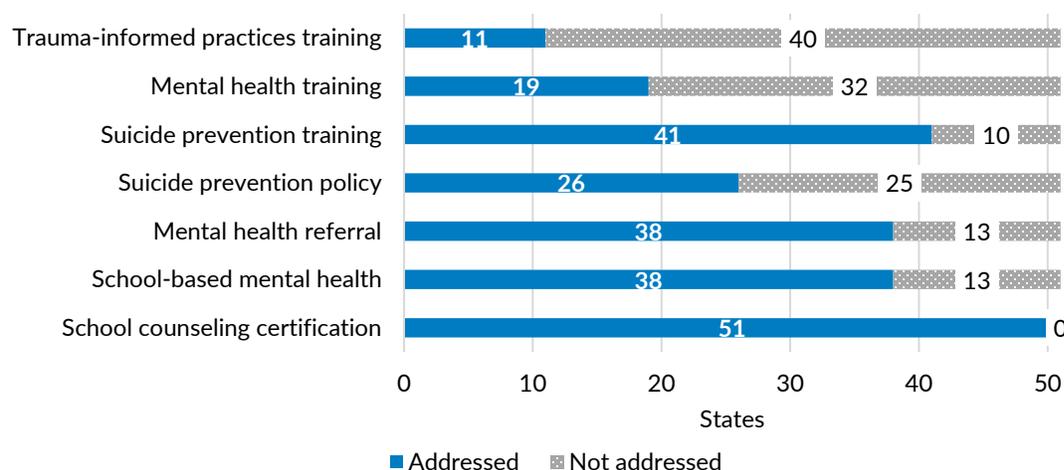


- **All states address the qualifications of school counseling staff.** Thirty-seven states require school counselors to hold an advanced degree with field work, such as a practicum, internship, or prior teaching experience. Such qualifications requirements help ensure school-based practitioners have the specialized training needed to address the complex mental health needs of children and adolescents in schools.

How comprehensively do states cover counseling, psychological, and social services?

- **Twenty-six states moderately (range: 40 percent to 70 percent) and 22 states comprehensively (range: 80 percent to 100 percent) cover topics related to counseling, psychological, and social services.**
- **States with the least comprehensive coverage of counseling, psychological, and social services topics include Arizona, Ohio, and South Dakota.** These states also tend toward less comprehensive policies, generally.

Figure 2. Number of States Covering Selected Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services Topics



Child Trends, in partnership with The Institute of Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago and EMT Associates, Inc., examined the extent to which 11 healthy schools domains are addressed in state policy. These domains include the 10 components of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model: Health Education; Physical Education and Physical Activity; Nutrition Environment and Services; Health Services; Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services; Social and Emotional Climate; Physical Environment; Employee Wellness; Family Engagement; and Community Involvement. An additional domain, the WSCC References domain, addresses the extent to which state laws include explicit references to the WSCC model or similar language, such as the Center for Disease Control and Preventions' Coordinated School Health model.

This sub-brief provides an overview of how state policies cover the Counseling, Psychological and Social Services domain. Sub-briefs covering the other domains as well as the compiled report can be found on the [Child Trends website](#). Definitions of each of the 10 topics are provided in the Appendix of the compiled report. Data from all topics are available through the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) [State Policy Database on School Health](#).

¹ Curtin, S. C., Heron, M., Miniño, A. M., & Warner, M. (2018). Recent Increases in Injury Mortality Among Children and Adolescents Aged 10-19 Years in the United States: 1999-2016. *National vital statistics reports: from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System*, 67(4), 1-16.

² Perou, R., Bitsko, R. H., Blumberg, S. J., Pastor, P., Ghandour, R. M., Gfroerer, J. C., ... & Parks, S. E. (2013). Mental health surveillance among children—United States, 2005–2011. *MMWR Surveill Summ*, 62(Suppl 2), 1-35.