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ABSTRACT

This factbook examines trends during the 1980s on 11 indicators of Georgia children's well-being. The indicators are: (1) low birthweight infants; (2) infant mortality; (3) death rate of children ages 1 to 14 years; (4) violent death rate of teenagers aged 15 to 19 years; (5) rate of child abuse and neglect; (6) juveniles committed to state custody; (7) birthrates to teenagers aged 15 to 19 years; (8) high school completion; (9) child poverty rate; (10) kindergarten retention; and (11) family at risk index, defined as percent of first births to mothers who are less than 20 years old, unmarried, or have not completed high school. Section 1 of the report, "Indicators of Child and Family Well-Being," analyzes state and county trends, assesses the economic impact, presents county comparisons, and lists numbers, rates, and rankings for each county and for the state. Section 2, "Public Programs for Children and Families," provides an overview of the major public programs providing health, income, nutrition, child protection, and early care and education services to children and families. The major finding is that over the multi-year period covered by the report, six indicators of child well-being showed improvement while three declined. On all indicators where information is available by race, African-American children fared worse than white children. (Methodology information is appended. Contains approximately 80 references.) (KDFB)

1993

KIDS COUNT

Georgia kids count

FACT BOOK

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE KIDS COUNT IN GEORGIA?

"ADULTS WHO CARE."

Rebekah Vallas, Age 9

Additional copies of ***The 1993 Georgia Kids Count Factbook*** are available for $12 (postage included):

From: **Georgia Kids Count**
Georgians for Children
3091 Maple Dr., Suite 114
Atlanta, Georgia 30305
Phone: (404) 365-8948
Fax: (404) 365-9009

1993 FACTBOOK

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OVERVIEW

KIDS COUNT IS A MEASURE OF GEORGIA'S PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN.

The *1993 Kids Count Factbook* builds on the first Kids Count report, expanding the information base and giving additional depth to each indicator of child well-being. After the first two years, a compelling picture of Georgia's children is emerging.

WHAT'S NEW IN KIDS COUNT IN 1993?

The *1993 Kids Count Factbook* examines two additional indicators of child well-being in 1993: kindergarten retentions and families at risk.

Kindergarten Retentions

Kindergarten retentions are a measure of school readiness – of whether schools, communities and parents are ensuring that a child's first year in school is successful. Because the first years lay a foundation for long-term achievements, evaluating early progress in school also provides an important context for looking at the Kids Count indicators that track the well-being of Georgia's teens: the high school completion rates, the teen birth rates and the rates at which teens are dying violently.

Families at Risk

The new families at risk indicator looks at three critical family characteristics at the time a first child is born: whether the parents are married, the mother's age, or whether she has completed her high school education. The presence or absence of these characteristics may be used as a predictor of future family stability, poverty or poor child outcomes. This new section reveals the number of families in every area of the state who face the greatest risks.

New Data and County Comparisons

The *1993 Kids Count Factbook* provides newly available data for 1991 and 1992. This year's book also tracks statewide trends on 8 of 11 indicators beginning in the early 1980's and following them through to the most recent year for which data are available. This provides a detailed picture of how Georgia has progressed from one year to the next. Compiling state and county data over a longer period of time also provides a stable rate for nearly every county. As a result, Georgia's counties can be ranked and compared on all

Kids Count indicators this year.

Significant population differences among Georgia's 159 counties make county comparisons difficult. Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb counties have more than 100,000 children each, while Quitman, Glascock and Taliaferro counties have fewer than 600 children each. In fact, 16 of 159 counties are home to more than 50% of Georgia's children. These differences in population are important to bear in mind when drawing conclusions from data presented in the Factbook. For example, the infant death rates between 1980 and 1991 in Echols and Chatham counties are similar–14.7 per 1,000 and 15.2 per 1,000, respectively. Yet five infants died in Echols County during this period, while 695 infants died in Chatham County.

Thus, while the rate is a good measure of the severity of a problem in a given county, only by looking at the number can we see the scope. The county comparison maps presented for all 11 indicators in the ***1993 Kids Count Factbook*** allow us to see those areas in the state where the problems are clustered and where they are the most severe.

Economic Impact

The ***1993 Kids Count Factbook*** presents information on the economic impact of each indicator – the financial as well as the human costs of failing to address the specific problems that are facing children and their families. It presents, for example, the costs associated with preventing teenage pregnancy and the costs of supporting families that are started by teenagers. While such "cost of failure" analyses are not intended to be dollar for dollar accounts, they do provide evidence of the value of investing in prevention. The reader will see that underlying causes and prevention strategies are repeated among some of the indicators. This suggests that problems experienced by families are interrelated and that solutions effective in one area can have a positive ripple effect in resolving others.

Overview of Public Programs

The ***1993 Kids Count Factbook*** has a new section: an overview of the major public programs for children and families in Georgia. An understanding of the nature and scope of public support services that are available to Georgia citizens is critical to assessing how well Georgia responds to the needs and crises facing many Georgians. It is also key to planning for improvements that will ensure that services are not only responsive to problems as they happen, but are able to help prevent them from occurring in the first place.

WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS?

The ***1993 Kids Count Factbook*** finds that over the multi-year period, six indicators of child well-being showed improvement while three got worse. The number of indicators improving in the last year are equal to the number showing setbacks.

The 1993 Factbook reveals that for the second year in a row, 3 of the 4 benchmarks related to teens continue to get worse. On all indicators for which data are available by race, Georgia's African-American children continue to fare significantly worse than its white children.

HOW ARE GEORGIA'S CHILDREN FARING?

KIDS COUNT BENCHMARK	MULTI-YEAR TREND	SINGLE-YEAR TREND
Low Birthweight Infants	.9% Decline (1980-1991)	.9% Decline (1990-1991)
Infant Deaths	28.1% Decline (1980-1991)	8.1% Decline (1990-1991)
Child Deaths	21.7% Decline (1980-1991)	.4% Increase (1990-1991)
Teen Violent Deaths	11.7% Decline (1980-1991)	1.2% Increase (1990-1991)
Abused and Neglected Children	(No trend data are available)	
Births to Teens	3.6% Increase (1980-1991)	1.2% Increase (1990-1991)
Juveniles Committed to State Custody	43% Increase (1982-1992)	4.2% Increase (1991-1992)
Youth Completing High School	12.7% Increase (1980-1992)	7.6% Increase (1991-1992)
Children in Poverty	16.6% Decline (1969-1989)	not available
Children Retained in Kindergarten	16.2% Increase (1984-1992)	8.6% Decline (1991-1992)
Families at Risk	(No trend data are available)	

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

- While child poverty is likely to be an underlying factor in most of the Kids Count indicators, the most comprehensive data on family income and poverty levels are only collected every ten years through the United States Census. As a result, the most recent county-level data on poverty report on family income levels from 1989. In 1994, Kids Count will explore new and alternative ways of measuring poverty among families and children so this critical indicator can be updated.
- Another year has gone by and significant gaps persist in the availability of important data in Georgia. We still do not know, on a county level, how many children are without health insurance or have a problem with substance abuse. We still do not know how many children across the state are hungry or homeless.

WHERE TO FIND IT IN KIDS COUNT 1993

The *1993 Kids Count Factbook* is divided into three sections.

- *Indicators of Child and Family Well-Being.* For each of the 11 Kids Count indicators, this section provides an analysis of state and county trends and developments, an assessment of the economic impact, a graphic presentation of county comparisons and a table listing numbers, rates and rankings for every county and for the state as a whole.

- ***Public Programs for Children and Families.*** This section offers an overview of the major public programs providing services to children and families in the areas of health, income, nutrition, child protection and family preservation and early care and education. For each area, there is a brief description of some of the available programs, their funding sources, the numbers served (as a percent of those eligible, where possible) and the cost of the program.
- *Appendices.* This section provides references and methodology, tables giving numerical detail for the trend graphs found in each indicator section and acknowledgements for the many people who have contributed to Kids Count.

IN SUM

Georgians for Children publishes the ***Kids Count Factbook*** each year to empower citizens, community leaders, legislators and advocates to make changes that will improve the quality of life for children, and in so doing, improve the quality of life in our state as a whole.

This year, with Kids Count's county comparisons, local communities have an unprecedented opportunity to take a close look at how their own children are faring; to assess contributing factors; to look to neighboring communities for guidance and inspiration or to offer a helping hand.

By understanding the facts and trends as well as the broader public policy context that surrounds them, all Georgians have the foundation to take action that will make a difference for children.

CHILD WELL-BEING INDICATORS

GEORGIA'S 1993 NATIONAL RANK
47

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Most causes of low birthweight, especially those related to premature delivery are unknown. The known reasons include the mother's having an unwanted conception, late or inadequate prenatal care and supervision, the mother's health and nutritional status and whether she engaged in risky behavior such as smoking, drinking or using other drugs during pregnancy.

In 1991, 9,481 babies were born low birthweight in Georgia, a rate of 8.6%. This was virtually unchanged from the 1990 rate of 8.7%.

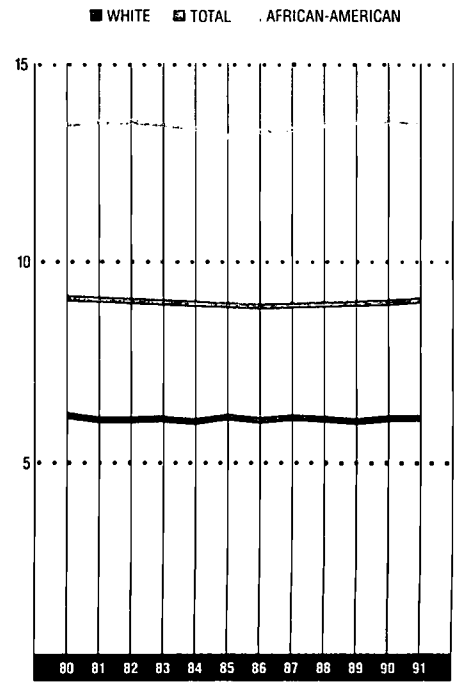
Throughout the 12 year period from 1980 to 1991, the percentage of low birthweight babies in Georgia remained fairly constant, near 8%, while the national average was about 7%. Significant racial disparities persisted during these years. The African-American low birthweight rate (12.6%) is twice the white rate (6.1%).

Despite little change in the low birthweight rate, increases in the number of children born each year since 1980 mean the actual number of low birthweight babies has been steadily rising. In 1980 there were 7,997 low birthweight babies; in 1991, there were 9,481. From 1980 to 1991, a total of 99,890 babies were born low birthweight in Georgia.

While the state average for the 12 year period was 8.4%, average low birthweight rates in Georgia's counties ranged from 5.4% in Fayette County to 13% in Warren County. Among the state's smaller counties, Stewart, Taliaferro and Warren counties had the

Low Birthweight Rate, Georgia, 1980–1991

Births of infants weighing under 5.5 pounds per 100 live births



highest low birthweight rates. Among the larger counties, Bibb, Dougherty and Fulton had the highest rates.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The intensive medical care of low birthweight infants is costly, as are the special education services and extra health and developmental care these children are likely to require as they grow. In many instances Georgia taxpayers bear these costs unnecessarily, since low birthweight can be prevented by improving a mother's health status and reducing unwanted pregnancies.

Research reveals that providing quality and timely prenatal care to all pregnant women might reduce the number of low birthweight births in Georgia. Targeting comprehensive health education programs to mothers identified as high-risk would be another successful method, as would be taking steps to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies.

Yet in Georgia, access to and utilization of preventive services is limited. In 1991, 27% of Georgia mothers did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester and in 1989, 38% of those eligible did not receive nutritional support services. Currently, two of Georgia's 19 health districts provide comprehensive substance abuse services for pregnant women. There are waiting lists for family planning services in many public health clinics.

By investing in the prevention of low birthweight births, Georgia would save lives and money.

ESTIMATED COST OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BIRTHS

- **$30,000 per child for one month of neonatal intensive care**
- **$18,265 additional per child for 13 years of special education**
- **$400,000 per child over a lifetime for special medical care**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREVENTION

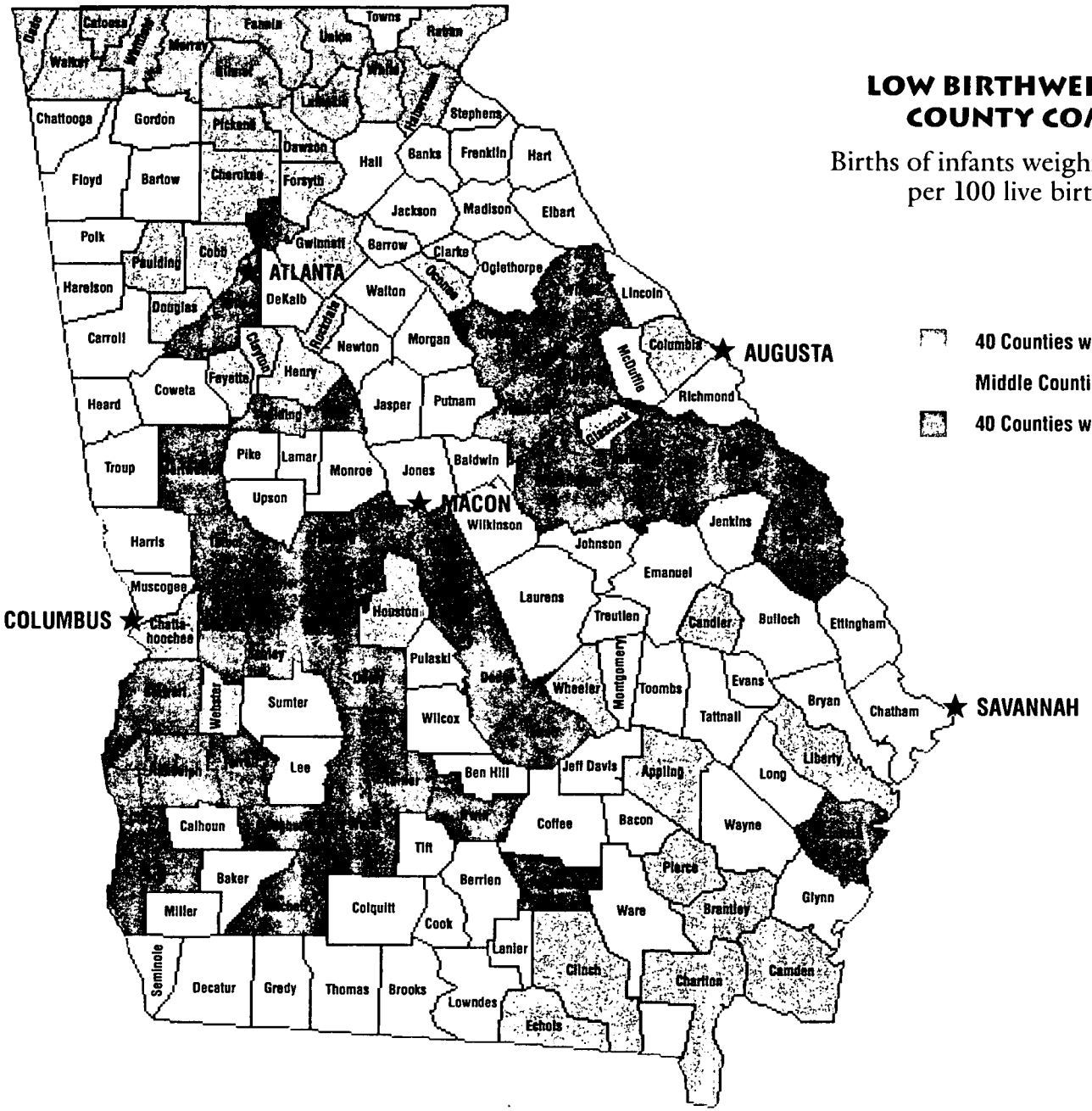
- **$400 per mother for nine months of prenatal care**
- **$431 per mother per year for nutritional support (WIC)**
- **$5,375 per pregnant woman for up to six months of comprehensive substance abuse services**
- **$90 per person per year for family planning services**

Infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, by race, 1980–1991: number, rate (per 100), and rank by rate

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	TOTAL	RATE	RANK
APPLING	108	87	195	6.6	18
ATKINSON	62	70	133	9.8	128
BACON	75	72	148	8.3	71
BAKER	18	34	52	8.1	63
BALDWIN	193	424	621	9.5	114
BANKS	96	14	110	8.2	66
BARROW	312	126	441	8.2	65
BARTOW	605	135	746	7.5	42
BEN HILL	118	153	271	7.9	55
BERRIEN	137	79	216	8.6	87
BIBB	906	2,044	2,955	10.1	137
BLECKLEY	70	101	171	10.0	136
BRANTLEY	91	21	112	6.5	14
BROOKS	65	200	266	8.6	86
BRYAN	141	81	224	7.7	52
BULLOCH	243	319	563	8.3	70
BURKE	77	406	483	10.3	142
BUTTS	95	166	262	9.9	133
CALHOUN	20	76	96	9.6	119
CAMDEN	244	141	390	7.2	31
CANDLER	27	57	84	6.5	13
CARROLL	666	363	1,029	8.3	73
CATOOSA	406	17	429	6.5	15
CHARLTON	60	64	124	7.5	40
CHATHAM	1,385	2,894	4,314	9.4	113
CHATTAHOOCHEE	83	85	172	5.7	3
CHATTOOGA	240	49	289	8.2	67
CHEROKEE	994	29	1,026	6.2	9
CLARKE	388	606	1,004	7.6	46
CLAY	7	61	68	10.6	144
CLAYTON	1,663	810	2,547	7.4	35
CLINCH	33	58	91	6.9	24
COBB	3,661	887	4,643	6.3	10
COFFEE	276	270	548	9.1	107
COLQUITT	280	328	610	8.9	101
COLUMBIA	486	156	653	5.7	2
COOK	87	133	220	8.3	72
COWETA	447	424	874	8.9	97
CRAWFORD	57	75	132	9.7	126
CRISP	143	302	447	10.2	141
DADE	122	0	126	6.0	6
DAWSON	98	0	98	6.7	20
DECATUR	165	281	447	8.6	63
DEKALB	2,577	5,546	8,285	8.7	92
DODGE	121	164	286	10.0	134
DOOLY	45	184	229	11.0	153
DOUGHERTY	571	1,664	2,246	10.1	140
DOUGLAS	677	130	812	6.5	12
EARLY	75	189	264	10.0	135
ECHOLS	12	8	20	5.9	5
EFFINGHAM	203	112	315	7.7	48
ELBERT	130	197	327	9.1	108
EMANUEL	156	260	417	9.3	110
EVANS	65	102	167	9.6	118
FANNIN	131	0	131	6.1	7
FAYETTE	316	52	375	5.4	1
FLOYD	826	428	1,259	9.0	105
FORSYTH	432	0	433	6.5	11
FRANKLIN	163	88	253	9.4	112
FULTON	2,600	10,900	13,621	10.6	145
GILMER	151	0	151	7.1	27
GLASCOCK	17	7	24	7.1	28
GLYNN	456	487	947	8.6	82
GORDON	437	52	490	8.0	58
GRADY	118	196	314	8.6	85
GREENE	58	210	270	10.7	148
GWINNETT	2,886	338	3,313	5.8	4
HABERSHAM	269	26	302	7.4	34
HALL	999	252	1,256	7.7	49
HANCOCK	9	202	211	11.3	155
HARALSON	215	63	278	8.0	62
HARRIS	110	99	209	7.5	43
HART	129	126	256	8.7	91
HEARD	60	44	104	8.5	79
HENRY	456	192	649	6.8	22
HOUSTON	666	549	1,233	7.4	37
IRWIN	43	110	153	9.7	125
JACKSON	303	103	406	8.0	60
JASPER	45	63	128	9.0	103
JEFF DAVIS	136	55	191	8.9	99
JEFFERSON	52	364	416	11.0	152
JENKINS	46	108	154	8.5	80
JOHNSON	49	100	149	9.5	116
JONES	150	117	268	7.9	57
LAMAR	61	116	178	8.0	61
LANIER	40	48	90	8.3	74
LAURENS	260	414	674	9.0	104
LEE	135	107	242	8.7	89
LIBERTY	478	647	1,175	7.4	36
LINCOLN	36	71	107	8.9	100
LONG	83	33	116	7.9	56
LOWNDES	480	734	1,224	8.0	59
LUMPKIN	138	8	146	7.1	29
MACON	54	225	279	9.8	130
MADISON	196	64	260	7.5	41
MARION	35	66	101	10.1	138
MCDUFFIE	119	223	342	8.9	96
MCINTOSH	62	110	173	10.5	143
MERIWETHER	137	305	442	10.7	147
MILLER	35	61	96	7.9	54
MITCHELL	92	429	524	11.2	154
MONROE	91	118	210	7.5	44
MONTGOMERY	39	52	91	8.2	68
MORGAN	91	128	219	8.9	102
MURRAY	280	1	281	6.6	17
MUSCOGEE	1,287	2,133	3,465	8.7	94
NEWTON	356	279	638	7.7	51
OCONEE	129	38	167	6.1	8
OGLETHORPE	63	62	125	7.6	47
PAULDING	436	40	478	6.7	19
PEACH	98	282	380	9.6	121
PICKENS	153	3	156	6.7	21
PIERCE	116	48	164	7.4	39
PIKE	87	58	145	8.7	93
POLK	407	163	572	9.5	115
PULASKI	49	73	122	8.4	76
PUTNAM	63	133	196	8.6	84
QUITMAN	7	40	47	10.8	150
RABUN	112	0	112	6.9	23
RANDOLPH	17	143	161	9.8	129
RICHMOND	1,256	2,381	3,690	8.9	98
ROCKDALE	454	123	587	7.2	30
SCHLEY	18	49	67	10.8	149
SCREVEN	72	197	270	9.6	120
SEMINOLE	58	98	156	9.5	117
SPALDING	432	534	974	9.7	127
STEPHENS	201	87	292	7.6	45
STEWART	12	105	117	11.8	157
SUMTER	152	430	585	9.1	106
TALBOT	20	97	117	10.8	148
TALIAFERRO	2	41	43	12.3	158
TATTNALL	143	133	281	8.4	78
TAYLOR	33	114	147	9.9	132
TELFAIR	95	133	228	9.8	131
TERRELL	32	224	257	10.9	151
THOMAS	214	463	680	8.4	75
TIFT	250	356	609	8.6	88
TOOMBS	198	205	405	8.2	69
TOWNS	54	0	54	7.7	50
TREUTLEN	34	62	96	8.5	81
TROUP	396	516	915	8.7	90
TURNER	69	160	229	11.4	156
TWIGGS	42	134	177	9.6	122
UNION	97	1	98	6.6	16
UPSON	177	176	353	8.4	77
WALKER	618	38	659	6.9	25
WALTON	353	279	633	9.1	109
WARE	289	307	600	8.8	95
WARREN	13	146	160	13.0	159
WASHINGTON	74	292	368	9.7	123
WAYNE	165	161	328	7.7	53
WEBSTER	8	18	26	7.0	26
WHEELER	25	36	61	7.2	32
WHITE	125	9	134	7.3	33
WHITFIELD	922	62	987	7.4	38
WILCOX	41	61	102	8.1	64
WILKES	45	143	188	10.1	139
WILKINSON	59	135	194	9.4	111
WORTH	136	247	383	9.7	124
GEORGIA	46,116	52,813	99,890	8.4	

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Births of infants weighing under 5.5 pounds per 100 live births, 1980–1991



40 Counties with Lowest Rates

Middle Counties

40 Counties with Highest Rates

14

GEORGIA'S 1993 NATIONAL RANK 50

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Georgia is making consistent progress in reducing its infant mortality rate. While greater access to health care services may play an important role, experts believe that lower mortality rates in Georgia are due largely to technological advances that enable doctors to keep high-risk infants alive. Georgia has not been successful in reducing the incidence of those factors that put infants at risk of death or lifelong problems, such as low birthweight, child abuse and unintended pregnancy.

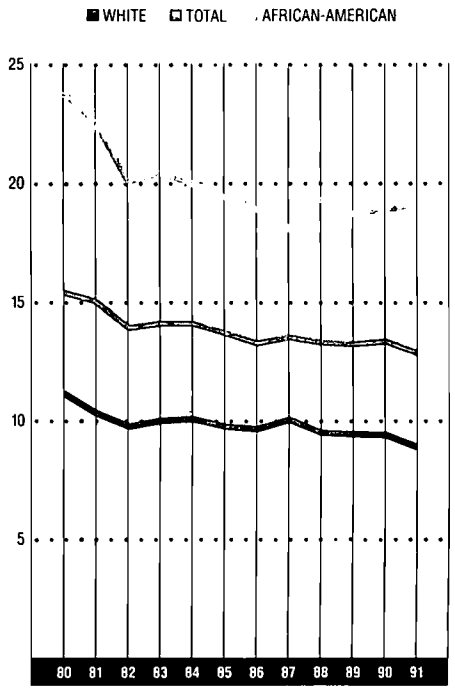
In 1991, 1,252 Georgia infants died before their first birthday, a rate of 11.4 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is a decrease from the rate of 12.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990.

During the 12 year period from 1980 to 1991, the state made notable improvements, decreasing its infant mortality rate from 15.8 per 1,000 in 1980 to 11.4 per 1,000 in 1991. However, substantial racial disparities remained. The drop in the infant mortality rate from 1990 to 1991 was almost all due to a drop in the white infant mortality rate from 9.0 per 1,000 to 7.4 per 1,000. Over the 12 year period there were 9.6 deaths for every 1,000 live births among white infants, and 19.7 deaths for every 1,000 live births among African-American infants during the period.

While the average infant mortality rate for the state from 1980 to 1991 was 13.1 per 1,000, average infant mortality rates in Georgia's counties ranged from a low of 4.8 per 1,000 in Wilcox

Infant Mortality Rate, Georgia, 1980–1991

Deaths per 1,000 live births



County to 29.3 per 1,000 in Stewart County. Among the state's smaller counties, Stewart, Webster and Terrell had the highest infant mortality rates. Among the larger counties, Dougherty, Bibb and Fulton had the highest rates.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The death of an infant during the first year of life is a tragedy for any family. Most tragic is that half of infant deaths are preventable. Research shows that adequate pre- and postnatal care, a reduction in high-risk behavior among pregnant women, increasing the number of years between children in a family and increasing the availability of health care and support services for families would help avert the tragedy of infant mortality.

Yet prevention in Georgia is not far-reaching. Twenty-seven percent of Georgia's pregnant women are not receiving early prenatal care; family planning services are reaching 63% of those who are considered "at-risk" of unwanted pregnancy, and 60 substance abusing pregnant women have access to comprehensive services each year.

In addition to the human costs, failing to reduce the number of high-risk infants has significant economic consequences for the state. Many high-risk infants are saved by advanced medical practices, however the cost of such care is staggering.

ESTIMATED COST OF SAVING INFANTS AT RISK OF DEATH

- **$30,000 per child for one month of neonatal intensive care**

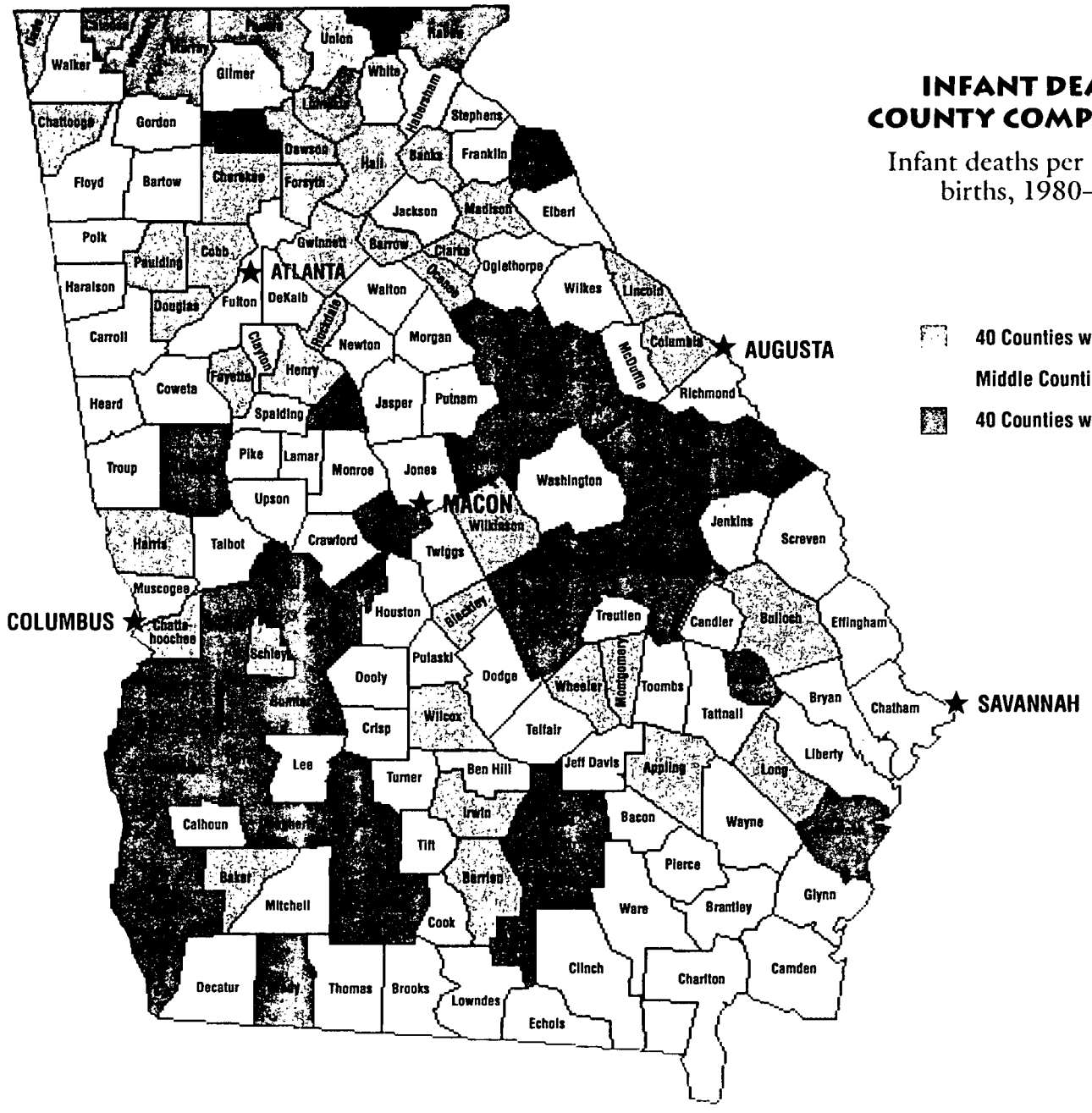
ESTIMATED COST OF PREVENTION

- **$400 per parent for nine months of prenatal care**
- **$5,375 per pregnant woman for up to six months of comprehensive substance abuse services**
- **$88 per parent for perinatal support services**
- **$90 per person per year for family planning services**

