Child Abuse and Neglect in Georgia

Child Maltreatment Reporting

Nationally, 4.1 million referrals were made to Child Protective Services (CPS) involving 7.4 million children

676,000 Unique victim counts of child abuse and neglect nationally

115,311 Reports were received by CPS in Georgia

21,635 Child victims in Georgia

97 Fatalities in GA

70% of fatalities involve 3-years old or younger

63.4% of reports to CPS nationally were made by professionals that serve children and families

Number of Child Maltreatment Victims in Georgia by Year

In 2014, the number of victims in Georgia increased in part due to a change that allowed reports to be made 24 hours a day online and by phone. In 2016, new policies called for in-person responses to all reports before deciding if the case would be investigated or given an alternative response.

Georgia ranked 39th in the nation for child well-being in 2016.

Types of Maltreatment

**Physical Abuse** 2,219 victims*
The non-accidental physical injury of a child.

**Psychological (Emotional) Abuse** 4,433 victims*
Excessive or aggressive behavior that places unreasonable demands on a child, usually occurs as verbal abuse.

**Neglect** 16,421 victims*
Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supervision or failure to meet emotional or psychological needs; neglect is the most common form of child abuse.

**Sexual Abuse** 876 victims*
Child exploitation for sexual gratification of an adult or older child.

This only captures reported cases, experts estimate that 1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.

*Victim counts for Georgia in 2016 (based on data released in 2018)
Cost of Child Maltreatment

The estimated cost of one child death attributed to maltreatment is $16 MILLION.

The national estimated total cost of SUBSTANTIATED CHILD MALTREATMENT victims from 2015 is more than $428 BILLION.

Georgia accounts for about $18 BILLION of the national estimate.

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

- Children with a substantiated child abuse and neglect case
- Children subject to an investigation but not substantiated

The Total Cost for ONE Victim’s Lifetime is $830,928

- $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
- $760,000 Quality-Adjusted Life Year includes intangible costs due to pain, suffering, and grief resulting from child abuse & neglect among victims and communities.

Resources in your Community

1800CHILDREN (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 Department 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.


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).