



**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
FY 2026 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY2026 President's Request	FY 2026 TFAH
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	\$9,000,000	N/A	N/A	\$32,500,000

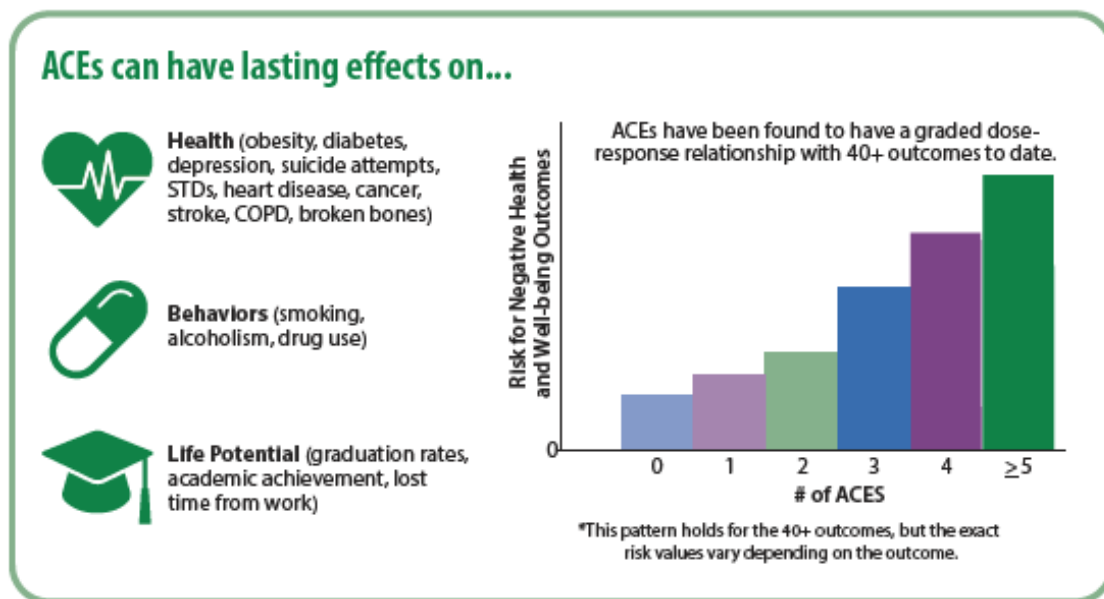
Background: Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood such as neglect, experiencing or witnessing violence, or having a family member attempt or die by suicide. ACEs also include aspects of a child’s environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding, such as living in a household where a parent or caregiver is negatively affected by substance use or an ongoing mental health condition. ACEs can have long-lasting effects on an individual’s lifelong health and opportunity. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) research finds that as the number of ACEs an individual experiences increases, the risk for chronic illnesses and negative physical health outcomes (like asthma, diabetes, childhood and adult obesity, and cancer), and behavioral health challenges (like anxiety, depression, substance misuse, and suicide) across the lifespan also increases.¹ Prevention of ACEs could have significant benefits: CDC estimates that the prevention of ACEs could avoid 21 million cases of depression and 1.9 million cases of heart disease in addition to a range of other chronic diseases among adults.² Additionally, the estimated societal cost of ACE-related poor health in the United States is \$2.4 million per affected person—and is even higher for those with multiples ACEs.³

¹ Vital Signs, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, August 23, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html#:~:text=ACEs%20are%20linked%20to%20chronic,cancer%2C%20and%20diabetes%20in%20adulthood>. (accessed March 18, 2025)

Surveillance System, 2011–2020,” Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 72(26):707-715, June 30, 2023.

² Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. In Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html (accessed February 28, 2025).

³ Peterson C, Aslam MV, Niolon PH, Bacon S, Bellis MA, Mercy JA et al. Economic burden of health conditions associated with adverse childhood experiences among US adults, December 6, 2023.



Source: CDC, *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention: Resource for Action*⁴

Impact: The CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Injury Center) is a leader in ACEs prevention and mitigation efforts. CDC pioneered the original ACEs research in the 1990s and has been a critical leader in the field of childhood adversity and its impacts on negative health and well-being outcomes ever since. The Injury Center’s funding and expertise continues to support states and local communities across the country in tracking and combating ACEs through research and initiatives including Preventing ACEs Training Modules. CDC takes a comprehensive approach to preventing ACEs and their negative impacts by building the evidence base through supporting innovative research and evaluation, promoting data innovation, and identifying strategies and building capacity to prevent ACEs across the country.⁵ In 2019, CDC released *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention: Resource for Action*, a collection of strategies and approaches based on the best available evidence for preventing ACEs and mitigating their consequences.⁶

