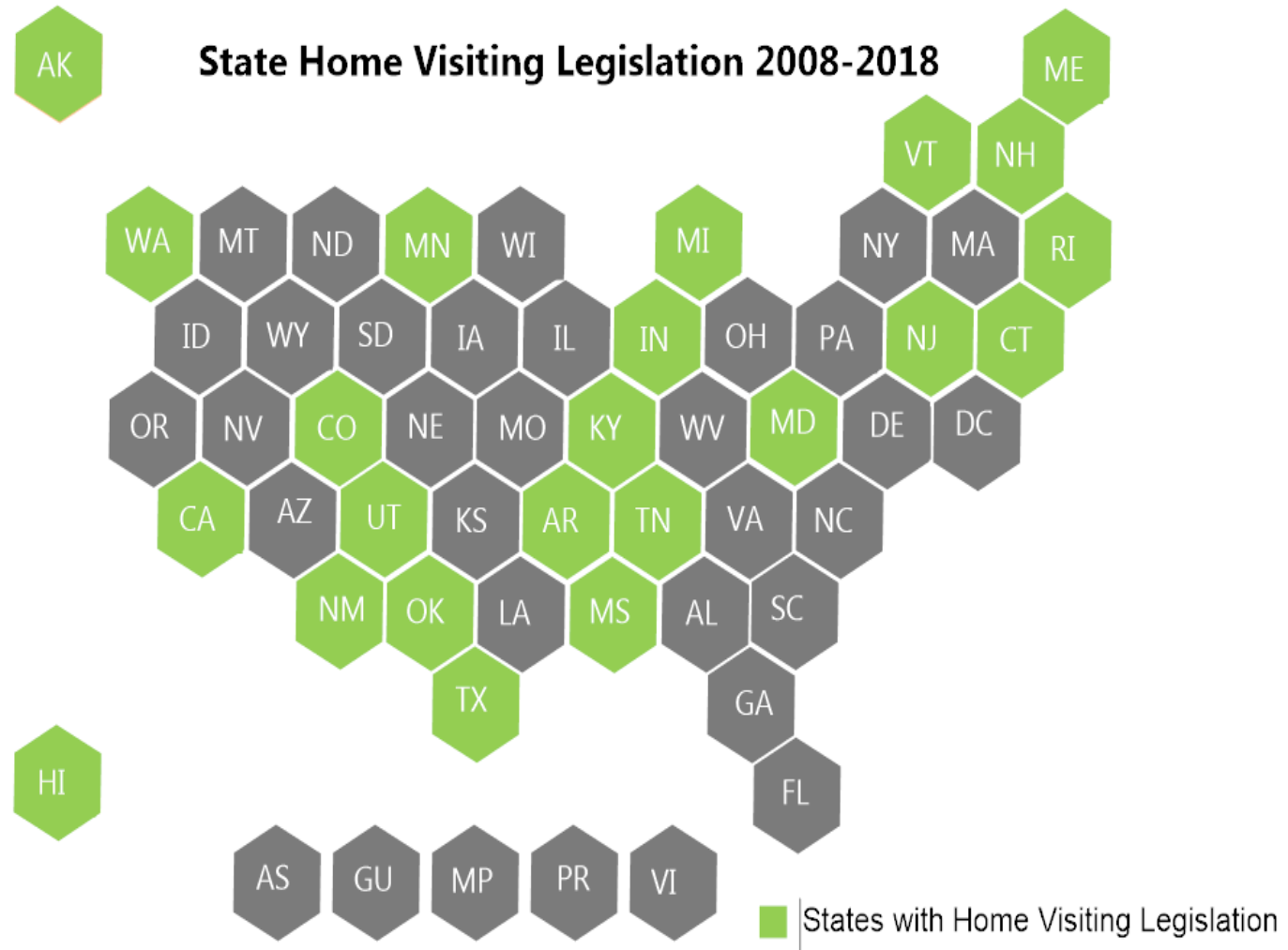
- As of Sept. 2017, 18 programs met federal evidence-based criteria.
- Family First Prevention Services Act



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STATE LEGISLATION ON HOME VISITING

- Since 2008, at least 22 states have enacted home visiting legislation on a variety of topics:
 - Establishment and implementation
 - Funding
 - Performance outcomes and measures
 - State agency coordination
- Recent conversations have been about universal, versus targeted, home visiting programs.



