

# Texas

## 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 [Statewide Collaborative on Trauma Informed Care](#) was launched by the Texas Supreme Court to elevate trauma-informed policy in the child welfare system. The [Texas Children Recovering from Trauma Initiative](#) was a SAMHSA grant funded project to promote trauma-focused treatment and trauma-informed practices within children's mental health services, however funding for the project ended in 2016. [Trauma-Informed Care Consortium of Central Texas](#) brings together organizations to network, share information and coordinate trainings for health/mental health professionals, school personnel, law enforcement and juvenile justice professionals in the central Texas region. The [Center for School Behavioral Health](#) at Mental Health America of Greater Houston promotes trauma informed practice in schools, providing districts in the greater Houston area with training, technical assistance, and some grant support for trauma-informed practices. [State law requires child welfare, juvenile justice, and state hospital systems to train professionals, staff, and caregivers in understanding the effects of trauma](#). No training requirement exists within the public education system; however, the [Texas Legislature passed laws in 2017 authorizing trauma-informed care training as part of continuing education](#) for teachers and principals, and promoting safe and supportive school climate practices.

### State Initiative

No state initiative was identified.

### Local Initiatives

[Trauma-Informed Care Consortium of Central Texas](#)

### Legislation (Sources include NCSL)

[SB 1356, 2013](#) — Requires juvenile justice staff to receive Trauma-informed training; Chapter 161 Human Resources Code.

[HB 2789, 2015](#) — requires trauma-informed training for employees of state supported living centers and intermediate care facilities.

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

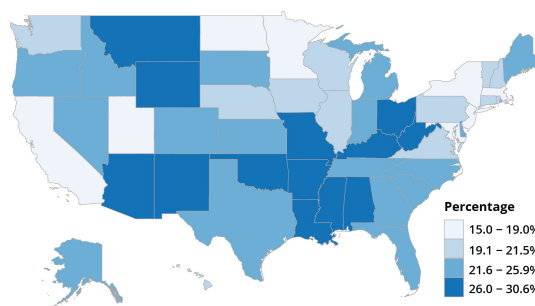


23.9%  
TX\*

21.7%  
USA

### Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

TX ranks 31st 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

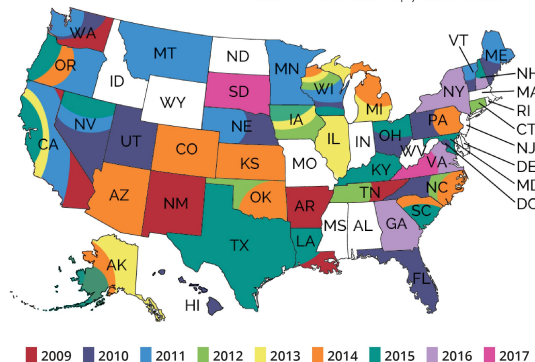
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.