

The Child Sexual Abuse, Exploitation & Trafficking Prevention Technical Assistance Resource Guide



T A R G

*Guidance for Georgia's schools and youth-serving organizations to implement
child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking prevention education.*

2024 Revised Edition



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Forward

Georgia's Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation Prevention **T**echnical **A**ssistance **R**esource **G**uide (**TARG**) was originally published in 2017, by the Youth Aware & Safe Work Group section of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Human Trafficking Task Force following a three-year review process. The initial publication was prior to the 2018 passage of Erin's Law (SB 401), mandating child sexual abuse prevention education in grades K-9. In 2021, Georgia also passed the Human Trafficking Awareness Law (HB 287) requiring prevention education on trafficking in grades 6-12. In addition to these laws, the revision was necessitated by new prevention programs emerging in the field, updated Georgia Health Education Standards of Excellence, and requests from educators/schools on how to best implement these programs in compliance with the mandates.

The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy (GCCA) provided leadership in developing and creating this updated TARG, while the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services provided funding and staff expertise. Additional partners in the process included: Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, The Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Education, Issues Consulting, and several individual volunteers with professional experience in the field of child abuse prevention.

This update builds upon the previous version, utilizing a similar review process, and the collective expertise of the review committee, who are recognized state and national leaders in the prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation and human trafficking. This edition focuses specifically on curricula that have been evaluated and successfully implemented in schools and youth serving organizations.

Leaning on the format used by the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault, practical factors such as general cost and delivery design are also provided to help determine which program meets schools' needs. Further information on prevention education implementation, mandated reporter guidelines, evaluation resources, and more can be accessed online at www.TinyURL.com/GATARG.

We truly appreciate the time and expertise that our partners provided in this process and encourage all adults in the community to engage with their schools and youth serving organizations in creating safe and protective environments for our children. This guide serves as one tool to help with the process. We know that together we can prevent child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Please feel free to reach out to GCCA's prevention team with any questions.

Warmly,

Tiffany Sawyer

Director of Prevention and Education, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy

Original TARG released in 2017

New Georgia Education Mandates

- 2018 - Erin's Law
- 2021 - Human Trafficking Law

Updates to Georgia Health Education Standards in 2022

Additional prevention education programs available

Requests on how best to implement prevention programs



GEORGIA CENTER
FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

Overview of the Guide

The purpose of this toolkit is to assist Georgia schools and youth serving organizations in identifying child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking prevention education curricula that meet state mandates, health education standards, as well as best practices.

In 2018, Georgia passed Erin’s Law (SB 401, GA Code § 20-2-143) which requires schools to provide child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention education in grades K-9. As of 2021, schools are also required by law to provide instruction in human trafficking awareness on an annual basis for students grades 6-12. (HB 287, GA Code § 20-2-142)

Research shows that prevention education for youth works, but it must be a quality program (Finkelhor et al., 2014). Using quality evidence-informed curricula has been shown to:

- Increase disclosures and stop abuse from happening
- Reduce student blame/shame/stigma
- 70% of youth report finding information helpful

However, there are many barriers to successfully implementing quality programs such as funding, identifying a prevention curriculum that meets state mandates and health education standards, and implementation and delivery of sensitive topics. This guide presents information on 13 prevention curricula that have been reviewed and approved by a committee of professionals and subject matter experts who work in the field of child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention in Georgia. Through comparing factors such as costs, types of training, who delivers the curriculum and varying content between each curriculum, we hope that you can identify prevention curricula that serve your needs.

Schools and youth serving organizations can provide prevention education and create safe environments to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse and exploitation. This guide serves as one tool to help with the process.

This guide is not a formal evaluation of all child sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking curricula. There are many prevention curricula being used nationally and globally, however the committee was limited by the information gathered and responses received. The number of prevention curricula organizations that opted to participate is encouraging, and Georgia schools and youth serving organizations can now select from a matrix of 13 different child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention curricula that comply with the mandates and health education standards.

Suggested Citation:

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Program Review Process

A collaborative team of child abuse prevention experts and educators reviewed programs against best practice criteria and state educational mandates to produce program recommendations.

Program Review Process

The purpose of this guide is to assist Georgia schools and youth serving organizations in identifying a sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention curriculum that meets the state’s education mandates as well as the needs of children, families, and educators.

A collaborative team of child abuse prevention experts and educators reviewed programs against best practice criteria and state educational mandates to produce program recommendations. Initially, 49 child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention programs, developed for children and youth, were identified and developers were invited to submit program summaries. Programs were only reviewed if they met the following criteria:

- Evidence-based or informed*
- Trauma-informed
- Intended for use in schools
- Covered multiple grade levels
- Provided multiple lessons per grade
- Can be implemented by school staff
- Included parent/caregiver materials

For the programs meeting the above criteria, reviewers observed implementation with students in-person or virtually and went through the program’s lesson plans and materials. Final program recommendations were based on **expert review** using the **principles of prevention, Georgia mandates** (Erin’s Law and Human Trafficking Law) and the **Georgia Health Education Standards of Excellence** (outlined on pages 7-9).

Program Approval

Through this process, 13 prevention curricula were approved by a committee of professionals and subject matter experts who work in the field of child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention in Georgia with input from the Department of Education. Although there are many prevention programs available, these 13 programs were selected specifically to meet the Georgia mandates and health education standards and to be reflective of the diversity within the state.

We encourage readers to further research programs of interest by visiting the developers’ websites, listed for each program, to best meet their school’s needs and foster safety and anti-victimization for children and youth in their community.

All the approved programs offer supplemental materials and training to inform and educate parents/caregivers, school staff, and adult community members about child sexual abuse and human trafficking topics and how they can help prevent sexual violence and protect children and youth.

Decision makers at schools and youth serving organizations can read program summaries that outline standardized information for easy comparison and selection.

* This committee did not conduct formal evaluations of each program but utilized evaluations and outcomes reported by program developers.

Program Review Criteria

Erin's Law

Applies to Kindergarten through 9th grade

- Annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention ([Code Section 20-2-143](#))
- Professional learning on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention ([Code Section 20-2-200](#))
- Training for professional personnel that will be providing instruction prevention education ([Code Section 20-2-200](#))

Human Trafficking Law

Applies to 6th through 12th grade

- HB 287, GA Code Section [20-2-142](#) and GA DOE Rule [160-4-2-.12](#) relating to Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Program Plan
- Each local board of education which operates a school with grades 6 through 12 shall provide instruction in human trafficking awareness on an annual basis at each grade level.

Georgia Health Education Standards of Excellence

Below are Georgia Health Education (HE) Standards pertaining to child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention curricula to be implemented in school systems set by Georgia Department of Education.

- **HE 1:** Comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.
- **HE 2:** Analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.
- **HE 3:** Exhibit the ability to access valid information, products, and services to enhance health.
- **HE 4:** Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.
- **HE 5:** Demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.
- **HE 6:** Demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.
- **HE 7:** Exhibit the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.
- **HE 8:** Demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

Health Education Standards for grades 6-12 relevant to how prevention education and human trafficking awareness are taught in our schools.

Grade 6

- **HE 6.1.l:** Analyze the characteristics of healthy relationships.
- **HE 6.1.m:** Describe the short and long-term effects of engaging in risky behaviors.
- **HE 6.5.c:** Distinguish whether the individual should make decisions or if help should be sought.
- **HE 6.7c:** Model practices to avoid or reduce health risks to self and/or others.

