



Alaska

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 Alaska Children's Trust founded the [Alaska Resilience Initiative](#) in 2012. The initiative comprises tribal and state government organizations, schools, businesses and community coalitions. In 2014, [ACE Interface](#) educated a cadre of 27 trainers who did ACEs science presentations for more than 2,000 people throughout the state their first year conducting in-person [workshops](#) and [webinars](#). In 2014, Alaska was one of 14 communities selected to participate in the two-year national network, [Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities](#). Because Native Alaskans make up one-fifth of the state's population, a [turning point](#) for the initiative occurred when it partnered with [First Alaskans Institute](#) and the [Chickaloon Village Traditional Council](#) in a May 2016 gathering that put Native perspectives, customs, history and hopes at the center of the movement. In 2017, the initiative educated the [Anchorage School District](#) about trauma-informed and resilience-building practices based on ACEs science. In 2016, the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse published [Economic Costs of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska: The Price of Not Intervening Before Trauma Occurs](#).

The [Southern Kenai Resilience Coalition](#) in Homer has hosted workshops and screenings of the documentaries, [Paper Tigers](#) and [Resilience](#), and educated teens about ACEs science, who developed teen-appropriate presentations for high school and middle school students. [ROCK Mat-Su](#) in Matanuska-Susitna Borough has hosted ACEs science workshops, and is involved in helping local schools become trauma-informed.

State Initiative

[Alaska Resilience Initiative](#)

Community site on ACEs Connection: [Alaska Resilience Initiative](#).

Local Initiatives

[Southern Kenai Resilience Coalition](#) (on ACEs Connection), [ROCK Mat-Su](#)

Legislation

[HCR 2](#), 2018 — Urges Governor to join Legislature to respond to public and behavioral health epidemic of ACEs by establishing state policy and programs.

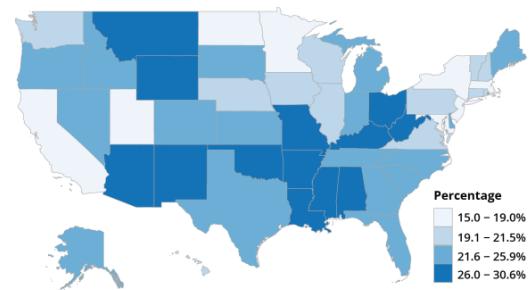
Find links and add your updates to all initiatives and legislation at www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives

23.8%
AK*

21.7%
USA

Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

AK ranks 29th 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

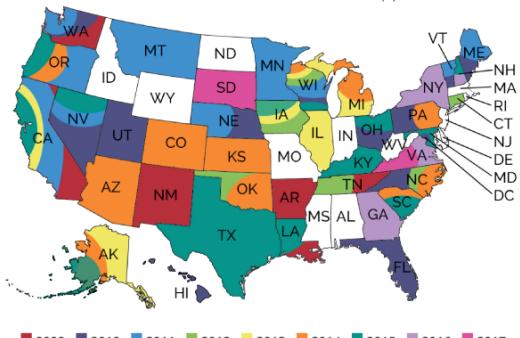
Citation: Bethell, CD, **Citation:** Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

www.cahmi.org/projects/Adverse-childhood-experiences-aces

* 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.