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



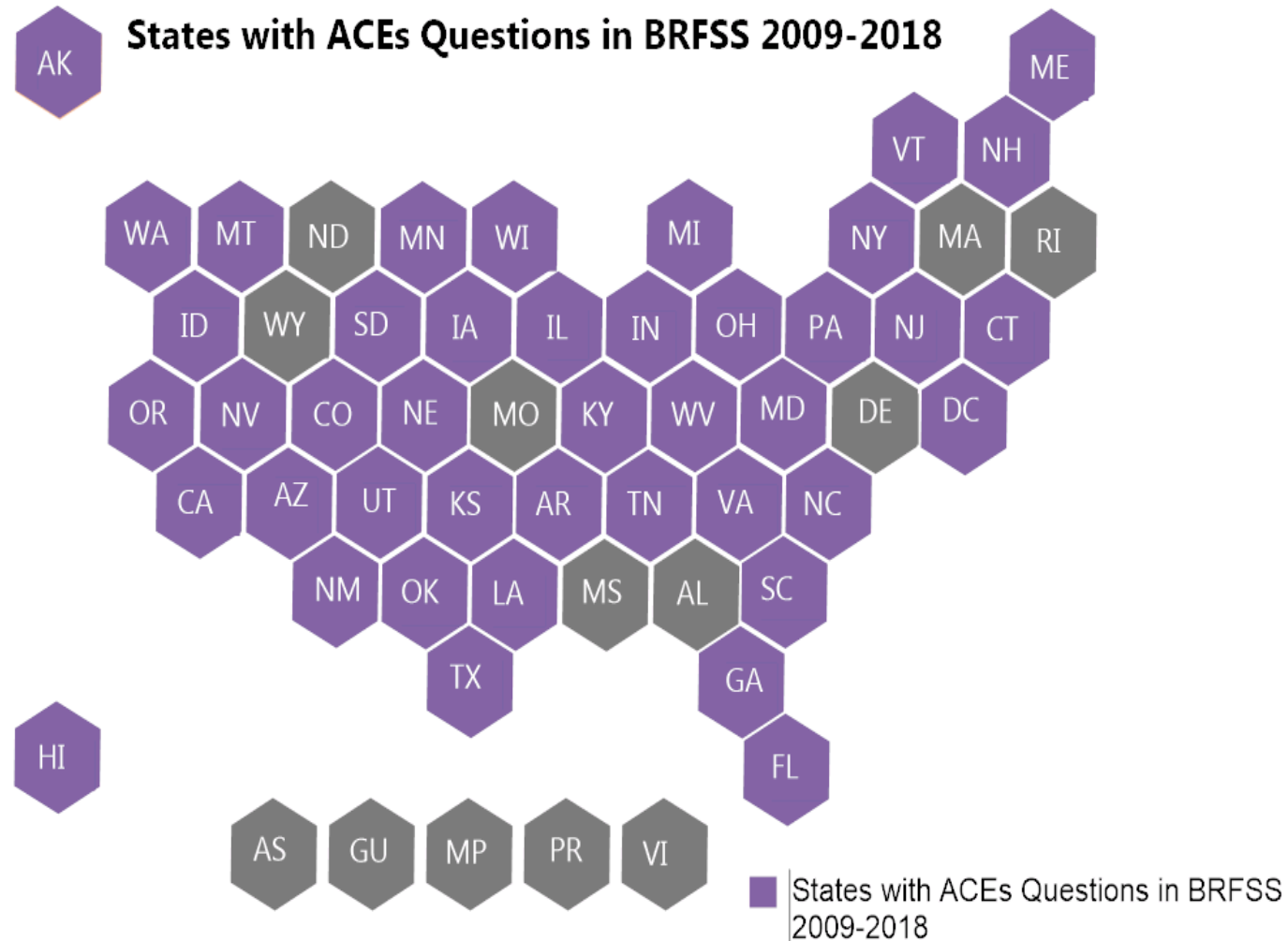
STATE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ACES AND PREVENT TRAUMA

- Know the Data
 - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Build Resiliency
 - Quality early child care and education
- Reduce Parental Stress and Improve Family Economic Stability
- Increase Screening and Treatment
 - Mental health and substance abuse treatment



