

# Virginia

## 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

The **Trauma-Informed Community Network (TICN)** was formed to build a more resilient Virginia. The TICN model, which started in Richmond, has spread across the state. Most of the TICN members participate in a monthly call to discuss state-level policy opportunities. TICN works with **Voices for Virginia's Children** in support of a number of budget requests to create an Interagency Trauma-Informed Care Workgroup, support the reduction of suspensions and expulsions in schools, and other approaches to reduce trauma. TICN provides Trauma Awareness 101 training, reaching over 1000 people. In the last year, two webinar versions of the Trauma Awareness 101 training were made available. The TICN also hosted four full-day sessions of their Trauma-Informed Supervisor training, reaching more than 80 supervisors from county human services agencies and their non-profit partners. It also hosted two training sessions focused on secondary-traumatic-stress and self-care.

### Statewide Initiative

**Trauma-Informed Community Network (TICN)**

### Local Initiatives

There are currently several Trauma-Informed Community Network (TICN) members in various stages of development including the **Greater Richmond Trauma-Informed Community (TICN)**, southside Petersburg, Marion, Manassas, Culpeper and Roanoke. The TICNs offer trainings and offer community events such as screenings of *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*.

Community sites on ACEs Connection: **Greater Richmond Trauma-Informed Community Network**, **Southside Petersburg Trauma-Informed Community Network**

### Legislation

House Joint Resolution No. 653, To commend Trauma-Informed Community Networks for their work to promote best practices, to address childhood trauma and toxic stress, and to become trauma-informed, resilient communities.

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

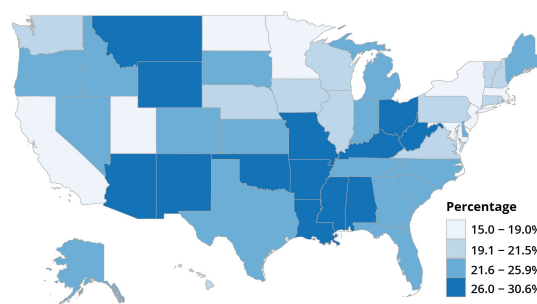


19.3%  
VA\*

21.7%  
USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

VA ranks 9th 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

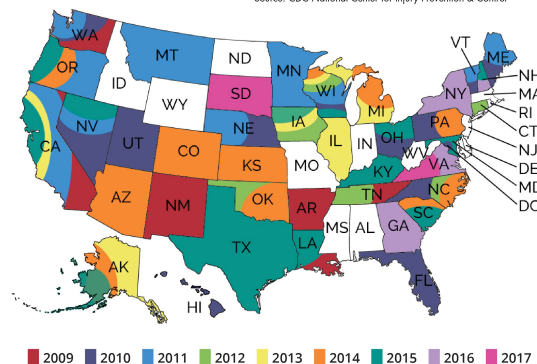
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.