

**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 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. These measures represent potential targets for interventions and are presented to help communities make decisions on the best lines 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. Expand trauma-informed practices and resources and increase understanding about the prevalence and impact of ACEs and adverse community environments.
2. Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.
3. Shape social norms about mental health and how to recognize and seek help for mental illness and substance abuse, as well as support mental health development.

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

**Strategy 1: Expand trauma-informed practices and resources and increase understanding about the prevalence and impact of ACEs and adverse community environments.**

**Percent of Children in Families Below 150% of the Poverty Level**

COUNTY	PERCENT
Chattooga	37.6
Gordon	37.0
Whitfield	32.9
Gilmer	32.4
Murray	31.2
Walker	30.8
Dade	28.5
Pickens	23.6
Fannin	22.9
Catoosa	19.2
Cherokee	12.6

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019)

Some counties in this region have nearly 40% of children in families that live below 150% of the poverty level.

ACEs and associated social determinants of health like poverty can cause toxic stress. Some children may face further exposure to toxic stress from historical and ongoing traumas due to the impacts of multigenerational poverty resulting from limited educational and economic opportunities. This toxic stress can negatively impact cognitive processes, and harm the nervous and immune systems.

Trauma-informed practices and resources can help mitigate the harmful impact of toxic stress.

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

## Strategy 2: Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.

## Strategy 3: Shape social norms about mental health and how to recognize and seek help for mental illness and substance abuse, as well as support mental health development.

Students in this region have self-reported experiencing anxiety, depression, and traumatic events like bullying, fighting, etc. These events can impact the ability to concentrate in school or make meaningful positive relationships. Promoting trauma-informed training can help school personnel identify and respond to the trauma students are experiencing. Trauma-informed practices can create a more inclusive school environment that fosters resilience and supports positive childhood experience.

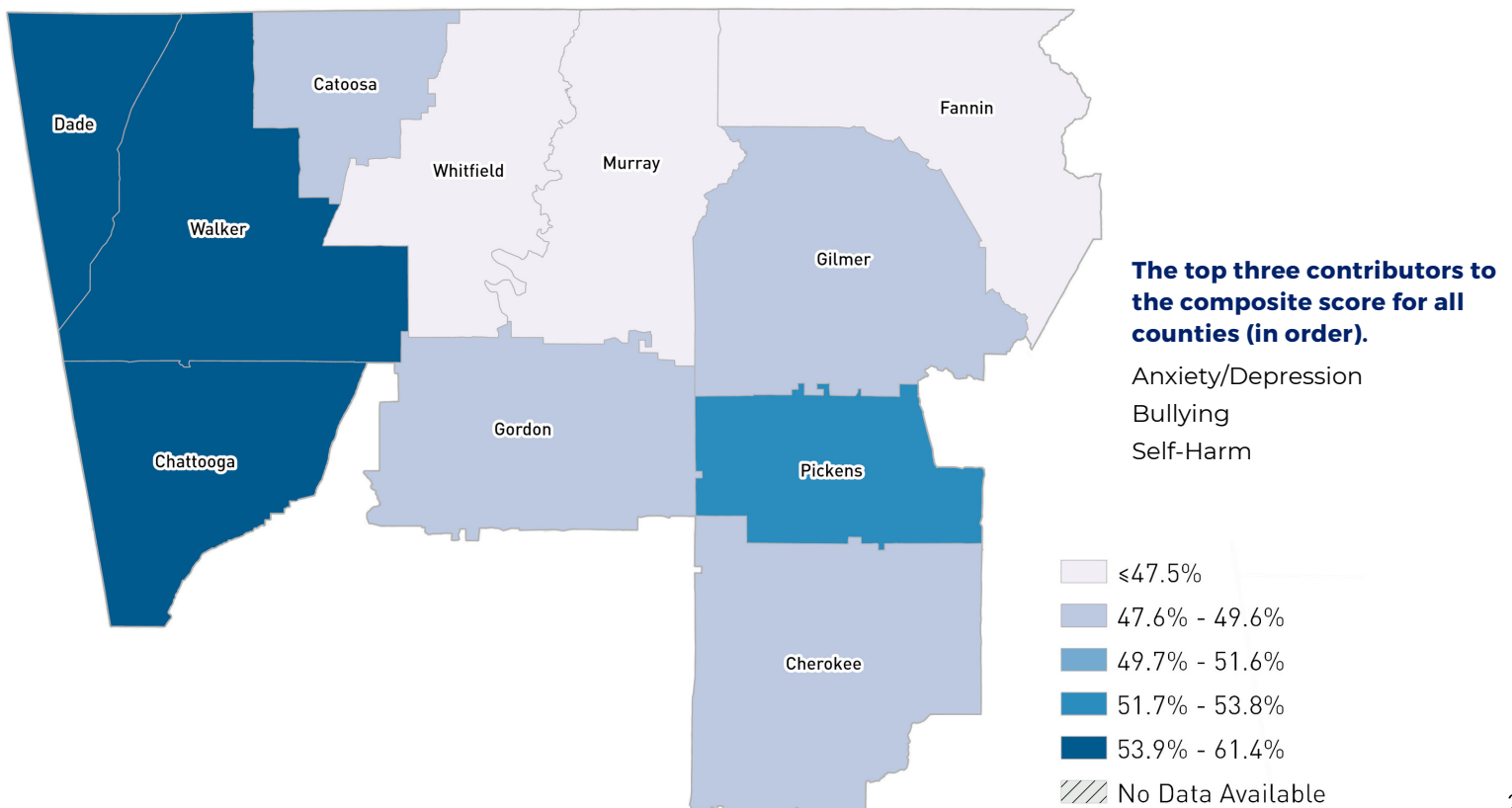
The map below shows the percentage of students in grades 6-12 who were above the state median of a composite score that reflects student behaviors associated with ACEs. The measures considered in the composite score are from the Georgia Student Health Survey (2019) and are related to the behaviors - bullying, fighting, substance use, anxiety/depression, and self-harm. A higher percentage represents a greater rate of students in grades 6-12 reporting behaviors that have been associated with ACEs or that are ACEs.