Georgia Health Education Standards of Excellence, Continued

Grade 7

- **HE 7.1.f:** Examine the risk of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- **HE 7.1.g:** Examine the dynamics of healthy and unhealthy relationships, including the right to refuse sexual contact, the legal ramifications of sexual assault, and reporting to a trusted adult.
- **HE 7.3.d:** Describe circumstances that may require professional health services and resources.
- **HE 7.4.a:** Apply effective verbal/nonverbal communication skills to enhance personal health and well-being.

Grade 8

- **HE 8.1.m:** Examine the dynamics of healthy and unhealthy relationships. Students should be made aware that they have the right to refuse to participate in activities (drugs use, criminal, sex, bullying, etc.) and such activities should be reported to a trusted adult.
- **HE 8.1.t:** Identify signs and situations that contribute to Human Trafficking.
- **HE 8.1.u:** Describe where to report concerns and seek out help concerning Human Trafficking.
- **HE 8.1.k:** Describe how sharing or posting personal information electronically about self or others on social media sites can negatively impact personal safety of self or others.

High School (Grades 9-12)

- **HE HS.1.o:** Analyze the concept of consent to include a person's right of refusal to participate in undesired activities (drug use, bullying, sexual activity, criminal activity) and that such solicitation should be reported to a trusted adult.
- **HE HS.1.p:** Identify signs and situations that contribute to Human Trafficking.
- **HE HS.1.q:** Describe where to report concerns and seek out help concerning human trafficking.



Principles of Prevention

- **Comprehensive:** Program should include multiple components and affect multiple settings to address a wide range of risk and protective factors of child sexual abuse prevention and human trafficking. Program should include techniques to teach children to recognize child sexual abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their vulnerability and encourage them to report abuse.
- **Varied Teaching Methods:** Strategies should include multiple teaching methods, including some type of active, skills-based component. Programs should involve children as active learning participants and ideally include discussion, modeling and role playing. (Davis & Gidyez, 2000)
- **Sufficient Dosage:** Programs should be conducted at least annually, building on skills learned the previous year, and should be developmentally appropriate for each grade level. Programs should include more than one session. Programs may include visual aids or signage displayed throughout the school, reinforcing the concepts learned within the prevention program. (Taylor et al., 2011)
- **Theory Driven:** Although we recognize that thorough research is limited on the efficacy of specific child sexual abuse prevention programs and human trafficking awareness programs, we recommend that programs are evidence-based and have been evaluated.
- **Positive Relationships:** Programs should foster strong, stable, positive relationships between children and adults. Children who have open, communicative relationships with at least one trustworthy adult are far less likely to become targets of sexual violence. Children also need skills that foster positive peer relationships. Respect for others' boundaries and education around issues of consent are very important to preventing sexual violence.
- **Appropriately Timed:** Appropriately timed strategies consider a child's developmental stage and focus on preventing sexual violence before it's likely to occur by reducing the risk factors or increasing protective factors associated with sexual violence. (i.e., a K-8 school implements a series of programs starting in pre-K classes and continuing at each grade level based on consistent core message with age-appropriate information and skills practice.)
- **Socio-Culturally Relevant:** Programs should be culturally sensitive and adaptable for use within varying school contexts (age, race, special needs, etc.). Positive outcomes are most likely to occur when prevention efforts are designed to the target population and wider community.
- **Outcome Evaluation:** Programs include an evaluation component with measurable outcomes.
- **Well-trained Staff:** Programs should be adaptable for delivery by a range of professionals, including teachers, counselors, outside agency educators, etc. (Barron & Topping, 2010) Those delivering these programs should have a thorough knowledge of child sexual abuse, including how to respond appropriately to disclosures. Programs MUST include a professional training component for administrators, teachers, and other school personnel on talking to students about child sexual abuse prevention, effects of abuse on children, handling disclosures, and mandated reporting.
- **Encourage Parental Involvement:** Caregivers play a key role in protecting children; therefore, programs must include components to encourage their involvement. This component should inform caregivers about child sexual abuse and human trafficking topics, including characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors and how to discuss this topic with their children. (Kenny, 2010)

Review of Prevention Education Curricula

An overview of programs to prevent child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking in Georgia schools and youth-serving organizations.

A Note on Approved Programs

This section provides information on 13 prevention curricula that have been reviewed and approved by a committee of professionals and subject matter experts who work in the field of child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention in Georgia. This committee did not conduct formal evaluations of each program but relied on evaluations and outcomes reported by programs. Final program approval was based on expert review using the principles of prevention, Georgia mandates (Erin's Law and Human Trafficking Law) and the Georgia Health Education Standards of Excellence.

We encourage readers to further research programs of interest by visiting the developers' websites, listed for each program, to best meet their school's needs and foster safety and anti-victimization for children and youth in your community.

All the approved programs offer supplemental materials and training to inform and educate parents/caregivers, school staff, and adult community members about child sexual abuse and human trafficking topics and how they can help prevent sexual violence and protect children and youth.

Additional comparative information is provided in the **Quick Charts section on page 18.**

Program Specific Information

3Rs- Rights, Respect, Responsibility

Delivered by Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential (GCAPP, www.GCAPP.org)

www.3rs.org

3Rs is a K-12 curriculum that includes a collection of lesson plans on a wide range of topics including: self-understanding, family, growth and development, friendship, sexuality, life skills and health promotion. It is fully aligned with the National Sexuality Education Standards and seeks to address both the functional knowledge related to sexuality and the specific skills necessary to adopt healthy behaviors.

Reviewer's Note: This is a highly versatile health education program and GCAPP staff can provide training to students, or train school staff to deliver it. All lessons do not need to be delivered. Lessons have been updated to cover a wide range of topics including all forms of abuse, bullying, harassment, digital safety, exploitation, trafficking, developing healthy relationships and boundaries, identifying safe and trusted adults, and connecting to resources.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✓ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades K-12

Facilitator: GCAPP staff or educators trained by GCAPP

Format: Two to three lessons per grade each lasting 40-50 minutes; GCAPP can tailor to meet timing and topics; school staff can access curriculum materials online at no cost through Advocates for Youth

Language: Lessons and handouts in English and Spanish

Cost: Through GCAPP all material, training and technical assistance is available at no cost

Childhelp: Speak Up Be Safe

Childhelp Inc.

www.SpeakUpBeSafe.org

Speak Up Be Safe is an evidence-based curriculum with developmentally appropriate lessons for pre-K through 12th grade to help students prevent, interrupt and speak up about various types of abuse – physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, bullying, and cyber-abuse. A newly developed add-on module covers trafficking prevention topics for grades 6-12. Childhelp runs the National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD with a 24-hour support line and text chat. This program has been rated as having Promising Research Evidence by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC).

Reviewer's Note: This is a solid child abuse prevention program with activities designed to engage students in a developmentally appropriate way. Support materials for parents and school staff are all available via an online portal. Lessons are based on 5 safety rules and applied to various forms of abuse and/or victimization, encouraging development of safety skills, connecting to resources, and talking with safe adults. The program was updated in 2022 and is in use in several Georgia schools. It is recommended that educators follow the script when delivering these lessons as they have pre-tested the language and concepts with students. To comply with the HT law, the add-on lesson developed in 2023 must be used.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✓ Human Trafficking Law (with HT add-on module 6-12)
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades K-12

Facilitator: Teachers, counselors, school staff; online training available

Format: Classroom presentation and facilitator guide; two scripted lessons per grade; 30-45 minutes each; activities, worksheets and support materials for parents; in-classroom delivery with virtual adaptation guide

Language: Lessons and handouts in English and Spanish

Cost: \$2/student

Program Specific Information

Child Lures: Think First & Stay Safe

Child Lures Prevention

www.ChildLuresPrevention.com

Think First & Stay Safe is an evidence-based and trauma-informed program that provides children pre-K-6th grade with age-appropriate, non-frightening personal safety education for preventing bullying, child sexual abuse, child molestation, child luring, child abduction, and other forms of child victimization by way of interactive classroom presentations, role-playing, PowerPoint and video presentations, take-home student handouts, classroom posters, caregiver training and materials, and pre/post evaluations for each grade level.

