THE FULTON-DEKALB HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

The Fulton DeKalb Hospital Authority (FDHA), proud owners of Grady Health Systems (GHS), ensures that quality care is provided and the health needs of the community are addressed through education, advocacy, and collaborative partnerships. The FDHA has served the indigent residents of Fulton and DeKalb counties for over 72 years, dating back to World War II. Additionally, the FDHA promotes general healthcare needs by providing grants to community-based health organizations, hosting or sponsoring health events and advocating for responsive and responsible healthcare policy for indigent citizens in the State of Georgia.
Violence is defined as:

- behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something
- the unlawful exercise of physical force or intimidation

It is nearly impossible to be unaware of the issue of violence. Violent images are constantly being seen on television programs, news outlets, video games and in real life. The constant exposure to violence desensitizes or makes a person unresponsive to it. The large rate of crime is alarming however it is often not surprising to most because it has become a way of life for many.

**WHAT IS VIOLENCE?**

**Crime Victims’ Assistance**
Fulton County Solicitor General’s Office
www.fultonda.org
404-612-4986

DeKalb County District Attorney
www.dekalbda.org
404-371-2561

GA Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
www.cjcc.ga.gov
404-657-1956

Atlanta Victim Assistance, Inc.
www.atlantava.org
404-588-4740

**Mental Health Resources**
Families First Counseling
www.familiesfirst.org
404-853-2800

The Odyssey Family Counseling Center
www.odysseycounseling.org
404-762-9190

DeKalb County Service Board
www.dekcsb.org
404-892-4646

This list does not include all services, for more referral information please call:
Violence has become a growing public health crisis in America. Acts of violence affect each member of society across the age spectrum. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), violence is a leading cause of death and disability which also affects youth, low-income populations, and people of color at a higher rate. Violence takes on many forms, which includes child abuse, suicide, domestic/intimate partner violence, human trafficking, gang violence and elder abuse.

The total cost of injuries and violence in the United States was $671 billion in 2013.

- $214 billion fatal injuries
- $457 billion nonfatal injuries

Each year 27 million people are treated in emergency departments and released, and more than 192,000 die as a result of violence related injuries.

Beyond the medical cost, individuals who are exposed to violence are more likely to experience some health effects from being exposed. Negative health behaviors such as risk taking behavior, drug abuse and mental health problems are often linked to violence and trauma as a result of exposure to violence.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abuse perpetrated by a spouse, partner or significant other, with the goal of establishing or maintaining power and control. Domestic violence can happen occasionally or continuously and typically gets worse over time. Domestic violence is seen in all income levels, ethnicities, religions and sexual orientations. In the U.S. more than 12 million women and men are affected by domestic violence each year².

Forms of domestic violence include:

**Physical Abuse:** Use of physical force to cause bodily harm or damage to property

- Hitting, beating, choking, pushing, slapping, kicking, holding partner down
- Throwing and/or threatening with objects

**Emotional Abuse:** Use of words to hurt, demean and control

- Verbal threats, name calling and use of abusive language
- Constant blaming and criticism

**Sexual Abuse:** Forced or coerced sexual act or behavior motivated to acquire power and control over the partner

- Unwanted touching or forced sexual acts on a partner
- Criticizing a person’s sexual history, performance and desirability

**Financial Abuse:** Use of monetary resources to gain control

- Controls partners financial resources and limits access to them
- Limits partner’s ability to care for themselves by affecting employment or refusing to work


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**Transitional Housing/ Shelters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caminar Latino</td>
<td>404-413-6348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baitul Salaam Network, Inc.</td>
<td>770-255-8500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway Center</td>
<td>404-215-6615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Missions</td>
<td>404-588-4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd’s Rest Ministries</td>
<td>770-443-5213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our House</td>
<td>404-522-6056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Refuge</td>
<td>404-874-2241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless</td>
<td>404-447-3678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>404-486-2900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Atlanta</td>
<td>404-817-7070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFCS Child Protective Center</td>
<td>1-855-GACHILD (422-4453)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop it Now</td>
<td>1-888-PREVENT (773-8368)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent Child Abuse GA</td>
<td>1-800-CHILDREN (244-5373)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA Center for Child Advocacy</td>
<td>678-904-2880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone, often the problem is overlooked, excused, denied and unreported. Domestic abuse often escalates from threats and verbal abuse to physical violence. While physical injury may be the most immediate danger, the emotional and psychological consequences of domestic abuse are also severe. All forms of domestic violence can destroy feelings of self-worth, instill feelings of helplessness and lead to anxiety and depression. Identifying the signs of an abusive relationship is the first step to ending it.