Interventions that address these behaviors (i.e., bullying, fighting, etc.) will have the greatest effect on reducing the ACE composite score. The top three leading contributors to the composite score in all counties in this region are anxiety/ depression, bullying, and self-harm, in that order.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Essentials for Childhood: Steps to Create Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments

SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative, 2014.

**A higher percentage represents a greater rate of students in grades 6-12 reporting behaviors that have been associated with ACEs or that are ACEs.**



## 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:

- Communities in Schools of Catoosa County/Catoosa County-PAT: <https://www.catoosacis.org/>
- Family Resource Center of Gordon County/ Prevent Child Abuse Gordon: <https://www.frcgordon.org/>
- Family Support Council, Inc: <http://www.familysupportcouncil.com/>
- Preferred Family Resource: <https://preferredfamilyresource.com/>
- North Georgia Family Partners/Prevent Child Abuse Pickens: <https://northgeorgiafamilypartners.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?

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# PREVENTING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES - DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

DFCS Region #2: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White 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:

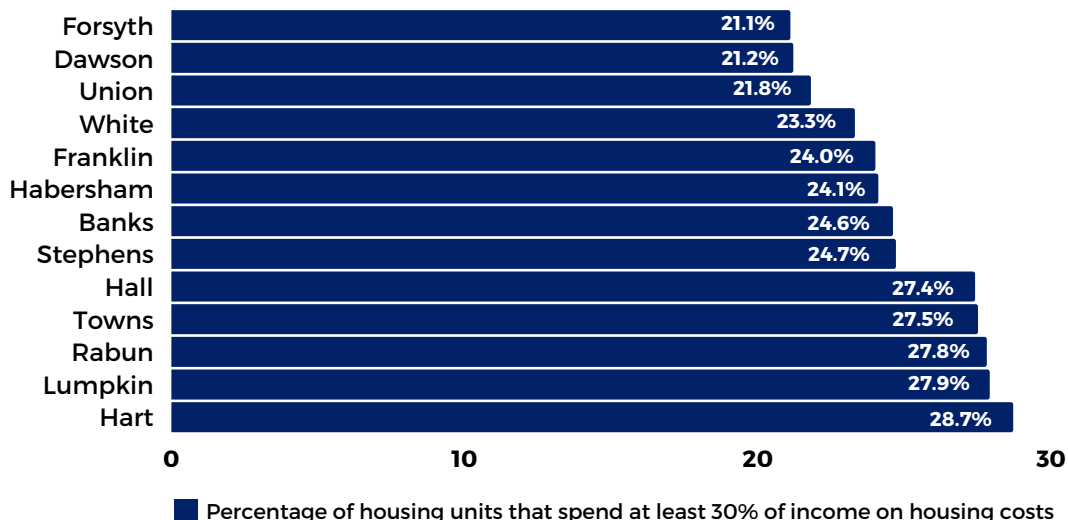
1. Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families.
2. Expand trauma-informed practices and resources across the state as well as increase understanding about the prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and adverse community environments (jointly referred to as the Pair of ACEs).
3. Increase community knowledge and awareness of the incidence and long-term impact of childhood abuse and neglect, as well as how to accurately recognize and report suspected cases.

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

## Strategy 1: Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families.

Families facing financial hardships are more likely to experience stress which can lead to different forms of violence in the home. Policies that reduce financial pressures, such as housing costs, can improve family relationships.

The graph below shows the percentage of housing units that spend 30% or more of their monthly income on housing costs (including mortgage, rent payments, taxes, and insurance). It is recommended that a maximum of 30% of monthly income go towards housing costs; anything more represents a housing-cost burden. Less than a third of housing units in all counties spend at least 30% of their monthly income on housing.



