

# Rhode Island

## 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

As the smallest state in the nation, Rhode Island functions as a city-state, but one that fosters strong local identities among the state's 39 incorporated cities and towns. It would take only a small spark to ignite a statewide ACEs initiative. In the meantime, the work to improve the lives of children and their families is being done by long-standing organizations such as [Family Service of Rhode Island](#) and state government entities such as [Children's Cabinet](#). Rhode Island is one of six sites in the [Chadwick Center's Trauma-Informed Systems Project](#) to change the child welfare system into a trauma-informed system.

[Providence Children & Youth Cabinet](#), a coalition of more than 150 organizations and community members, supports a project on building trauma-sensitive schools in the city and is affiliated with Brown University.

[Family Service of Rhode Island's](#) Go Teams project connects staff with police to provide immediate on-scene crisis intervention. The program originally targeted police interventions where children were involved but now has a broader reach. Grants from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) to Family Service of RI have supported partnerships with police, military, child welfare, pediatric and multiple community organizations to provide trauma services and disseminate trauma-informed care throughout the state.

### State Initiative

No state initiative was identified.

### Local Initiatives

[Providence Children & Youth Cabinet](#)

### Legislation

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)

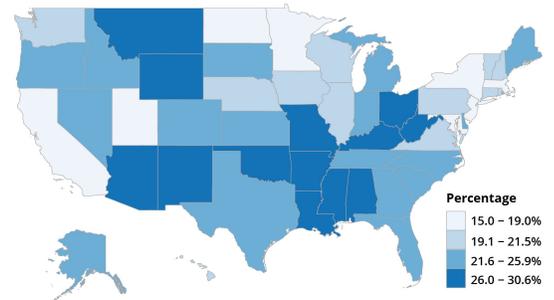


21.5%  
RI\*

21.7%  
USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

RI ranks 20th 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

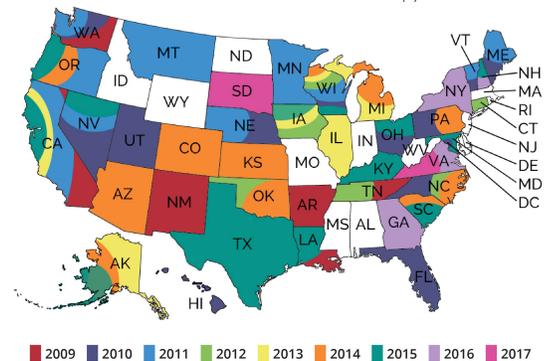
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[www.cahmi.org/projects/Adverse-childhood-experiences-aces](http://www.cahmi.org/projects/Adverse-childhood-experiences-aces)

\* 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.