Reviewer's Note: Scripted lessons with Power Point presentations can be delivered in classroom settings with modules that reinforce the importance of personal safety, talking with trusted adults, healthy boundaries, and refusal skills. Visuals do not depict a very diverse school community.

*Child Lures Prevention's Teen Lures TV Newscast program for grades 7-12 does **not** meet the standards for GA's mandates as topics are too limited and have not been updated.*

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- N/A Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades pre-K-6

Facilitator: Teachers, counselors, school staff

Format: Five to seven lessons per grade; scripted lesson plans with Power Point presentations, handouts, and supplemental reinforcement materials

Language: Parent materials in English and Spanish

Cost: School kits available for \$298 - \$489 each, depending on number purchased; digital license also available

Healthy Relationships Project

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

www.PCAVT.org

The Healthy Relationships Project © (HRP) is a health-based, developmentally-appropriate, trauma-informed childhood sexual abuse prevention curriculum that includes faculty and staff training; parent events; parent newsletters for each lesson; and student lessons. The HRP has three components: Care for Kids (pre-K to grade 2); We Care Elementary (grades 3-6); and SAFE-T (Sexual Abuse Free Environment for Teens) (grades 7-8). HRP includes parent engagement events and newsletters, faculty and staff training and interactive student lessons.

Reviewer's Note: This evidence informed program is used in other states and is currently being evaluated by two universities in a longitudinal study. The developer provided the review team with names of several Georgia schools which had previously purchased the program. At the time of this publication, none of the Georgia or surrounding southern states schools could comment on the program because it was not being used. Project Selfie (grades 7-12) was not reviewed for this publication as it was recently released.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✗ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades pre-K-8

Facilitator: Teachers, counselors, school staff

Format: In-person only with 6 lessons for Care for Kids (pre-K-2); 10 lessons for We Care Elementary (grades 3-6); 10 lessons for SAFE-T (grades 7-8)

Language: Lessons and handouts in English and Spanish

Cost: \$1,200 plus facilitator or trainer fees

Program Specific Information

iEmpathize: Empower Youth Program

iEmpathize

www.iEmpathize.org

The Empower Youth Program is a six-module curriculum with two chief objectives: to equip youth with personal safety strategies, and to nurture their empathy for others. By inspiring students to develop empathy for those around them, this curriculum is both an exploitation prevention tool and a character education program with far-reaching transformative potential for a school, classroom, or youth program. The guiding principles of the program are trauma-informed, empathy, cultural sensitivity, and skills-based activities. It uses animation, peer led media, creative forms of art in the program to inspire youth to learn and develop new strategies to stay safe.

Reviewer's Note: This program meets the Erin's Law requirement for grade 9 only and is an excellent human trafficking and interpersonal violence prevention program that helps kids develop a wide range of personal safety skills that can be used throughout their lifetime. The scripts, video and student activities are engaging and appropriate for high schoolers. It can be delivered in three longer lessons or six shorter lessons. It meets GA's human trafficking prevention criteria and closely aligns with GA's health education standards, as well as best practice for prevention education.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✓ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades 9-12

Facilitator: Teachers, counselors, professionals

Format: Six modules; 40 minutes each; can be delivered in three 90-minute class sessions; scripts and lesson guide; video and guided activities for each lesson; train-the-trainer model available

Language: Lessons and handouts in English and Spanish

Cost: \$1-4 per student; scholarships available

Keeping Kids Safe: Childhood Sexual Abuse Prevention

Health World

www.HealthWorldEducation.org

Health World offers three Keeping Kids Safe Programs (K-2, 3-5, 6-8) that teach students age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention and personal body safety education. Students will learn the difference between safe and unsafe touches as well as safe and unsafe secrets; that students are the bosses of their own body and have the right to say who touches their body and that it is never their fault if something bad or hurtful happens.

Reviewer's Note: These video-based "add on" lessons to a health education curriculum provide schools with a way to minimally meet the Erin's law standards if they are already using this health education curriculum. These lessons do not cover human trafficking prevention or awareness.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✗ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades K-8

Facilitator: Teachers, counselors, professionals

Format: Two lessons per grade delivered by Health World's eLearning platform (compatible with major Learning Management Systems); digital lesson plans are designed to promote classroom engagement through activities when facilitator pauses the program and follows the prompts

Language: Lessons and handouts in English and Spanish

Cost: \$75 per program per school

Program Specific Information

Love 146: Not A Number

Love 146

www.Love146.org

Not a Number is an interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, and skill development. This curriculum is designed to be used with groups of youth ages 12-18 across the risk spectrum, in various settings. The program provides the following topics: healthy/unhealthy relationships, online safety, vulnerabilities, protective factors, red flags, and safety planning and identifying youths' safe people and ways to seek help and connect to resources.

Reviewer's Note: This program does meet Erin's Law standards for grade 9 and provides excellent information on trafficking and teen dating violence prevention. The material is most appropriate for 8th-12th grade students. It is five 1-hour modules which can be modified to four 90-minute modules to accommodate a block schedule. While the modules are packed with content, the use of multimedia and group interactions makes it an engaging program. It must be delivered in person and was recently updated.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✓ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades 6-12

Facilitator: Educators can enroll in three-day training; community partners like [Children's Healthcare of Atlanta](#) (CHOA) and others can deliver trainings in schools

Format: In-person only with scripted lessons; worksheets; videos; activities; four to five lesson per grade

Language: Lessons and handouts in English and Spanish

Cost: Facilitator certification and materials are \$750 per-person; \$125 per-year recertification; funding is available and so are community partners who train

MBF Child Safety Matters (K-5) Teen Safety Matters (6-12)

Monique Burr Foundation (MBF)

www.mbfpreventioneducation.org

MBF prevention education programs are evidence-based trauma-informed, primary prevention programs, that educate and empower children, teens, and all relevant adults with information and strategies to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to the four types of child abuse (physical, emotional, sexual and neglect), exploitation, trafficking, bullying, cyberbullying and digital dangers. The program was developed with schools to make the best use of existing resources and ensure schools have effective programs that are easy to implement.

Reviewer's Note: This is a very engaging and comprehensive prevention education program that checks all the boxes for Georgia's mandate compliance, and then some. Updates are made annually based on classroom facilitator feedback. Lessons can be delivered by a facilitator virtually. Note: if adding Mental Health Matters lessons, it also meets GA mandates and health education standards for substance use/abuse education and the Jason Flatt Act for suicide awareness and prevention education.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✓ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades pre-K-12

Facilitator: Educators or other professionals can take virtual training and access supporting materials to become facilitators

Format: Two lessons per grade; in-person or virtual

Language: Parent materials in English, Spanish, Haitian/Creole, Portuguese, Chinese, German, French

Cost: \$750-1500 for one year subscription, varies by program bundle; additional facilitators can be added for \$150 each for one year subscription

Program Specific Information

PROTECT

3Strands Global Foundation

www.3sgf.org

PROTECT is a skills-building prevention education program for children/youth to learn about healthy relationships, personal safety, and supportive resources. It addresses the 15 Characteristics of an Effective Health Curriculum (CDC) and empowers young people to recognize and respond safely to different forms of violence, including human trafficking. PROTECT also provides comprehensive training and reporting protocol resources to school staff and community partners to be trauma-informed and equipped to support all youth.