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Five-Year Estimates (2015-2019)

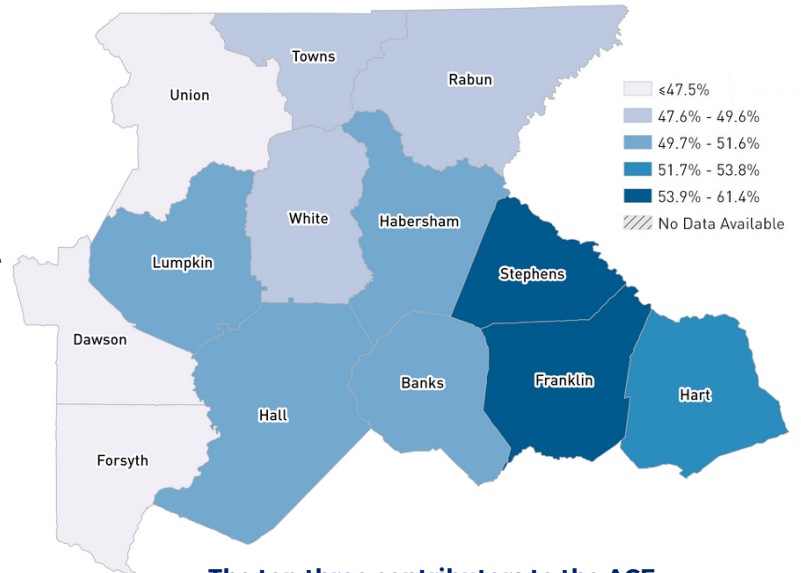
## Strategy 2: Expand trauma-informed practices and resources across the state as well as increase understanding about the prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and adverse community environments (jointly referred to as the Pair of ACEs).

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. Promoting trauma-informed training can help school personnel identify and respond to the trauma students are experiencing. Trauma-informed practices can create a more inclusive school environment that fosters resilience and supports positive childhood experience.

The map to the right shows the percentage of students in grades 6-12 who were above the state median of a composite score that reflects student behaviors associated with ACEs. The measures considered in the composite score are from the Georgia Student Health Survey (2019) and are related to the behaviors - bullying, fighting, substance use, anxiety/depression, and self-harm. **A higher percentage represents a greater rate of students in grades 6-12 reporting behaviors that have been associated with ACEs or that are ACEs.**

Interventions that address these behaviors (i.e., bullying, fighting, etc.) will have the greatest effect on reducing the ACE composite score.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Essentials for Childhood: Steps to Create Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative, 2014.*



### The top three contributors to the ACE composite score by county (in order).

- (Banks) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Dawson) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Forsyth) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Franklin) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Habersham) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Hall) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Hart) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Fighting
- (Lumpkin) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Rabun) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Stephens) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (Towns) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Fighting
- (Union) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Self-Harm
- (White) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, and Fighting

Data Source: Georgia Student Health Survey

## Strategy 3: Increase community knowledge and awareness of the incidence and long-term impact of childhood abuse and neglect, as well as how to accurately recognize and report suspected cases.

The table to the right shows the number of children subject of maltreatment investigations at the county level in 2019. While the numbers vary from 3.7 to 20.0 per 10,000 children, any level of maltreatment is worrisome. These data help bring attention to the incidence of child abuse and neglect in this 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 by calling the 1-800-CHILDREN Helpline (244-5373)

County	Number of Maltreatment Investigations per 10,000 children
Forsyth	3.7
Hall	10.0
Habersham	10.4
Towns	11.2
Rabun	11.7
Banks	12.2
Dawson	13.9
Union	14.2
Lumpkin	17.3
Hart	17.5
White	17.8
Stephens	19.3
Franklin	20.0

Data Source: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, Cases of Abuse and Neglect by County, 2019

## 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:

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- **Green Dot:** [www.green-dot.org](http://www.green-dot.org)
- **Big Brothers, Big Sisters:** [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org)
- **Family Resource Center of Northeast Georgia / Prevent Child Abuse Habersham:** <https://frcofneg.org/>
- **Forsyth County Visitation and Family Life Center (Supporting Adoption & Foster Families Together):** <https://safft.org/>
- **Harmony House Child Advocacy Center- Franklin Springs:** <https://harmonyhousecacsac.org/>
- **Lumpkin County PAT/ Lumpkin County Schools**
- **White County Family Connection:** <http://white.gafcp.org/>
- **Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.:** <http://www.ndo.org>
- **Sisu Integrated Early Learning:** <https://www.mysisu.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/)
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## How this factsheet can help prevent ACEs

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## GA Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan (CANPP)

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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. Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.
3. Shape social norms about mental health and how to recognize and seek help for mental illness and substance abuse, as well as support mental health development.

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## 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.

Between 18.0% - 19.5% 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. This and other approaches that support healthy family relationships can help reduce known risk factors for child abuse and neglect and protect children from engaging harmful behaviors such as substance use and physical fighting.

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

**18.0% - 19.5%**  
of adults who, when they were < 18 years old, lived with parents or caregivers that slapped, hit, kicked, or punched each other.

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

## Strategy 2: Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.

## Strategy 3: Shape social norms about mental health and how to recognize and seek help for mental illness and substance abuse, as well as support mental health development.

