

PREVENTING ACES - DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

DFCS Region 9: Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilcox Counties

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are preventable, traumatic events that occur in childhood, that can lead to negative near- and long-term health outcomes (CDC 2019).

Key Points:

- Trauma-informed practices recognize and respond to the signs, symptoms, and risks of trauma to better support the needs of people who have experienced ACEs. Trauma-informed care is an approach defined by treating the whole person, considering past trauma and resulting behaviors and health outcomes (Resilient GA).
- Trauma-informed supports can mitigate the effects of adversity by fostering inclusion and helping families and children manage stress.
- Promoting positive social norms about parenting and acceptable parenting behaviors or destigmatizing mental health care can reduce the incidence and limit the harmful impact of ACEs.

GA Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan (CANPP)

The data presented align with select strategies from the GA Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan (CANPP). To learn more about the CANPP, visit: <https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/canpp/>

The following CANPP strategies were selected to implement in this region by a team of community stakeholders:

1. Increase life-skills training for school-aged children and youth (e.g., financial literacy as a core competency).
2. Increase access to evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support that help parents and caregivers understand all stages of their child's development.
3. Increase access to low/no-cost community-based health services for low income families (e.g., substance-abuse recovery programs).

How this factsheet can help prevent ACEs

The data presented are measures that influence the occurrence of ACEs. These measures represent potential targets for interventions and are presented to help communities make decisions on the best lines of action.



Strategy 1: Increase life-skills training for school-aged children and youth (e.g., financial literacy as a core competency).

Percent of population 25+ with bachelor's degree or higher, by county

County	Percent
Telfair	7.1
Johnson	9.1
Wheeler	9.1
Appling	9.7
Pulaski	12.5
Candler	12.6
Wilcox	12.6
Emanuel	12.8
Jeff Davis	12.8
Wayne	13.5
Treutlen	14.2
Tattnall	14.5
Dodge	15.6
Evans	15.8
Bleckley	16.0
Laurens	16.7
Toombs	16.8
Montgomery	17.8
Georgia	33.0

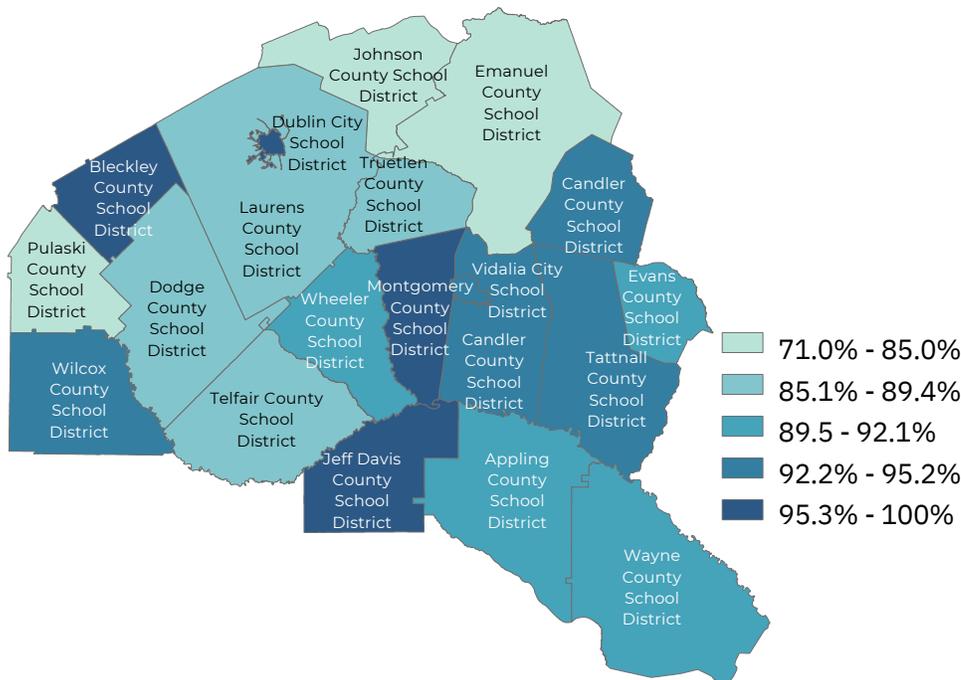
Life skills curricula with a focus on social-emotional learning (SEL) can reduce peer violence and improve reading, writing, and math proficiency (CDC 2019).

