

YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Athens-Clarke County experienced a significant increase in behavioral and mental health issues among youth.

The problem has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, severe workforce shortages, and an overall lack of resources for children.

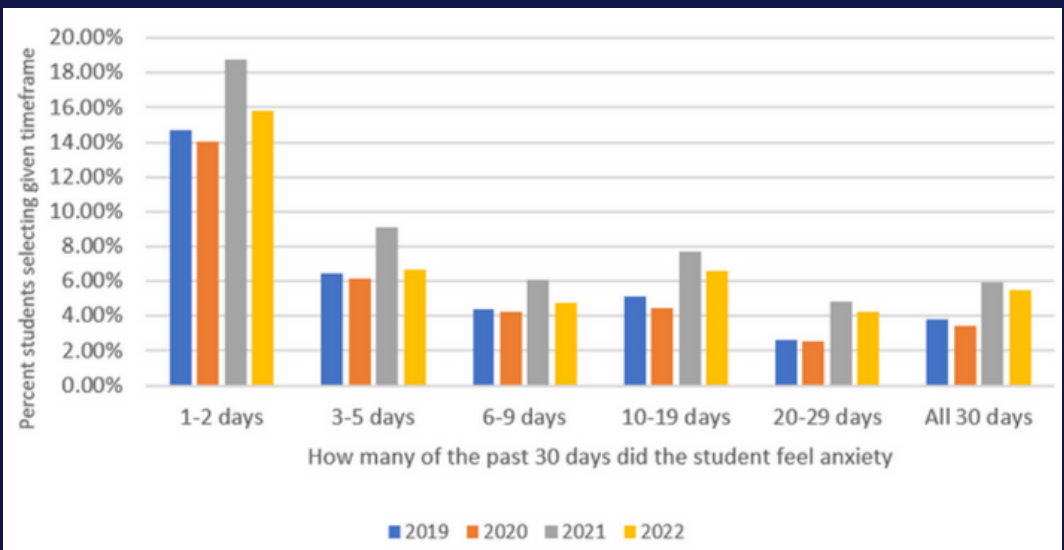


Children who have experienced an adverse childhood experience (ACE) are much more likely to have mental health disorders and illicit substance use.

Mental Health Outcomes

Anxiety in the Past 30 Days, GA DOE Survey, Grades 6-12, Oconee County, GA, 2019-2022

The % of students that have felt intense anxiety, worries, or fear has increased every year for each day range



2nd

leading cause of death for youth was suicide in 2020¹

40,000

students in Georgia reported attempted suicide in 2019²

50%

increase of youth experiencing a major depressive episode in the 2000's³

1 in 5

children report suffering from a mental illness in Georgia²

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). Fast Facts. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 2. Sofferin, D. (September 10, 2022). Georgia Kids and Youth Face Mental Health Crisis. Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.
 3. Curtin, S. C. (2020). State Suicide Rates Among Adolescents and Young Adults Aged 10-24: United States, 2000-2018. National Vital Statistics Reports : From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, 69(11), 1-10.

For more information go to www.athenswellbeingproject.org or contact us at rbaskam@uga.edu

