





ACT 43, 2017: opening the discussion

The Adverse Childhood Experiences Bill –
1 in 8 Vermont children have experienced 3 or more ACEs

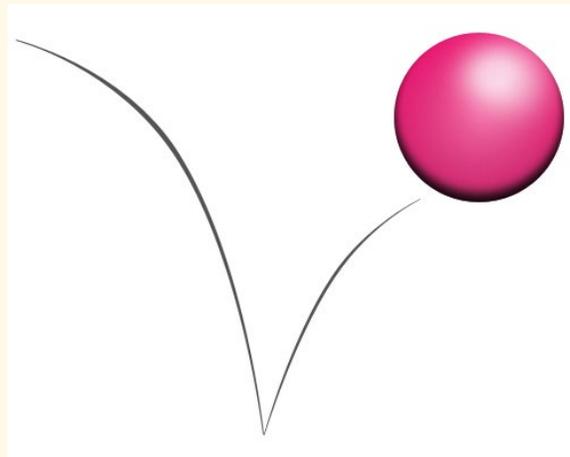
Early childhood adversity is common and can be prevented.

Formed the ACEs Workgroup



RESILIENCE

Addressing trauma in Vermont requires building resilience in those individuals already affected and preventing childhood trauma within the next generation.

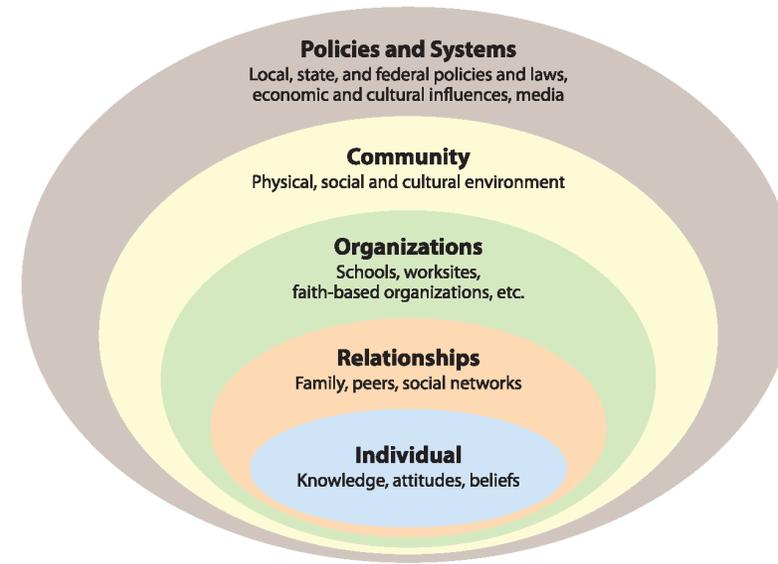


Act 43

[More testimony, reports, and documents related to the ACEs workgroup](#)

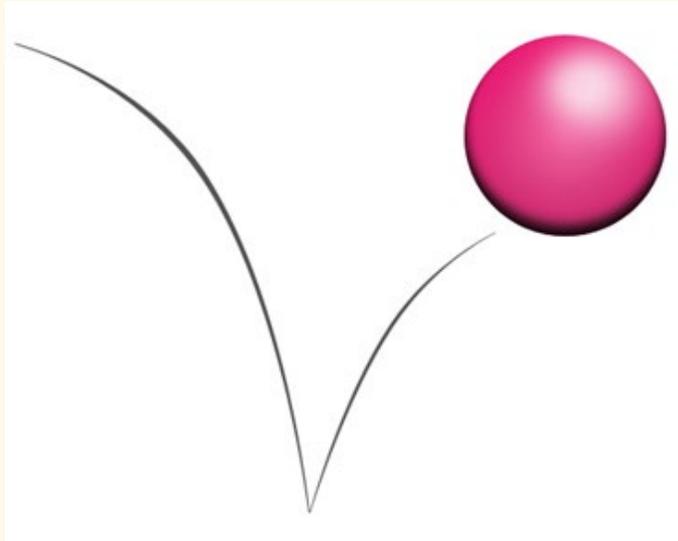
[Testimony from Laurin Kasehagen \(Epidemiologist/CDC - VDH and DMH: Toxic Stress/Adverse Experiences in Vermont\)](#)