The tables on this page show the percent of students that graduated high school on time by school district and the percent of adults 25 and older who earned a Bachelor's degree or higher. Increasing life-skills training (with a focus on SEL) for school-aged children and youth can further improve academic achievements, such as graduation rates and higher education, which can decrease the likelihood of ACEs (CDC 2019, 2021).



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates (2017-2021)

Percent of high school students who graduated on time, by school district



School District	Percent
Johnson County	82.9
Emanuel County	83.3
Pulaski County	84.8
Telfair County	86.1
Laurens County	88.1
Dodge County	88.4
Treutlen County	88.9
Wayne County	90.1
Wheeler County	91.6
Evans County	91.9
Appling County	92.0
Wilcox County	92.1
Tattnall County	92.2
Toombs County	93.1
Vidalia City	93.8
Candler County	94.4
Dublin City	95.5
Bleckley County	96.4
Montgomery County	97.1
Jeff Davis County	97.4
Georgia	84.1

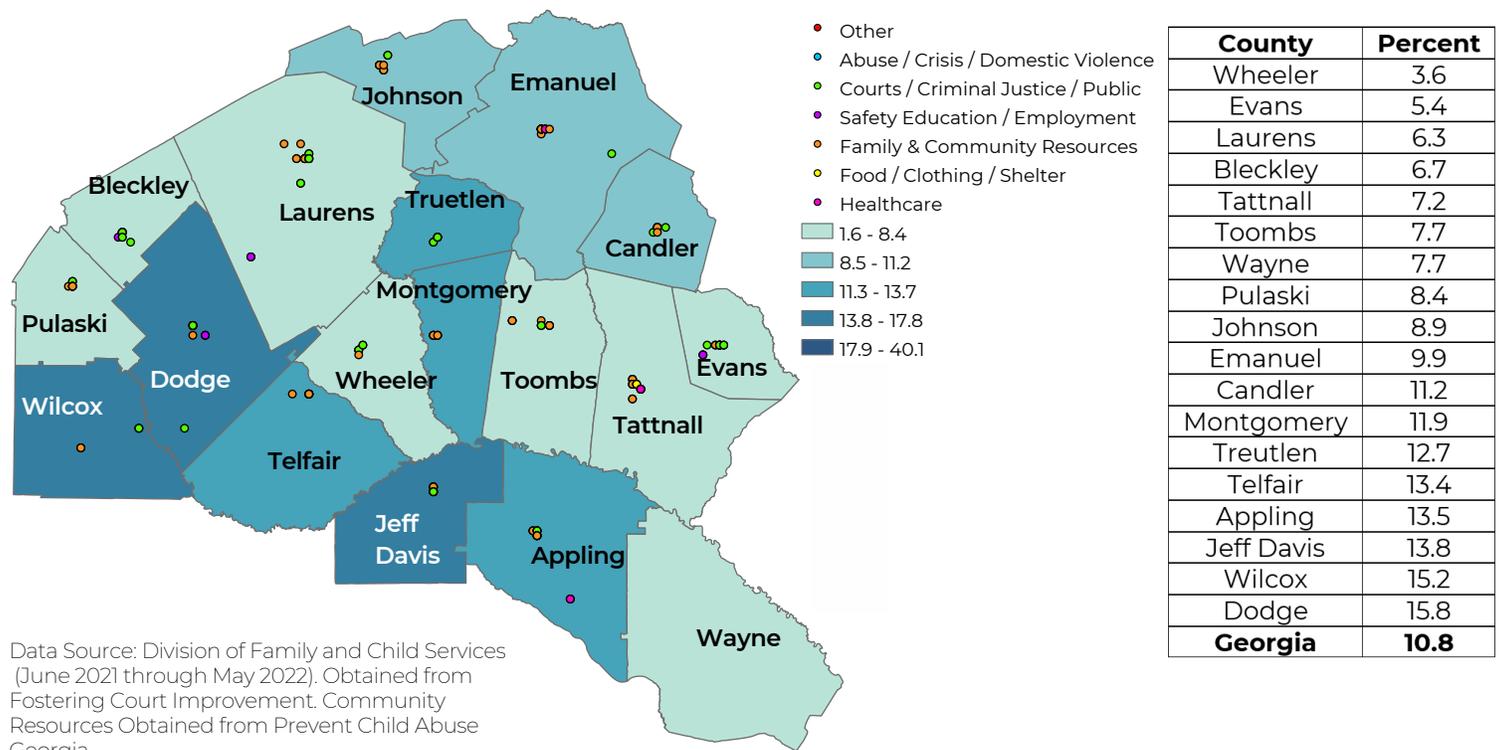
Data Source: Governor's Office of Student Achievement (2021-2022 School Year)

Strategy 2: Increase access to evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support that help parents and caregivers understand all stages of their child’s development.

