State Level Trauma-Informed Policies

Voices for Virginia’s Children
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Our Work

Our mission is to champion public policies that improve the lives of children.

Focus Areas:
• Early Childhood Education
• Children’s Mental Health
• Foster Care/Adoption/Juvenile Justice
• Family Economic Success

Kids Count Data Center

VAKIDS.org
Our Connection to ACEs

- **ECE**
  - Ensuring access to high quality early learning
  - Promoting home visiting models to support new parents

- **Mental Health**
  - Building capacity for early childhood mental health efforts
  - Screening in schools

- **Child Welfare/JJ**
  - Trauma-informed approaches in systems
Our Connection to ACEs DATA

In the KIDS COUNT Data Center

1. Rate of child abuse and neglect by locality

2. Children with an incarcerated parent

3. Children who live in unsafe communities

4. Number of children who have experienced 2 or more adverse experiences
## Our Connection to ACEs DATA

### Number of children who have experienced 2 or more ACEs, 2011-2012 survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>75,700</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>45,800</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>170,400</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (estimate of all population)</strong></td>
<td><strong>345,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>19%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Data Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the National Survey of Children’s Health.

**Definition of ACEs:** frequent socioeconomic hardship, parental divorce or separation, parental death, parental incarceration, family violence, neighborhood violence, living with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal, living with someone who had a substance abuse problem or racial bias
Our Connection to ACEs DATA

Children in Poverty - 2010-2014

- Number
- Percent

- 2010: 250,000
- 2011: 300,000
- 2012: 300,000
- 2013: 300,000
- 2014: 300,000

- 0.00%
- 2.00%
- 4.00%
- 6.00%
- 8.00%
- 10.00%
- 12.00%
- 14.00%
- 16.00%
- 18.00%

Voices For Virginia's Children
What defines policy?

What is policy?

- Legislative action
- Administrative initiative
- Embedded in agency practice (official guidance & training)
- Funding and sustainability
- Court action
Policy Changes/Efforts in Virginia

• **Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth State Demonstration initiative.**
  - Grant received by VDSS from the Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice
  - Is a comprehensive, collaborative effort aimed at removing barriers & ensuring that every child entering VA’s child-serving systems is assessed for victimization and provided coordinated, trauma-informed services
  - First phase to include: a brief screening tool, agency and state-level policy changes; and training for providers on how to support and sustain these change

• **FACT grants: Family & Children’s Trust Fund of VA**
  - Provides grants up to $2,000 to organizations that host statewide activities that improve the prevention, treatment, or public awareness of family violence

• **BRFFS ACE module**
  - Optional 11-item questionnaire that collects info on child abuse/neglect & household challenges now being used in Virginia
Other States- Resolutions

- **California**: Concurrent Resolution No. 155; Passed Aug 11, 2014
  - Urges the Governor to reduce children’s exposure to adverse childhood experiences, address the impacts of those experiences, and invest in preventive health care and mental health and wellness interventions
  - To consider the principles of **brain development**, the intimate connection between mental and physical health, the concepts of **toxic stress**, adverse childhood experiences, **buffering relationships**, and the roles of **early intervention and investment in children** as important strategies

- **Wisconsin**: Senate Joint Resolution No. 59; Passed Jan 17, 2014
  - Will acknowledge and take into account the principles of early childhood **brain development** and will, whenever possible, consider the concepts of **toxic stress**, early adversity, and **buffering relationships**, and note the role of **early intervention and investment in early childhood years** as important strategies to achieve a lasting foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable state through investing in human capital
Other States- Legislation

- **Texas**: Senate Bill 1356; Effective Sept 1, 2013
  - Requires juvenile justice department to provide best practice trauma-informed care training for juvenile probation officers, juvenile supervision officers, juvenile correctional officers, and juvenile parole officers

- **Massachusetts**: House Bill 3528; Effective Aug 13, 2014
  - Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a state-wide Safe and Supportive Schools Framework
  - Creates a Commission to assist with implementation and ongoing drafts of legislation
  - Provides technical assistance to help schools/establishes a Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Program

- **Oregon**: House Bill 4002, similar to Massachusetts’ efforts
Other States- Agency-Led Efforts