Common Warning Signs

- Controlling behavior
- Jealous/ Possessive
- Isolation of partner
- Blames others for problems and behavior
- Threats of violence
- Often puts partner down

Why do people stay in abusive relationships

- Conflict of emotions
- Fear
- Lack of resources
- Cultural or religious pressure
- Custody worries
- Shame

How to help someone in an abusive relationship:

1. Express concern
2. Provide Support
3. Provide domestic violence resources
4. Call 911 if there is immediate danger

Child Abuse

Child abuse is more common than most people think. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, there are over 3 million reported cases of child abuse in the U.S. annually. In 2013, there were 114,270 reports to Child Protective Services (CPS) in Georgia alone.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is the maltreatment of children which includes:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect

Who Does it Affect?

- In the U.S., approximately 5 children die daily because of child abuse
- 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 5 boys will be sexually abused before age 18
- 90% of sexual abuse victims know the perpetrators (68% are abused by family members)
- 80% of adults who were abused as children meet the criteria for at least one psychological

Over $124 billion is spent annually to address the effects of child abuse. Services include:

- Healthcare (physical and mental health)
- Child welfare & protection
- Special education

5 Ways to Stop Violence

1. Choose words instead of violence
2. Learn about the problem
3. Become a mentor
4. Donate time and resources to programs
5. Speak out
The solution to violence is prevention. There are a number of programs that help deter crime and work with community members to provide resources to encourage positive behaviors and responses to conflict. It is important to know how to stay safe and prevent crimes before they happen.

Effective crime prevention strategies address the factors we know contribute directly to crime. Through targeted programming, we aim to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors by engaging community groups, grassroots groups, police officers, and other stakeholders to create safe and thriving communities.

**Risk and Protective Factors**

**Risk**

Factors are negative circumstances and influences that increase the likelihood of a person committing crime. They are extensive and complex, ranging from factors unique to an individual to broader societal issues. They can include:

- unemployment and low income
- educational levels including high school drop-out rates
- changes in families and parenting
- household size
- availability and use of alcohol and drugs
- shifts in social values
- moving to larger cities
- a shift to communities where people don’t know each other

**Protective Factors** are positive characteristics or conditions that reduce risks and promote positive development. They decrease the likelihood of engaging in crime. Examples include:

- positive attitudes and coping skills
- supportive family
- positive and healthy peers
- living in low-crime neighborhoods with access to support services

**Elder Abuse**

**Elder abuse** is any form of mistreatment or neglect that results in harm or loss to an older person. As the population of older adults grows so does the problem of elder abuse. The decline in physical and mental ability that often occurs with aging makes this population vulnerable to abuse. There is often an unwillingness to report abuse because many feel they will not be believed, to protect abusive family members from the legal consequences of their crimes, or too embarrassed to admit that they have become a victim.

**Elder Abuse Can Include:**

- **Physical abuse** - Use of physical force that may result in bodily injury or physical pain
- **Sexual abuse** - Any non-consensual sexual contact with an elderly person
- **Emotional abuse** - Mental anguish or distress caused by verbal or non-verbal acts
- **Financial/material exploitation** - Illegal or improper use of an elder’s funds, property, or assets
- **Neglect** - Refusal or failure to fulfill any part of an elder’s care obligations
- **Abandonment** - Person who has physical custody and in charge of primary care for an elder leaves them

**Warning signs of an abused elder**

- Unkept, smells, malnourished, bed sores, unmet medical needs
- Withdrawn, confused or extremely forgetful, depressed, helpless or angry, hesitant to talk freely, frightened, secretive
- Changes in money patterns

_Elder Abuse_ A SILENT EPIDEMIC

- 5.9 Million estimated cases of elder abuse in 2019
- 1 in 23 cases of elder abuse in the U.S. is reported

Source: Age in Place
Human trafficking is a growing problem around the world. After drug trafficking, human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world today and is considered the fastest growing by generating $32 billion a year. Although many people do not think this happens in the U.S., this is a growing problem that affects the lives of many every day. It is a form of slavery in which people are trapped, often beaten, starved, and forced to work as prostitutes or grueling jobs with poor work conditions for little to no pay. Due to Georgia’s substantial immigrant and refugee populations as well as large agricultural industries, it is considered a major destination for US human trafficking. In fact, Atlanta has been named one of the top sex trafficking destinations in the United States. According to FBI statistics, Atlanta ranks among the top 14 cities in the United States for domestic minor sex trafficking. Nearly 300 girls across Atlanta are lured into trafficking every month. Minors are typically recruited from a city and are transferred to another county or state to prevent them from leaving. Atlanta’s international airport and high tourism rates make it an attractive location for traffickers.