Reviewer's Note: PROTECT's curricula have been reviewed by the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), an Office of the Administration for Children and Families with the Federal Government. This is a very comprehensive health education and trafficking awareness prevention program providing students with information regarding risk and protective factors associated with potentially exploitive relationships and equipping them with skills to connect with supportive relationships, help and resources. Staff training is comprehensive and 3Strands Global Foundation will work with schools to provide training and curricula at a reasonable or scholarship cost.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✓ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades K-12

Facilitator: Educators or school staff who complete in-person or virtual training

Format: Two lessons per grade and includes lesson plans, handouts, and materials for caregivers; each lesson lasts between 30 and 60 minutes

Language: Lessons and handouts in English and Spanish

Cost: Low in comparison to other programs, varies

Protect Yourself Rules

Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation

www.FightChildAbuse.org

Protect Yourself Rules includes more than 30 age-appropriate animated videos used by schools, scouts, faith-based groups, and parents to teach children how to be aware and protect themselves from abuse. The training series consists of Protect Yourself Rules for grades K-3; Protect Yourself Rules for grades 4-6; Stop the Secrets That Hurt for grades 6-11; "Are You Okay" short film regarding teen bullying; "Is Anybody Out There" short film on what is a trusted adult; and "Elizabeth and Ziggy: A Young Person's Entrapment in Sexual Abuse." Additional teacher materials are provided for grades K-6. The series also includes videos for children and teens to help with disclosure for those who have suffered abuse.

Reviewer's Note: This free resource was developed to be used in schools, after-school programs, youth-serving organizations and faith communities. The program is endorsed by the YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, National Rural Health Educators, Association of American Educators, National Association of School Psychologists, National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect, and listed in the United Nations Resource guide.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✗ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades K-11; children and youth in any setting

Facilitator: Teacher, counselor, parent, safe adult; no formal training required to facilitate, but there are some webinars and materials to support implementation

Format: Suggested 45-minute sessions with guided discussion; video, scripted discussions, activity sheets and workbooks are free to download

Language: English only

Cost: Free

Program Specific Information

Safer, Smarter Schools

Lauren's Kids

www.SaferSmarterSchools.org

The Safer, Smarter Schools curriculum is a pre-K-12 grade personal safety and abuse prevention program developed by the Lauren's Kids Foundation, lifelong educators, sexual violence prevention experts, developmental psychologists, and the University of Florida's Lastinger Center with support and oversight from the Florida Department of Education. The program empowers children with tools that protect against abuse, support social-emotional learning and cover safety issues such as bullying and internet safety.

Reviewer's Note: The program is quite comprehensive, and the lessons are designed in a shorter format to keep kids engaged. The animation may come off as too juvenile by the time the lessons reach 2nd grade.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- ✗ Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades K-12

Facilitator: Teachers, counselors, school staff after being trained online or in-person; additional online modules to support facilitators available

Format: Five to 8 lessons per grade with facilitator guide, videos, and application activities; virtual delivery adaptation available for some grades

Language: Parent materials in English, Spanish, and Creole

Cost: Moderate, varies depending on bundle

Second Step, Child Protection Unit

Committee for Children

www.CFChildren.org

The Second Step, Child Protection Unit is a research-based program that takes a child safety approach to prevent child abuse. It includes training, lessons, and family resources to help educators create spaces for safe learning. The staff training is intended for every staff member in building with the goal of increasing knowledge about child sexual abuse and how to respond if a child discloses. The scripted lessons teach children about personal safety and provide opportunities to practice. The family materials extend the Child Protection Unit with videos and materials to help caregivers discuss personal safety with their children.

Reviewer's Note: This evidence-informed primary prevention program is designed to complement the Second Step curriculum. The curriculum was developed in 1981 and last updated in 2014, therefore, it feels a bit dated. The Child Protection Unit is most effective when it is used in conjunction with the Second Step main curriculum (Social-Emotional Learning) and the Bullying Prevention Unit.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- N/A Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades pre-K-5

Facilitator: Educators using scripted lessons and materials

Format: Six lessons per grade; kits, scripts, streaming songs, and videos

Language: Lessons, handouts, and parent materials in English and Spanish

Cost: \$1319 for K-5 bundle; at the time of this publication grant funding is available; learn more www.secondstep.org/funding-grants/georgia-spotlight

Program Specific Information

Stay KidSafe!

Center for Child Counseling
www.BeKidSafe.org

The Stay KidSafe! Elementary school program is a comprehensive, interactive and developmentally age-appropriate child sexual abuse, child trafficking prevention, personal safety, digital safety and substance abuse education program. This evidence-informed curriculum has proven to increase knowledge of protective skills in children, increase confidence, and develop healthy attitudes about self and others. The program uses 3D animation, facilitator-led discussion and activities, and small group reinforcement.

Compliance with Georgia Mandates

- ✓ Erin's Law
- N/A Human Trafficking Law
- ✓ GA Health Education Standards

Intended Audience: Students grades K-5

Facilitator: Teachers and counselors who have completed two online, self-paced trainings

Format: Two to four lessons per grade, which can be adapted as 20-minute or 40-minute lessons; scripts for facilitator; animated video and activity in each lesson; home newsletter for caregivers

Language: Parent materials in English, Spanish, and Creole

Cost: Free to schools and youth-serving organizations that register on website

Reviewer's Note: The Stay KidSafe! curriculum provides quality lessons with solid explanations on the topics while remaining relatively short and engaging. It provides good take-away messages for students. Additional resources for teachers and parents available on website.



Quick Charts

Comparison of Approved Programs

Through comparing factors such as costs, types of training, who delivers the curriculum and varying content between each program, schools can identify child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking prevention curricula that serve their community's needs.

Approval Ranking Categories

- **Gold**- Exceeds all criteria for best practices and aligns with GA educational mandates and health standards
- **Silver**- Meets all criteria GA educational mandates and health standards
- **Bronze**- Mostly meets GA educational mandates and health standards

Quick Charts Include:

Comparison of all approved programs
Elementary school approved programs
Middle school approved programs
High school approved programs

Comparison of All Approved Programs

Program Name	Grade Levels	Lessons per Grade	Virtual/ In-person/ Hybrid	Meets Erin's Law (K-9)	Meets HT Law (6-12)	Meets GA Health Education Standards	Culturally Competent /Diverse	Cost	Ranking of Approved Programs*
3Rs- Rights, Respect, Responsibility w/ GCAPP	K-12	2-3	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	Free*	Gold- All Grades
Childhelp: Speak Up Be Safe	K-12	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold- All Grades
Child Lures: Think First & Stay Safe	K-5	5-7	In-person	✓	N/A	✓	-	\$\$	Silver- ES
Healthy Relationships Project	K-8	6-10	In-person	✓	-	✓	-	\$\$\$	Bronze- ES & MS
iEmpathize: Empower Youth Program	9-12	6	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Silver- 9 th Gold- 10 th -12 th
Keeping Kids Safe	K-8	2	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	-	\$	Bronze- ES & MS
Love 146: Not a Number	6-12	4-5	In-person	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$*	Bronze- MS Silver- 9 th Gold- 10 th -12 th
MBF Child Safety Matters (K-5) & Teen Safety Matters (6-12)	K-12	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold- All Grades
PROTECT	K-12	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Silver- All Grades
Protect Yourself Rules	K-11	3-7	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	✓	Free	Silver- ES Bronze- MS & HS
Safer, Smarter Schools	K-12	5-8	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	-	\$\$	Silver- ES Bronze- MS & HS
Second Step, Child Protection Unit	K-5	6	In-person	✓	N/A	✓	-	\$*	Silver- ES
Stay KidSafe!	K-5	2-4	Hybrid	✓	N/A	✓	✓	Free	Silver- ES

* More details are provided for these sections in the following charts that review Elementary (ES), Middle (MS), and High (HS) school separately.

