What are ACEs?
Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on the health and well-being of children now and in the future.1

- Abuse
- Neglect
- Caregiver mental illness
- Household dysfunction
- Communal violence
- Experienced racism
- Pervasive poverty
- Inability to access needed social services

ACEs can be passed from one generation of Georgians to the next.
Many children who experience ACEs have a parent or caregiver who has also experienced ACEs. Limited parenting skills and toxic environments get passed down from parent to child, and so it continues—a cycle of intergenerational trauma.

ACEs affect development.
Persistent exposure to one or more ACEs as a child or adolescent can cause prolonged activation of the body’s stress response, which triggers toxic stress. Toxic stress, when not properly addressed and reduced, can dramatically change how the brain develops and can lead to many learning and behavioral issues as a child, as well as many common life-threatening health conditions as an adult.2

A CDC study concluded that compared with other health problems, the economic burden of child maltreatment is substantial, underscoring the importance of ACEs prevention efforts.4

Funding policies and programs that prevent ACEs by enabling positive conditions for early childhood and supporting families at risk as early as possible are more effective and less expensive than attempting to address the consequences of adversity later.

The estimated lifetime costs associated with new child maltreatment cases in 2020 is $147 billion.

- $102.1 Billion Lost-Productivity
- $29.8 Billion Healthcare
- $5.5 Billion Special Education
- $5.4 Billion Child Welfare
- $4.6 Billion Criminal Justice

*Source: CDC Publication (Fang X, Brown D, Florence C & Mercy J, 2012) with estimates in 2010 dollars; converted to 2020 dollars using $1.19 inflation factor 5
The ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, sure to touch so many young children, has the potential to exacerbate the adverse events in young children’s lives and introduce new ones, all while deepening shameful inequalities.

Source: Adversity in Early Childhood – The Role of Policy in Creating and Addressing ACEs, Center for American Progress, Aug 27 2020

Prevention is critical to mitigate a significant rise in behavioral health needs as a result of the stress, anxiety, and social isolation triggered by the COVID–19 pandemic and the associated economic decline.


Returns on Investment as high as $65 per $1 invested. 9

Do something today. Now is the time to plan and offset the next public health pandemic. By acting quickly our communities will be safer, more resilient, and proactive rather than reactive.

- Visit ResilientGA.org
- View our free Trauma Informed Training Roadmap and low-cost training resources
- Coordinate a training for your organization
- Help fund our partners and enable them to offer more training opportunities to the public at low or no cost
- Contact us at any time with questions at info@resilientga.org
- If interested, see our sourced references HERE.