**Signs of a trafficked person**

- Unable to leave or come and go as they wish
- Under 18 and providing commercial sex acts
- Is unpaid or paid very little
- Works excessively for long hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual work conditions
- Owes a large debt and which they unable to pay off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature, pay, conditions and terms of the work

Violence take a toll on the victims, witnesses and others who are affected by the crime. Fear, anxiety and elevated stress as a result of violence can have serious mental health consequences. Many people exposed to violence have adverse health effects which include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), aggressive behavior, risk-taking, problems with sleeping and eating and increased likelihood of substance abuse problems.

In addition to the physical toll, the economic cost for violence is staggering. Death, disability, medical treatment, mental trauma and criminal justice system cost billions of dollars each year. The residents of communities with high crime rates are often limited due to the lack resources and opportunities because businesses are discouraged from investing and locating in these neighborhoods. As a result, there is a lack of access to healthy food options, safe places to exercise which has health consequences such as diabetes, obesity, malnutrition and heart disease. There are also high levels of stress, anger, frustration and hopelessness present that is more likely to be converted to violence when conflict occurs, which creates a cycle of violence in communities.
Violence takes many forms, however these forms are often interconnected and share the same root causes. They can also all take place under one roof, in a given community or neighborhood and can happen at the same time or at different stages of life. Understanding the overlapping causes of violence and the things that can protect people and communities is important. This information can help better address violence in all of its forms. The communities people live in can protect them from violence or can increase their risk of violence. There are experiences, particularly early in childhood, that make it extremely predictable that individuals are at substantially higher risk for involvement with violence.

**Sexual Assault**

**Sexual and assault** is any unwanted sexual activity, with the perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage of victims not able to give consent. Sexual assault includes:

- Inappropriate & unwanted touching
- Rape (and attempted rape)
- Child molestation

Most victims of sexual assault know the person who committed the crime. The CDC reports that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives\(^\text{11}\). Although the numbers are very high, the incidence is far greater than what is reported because only 12% of child sexual abuse and 37% of sexual assaults are reported.

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Gang Violence

The Department of Justice defines a gang as a collective group of 3 or more individuals that have a name, identity, slogan, symbol, tattoo or style of clothing to distinguish members. The group engages in criminal activity and violence to further the groups objectives.

100% of cities with a population of more than 250,000 report gang activity

35% of suburban counties report gang activity.

More than 24,500 gangs are active in the U.S.

The FBI reports that there are more than 33,000 violent street, motorcycle and prison gangs with about 1.4 million members that are criminally active in the U.S. today\(^\text{12}\). Many are sophisticated and well organized and use violence to control neighborhoods and to boost their illegal money making activities, which includes robbery, drug and gun trafficking, fraud, extortion, and prostitution rings. According to the 2011 National Gang Threat Assessment report, gangs are responsible for an average of 48 percent of violent crime in most cities.

Due to the large amount of gang violence the FBI started the Safe Streets Violent Crime Initiative in 1992, to address violent street gangs and drug-related violence. The Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Force became the vehicle through which all of the federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies joined together to address the violent crime plaguing their communities.

Violent Crimes

A violent crime is a crime in which an offender uses or threatens force on a victim. This entails both crimes in which the violent act is the objective, such as murder, as well as crimes where violence was not the aim. Violent crimes are often committed with weapons.

Violent crime is composed of four offenses:

- Murder and manslaughter
- Rape
- Robbery
- Aggravated assault

Number of Violent Crimes in GA in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Murder</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>1,939</td>
<td>12,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb County</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>2121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulton County</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>3742</td>
</tr>
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\(^\text{12}\) FBI - https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthefts/gangs
\(^\text{13}\) Office of Justice Programs / Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
\(^\text{14}\) https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthefts/gangs/violent-gangs-task-forces

2013 FBI Crime Clock Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Violent Crime occurred every</td>
<td>27.1 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Murder every</td>
<td>37.0 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Rape every</td>
<td>6.6 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Robbery every</td>
<td>1.5 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Aggravated Assault every</td>
<td>43.5 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Property Crime occurred every</td>
<td>3.7 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Burglary every</td>
<td>16.4 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Larceny-theft every</td>
<td>5.3 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Motor Vehicle Theft every</td>
<td>45.1 seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>