



**Adverse Childhood Experiences  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
FY 2022 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 22 President's request</b>	<b>FY 22 TFAH</b>
Adverse Childhood Experiences	\$4,000,000	\$5,000,000	N/A	\$7,000,000

**Background:** Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood such as abuse and neglect that can have long-lasting effects on an individual's life. As the number of ACEs an individual is exposed to increases, so does the risk for negative outcomes such as asthma, diabetes, cancer, substance use, and suicide in adulthood. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that if ACEs were prevented there would be 21 million fewer cases of depression, 1.9 million fewer cases of heart disease, and 2.5 million fewer cases of obesity.<sup>1</sup> Preliminary evidence suggests the pandemic is likely to increase children's exposure to ACEs due to economic hardship, increased stresses on families and reduced access to school-based services and supports<sup>2</sup>. However, ACEs can be prevented through strategies to promote relationships and environments that can help every child thrive.

Preventing early adversity and mitigating its impact are important for healthy child development and lifelong health. CDC's approach to ACEs prevention involves translating research into action and helping states identify and implement effective prevention strategies. CDC's programmatic efforts to address ACEs build off the Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Framework, which promotes comprehensive approaches across sectors to prevent early adversity, such as child abuse and neglect. CDC has also released several technical packages, a collection of proven interventions that lay out the specific strategies, approaches, and the evidence. including the resource *Preventing ACEs: Leveraging the Best Available Evidence*.

**Impact:** In 2020 the CDC launched two new funding opportunities. Preventing ACEs: Data to Action helps communities better understand the burden of ACEs and implement strategies to prevent ACEs from occurring. Four state public health departments were awarded funding to enhance or build infrastructure for ACEs surveillance, implement strategies to prevent ACEs, and leverage multisector partnerships to coordinate prevention activities. CDC also awarded 3 research grants under their Preventing ACEs: Leveraging the Best Available Evidence funding opportunity. Increased funding for CDC's innovative work would:

<sup>1</sup> BRFFS 2015-2017, 25 states, CDC Vital Signs, November 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html>

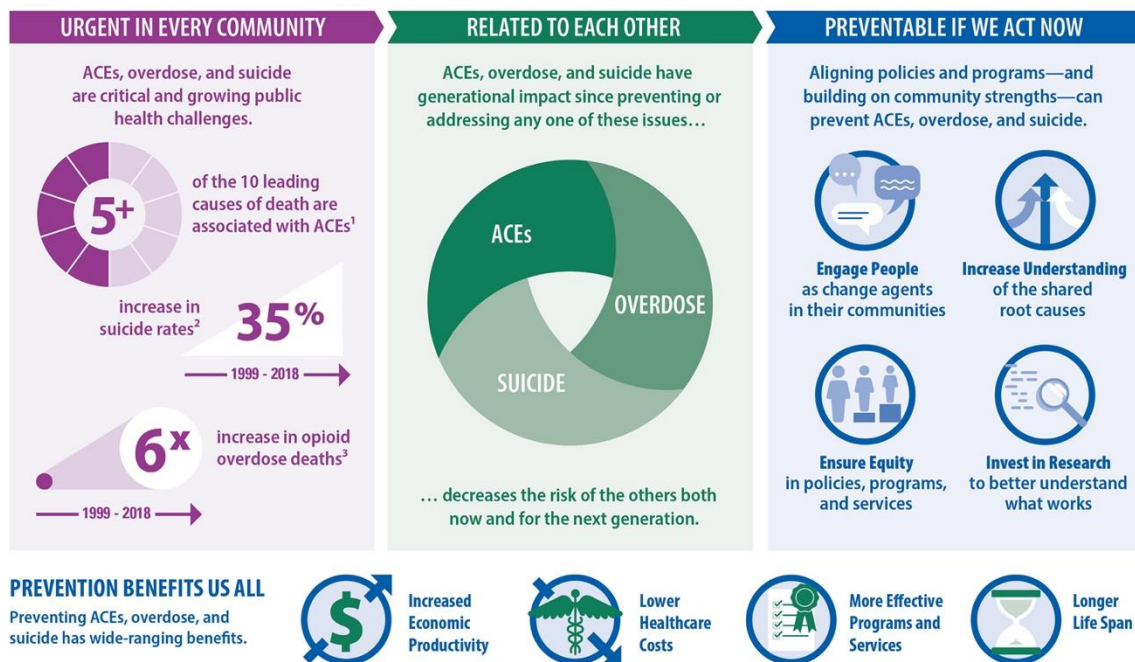
<sup>2</sup> MMWR 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6949a1.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/essentials.html#anchor\\_1534426062116](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/essentials.html#anchor_1534426062116)

- **Expand work to additional sites.** In addition to the 4 state health departments and 3 research projects that were funded by the CDC in 2020 there were over 30 approved but unfunded applicants for each grant. Increasing funding would allow for 4 additional sites to receive the Preventing ACEs: Data to Action grant.
- **Build and sustain ACEs surveillance.** Recipients of CDC funding will build or enhance data collection, analysis, and application for ACEs-related data. These activities will directly inform and tailor ACEs prevention activities in communities.
- **Implement comprehensive strategies.** With increased data grant recipients will understand the burden of ACEs in their communities and engage in strategies to prevent ACEs from occurring through engagement with multi-sector partners.

## ADDRESS IT TODAY. PREVENT IT TOMORROW.

We can reduce the generational impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), overdose, and suicide.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db362.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db356-h.pdf>

[www.cdc.gov/injury](http://www.cdc.gov/injury)



**Recommendation:** TFAH urges the Committee to provide \$7 million in FY22 to expand CDC’s groundbreaking work focused on ACEs. This funding would expand surveillance and innovative ACEs prevention activities to 4 additional state health departments. The increased funding would also address the large demand for this novel and important work and better align cross-sector responses.