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

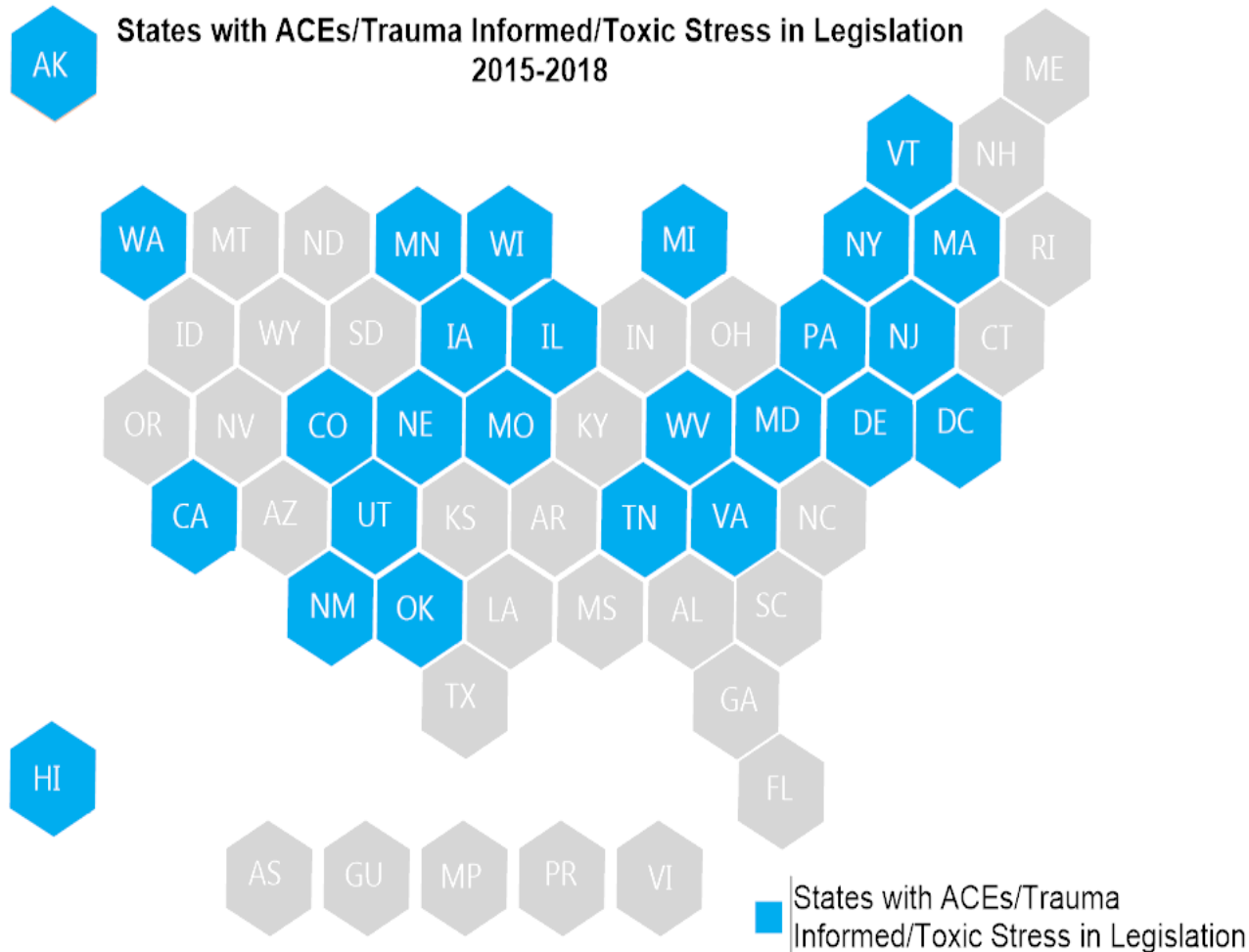


WHAT WE KNOW

- Early preventive intervention will be more efficient and produce more favorable outcomes than remediation later in life.
- Supportive relationships and positive learning experiences begin at home but can also be provided through a range of services with proven effectiveness factors.
- Babies' brains require stable, caring interactive relationships with adults.
- A balanced approach to emotional, social, cognitive, and language development will best prepare all children for success in school and later in the workplace and community.