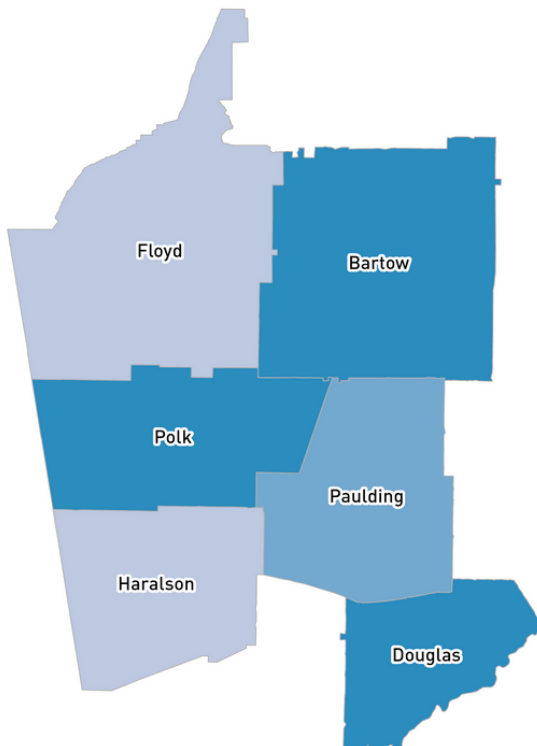
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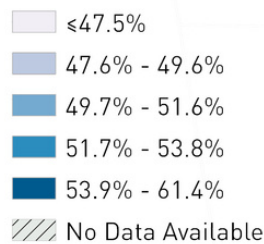
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### LEADING CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ACE COMPOSITE SCORE BY COUNTY

**Listed below are the top three contributors to the composite score by county.**

(County Name) Leading Contributor, Second Leading Contributor, and Third-Leading Contributor\*

(Bartow) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, Self-Harm

(Douglas) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, Self-Harm

(Floyd) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, Self-Harm

(Haralson) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, Substance Use

(Paulding) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, Self-Harm

(Polk) Anxiety/Depression, Bullying, Self-Harm

\*Anxiety/Depression - overwhelmed with fear, intense worry; Bullying - picked on/teased by others, text message harassment; Fighting - pushed/hit/kicked, physical fight; Self-Harm - thoughts or incidents of self-harm, suicide attempts; Substance Use - used alcohol/marijuana or other drugs in last 30 days

Data source: Georgia School Health Survey, 2019



## 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:

- Advocates for Children: <https://advochild.org/hope-in-your-home/>
- Exchange Club Family Resource Center: <https://www.exchangeclubfrc.org/>
- Polk Family Connection: <http://polk.gafcp.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/)
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# PREVENTING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES - DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

DFCS Region #8: Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, and Webster 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

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## 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 life-skills training for school-aged children and youth.
2. Increase community knowledge and awareness of the incidence and long-term impact of childhood abuse and neglect, as well as how to accurately recognize and report suspected cases.
3. Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.

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

## Strategy 1: 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
Clay	*Not available
Quitman	73.1%
Macon	77.4%
Randolph	78.6%
Talbot	80.0%
Taylor	86.2%
Dooly	87.6%
Chattahoochee	88.3%
Harris	89.2%
Muscogee	89.4%
Crisp	90.8%
Webster	91.3%
Marion	91.5%
Schley	92.5%
Stewart	92.6%
Sumter	92.6%

Data Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement (2019-2020)  
\*Clay County did not report graduation rates in 2019-2020.

## Strategy 2: Increase community knowledge and awareness of the incidence and long-term impact of childhood abuse and neglect, as well as how to accurately recognize and report suspected cases.

The table to the right shows the number of children subject of maltreatment investigations at the county level in 2019. While the numbers vary from 4.6 to 19.5 per 10,000 children, any level of maltreatment is worrisome. These data help bring attention to the incidence of child abuse and neglect in Region 8.

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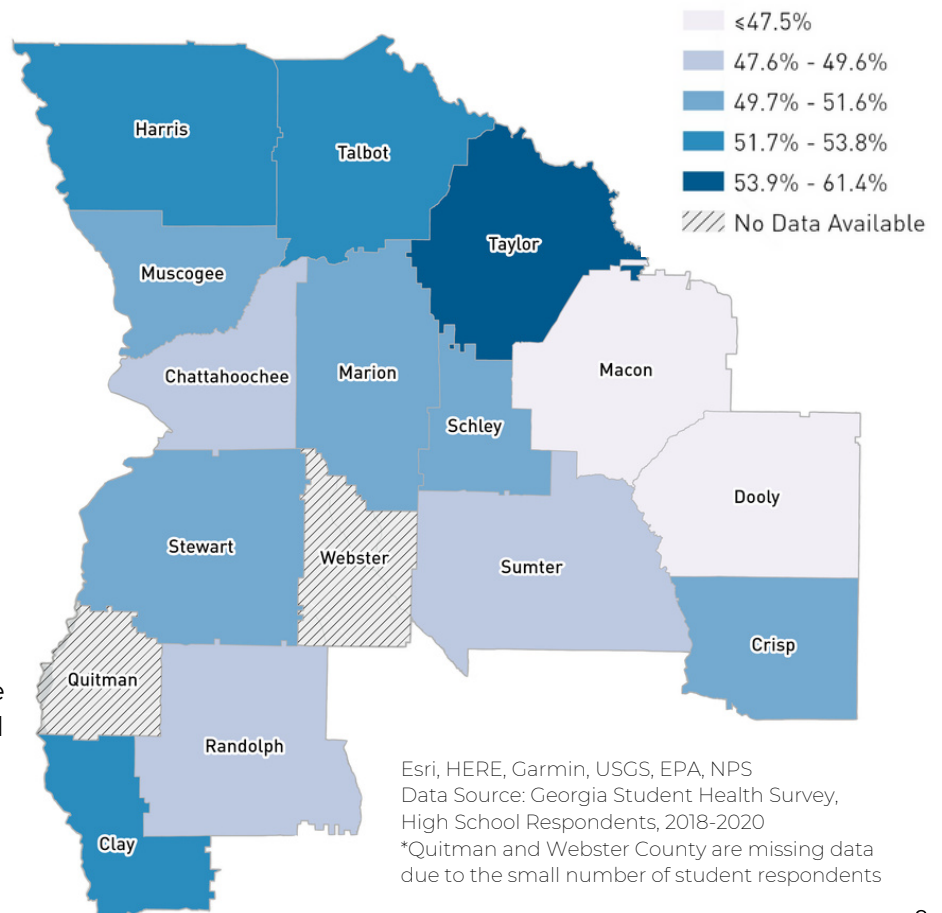
County	Number of Maltreatment Investigations per 10,000 children
Harris	4.6
Stewart	7.7
Randolph	7.8
Dooly	8.9
Sumter	9.1
Clay	10.2
Chattahoochee	10.7
Macon	11.9
Marion	12.4
Webster	14.9
Taylor	15.1
Talbot	15.5
Schley	17.0
Muscogee	18.0
Crisp	18.2
Quitman	19.5

