

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 **37th** in the nation for child well-being in 2023.



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 31

- **51%** of children ages 3 and 4 are not in school
- **68%** of fourth graders are not proficient in reading
- **18%** of high school students don't graduate on time



Health Rank 43

- **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

Breakdown: Children in the System

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



Screened Out
(59,797 reports)

Assigned In-Person Response Time

- Immediately
- 24 hours
- 72 hours



54,463 reports involving
106,948 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 Victims 9,843 children

Sex Trafficking 62 victims- Less than 1%

7% **Sexual Abuse** 720 children
(Only reported cases, experts estimate that **1 in 10** kids experience sexual abuse by their 18th birthday.)

11% **Physical Abuse** 1,110 children

23% **Psychological Abuse** 2,299 children

64% **Neglect** 6,311 children

67% 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



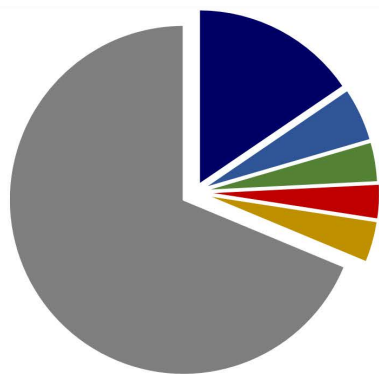
Can impair a child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physiological development

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

Find Help Georgia www.FindHelpGA.org (1-800- 244-5373)

Find Help Georgia is an easy way for residents to get connected with help, based on our comprehensive directory of local resources that will help strengthen families. Help seekers can search by zip code, or speak directly with a resource specialist by phone or online chat to locate resources near them.

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 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.



1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2023). *Child Maltreatment 2021*. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2021.pdf>
2. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2022). *Kids Count Databook 2022*. Baltimore, MD. <https://www.aecf.org/resources/2022-kids-count-data-book>
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