STATE LEGISLATION ADDRESSING ACES



- Since 2015, 27 states have considered nearly 118 bills on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) or childhood trauma.
 - Develop a program
 - Awareness/day of recognition
 - Trauma informed approaches
 - Funding
 - Task forces, commissions etc.
 - Screening and assessment

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)



FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY

- Two-Generation Strategies
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Workplace Policy
 - Minimum wage
 - Paid family leave
- Child Support Policy
 - Pass-through and disregard policies



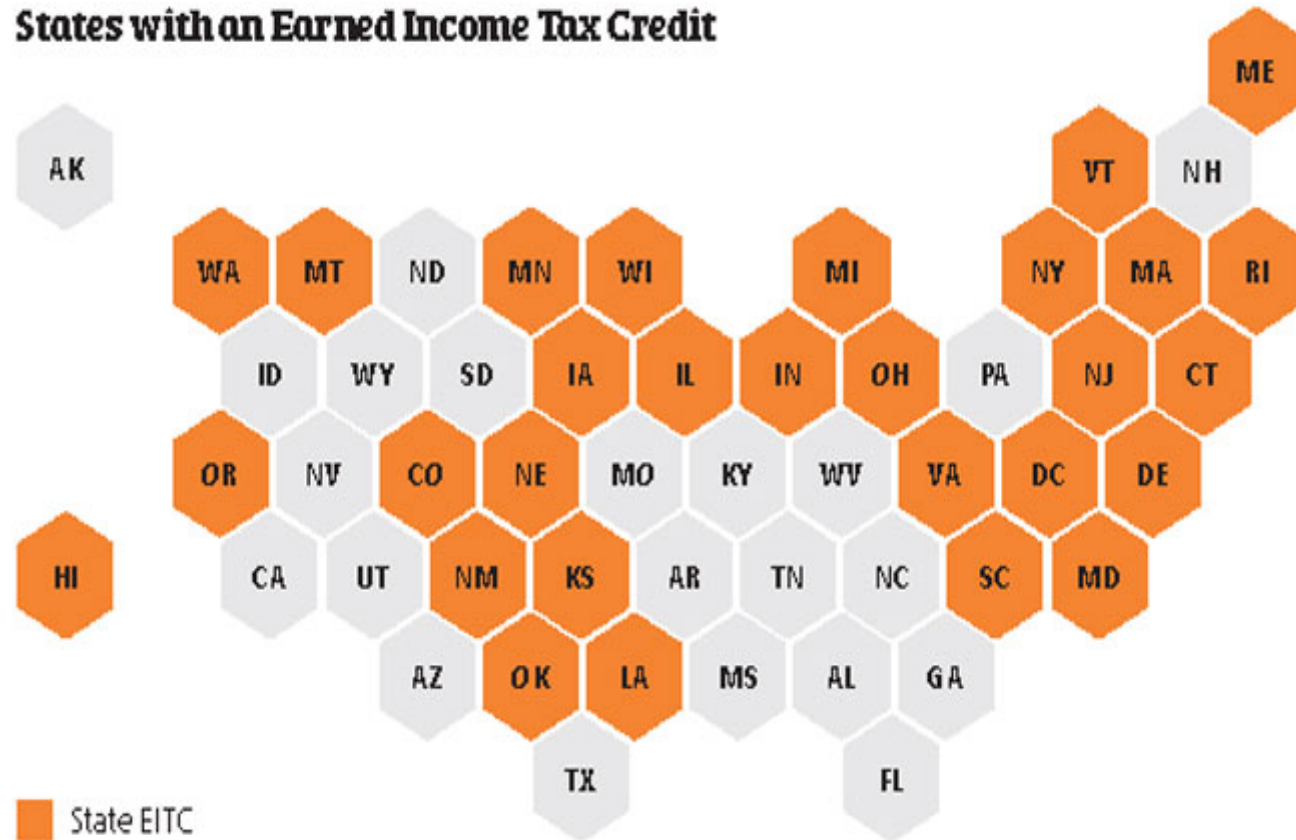
TWO-GENERATION STRATEGIES

- 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



EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

States with an Earned Income Tax Credit

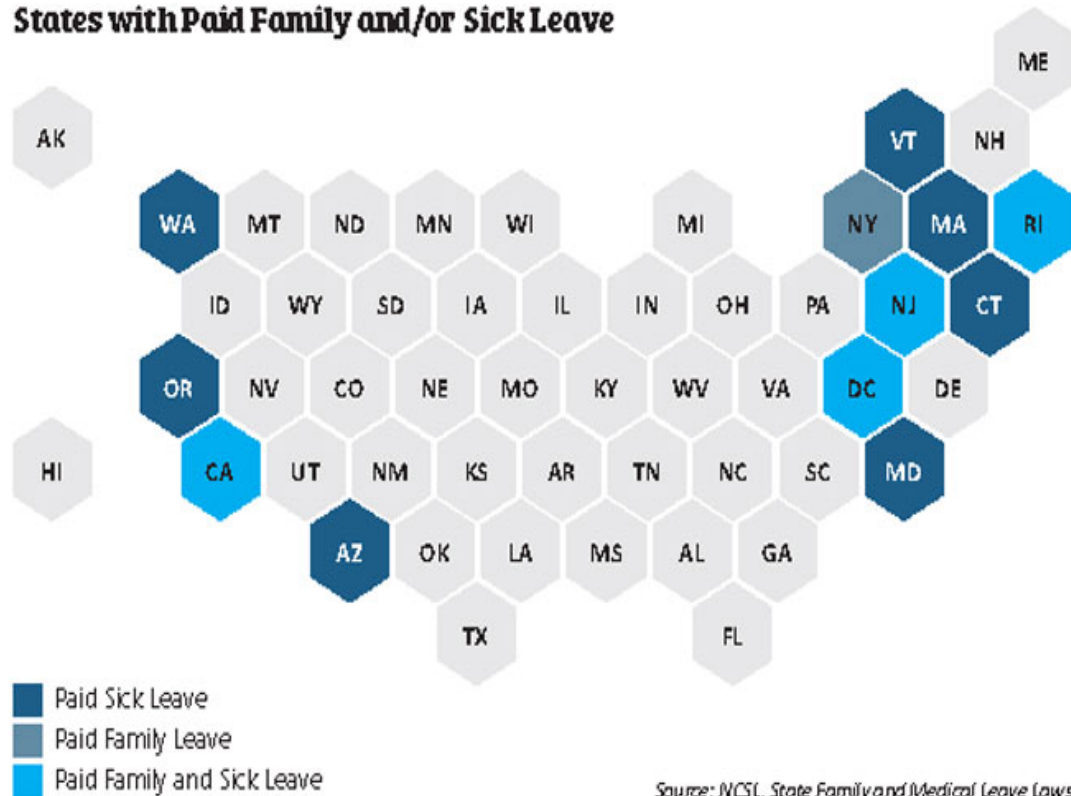


- Federal EITC
- State EITC in 29 states, D.C., Guam and Puerto Rico
- In 2016, the EITC lifted nearly 6 million people, half of them children, out of poverty
- State Action
 - Increasing the amount
 - Staggering payment

FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE POLICY

Paid Family Leave

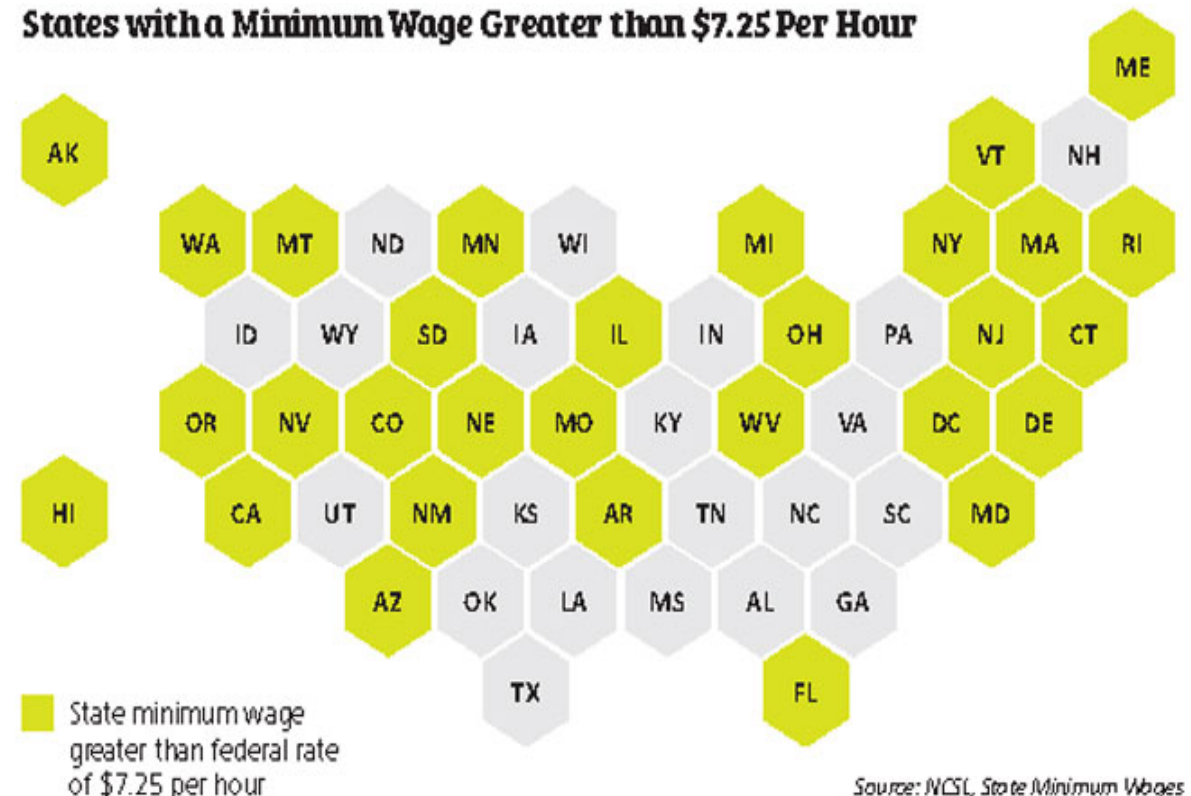
States with Paid Family and/or Sick Leave