In 2023, CDC launched: Essentials for Childhood: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences through Data to Action. These programs were designed to build state-wide capacity to collect and learn from ACEs data, implement strategies to prevent ACEs from occurring, and use data to inform prevention and intervention actions. Using CDC PACE:D2A funding, the Michigan Public Health Institute, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services, launched a public education campaign to improve awareness and understanding of ACEs. The state also integrated ACEs prevention into the Michigan Home Visiting Initiative’s care plan to help ensure a strong start for children and

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Strategy FY2021-FY2024*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2020. <https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=9edb5fedac87b38bc4ada15cd02d161f2e748919593eea53a754037a2f152a5bJmlt dHM9MTc0MDcwMDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=108c6061-cc65-61cf-30ce-75e9cd5a6031&psq=Adverse+Childhood+Experiences+Prevention+Strategy+FY2021-FY2024&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9zdGFja3MuY2RjLmdvdi92aWV3L2NkYy8xMDgxODMvY2RjXzEwODE4M19EU zEucGRm&ntb=1> (accessed February 28, 2025).

⁶ *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention: Resource for Action*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ACEs-Prevention-Resource_508.pdf (accessed December 14, 2023).

identify populations with the highest need.⁷ In another example, the Georgia Department of Public Health implemented ACEs-specific surveillance activities, and is using data from the Georgia Student Health Survey to look at ACEs indicators and risk factors among youth across the state.⁸ In addition, Kansas Power of the Positive is a statewide coalition coordinated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, that has implemented family friendly workplace policies and practices (including employee wellness, and predictable work schedules) to prevent ACEs and child maltreatment.⁹

CDC has also provided funding to Tribes and Tribal organizations, including the Chickasaw Nation, to increase capacity to collect ACEs data and use this information to inform prevention efforts. Specifically, the Chickasaw Nation has utilized this funding to develop a workshop series, designed to bolster awareness and community member engagement in efforts to prevent and mitigate ACEs. More than 320 community members have participated across 12 workshops organized by the Chickasaw Nation.

CDC currently supports 12 recipients, in 11 states and one Tribal nation, in implementing ACEs prevention strategies.¹⁰ CDC supports two additional Tribal recipients with funding to build their capacity to access, collect, and analyze new and existing ACEs and positive childhood experiences (PCEs) data within their communities. Recipients use this data to identify evidence-based prevention strategies and approaches to ensure safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for all children.

Continued funding for CDC's innovative work would:

- **Expand work to additional sites.** In 2024, CDC funded 12 recipients, including public health organizations in 11 states and one Tribal nation, to implement ACEs prevention strategies as part of the Essentials for Childhood: Preventing ACEs through Data to Action program. There was great interest in the grant announcement, with more than 30 applicants. Continued funding in FY26 would provide an opportunity to fund new recipients or maintain support to existing recipients.
- **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.** Through the support of CDC experts and funding, 35 jurisdictions (28 states and 7 localities) are now collecting ACEs data among teens. With stronger data, funded 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.

⁷ CDC Injury Center, Michigan Funding Priorities, August 29, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/budget-funding/michigan.html> (accessed March 18, 2025).

⁸ CDC Injury Center, Georgia Funding Priorities, August 29, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/budget-funding/georgia.html> (accessed March 18, 2025).

⁹ Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Essential for Childhood, <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1211/Kansas-Essentials-for-Childhood> (accessed March 18, 2025).

¹⁰ *Id.*; Essentials for Childhood: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences through Data to Action. In *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention*. https://www.cdc.gov/aces/programs/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/EfC-PACE-datatoaction.html (accessed February 28, 2025).

- **Support the Behavioral Health Coordinating Unit (BHCU).** In the FY23 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress urged CDC to “establish a program that leverages existing CDC activities dedicated to adolescent mental health to improve adolescent mental wellbeing, with a focus on culturally responsive prevention and early intervention.” In response, CDC established the BHCU. The BHCU developed the How Right Now campaign to promote and strengthen emotional well-being and resilience, particularly among populations with the highest rates of mental health challenges. Allocating \$2.5 million for the BHCU within the overall \$32.5 million amount for the ACEs program would support CDC efforts to develop a national strategy to address the linkages between adolescent mental health and ACEs, substance use and overdose, and suicide.

Recommendation: TFAH urges the Committee to provide \$32.5 million in FY 2026 to continue CDC’s groundbreaking work focused on ACEs. This funding would enable CDC to expand innovative ACEs surveillance and prevention activities to up to 30 new states, territories, localities, and Tribes, as well as support the work of the BHCU. The funding would also address the large demand for this novel and important work and provide critical investments in primary prevention of the more than 40 negative behavioral health outcomes associated with ACEs.