Data Source: Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, Cases of Abuse and Neglect by County, 2019

## Strategy 3: Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.

Based on responses collected from the Georgia Student Health Survey, students have experienced anxiety, depression, and traumatic events, such as bullying and fighting. Traumatic events can impact school success, such as the ability to concentrate or make meaningful relationships (SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative, 2014).

Trauma-informed training can help school personnel identify and respond to the trauma students are experiencing. Training can include addressing implicit bias and understanding trauma-informed practices, empathy, prejudices, and attribution. This approach will facilitate the healing and recovery process for impacted students and help avoid re-traumatization (SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative, 2014).



## 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.

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- **Green Dot:** [www.greendot.org](http://www.greendot.org)
- **Big Brothers, Big Sisters:** [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org)
- **Army Community Service, Ft. Benning:** <https://benning.armymwr.com/programs/army-community-services>
- **Fort Benning Family Advocacy Program:** <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/military-installation/fort-benning/military-and-family-support-center/family-advocacy-program>
- **Four Points, Inc - Chattahoochee:** <https://www.fourpointsinc.org/>
- **Great Start GA of Columbus, UGA Extension - Columbus/Muscogee County:** <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/muscogee/family-and-consumer-sciences/great-start-georgia.html>
- **University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service:** <https://extension.uga.edu/>
- **Muscogee County Cooperative Extension:** <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/muscogee.html>
- **Georgia Strong Families / Columbus Health Department:** <https://bigdreamsga.org/>



## Helpful Resources

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- **Essentials for Childhood:** [abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/essentials/](http://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/essentials/)



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# PREVENTING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES - DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

DFCS Region #10: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, & Worth 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 life-skills training for school-aged children and youth.
2. Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.

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

## Strategy 1: 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).

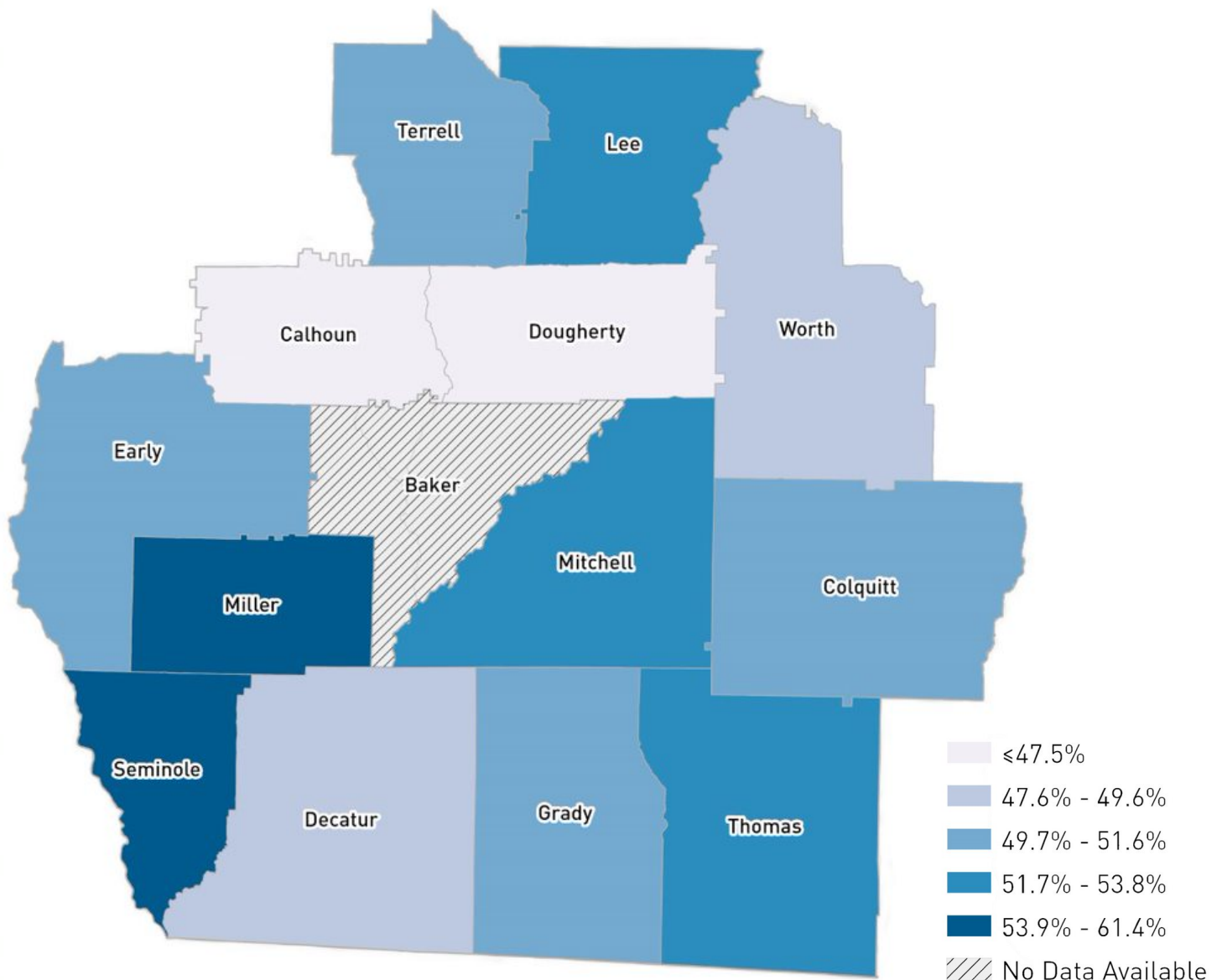
The table below shows the percentage of students that graduated high school by county. In each county, more than 50% of high school students graduated in 2020. Increasing life-skills training (with a focus on SEL) for school-aged children and youth can further improve academic achievements, such as graduation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