Parenting skills are important to end generational cycles of violence. These skills support the development of healthy family relationships and reduce known risk factors for child abuse and neglect. PEACH Parenting is a site that parents can use access information and resources designed to help them become stronger parents. Here, they will learn ways to adapt to stress by responding in healthy ways so that they can provide better care to their children.

Providing family supports, such as parenting programs, can prevent the occurrence of child maltreatment and ACEs. The dots on the map below show the locations of community resources in the region. Prevent Child Abuse Georgia is an organization that works to increase public awareness of child abuse prevention and recognition of suspected child abuse and neglect cases. Click [here](#) to learn more about their public trainings. Find supportive family resources at [Find Help Georgia](#).

Maltreatment investigations per 10,000 children, by county, & community resources

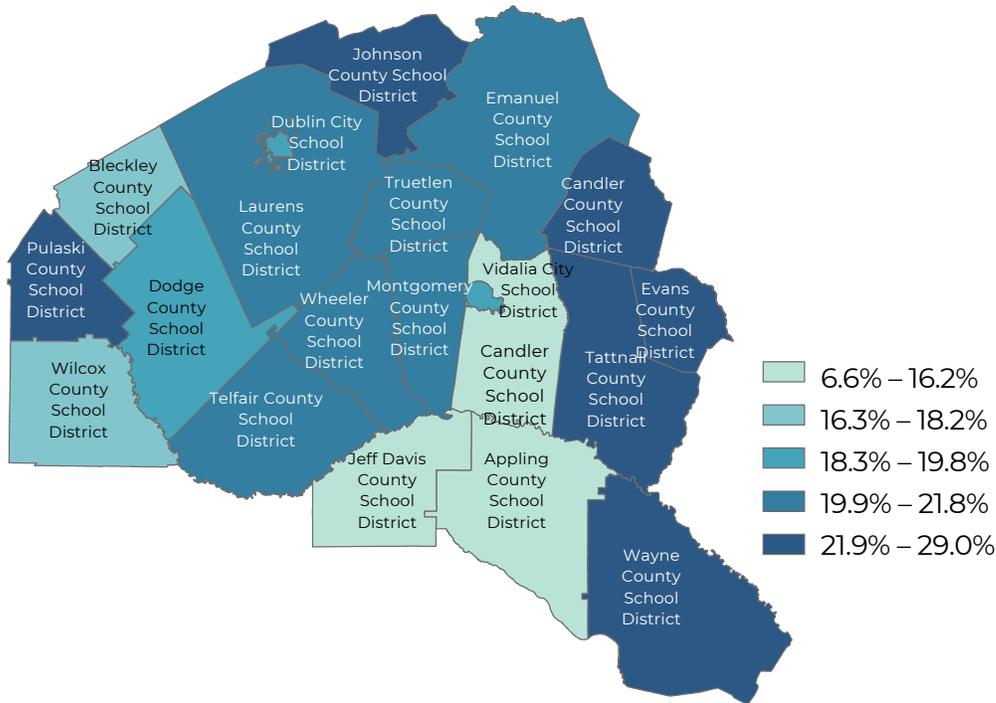


Data Source: Division of Family and Child Services (June 2021 through May 2022). Obtained from Fostering Court Improvement. Community Resources Obtained from Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Students in this region have self-reported experiencing anxiety, depression, and traumatic events like bullying and fighting. These events can impact the ability to concentrate in school or make meaningful positive relationships. **Bullying, fighting, and substance use** are behaviors that are strongly associated with ACEs. Children in families who create safe, stable, and nurturing relationships, meaning children have a consistent family life where they are safe, taken care of, and supported, are less likely to experience ACEs and more likely to rebound from adversity (CDC 2021). Increasing access to parenting programs can reduce ACEs and associated outcomes like bullying and substance misuse.