Elementary School Approved Program Comparison

What is required by Georgia mandates for Kindergarten through 5th grade?

Erin's Law

- Annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention (Code Section 20-2-143)
- Professional learning on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention (Code Section 20-2-200)
- Training for professional personnel that will be providing instruction prevention education (Code Section 20-2-201)

Program Name	Lessons per Grade	Virtual/In-person/Hybrid	Meets Erin's Law (K-9)	Meets GA Health Education Standards	Culturally Competent/Diverse	Cost	Ranking of Approved Programs ¹
3Rs- Rights, Respect, Responsibility w/ GCAPP	2-3	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	Free ²	Gold ²
Childhelp: Speak Up Be Safe	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold
Child Lures: Think First & Stay Safe	5-7	In-person	✓	✓	-	\$\$	Silver
Healthy Relationships Project	6-10	In-person	✓	✓	-	\$\$\$	Bronze
Keeping Kids Safe	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	-	\$	Bronze
MBF Child Safety Matters	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold
PROTECT	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	\$	Silver
Protect Yourself Rules	3-7	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	Free	Silver
Safer, Smarter Schools	5-8	Hybrid	✓	✓	-	\$\$	Silver
Second Step, Child Protection Unit	6	In-person	✓	✓	-	\$ ³	Silver
Stay KidSafe!	2-4	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	Free	Silver

1. Approval ranking categories are defined below:

- Gold- Exceeds all criteria for best practices and aligns with GA educational mandates and health standards
- Silver- Meets all criteria GA educational mandates and health standards
- Bronze- Mostly meets GA educational mandates and health standards

2. 3Rs is recommended to be implemented in partnership with [GCAPP](#), who provides free training and support to schools.

3. At the time of this publication, [Second Step CPU](#) funding available through the Prevention and Community Support Section at GA DFCS.

Middle School Approved Program Comparison

What is required by Georgia mandates for 6th through 8th grade?

Human Trafficking Law

Each local board of education which operates a school with grades 6 through 12 shall provide instruction in human trafficking awareness on an annual basis at each grade level. (HB 287, GA Code Section 20-2-142 and GA DOE Rule 160-4-2-.12 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Program Plan)

Erin's Law

- Annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention (Code Section 20-2-143)
- Professional learning on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention (Code Section 20-2-200)
- Training for professional personnel that will be providing instruction prevention education (Code Section 20-2-201)

Program Name	Lessons per Grade	Virtual/In-person/Hybrid	Meets Erin's Law (K-9)	Meets HT Law (6-12)	Meets GA Health Education Standards	Culturally Competent/Diverse	Cost	Ranking of Approved Programs ¹
3Rs- Rights, Respect, Responsibility w/ GCAPP	2-3	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	Free ²	Gold ²
Childhelp: Speak Up Be Safe	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold
Healthy Relationships Project	10	In-person	✓	-	✓	-	\$\$\$	Bronze
Keeping Kids Safe	2	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	-	\$	Bronze
Love 146: Not a Number	4-5	In-person	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$ ³	Bronze
MBF Teen Safety Matters	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold
PROTECT	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Silver
Protect Yourself Rules	3-7	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	✓	Free	Bronze
Safer, Smarter Schools	5-8	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	-	\$\$	Bronze

1. Approval ranking categories are defined below:

- Gold- Exceeds all criteria for best practices and aligns with GA educational mandates and health standards
- Silver- Meets all criteria GA educational mandates and health standards
- Bronze- Mostly meets GA educational mandates and health standards

2. 3Rs is recommended to be implemented in partnership with [GCAPP](#), who provides free training and support to schools.

3. Funding is available and community organizations can deliver training for no charge ([Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta](#) and others).

High School Approved Program Comparison

What is required by Georgia mandates for 9th through 12th grade?

Human Trafficking Law

Each local board of education which operates a school with grades 6 through 12 shall provide instruction in human trafficking awareness on an annual basis at each grade level. (HB 287, GA Code Section 20-2-142 and GA DOE Rule 160-4-2-.12 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Program Plan)

Erin's Law- ONLY REQUIRED THROUGH 9TH GRADE

- Annual age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention (Code Section 20-2-143)
- Professional learning on sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention (Code Section 20-2-200)
- Training for professional personnel that will be providing instruction prevention education (Code Section 20-2-201)

Program Name	Lessons per Grade	Virtual/In-person/Hybrid	Meets Erin's Law (K-9)	Meets HT Law (6-12)	Meets GA Health Education Standards	Culturally Competent/Diverse	Cost	Ranking of Approved Programs ¹
3Rs- Rights, Respect, Responsibility w/ GCAPP	2-3	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	Free ²	Gold ²
Childhelp: Speak Up Be Safe	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold
iEmpathize: Empower Youth	6	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Silver- 9 th Gold- 10 th -12 th
Love 146: Not a Number	4-5	In-person	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$ ³	Silver- 9 th Gold- 10 th -12 th
MBF Teen Safety Matters	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$\$	Gold
PROTECT	2	Hybrid	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$	Silver
Protect Yourself Rules	3-7	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	✓	Free	Bronze
Safer, Smarter Schools	5-8	Hybrid	✓	-	✓	-	\$\$	Bronze

1. Approval ranking categories are defined below:

- Gold- Exceeds all criteria for best practices and aligns with GA educational mandates and health standards
- Silver- Meets all criteria GA educational mandates and health standards
- Bronze- Mostly meets GA educational mandates and health standards

2. 3Rs is recommended to be implemented in partnership with [GCAPP](#), who provides free training and support to schools.

3. Funding is available and community organizations can deliver training for no charge ([Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta](#) and others).

Implementation Tips & Resources

Implementation Tips

No matter which program schools choose, the following tips should be considered to ensure successful implementation:

- **Well trained facilitators-** The person facilitating the program must feel comfortable presenting the material and supporting students through potentially difficult discussions.
- **Stick to the script-** It is easy for facilitators to bring in their own biases or spread misinformation. For programs to have the same positive outcomes as prior evaluations have shown, they must be implemented with fidelity. Additionally, program scripts and language has been tested with children/youth and are trauma-informed.
- **Training for all staff-** All staff should be trained to respond in a trauma-informed way and know how to appropriately handle disclosures of abuse or neglect.
- **Appropriately schedule class time-** Allow time for activities, discussions, questions and scenarios. These activities are critical for students to acquire new skills and retain information.
- **Supportive policies-** Schools and organizations should have plans in place to support staff in handling disclosures, making reports of abuse or neglect, and helping students and staff access needed resources.



Best Practices

- Create a safe space for student discussion
- Use empathy and trauma-informed strategies
- Have a plan to respond to abuse disclosures
- Keep caregivers in the loop by providing insights into what their children and youth are learning and how it can be reinforced at home. Allow caregivers to review program materials to help with approval.

