

# North Carolina

## ACEs Initiatives and Actions

As knowledge about the science of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) spreads, ACEs initiatives have launched in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Hundreds of cross-sector collaboratives are educating and engaging organizations and policymakers about ACEs science. In turn, these organizations are implementing trauma-informed and resilience-building practices and policies based on ACEs science; many legislatures are passing resolutions and/or bills.

### Highlights

The [Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University](#) has been working with local school systems and child services agencies in North Carolina to better identify and treat children with ACEs. [The Prevent Child Abuse Chapter in Raleigh](#) has shown the documentary [Resilience](#) to 1,500 people statewide, including those attending a 2017 event hosted by NC First Lady Kristin Cooper. [The Division of Medical Assistance](#) is embedding trauma-informed information into the mental health service definitions. The [Department of Public Instruction](#) is leading a School Mental Health Initiative. The initiative includes early intervention and support for students with mental health needs and at risk for substance use. It also encourages schools to annually review school discipline policies and develop strategies to avoid over relying on suspensions and expulsions. The [Department of Public Safety/ Division of Juvenile Justice](#) has implemented trauma-informed assessments, treatment, practices, and policies in their Youth Development and Youth Detention Centers via Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress. [A North Carolina Child Well Being Transformation Council](#) has been meeting since 2014 and has based its recommendations on a North Carolina Institute of Medicine report, including exploring strategies to disseminate information about brain development, trauma and ACEs.

### State Initiative

[North Carolina Child Well Being Transformation Council](#)

### Local Initiatives

[Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities initiative in Buncombe County](#)

### Legislation (Sources include NCSL)

No legislation was identified.

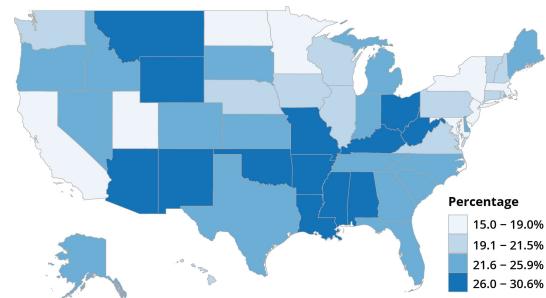
Find links and add your updates to all initiatives and legislation at [www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives](http://www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives)

23.8%  
NC\*

21.7%  
USA

### Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

NC ranks 30th in the US for lowest percentage of children with ACEs scores of 2 or more.



CAHMI (Child & Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative) surveys parents or guardians about their children ages 0-17.

Percentage of children aged 0-17 yrs. who experienced two or more of the following:

- Hard to get by on income (somewhat or very often)
- Saw or heard violence in the home
- Victim/witness of neighborhood violence
- Lived with anyone mentally ill, suicidal, or depressed
- Lived with anyone with alcohol or drug problem
- Parent/guardian divorced or separated
- Parent/guardian died
- Parent/guardian served time in jail
- Often treated or judged unfairly due to race/ethnicity

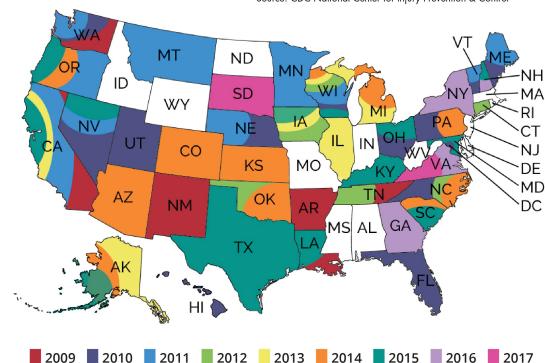
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[www.cahmi.org/projects/Adverse-childhood-experiences-aces](http://www.cahmi.org/projects/Adverse-childhood-experiences-aces)

\* State Range: 15.0% – 30.6%

### States Collecting ACEs Data 2009 – 2017

Source: CDC National Center for Injury Prevention & Control



The ACEs module of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) data comes from interviews with adults about their experiences to age 18. BRFSS is sponsored by the CDC and other federal agencies.