

# Prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences: Data to Action

## Data Sources

### Georgia Student Health Survey

The Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) is an anonymous statewide self-report survey administered annually between October and February. The survey assesses school climate, which refers to the quality and character of school life. All Georgia public schools and the juvenile justice system are required to participate, and all private schools are eligible to participate. The survey includes approximately 100 items covering topics such as: demographics, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), ACE-indicators (childhood experiences and behaviors that are strongly associated with ACEs), and protective factors. The data used in the present analysis are the raw survey data for approximately 1.8 million students released between 2018 and 2020 (obtained by [request](#)).

Methods for using Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) to identify the prevalence of indicators of adverse childhood experiences (ACES), [click here](#) for more details.

For more information about the GSHS and to view summary data, visit the Georgia Department of Education website [here](#).

### National Survey of Children's Health

The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) is an annually self-administered survey sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration. The NSCH assesses the emotional and physical health of children between the ages of 0 and 17 years. The survey is conducted as a household survey, and one child per household is selected to be the subject of the survey. A parent or guardian answers the questions based on their knowledge of the selected child.

The data presented used in this project is from the 2019 NSCH. You can find more information about the NSCH [here](#).

### Georgia Youth Risk Behavior Survey

The Georgia Department of Public Health (GA-DPH) conducts a biennial school-based survey called the Georgia Youth Risk Behavior Survey (GA-YRBS) to measure the prevalence of priority health risk behaviors among students in grades 9 through 12. The YRBS focuses on priority health risk behaviors established during youth that result in the most significant mortality and morbidity during both youth and adulthood. These include behaviors that result in unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; unhealthy dietary behaviors; physical inactivity; and exposure to ACEs. The YRBS also assesses the prevalence of obesity and other priority health issues.

For answers to frequently asked questions, see the GA-YRBS FAQ [here](#).

### Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a national system of telephone surveys that collects data about US residents' health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services. The Georgia-BRFSS is administered by the GA-DPH and is used to track trends in behavior change

among the population, determine priority health issues, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions. It is important to note that unlike the other data sources used in this project, the BRFSS collects data related to adults, not children. For the PACEs project, the BRFSS has been used to determine the long-term effects ACEs have on health.

You can find more information on the BRFSS at the [DPH](#) and [CDC](#) websites.

### **Division of Family and Children Services**

The Department of Family and Children Services provided data related to maltreatment reports and investigations, cases of abuse and neglect, and foster care data. Find resources, support, and your local DFCS office [here](#).