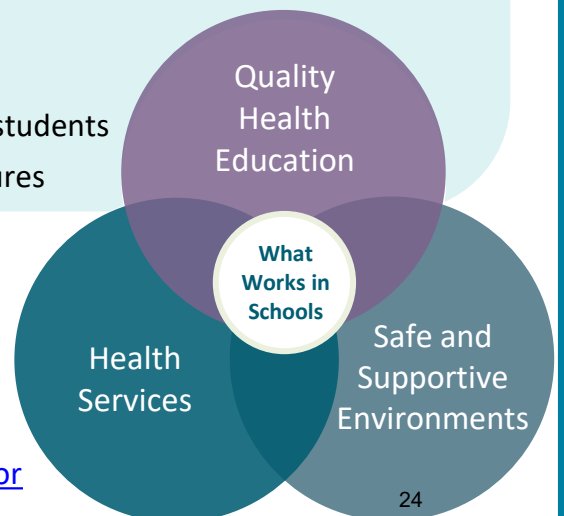


Avoid

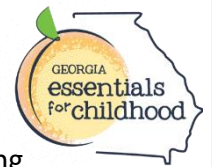
- Using fear tactics
- Creating your own program, lessons or script
- Presenting in an assembly-type format
- Singling out or calling on specific students/groups of students
- Further traumatizing children by mishandling disclosures

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have resources for implementing health education in school systems.

- [What Works in Schools: Safe and Supportive School Environments](#)
- [Health Education is Effective at Addressing Adolescent Behavior](#)



ACEs – Adverse Childhood Experiences



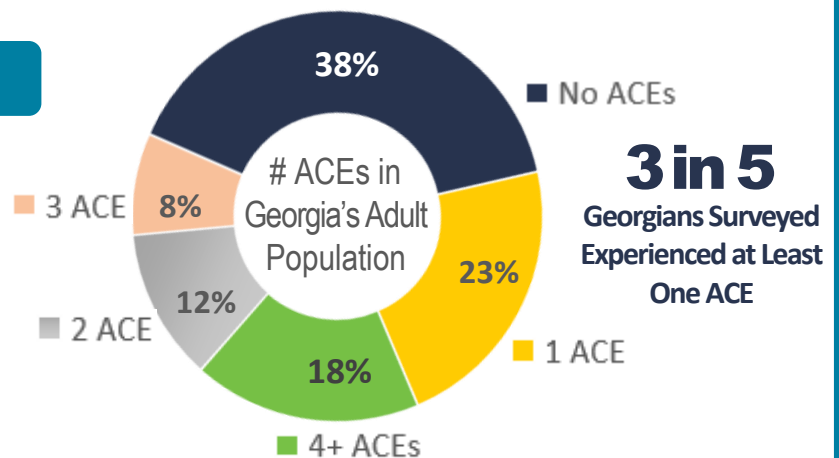
Children are shaped by their earliest experiences and relationships. Creating safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are needed to support early brain development and promote lifelong learning and success. Conversely, negative early experiences, called Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), cause high levels of stress, called toxic stress. Frequent and prolonged levels of toxic stress can dramatically change how the brain develops.

In 2016, 2018, and 2021 Georgia included 11 ACE questions as a part of the Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. This report reflects collected data about adult respondents' childhood experiences related to abuse, neglect, and household challenges.

Adverse Childhood Experiences in Georgia

Respondents Reporting ACEs

•Divorce	33%
•Substance Abuse	26%
•Emotional Violence	26%
•Domestic Violence	18%
•Physical Abuse	18%
•Mental Illness	15%
•Sexual Abuse	13%
•Parent Incarceration	10%



ACEs by Demographic Characteristics

- Females had a slightly higher prevalence of four or more (4+) ACEs compared to males
- Having 4+ ACEs did not significantly differ by race or ethnicity
- College graduates had a significantly lower prevalence of 4+ ACEs than adults with any educational level

Potential Outcomes

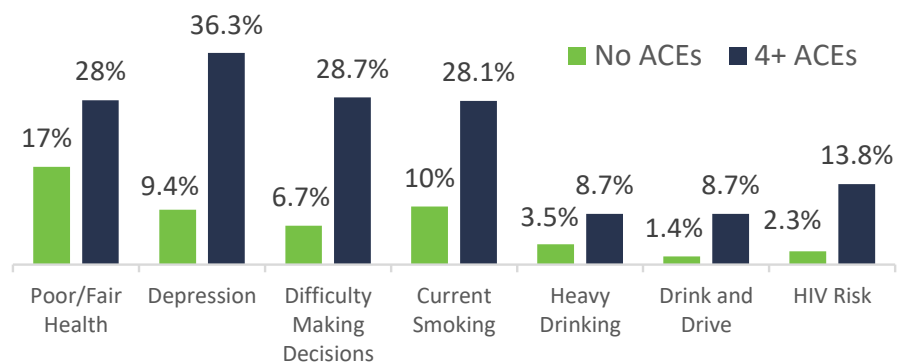
National data shows adults with 4+ ACEs compared to zero are:

- 6x more likely to have clinical depression
- 3.6x more likely to have serious job problems
- 2.2x more likely to have a heart attack

Generational

Many children who experience ACEs have a caregiver who also experienced ACEs. The adverse effects of a parent's traumatic experiences as a child can exacerbate a family crisis.

Health Behaviors and Outcomes for GA Adults Reporting 4+ ACEs Compared to 0 ACEs*



Adults with 4+ ACEs were more likely to:

- Have poor mental health for 14 days or more in the previous month
- Have been diagnosed with depression
- Have difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions due to a physical, emotional, or mental condition

*All displayed results are significant

**HIV Risk- Adults who reported that in the past year they had:

- 1) Injected any non-prescribed drug, 2) Treated for a sexually transmitted disease, or 3) Given or received money or drugs in exchange for sex

Georgia Essentials for Childhood is a statewide network of organizations and individuals working to build resilient communities, address and prevent adverse childhood experiences, improve community environments, and other forms of trauma, and to create communities where all children thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

Suggested Citation: Davis, V.N., Bayakly, A.R., Chosewood, D., Drenzek, C. 2021 Data Summary: Adverse Childhood Experiences.

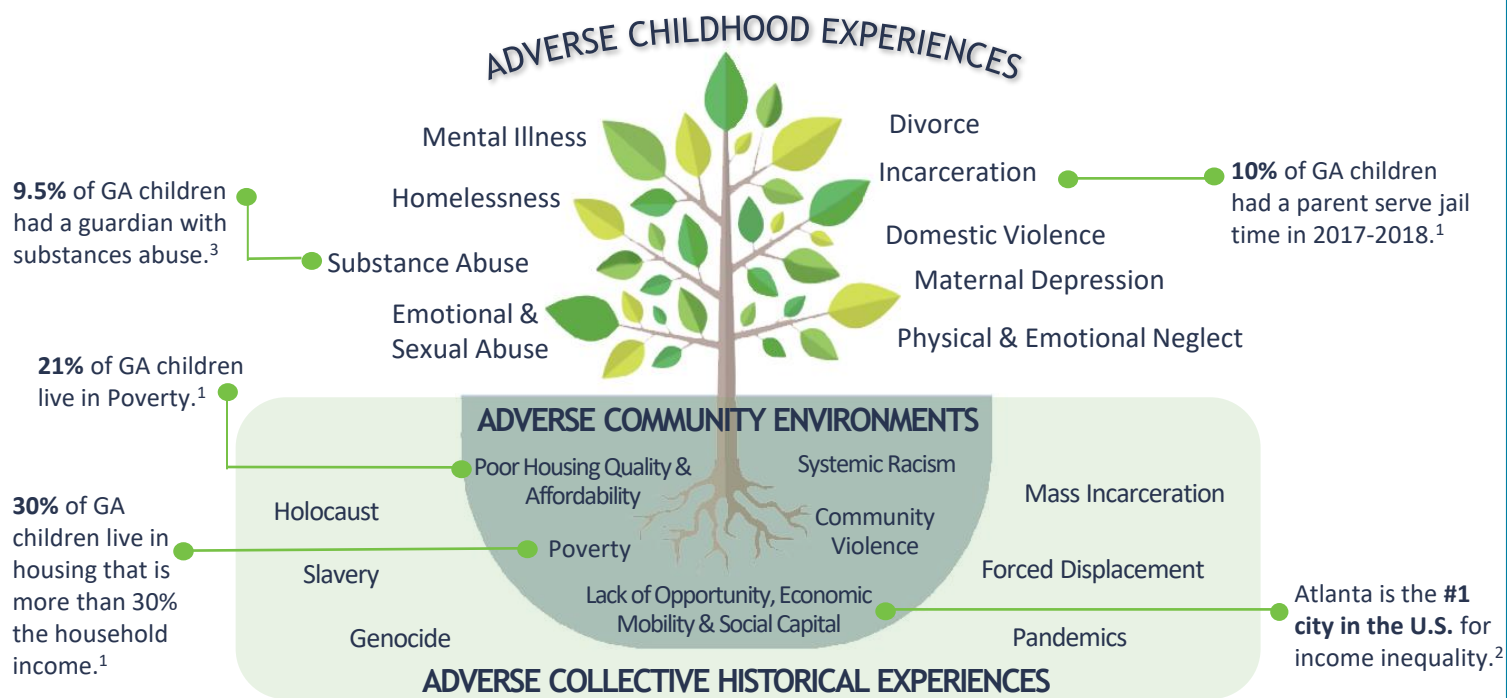
Georgia Department of Public Health, Epidemiology Section, Chronic Disease, Healthy Behaviors, and Injury Epidemiology Unit



