

# West Virginia

## 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

In just three years, the Adverse Childhood Experiences Coalition of West Virginia has grown to 70 member organizations. The organization regularly screens the documentaries *Paper Tigers* and *Resilience*. An ACEs conference is planned for October 2018 in Charleston. It will include law enforcement, schools, and members of the mental health community. The coalition published *Stumbling Blocks or Stepping Stones Findings on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in West Virginia* in February 2018.

**Trauma Informed Elementary Schools** delivers trauma-informed services grades pre-K through grade 1, helping to provide early intervention to children with symptoms of chronic stress or trauma.

**The Martinsburg Initiative**, led by the Martinsburg Police Department and the Berkeley County Schools, includes community, faith-based, health, and law enforcement applying ACEs science via an innovative school-based strategy.

**Handle With Care** is a statewide trauma-informed response to child maltreatment and children's exposure to violence. If a law enforcement officer encounters a child during a call, that child's information is forwarded to the school so that traumatized children are "Handled With Care."

### State Initiative

Adverse Childhood Experiences Coalition of West Virginia

### Local Initiatives

The Martinsburg Initiative

### Legislation (Sources include NCSL)

No legislation was identified.

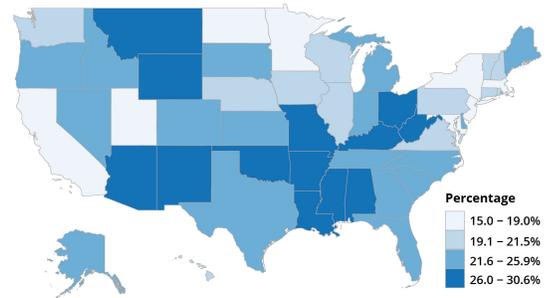
Find links and add your updates to all initiatives and legislation at [www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives](http://www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives)



26.1% WV\*  
21.7% USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

WV ranks 41st 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

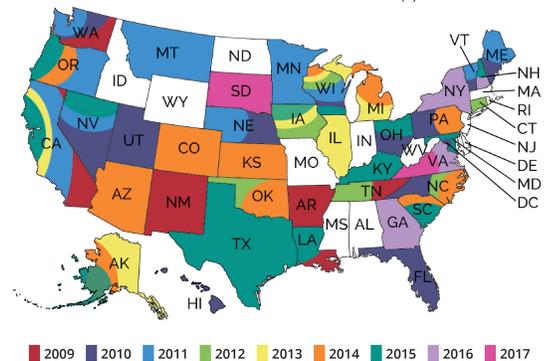
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.