In Region 9 Bullying was common, with more than one in five students reporting having been bullied or threatened at school in the majority of districts. Having had 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a row (within a couple of hours) in the past 30 days was strongly associated with other behaviors involving the use of drugs and alcohol. Several districts in this region were well above the Georgia state average for binge drinking behavior.

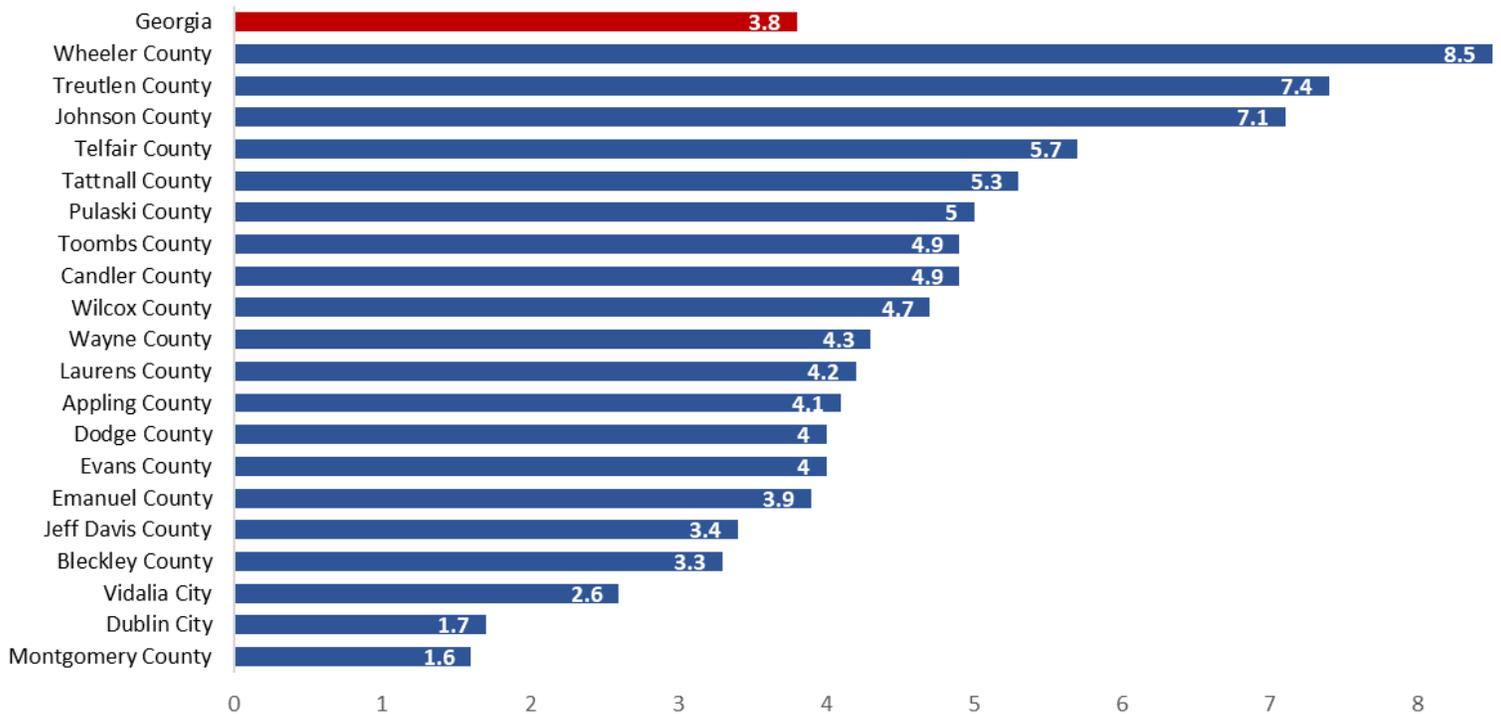
Percent of 6th-12th grade students who reported having been bullied or threatened by other students, by school district



School District	Percent
Jeff Davis County	13.1
Appling County	15.0
Toombs County	15.4
Wilcox County	17.1
Bleckley County	18.2
Dodge County	19.2
Vidalia City	19.2
Dublin City	19.3
Laurens County	20.1
Treutlen County	20.4
Wheeler County	20.4
Emanuel County	20.6
Montgomery County	21.1
Telfair County	21.8
Tattnall County	23.1
Wayne County	23.5
Candler County	24.5
Pulaski County	24.6
Johnson County	25.6
Evans County	27.2
Georgia	17.3

Data Source: Georgia Student Health Survey (2020).

