

Georgia Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics

A Call for Prevention

Child abuse and neglect is not caused by a single factor but by multiple factors related to the individual, family, community, and society at large. Environments that are violent, lack accessible and effective community resources, and are disproportionately affected by poverty or unemployment are variables that contribute to child abuse and neglect.



Georgia is ranked **38th** in the nation for child well-being.²



Economic Well-Being Rank 35

- **2 in 10** children live in homes experiencing poverty
- **27%** of children's parents lack secure employment



Family and Community Rank 39

- **38%** of children live in single-parent families
- **74%** White vs. **46%** Black or Latino families own homes



Education Rank 37

- **50%** of children ages 3 and 4 are not in school
- **65%** of fourth graders are not proficient in reading
- **19%** of high school students don't graduate on time

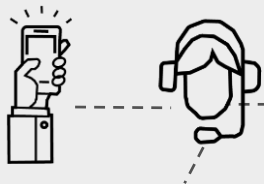


Health Rank 46

- **9.9%** of babies born are considered low-birth weight
- **7%** of children do not have health insurance
- **Half** of pregnancy-related deaths are in Black women

Breakdown: Children in the System

Reports are received by centralized intake 24/7 by phone or online.



Screened Out
(38,424 cases)

Assigned In-Person Response Time

- Immediately
- 24 hours
- 72 hours



87,587 cases involving
164,064 children

A case worker goes to the family's home to determine if an **investigation** or **alternative response** is needed.

Whether or not the case is confirmed (substantiated) for maltreatment, the family may receive services, responses, or entry into foster care.

Confirmed Victims¹ 11,455 children

Sex Trafficking 20 victims- Less than 1%

5% Sexual Abuse 540 children
(Only reported cases, experts estimate that **1 in 10** kids experience sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.)

8% Physical Abuse 852 children

11% Psychological Abuse 1,491 children

13% Multiple Forms 1211 children

63% Neglect 6,976 children

67.3% of reports made nationally to CPS were from professionals serving children and families



Cost of Child Maltreatment

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Such as Child Maltreatment



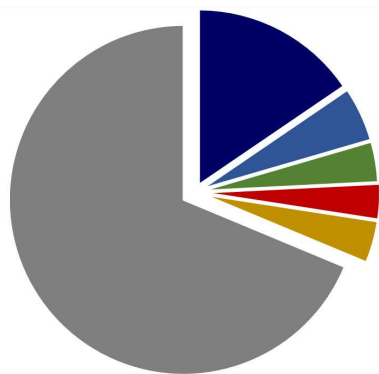
Can impair a child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physiological development

Increase chance of adverse health outcomes and risky behavior

Increase likelihood of disease, disability, and mental illness throughout adulthood

In Georgia, **58%** of adults surveyed had at least one Adverse Childhood Experience⁵

The Total Direct Cost for **ONE** Victim's Lifetime is about \$226,822³



- \$35,162 ■ Short-term health care costs
- \$11,341 ■ Long-term health care costs
- \$8,399 ■ Child welfare costs
- \$7,333 ■ Criminal justice costs
- \$8,693 ■ Special education costs
- \$155,894 ■ Productivity Loss

Research has shown there is **no significant difference** in developmental outcomes for

Children with a substantiated child abuse and neglect case

Vs.

Children subject to an investigation but not substantiated⁴

Resources in your Community

1-800-CHILDREN (1-800- 244-5373) Helpline

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's helpline is an information and referral phone number designed to address a parent's or professional's concerns and provide local support. Callers will be connected to appropriate resources in their communities Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm. You can find support and programs in your area by using the interactive map, www.PCAGeorgiaHelpline.org.

To Report Child Maltreatment

Suspected child abuse or neglect should be reported to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling **1-855-GACHILD (1-855-422-4453)** or going online to complete a mandated reporter form at cps.dhs.ga.gov. If you have an emergency, please call 911 or your local police department.

Mandated Reporter Training

For in-person training, contact Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's Training Coordinator, Naeshia McDowell, nmcdowell2@gsu.edu. To learn more about your role as a mandated reporter or access free online mandated reporter training, visit www.PCAGeorgia.org.



1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2020). *Child Maltreatment 2018*. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2018.pdf>
2. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2019). *Kids Count Databook 2019*. Baltimore, MD
3. Peterson, C., Florence, C. & Klevens, J. (2018). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States, 2016. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 86, 178-183.
4. Hussey, J., Marshall, J., English, D., Knight, E., Lau, A. Dubowitz, H. et al. (2005). Defining maltreatment according to substantiation. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 29(5), 479-492.
5. The Georgia Department of Public Health. (2018). Georgia Data Summary: Adverse Childhood Experiences. Retrieved from: https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/files/2019/01/ACE_datasummary_April_2018_final.pdf



This project was supported in part by the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CFDA 93.590). Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CFDA 93.590).