

School-Based Mental Health Support for

Rhode Island Youth:

Policy Recommendations to Address Students' Exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences

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Research shows that 47% of children in Rhode Island have experienced adverse childhood events (ACEs) that impact their development.

ACEs occur within contexts of historical and systemic oppression and inequity.

Ethnically and racially minoritized youth are less likely to receive mental health support and treatment compared with their white peers.



Students who received low grades and were suspended or expelled within the past year were more likely to have experienced ACEs—including bullying, community violence, foster care placement, and housing instability.



Exposure to traumatic and adverse events affects children's emotional wellbeing, health, and brain development.

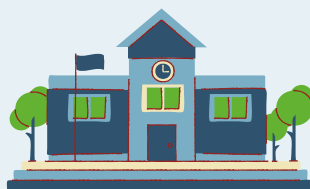
Nationally, children exposed to a greater number of traumatic and adverse events are more likely to suffer from academic problems, behavioral problems, and social problems.



To overcome these traumas, Rhode Island's school children must have access to mental health resources in schools.

Up to 70% of children and adolescents with mental health disorders do not receive mental health services.

Up to 80% of youth who do receive mental health services receive it within their schools.



Rhode Island needs to invest in improving access to mental health in schools in a sustainable manner.

Efforts should be made to recruit and retain multilingual and racially diverse mental health professionals.



Source

Brabeck, K. (2020). School-Based Mental Health Support for Rhode Island Youth: Policy Recommendations to Address Students' Exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences. Social Policy Hub for Equity Research in Education (SPHERE).