



**Adverse Childhood Experiences
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
FY 2023 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 President's Request	FY 2023 TFAH
Adverse Childhood Experiences	\$5,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000

Background: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events—in connection with abuse, neglect, and high community rates of violence, crime, or poverty—that occur in childhood and can have long-lasting effects on an individual’s lifelong health and opportunity. As the number of ACEs an individual experiences 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 61% of adults report having experienced at least one ACE in their lifetime, and the prevention of ACEs could reduce cases of depression in adults by 44% and avoid 1.9 million cases of heart disease.¹ CDC has also noted that economic insecurity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic can lead to ACEs by increasing the risk of violence and inconsistent access to food, transportation, and housing.² However, strategies to promote relationships and environments that help children thrive can prevent ACEs, and intervention measures like enhanced primary care and family-centered substance use disorder treatment can mitigate their impact. CDC’s work is taking a comprehensive approach to preventing ACEs, including building the evidence base by supporting innovative research and evaluation, supporting surveillance and data innovation, and identifying strategies and building capacity and awareness to prevent ACEs across the country.³

Impact: In 2020, CDC launched funding for the Preventing ACEs: Data to Action cooperative agreement, which aims to build state-level capacity to collect and learn from ACEs data and implement strategies to prevent ACEs from occurring. CDC’s programmatic efforts to address ACEs build off the Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Framework, which promotes comprehensive

¹ *Justification of Estimates for Appropriation Committees*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/budget/documents/fy2022/FY-2022-CDC-congressional-justification.pdf> (accessed February 2, 2022); Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention*, updated April 6, 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fviolenceprevention%2Ffacestudy%2Ffastfact.html (accessed February 3, 2022).

² COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Early Childhood. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mental Health*, updated July 27, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/stress-coping/parental-resources/early-childhood/index.html> (accessed February 3, 2022).

³ Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Strategy FY2021-FY2024. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, September 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/injury/pdfs/priority/ACEs-Strategic-Plan_Final_508.pdf

approaches across sectors to prevent early adversity like child abuse and neglect.⁴ CDC has also released several technical packages—collections of proven strategies to reduce specific risks or outcomes—to address ACEs, as described in the *Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Leveraging the Best Available Evidence*.⁵

CDC currently supports six state-level offices, institutes, or departments that are implementing two or more strategies from *Preventing ACEs*, including economic assistance to families, efforts to connect youth to care, and short-term and long-term interventions to reduce harms.⁶ Using CDC funding, for example, the Michigan Public Health Institute, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services, is improving data collection around ACEs in the state to help identify populations with the highest need and to help target community prevention resources.⁷ In another example, the Georgia Department of Public Health is implementing ACE-specific prevention strategies across the state and will use ACE data to increase early childhood home visitations. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood has also trained early childhood home visitation providers on ACE risk and protective factors and has added questions on ACEs among high school students to its survey efforts. Increased funding for CDC’s innovative work would:

- **Expand work to additional sites.** When CDC funded six state-level entities in 2020, there was great interest in the original grant announcement, with over 30 applicants. Increasing funding would allow for additional sites to participate in the Preventing ACEs: Data to Action program or provide for an expansion of support to existing grantees.
- **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.

⁴ Essentials for Childhood. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention*, updated March 4, 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/essentials.html#anchor_1534426062116 (accessed February 3, 2022).

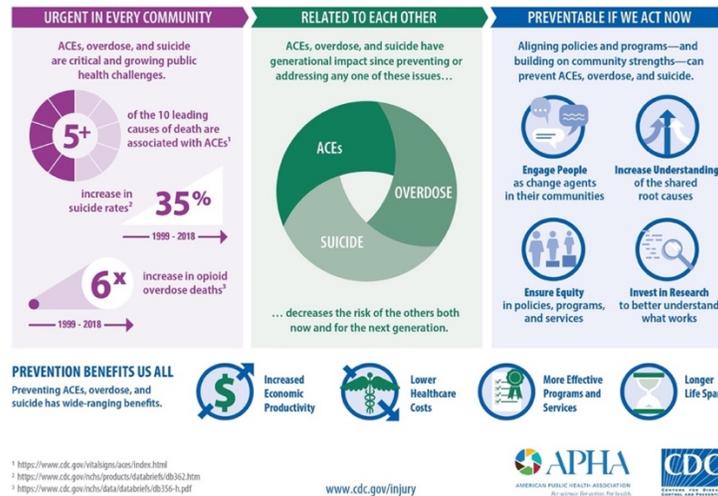
⁵ *Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Leveraging the Best Available Evidence*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf> (accessed February 3, 2022).

⁶ Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Data to Action. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention*, updated August 19, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/preventingace-datatoaction.html> (accessed February 3, 2022).

⁷ *Id.*

ADDRESS IT TODAY. PREVENT IT TOMORROW.

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



Recommendation: TFAH urges the Committee to provide \$15 million in FY 2023 to expand CDC’s groundbreaking work focused on ACEs. This funding would enable CDC to expand surveillance and innovative ACEs prevention activities to additional state health departments or increase support to existing sites. The increased funding would address the large demand for this novel and important work and better align cross-sector responses.