

# PREVENTING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES - 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 potentially lead to negative near- and long-term health outcomes (CDC, 2019)

### Key Points:

- 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.

## How this factsheet can help prevent ACEs

The data presented are measures that influence the occurrence of ACEs, but they are not ACE scores. These measures help spot potential areas of improvement and make decisions on the best line of action.

## 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).

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

1. Increase access to evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support that help parents/caregivers understand all stages of their child's development.
2. Increase life-skills training for school-aged children and youth.

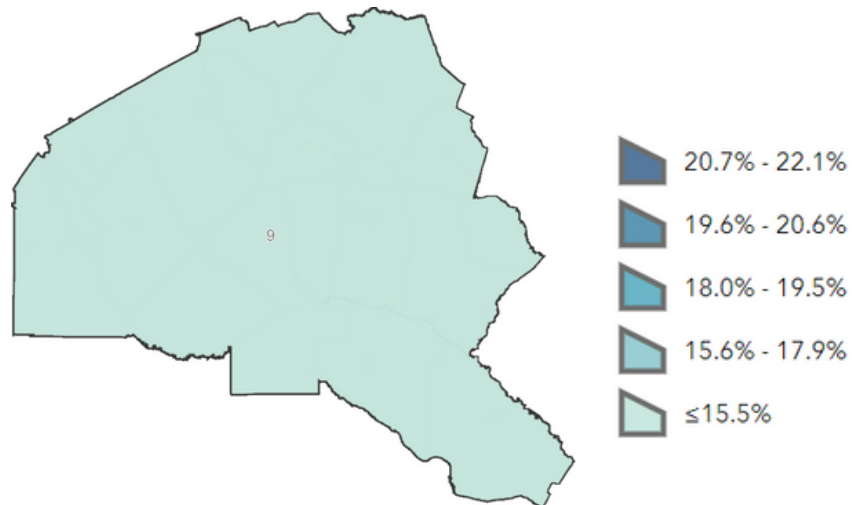
To learn more about the CANPP, visit: <https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/canpp/>

## Strategy 1: Increase access to evidence-based or research-informed programs for parenting skills and support that help parents/caregivers understand all stages of their child's development.

Adults that witnessed domestic violence between their parents are at greater risk of abusing their partner or children.

Less than 15.6% of adults in this region, when they were 18 years old or younger, lived with parents or caregivers that slapped, hit, kicked, or punched each other.

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.



Data Source: Georgia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2016 and 2018.

## Strategy 2: Increase life-skills training for school-aged children and youth.

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 table below shows the percentage of students that graduated high school by county. In each county, more than 50% of high school students graduated in 2020. Increasing life-skills training (with a focus on SEL) for school-aged children and youth can further improve academic achievements, such as graduation rates.

County	Percent
Treutlen	80.0%
Evans	82.3%
Emanuel	84.2%
Montgomery	84.5%
Tattnall	89.2%
Telfair	89.3%
Laurens	90.2%
Johnson	90.3%
Dodge	90.9%
Pulaski	91.0%
Wheeler	91.0%
Wayne	92.4%
Appling	92.8%
Jeff Davis	93.0%
Toombs	95.1%
Wilcox	95.4%
Bleckley	95.8%
Candler	96.2%

Data Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement (2019-2020)

### 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](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/datingmatters/index.html)
- Green Dot: [www.greendot.org](http://www.greendot.org)
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters: [www.bbbs.org](http://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.coastalgacia.org/early-childhood-education.html>
- Glennville Head Start: <https://www.coastalgacia.org/early-childhood-education.html>
- Reidsville Head Start: <https://www.coastalgacia.org/early-childhood-education.html>
- Wayne County Head Start: <https://www.coastalgacia.org/early-childhood-education.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

- Belonging for Hope: [www.belongingforhope.org](http://www.belongingforhope.org)
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan: [abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/canpp/](http://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/canpp/)
- Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/preventingace-datatoaction.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/preventingace-datatoaction.html)
- Prevent Child Abuse Georgia: [abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu](http://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu)
- Essentials for Childhood: [abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/essentials/](http://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/essentials/)



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](http://iprce.emory.edu/PACE-D2A.html)