INFANT DEATHS

Infant deaths, by race, 1980–1991: number, rate (per 1,000), and rank by rate

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	TOTAL	RATE	RANK
APPLING	18	14	32	10.9	37
ATKINSON	14	9	23	16.9	130
BACON	12	10	22	12.3	63
BAKER	1	6	7	10.9	36
BALDWIN	38	68	106	16.2	122
BANKS	11	1	12	8.9	11
BARROW	32	20	52	9.7	17
BARTOW	97	20	117	11.7	56
BEN HILL	19	31	50	14.6	97
BERRIEN	15	11	26	10.4	30
BIBB	155	316	472	16.1	121
BLECKLEY	8	9	17	10.0	24
BRANTLEY	16	3	19	11.1	43
BROOKS	10	38	48	15.5	114
BRYAN	24	10	34	11.7	55
BULLOCH	21	45	66	9.7	18
BURKE	10	66	76	16.2	123
BUTTS	18	31	49	18.5	144
CALHOUN	4	10	14	14.0	88
CAMDEN	43	31	74	13.6	83
CANDLER	6	9	15	11.6	54
CARROLL	113	53	166	13.4	79
CATOOSA	49	3	53	8.1	7
CHARLTON	9	13	22	13.3	78
CHATHAM	229	463	695	15.2	106
CHATTAHOOCHEE	18	14	32	10.8	32
CHATTOOGA	30	5	35	10.0	26
CHEROKEE	162	1	163	9.8	22
CLARKE	57	88	145	11.0	40
CLAY	1	14	15	23.3	158
CLAYTON	255	144	405	11.7	57
CLINCH	8	9	18	13.7	84
COBB	574	136	717	9.7	19
COFFEE	60	57	117	19.5	148
COLQUITT	46	66	113	16.5	126
COLUMBIA	90	30	120	10.4	29
COOK	19	22	41	15.4	110
COWETA	62	49	111	11.2	46
CRAWFORD	5	10	15	11.1	42
CRISP	28	41	69	15.8	117
DADE	15	0	15	7.1	2
DAWSON	16	0	16	11.0	38
DECATUR	32	47	79	15.1	105
DEKALB	433	776	1,230	12.9	75
DODGE	15	27	42	14.6	96
DODLY	5	21	27	13.0	76
DOUGHERTY	84	281	366	16.5	124
DOUGLAS	113	19	132	10.6	31
EARLY	14	47	61	23.1	155
ECHOLS	3	2	5	14.7	99
EFFINGHAM	30	19	49	11.9	69
ELBERT	18	37	55	15.4	109
EMANUEL	35	39	74	16.6	127
EVANS	12	18	30	17.2	135
FANNIN	21	0	21	9.7	20
FAYETTE	42	8	52	7.4	3
FLOYD	123	77	201	14.4	94
FORSYTH	60	0	80	9.0	12
FRANKLIN	24	16	40	14.9	100
FULTON	409	1,609	2,029	15.8	118
GILMER	24	0	24	11.2	45
GLASCOCK	5	1	6	17.8	140
GLYNN	84	89	173	15.6	115
GORDON	60	8	68	11.1	41
GRADY	28	51	79	21.6	152
GREENE	7	47	54	21.4	151
GWINNETT	400	52	461	8.0	6
HABERSHAM	42	4	47	11.5	50
HALL	116	34	152	9.3	14
HANCOCK	1	42	43	23.0	154
HARALSON	31	9	40	11.5	52
HARRIS	17	13	30	10.8	34
HART	21	28	49	16.6	128
HEARD	13	6	19	15.5	112
HENRY	53	23	76	8.0	5
HOUSTON	101	64	185	11.1	44
IRWIN	1	16	17	10.8	35
JACKSON	50	19	69	13.6	82
JASPER	5	12	17	11.9	60
JEFF DAVIS	17	10	27	12.5	70
JEFFERSON	9	58	67	17.7	138
JENKINS	3	18	21	11.6	53
JOHNSON	10	20	30	19.2	145
JONES	23	26	49	14.5	95
LAMAR	13	16	29	13.0	77
LANIER	11	10	21	19.3	146
LAURENS	43	88	131	17.5	137
LEE	20	19	39	14.0	87
LIBERTY	100	94	198	12.3	66
LINCOLN	6	7	13	10.8	33
LONG	10	5	15	10.3	28
LOWNDES	80	110	190	12.4	67
LUMPKIN	19	1	20	9.8	21
MACON	7	41	48	16.6	129
MADISON	27	4	31	8.9	10
MARION	4	17	21	21.0	150
MCDUFFIE	16	32	48	12.4	68
MCINTOSH	17	15	32	19.4	147
MERIWETHER	28	48	76	18.4	142
MILLER	6	16	22	18.1	141
MITCHELL	15	55	70	14.9	102
MONROE	14	18	32	11.5	51
MONTGOMERY	4	7	11	10.0	25
MORGAN	12	16	28	11.4	49
MURRAY	35	0	35	8.2	8
MUSCOGEE	249	348	599	15.0	103
NEWTON	57	45	102	12.3	64
OCONEE	15	6	21	7.7	4
OGLETHORPE	10	13	23	14.1	90
PAULDING	60	6	66	9.2	13
PEACH	19	48	67	17.0	131
PICKENS	39	2	41	17.7	139
PIERCE	15	13	28	12.7	73
PIKE	11	13	24	14.4	93
POLK	42	26	68	11.3	47
PULASKI	6	16	22	15.1	104
PUTNAM	13	23	36	15.8	116
QUITMAN	0	10	10	23.0	153
RABUN	16	0	16	9.9	23
RANDOLPH	5	23	28	17.0	132
RICHMOND	218	337	563	13.5	81
ROCKDALE	79	11	90	11.0	39
SCHLEY	1	5	6	9.6	16
SCREVEN	10	28	39	13.9	86
SEMINOLE	6	21	27	16.5	125
SPALDING	54	87	142	14.2	91
STEPHENS	33	11	44	11.4	48
STEWART	2	27	29	29.3	159
SUMTER	38	73	112	17.4	136
TALBOT	4	10	14	12.9	74
TALIAFERRO	1	5	6	17.2	134
TATTNALL	26	14	40	12.0	61
TAYLOR	7	24	31	20.8	149
TELFAIR	16	20	36	15.5	113
TERRELL	5	50	55	23.4	157
THOMAS	37	87	124	15.3	108
TIFT	35	53	89	12.6	72
TOOMBS	29	39	68	13.8	85
TOWNS	13	0	13	16.4	143
TREUTLEN	8	10	18	16.0	119
TROUP	60	64	124	11.7	58
TURNER	6	25	31	15.4	111
TWIGGS	9	19	28	15.2	107
UNION	20	0	20	13.4	80
UPSON	26	27	53	12.6	71
WALKER	111	6	117	12.3	65
WALTON	62	41	103	14.9	101
WARE	41	56	98	14.3	92
WARREN	2	19	21	17.0	133
WASHINGTON	9	47	56	14.7	98
WAYNE	30	22	52	12.2	62
WEBSTER	0	9	9	24.2	158
WHEELER	3	5	8	9.5	15
WHITE	21	2	23	12.4	69
WHITFIELD	121	11	134	10.1	27
WILCOX	3	3	6	4.8	1
WILKES	5	21	26	14.0	89
WILKINSON	7	11	18	8.7	9
WORTH	18	45	63	16.0	120
GEORGIA	**7,232**	**8,245**	**15,565**	**13.1**	



INFANT DEATHS: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Infant deaths per 1,000 live births, 1980–1991

- 40 Counties with Lowest Rates
- Middle Counties
- 40 Counties with Highest Rates

GEORGIA'S 1993 NATIONAL RANK

39

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The rate of death among children (ages one to 14) reflects a state's commitment to keeping its youngest residents healthy and safe at home, in school and in the community. In Georgia today, children's lives are at risk as a result of illness, motor vehicle crashes, accidents, and homicide.

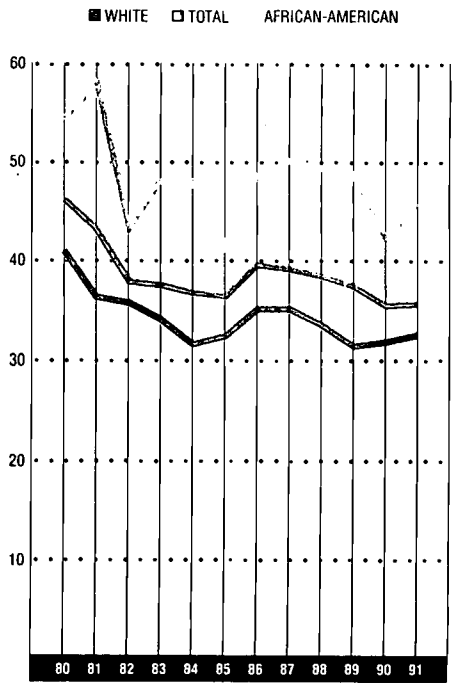
In 1991, 492 children died in Georgia, a rate of 35.9 per 100,000. This was virtually unchanged from the 1990 rate of 35.8 per 100,000. While in 1991 the death rate among white children was 32.1 per 100,000, among African-American children it was 45.5 per 100,000. For children of both races, deaths resulting from motor vehicle crashes were more common than homicides. However, among African-American children, 18.3% of deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes and 11.5% were homicides, while among white children, 26.7% of deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes and 5.9% were homicides.

During the 12 year period from 1980 to 1991, Georgia reduced the rate of death among children. In 1980, there were 45.9 deaths per 100,000 children and by 1991 the rate had decreased to 35.9 deaths per 100,000. Throughout this time period, the death rate among white children remained consistently lower than the rate among African-American children.

From 1980 to 1991, 6,120 Georgia children died, an average rate of 39 deaths per 100,000 children for the state. Average rates among the counties ranged from a high

Child Death Rate, Georgia, 1980–1991

Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14



of 89 deaths per 100,000 children in Long County to a low of 12.3 deaths per 100,000 children in Chattahoochee County. Among the state's smaller counties, Long, McIntosh and Quitman had the highest rates of child death. Among the larger counties, Richmond, Fulton and Dougherty had the highest rates.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The cost of a child's death in Georgia is measured foremost in the pain experienced by families and friends who lose a loved one so young. But there is also a high cost to the state, in treating children who suffer from preventable illnesses or who have been the victims of accidents or injury.

The cost of saving ill and injured children is far greater than that of preventing these problems. Yet currently, 49% of Georgia's children are not fully immunized by the time they are two years old and 14% have no health insurance. Among poor children who have health coverage through Medicaid, 67% are not receiving the early health screenings and follow-up that might help identify potentially life-threatening problems. And, while Georgia has recently enacted safety laws to help protect children travelling in motor vehicles or riding bicycles, the state does little to restrict the proliferation of firearms which are causing an increasing number of deaths among children.

If Georgia is to reduce the child death rate, preventive action must be taken.

ESTIMATED COST OF SAVING ILL AND INJURED CHILDREN

VS.

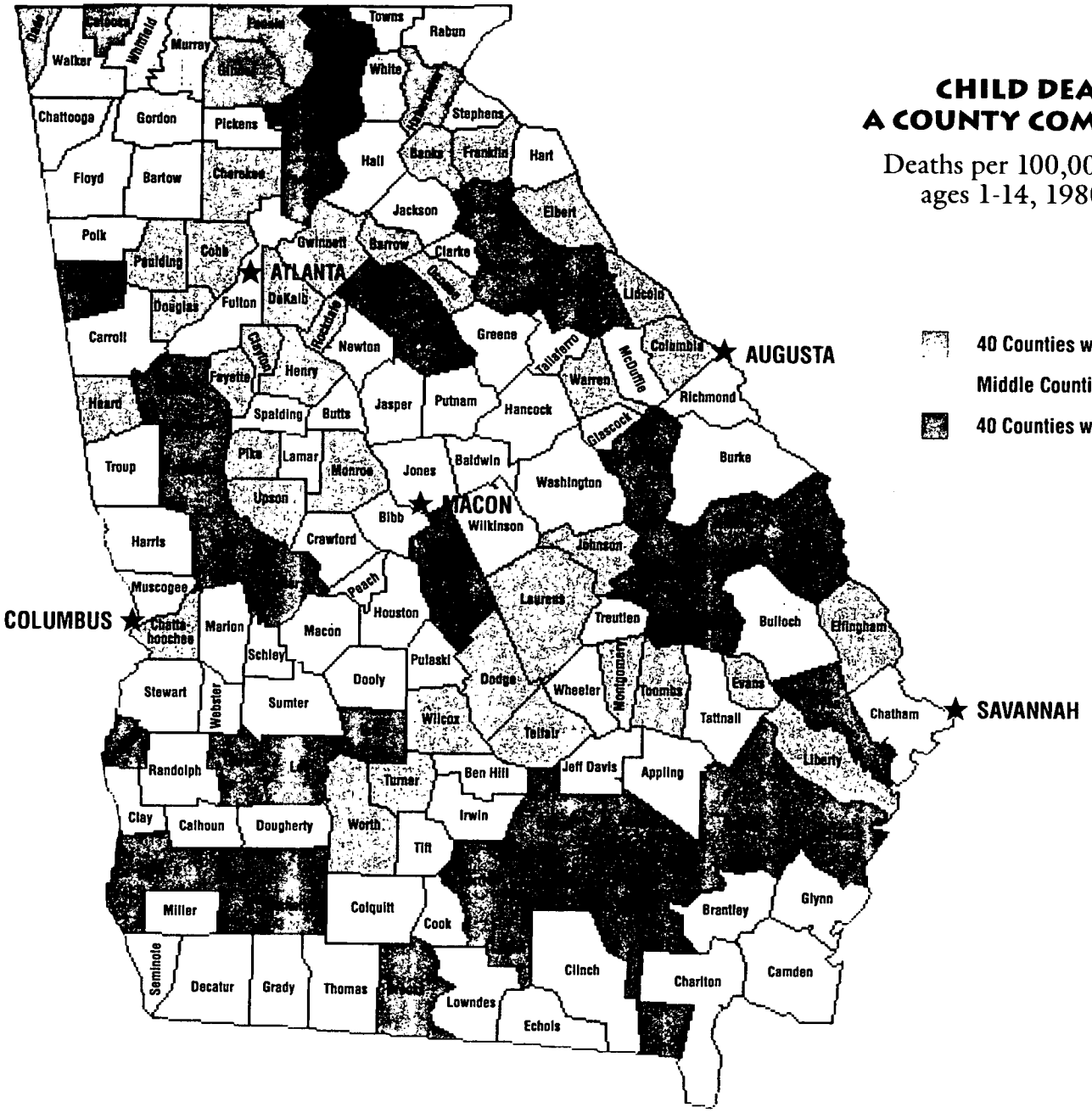
ESTIMATED COST OF PREVENTION

- **$ 5,000 per child for a measles hospitalization vs. $8 for a measles shot and $55 for a preventive health screening through Medicaid (EPSDT)**
- **$33,000 per person to treat a gunshot wound vs. 19 cents per person in Georgia to establish background checks for gun purchases**
- **$26,000 per child to treat serious injuries following a car crash and $57,000 per child for rehabilitation vs. $38 per child for a car seat**
- **$6,000 per child to treat serious injuries following a bicycle accident and $57,000 per child for rehabilitation vs. $15 per child for a bicycle helmet**

Deaths of children ages 1 to 14, by race, 1980–1991: number, rate (per 100,000), and rank by rate