Percent of 6th-12th grade students who reported having had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row in the past 30 days, by school district

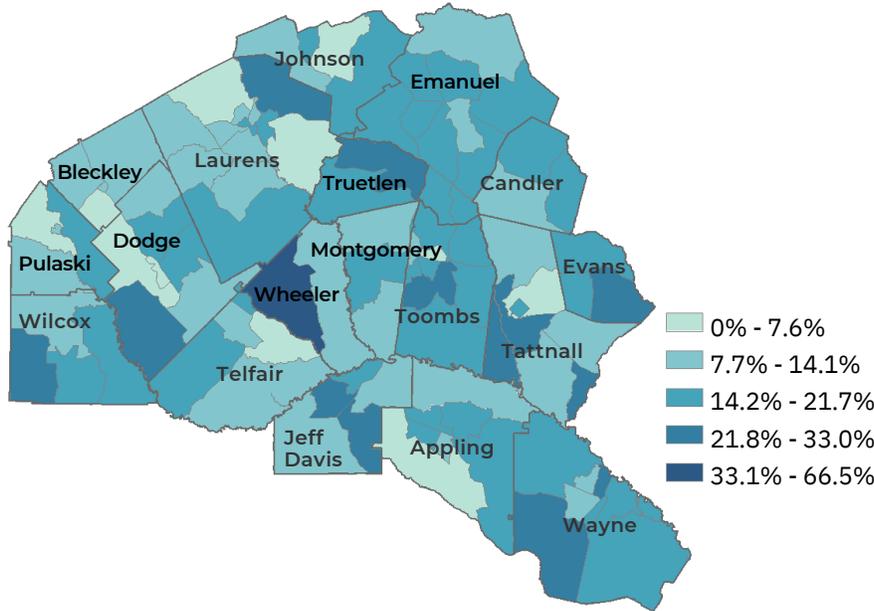


Data Source: Georgia Student Health Survey (2020).

Strategy 3: Increase access to low/no-cost community-based health services for low income families (e.g., substance-abuse recovery programs).

Communities where families have access to medical care and mental health services is a protective factor for ACEs (CDC 2021). High healthcare costs and lack of insurance coverage may make it difficult for parents in need of substance use or mental health treatment to obtain the care they need. Further, high medical costs place a financial burden on families, increasing stressors that can lead to maltreatment and ACEs. In Region 9, over 1 in 3 children are living in poverty in several counties, and most counties exceed the Georgia average for percent uninsured individuals.

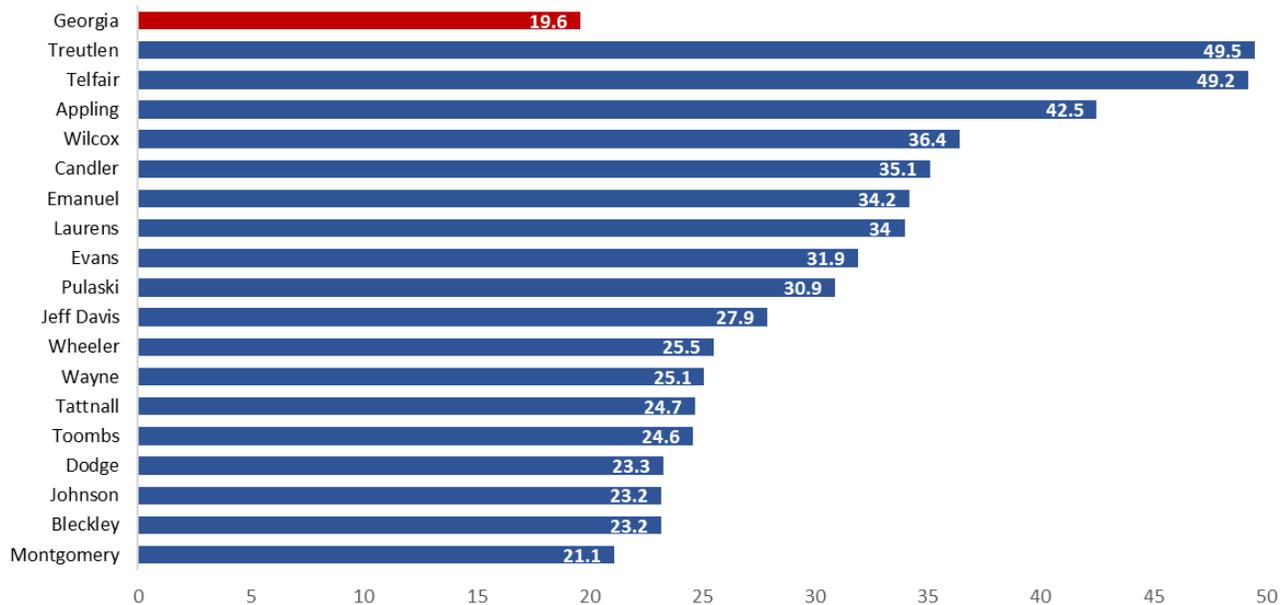
Percent of population with no health insurance coverage, by census tract (map) & county (table)



