

# Mississippi

## 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

Although there is no state initiative, for the last four years the state [Department of Mental Health](#) has hosted a statewide Trauma-Informed Care Conference. [At the 2017 conference](#), Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant and Attorney General Jim Hood opened the conference, which was attended by 600 people.

The department has provided trauma-informed care training to more than 9,000 people. Recognizing the importance of shifting to a trauma-informed system of care, the department requires certified mental health providers to do a trauma screening for each new client.

Mississippi was the first state to have a trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) learning collaborative with the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(NCTSN\)](#). Since 2006, providers of children and youth mental health services in Mississippi have been trained in trauma-specific interventions such as TF-CBT. To date, there are more than 480 TF-CBT therapists.

### State Initiative

There is a trauma-informed work group that will be discussing a statewide initiative soon.

### Local Initiatives

Mississippi Agencies including the Department of Mental Health, [Department of Child Protective Services](#), the [Emergency Management Agency](#), and the [Mississippi Department of Health](#) are part of a regional coalition coordinated by a [Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center](#). The coalition is developing evidence-based materials and trainings on interventions to support children, their families, and communities in the face of terrorism and disaster.

### Legislation

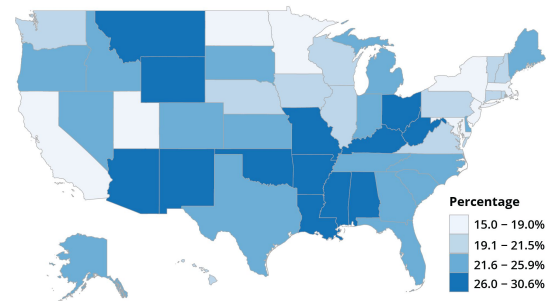
[SB 2798 \(2017\)](#) — Creates a mental health summit; refers to ACEs increasing the risk of adult medical, mental and social problems

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

27.2% MS\* 21.7% USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

MS ranks 45th 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

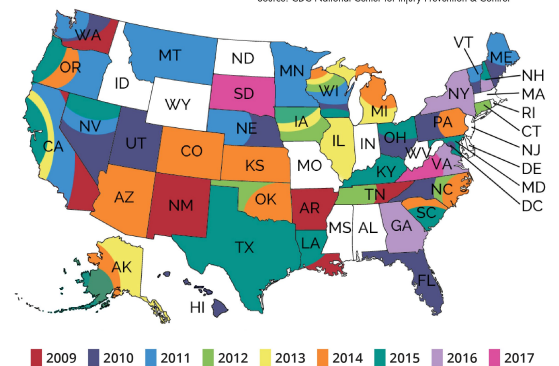
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.