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	TOTAL	RATE	RANK
APPLING	11	9	20	44.0	84
ATKINSON	5	9	14	77.0	146
BACON	7	12	19	68.3	144
BAKER	3	5	8	74.6	145
BALDWIN	20	14	34	40.5	63
BANKS	6	0	6	24.6	8
BARROW	9	8	17	23.9	6
BARTOW	46	5	51	38.0	50
BEN HILL	13	8	22	48.2	104
BERRIEN	17	3	20	54.3	126
BIBB	51	92	143	37.1	44
BLECKLEY	5	9	14	53.4	123
BRANTLEY	11	4	15	50.0	107
BROOKS	8	15	23	50.9	112
BRYAN	14	11	25	60.6	137
BULLOCH	28	17	46	50.2	108
BURKE	10	18	28	44.4	87
BUTTS	12	3	15	41.0	66
CALHOUN	0	3	3	—	
CAMDEN	17	12	29	43.3	83
CANDLER	7	3	10	50.4	110
CARROLL	46	17	63	37.6	47
CATOOSA	25	0	25	24.2	7
CHARLTON	7	4	11	44.9	90
CHATHAM	85	133	220	40.4	62
CHATTAHOOCHEE	2	4	6	12.3	1
CHATTOOGA	17	6	23	41.6	73
CHEROKEE	66	2	68	33.2	24
CLARKE	34	33	68	43.3	81
CLAY	0	3	3	—	
CLAYTON	104	27	134	28.8	16
CLINCH	7	2	9	47.7	101
COBB	237	32	274	28.9	18
COFFEE	27	15	42	51.4	118
COLQUITT	21	20	41	41.1	67
COLUMBIA	35	8	43	26.6	10
COOK	5	8	14	36.7	41
COWETA	39	34	73	56.1	129
CRAWFORD	4	6	10	42.8	78
CRISP	23	8	31	54.6	127
DADE	7	0	7	21.2	3
DAWSON	12	0	12	61.7	141
DECATUR	8	21	29	39.1	53
DEKALB	157	240	406	33.6	27
DOOGE	6	7	13	28.7	15
DOOLY	4	10	14	45.7	94
DOUGHERTY	44	76	120	41.4	71
DOUGLAS	47	4	51	27.8	12
EARLY	6	13	19	51.3	116
ECHOLS	3	0	3	—	
EFFINGHAM	15	8	23	34.0	29
ELBERT	10	8	18	36.4	39
EMANUEL	17	14	31	51.2	114
EVANS	3	4	7	28.8	17
FANNIN	12	0	12	34.1	30
FAYETTE	34	2	37	27.2	11
FLOYD	56	20	76	40.0	60
FORSYTH	49	0	49	51.3	117
FRANKLIN	7	6	13	34.4	32
FULTON	149	468	628	42.8	77
GILMER	6	0	6	20.0	2
GLASCOCK	1	0	1	—	
GLYNN	38	22	60	40.1	61
GORDON	37	5	42	47.9	102
GRADY	15	9	24	43.0	80
GREENE	6	7	13	38.0	51
GWINNETT	175	17	194	25.9	9
HABERSHAM	13	0	14	22.9	5
HALL	74	11	86	39.5	56
HANCOCK	1	11	12	42.7	76
HARALSON	20	8	28	52.9	121
HARRIS	15	4	19	46.6	98
HART	14	5	19	39.6	58
HEARD	6	1	7	33.5	26
HENRY	42	3	45	34.3	31
HOUSTON	61	34	95	41.1	68
IRWIN	6	4	10	40.8	65
JACKSON	27	6	33	45.6	93
JASPER	1	9	10	46.0	96
JEFF DAVIS	14	2	16	48.7	105
JEFFERSON	6	21	27	51.6	119
JENKINS	6	8	14	58.1	132
JOHNSON	2	6	8	33.6	28
JONES	21	5	26	50.4	109
LAMAR	9	5	14	42.9	79
LANIER	8	2	10	60.8	138
LAURENS	15	18	33	31.4	21
LEE	9	13	22	50.5	111
LIBERTY	27	18	46	34.8	34
LINCOLN	2	4	6	32.2	22
LONG	10	4	14	89.0	149
LOWNDES	47	41	89	45.0	91
LUMPKIN	20	0	20	66.1	143
MACON	2	14	16	39.7	59
MADISON	26	2	28	54.2	125
MARION	2	4	6	39.0	52
MCDUFFIE	13	11	24	44.1	86
MCINTOSH	10	10	20	85.9	148
MERIWETHER	19	16	35	57.1	131
MILLER	3	5	8	44.1	85
MITCHELL	12	26	38	59.6	136
MONROE	4	5	9	21.9	4
MONTGOMERY	3	3	6	33.3	25
MORGAN	11	10	21	61.8	142
MURRAY	25	0	28	39.5	57
MUSCOGEE	97	88	186	41.2	69
NEWTON	28	15	43	40.5	64
OCONEE	11	3	14	33.1	23
OGLETHORPE	10	4	14	56.4	130
PAULDING	36	0	36	36.5	40
PEACH	12	11	23	42.2	75
PICKENS	12	0	12	37.6	46
PIERCE	13	5	18	51.3	115
PIKE	7	2	9	35.1	35
POLK	28	7	35	41.4	72
PULASKI	6	4	10	44.6	88
PUTNAM	11	4	15	47.9	103
QUITMAN	1	4	5	83.1	147
RABUN	9	0	9	37.2	45
RANDOLPH	2	7	9	37.1	43
RICHMOND	105	115	221	46.5	97
ROCKDALE	31	9	40	30.8	20
SCHLEY	2	1	3	—	
SCREVEN	11	11	23	59.1	135
SEMINOLE	4	7	11	45.9	95
SPALDING	31	22	53	37.7	48
STEPHENS	17	4	21	39.1	54
STEWART	1	2	3	—	
SUMTER	8	28	36	43.3	82
TALBOT	1	8	9	52.1	120
TALIAFERRO	0	2	2	—	
TATTNALL	10	9	19	44.7	89
TAYLOR	4	8	12	58.1	133
TELFAIR	3	8	11	36.0	36
TERRELL	6	14	20	61.1	139
THOMAS	20	33	53	49.8	106
TIFT	18	19	37	39.2	55
TOOMBS	20	3	23	34.4	33
TOWNS	2	0	2	—	
TREUTLEN	3	4	7	41.4	70
TROUP	38	26	64	45.2	92
TURNER	4	6	10	36.0	37
TWIGGS	11	5	16	55.7	128
UNION	15	0	15	61.6	140
UPSON	14	4	18	28.0	13
WALKER	53	1	54	37.0	42
WALTON	41	12	53	54.2	124
WARE	23	26	49	51.1	113
WARREN	2	3	5	28.7	14
WASHINGTON	8	17	25	46.8	99
WAYNE	21	10	32	53.2	122
WEBSTER	0	2	2	—	
WHEELER	2	1	3	—	
WHITE	9	0	10	37.8	49
WHITFIELD	69	6	76	41.8	74
WILCOX	4	2	6	30.5	19
WILKES	5	11	16	58.5	134
WILKINSON	2	12	14	47.4	100
WORTH	10	10	20	36.4	38
GEORGIA	**3,525**	**2,547**	**6,120**	**39.0**	

— Number too small to calculate a rate



CHILD DEATHS: A COUNTY COMPARISON

Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, 1980–1991

- 40 Counties with Lowest Rates
- Middle Counties
- 40 Counties with Highest Rates

22

GEORGIA'S 1993 NATIONAL RANK 29

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The rate of violent death among Georgia teenagers reflects significant gaps in our ability to protect our youth. Motor vehicle fatalities, suicide and homicide—the major causes of violent deaths—are preventable. The number of deaths suggests easy access to weapons, alcohol and other drugs, as well as a decline in the adult supervision and support that can often deter high-risk behavior among teens.

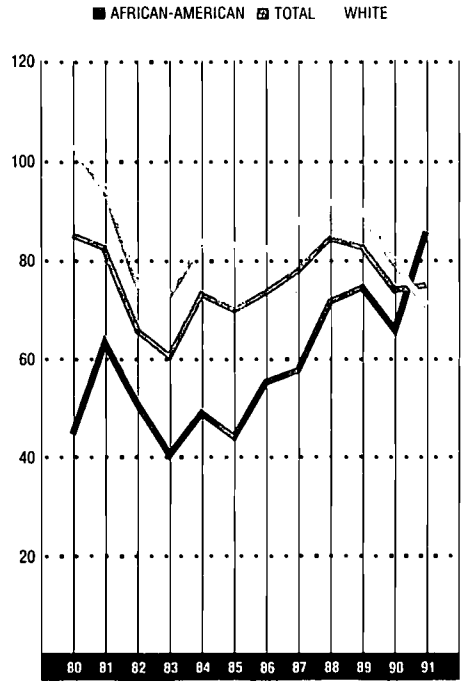
In 1991, 373 Georgia teenagers died a violent death, a rate of 75.5 per 100,000 youth ages 15 to 19. This was a slight increase from the 1990 rate of 74.6 violent deaths per 100,000 youth. In 1991, violent deaths among youth were most often the result of motor vehicle crashes (50.7% of all violent deaths), followed by homicide (21.4%) and suicide (14.5%).

Between 1980 and 1991, the rate of violent death among teenagers fluctuated, with a high of 85.5 deaths per 100,000 teens in 1980 and a low of 62.2 deaths per 100,000 in 1983. Racial differences are noteworthy. In 1980, the violent death rate among white teens was more than double the rate for African-American teens. Since then, the rate among white teens declined due to a decline in automobile fatalities; the rate among African-American teens has increased due to an increase in homicide. In 1991, for the first time in 12 years, the violent death rate for African-American teens exceeded the rate for white teens.

Between 1980 and 1991,

Teen Violent Death Rate, Georgia, 1980–1991

Deaths per 100,000 youths ages 15-19



4,670 Georgia teens ages 15–19 died violently. The average rate for the state was 76 violent deaths per 100,000 youth, and ranged from a low of 21.4 per 100,000 in Chattahoochee County to a high of 194.1 per 100,000 in Dawson County. Among the state's smaller counties, Dawson, Telfair and Oglethorpe had the highest teen violent death rates. Among the larger counties, Cherokee, Gwinnett and Bibb had the highest rates.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Georgia's teenagers are poised to enter the workforce and assume responsibility for the future prosperity of our state. If we continue to let them die senselessly and in great numbers, the human tragedy will be compounded by the risk to Georgia's future social and economic security.

Georgia does not adequately provide its teenagers with the preventive supports that would help avert so many tragic deaths. On average, there is one counselor for every 380 students in Georgia high schools. There are 180 publicly subsidized outpatient adolescent substance abuse treatment slots in the state of Georgia and 16 of the state's 27 mental health service areas have no funding for intensive child and adolescent mental health services.

In addition to neglecting critical support services for teens, Georgia does little to limit access to firearms.

ESTIMATED COST OF SAVING TEENS IN CRISIS

- **$33,000 per person to treat a gunshot wound**
- **$27,000 per child to treat serious injuries and $57,000 per child for rehabilitation following a car crash**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREVENTION

- **$6,750 per teen for up to six months of comprehensive outpatient substance abuse treatment**
- **$500 per teen per school year for a comprehensive youth program for the non-school hours**

WHEN SURVEYED IN 1990:

25.4% **of Georgia high school students had seriously considered suicide during the past 12 months.**

25.7% **of Georgia high school students reported that they "rarely" or "never" wore a seat belt when riding in a car driven by someone else.**

35.6% **of high school students in Georgia had been in a car in the past 30 days driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol.**

Source: 1991 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Detailed Tables for Georgia, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA.

TEEN VIOLENT DEATHS

Correction: Teen Violent Death Rate

Cobb	73.3	Columbia	82.9
Coffee	47.3	Cook	97.6
Colquitt	93.0	Coweta	91.2

Violent deaths of teens ages 15 to 19, by race, 1980–1991: number, rate (per 100,000), and rank by rate

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	TOTAL	RATE	RANK
APPLING	15	2	17	97.3	88
ATKINSON	7	0	7	100.9	97
BACON	3	1	4	—	
BAKER	5	2	7	166.2	141
BALDWIN	18	16	34	78.4	56
BANKS	8	0	8	81.5	58
BARROW	22	7	29	119.6	121
BARTOW	41	5	46	97.3	90
BEN HILL	15	5	20	124.4	125
BERRIEN	16	0	16	107.8	111
BIBB	76	42	118	76.7	51
BLECKLEY	11	1	12	83.3	64
BRANTLEY	15	1	16	148.2	137
BROOKS	6	5	11	68.3	34
BRYAN	12	1	13	96.1	86
BULLOCH	19	7	26	40.1	3
BURKE	2	11	13	59.3	18
BUTTS	8	3	11	73.5	45
CALHOUN	2	2	4	—	
CAMDEN	18	6	22	99.3	95
CANDLER	9	2	11	138.9	136
CARROLL	44	7	51	67.3	31
CATOOSA	23	1	24	59.5	19
CHARLTON	3	0	3	—	
CHATHAM	82	54	137	66.7	25
CHATTAHOOCHEE	5	3	8	21.4	1
CHATTOOGA	18	4	22	102.6	101
CHEROKEE	63	0	63	98.0	92
CLARKE	24	13	37	32.3	2
CLAY	0	0	0	—	
CLAYTON	113	8	123	71.8	39
CLINCH	6	2	8	109.2	115
COBB	232	12	244	3.3	43
COFFEE	12	3	15	7.3	5
COLQUITT	24	11	35	3.0	80
COLUMBIA	43	2	45	2.9	62
COOK	11	3	14	7.6	91
COWETA	36	6	42	1.2	76
CRAWFORD	4	6	10	107.3	109
CRISP	13	7	20	94.3	82
DADE	11	0	11	75.0	46
DAWSON	14	0	14	194.1	144
DECATUR	10	5	15	54.1	11
DEKALB	187	116	304	81.0	20
DODGE	17	7	24	132.6	134
DODLY	2	6	9	82.6	81
DOUGHERTY	42	26	68	58.0	17
DOUGLAS	49	1	50	78.5	57
EARLY	11	2	13	97.3	89
ECHOLS	1	2	3	—	
EFFINGHAM	14	7	21	90.3	73
ELBERT	13	5	18	99.9	96
EMANUEL	20	2	22	102.8	102
EVANS	8	2	10	104.5	105
FANNIN	10	0	10	74.7	47
FAYETTE	30	0	32	68.7	35
FLOYD	52	9	81	74.1	46
FORSYTH	44	0	44	128.9	132
FRANKLIN	12	2	14	86.1	68
FULTON	162	278	444	75.2	49
GILMER	11	0	11	94.3	83
GLASCOCK	3	0	3	—	
GLYNN	29	9	39	66.9	28
GORDON	29	2	31	91.9	77
GRADY	15	5	20	93.5	81
GREENE	3	3	6	51.0	7
GWINNETT	170	5	175	77.3	52
HABERSHAM	20	0	20	62.6	21
HALL	77	4	81	95.1	85
HANCOCK	4	5	9	83.4	65
HARALSON	25	0	25	125.1	126
HARRIS	9	7	16	95.1	84
HART	16	4	20	108.7	113
HEARD	4	1	5	63.2	22
HENRY	40	6	47	104.5	104
HOUSTON	47	12	60	67.9	33
IRWIN	7	1	8	87.2	70
JACKSON	33	0	33	122.2	124
JASPER	5	1	6	77.9	55
JEFF DAVIS	15	2	17	132.3	133
JEFFERSON	5	4	9	45.8	4
JENKINS	7	3	10	109.1	114
JOHNSON	10	1	11	126.1	129
JONES	18	3	21	107.7	110
LAMAR	12	2	14	96.8	87
LANIER	5	2	7	120.3	122
LAURENS	25	8	33	85.7	67
LEE	10	3	13	84.2	66
LIBERTY	22	9	31	55.5	13
LINCOLN	7	2	9	126.1	128
LONG	4	0	4	—	
LOWNDES	29	14	43	51.6	9
LUMPKIN	9	0	9	51.6	8
MACON	10	7	17	112.3	116
MADISON	17	3	20	105.0	107
MARION	4	1	5	83.1	63
MCDUFFIE	21	5	28	127.3	130
MCINTOSH	6	1	7	72.2	42
MERIWETHER	9	8	17	72.2	41
MILLER	6	0	6	87.3	71
MITCHELL	14	8	22	90.7	75
MONROE	6	7	13	75.5	50
MONTGOMERY	6	3	9	105.2	108
MORGAN	10	5	15	117.7	120
MURRAY	20	0	20	81.9	59
MUSCOGEE	79	30	109	55.9	14
NEWTON	32	11	43	100.9	98
OCONEE	9	0	9	63.6	23
OGLETHORPE	13	4	17	180.3	142
PAULDING	28	2	30	92.1	78
PEACH	13	7	20	77.4	54
PICKENS	19	0	19	152.4	139
PIERCE	15	3	18	128.7	131
PIKE	10	2	12	122.0	123
POLK	28	2	30	88.7	72
PULASKI	13	0	13	149.4	138
PUTNAM	12	2	14	115.8	119
QUITMAN	0	2	2	—	
RABUN	10	0	10	98.8	94
RANDOLPH	3	1	6	55.1	12
RICHMOND	65	41	106	48.9	6
ROCKDALE	42	0	42	90.3	74
SCHLEY	2	0	2	—	
SCREVEN	3	5	8	57.4	15
SEMINOLE	6	5	12	125.9	127
SPALDING	33	10	43	82.5	60
STEPHENS	17	6	23	101.8	100
STEWART	3	3	6	92.8	79
SUMTER	17	7	24	70.6	37
TALBOT	0	3	3	—	
TALIAFERRO	1	3	4	—	
TATTNALL	16	3	19	115.3	118
TAYLOR	5	1	6	67.2	30
TELFAIR	14	6	20	182.5	143
TERRELL	8	4	12	101.0	99
THOMAS	29	14	43	104.9	106
TIFT	22	10	32	77.3	53
TOOMBS	12	4	16	65.6	24
TOWNS	9	0	9	113.1	117
TREUTLEN	3	4	7	108.3	112
TROUP	40	12	53	102.8	103
TURNER	3	4	7	73.4	44
TWIGGS	5	2	7	66.8	27
UNION	13	0	13	132.6	135
UPSON	10	7	17	67.1	29
WALKER	27	3	30	53.8	10
WALTON	28	7	35	98.3	93
WARE	17	8	25	66.8	26
WARREN	1	0	1	—	
WASHINGTON	13	2	15	72.0	40
WAYNE	12	1	13	58.0	16
WEBSTER	3	0	3	—	
WHEELER	0	1	1	—	
WHITE	11	0	11	87.0	69
WHITFIELD	49	2	51	71.8	38
WILCOX	3	0	3	—	
WILKES	5	2	7	67.7	32
WILKINSON	14	4	18	161.1	140
WORTH	14	1	15	70.2	36
GEORGIA	**3,504**	**1,148**	**4,670**	**76.0**	