**Ohio Trauma Informed Initiative**
- Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services & Developmental Disabilities
- Formed 6 Regional TIC Collaboratives: will identify strengths/barriers for implementation of TIC, develop a repository of resources to support implementation of TIC & train individuals to assist in the dissemination of TIC

**Wisconsin TIC Collaboration Table**
- Wisconsin has collaborative efforts across multiple state agencies aimed at creating TIC environments for 3 tiers: universal needs, targeted needs, & within clinical settings
Other States- Agency Transformation

North Carolina Juvenile Justice System:

• Began transition from a correctional model to a therapeutic model in 2012 with funding from the MacArthur Foundation

• System now trains all staff in correctional centers (including special “counselor techs”) using the Think Trauma curriculum

• Has reduced number of kids in their facilities from 200+ kids to 32 kids

• Every child receives a Crisis Assessment and Response Plan that identifies their trauma triggers--staff uses these daily to implement their training & deescalate crisis situations

• Staff also has to calculate their own ACES score and see what triggers them personally
Vermont: H. 762: Introduced Jan 2014

- Calls for Medicaid reimbursement contingent on use of an ACEs questionnaire by primary care providers

- Calls for integration of ACEs into medical school & continuing education curricula

- Provisions for: training/usage of a voluntary ACEs screening tool for providers, increased payments to providers that utilize screening tool, pilot programs using the VT Family Based Approach in select counties/primary schools, implementation of a Director of ACEs Treatment in the Dept. of Health, & others

- Died in the Appropriations Committee; now been incorporated into a health reform bill: S. 252
Other States- Legal Action

Compton, CA:

- Class action suit filed by Public Counsel on behalf of 5 students & 3 teachers in Compton Unified School District

- Demands that Compton schools be legally required to address the needs of children affected by ACEs

- Effective models to adopt: mental health/counseling services; trauma-informed training for staff; teaching children coping skills; and implementing positive school discipline/ restorative strategies to keep children in safe, welcoming schools

*Schools in San Diego, Spokane, WA, San Francisco, Seattle & Blaine, MN have taken similar TIC approaches
Other States - Public/Private Partnerships

**Tennessee: ACE Awareness Foundation** (Partners: Leadership Tennessee, Baptist Healing Trust, ACE Nashville, the UT Health Sciences Center, University of Memphis Law School)

- Has ACE Task Force of Shelby County + Collaboration with Frameworks
- Support from Tenn. Gov. Haslam and State Supreme Court Justice Sharon Lee
- Universal Parenting Places: provides families with professional counseling, information, and emotional support
- 3 year statewide community awareness initiative in partnership with the State of TN
- ACE steering committee: comprised of state officials from health, labor, child welfare, & corrections sectors (second effort to bring together leaders from private sector underway)
  - Will help implement trauma-informed prevention/intervention strategies across the state & develop a trauma-informed policy agenda

**Other popular partnerships:** Trauma Informed Oregon, Washington state
Community/Local-Level

Philadelphia:

- **Trauma Transformation Initiative**
  - DBHIDS
  - Transitioning to recovery & resilience-oriented behavioral health system
  - Trauma Transformation Unit: promotes public trauma awareness, provides trauma training/workforce development, working to build interagency collaborations

- **Porch Light Program**
  - Collaborative art effort across the city created to heal communities by exploring health issues
  - Provide guided tours of the artwork with behavioral health peer specialists

- **Forensic Court Division**
  - Behavioral Health Justice Related Services
1. What did you like in the policy examples from other states? What do you think might work in Virginia’s, or Richmond’s, political climate?

2. What is the next step to move towards policy change at the state or local level?

3. How can you (individually or as an organization) help foster policy change?
Future Directions

1. Sign up to receive updates from Voices for Virginia’s Children at [www.vakids.org](http://www.vakids.org)

2. Inform candidates running for office and your elected officials about the need for trauma-informed approaches and how they can help families.
   - Join #IsItGood4KidsRVA on Facebook

3. Partner with Voices and others to shape policy proposals to sustain and support trauma-informed approaches.
Sources


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