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## Examples of organizational innovation and stories of statewide networks ACEs Connection

Examples of organizations that have integrated practices based on ACEs science, and have acquired data that show improvements.

### Early childhood/family services

Home-based early childhood intervention, such as [Child First](#). ([NYTimes article about the program](#).) In a [well-controlled study](#), children served by Child First were compared with those receiving usual social services and were found to be significantly less likely to have language problems and aggressive and defiant behaviors. Their mothers had markedly less depression and mental health problems, and the families were less likely to be involved with child protective services even three years later.

[Sonoma County, CA, field nurses use ACEs science to educate families](#) — Nurses developed evidence-based model for field nursing to help parents heal from their own ACEs and not pass them on to their children. A pilot study of 73 parents shows that 65 percent have ACE scores of 3 or higher. Of 73 parents, 80 to 100 percent achieved program goals, which include families getting health insurance, having regular access to medical care, and early interventions for developmental delays for young children.

### Substance use disorders

[Reducing fatal overdoses, one county at a time](#). Healthcare, law enforcement, and rehabilitation services work together in this remarkable program. Within 24 to 48 hours after a person recovers from an opioid overdose in Plymouth County, MA, a police officer visits and offers to take them to a rehab facility right then and there. And then says, “How about I treat you to dinner on the way?” Opioid deaths in the county dropped 26 percent, while in the surrounding counties, death rates increased 84%.

[Addiction doc says: It's not the drugs. It's the ACEs...adverse childhood experiences](#). A Tennessee family physician integrates ACEs science into practice with opioid patients with the result that 99% are able to hold down a job. Subsequent research on 1200 of his patients shows how having more ACEs increases opioid relapse rate, but a regular course of treatment with medical-assisted therapy

(buprenorphine, group counseling and ACEs science education) heals. [Bad news-good news: Each additional ACE increased opioid relapse rate by 17%; each ACE-informed treatment visit reduces it by 2%](#)

## **Healthcare**

A [rural health clinic in Pueblo, CO, changed its medical practice](#) after it integrated ACEs screening. And [four years after integrating practices based on ACEs science](#), the clinic improved services for families, cut emergency room costs and physician stress.

## **Education**

Many schools – including schools in [Antioch, CA](#), [Suisun City, CA](#), [San Francisco, CA](#), [Spokane, WA](#), [San Diego, CA](#), and [Walla Walla, WA](#) — have integrated trauma-informed practices into classrooms, playgrounds and school policies. These schools have seen 90 percent drops in suspensions after one year; after three years, the schools no longer expel students and some no longer even have the need for in-school suspensions. The [grades, test scores and graduation rates increased](#), and the students most benefited were those with the highest ACE scores. By 2020, several hundred schools across the U.S. are integrating trauma-informed and resilience-building practices based on ACEs science.

## **Courts**

[Safe Babies Courts have integrated ACEs science in resilience-building practices](#) that provide wrap-around services for families; a year after participating in Safe Babies Courts, 99 percent of the children suffer no further abuse. Research shows that [Florida's Early Childhood Courts](#) help heal families and children, and save taxpayer money.

## **Juvenile detention**

In an [article about how San Diego, CA, is integrating practices based on ACEs science](#), a report about the first year of a juvenile detention facility built to be trauma-informed from the ground up said “...223 young men, with an average age of 16, were placed in the TRU (Trauma Responsive Unit) during the year. No violent incidents took place in the unit, while two comparable male units had 29 and 14 violent incidents during the same period. The lack of violence in the TRU ‘eliminated the need for use of force,’ the evaluation found.”

## **Family violence**

[Batterers intervention programs that have integrated practices based on ACEs science](#) have reduced recidivism rates from what was normal and accepted — 20 to 60 percent — to zero to four percent. Recent data (2020) from the longest-running program show a recidivism rate of one percent.

## **Communities**

This report on [self-healing communities](#) describes how integrating ACEs science drastically reduced youth suicide (98 percent), teen pregnancy (62 percent), juvenile arrests (53 percent), and high-school drop-out rates (47 percent) — all at the same time — in communities in Washington State that integrated practices based on ACEs science.

## **Stories about states on ACEs Connection**

—[Alive and Well: Moving Missouri Toward Grass-Roots and System-Wide Change](#), 4-29-2020

—[What's Next? Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative Deepens Effort as Momentum Grows Across the State](#), 4-23-2020

—[Mobilizing ACEs, Trauma and Resilience Networks to Support and Strengthen Pandemic Response Efforts, 4-15-2020](#) (includes information on several states including Wisconsin and Virginia)