

The local adversity data source was a modified version of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), designed and validated by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This version was modified to include questions about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).





Making it a Reality - Monroe County, NY



1. Champions

The Monroe County Office of Mental Health and CCSI Staff collaborated with the Department of Public Health and local school districts to increase interest in understanding local rates of ACEs.



2. Prevalence

Based on its frequency of use, Monroe County selected the Youth Risk Behavior Survey as the vehicle for data collection. By community consensus 11 ACEs questions were added to this survey beginning in 2015 and repeated every two years.



3. Risk

An in-depth analysis correlating students' ACE scores with risk related to negative coping behaviors and academic progress demonstrated undeniable relationships between increasing ACEs and risk for negative academic, health, and behavioral outcomes.



4. Assets

The analysis identified three key assets that mitigate the risk for negative outcomes even for students with 2 or more ACEs. These assets are the foundation of school and community based intervention strategies:

- **A.** I have a positive, caring consistent adult
- **B.** I receive encouragement at school
- **C.** I feel valued by my community



5. Communication

The results of this analysis was shared broadly through a strategic communication plan that included: A community forum, individual presentations at area school districts, and targeted communication with additional stakeholders such as medical providers, community-based organizations, parent networks, and County Government.



6. Collaboration

Fourteen school districts, three community-based organizations, one major health/hospital system, the Monroe County Office of Mental Health, the homeless shelter serving youth and three funding/advocacy organizations have formed the Resilience Learning Collaborative.



7. Focusing Efforts

The Resilience Learning Collaborative employs the Reaching Teens Toolkit as a common resource to support change initiatives. The collaborative identifies shared priorities, creates common strategies and materials to drive change, and maintains ongoing monitoring through continued use of the YRBS/ACEs Analyses.

Additional information on this topic is available on the websites for CCSI (www.ccsi.org/ACEs) and Monroe County (www.monroecounty.gov/mh-TIGResources).