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 ranked **38th** in the nation for child well-being in 2020.

**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 Black women

**Confirmed Victims** 10,102 children

- **Sex Trafficking** 45 victims - Less than 1%
- **Sexual Abuse** 848 children
  (Only reported cases, experts estimate that **1 in 10** kids experience sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.)
- **Physical Abuse** 1,194 children
- **Psychological Abuse** 1,962 children
- **Neglect** 7,091 children

**68.6%** of reports made nationally to CPS were from professionals serving children and families

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Breakdown: Children in the System

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

**Assigned In-Person Response Time**
- Immediately
- 24 hours
- 72 hours

**Screened Out** (39,463 cases)

86,309 cases involving 194,624 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.
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 at PreventChildAbuseGA@gsu.edu. To learn more about your role as a mandated reporter or access free online mandated reporter training, visit www.PCAGeorgia.org.

Cost of Child Maltreatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Cost (in dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-term health care costs</td>
<td>$35,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term health care costs</td>
<td>$11,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child welfare costs</td>
<td>$8,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal justice costs</td>
<td>$7,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special education costs</td>
<td>$8,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productivity Loss</td>
<td>$155,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Total Direct Cost for ONE Victim’s Lifetime is about $226,822

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 substantiated.

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

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