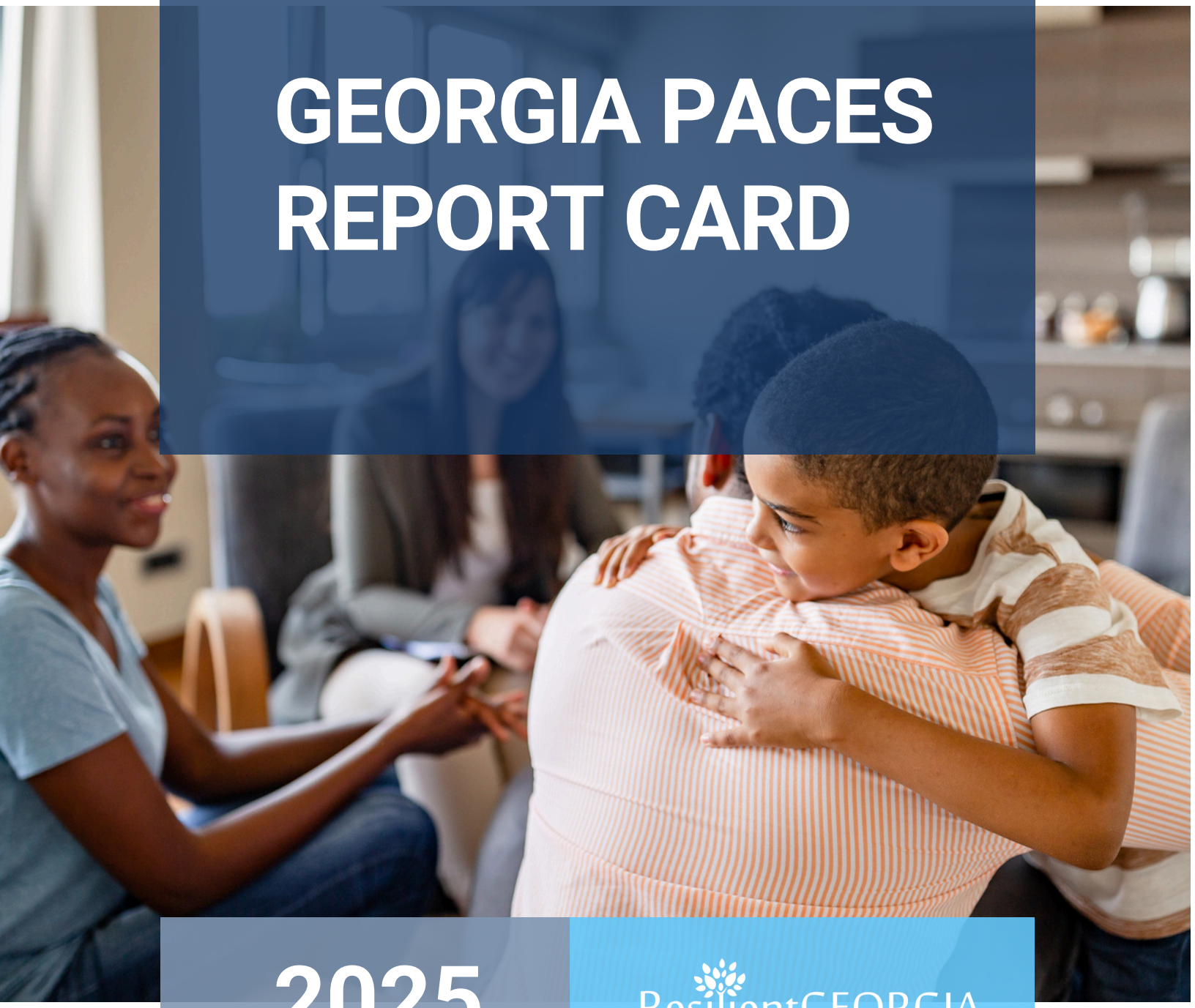
GEORGIA PACES REPORT CARD



2025

ResilientGEORGIA

An overview of Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACEs) data in Georgia

The Georgia PACEs Report Card provides an overview of Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACEs) data in the state, highlighting the number of Georgians experiencing specific Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Georgia.

Resilient Georgia and the *Essentials for Childhood: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences Through Data to Action created this report to support policymakers, elected officials, and community leaders in tracking progress toward improving child well-being and reducing the impact of early life challenges in Georgia.