County	Percent
Pulaski	9.2
Bleckley	10.1
Telfair	11.1
Dodge	12.9
Laurens	13.3
Johnson	13.6
Appling	13.9
Montgomery	14.6
Wayne	16.5
Emanuel	16.6
Tattnall	16.9
Toombs	17.0
Candler	17.7
Wilcox	17.8
Evans	18.2
Treutlen	18.9
Jeff Davis	20.1
Wheeler	24.7
Georgia	13.1

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates (2017-2021)

Percent of children in families below 100% of the poverty level, by county



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates (2017-2021)

Preventing the Impact of ACEs

The most impactful prevention strategies, such as those found in the CANPP, offer real solutions at the family, society, and community levels. Communities that have affordable housing, opportunities for economic mobility, and low occurrences of violence have the most potential to create healthy and vibrant environments where children can thrive. Policies and programs that promote early education, mental health, and caring relationships can lessen the stressful load some families experience and by doing so, limit exposure to and prevent the negative impact of ACEs.

Evidence-based Prevention Programs

Evidence-based programs are scientifically proven to promote health and prevent disease. Listed here are just a few evidence-based programs that lessen the harms of ACEs:

- Dating Matters: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/datingmatters/index.html
- Green Dot: www.greendot.org
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters: www.bbbs.org
- Telamon GA Glennville Migrant & Seasonal Head Start: <https://www.telamon.org/>
- Telamon GA Lyons Migrant & Seasonal Head Start: <https://www.telamon.org/>
- Action Pact - Appling County Service Center: <https://www.myactionpact.org>
- Action Pact - Candler County Service Center: <https://www.myactionpact.org>
- Action Pact - Jeff Davis County Service Center: <https://www.myactionpact.org>
- Action Pact - Toombs County Service Center: <https://www.myactionpact.org>
- Claxton Head Start: <https://www.coastalgaciaa.org/early-childhood-education.html>
- Glennville Head Start: <https://www.coastalgaciaa.org/early-childhood-education.html>
- Reidsville Head Start: <https://www.coastalgaciaa.org/early-childhood-education.html>
- Wayne County Head Start: <https://www.coastalgaciaa.org/early-childhoodeducation.html>
- Communities In Schools of Cochran/Bleckley & Family Connection Community Partnership Inc.: <http://www.cisfccochranbleckley.org/>
- Heart of Georgia Healthy Start: <http://www.heartofgeorgiahealthystart.org/>
- South Georgia Healthy Start: <https://www.southgeorgiahealthystart.org/>

Helpful Resources

- Find Help GA: <https://findhelpga.org/>
- Belonging for Hope: www.belongingforhope.org
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan: abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/canpp/
- Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/preventingace-datatoaction.html
- Prevent Child Abuse Georgia: abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu
- Essentials for Childhood: abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/essentials/
- Peach Parenting: <https://peachparenting.org/>
- DECAL Developmental Milestones: <https://development.decal.ga.gov/#/>
- Georgia System of Care: <https://gasystemofcare.org/>
- Resilient Georgia: <https://www.resilientga.org/>



Looking for more ACE and ACE-related data like the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS), and other sources?

Visit our website at iprce.emory.edu/PACE-D2A.html

REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Leveraging the Best Available Evidence. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021,). Risk and protective factors. Violence Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/riskprotectivefactors.html>

Learning card: Trauma Informed. Resilient Georgia. <https://www.resilientga.org/trauma-informed>