

| Appendix A: Methods

1. Key Informant Interviews

Voices for Georgia’s Children (Voices) researchers interviewed 23 leaders and staff from relevant state agencies, child-serving organizations, and database administrators between March and October of 2024. Interviews ranged from formal to informal, and most were held via virtual calls. The researchers also submitted written questions and data requests to collect additional information. Additionally, the Georgia DJJ, GaDOE, DCH, DHS, DBHDD, and the CJCC were provided the opportunity to review language that is pertinent to their agencies prior to the release of the report.

2. Listening Sessions

Voices conducted a listening session with CHINS coordinators from across the state (CHINS Convening), the Statewide CHINS Coordinator, DJJ staff, and other interested parties. This convening allowed CHINS coordinators to discuss barriers and opportunities and share best practices for CHINS case processing and service delivery.

3. Data Analysis

Voices reviewed available data and existing reports from state and national agencies and related organizations to identify trends and issues in juvenile justice and related systems. Additionally, we identified what data is available, who is collecting it, and with whom it is being shared to identify barriers to data collection and dissemination and ways to improve data collection for policy decisions.

4. Systems Analysis

Voices examined the various agencies and courts that administer, oversee, and support the juvenile justice system. Our research focused on how connected child-serving agencies, healthcare agencies, and the school system interact with juvenile courts to support youth before, during, and after involvement with the juvenile court system to discover ways to strengthen the network of support.

5. Policy Analysis

Voices evaluated past and present state, agency, and court policies, rules, and practices that impact juvenile justice involvement and the well-being of youth and families.