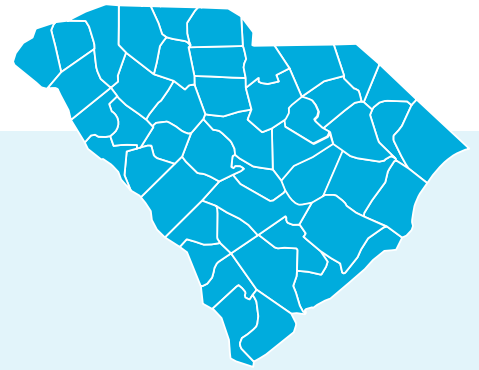


South Carolina

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Data Profile



Self-Reported Childhood ACEs (by Adults)

0 ACEs **42.4%** U.S. 36.1% 1 ACE **26.4%** U.S. 23.1%
 2 & 3 ACEs **24.2%** U.S. 23.5% 4+ ACEs **6.9%** U.S. 17.3%

ABUSE



Emotional Abuse

32.3%

U.S. **34.0%**

Physical Abuse

17.5%

U.S. **23.3%**

Sexual Abuse

8.6%

U.S. **12.6%**

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Parents Separated/Divorced

31.3%

U.S. **28.4%**

Household Domestic Violence

19.0%

U.S. **17.2%**

Household Incarceration

9.6%

U.S. **8.6%**

Household Alcohol Abuse

24.8%

U.S. **N/A**

Household Mental Illness

17.5%

U.S. **17.3%**

Household Drug Abuse

11.6%

U.S. **N/A**

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. National estimates contain data reported from all 50 states and DC, via the BRFSS for the years of 2011-2020, managed by the CDC. Reports and articles that use data from other years and/or states may contain different estimates.

South Carolina Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Data Profile

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.