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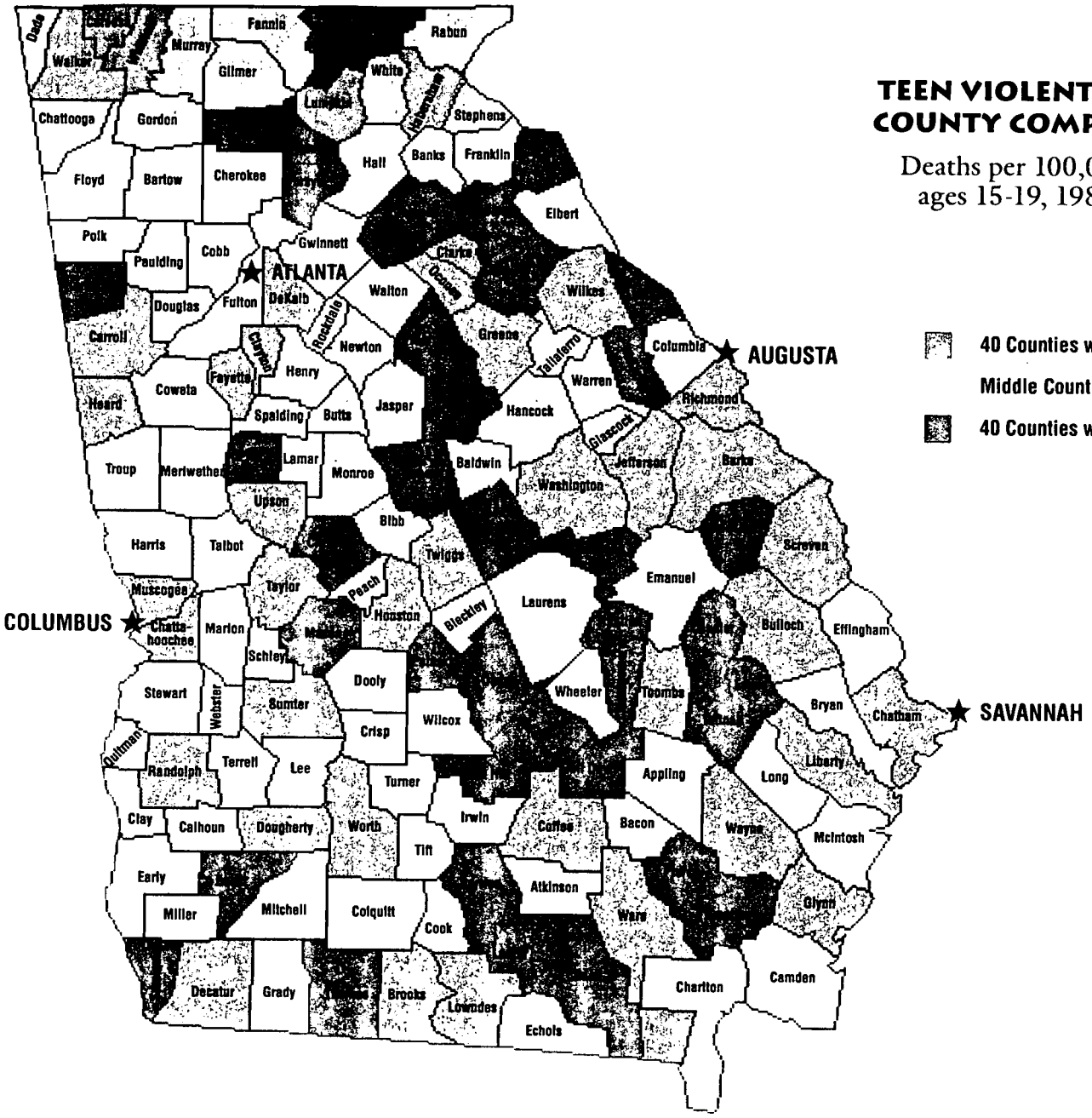

TEEN VIOLENT DEATHS: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Deaths per 100,000 youth ages 15-19, 1980–1991

- 40 Counties with Lowest Rates
- Middle Counties
- 40 Counties with Highest Rates

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The abuse and neglect of children in Georgia knows no economic, geographic or ethnic boundary. It is a problem faced by children of all ages, and one that experts agree is substantially more pervasive than is being measured.

It is difficult to draw national comparisons on child abuse and neglect because of variations among the states in investigation, reporting and classification of child abuse cases. In the past Georgia lacked accurate information, making it difficult to identify trends and patterns in the abuse and neglect of children. This year, for the first time, statewide information is available through Georgia's Child Abuse Central Registry, which was established in 1990 as a central data base for detailed information on child abuse and neglect. The registry paints a compelling picture of abuse and neglect in 1992 (the first year for which complete data are available) and provides a baseline for future years.

In 1992, there were 26,758 confirmed incidents of abuse and neglect in Georgia, a rate of 15.3 per 1,000 children. Of these incidents, 64.9% were neglect, 15% physical abuse, 12.4% sexual abuse and 6.1% emotional abuse. A single child may experience more than one type of abuse or be involved in more than one incident.

On the county level, the incidence of abuse and neglect ranged from a low of 2.1 per 1,000 children in Jasper County to a high of 68.8 per 1,000 in Irwin County. Among the state's smaller counties, Irwin, Clay and Crisp had the highest rates of confirmed child abuse and neglect. Among the larger counties, Fulton, Muscogee and Bibb had the highest rates.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The investigation and management of child abuse cases, and the placement of children in foster care are expensive undertakings. But the long-term human and economic costs of child abuse and neglect are also high.

In one study, 62% of pregnant or parenting teens reported having been sexually abused. In another study, 90% of juvenile delinquents and adult prisoners reported being abused as children.

If ever the adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" were true, it would be in preventing child abuse and neglect. Yet currently, Georgia puts limited resources into "primary prevention"—supporting and educating families before they become abusive. Most of our money and efforts are spent dealing with the problem after the fact, a strategy that is both more expensive and less effective.

ESTIMATED COST OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

► **$7,600 per child per year for the investigation of child abuse cases, foster care placements and other services**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREVENTION

► **$580 per family per year for parent education and support services**

► **$3,500 per family in the first year and $9,500 per family over three years for intensive, in-home prevention services**

Confirmed incidents of child abuse and neglect, 1992: number, rate (per 1,000), and rank by rate

COUNTY	ABUSE	NEGLECT	TOTAL	RATE	RANK
APPLING	51	65	116	26.2	125
ATKINSON	18	39	57	31.4	140
BACON	19	34	53	14.0	91
BAKER	9	14	23	22.1	107
BALDWIN	42	110	152	16.8	79
BANKS	15	14	29	10.5	32
BARROW	117	102	219	25.3	124
BARTOW	48	75	123	7.8	17
BEN HILL	34	41	75	15.0	68
BERRIEN	21	15	36	9.3	27
BIBB	271	460	731	18.7	88
BLECKLEY	27	30	57	21.2	104
BRANTLEY	10	19	29	8.4	22
BROOKS	25	100	125	27.9	127
BRYAN	33	42	75	14.2	60
BULLOCH	41	89	130	13.2	51
BURKE	45	71	116	17.0	81
BUTTS	19	40	59	15.0	70
CALHOUN	6	6	12	8.8	23
CAMDEN	40	102	142	14.1	59
CANDLER	14	34	48	23.1	113
CARROLL	185	236	423	21.6	105
CATOOSA	62	51	113	10.3	30
CHARLTON	14	11	25	9.5	28
CHATHAM	221	396	617	10.9	34
CHATTAHOOCHEE	20	15	35	7.7	16
CHATTOOGA	40	86	126	22.7	112
CHEROKEE	155	140	295	10.9	35
CLARKE	160	351	511	28.6	132
CLAY	23	28	51	53.3	155
CLAYTON	211	443	654	12.8	48
CLINCH	26	25	51	29.2	135
COBB	429	545	974	8.2	19
COFFEE	75	92	167	18.8	89
COLQUITT	75	165	240	23.6	115
COLUMBIA	68	49	117	5.5	10
COOK	24	85	109	29.2	136
COWETA	79	125	204	12.8	49
CRAWFORD	10	11	21	8.3	20
CRISP	89	218	307	51.9	154
DADE	6	13	19	5.7	11
DAWSON	51	35	86	30.2	139
DECATUR	70	98	168	22.7	111
DEKALB	427	581	1,008	7.8	18
DODGE	29	23	52	11.8	43
DOOLY	37	99	136	47.8	150
DOUGHERTY	92	241	333	11.7	42
DOUGLAS	102	193	295	14.5	64
EARLY	9	44	53	15.8	73
ECHOLS	0	2	2	—	
EFFINGHAM	34	71	105	12.6	47
ELBERT	18	12	30	6.0	12
EMANUEL	21	50	71	11.6	41
EVANS	19	62	81	32.2	142
FANNIN	24	41	65	17.8	84
FAYETTE	53	41	94	4.7	8
FLOYD	130	244	374	19.8	95
FORSYTH	87	138	225	18.9	90
FRANKLIN	97	91	188	48.3	151
FULTON	782	3,099	3,881	24.8	119
GILMER	31	14	45	13.2	50
GLASCOCK	0	6	6	11.2	38
GLYNN	115	291	406	25.0	122
GORDON	46	60	106	11.2	37
GRADY	64	68	132	23.7	116
GREENE	24	78	102	28.4	130
GWINNETT	234	219	453	4.2	7
HABERSHAM	30	78	108	16.7	77
HALL	190	140	330	13.3	53
HANCOCK	32	44	78	28.4	129
HARALSON	56	58	114	19.4	93
HARRIS	63	47	110	24.4	118
HART	40	78	116	24.9	121
HEARD	31	60	91	35.9	145
HENRY	78	113	191	11.1	36
HOUSTON	267	169	436	17.3	82
IRWIN	41	124	165	68.8	156
JACKSON	53	42	95	11.9	44
JASPER	3	2	5	2.1	1
JEFF DAVIS	45	67	112	34.0	143
JEFFERSON	18	53	71	14.0	57
JENKINS	17	48	65	27.6	126
JOHNSON	5	32	37	15.5	71
JONES	21	57	78	13.3	52
LAMAR	24	46	70	20.7	99
LANIER	22	27	49	31.6	141
LAURENS	93	113	206	18.4	67
LEE	13	3	16	2.9	2
LIBERTY	160	263	423	24.9	120
LINCOLN	17	38	55	27.9	128
LONG	17	82	99	50.6	153
LOWNDES	98	247	345	16.2	74
LUMPKIN	12	16	28	7.6	15
MACON	40	158	198	49.1	152
MADISON	29	51	80	14.2	61
MARION	9	54	63	40.4	146
MCDUFFIE	27	55	82	13.9	56
MCINTOSH	39	70	109	46.1	149
MERIWETHER	50	96	146	22.6	110
MILLER	10	21	31	19.1	92
MITCHELL	20	51	71	11.4	39
MONROE	23	51	74	15.8	72
MONTGOMERY	14	11	25	13.7	55
MORGAN	11	1	12	3.4	5
MURRAY	45	50	95	12.5	46
MUSCOGEE	332	825	1,157	24.1	117
NEWTON	74	263	337	28.6	131
OCONEE	15	24	39	7.4	14
OGLETHORPE	31	11	42	16.8	80
PAULDING	110	158	268	20.9	100
PEACH	18	30	48	8.4	21
PICKENS	46	29	75	20.4	97
PIERCE	38	40	78	21.0	101
PIKE	8	55	63	22.6	109
POLK	71	76	147	16.7	78
PULASKI	10	18	28	13.6	54
PUTNAM	38	73	111	29.7	138
QUITMAN	3	5	8	15.0	69
RABUN	8	28	36	14.3	63
RANDOLPH	11	36	47	21.1	102
RICHMOND	37	132	169	3.3	4
ROCKDALE	74	98	172	10.8	33
SCHLEY	2	21	23	23.5	114
SCREVEN	9	48	57	14.3	62
SEMINOLE	4	17	21	9.3	26
SPALDING	153	301	454	29.6	137
STEPHENS	23	26	49	8.9	25
STEWART	3	11	14	9.6	29
SUMTER	48	97	145	16.5	76
TALBOT	7	8	15	8.8	24
TALIAFERRD	1	5	6	11.5	40
TATTNALL	46	74	120	29.2	134
TAYLOR	17	43	60	29.0	133
TELFAIR	23	20	43	14.6	65
TERRELL	10	53	63	21.1	103
THOMAS	50	131	181	16.5	75
TIFT	62	85	147	14.7	66
TOOMBS	80	235	315	44.8	148
TOWNS	8	15	23	19.8	96
TREUTLEN	13	19	32	19.5	94
TROUP	74	211	285	18.2	86
TURNER	26	32	58	22.2	108
TWIGGS	23	38	61	20.6	98
UNION	26	21	47	17.5	83
UPSON	11	9	20	3.1	3
WALKER	49	54	103	7.0	13
WALTON	116	120	236	21.8	106
WARE	74	153	227	25.0	123
WARREN	4	2	6	3.7	6
WASHINGTON	33	25	58	10.5	31
WAYNE	30	48	78	12.1	45
WEBSTER	4	17	21	35.2	144
WHEELER	1	1	2	—	
WHITE	30	25	55	18.1	85
WHITFIELD	97	182	279	15.0	67
WILCOX	11	74	85	44.3	147
WILKES	1	2	3	—	
WILKINSON	2	13	15	5.1	9
WORTH	48	36	84	14.0	58
GEORGIA	**9,379**	**17,379**	**26,758**	**15.3**	