ACT 204: ensuring
a coordinated
public health
approach
to addressing
childhood
adversity and
promoting
resilience





RESILIENCE



PURPOSE of ACT 204

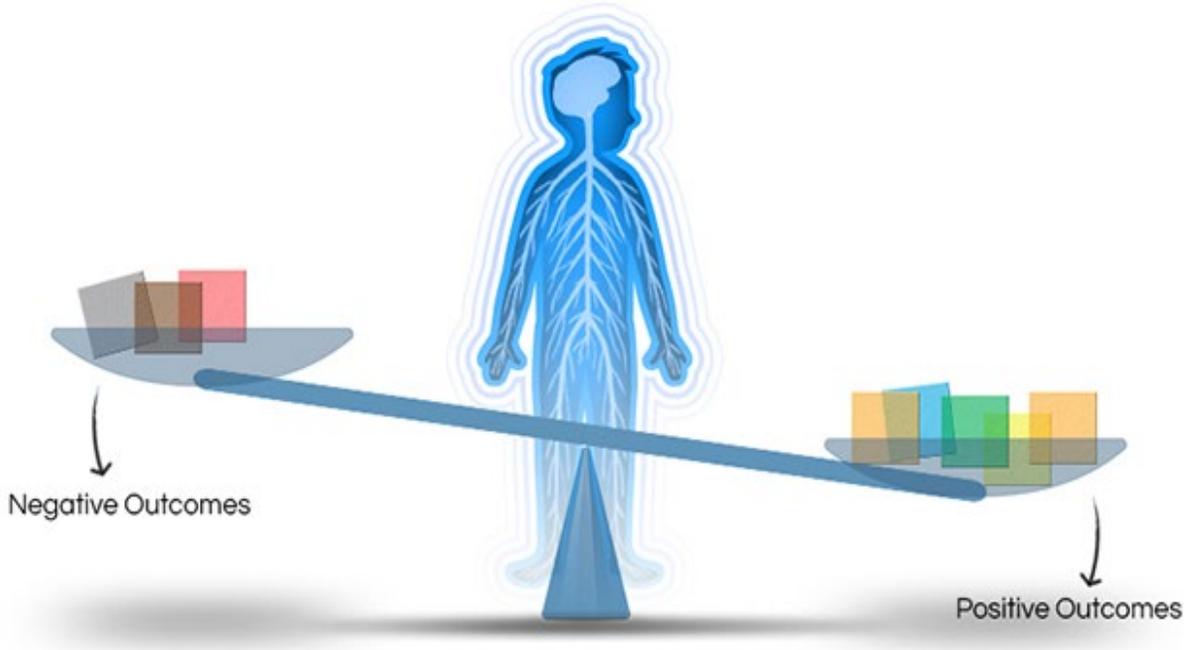
To ensure a consistent family support system by enhancing opportunities to **build resilience** among families throughout Vermont that are experiencing the causes or symptoms of childhood adversity.



VIDEO: The Science of Resilience

[The Science of Resilience](#)

ENVIRONMENT + BIOLOGY





Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development (Act 204)

STATEWIDE

Directing and coordinating systemic approaches across State government that builds childhood resiliency and mitigates toxic stress by implementing a public health approach.



AHS

Coordinating and improving the Agency's internal response to childhood adversity, toxic stress and resilience development.



The Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development is ideally situated to

Help the Agency's programs work in concert to address childhood adversity across the continuum, while strengthening and emphasizing a public health approach for preventing adversity where possible and bolstering resilience.

(JAN 2019 - Childhood Adversity; Response Plan)

Childhood Adversity; Response Plan

Jan 2019

Coordination of Services within the Agency via
INTERDEPARTMENTAL TEAM

Ensuring that the **Agency's policies** related to children, families, and communities build resilience

Case Detection and Care of Individuals Affected by Childhood Adversity – through **assessment of screening** protocols and assistance to departments

Improving and **Engaging Community Providers** in the Systematic Prevention of Trauma

Coordination of Services with **Agency of Education (AOE)**

Coordination of Services with **Judiciary**



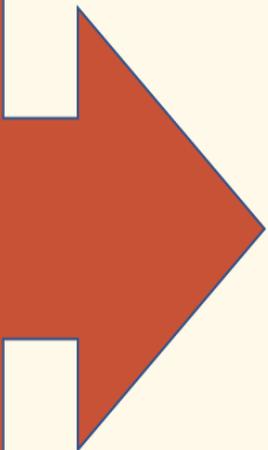
AHS Trauma Informed System of Care Policy

The Agency of Human Services is committed to being a trauma-informed and trauma-responsive organization (Act 45. section 3(12), (2003))i.

