

Adverse childhood experience put a \$181 billion economic burden on Wisconsin's economy each year.

Research Brief¹

What are adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)?

ACEs are very stressful events that happen during childhood, like experiencing abuse or losing a parent. They can have significant negative effects on physical and mental health, development, and social functioning. Without support, people with ACEs may face health challenges throughout their adult lives. Visit the [ACEs webpage](#) to learn more.



How do ACEs cost money?

People who experienced childhood adversity are at greater risk for poor physical, mental, and behavioral health in adulthood. ACEs costs result from medical expenses and lost years of healthy life due to poor health, disability, or death.

What are ACEs costing Wisconsin?

ACEs put a **\$181 billion*** economic burden on Wisconsin's economy each year due to disease, disability, and early death. That equals **\$64,000 per person** with ACEs experience in Wisconsin every year. That's **96%** of Wisconsin's median household income.²

Prevention saves lives and money.

Investing in ACEs prevention now could help reduce the economic burden of adversity. Safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and communities can prevent ACEs and reduce their negative impact. ACEs prevention partnerships between healthcare, education, and community organizations should focus on³:

- Strengthening economic and social supports for families
- Increasing access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early education programs
- Funding parent-focused programs to teach parents to support their children's mental health and participation in positive activities
- Supporting social and emotional programs for grade-school youth to learn skills such as coping, communication, and problem-solving

*How was this value calculated?

Each year, Wisconsin residents are surveyed about their health experiences and behaviors. Using this data, researchers calculated how much of the poor health experienced in Wisconsin could be related to ACEs. Multiplying estimates of medical spending and disability-adjusted life-years (estimates of life-years lost due to poor health, disability, or death) by estimates of ACEs-related disease, they calculated the ACEs economic burden in the state in 2019 dollars.

1 Peterson C, Aslam MV, Niolon PH, et al. Estimated economic burden of health conditions associated with adverse childhood experiences among US adults. JAMA Netw Open. 2023;6(12):e2346323. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.46323 2

[Wisconsin Policy Forum, 2022 3 Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) Prevention Resource for Action, CDC](#)

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