

# California

## 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

Two state ACEs summits, organized by the [Center for Youth Wellness](#) in 2014 and 2016, led to plans for a national ACEs summit in October 2018. [CA Essentials for Childhood Initiative](#) and [Kidsdata.org](#) produced the [California Data Dashboard](#) with state and county-level data for 23 indicators of child adversity, health and well-being. In July 2017, more than 100 people from California county local initiatives met in Sacramento for a [policymaker education day](#) to educate legislators about ACEs science. An extremely robust ACEs movement exists at the county level, with at least 19 counties having launched ACEs initiatives since 2014. Several local ACEs initiatives — including [Sacramento](#), [Santa Clara](#), [San Diego](#) and [Yolo](#) counties — hosted annual ACEs summits and/or sponsored local screenings of the documentaries [Paper Tigers](#) and [Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope](#). Several state agencies, community-based organizations and coalitions are working together on a plan to make California a trauma-informed state. As part of their work, they're exploring how trauma-informed practices and policies can be incorporated into organizations.

### State Initiative

[California Campaign to Counter Childhood Adversity \(4CA\)](#)

Community site on ACEs Connection: [California ACEs Action](#)

### Local Initiatives

Of 58 counties, at least 19 have ACEs initiatives, including [Sonoma](#), [Butte](#), [Sacramento](#), [Yolo](#), [Santa Clara](#), [Solano](#), [San Diego](#), and [San Bernardino](#). For information, go to [CA ACEs Connection communities](#).

### Legislation

[ACR 155](#) — (Passed, 2014) resolution to encourage state policies to reduce exposure to ACEs.

[AB 340](#) — (Signed 2017) creates an advisory body to examine screening for ACEs.

[SCR 41](#) — (Pending) Bill of Rights for children to have the right to a just society, including screening for ACEs.

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

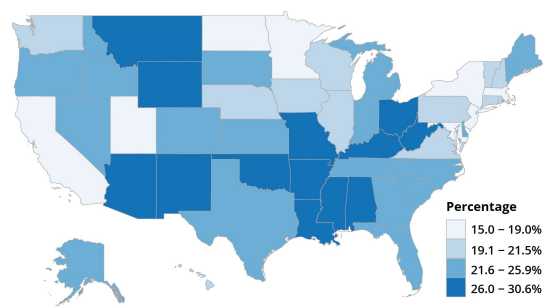


16.4%  
CA\*

21.7%  
USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

CA ranks 5th 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

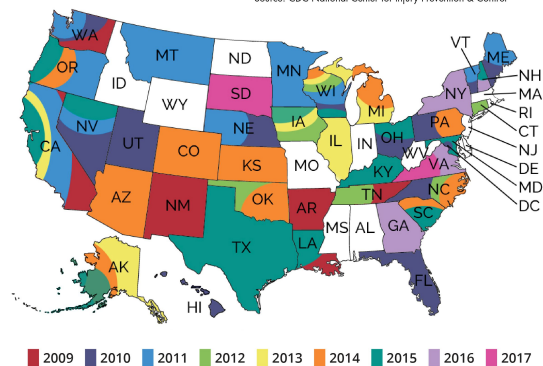
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.