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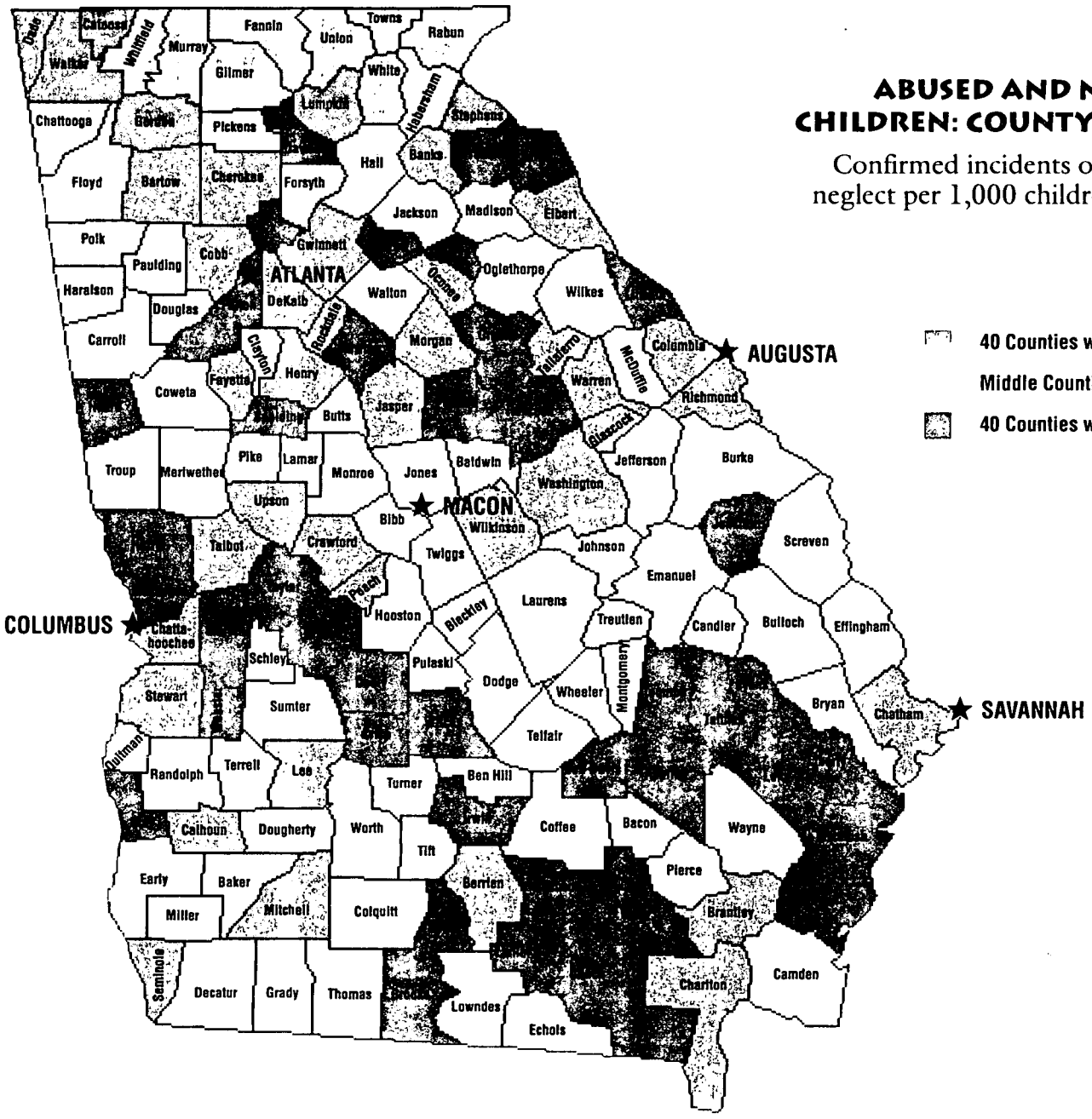


ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Confirmed incidents of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under 18, 1992

40 Counties with Lowest Rates

Middle Counties

40 Counties with Highest Rates

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Teenage childbearing is full of risks. Both mother and child are more likely to have health problems and to suffer socially and educationally. Teen parents miss a critical opportunity to finish the developmental growth of their own childhoods; their children grow-up with a parent who is immature and more likely to have limited financial and emotional resources.

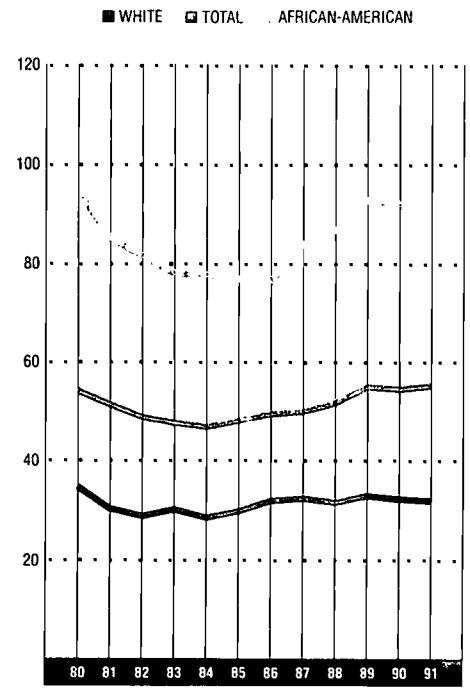
In 1991, 7,393 Georgia teenagers (under age 18) gave birth, a rate of 54.6 births per 1,000 teens. This was an increase from the 1990 rate of 53.9 births per 1,000 teens.

In the first half of the 1980's, the rate of births to teens in Georgia declined to a low of 44.7 per 1,000 in 1984. The rate reversed course in 1985 and increased steadily to a high of 54.6 births per 1,000 teens in 1989, and has remained fairly constant since then. The birth rate for African-American teens has been more than double the rate for white teens throughout these years.

From 1980 to 1991 there were 85,616 births to teens, an average rate of 49.5 per 1,000 for the state. In the counties, the average rate ranged from a low of 11.4 per 1,000 in Fayette County to a high of 96.1 per 1,000 in Turner County. Among the state's smaller counties, Turner, Telfair and Warren had the highest teen birth rates. Among the larger counties, Dougherty, Fulton and Chatham had the highest rates.

Teen Birth Rate, Georgia, 1980–1991

Birth to girls under 18 per 1,000 ages 15-17



ECONOMIC IMPACT

The state loses millions of dollars each year in earnings and taxes fore-gone by teens who dropped out of school because they became pregnant. In 1991, Georgia spent $536 million on welfare, Food Stamps, medical care, child care and special education services for families started by teenagers. Postponing childbearing until schooling is completed and couples are more economically able to support a family would reduce this burden.

Yet despite the high cost to Georgia of teenage childbearing, two cents is spent on prevention for every dollar that is spent supporting families begun by teenagers. Currently there are waiting lists for family planning services in many public health clinics. Twenty-six of Georgia's 605 middle and high schools offer on-site child care, yet child care is critical to helping teens stay in school. There are 18,328 families on the waiting list for help paying for child care.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF TEENAGE CHILDBEARING

- **$18,133 per child of a teenage parent, over twenty years, for income maintenance, nutritional and medical support**
- **$7,020 per teenager per year in lost earnings due to school dropout**

ESTIMATED COSTS OF PREVENTION

- **$90 per person per year for family planning services**
- **$ 1800 per family for in-school child care and related support and education services for teen parents**
- **$500 per teen per school year for a comprehensive youth program for the non-school hours**

WHEN SURVEYED IN 1990:

60.3% of all Georgia high school students indicated that they had had sexual intercourse.

Of those who have had sexual intercourse:

53.8% were under age 15 when they first had sex; 23.1% were under age 13.

34.4% used no contraception the last time they had sexual intercourse.

Source: 1991 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Detailed Tables for Georgia, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA.

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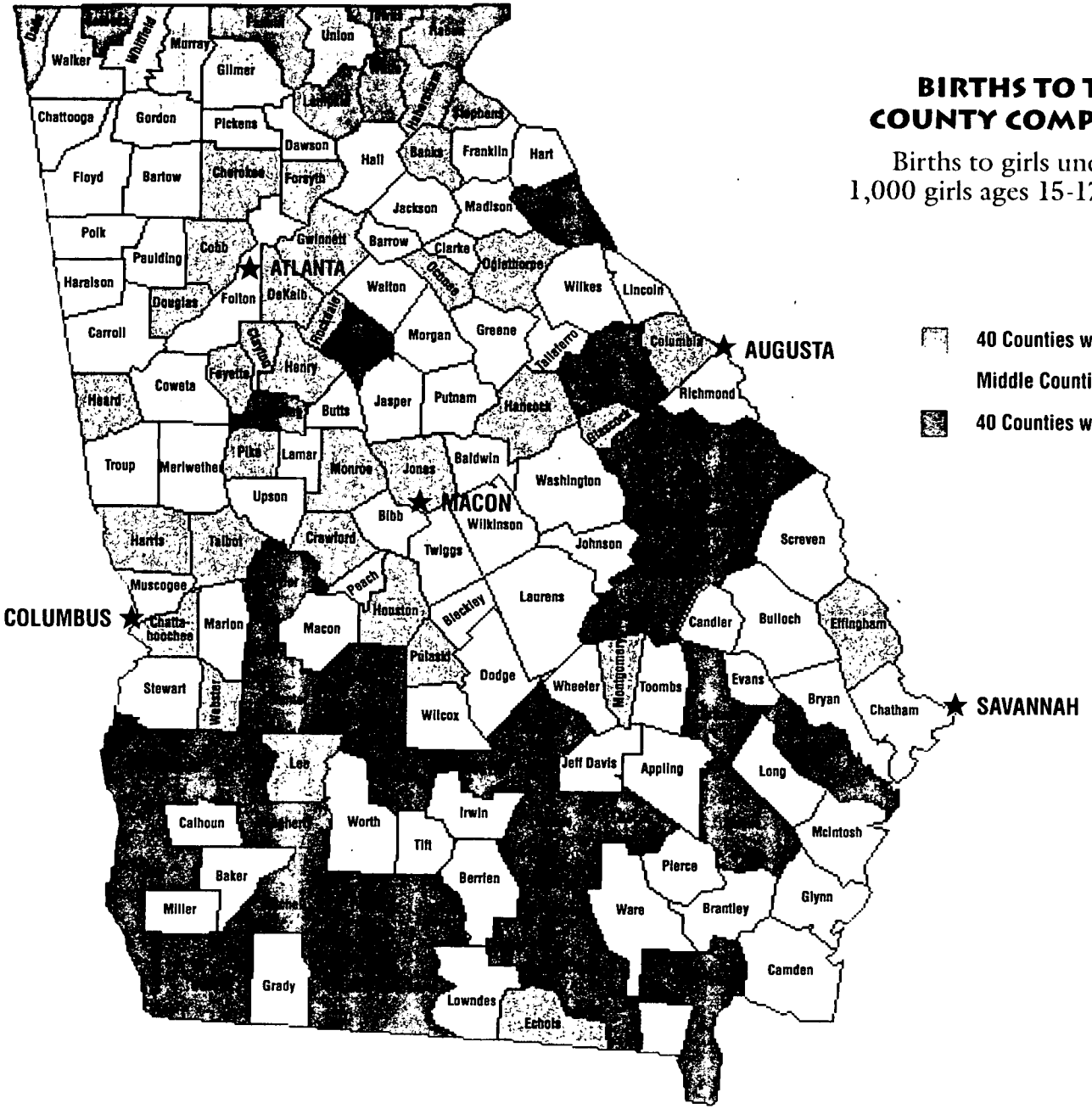
Births to girls younger than age 18, by race, 1980–1991: number, rate (per 1,000), and rank by rate

