

# Arizona

## 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 Arizona ACEs Consortium, a pioneer in the ACEs movement, was founded in 2007. Despite being a volunteer organization, it has held dozens of workshops about ACEs science; its train-the-trainers program has educated tens of thousands of people throughout the state about ACEs science and trauma-informed and resilience-building practices; it has held four state ACEs forums; and has issued regular reports on ACEs in Arizona children and adults, as well as plans and opportunities to use ACEs science to create a healthier Arizona. Its members have testified before legislative committees. The consortium has also screened the documentary *Paper Tigers* to start a state trauma-informed education initiative. In October 2017, it celebrated its 10th anniversary at a conference featuring Drs. Vincent Felitti, co-principal investigator of the original CDC-Kaiser Permanente ACE Study, and Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, pioneering ACEs pediatrician and author of *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Diversity*. They discussed the impact of ACEs and toxic stress, and explored what's needed to promote resilience in individuals and communities. Local experts addressing the opioid epidemic also highlighted the connection between ACEs and addiction.

### State Initiative

Arizona ACEs Consortium

### Local Initiatives

No cross-sector city or county initiatives were identified.

### Legislation

**AZ HB 2198, 2017** — Introduced, but not passed, to establish an ACEs Study Committee; efforts are underway to establish a legislative ad hoc ACEs committee.

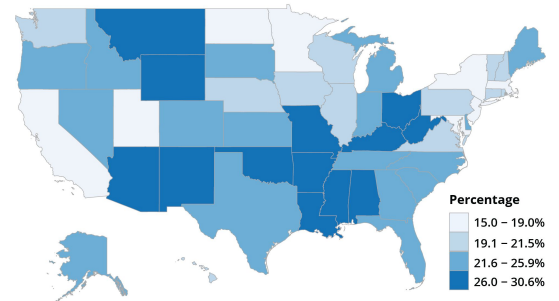
Find links and add your updates to all initiatives and legislation at [www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives](http://www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives)



30.6% AZ\*  
21.7% USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

AZ ranks 51st 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

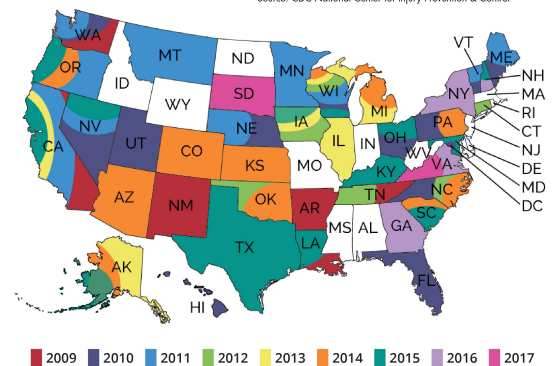
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.