

# Washington, D.C.

## 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

A sustained cross-sector trauma-informed coalition has not been achieved despite efforts in 2015-16 to launch Trauma-Free DC, which hosted well-attended events, including screenings of *Paper Tigers* and *Raising of America: Wounded Places* and a forum on trauma-informed schools.

The city has several robust trauma-related initiatives—some working across sectors—that could be strengthened by an overarching coalition. One is the [Early Childhood Innovation Network](#), a collaborative of health, education and community providers promoting resilient families from pregnancy through age five. It is part of the national [Building Community Resilience](#) initiative.

Promotion of trauma-informed schools has energetic support by key leaders in DC—examples include the policy work of the [DC Children's Law Center](#), the partnership of [Turnaround for Children](#) with several schools in DC, and the leadership of [City Councilmember David Grosso](#), who has championed trauma-informed schools.

### District Initiative

No active initiative was identified.

### Local Initiatives

[Early Childhood Innovation Network](#)

### Legislation (Sources include NCSL)

[B22-0594, Student Fair Access to School Act of 2017](#) requires DC Public Schools and charter schools to establish parameters for discipline policies by including limits on the use of suspensions, expulsions, and reporting.

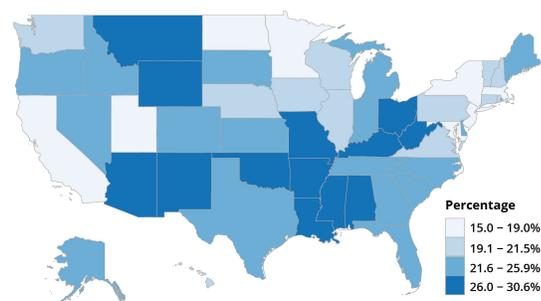
Find links and add your updates to all initiatives and legislation at [www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives](http://www.bit.ly/ACEsInitiatives)



21.8% DC\*  
21.7% USA

## Percent of children with 2 or more ACEs

DC ranks 22nd 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

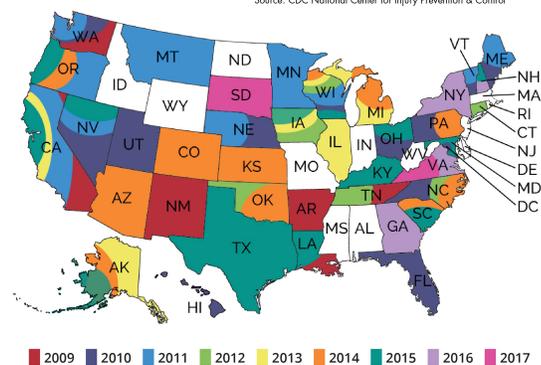
**Citation:** Bethell, CD, Citation: Bethell, CD, Davis, MB, Gombojav, N, Stumbo, S, Powers, K. Issue Brief: A national and across state profile on adverse childhood experiences among children and possibilities to heal and thrive. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, October 2017.

[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.