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	TOTAL	RATE	RANK
APPLING	183	130	316	58.1	100
ATKINSON	78	65	143	71.8	142
BACON	128	95	223	69.1	135
BAKER	18	44	62	47.8	53
BALDWIN	161	370	531	56.3	92
BANKS	88	7	95	36.2	20
BARROW	280	114	397	53.4	90
BARTOW	739	125	865	61.0	112
BEN HILL	139	233	373	69.9	137
BERRIEN	130	60	190	44.1	44
BIBB	671	1,970	2,642	59.3	104
BLECKLEY	56	113	169	50.6	70
BRANTLEY	117	20	139	43.3	43
BROOKS	73	305	378	76.2	153
BRYAN	117	91	208	48.5	58
BULLOCH	164	332	497	49.3	65
BURKE	99	372	471	71.4	140
BUTTS	90	169	259	61.3	114
CALHOUN	13	73	86	47.1	52
CAMDEN	155	111	268	43.0	42
CANDLER	53	69	122	49.7	67
CARROLL	601	358	961	49.7	68
CATOOSA	433	7	442	36.6	23
CHARLTON	79	121	200	72.2	146
CHATHAM	919	2,563	3,489	60.1	109
CHATTAHOOCHEE	51	55	107	32.4	11
CHATTOOGA	268	39	307	48.2	50
CHEROKEE	684	32	719	38.1	30
CLARKE	223	572	797	48.1	55
CLAY	6	74	80	72.0	143
CLAYTON	1,345	381	1,751	34.1	13
CLINCH	75	92	167	77.6	155
COBB	1,924	421	2,360	23.7	3
COFFEE	323	319	642	69.4	136
COLQUITT	271	443	716	64.5	120
COLUMBIA	346	118	466	28.1	6
COOK	111	193	304	71.6	141
COWETA	404	399	806	57.5	99
CRAWFORD	31	56	87	30.4	8
CRISP	93	433	526	79.9	156
DADE	143	1	144	38.9	32
DAWSON	96	1	97	45.4	48
DECATUR	186	389	575	68.1	132
DEKALB	1,042	3,956	5,055	35.7	19
DODGE	130	137	267	49.0	61
DOOLY	38	208	246	74.2	150
DOUGHERTY	425	1,765	2,192	65.8	124
DOUGLAS	626	102	730	37.8	26
EARLY	65	250	315	72.0	144
ECHOLS	13	6	19	26.5	5
EFFINGHAM	143	92	235	32.4	10
ELBERT	123	253	376	72.1	145
EMANUEL	216	267	483	72.8	148
EVANS	68	103	171	61.1	113
FANNIN	145	0	146	34.9	15
FAYETTE	142	27	169	11.4	1
FLOYD	695	458	1,153	52.0	76
FORSYTH	340	0	341	32.9	12
FRANKLIN	187	76	263	60.0	105
FULTON	1,247	8,837	10,118	62.9	119
GILMER	183	0	184	54.0	84
GLASCOCK	11	12	23	40.1	33
GLYNN	425	474	899	52.1	77
GORDON	495	43	539	53.9	83
GRADY	151	249	401	60.4	110
GREENE	47	186	233	61.4	115
GWINNETT	1,219	135	1,363	19.4	2
HABERSHAM	259	13	273	38.8	31
HALL	878	258	1,140	47.8	54
HANCOCK	5	143	148	41.8	38
HARALSON	235	33	268	42.7	41
HARRIS	94	92	186	35.5	18
HART	125	152	277	49.3	64
HEARD	56	34	90	36.5	21
HENRY	289	184	473	35.0	16
HOUSTON	458	476	940	35.4	17
IRWIN	48	110	158	54.9	88
JACKSON	354	60	414	50.9	72
JASPER	39	80	119	49.0	60
JEFF DAVIS	161	36	197	50.6	71
JEFFERSON	66	354	420	70.5	139
JENKINS	55	144	199	73.7	149
JOHNSON	45	125	170	61.5	116
JONES	106	110	216	37.8	27
LAMAR	83	135	218	54.8	87
LANIER	46	73	119	64.8	121
LAURENS	232	426	659	56.1	91
LEE	88	96	184	37.5	25
LIBERTY	343	351	698	68.5	134
LINCOLN	30	88	118	55.5	89
LONG	65	33	98	56.4	94
LOWNDES	335	861	1,197	56.3	93
LUMPKIN	132	3	135	40.7	35
MACON	37	226	263	57.0	95
MADISON	190	73	253	48.2	56
MARION	27	75	102	52.3	78
MCDUFFIE	113	308	421	65.4	123
MCINTOSH	57	90	147	49.0	62
MERIWETHER	89	286	375	50.3	69
MILLER	32	81	113	53.5	81
MITCHELL	96	451	549	75.0	151
MONROE	89	116	205	42.1	40
MONTGOMERY	36	41	77	36.6	22
MORGAN	51	119	170	44.5	45
MURRAY	437	0	437	60.1	106
MUSCOGEE	1,004	1,926	2,934	59.3	103
NEWTON	439	386	826	67.6	129
OCONEE	77	36	115	25.9	4
OGLETHORPE	42	78	120	41.2	36
PAULDING	421	40	462	46.6	51
PEACH	68	281	349	56.1	90
PICKENS	196	2	198	53.3	79
PIERCE	155	45	200	45.1	47
PIKE	59	67	126	38.0	29
POLK	442	158	600	60.1	107
PULASKI	38	82	120	42.1	39
PUTNAM	57	139	196	54.4	86
QUITMAN	8	41	50	75.7	152
RABUN	106	1	107	34.6	14
RANDOLPH	22	181	203	72.7	147
RICHMOND	994	2,119	3,118	60.1	108
ROCKDALE	313	107	420	28.9	7
SCHLEY	28	49	77	68.0	131
SCREVEN	60	149	209	48.3	57
SEMINOLE	45	134	180	66.8	127
SPALDING	441	611	1,052	66.8	126
STEPHENS	170	68	241	38.0	28
STEWART	15	107	122	58.8	101
SUMTER	116	510	626	66.9	128
TALBOT	12	71	83	40.3	34
TALIAFERRO	4	30	34	51.3	74
TATTNALL	149	195	345	68.2	133
TAYLOR	28	141	169	65.9	125
TELFAIR	99	172	272	85.6	158
TERRELL	30	266	296	76.8	154
THOMAS	247	611	859	67.6	130
TIFT	287	392	680	62.8	118
TOOMBS	213	250	463	60.7	111
TOWNS	44	0	44	31.7	9
TREUTLEN	64	74	138	70.1	138
TROUP	375	546	925	62.4	117
TURNER	66	208	274	96.1	159
TWIGGS	48	111	159	51.3	75
UNION	128	0	128	44.7	46
UPSON	218	191	409	54.2	85
WALKER	752	67	819	49.3	63
WALTON	371	270	641	57.1	96
WARE	364	301	666	57.4	97
WARREN	9	148	157	81.5	157
WASHINGTON	62	304	366	57.4	98
WAYNE	251	205	457	65.1	122
WEBSTER	10	20	30	41.4	37
WHEELER	48	39	87	48.8	59
WHITE	115	7	122	37.5	24
WHITFIELD	1,175	48	1,227	58.9	102
WILCOX	41	71	112	51.3	73
WILKES	36	128	164	49.4	66
WILKINSON	42	115	167	46.1	49
WORTH	124	226	350	53.6	82
GEORGIA	**36,949**	**48,433**	**85,616**	**49.5**	



BIRTHS TO TEENS: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Births to girls under 18 per 1,000 girls ages 15-17, 1980–1991

- 40 Counties with Lowest Rates
- Middle Counties
- 40 Counties with Highest Rates

JUVENILES COMMITTED TO STATE CUSTODY

GEORGIA'S 1992* NATIONAL RANK

31

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Juveniles committed to state custody are youth for whom early warning signs were not heeded; for whom support systems were unavailable; or for whom negative influences were not overcome. These youths have been adjudicated delinquent by the juvenile court and committed to the Georgia Department of Children and Youth Services for treatment and rehabilitation.

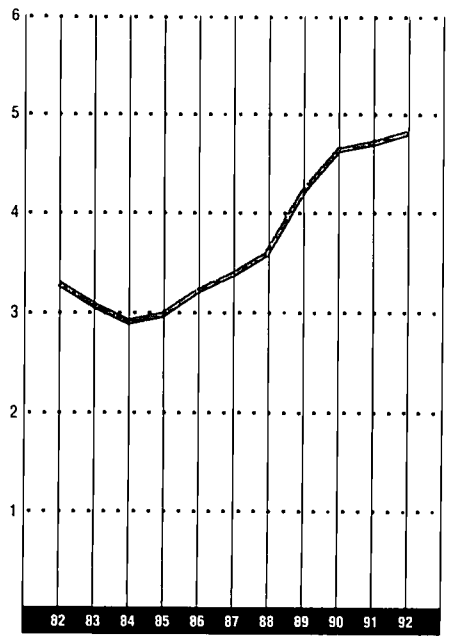
In 1992, 3,509 youth ages 10 to 17 were committed to state custody, a rate of 4.7 per 1,000 youth in the population. This was an increase from the 1991 rate of 4.5 per 1,000.

In the early 1980's the rate of juvenile commitments decreased slightly from 3.3 per 1,000 in 1982, to 2.9 per 1,000 in 1984. In 1985, the rate began to increase and continued to climb through 1992.

From 1982 to 1992, a total of 30,619 Georgia youth ages 10 to 17 were committed to state custody, an average rate of 3.7 per 1,000. In the counties, average juvenile commitment rates ranged from a low of 0.3 commitments per 1,000 youth in Jones County to a high of 10.3 per 1,000 in Dougherty County. Among the state's smaller counties, Decatur, Mitchell and Floyd counties had the highest juvenile commitment rates. Among the larger counties, Dougherty, Chatham and Lowndes had the highest rates.

Juvenile Commitment Rate, Georgia, 1982–1992

Youth committed to state custody per 1,000 youth ages 10-17



*1992 is the most recent year national comparisons are available on juveniles committed to state custody.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The commitment of juveniles to state custody is an expensive undertaking in Georgia today. Lock-up environments, in particular, are among the most costly intervention for youth committed to the state. They are also viewed by many experts as the least effective method of rehabilitating a troubled child. The lack of effectiveness of the current system is demonstrated by the fact that of all youth leaving state custody in 1989, 55% had committed another offense within three years.

When youth are committed to the custody of the state, opportunities for prevention have either been missed or they have been unsuccessful. Georgia does little to decrease the availability of firearms. Community-based substance abuse and mental health programs for children and teens are greatly limited. If Georgia is to reduce the number of teens in trouble, communities must have the resources to see their youth successfully through the transition to adulthood.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF JUVENILE COMMITMENTS:

- **$27,592 per youth for average, nine month incarceration**
- **$184,990 per day for the incarceration and supervision of all of Georgia's juvenile offenders**

ESTIMATED COSTS OF PREVENTION

- **$500 per teen per school year for comprehensive youth development programs for the non-school hours**
- **$6,750 per youth for up to 6 months of comprehensive outpatient substance abuse treatment**

WHEN SURVEYED IN 1990:

27.2% of Georgia high school students had carried a weapon to school within the past 30 days.

49.7% of white males and 40.3% of African-American males in Georgia's high schools had carried a weapon to school within the past 30 days.

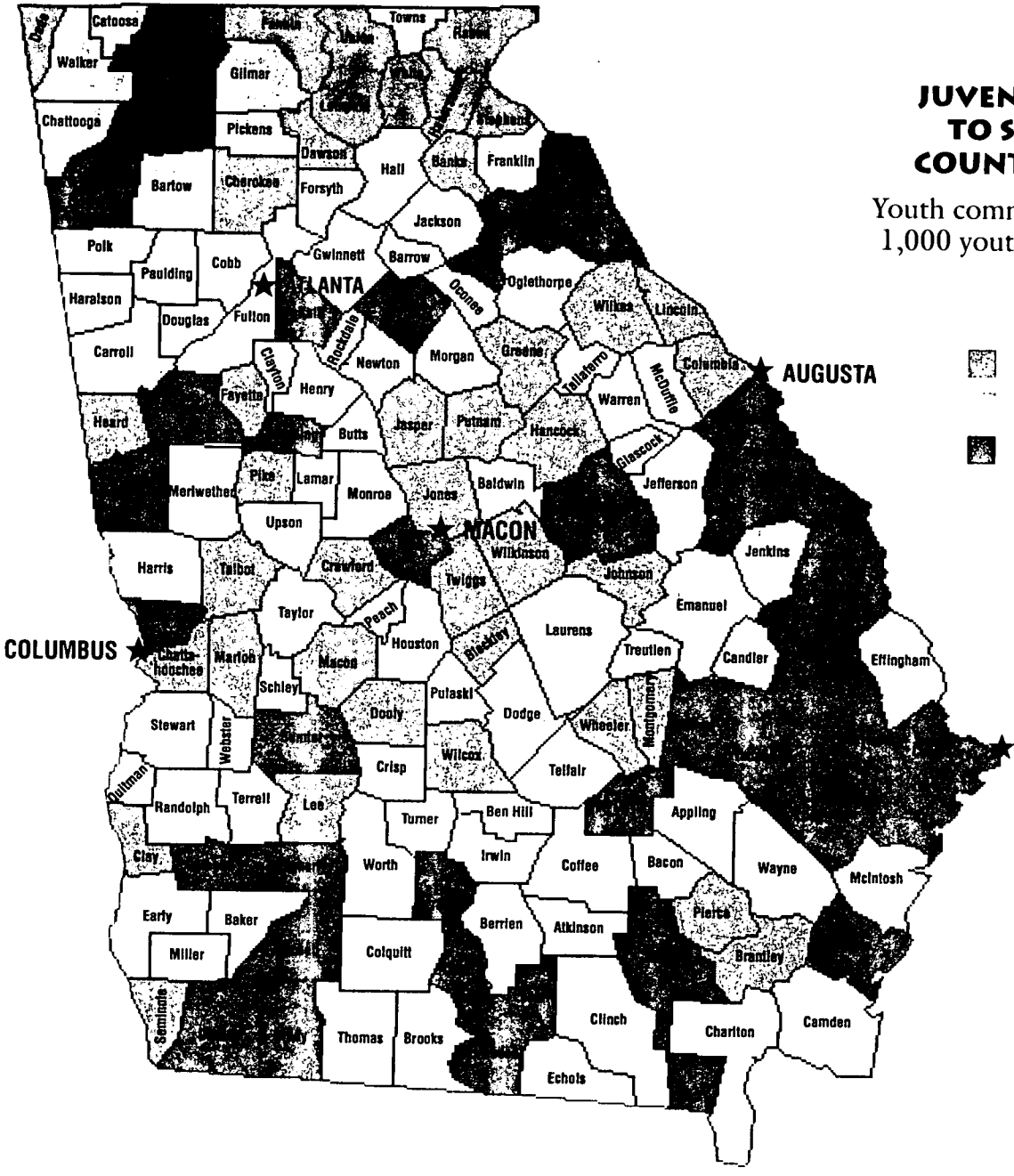
8.8% of Georgia high school students had injected an illegal drug. 2% of U.S. high school students had injected an illegal drug.

Source: 1991 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Detailed Tables for Georgia, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA.

Commitments to state custody for youth ages 10 to 17, 1982–1992: number, rate (per 1,000), and rank by rate

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	RANK
APPLING	99	3.9	112
ATKINSON	20	2.0	60
BACON	21	1.4	43
BAKER	21	3.5	101
BALDWIN	95	2.0	56
BANKS	17	1.2	37
BARROW	130	3.5	103
BARTOW	250	3.5	104
BEN HILL	51	2.0	64
BERRIEN	54	2.7	82
BIBB	830	4.1	118
BLECKLEY	15	1.0	21
BRANTLEY	17	1.0	22
BROOKS	73	3.1	95
BRYAN	90	4.0	116
BULLOCH	347	7.2	147
BURKE	134	4.0	117
BUTTS	46	2.3	70
CALHOUN	43	4.9	132
CAMDEN	91	2.8	85
CANDLER	30	2.7	84
CARROLL	183	2.0	59
CATOOSA	165	2.8	87
CHARLTON	40	3.0	91
CHATHAM	2,013	7.3	149
CHATTAHOOCHEE	23	1.0	20
CHATTOOGA	65	2.1	65
CHEROKEE	105	1.0	25
CLARKE	420	5.2	135
CLAY	6	1.1	34
CLAYTON	547	2.3	67
CLINCH	24	2.3	69
COBB	807	1.6	49
COFFEE	118	2.7	83
COLQUITT	200	3.7	107
COLUMBIA	51	0.6	7
COOK	89	4.3	124
COWETA	324	4.6	129
CRAWFORD	11	0.8	14
CRISP	111	3.6	105
DADE	23	1.2	38
DAWSON	6	0.5	5
DECATUR	382	9.4	152
DEKALB	2,715	4.2	119
DODGE	33	1.3	41
DOOLY	17	1.0	23
DOUGHERTY	1,557	10.3	153
DOUGLAS	227	2.3	71
EARLY	60	3.0	90
ECHOLS	4	—	
EFFINGHAM	142	3.7	108
ELBERT	132	5.0	134
EMANUEL	81	2.5	78
EVANS	83	6.1	142
FANNIN	25	1.3	39
FAYETTE	73	0.9	16
FLOYD	943	9.2	150
FORSYTH	81	1.6	47
FRANKLIN	60	2.9	88
FULTON	2,623	3.5	99
GILMER	26	1.5	44
GLASCOCK	1	—	
GLYNN	482	6.0	140
GORDON	259	5.3	136
GRADY	214	7.0	145
GREENE	14	0.8	12
GWINNETT	900	2.3	72
HABERSHAM	20	0.6	9
HALL	178	1.5	45
HANCOCK	13	0.8	15
HARALSON	45	1.6	48
HARRIS	36	1.5	46
HART	126	4.7	130
HEARD	8	0.7	10
HENRY	178	2.5	79
HOUSTON	354	2.9	89
IRWIN	23	1.8	54
JACKSON	81	2.0	61
JASPER	13	1.1	33
JEFF DAVIS	71	3.9	114
JEFFERSON	102	3.6	106
JENKINS	41	3.1	97
JOHNSON	12	0.9	18
JONES	9	0.3	1
LAMAR	56	3.0	93
LANIER	40	4.6	128
LAURENS	115	2.0	62
LEE	27	1.1	29
LIBERTY	302	5.5	137
LINCOLN	8	0.8	13
LONG	33	4.2	120
LOWNDES	734	7.2	148
LUMPKIN	8	0.5	3
MACON	25	1.1	32
MADISON	124	4.4	125
MARION	10	1.2	38
MCDUFFIE	117	3.9	113
MCINTOSH	25	1.9	55
MERIWETHER	59	1.7	53
MILLER	30	3.0	92
MITCHELL	325	9.3	151
MONROE	59	2.5	80
MONTGOMERY	5	0.5	4
MORGAN	31	1.7	52
MURRAY	163	4.6	127
MUSCOGEE	1,648	7.1	146
NEWTON	200	3.5	100
OCONEE	64	2.8	86
OGLETHORPE	51	3.7	111
PAULDING	131	2.6	81
PEACH	68	2.3	68
PICKENS	40	2.2	86
PIERCE	22	1.1	26
PIKE	13	0.9	17
POLK	176	3.7	110
PULASKI	29	2.4	73
PUTNAM	18	1.0	24
QUITMAN	1	—	
RABUN	15	1.1	28
RANDOLPH	41	3.1	94
RICHMOND	1,429	5.8	139
ROCKDALE	120	1.7	51
SCHLEY	18	3.2	98
SCREVEN	90	4.3	122
SEMINOLE	14	1.1	27
SPALDING	489	6.4	143
STEPHENS	34	1.2	35
STEWART	15	1.6	50
SUMTER	194	4.3	123
TALBOT	11	1.1	31
TALIAFERRO	1	—	
TATTNALL	128	5.7	138
TAYLOR	16	1.3	42
TELFAIR	38	2.4	74
TERRELL	34	1.9	56
THOMAS	217	3.7	109
TIFT	217	4.3	121
TOOMBS	176	4.9	131
TOWNS	4	—	
TREUTLEN	18	1.9	57
TROUP	374	5.0	133
TURNER	51	3.5	102
TWIGGS	9	0.6	8
UNION	13	0.9	19
UPSON	112	3.1	96
WALKER	193	2.4	76
WALTON	325	6.1	141
WARE	239	4.5	126
WARREN	19	2.0	63
WASHINGTON	114	3.9	115
WAYNE	79	2.4	75
WEBSTER	0	—	
WHEELER	6	0.7	11
WHITE	6	0.4	2
WHITFIELD	640	6.5	144
WILCOX	12	1.1	30
WILKES	19	1.3	40
WILKINSON	9	0.6	6
WORTH	74	2.4	77
GEORGIA	30,619	3.7	