The purpose of this policy is to foster a human services system that employs and practices trauma-informed principles in relation to staff and the individuals and families it serves.



Trauma-
Informed
System of
Care
Policy



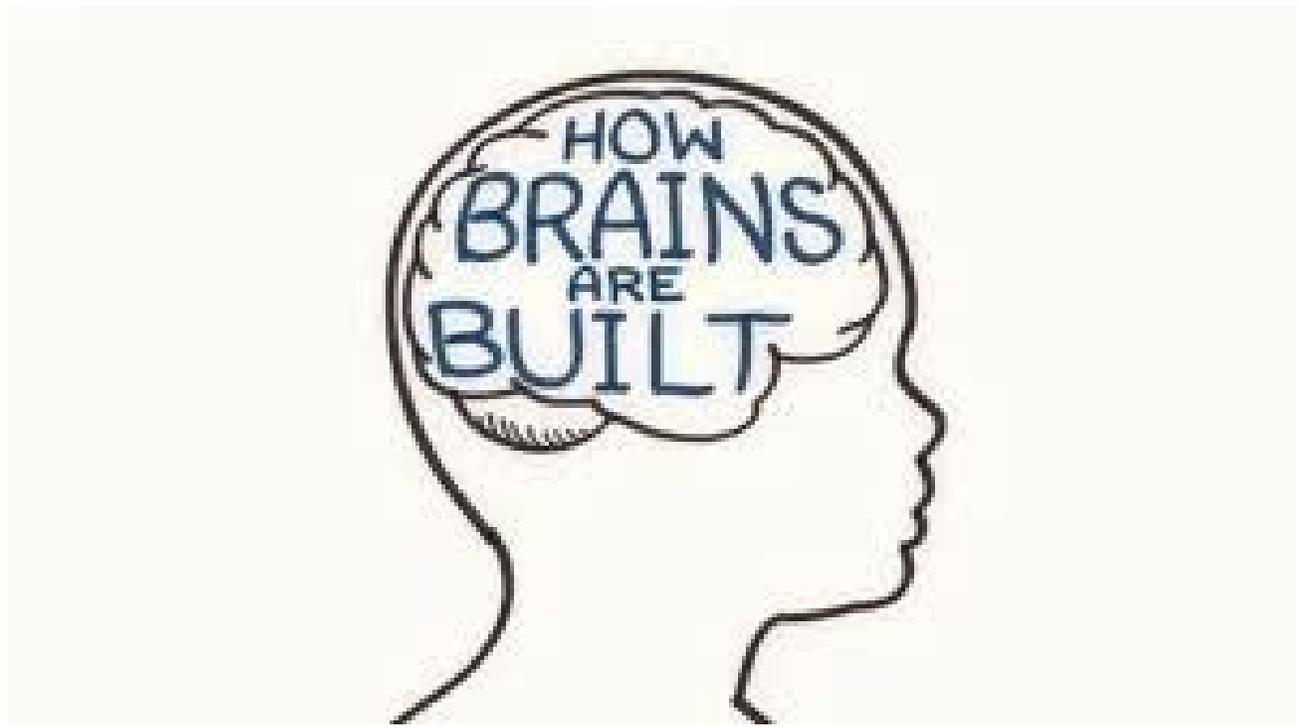
AHS continuously works to:

- **realize the widespread impact** of trauma and toxic stress and understands potential paths for recovery;
- **recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma** in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
- respond by **fully integrating knowledge** about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
- seeks to actively **resist re-traumatizing clients or staff of the agency** through use of policies and procedures that may leave people feeling without choice in the situation, their privacy violated, or at risk of emotional or physical abuse.



VIDEO: How Brains are Built

[How Brains Are Built - Alberta Family Wellness Initiative](#)



Auburn Watersong
Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development

auburn.watersong@vermont.gov

Agency of Human Services
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
Office Line: 802-241-0425
Cell: 802-585-6051