



## Georgia PACEs Report Card and Regional Data Profiles Data Sources

*This document describes the data sources used throughout the Georgia PACEs Report Card and Regional Data Profiles project. Each source is summarized with its purpose, methodology, coverage, and any important caveats to keep in mind when interpreting the data. Please note that data sets are frequently updated and we strive to use the most up to date data sets as we are creating the profiles. We will update this source sheet biannually.*

### The American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 & 2024

- The American Community Survey is an ongoing yearly survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Population and demographic indicators included in the profile is pulled from the [Census reporter](#)
- The ACS provides information about U.S. residents and their jobs, occupations, educational attainment, housing situation, and other topics.
- The ACS collects data by randomly selecting addresses from the Census Bureau's master address file.
- Each year, roughly 1 in 38 U.S. households—about 3.5 million—are asked to participate. All residents of a selected address are expected to respond.
- People in group quarters, such as dorms, nursing homes, or prisons, are also surveyed through in-person interviews to ensure full population coverage.

### The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2023

- The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is the largest continuously conducted health survey system in the world.
- State health departments, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), run the program.
- BRFSS collects data annually from U.S. community-dwelling adults (ages 18 and older) regarding risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive health services.
- The Georgia BRFSS is administered by the Georgia Department of Public Health (GA-DPH) and is used to track trends in behavior change, determine priority health issues, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions.
- Unlike most other sources used in this project, BRFSS collects data on adults rather than children. For the PACEs project, it is used to examine the long-term effects ACEs have on adult health.
- BRFSS is useful for tracking health trends over time, comparing across states or regions, and measuring the prevalence of behaviors or conditions.
- Because it is a survey, BRFSS relies on self-reports, so biases (such as recall bias and social desirability) can affect its accuracy.

Our mission at Resilient Georgia is to lead a state-wide coalition to develop a closely aligned trauma-informed public and private network working toward a united vision to create a birth through 26 year-old integrated behavioral health system. This includes the use of essential tools such as education/teaching/training, workforce development, policy strengthening, practice research, and evaluation.



- ACEs estimates from BRFSS surveys are likely conservative. Because data are based on adults' retrospective self-reports of their own past experiences, some experiences may be forgotten, minimized, or hard to share.
- BRFSS also uses the original 10 ACE questions, which do not capture all forms of adversity (such as racism, poverty, or community violence). The reported figures should therefore be understood as a baseline rather than a comprehensive picture of childhood adversity.

## County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R)

- CHR&R publishes the underlying County Health Outcome Ranks used in the regional-level profiles.
- The dataset includes over 80 measures organized according to its Model of Health, with key domains such as Population Health and Well-being (Length and Quality of Life) and Community Conditions (Health Infrastructure, Physical Environment, and Social and Economic Factors). Selected measures are used to generate comparative Health Groups.
- *Note: CHR&R has indicated it will not produce a full 2026 Annual Data Release; a subset of 34 measures was refreshed in March 2026.*
- **Health Outcomes Rankings are accessed via [GeorgiaData](#) (2024)**, housed at the UGA Institute of Government.
  - GeorgiaData aggregates and visualizes CHR&R rankings alongside other Georgia-specific datasets, and is the direct source referenced in the county profiles.
  - The UGA Institute of Government offers specialized analytics support to state agencies, universities, local governments, school systems, and other governmental bodies.
  - GeorgiaData collects administrative data from partner organizations—such as enrollment or institutional datasets—and combines or integrates it with public datasets to build dashboards, visualizations, predictive models, and program evaluation tools.
  - Their clients include the University System of Georgia, for which they develop dynamic tools to reveal statewide trends in recruitment, enrollment, graduate outcomes, and labor market alignment.

## Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) 2021

- The Georgia Department of Family and Children Services collects and provides data related to reported cases of abuse and neglect, maltreatment reports and investigations, and foster care.
- DFCS data are used in this project to describe the prevalence and trends of child maltreatment across Georgia.

## Georgia United Way of ALICE 2023 and 2024

- United Way of Georgia's ALICE project (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) documents the financial struggles of households that earn above the federal poverty line but still cannot afford basic needs.

