

South Carolina

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Data Profile



RANK
46

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Self-Reported Childhood ACEs (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%**

Physical Abuse

21.1%

South Carolina **17.5%**

Sexual Abuse

11.3%

South Carolina **8.6%**

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



County Ranking

43

Parents Separated/Divorced

33.5%

South Carolina **31.3%**

Household Domestic Violence

21.5%

South Carolina **19%**

Household Incarceration

11.4%

South Carolina **9.6%**

Household Alcohol Abuse

24.5%

South Carolina **24.8%**

Household Mental Illness

20.4%

South Carolina **17.5%**

Household Drug Abuse

12.7%

South Carolina **11.6%**

Note: Data was collected from adults via the **South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System** for the years 2014-2016 and 2019-2021, managed locally by the South Carolina Department of Public Health. N/A = Not Available.

South Carolina Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Data Profile

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 ranking.

1 Allendale	11 Hampton	21 Chester	31 Anderson	41 Berkeley
2 Marion	12 Chesterfield	21 Darlington	32 Spartanburg	42 Jasper
3 Saluda	13 Fairfield	23 Beaufort	33 Colleton	42 Lexington
4 Edgefield	14 Georgetown	24 Union	33 Greenwood	44 Laurens
5 Marlboro	15 Orangeburg	25 Pickens	35 Charleston	45 Richland
6 McCormick	16 Bamberg	26 Oconee	36 Barnwell	46 Dorchester
7 Calhoun	17 Dillon	27 Abbeville	37 Cherokee	
8 Williamsburg	17 Lancaster	28 Newberry	38 York	
9 Lee	19 Florence	29 Greenville	39 Horry	
10 Clarendon	19 Sumter	30 Kershaw	40 Aiken	

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 Department of Public Health to collect data for the years 2014-2016 and 2019-2021. This is the only available data as of 2025.

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.

Why is this important?

This data profile shows the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) for adults. 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**

Questions?

For any questions about the data or other inquiries, please contact research@scchildren.org.