Adversity is Widespread Yet Preventable

The official Adverse Childhood Experiences scale only captures a piece of the story. The communities in which families live can also face adversity: widespread poverty, lack of opportunity, lack of needed social services – including mental health. Adversity can also occur for collective populations and generations. These social determinants of health are at the root of widespread adversity and trauma. Thus, a comprehensive solution must include adversities experienced at the individual and community level.

The ACEs Tree (pictured) depicts the interconnectedness of Adverse Childhood Experiences of the family environment, or branches on which children bud and grow, to the community and collective historical environments– the soil in which some children’s lives are rooted.



Positive Childhood Experiences



Science shows that providing stable, responsive, nurturing relationships in the earliest years of life can **prevent or even reverse** the damaging effects of early life stress, with lifelong benefits for learning, behavior, and health.⁴

Examples include sharing family meals, participating in a child’s activities, and educators and mentors who are engaged with children. This can extend to the larger community, thus emphasizing that one caring adult can make all the difference.

Policy Implications Providing supportive and positive conditions for early childhood development is more effective and less costly than attempting to address the consequences of early adversity later. Policies and programs that support families and communities who are most at risk for experiencing trauma and disparities as early as possible will reduce or avoid the need for more costly and less effective remediation later on.

By Focusing On

Policies directed at early care and education, mental health, family economic supports, and other areas....

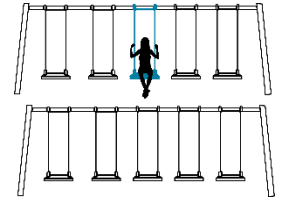
We Can

Promote the safe, supportive environments and stable, caring relationships that children need to thrive.

1. Kids Count Data Center, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#GA>
2. Bloomberg. (November 21, 2019). In America’s most unequal city, top households rake in \$663,000. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-11-21/in-america-s-most-unequal-city-top-households-rake-in-663-000>
3. Data Resources Center for Child & Adolescent health <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=7210&r=12>
4. Bethell C, Jones J, Gombojav N, Linkenbach J, Sege R. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2019;173(11):e193007. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.3007

Child Sexual Abuse

1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday¹.



Child sexual abuse (CSA) is the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child

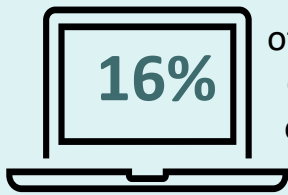
and includes fondling, sodomy, rape, commercial sexual exploitation of children (sex trafficking), indecent exposure and exhibitionism, or utilizing the internet as a vehicle for exploitation. Keep in mind that direct physical contact with a child is not required to sexually abuse a child. Indecent exposure, showing pornography to a child or exploiting a child on the internet are all examples of sexual abuse.

Quick Facts

The perpetrator is usually an individual **known** to the victim and family².

23% of reported CSA is perpetrated by another child. Recent studies indicate significantly higher rates^{2,3}.

Child sexual abuse includes interactions **without** physical touch such as indecent exposure.



of youth report experiencing online sexual abuse³.

It is not only adults or online strangers who are responsible. It also results from peers or young adult friends who pressure youth for sexual images or activities, or who misuse images they received without consent. This abuse includes many romantic partners and offline friends.

Those who sexually abuse often do not use physical force, but may use play, deception, threats, or other forms of coercion to engage children and maintain their silence. They frequently employ persuasive and manipulative tactics to keep the child engaged. These tactics—sometimes referred to as “grooming”—may include buying gifts or arranging special activities, which can further confuse the victim.

The impact of sexual abuse against children can cause short and long-term physical and psychological problems, such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts².

Indicators

Sexually abused children may display a range of emotional and behavioral reactions such as:

- An increase in nightmares, sleeping difficulties
- Withdrawn behavior
- Angry outbursts
- Anxiety, depression
- Not wanting to be left alone with a particular individual(s)
- Sexual knowledge, language, or behaviors that are inappropriate for the child’s age

Disclosures

Although many children who have experienced sexual abuse show behavioral and emotional changes, many others do not. Adults must also be prepared to respond to a child’s direct or indirect disclosure of abuse. Here are some tips:

- Reassure the child: “I believe you.” “What happened isn’t your fault.”
- Listen openly and calmly
- Ask open-ended and limited questions
- Write down any facts and report to CPS



Tips to Help Protect Children from Sexual Abuse⁴

- Teach children accurate names of body parts.
- Avoid focusing on “stranger danger.” Most perpetrators are known to the family.
- Teach children body safety and the difference between “okay” and “not okay” touches.
- Let children know that they have the right to make decisions about their bodies. Empower them to say no when they do not want to be touched, even in non-sexual ways (e.g., politely refusing hugs) and to say no to touching others.
- Make sure children know that adults and older children never need help with their private body parts (e.g., bathing or going to the bathroom).
- Teach children how to take care of their own private parts (i.e., bathing, wiping) so they don’t have to rely on adults or older children for help.
- Educate children about the difference between surprises (like surprise parties—which are okay because they are not kept secret for long) and secrets (those that the child is supposed to keep secret forever, which are not okay).
- If you feel uneasy about leaving a child with someone, don’t do it. If you’re concerned about possible sexual abuse, ask questions.
- Avoid and/or monitor situations and interactions where a child is alone and isolated with one adult or older youth.

How Child and Youth Serving Organizations Can Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

1. Require background checks and additional screening of all employees and volunteers
2. Provide guidelines on interactions between adults and children (e.g., one-on-one interactions with children should be in settings which can be observed by others)
3. Continually monitor employee and volunteer behavior regarding adherence to guidelines
4. Have clear organizational policies and training on responding to inappropriate behavior, breaches in policy, and allegations and suspicions of child sexual abuse
5. Ensure safe environments (e.g., spaces that are open and visible to multiple people, off-site activity and transportation guidelines)
6. Staff training on child sexual abuse prevention during onboarding and ongoing

➔ Find more information: *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-Serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures, CDC*

➔ Information on preventing child sexual abuse and training at [GeorgiaCenterForChildAdvocacy.org](https://www.GeorgiaCenterForChildAdvocacy.org)

Citations

1. Townsend, C. & Rheingold, A.A. (2013). Estimating a child sexual abuse prevalence rate for practitioners: A review of child sexual abuse prevalence studies. Charleston, S.C., Darkness to Light. Retrieved from <https://www.d2l.org/child-sexual-abuse/prevalence>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022 April). Fast facts: Preventing child sexual abuse. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childsexualabuse/fastfact.html>
3. Finkelhor D, Turner H, Colburn D. (2022). Prevalence of online sexual offenses against children in the US. *JAMA Netw Open*.5(10):e2234471. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.34471
4. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2009). Child Sexual Abuse Fact Sheet. https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/child_sexual_abuse_fact_sheet_parents_teachers_caregivers.pdf



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A crime that involves exploiting a person for labor services or commercial sex.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services by force, fraud, or coercion.

