Cost of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska

How much do ACEs cost Alaska?

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) take an increasing toll on Alaskans throughout their lives. People with high ACE scores are less healthy, earn less, and require more expensive social programs. ACEs have a high cost in human and economic terms. The consequences of ACEs are experienced by Alaskan children, adults, families, communities, employers and government.

### Direct Costs of Child Abuse & Neglect

- **$228,000**
  - Estimated lifetime cost per Alaskan victim of child abuse and neglect

- **$1.4 million**
  - Estimated lifetime cost in medical and productivity losses per Alaskan child death

### Health Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Cost</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>of Medicaid enrollment in Alaska can be linked back to ACEs.</td>
<td>$360 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>of Alaskan smokers likely smoke due to ACEs.</td>
<td>$190 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>of non-gestational diabetes cases are linked with ACEs.</td>
<td>$110 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>of Obesity in Alaska is linked with ACEs.</td>
<td>$31 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binge Drinking</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>of binge drinking is linked with ACEs.</td>
<td>$70 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22,000 Alaskans rely on Medicaid due to ACEs at an estimated cost of $360 million.

10,000 Alaskans with ACEs have diabetes and annually cost $110 million.

Each year, 37,000 Alaskans with ACEs smoke at an estimated cost of $190 million.

Each year, 22,000 Alaskans with ACEs have obesity-related issues at an estimated cost of $31 million.

Each year, 11,000 Alaskans likely binge drink due to ACEs at an estimated cost of $70 million.
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**How can ACEs cause life-long consequences?**

1. **Disrupted Neurodevelopment**
2. **Social, Emotional and Cognitive Impairment**
3. **Adoption of High Risk Behaviors**
4. **Disease, Disability and Social Problems**
5. **EARLY DEATH**

When families and communities take steps to build resilience and supportive relationships, the life-long consequences of ACEs can be prevented and healed.

**TAKE ACTION!**

1. Invest in primary prevention.
2. Decrease poverty.
3. Focus on two generation approaches to care that treat both the child and parent(s).
4. Ensure every child has access to high-quality and affordable healthcare.
5. Increase investments in effective early childhood programs.
7. Promote trauma-informed practices across federal, state, business, and local support services.

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1. Adverse Economic Costs of ACEs in Alaska. Prepared for the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Available at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/abada/ace-ak/Pages/default.aspx

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