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
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

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

Source: AFCARS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th># of Children</th>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>43,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>45,535</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>47,219</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>49,234</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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Source: AFCARS
COST OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Lifetime Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect = $124 billion

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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

Source: National Home Visiting Resource Center, 2018
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.

Source: NCSL’s ECE Legislation Database
### 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
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.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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.

Source: Center on the Developing Child-Harvard University
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

Source: NCSL’s Injury Prevention Database
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, 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

Source: NCSL’s Two Generation Strategies Toolkit
EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)

- 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

Source: NCSL’s Tax Credits for Working Families
FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE POLICY

Paid Family Leave

States with Paid Family and/or Sick Leave

Minimum Wage

States with a Minimum Wage Greater than $7.25 Per Hour

Source: NCSL, State Family and Medical Leave Laws

Source: NCSL, State Minimum Wage
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.
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
QUESTIONS?

Meghan McCann
Senior Policy Specialist
NCSL’s Children and Families Program
Meghan.McCann@ncsl.org
303-856-1404
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.