Source: NCSL, State Family and Medical Leave Laws

Minimum Wage

States with a Minimum Wage Greater than \$7.25 Per Hour



Source: NCSL, State Minimum Wages

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

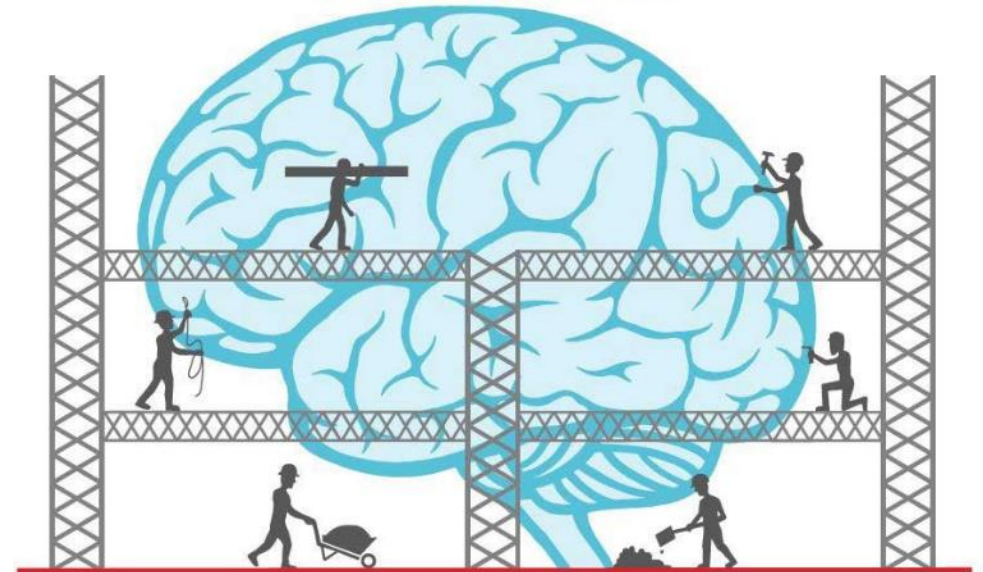
- Partnerships between child support programs and temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) to provide employment services to noncustodial parents who owe child support
- Child Support Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED) Grantees
- Using TANF funds



BUILDING STRONG BRAINS TENNESSEE

- Increase the potential that every child born in Tennessee has the opportunity to lead a healthy, productive life.
- Raise public knowledge about ACEs.
- Impact public policy in Tennessee to support prevention of ACEs
- Support innovative local and state projects
- Seek sustainable funding to ensure the state maintains a long-term commitment to reduce the impact of adverse childhood experiences.
- Embrace open, responsive governance through statewide planning groups and the Three Branches Institute

BUILDING STRONG BRAINS TENNESSEE



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WISCONSIN'S FOSTERING FUTURES

A horizontal banner with a central orange section. On the left, a silhouette of a man holding a child. On the right, silhouettes of a woman and two children, one of whom is on a swing. The central orange section contains the title and text.

THE SCIENCE OF HOPE

The Science of Hope and recent advances in neuroscience show us that if we interact with affected children at a young enough age, in a positive way, we can help them to build resilience. One adult can make a difference. By being a consistent, positive influence in a child's life, you can change his or her life for good.

FINAL WORD: DR. NADINE BURKE HARRIS



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QUESTIONS?



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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur before the age of 18. Such experiences can result in toxic stress, which has been shown to interfere with a person's health and other life outcomes.
- The impact of ACEs and toxic stress are not predetermined.
- States have been exploring various policy options including providing high quality early childhood care and education and improving family economic stability by applying a two-generation lens to family friendly workplace and child support policies.