



**Adverse Childhood Experiences
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
FY 2024 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024 President's Request	FY 2024 TFAH
Adverse Childhood Experiences	\$7,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$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 and crime—that occur in childhood and can have long-lasting effects on an individual’s lifelong health and opportunity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes that creating and sustaining safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children and families can prevent ACEs and help children reach their full health and life potential. For example, strengthening household financial security and family-friendly work policies can prevent ACEs by increasing economic stability and family income, increasing maternal employment, and improving parents’ ability to meet the basic needs of their children.¹ 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. CDC estimates 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.² Achieving these outcomes requires evidence-based strategies to help children thrive, including intervention measures like enhanced primary care and family-centered substance use disorder treatment. Through its work, CDC takes a comprehensive approach to preventing ACEs, including by building the evidence base by supporting innovative research and evaluation, supporting 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

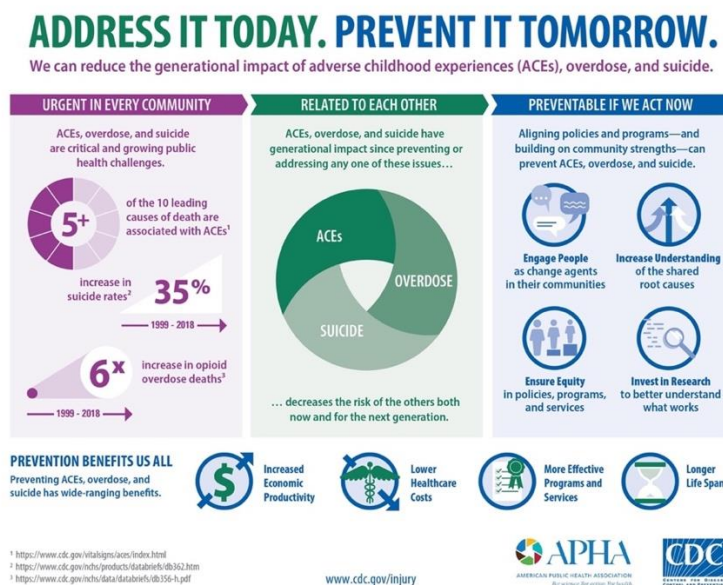
¹ *Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Leveraging the Best Available Evidence*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf> (accessed February 24, 2023).

² Fast Facts: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention*, updated April 6, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html> (accessed February 1, 2023).

³ *Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Strategy FY2021-FY2024*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/injury/pdfs/priority/ACES-Strategic-Plan_Final_508.pdf (accessed February 15, 2023).

ACEs build off the Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Framework, which promotes comprehensive 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 *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 increasing access to 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 awareness and understanding of 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 ACEs data to increase early childhood home visitations. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood has also trained early childhood home visitation providers on ACEs risk and protective factors and has expanded efforts to understanding ACEs among high school students.



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.

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 1, 2023).

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 1, 2023).

⁶ *Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Data to Action*. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention*, updated September 22, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/preventingacedatatoaction.html> (accessed February 1, 2023).

⁷ *Id.*

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 understanding of ACEs.** Recipients of CDC funding will build or enhance awareness, analysis, and application of ACEs-related data. These activities will directly inform and tailor ACEs prevention activities in communities.
- **Implement comprehensive strategies.** With increased data, grant recipients will improve their understanding of the burden of ACEs in their communities and engage in proven strategies to prevent ACEs from occurring through engagement with multi-sector partners.

Recommendation: TFAH urges the Committee to provide \$15 million in FY 2024 to expand CDC's groundbreaking work focused on ACEs. This funding increase would enable CDC to expand innovative ACEs prevention activities to roughly 12 additional recipients or increase support to existing sites, including through improved awareness and analysis of ACEs-related information. The increased funding would address the large demand for this novel and important work and provide critical investments in primary prevention of negative behavioral health outcomes.