This report card outlines the role of PCEs in fostering resilience through supportive relationships, community engagement, and stable home environments. It also highlights key ACE statistics, such as exposure to household mental illness, substance misuse, violence, and various forms of abuse, along with their long-term effects.

In addition to the PACEs strategies and statistics, this report card also identifies key data points that connect to CDC recommendations to reduce ACEs and promote PCEs, including economic support for families, early childhood development programs, and trauma-informed interventions. To prevent harmful childhood experiences and encourage healthy, supportive ones, Resilient Georgia is building a trauma-informed support network, advocating for policy changes, and ensuring equitable access to prevention and treatment resources. Resilient Georgia collaborates with regional coalition partners to foster resilience and prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in local Georgia communities.

*Essentials for Childhood: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences Through Data to Action (CDC-RFA-CE002-076) is funded through the Georgia Department of Public Health through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

OVERVIEW OF ACES

Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACEs) refer to childhood experiences that can have lasting effects on an individual's development, health, and well-being. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events occurring before age 18, including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction (e.g., exposure to substance abuse, mental illness, or domestic violence). These experiences increase the risk for difficulties in school, economic instability, and poor health outcomes, including chronic illnesses. The following table shares the percent of individuals in Georgia who report specific ACEs.

ACE	2023 State Average	Change from 2020 to 2023	Trend
Mental Illness in the Home	21%	+5.2	
Alcohol Misuse in the Home	28%	+5	
Drug Use in Home	13%	+2.6	
Incarcerated Household Member	9%	--0.5	
Divorced Parents	31%	-0.9	
Violence Between Parents	22%	+3.9	
Physical Abuse	27%	+3.1	
Emotional Abuse	36%	+2.6	
Sexual Abuse 1: Touched by someone 5+ years older	15%	+0.3	
Sexual Abuse 2 Made to touch someone 5+ years older	10%	-1.5	
Sexual Abuse 3 Forced to have sex with someone 5+ years older	6%	-1.7	
4+ ACEs	24%	+2.8	

Note. The ACEs included in this table are a subset of the ACEs identified by the CDC
Data source: BRFSS Survey conducted by DPH every three years. Year reported is 2023 (% change from 2020-2023). DFCS Region level is currently available on the IPRCE/DPH data tools.

WHAT ARE PACES?

OVERVIEW OF PACES

While ACEs can increase the risk for challenges in school, economic instability, and poor health outcomes, Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) serve as protective factors that foster resilience- the ability to adapt, recover, and grow stronger after facing challenges or setbacks. PCEs include strong relationships with supportive adults, community engagement, and a stable home environment, all of which promote emotional well-being and health equity while mitigating the effects of ACEs.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has outlined key strategies to prevent ACEs and enhance PCEs:

- Strengthening economic support for families to reduce financial stressors
- Promoting social norms that protect against violence and adversity
- Ensuring a strong start for children through early childhood development programs
- Teaching healthy relationship skills to foster emotional and social well-being
- Connecting youth to caring adults and activities to enhance resilience
- Interventions to reduce long-term harm through trauma-informed care and support systems

Resilient Georgia is committed to building a trauma-informed network that supports individuals from birth to age 26 and their families. Partners in our network, including our regional coalitions, are implementing CDC strategies to prevent adversity and promote resilience. Resilient Georgia leads a coordinated effort by:

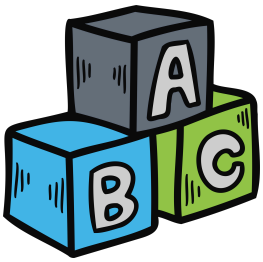
- Developing and Implementing Coordinated Trauma-Informed Practices across Systems
- Advancing Workforce through Recruitment, Retention, Education, and Development
- Building Awareness and a Common Language/Understanding about Adversity and Resilience
- Advocating and Partnering to Drive Policy and System Change
- Building Equitable Access to Early Prevention and Treatment

How We Measure PACEs

The Georgia PACEs Report Card serves as a crucial resource for understanding the landscape of Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the state. The tables below present a measurement of key risk factors affecting child well-being, such as household challenges and economic instability. This table below also presents protective factors like school connectedness and supportive relationships. By highlighting these data points, the report helps inform policy decisions and community initiatives aimed at reducing adversity and promoting resilience.