County	Percent
Baker	Not available*
Worth	75.5%
Mitchell	79.4%
Miller	81.4%
Dougherty	83.3%
Colquitt	87.2%
Terrell	88.5%
Decatur	88.8%
Early	89.1%
Grady	89.8%
Lee	91.7%
Seminole	92.5%
Thomas	92.6%
Calhoun	92.9%

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

\*Baker County did not report graduation rates in 2019-2020. The graduation rate in 2018-2019 was 86.96%.

## Strategy 2: Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.



Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS

Data Source: Georgia Student Health Survey, High School Respondents, 2018-2020

\*Baker County is missing data due to the small number of student respondents

Based on responses collected from the Georgia Student Health Survey, students have experienced anxiety, depression, and traumatic events, such as bullying and fighting. Traumatic events can impact school success, such as the ability to concentrate or make meaningful relationships (SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative, 2014).

Trauma-informed training can help school personnel identify and respond to the trauma students are experiencing. Training can include addressing implicit bias and understanding trauma-informed practices, empathy, prejudices, and attribution. This approach will facilitate the healing and recovery process for impacted students and help avoid re-traumatization (SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative, 2014).

## 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 Norman Park Migrant & Seasonal Head Start: [www.telamon.org](http://www.telamon.org)
- Thomasville Community Resource Center: [www.tcrconline.org](http://www.tcrconline.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)
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## Adverse Childhood Experiences

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### Key Points:

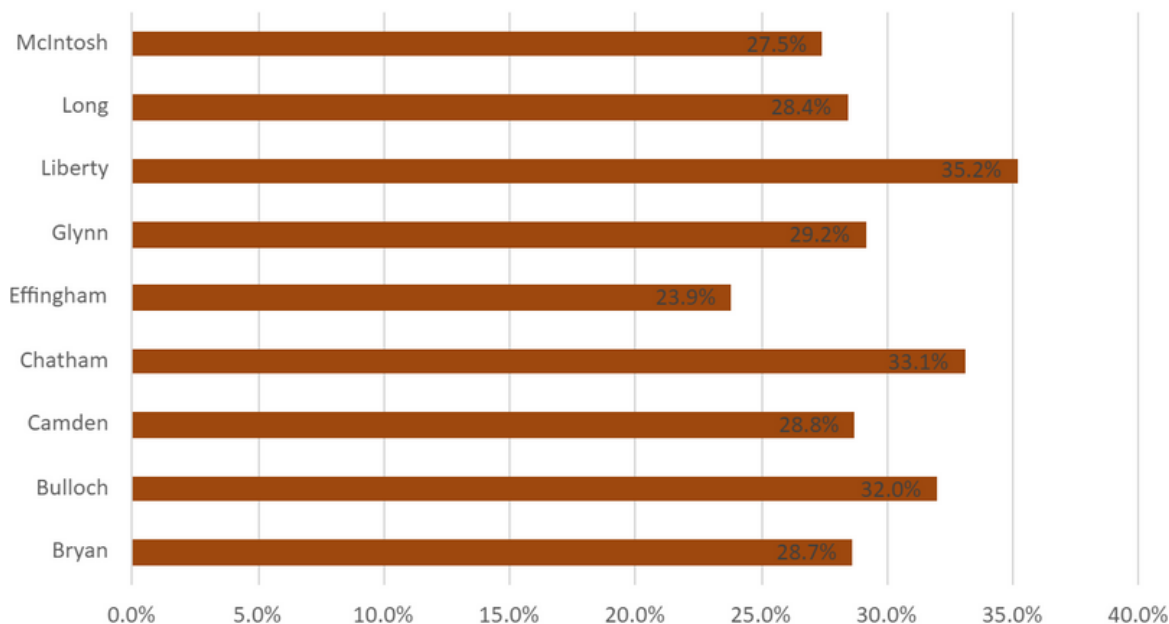
- Trauma informed supports can mitigate the effects of adversity by fostering inclusion and helping families and children manage stress
- Promoting positive social norms about parenting and acceptable parenting behaviors or destigmatizing mental health care can reduce the incidence and limit the harmful 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.