Our mission at Resilient Georgia is to lead a state-wide coalition to develop a closely aligned trauma-informed public and private network working toward a united vision to create a birth through 26 year-old integrated behavioral health system. This includes the use of essential tools such as education/teaching/training, workforce development, policy strengthening, practice research, and evaluation.



- ALICE data come from a combination of publicly available sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and state and local cost-of-living indices.

## **Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) 2024**

- The Georgia Student Health Survey is an anonymous statewide self-report survey conducted each year with public school students.
- The standard survey is administered to students in grades 6–12; an abbreviated version is administered to elementary students in grades 3–5. All Georgia public schools are required to participate, and private schools are eligible to participate.
- The survey assesses school climate and includes items on demographics, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), ACE-indicators (childhood experiences and behaviors strongly associated with ACEs), and protective factors.
- The GSHS is the primary data source for student-level ACEs indicators in this project, relying on students' self-reported responses (one response per student).
- Results are published at the state, county, district, and school levels.
- Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, the Georgia School Climate Surveys (GSCS) for students, teachers, staff, and families replaced the Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS), the Georgia Parent School Climate Survey (GPSCS), and the Georgia School Personnel Survey (GSPS).

## **Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) 2024**

- The Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement is a state education agency dedicated to improving academic outcomes and increasing school completion across Georgia.
- GOSA oversees an education scoreboard that monitors the effectiveness of state programs from Pre-K through college.
- GOSA conducts audits of these programs to ensure the responsible use of state funds.
- GOSA analyzes and publicly shares data on key educational trends. Data categories include student discipline, attendance, dropout rate, and graduation rate.

## **The KIDS COUNT Data Center 2024**

- The KIDS COUNT Data Center, supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a data aggregator that brings data from many sources into one place to make it easier to understand and use.
- It is a compilation of information from over 50 state-level KIDS COUNT organizations and provides both state and local data, along with publications highlighting trends that affect children and families.
- Through this initiative, the Foundation produces and shares reports on key issues related to child and family well-being, including the annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, which ranks child well-being across U.S. states.

Our mission at Resilient Georgia is to lead a state-wide coalition to develop a closely aligned trauma-informed public and private network working toward a united vision to create a birth through 26 year-old integrated behavioral health system. This includes the use of essential tools such as education/teaching/training, workforce development, policy strengthening, practice research, and evaluation.



- Sources include government agencies, drawing on data from federal and state agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The Data Center also incorporates results from national surveys that assess various aspects of child health and education.
- The people represented in this data are working families across Georgia—childcare providers, food service workers, delivery drivers, personal care aides, cashiers, and others—whose wages are too low to cover their essential needs.

### [The National Risk Index \(NRI\) 2023](#)

- In the regional-level profiles, the Community Vulnerability statistics (Social Vulnerability) are sourced from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index.
- Community Vulnerability (Social Vulnerability) statistics describe how likely a community is to be harmed by disasters or emergencies based on social and economic factors, not just physical risk.
- These statistics combine data on:
  - Income and poverty levels
  - Housing stability and crowding
  - Access to transportation
  - Disability and health needs
  - Language barriers
  - Age (very young or older adults)
- The National Risk Index is a dataset and interactive mapping tool designed to highlight U.S. communities most at risk across 18 natural hazards (e.g., flood, wildfire, earthquake).
- It integrates hazard-specific data and community vulnerability factors to compute a baseline “risk” score for each county and Census tract.
- Data sources include publicly available federal and geospatial datasets (e.g., historical hazard occurrence, exposure inventories, population, and social vulnerability metrics).
- FEMA and its collaborators aggregate and model these data through a documented methodology detailed in the NRI technical documentation.

Our mission at Resilient Georgia is to lead a state-wide coalition to develop a closely aligned trauma-informed public and private network working toward a united vision to create a birth through 26 year-old integrated behavioral health system. This includes the use of essential tools such as education/teaching/training, workforce development, policy strengthening, practice research, and evaluation.