

RANK

46

2024 South Carolina Adverse Childhood Experiences Data Profile

DORCHESTER COUNTY



Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) reported by adults

0 ACEs = 39.2% 1 ACE = 24.2% 2 ACEs = 16.0% 3 ACEs = 12.4% 4+ ACEs = 8.3%

ABUSE



County Ranking

46

Emotional Abuse

38.5%

South Carolina 32.3%
National Average 34%

Physical Abuse

21.1%

South Carolina 17.5%
National Average 23.3%

Sexual Abuse

11.3%

South Carolina 8.6%
National Average 12.6%

PARENTAL



County Ranking

46

Parents Separated/Divorced

14.6%

South Carolina 11.4%
National Average 28.4%

Domestic Violence

21.5%

South Carolina 19.0%
National Average 17.2%

Family Member Incarcerated

11.4%

South Carolina 9.6%
National Average 8.6%

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
AND MENTAL ILLNESS

County Ranking

43

Family Member Alcoholism

24.5%

South Carolina 24.8%
National Average N/A

Household Mental Illnesses

20.4%

South Carolina 17.5%
National Average 17.3%

Household Drug Use

12.7%

South Carolina 11.6%
National Average N/A

POVERTY



County Ranking

19

Hunger Because Family
Couldn't Afford Food

17.9%

South Carolina 18.0%
National Average N/A

Child Homelessness

4.7%

South Carolina 5.3%
National Average N/A

Note: Data was collected via the South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2014-16 and 2019-21, managed locally by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

DORCHESTER COUNTY

South Carolina County Rankings

All 46 counties are ranked from first (1) to last (46). In addition to the overall ranking, each county has a domain and indicator ranking.

1 Allendale	10 Clarendon	21 Fairfield	31 Kershaw	41 Aiken
2 Marion	12 Orangeburg	22 Pickens	32 Greenwood	42 Berkeley
3 Edgefield	13 Lancaster	23 Colleton	33 Barnwell	43 Laurens
4 Marlboro	13 Lee	24 Darlington	34 Charleston	44 Lexington
5 Saluda	15 Sumter	25 Abbeville	35 Anderson	45 Richland
6 McCormick	16 Georgetown	26 Beaufort	36 Jasper	46 Dorchester
7 Calhoun	17 Florence	27 Newberry	37 Spartanburg	
8 Hampton	18 Bamberg	28 Oconee	38 Cherokee	
9 Williamsburg	19 Chester	29 Union	39 Horry	
10 Chesterfield	20 Dillon	30 Greenville	40 York	

Why is this important?

This data profile shows the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) for adults in Dorchester County. An adult could have experienced one or more ACE throughout their childhood.

ACEs are serious childhood traumas that result in toxic stress, which can harm a child’s brain and development. Toxic stress may prevent a child from learning, playing in a healthy way with other children, and can result in long term health problems. ACEs are common in South Carolina, which puts our population at risk for many poor health and social outcomes.

What can you do?

- **Collaborate** with your community to make data-driven decisions using this profile, including when developing a plan for action to address ACEs.
- **Educate** and raise community awareness about these statistics.
- **Advocate** by using this profile for grant writing, policy statements, and presentations to key policy stakeholders in your community.

How can you learn more?

Children’s Trust can assist you and your community in your efforts to prevent the negative consequences of ACEs:

- **Host an ACE training**
- **Host a protective factors training**
- **Have a community conversation**
- **Review ACE questions and research**

Where does the data come from?

South Carolina’s ACE data comes from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) which is a national health survey administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The BRFSS is a phone-based survey that asks residents of South Carolina older than 18 to answer questions about a wide variety of health and social conditions.

ACE data has been collected in South Carolina as part of the BRFSS since 2014. Children’s Trust of South Carolina partnered with South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control (S.C. DHEC) to collect data for the years 2014-2016, 2019 and 2021.

ACE types assessed:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Mental illness
- Household substance use
- Incarceration
- Parental divorce/separation
- Domestic violence

Responses to ACE questions only indicate whether a participant has experienced a particular ACE, not how severe or frequently it occurred.

ACEs and other BRFSS data are weighted to be representative of the South Carolina adult population. This means that the data presented in profile is representative of the adult population within that county, which is important to consider when drawing conclusions about the data.