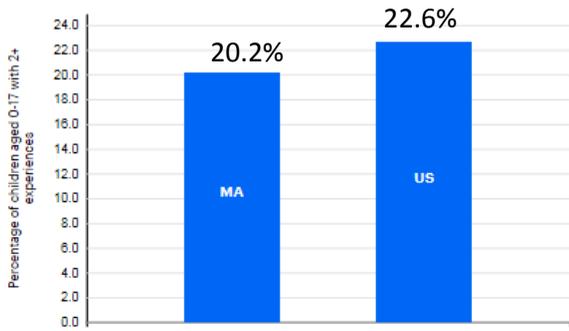


# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Information Sheet: Massachusetts



**ACEs:** The percentages to the left indicate the % of children aged 0 to 17 years who experienced two or more of the following: Socioeconomic hardship, parental divorce/separation, death of a parent, parent served time in jail, witness to domestic violence, victim or witness of neighborhood violence, lived with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal or someone with an alcohol or drug problem, or treated or judged unfairly due to race/ethnicity.  
 – From [America’s Health Rankings, 2016 edition](#)

**Massachusetts’ ACE Ranking:** 11<sup>th</sup> out of 50

**Trauma-Informed Care:** Becoming trauma-informed is a process using knowledge about the prevalence and impact of toxic stress (e.g., ACEs) to reexamine how we see, interpret, and interact with people. TIC is a culture change process - being trauma-informed requires viewing the world through a new lens. It is not a therapy, intervention, or specific action; it is an all encompassing paradigm shift. It’s also important to remember that trauma-informed care is not just for service providers; it is universally applicable and everyone has a role to play! - From [Fostering Futures](#) website

## Massachusetts’ ACEs and TIC Activities

### Legislation

[SB 876 / HB 328](#) - An Act decriminalizing non-violent and verbal student misconduct. School resource officers’ professional development should include child development, including the incidence and impact of adverse childhood experiences, de-escalation techniques, and implicit or unconscious bias.

[SB 947](#) - The superintendent and chief of police shall enter a MOU to define role of school resource officers that requires school resource officers’ professional development should include child development, including the incidence and impact of adverse childhood experiences, de-escalation techniques, and implicit or unconscious bias.

[HB 87 / SB 61](#) - The foster care review office governing board must include a pediatrician with expertise in the area of adverse childhood experiences.

### Helping Traumatized Children Learn

improving school environments for children traumatized by family violence

A Report and Policy Agenda



Massachusetts Advocates for Children’s Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative in collaboration with Harvard Law School and The Task Force on Children Affected by Domestic Violence

**Vital Village** is one of 14 communities in the U.S. chosen by the Health Federation of Philadelphia, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the California Endowment, for the Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities (MARC) grant. Vital Village is a network of residents and agencies committed to child, family, and community wellbeing by developing a community of practice that encourages collective learning while supporting existing community efforts and cultivating stronger connections between community residents and community agencies.



**The Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative’s (TLPI)** mission is to ensure that children traumatized by exposure to family violence and ACEs succeed in school. Activities include: Helping schools create trauma-sensitive environments; Advocating for laws, policies and funding streams that will enable schools to create trauma sensitive learning environments; Improving trauma sensitive approaches to meeting the needs of individual children at school in both regular and special education; Engaging in a public education campaign to teach policymakers, educators, administrators, health and mental health providers and parents about the impact of trauma on learning and the need for trauma sensitive schools.