

# Arkansas

## 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 Arkansas ACEs/Resilience Work Group, co-founded by the [Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care](#) and the [Arkansas Department of Health](#), is a cross-sector collaborative with 180 members who represent 80 public and private organizations. Formed in May 2017, the work group is addressing the root causes of childhood adversity and building community resilience through systems and policy change. The work group plans to develop tools to increase ACEs awareness and provide a roadmap for communities that want to address ACEs and resilience through action.

The workgroup hosted an [ACEs summit in October 2017](#). It has engaged graduate students studying public administration at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock to examine existing frameworks to address ACEs, conduct stakeholder analysis, and examine ACEs activities and legislation in other states. Their final report will be issued in May 2018. The workshop is also working with the state's osteopathic medical schools and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to develop ACEs and trauma-informed curricula for medical students and residents.

In early 2018, [Pulaski Heights and St. Luke's United Methodist Churches](#), located in Little Rock, opened an ACEs- and trauma-informed daycare to serve low-income families.

### State Initiative

Arkansas ACEs/Resilience Work Group

### Local Initiatives

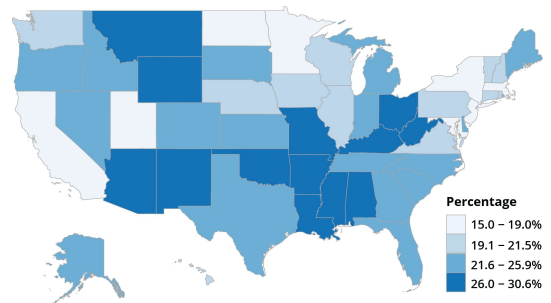
No local initiatives were identified.

### Legislation (Sources include NCSL)

No legislation was identified.

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

AR ranks 50th 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

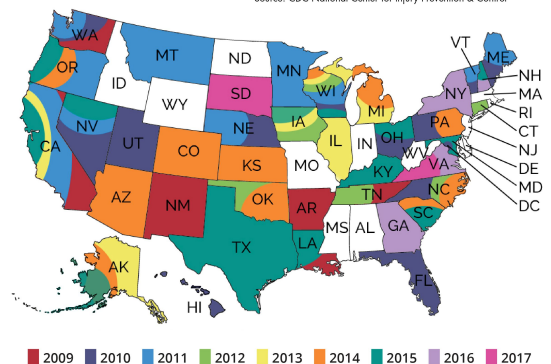
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.

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

