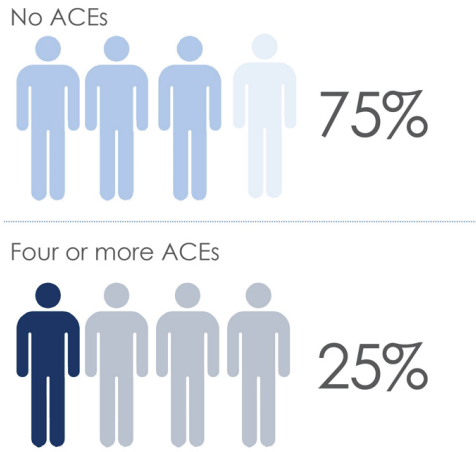


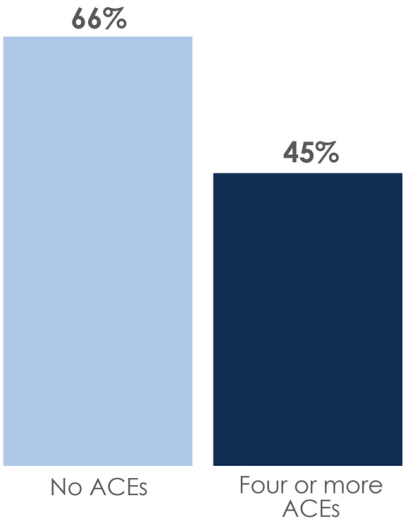
**Social connections for teens can mitigate harms of adverse childhood experiences**

**Social connections for Ohio high school students, by ACEs, 2021**

**Have a trusted adult**  
 Percent of high school students in Ohio who felt like they could most of the time or always talk to an adult in their life about their feelings



**Have a trusted friend**  
 Percent of high school students in Ohio who felt like they could most of the time or always talk to a friend about their feelings



**Source:** HPIO policy brief “Protecting against the harms of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).” Data from Youth Risk Behavior Survey via Ohio Department of Health, 2021

**Graphic of the week**

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio’s recently released policy brief “**Protecting against the harms of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)**” found that while ACEs can be traumatic, the harms associated with them are not inevitable.

One potential protective factor against ACEs is supportive relationships outside of the family, such as neighbors, mentors and peers.

As illustrated above, students with four or more ACEs were less likely to report having a trusted adult or friend to talk to compared to students with no ACEs. Research has shown similar results

elsewhere, demonstrating that children with the greatest risk of ACEs often have the least access to mitigating factors.

Since 2020, HPIO has analyzed ACEs and what Ohio can do to address them. Informed by a [multi-sector advisory group](#), HPIO's [Ohio ACEs Impact Project](#) includes a series of policy briefs and an [online resource page](#) to build on and amplify current efforts to address ACEs in Ohio.

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, HPIO will host a webinar to explore factors that can protect against ACEs and their harms. For more information and to register, visit [//www.hpio.net/events](http://www.hpio.net/events).

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## Trump election likely brings major changes to federal health policy

Former President Donald Trump's election victory will likely give a far broader platform to skeptics and critics of federal health programs and actions (Source: ["Trump's White House Return Poised To Tangle Health Care Safety Net,"](#) KFF Health News, Nov. 6, 2024).

While Trump has said he will not try again to repeal the Affordable Care Act, his administration will face an immediate decision next year on whether to back an extension of enhanced premium subsidies for ACA insurance plans. Without the enhanced subsidies, steep premium increases causing lower enrollment are projected. The current uninsured rate, [about 8%](#), would almost certainly rise.

Within Trump's circles, some names have already been floated as possible leaders for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). They include former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Seema Verma, who ran the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services during the Trump administration.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who suspended his independent presidential run and endorsed Trump, has told his supporters that Trump promised him control of HHS. Trump said publicly before Election Day that he would give Kennedy a big role in his administration, but he may have difficulty

winning Senate confirmation for a Cabinet position.

While Trump has vowed to protect Medicare and said he supports funding home care benefits, he's been less specific about his intentions for Medicaid. Some health analysts expect the program will be especially vulnerable to spending cuts, which could help finance the extension of tax breaks that expire at the end of next year.

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## **CDC: Healthcare-associated infections in U.S. hospitals declined last year**

Newly released CDC data shows that healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) in U.S. hospitals fell last year (Source: ["CDC: US hospitals saw declines in healthcare-associated infections last year,"](#) CIDRAP News Brief, Nov. 7).

The [2023 National and State HAI Progress Report](#), based on data from 38,000 hospitals and rehabilitation centers, shows overall declines in HAIs compared with 2022. The declines, primarily seen in acute-care hospitals, reflect a continuing downward trend in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with some HAIs falling below pre-pandemic levels.

Previous CDC reports showed that HAI rates in U.S. hospitals rose significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in HAIs, which followed years of declines, resulted from overwhelmed hospitals having fewer resources to devote to infection prevention and control and patient safety.

"While much progress has been made, more needs to be done to prevent healthcare-associated infections in a variety of settings," the CDC [said](#). "Full engagement between local, state and federal public health agencies and their partners in the healthcare sector through initiatives such as prevention collaboratives is vital to sustaining and extending HAI surveillance and prevention progress."

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## USDA, federal Department of Education announce plan to address food insecurity on college campuses

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Education announced an agreement aimed at addressing food insecurity among college students (Source: “[USDA partners with Department of Education to tackle food insecurity on college campuses](#),” The Hill, Nov. 7).

In a [press release issued Thursday](#), the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service and the Education Department’s office of Federal Student Aid announced plans to increase awareness among college students of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides assistance to purchase food for individuals and families with low incomes.

The release [cites a recent report](#) from the Government Accountability Office that found that nearly a quarter — about 3.8 million — of college students experienced hunger in 2020.

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