## Strategy 1: Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families

The graph below shows the housing burden for the region as the percentage of housing units that spend nearly 30% or more of their monthly income on housing costs. It is generally recommended that a maximum of 30% of monthly income go towards housing costs; anything more represents a housing-cost burden. Housing costs include mortgage and rent payments as well as taxes, insurance, and utility costs. As shown in the graph, a fifth or more housing units in each county spend at least 30% of their monthly income on housing, with Liberty county residents spending over 35%.



Data Source:  
U.S. Census  
Bureau,  
American  
Community  
Survey, Five-  
Year Estimates  
(2015-2019)

## GA Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan (CANPP)

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

1. Expand efforts to develop safe and decent affordable housing for families
2. Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.

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



## Strategy 2: Promote trauma-informed training for all school personnel.

Students in this region have self-reported experiencing anxiety, depression, and traumatic events like bullying, fighting, etc. These events can impact the ability to concentrate in school or make meaningful positive relationships. Promoting trauma-informed training can help school personnel identify and respond to the trauma students are experiencing. Trauma-informed practices can create a more inclusive school environment that fosters resilience and supports positive childhood experience.

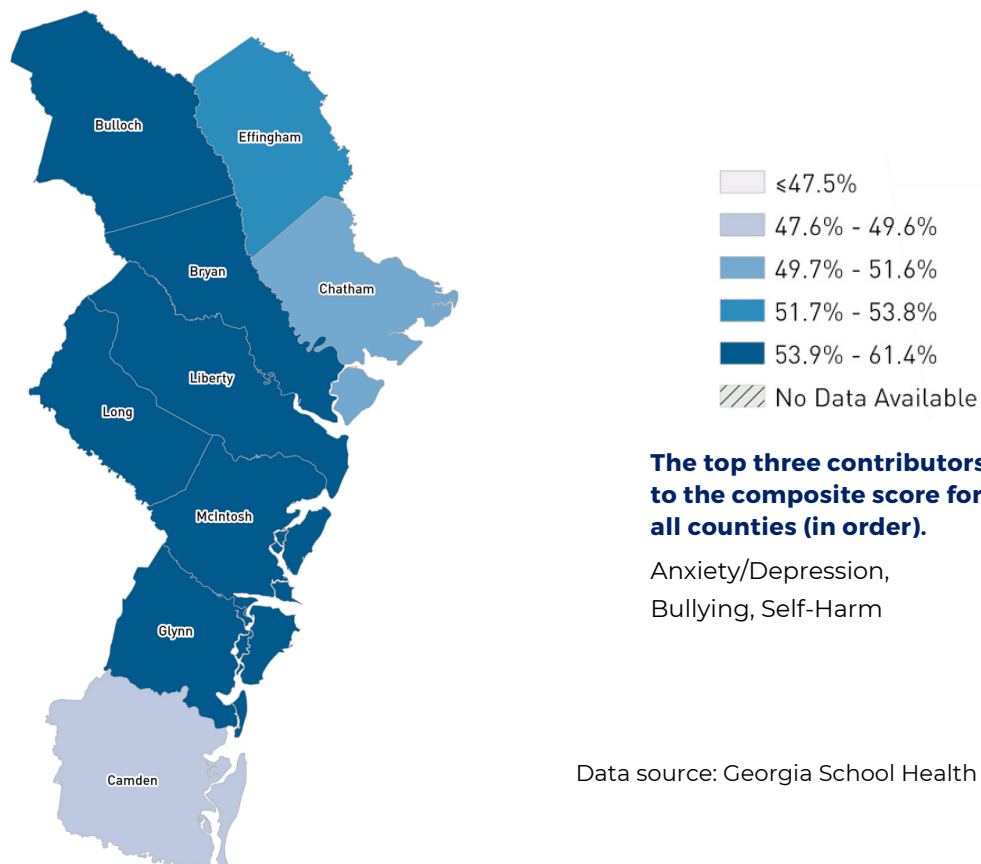
The map below shows the percentage of students in grades 6-12 who were above the state median of a composite score that reflects student behaviors associated with ACEs. The measures considered in the composite score are from the Georgia Student Health Survey (2019) and are related to the behaviors - bullying, fighting, substance use, anxiety/depression, and self-harm. A higher percentage represents a greater rate of students in grades 6-12 reporting behaviors that have been associated with ACEs or that are ACEs.

