

Colorado

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 [Council for A Strong America](#), bipartisan nonprofit organization with leaders in Colorado, released a [report](#) in December 2017 assessing the impact of ACEs on productivity, crime and military eligibility in Colorado. The Colorado Children's Campaign produced a [report](#) with recommendations to prevent and mitigate ACEs for Colorado children in the early years and, thereby, reduce the long-term costs of chronic disease.

The Early Childhood Colorado Partnership (ECCP) Strategies to Buffer Toxic Stress Action Team developed the [Toxic Stress Toolkit](#) with resources for parents, caregivers, a speakers bureau and a policy brief as well as a report from the Office of Early Childhood within the Department of Human Services on the impact of caregiver ACEs on young children. ECCP also developed a [Shared Message Bank](#) for consistent messaging when discussing early childhood development, adversity, and toxic stress to keep shifting social norms toward positive social change for family and child well-being in Colorado.

The [Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care's](#) "Responding to ACEs on the Western Slope" project supports school-based health centers in seven communities to identify children and adolescents impacted by ACEs and provides training for clinicians to implement trauma-specific therapies. The project also includes community education events and youth voice in four school communities, and a project to develop a [trauma-informed approach to primary prevention of substance use](#) in schools with health centers.

State Initiative

No state initiative was identified.

Local Initiatives

No local initiatives were identified.

Legislation

No legislation was identified.

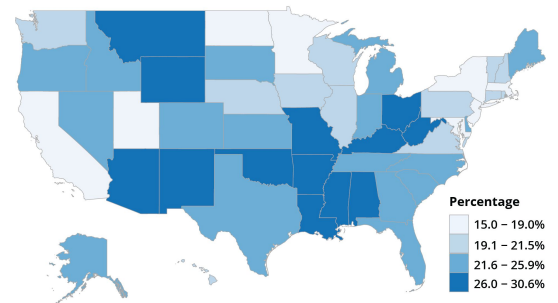
Find links and add your updates to all initiatives and legislation at www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives



22.3% CO*
21.7% USA

Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

CO ranks 25th 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

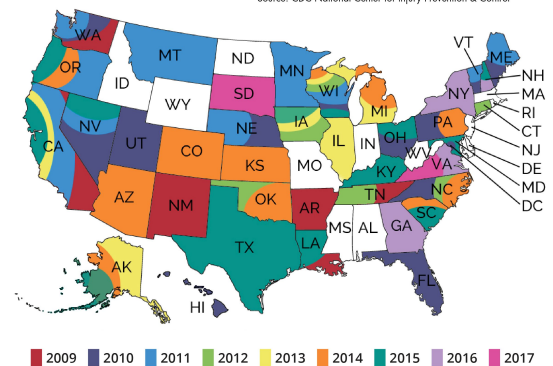
Citation: Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

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.