

# Pennsylvania

## 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

Local cross-sector networks organized around the science of ACEs and resilience are growing and emerging throughout Pennsylvania, including in Philadelphia, Pottstown, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, Chester and Crawford counties. Awareness about ACEs, trauma and resilience is building through coordinated, widespread community events, and professional training and train-the-trainer models. Some examples include efforts in [Lancaster County](#) to create a trauma-informed criminal justice system, which has recently expanded to include the wider community. It provides training on ACEs, self-care, resilience and trauma-informed care for parole officers and prison staff. The longstanding work of the [Philadelphia ACEs Task Force](#) remains vibrant and the [Philadelphia ACEs Connection](#) site is one of the first, and most robust community sites on ACEs Connection. The Philadelphia ACE Task Force continues to build on the Philadelphia ACE Survey, which added community-level adversities to the 10 original ACEs. The Philadelphia work has spread across the country with a deeper look in many geographical and service communities at the contributing impact of the environment to ACEs.

### State Initiative

No state initiative was identified.

### Local Initiatives

[Peace4Crawford](#), [Lancaster County](#), [Philadelphia ACEs Task Force](#)

ACEs Community sites on ACEs Connection: [Delco Trauma Alliance](#), [Lehigh Valley](#), [Philadelphia](#), [Pottstown Trauma-informed Community Connection](#), [South Central PA](#).

### Legislation

No legislation has been identified.

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

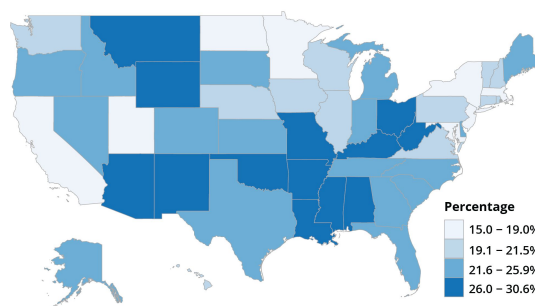


21.2%  
PA\*

21.7%  
USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

PA ranks 18th 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

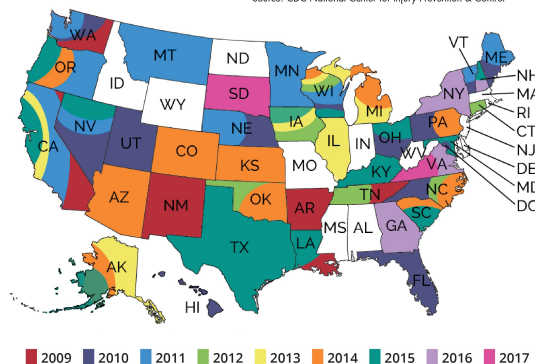
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.