

Washington

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

From 1994 to 2012, the pioneering [Washington State Family Policy Council](#) formed 42 community collaboratives to reduce the impact of ACEs, [with startling results](#). Out of that work the [Self-Healing Communities Model](#) was developed. One of those communities, Walla Walla, created the [Community Resilience Initiative](#). The CRI has organized hundreds of presentations about ACEs science, created a robust cross-sector collaborative, and developed teaching tools. The 2015 documentary *Paper Tigers* focuses on how Walla Walla's [Lincoln High School became trauma-informed](#) and reduced suspensions by 85% in one year. Its students' [grades, test scores and graduation rates](#) increased. The [Collaborative Learning for Educational Achievement and Resilience](#) project at Washington State University, which worked with Lincoln HS, has helped dozens of schools to become trauma-informed, including [six elementary schools](#) in Spokane.

The [Washington State Departments of Health \(DOH\)](#) and the [Washington State Department of Early Learning \(DEL\)](#) support the state's [Essentials for Childhood \(EFC\)](#) initiative which has a community-of-practice to connect and support ACE-related efforts. DOH funds one ACEs Consultant to support the [Washington State ACEs Connection](#) community. The Department of [Children Youth and Families](#) partners with other state agencies on a Multi-System Trauma-Informed Collaborative TA grant.

State Initiative

No state initiatives were identified.

Local Initiatives

At least 22 of 39 counties have ACE-related initiatives that provide training and work across sectors on policy and systems changes. The best-known is the [Community Resilience Initiative](#) in Walla Walla.

Legislation (Sources include NCSL)

[Wash. Rev. Code § 70.305.005 et.seq.](#), (2011 updated 2017) — Framework for a private-public initiative to address ACEs.

[SB 5440 / HB 1482](#) — Creates WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force to address intergenerational poverty.

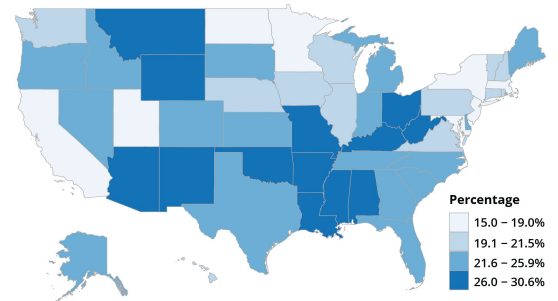
Find links and add your updates to all initiatives and legislation at www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives



19.3% WA*
21.7% USA

Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

WA ranks 10th 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

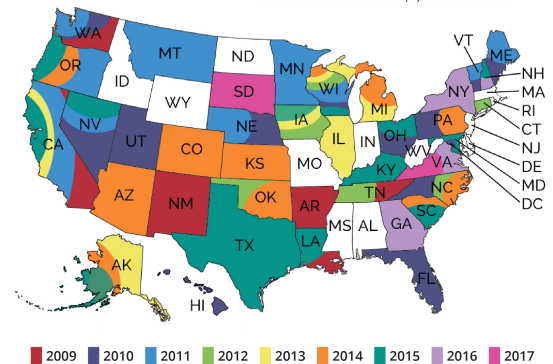
Citation: Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

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.