SEX TRAFFICKING

A commercial sex act that occurs by force, fraud, or coercion or when the person performing the act is under the age of 18.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person¹. CSEC is reportable as child abuse in the State of Georgia.

The occurrence of CSEC can be categorized by:

Family Facilitated- Family member exchanges sexual acts with a child for goods, substances, rent, services, money, or status within the community.

Gang Facilitated- Youth exploited as initiation and/or to bring in revenue for the gang. Gangs perceive CSEC as a low risk and lucrative market.

Trafficker Facilitated- Traffickers target vulnerable children/youth and lure them into CSEC using psychological manipulation, drugs and/or violence.

Buyer Facilitated- Sexual act exchanged for an extreme need (food, clothing, money or shelter). Victims in a desperate situation feel that trading sexual contact for basic necessities is their only option.

Technology/Internet Facilitated- Facilitated via social media or the internet. There may not be a trafficker involved in facilitating the exploitation, however there is a third party involved (buyer, etc.). For example: a youth exchanges sexually suggestive or nude images for money, etc.

In Georgia, 20%-25% of confirmed CSEC cases are family facilitated².

Many trafficked youth are first recruited or introduced by a peer, who may also be a victim.

772

Georgia youth were served for the risk of or confirmed CSEC in 2022. The average age of youth served was 14 years².

Research shows that most youth are exploited two or more years before accessing services.



CSEC is not an Atlanta issue, it is a State of Georgia issue.

CSEC was confirmed in 127 Georgia counties in 2022. Rates of children who are at-risk or confirmed for CSEC in rural and suburban regions in Georgia are similar to those of Metro Atlanta. In fact, in 2022, Richmond County Georgia had the highest CSEC referral rate².

Vulnerabilities and Red Flags

Traffickers look for youth who are easy targets for a variety of reasons, including:

- Economic hardship
- Psychological or emotional vulnerability
- Lack of social safety net
- Natural disasters or political instability

Youth experiencing homelessness or living in shelters are especially at risk. One study estimates that nearly 40% of youth in Georgia shelters have been victims of CSEC³ typically as a means of survival. Additionally, a history of physical and sexual abuse is common among CSEC victims⁴.

Traffickers often lure victims using the following methods:

- Violence
- Manipulation
- False promises of well-paying jobs
- Romantic Relationships

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help.

Red Flags: Common Indicators of CSEC⁴

- Disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or church
- Stopped attending school
- Sudden or dramatic change in behavior
- Engaged in commercial sex acts
- Disoriented or confused, or shows signs of mental or physical abuse
- Bruises in various stages of healing
- Acts fearful, timid, or submissive
- Shows signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care
- Often defers to someone who seems to be in control (e.g., where they go or who they talk to)
- Appears to be coached on what to say
- Living in unsuitable or unstable conditions
- Lacks personal possessions
- Is not allowed to freely leave residence or has unreasonable security measures

Report and Get Support for CSEC Victims

1

Report to the Division of Family and Children Services

Hotline available 24/7
1-855-422-4453

Report online at
<https://cps.dhs.ga.gov/>

2

Make a Report to Law Enforcement

911



3

Make a Referral to Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

1-866-END-HTGA
1-866-363-4842, option 2

www.cacga.org/csec-response-team/

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Georgia Organizations

Child Advocacy Centers of Georgia

Trafficking Hotline: (888) END-HTGA (363-4842)

www.cacga.org

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children

www.choa.org/cptraining

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Victim Services: (404) 657-2222

www.cjcc.georgia.gov

Find Help Georgia

Helpline: (800) 244-5373

www.findhelpga.org

Frontline Response

(formerly Out of Darkness)

24/7 Hotline: (404) 941-6024

www.frontlineresponse.org/anti-sex-trafficking

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy

www.georgiacenterforchildadvocacy.org

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV)

State DV Hotline: (800) 33-HAVEN (42836)

www.gcadv.org

Georgia Department of Human Services

Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

State Child Abuse Hotline: (855) GA-CHILD (42-24453)

www.dfcs.georgia.gov

Planned Parenthood Southeast

www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-southeast

Public Health District Clinics

dph.georgia.gov/public-health-districts

Project Safe: Breaking Silence Teen Textline

For teens in Georgia experiencing relationship abuse. Text Line: 706-765-8019

www.project-safe.org/

Prevention and Community Support Unit at DFCS

dfcs.georgia.gov/services/prevention-and-community-support-section

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

www.PCAGeorgia.org

Street Grace

www.streetgrace.org

Tapestri

Victim advocacy with international focus

Hotline: (866) 317-FREE (3733)

www.tapestri.org

United Way 211

unitedwayatlanta.org/find-help

Voices for Georgia's Children

www.georgiavoices.org

Wellspring Living

www.wellspringliving.org

YouthSpark, Inc.

www.youth-spark.org

Mandated Reporter Training

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's resources and training:

TinyURL.com/MandatedReporterGA

Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation Prevention Education

Georgia Center for Child Advocacy

GeorgiaCenterForChildAdvocacy.org

Georgia's CSEC Response

Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

1-866-END-HTGA
1-866-363-4842, option 2

cacga.org/csec-response-team

National Organizations

The Arc

thearc.org/our-initiatives/criminal-justice/talk-about-sexual-violence/

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control**
(800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)
www.cdc.gov/injury/

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
(800)-4-A-CHILD
www.childhelp.org/hotline

Connect to Protect Kids
www.connecttoprotectkids.org

Darkness to Light
National Hotline: (866) FOR-LIGHT (367-54448)
www.d2l.org

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
(800) THE-LOST (800-843-5678)
www.missingkids.com

National Center for Victims of Crime
www.victimsofcrime.org

National Children's Alliance
www.nationalchildrensalliance.org

National Human Trafficking Resource Center & National Hotline
(888) 373-7888 or
Text: "BeFree" to 233733
www.humantraffickinghotline.org

National Center on Child Trafficking (NCCT)
ncct.gsu.edu

National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
www.nsvrc.org

Prevent Connect
(916) 446-2520
www.preventconnect.org

Prevent Together - National Coalition to Prevent Child Sex Abuse and Exploitation
www.preventtogether.org

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN)
(800) 656-HOPE (4673)
www.rainn.org

Shared Hope International
(866) 437-5433
www.sharedhope.org

Stop It Now!
(888)PREVENT
www.stopitnow.org

Educational Resources for Professionals

Human Trafficking in America's Schools (US Dept. of Ed) <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools>

Principles of Prevention online course (CDC) <https://vetoviolenecdc.gov/apps/principles-of-prevention/>

Dating Matters – CDC resource for Educators
<https://vetoviolenecdc.gov/apps/datingmatters/training/training.html#m1l1>

State Laws Mandating Child Sexual Abuse Education in Schools enoughabuse.org

Webinar series on problematic sexual behavior [MACA Webinar Series \(masoc.net\)](http://MACAWebinarSeries(masoc.net))

National Plan to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation <https://preventtogether.org/national-plan/>

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