

# Georgia

## 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

A multi-disciplinary work group, informally known as the Georgia Essentials for Childhood Team, is exploring implementation of the [Essentials for Childhood](#) (EFC) framework. As a self-funded state for this initiative, the Georgia EFC Team has been meeting regularly to assess how Georgia's existing early childhood initiatives align with the framework and determine opportunities for filling in perceived gaps. In the first phase of the "systems" mapping effort, the focus was on major state and regional agencies, organizations and initiatives. The second phase of the mapping effort included more community-based organizations and a complete report will be available in the coming months.

The EFC Team includes representatives from the following agencies and organizations: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, Bright from the Start: Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Department of Public Health, Strengthening Families Georgia, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, Banyan Communications, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia. The Division of Family and Children Services' Prevention and Community Support Section (DFCS PCS) provides a small financial award to Prevent Child Abuse Georgia to coordinate the EFC initiative.

In 2016, also through funding provided by GA DFCS PCS, the ACEs survey was added to the Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The raw data has been received and is currently being analyzed for a final report. The ACEs survey was not utilized in 2017's BRFSS, but has now been added again for 2018. The Georgia Department of Public Health conducts the BRFSS.

### Statewide Initiative

There is no formal statewide initiative.

### Local Initiatives

No local initiatives were identified.

### 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)

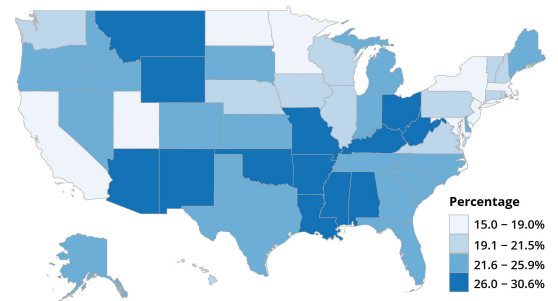


25.0%  
GA\*

21.7%  
USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

GA ranks 36th 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

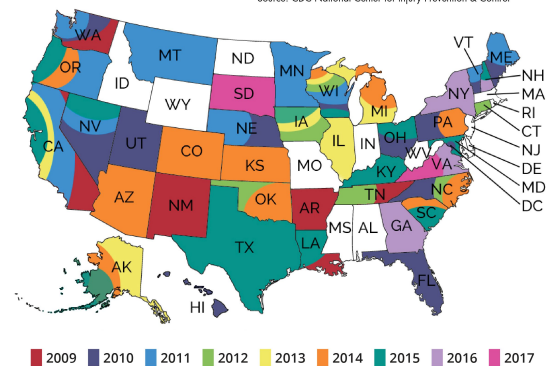
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.