Interventions that address these behaviors (i.e., bullying, fighting, etc.) will have the greatest effect on reducing the ACE composite score. The top three leading contributors to the composite score in all counties in this region are anxiety/ depression, bullying, and self-harm, in that order.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Essentials for Childhood: Steps to Create Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments

SAMHSA's Trauma and Justice Strategic Initiative, 2014.

**A higher percentage represents a greater rate of students in grades 6-12 reporting behaviors that have been associated with ACEs or that are ACEs.**



Data source: Georgia School Health Survey

## 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:

- Coastal Coalition for Children, Inc.: <https://cc4children.org/>
- Camden County Head Start/Daycare: <https://www.coastalgaaa.org/early-childhood-education.html>
- 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)
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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.

## 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.

Between 19.6% - 20.6% 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. This and other approaches that support healthy family relationships can help reduce known risk factors for child abuse and neglect and protect children from engaging harmful behaviors such as substance use and physical fighting.

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

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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. Expand trauma-informed practices and resources across the state as well as increase understanding about the prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and adverse community environments (jointly referred to as the Pair of ACEs)

To learn more about the CANPP, visit:

<https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/canpp/>

**19.6% - 20.6%**  
of adults who, when they were < 18 years old, lived with parents or caregivers that slapped, hit, kicked, or punched each other.

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

## Strategy 2: Expand trauma-informed practices and resources across the state as well as increase understanding about the prevalence and impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and adverse community environments (jointly referred to as the Pair of ACEs)

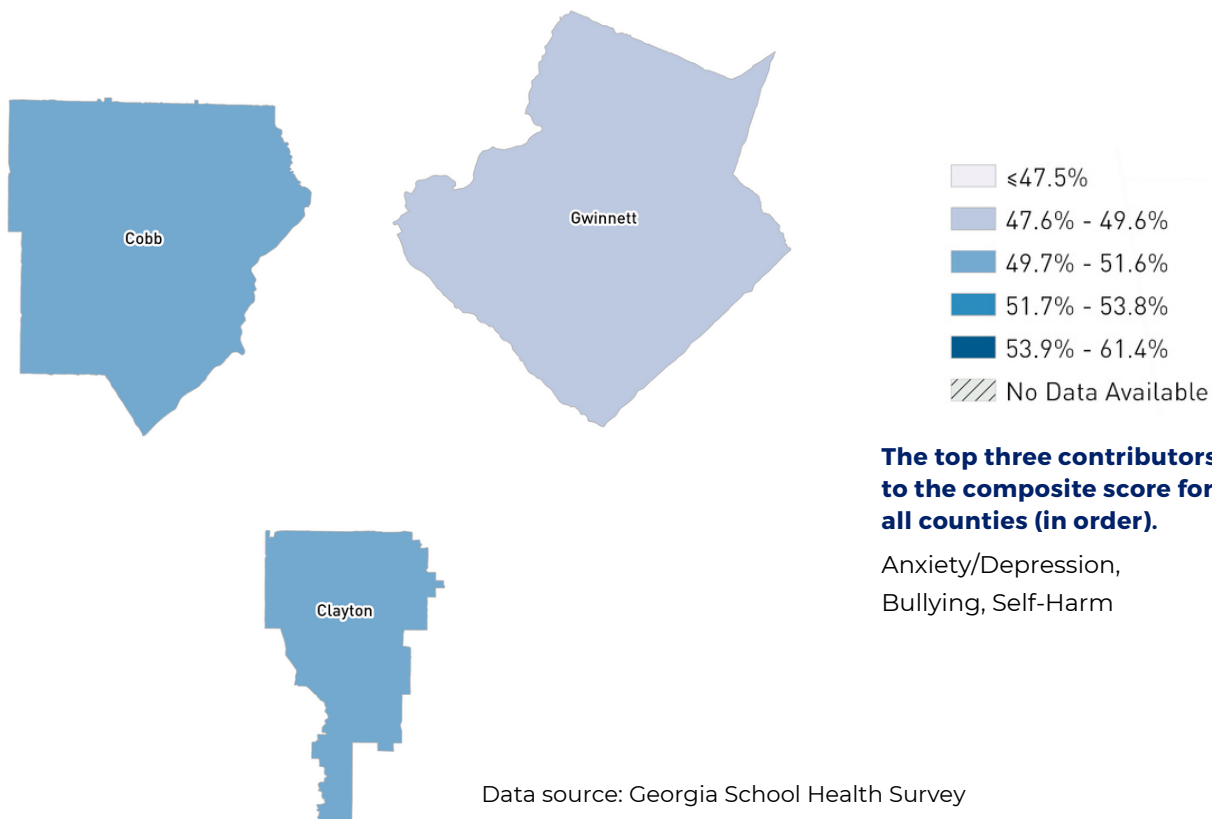
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## Evidence-based Prevention Programs

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- Clayton County Board of Health: <https://www.claytoncountypublichealth.org/>
- Clayton County Cooperative Extension: <https://www.claytoncountyga.gov/government/extension-services>
- Cobb and Douglas Public Health -South Cobb Public Health Center: <https://www.cobbanddouglaspublichealth.com>
- Communities In Schools of Marietta/Cobb County, Inc.: <https://cismcc.org/WP/>
- Latin American Association- Lawrenceville: <https://thelaa.org/>
- HEARTS for Families: <https://heartsforfamilies.org/>



## Helpful Resources

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