

# \$1 billion to fight drug crisis in Kentucky

STAFF REPORT

**FRANKFORT** Attorney General Russell Coleman announced Monday a further \$73.1 million settlement with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family for their devastating role in Kentucky’s drug crisis, according to a news release.

This announcement brings Kentucky’s total recovery to more than \$1 billion from settlements with the companies behind the worst man-made crisis in the Commonwealth’s history.

“For too long, Kentucky families have been suffering the deadly consequences of those behind the drug crisis. These resources won’t bring back lost loved ones, but they may be able to prevent future tragedies,” said Attorney General Coleman. “With more than \$1 billion, Kentucky is investing in prevention, treatment and recovery programs that will save lives and turn the page on this crisis.”

Kentucky previously settled with Purdue Pharma

in 2015 for \$24 million. That settlement ended the bulk of the Commonwealth’s claims against the company and the Sackler family.

Monday, attorneys general from 55 states and U.S. territories agreed to a \$7.4 billion settlement with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family. Next, local governments across the country will be asked to join the settlement contingent on bankruptcy court proceedings.

According to the system created by Kentucky’s General Assembly, 50% of the settlement funds will be distributed by the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission. Last week, General Coleman announced the Commission’s latest funding opportunity to support research that addresses the drug epidemic in Kentucky. Learn more about the Commission. The other half of the settlement funds are distributed to cities and counties according to a predetermined formula.

# Report: Childhood trauma costs Kentucky nearly \$300M every year

BY SARAH LADD  
KENTUCKY LANTERN

Adverse experiences in childhood and their lasting consequences cost Kentucky nearly \$300 million a year, a new report says.

Kentucky Youth Advocates and Bloom Kentucky, a KYA initiative focused on reducing childhood adversity, on Monday released an analysis, called “The Economic Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Kentucky” that shows health care costs and loss of work-force participation as a result of childhood trauma comes with a \$295 million annual price tag.

The analysis is based on Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey data from 2015–20. At that time, 62% of Kentucky adults said they’d had at least one adverse childhood experience or ACE and 19% reported four or more.

ACEs are traumas or stressors in a person’s life before their 18th birthday. They include, but are not limited to, parental divorce, abuse, parental incarceration, substance use issues in the home and more. The more ACEs a

person has, the more likely they are to have poor health, lower education and economic hardships.

When these stressors become chronic, it “has an impact on our physiology,” explained Shannon Moody, Kentucky Youth Advocates’ chief officer of strategic initiatives.

The more ACEs a person has, the more likely they are to turn to unhealthy practices like smoking, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ACEs survivors also tend to report poorer mental health, may be unemployed and are more likely to have chronic health issues like diabetes and cancer, according to the CDC.

“The ways that our body absorbs stress or deals with stress has an impact on our physiology as well as on our mental health,” Moody said. “When that stress goes unaddressed in our bodies, it starts to take a toll on how our bodies’ function.”

The result is sicker people who may not be able to work and contribute to the economy.

“If we don’t invest in making sure that kids can overcome the adversity that they are (facing) — or maybe prevent it if it is

preventable — we’re going to end up absorbing the costs through our state budget,” Moody said.

**What’s in the report?**

According to Monday’s analysis:

The most common type of ACEs in Kentucky is divorce with 32% of adults reporting they lived through their parents splitting when they were children. A close second, 31% of adults reported there were substance abuse issues in their childhood home.

ACEs cost Kentucky — both in medical spending and in lost income when people cannot work — nearly \$300 million each year. Among these, smoking costs more than \$107 million each year in lost wages.

Depression costs the state the most in treatment expenses at \$728,000 annually.

Kentucky has higher expenses per person in treating ACEs than most of its neighboring states.

People with at least one ACE are more likely to be unable to work or be out of work.

Non-white Kentuckians are more likely to have experienced ACEs than their white counterparts. Multiracial Kentuckians have the highest rates of ACEs.

“Given how common ACEs are in Kentucky, organizations, agencies and decisionmakers must take trauma into account when working to strengthen communities,” the report says. “Understanding the widespread impact of trauma begins with learning both its effects and the potential pathways to healing.”

That includes creating better access to quality child care, Moody said, and creating a state child tax credit. Combating poverty, which affects 20% of Kentucky’s children and for many means they don’t have reliable sources of nutritious food, is key as well.

She also stressed the importance of positive childhood experiences (PCEs), which can balance children’s adverse experiences. PCEs can include feeling supported by friends, having adults who care, the ability to talk with family members about feelings and more.

“Even if a child is experiencing adversity, even if they have an ACE score of 7, or they have had just a really tough environment in which they were raised, we can counterbalance those adversities with positive childhood experiences,” Moody said.

**Why now?**

The report is coming out now, Moody said, because work on the 2026 state budget is beginning and because proposed federal funding cuts to safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP put people at risk of more instability and more adverse childhood experiences.

The report is a call to action, she said, to invest in child wellbeing and prevent ACEs.

“We need to get an understanding among all of our decision makers as far as what the implications of childhood adversity mean for our bottom line,” Moody said, “and for the investments that they’re making right now on behalf of kids.”

## HOW TO REACH US

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Catlettsburg, Kentucky on the following item(s):

#### Replacement of Bituminous Asphalt Material

Specifications and bid instructions may be obtained by contacting Mayor Faith Day at info@catlettsburg.us or telephone 606-739-4533.

Bids will be received by the City Clerk at 2611 Louisa Street, Catlettsburg, Kentucky on June 30, 2025 until 12:00pm. All bids will be opened and read publicly at 12:00pm on June 30, 2025.

The City of Catlettsburg, through its Mayor, reserves the right to accept all or to reject all or any part of the bid should it be deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Catlettsburg.  
Published: June 18 & 19, 2025

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### BIDDING OPPORTUNITY:

To Subcontractors (suppliers and contractors): Bowen Engineering Corporation is bidding as a prime contractor on the **ASHLAND WRRF EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS-CONTRACT 1-2024, bidding on July 10,2025.** Bowen is seeking quotations from DBE, SBE, SIC, NAIC, PTAC and KDOT contractor/supplier firms that might be interested in working with us on this project.

Any Subcontractors submitting a bid **MUST** affirm that their firm/bid fully complies with all bid documents.

#### Project Details:

The construction of a new headworks building with mechanical screening, grit removal, and grit washing. The new headworks building will also house a septage receiving station. A new mixed liquor splitter box is also being constructed. The existing oxidation ditches are being converted to 4-stage Bardenpho processes. A new clarifier splitter box is being constructed to distribute flow equally to three new 117-foot circular secondary clarifiers. A new RAS/WAS pump station and a new scum pump station will also be constructed. A PAA storage tank and skip with PAA dosing pumps will be provided to replace the temporary PAA disinfection system. Three of the four existing rectangular clarifiers will be converted to excess flow storage tanks. The fourth existing rectangular clarifier is being converted to sludge holding tanks and sludge return pump station. A new dewatering building with centrifuge and associated apurtenances and polymer feed units will also be constructed.

The WRRF receives leachate from a nearby landfill. The Project will convert the two existing thickeners to leachate storage tanks with covers and an odor control unit. The solids draw-off pump station will be converted to leachate return pump station. The Project also includes the construction of a new administration building.

Bid documents are available by written request to Mallory Hulsey at [mallory.hulsey@bowenengineering.com](mailto:mallory.hulsey@bowenengineering.com). Any Bidder questions are due via email to Bowen by **Wednesday July 2, 2025, 5:00PM EST**

**SUBCONTRACTOR BIDS DUE TO BOWEN NO LATER THAN Monday July 7, 2025, 5:00PM EST.**

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