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH WELL-BEING

CDC Strategy: Ensure a strong start for children



Alignment with RG Strategy: Build Equitable Access to Early Prevention and Treatment

Indicator	State Average	Change over 3 or 4 years	Trend
Children ages 3-4 not attending Preschool (2023)	52%	NA	NA
Chronic Absenteeism (2024)	22%	+3	☹
Teen pregnancies, ages 15-17 per 1,000 (2023)	10%	-0.7	☺

Chronic Absenteeism is sourced by the Government Office of Student Achievement. The data is available on the GOSA Georgia Report Card dashboard and on the KidsCount data center (2024). Trend data for chronic absenteeism represents a 4-year change.

Teen Pregnancies and Children aged 3-4 not attending preschool are sourced by the American Community Survey data and have been requested to be made available to us as an average of (2020-2023). Trend data for Teen Pregnancies represents a 3-year change.

CDC Strategy: Promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity

Alignment with RG Strategy: Build Awareness and a Common Language

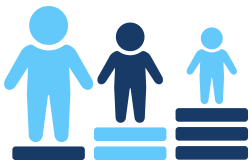
Indicator	State Average	Change over 4 years	Trend
Teens ages 16-19 not in school and not working	8%	NA	NA
Feeling Connected to others at school	92%	-0.7	☹
Felt Unsafe at School	55%	+5.5	☹

Teens ages 16-19 not in school and not working is sourced by the American Community Survey data and has been requested to be made available to us as an average of (2020-2023).

Feeling connected to others at school and Felt unsafe at school are sourced from the Georgia Student Health Survey. The raw data is available on the GSHS dashboard. Data visuals and explanations are available on the DPH/IPRCE PACEs data tool (2024).

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH WELL-BEING

CDC Strategy: Strengthening Economic Supports to Families



Alignment with RG Strategy: Address Health Equity Across All Populations That Experience Health Disparities

Indicator	State Average	Change over 3 years	Trend
Children living in poverty	19%	-0.7	
Unemployment	3%	-3.3	
*Housing Costs	25%	+.01	
Households below the ALICE threshold	45%	-3	

***Housing Costs** is sourced by the American Community Survey, and represent the Percent of Household owners with Mortgages whose Monthly Owner Costs are 30.0 Percent or More of Household Income (2023)

Housing costs, Unemployment, and Poverty indicators are sourced by the American Community Survey (2023)

ALICE is sourced by the Georgia United For ALICE (2023): ALICE refers to people who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — earning more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford the basics where they live. Learn more at United Way for ALICE. Change and trend data are from 2021-2023.

CDC Strategy: Teach Skills; Connect Youth to Caring Adults and Activities

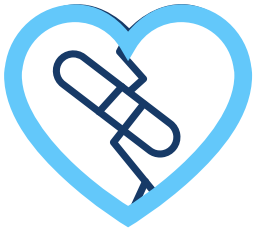
Alignment with RG Strategy: Advance Workforce through Recruitment, Retention, Education, and Development

Indicator	State Average	Change over 4 years	Trend
Trusted adult they can talk to if they need help	87%	-0.1	
Students treat each other with respect	82%	-2.5	

All indicators in the table above are sourced by the Georgia Student Health Survey, conducted yearly for Middle and High School students at Georgia schools (2024)

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR CHILD AND YOUTH WELL-BEING

CDC Strategy: Intervene to lessen immediate and long-term harms



Alignment with RG Strategy: Develop and Implement Coordinated Trauma-Informed Practices Across Systems

Indicator	State Av.	Change over 4 years	Trend
Children subjected to child maltreatment investigations (per 10k)	16.4	NA	NA
Risk Posed by Drinking	24%	-0.5	
Suicidal ideation (youth)	10%	-0.6	

Child Maltreatment Investigations is sourced from the DFCS reports and the data are obtained from Fostering Court Improvement (average of 2020-2021)

Risk Posed by Drinking and Suicidal Ideation (Youth) are sourced from the Georgia Student Health Survey, conducted yearly for Middle and High School students at Georgia schools (2024)

Note:

All change values start in 2020 to the most recent year recorded (specified).
All averages are rounded to the nearest whole number, and change values are rounded to the nearest 10th