— Number too small to calculate a rate



JUVENILES COMMITTED TO STATE CUSTODY: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Youth committed to state custody per 1,000 youth ages 10-17, 1982–1992

- 40 Counties with Lowest Rates
- Middle Counties
- 40 Counties with Highest Rates

GEORGIA'S 1993 NATIONAL RANK

45

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

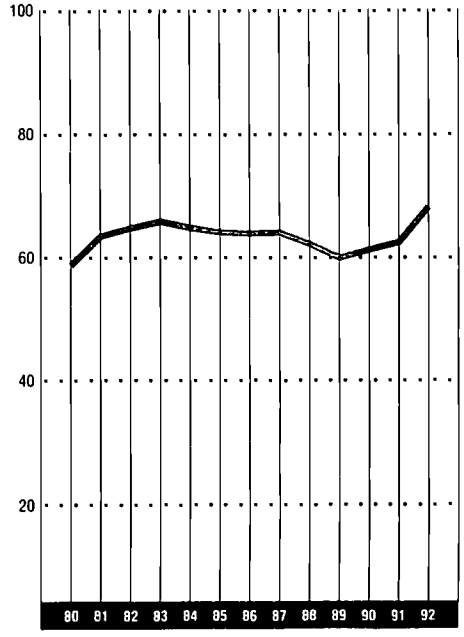
High school completion rates are a measure of whether schools and communities can see a child through 12 years of education. This means identifying and overcoming barriers to success in the early years and successfully sidestepping or overcoming the current realities of pregnancy, gang activity, peer pressure, family stress, overcrowded classrooms, violence in the schools and academic failure. These and other obstacles often threaten on-time completion of a high school diploma.

In 1992, 59,723 Georgia high school students graduated on time, 66.1% of those eligible. This was a substantial increase from the 1991 rate of 61.4%, and represents the highest completion rate since 1980.

During the 13 year period from 1980 to 1992, Georgia's average high school completion rate was 62.1%. On the county level, average rates ranged from a low of 42.4% in Twiggs County to a high of 81.4% in Fayette County. Among the state's smaller counties, Twiggs, Murray and Paulding had the lowest high school completion rates. Among the larger counties, Hall, Muscogee and Chatham had the lowest rates.

High School Graduation Rate, Georgia, 1980–1992

Graduates per 100 students enrolled in 9th grade three years earlier



ECONOMIC IMPACT

With a wide range of problems plaguing many of Georgia's high schools, even the most persistent students may have difficulty making it through on time, if at all. Without a high school diploma, teenagers today face significant obstacles in finding meaningful work, earning an adequate income and launching a successful career.

For those teens who do not graduate, the prospects are bleak. They are two times more likely to be unemployed and their earnings are likely to be half as much as a high school graduate's; they are six times more likely to be unmarried parents. Fifty-seven percent of Georgia's adult corrections population has not graduated from high school.

ESTIMATED COST OF DECLINING GRADUATION RATES

- **$7,020 per student in yearly income lost by each high school dropout**
- **$4,100 per student per year if retained**
- **$18,133 per child of a teenage parent, over twenty years, for income maintenance, nutritional and medical support**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREVENTION

- **$500 per teen per school year for a comprehensive youth program for the non-school hours**
- **$90 per person for family planning services**
- **$6,750 per youth for up to 6 months of comprehensive outpatient substance abuse treatment**

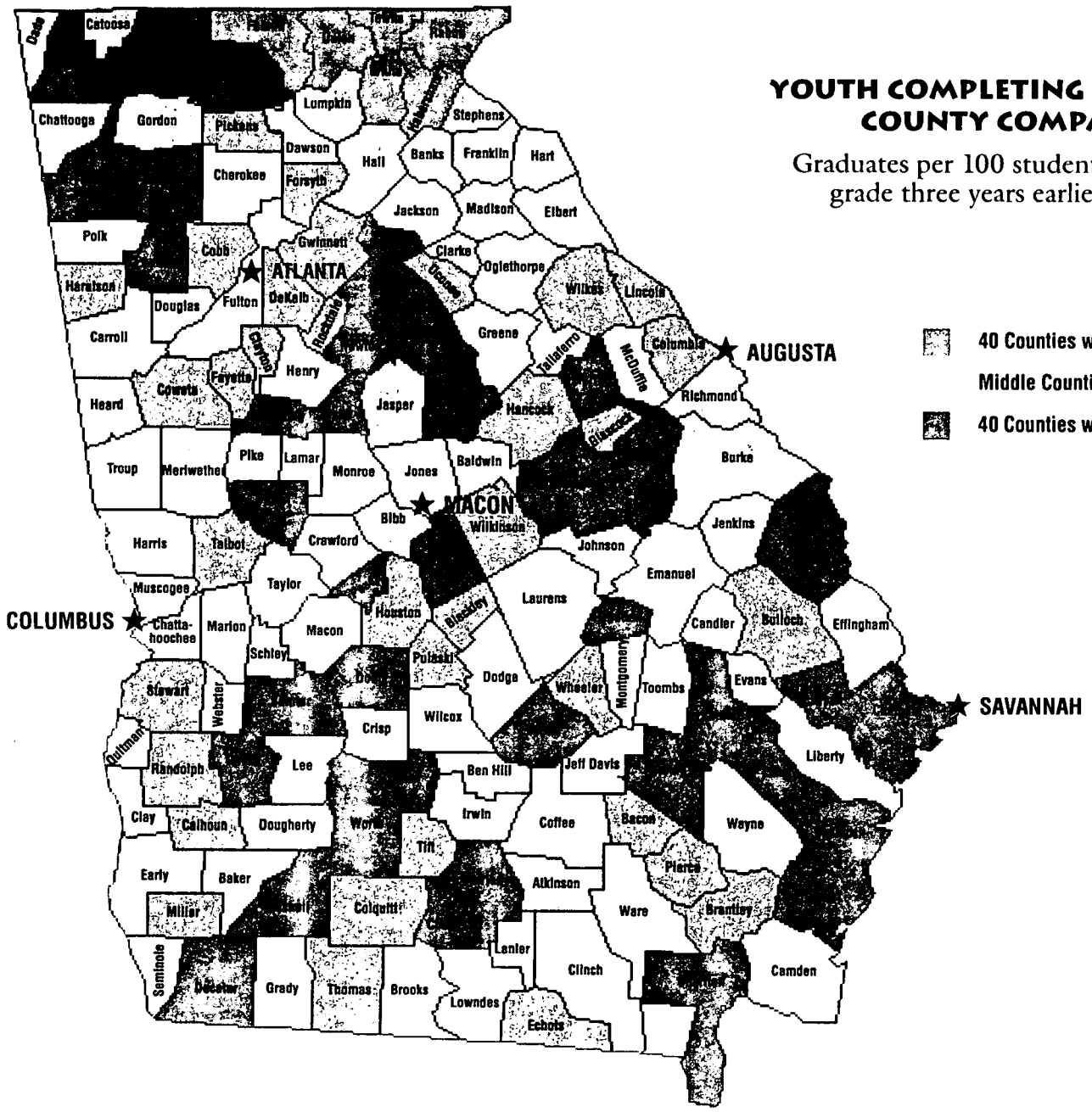
Yet support and prevention efforts for teenagers are lacking. On average, there is one counselor for every 380 students in Georgia high schools. There are waiting lists for family planning services in many public health clinics, and out-patient adolescent substance abuse and mental health treatment slots are limited.

The cost to the state of academic failure is borne by our businesses, our communities and our families. We cannot afford to see our teens fail.

Students graduating high school 1980–1992: number, rate (per 100 students enrolled in 9th grade three years earlier), and rank by rate

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	RANK
APPLING	2,719	55.0	126
ATKINSON	1,030	62.2	56
BACON	1,504	68.4	24
BAKER	76	*	
BALDWIN	3,656	58.5	112
BANKS	963	56.1	97
BARROW	2,703	52.3	142
BARTOW	6,251	53.3	135
BEN HILL	2,181	62.3	55
BERRIEN	2,041	56.1	118
BIBB	16,250	62.2	57
BLECKLEY	1,779	71.7	12
BRANTLEY	1,764	66.4	31
BROOKS	1,690	57.4	103
BRYAN	1,670	56.1	116
BULLOCH	5,021	66.8	30
BURKE	2,630	59.5	77
BUTTS	1,736	52.7	141
CALHOUN	1,143	77.3	2
CAMDEN	2,583	62.0	60
CANDLER	1,181	61.2	64
CARROLL	8,749	58.8	88
CATOOSA	5,551	57.8	101
CHARLTON	1,164	55.0	127
CHATHAM	19,993	47.0	147
CHATTAHOOCHEE	0	*	
CHATTOOGA	2,772	57.8	100
CHEROKEE	8,258	57.9	99
CLARKE	7,805	63.7	45
CLAY	56	*	
CLAYTON	24,705	67.9	25
CLINCH	1,048	57.0	109
COBB	53,305	71.8	11
COFFEE	3,960	61.7	61
COLQUITT	5,308	67.9	26
COLUMBIA	8,235	73.0	7
COOK	1,994	55.9	120
COWETA	6,305	65.4	37
CRAWFORD	1,208	57.5	102
CRISP	2,874	57.1	107
DADE	1,685	58.5	93
DAWSON	900	64.6	42
DECATUR	3,486	53.3	134
DEKALB	71,140	73.9	6
DODGE	2,610	62.3	53
DODLY	1,296	52.8	140
DOUGHERTY	12,827	59.5	78
DOUGLAS	9,525	62.4	52
EARLY	2,098	61.5	62
ECHOLS	409	69.2	20
EFFINGHAM	3,192	60.3	70
ELBERT	2,683	59.6	76
EMANUEL	2,861	56.8	110
EVANS	1,382	64.8	41
FANNIN	2,227	70.9	16
FAYETTE	8,278	81.4	1
FLOYD	9,975	55.9	121
FORSYTH	4,578	65.0	40
FRANKLIN	2,344	57.2	106
FULTON	78,834	61.5	63
GILMER	1,555	54.9	128
GLASCOCK	541	70.2	18
GLYNN	7,376	55.9	123
GORDON	4,423	58.4	94
GRADY	3,309	63.5	47
GREENE	1,582	61.1	65
GWINNETT	35,471	69.7	19
HABERSHAM	3,628	74.9	4
HALL	10,985	58.3	95
HANCOCK	1,707	72.6	9
HARALSON	2,998	65.6	35
HARRIS	1,984	56.1	98
HART	2,703	59.4	80
HEARD	893	57.1	108
HENRY	5,041	60.5	67
HOUSTON	12,271	69.1	21
IRWIN	1,232	59.2	84
JACKSON	3,499	59.7	75
JASPER	1,028	62.0	58
JEFF DAVIS	1,870	58.8	89
JEFFERSON	2,019	46.3	149
JENKINS	1,208	58.6	92
JOHNSON	1,093	60.5	68
JONES	2,783	63.0	50
LAMAR	1,567	60.0	73
LANIER	868	57.4	104
LAURENS	5,719	60.2	71
LEE	2,192	57.4	105
LIBERTY	4,422	56.6	111
LINCOLN	1,226	76.0	3
LONG	532	53.0	138
LOWNDES	10,124	59.3	82
LUMPKIN	1,544	63.7	44
MACON	2,066	59.3	81
MADISON	2,675	59.4	79
MARION	1,888	62.3	54
MCDUFFIE	2,822	58.7	90
MCINTOSH	1,314	54.6	129
MERIWETHER	3,252	60.9	66
MILLER	1,042	65.7	34
MITCHELL	3,139	52.9	139
MONROE	2,048	58.2	96
MONTGOMERY	1,035	63.2	49
MORGAN	1,733	56.3	114
MURRAY	2,700	44.9	151
MUSCOGEE	22,907	58.8	91
NEWTON	4,983	50.5	146
OCONEE	2,203	68.5	23
OGLETHORPE	1,230	58.9	86
PAULDING	3,778	46.0	150
PEACH	2,591	54.6	130
PICKENS	1,647	65.4	38
PIERCE	2,168	67.3	28
PIKE	1,460	62.8	51
POLK	4,654	64.1	43
PULASKI	1,388	66.2	33
PUTNAM	1,363	53.1	137
QUITMAN	0	*	
RABUN	1,632	70.9	15
RANDOLPH	1,582	67.0	29
RICHMOND	22,200	60.5	69
ROCKDALE	7,442	65.5	36
SCHLEY	0	*	
SCREVEN	1,952	55.8	124
SEMINOLE	1,442	59.2	85
SPALDING	6,351	56.0	119
STEPHENS	3,193	62.0	59
STEWART	1,109	67.9	27
SUMTER	3,849	55.4	125
TALBOT	952	74.4	5
TALIAFERRO	20	*	
TATTNALL	2,172	55.9	122
TAYLOR	1,291	58.8	87
TELFAIR	1,391	53.5	133
TERRELL	1,283	46.3	148
THOMAS	6,307	66.3	32
TIFT	5,053	71.1	13
TOOMBS	3,431	60.1	72
TOWNS	725	72.9	8
TREUTLEN	902	52.2	143
TROUP	6,819	60.0	74
TURNER	1,338	53.9	132
TWIGGS	923	42.4	152
UNION	1,433	65.2	39
UPSON	3,547	56.2	115
WALKER	6,714	50.8	145
WALTON	4,826	56.1	117
WARE	4,926	63.4	48
WARREN	773	54.0	131
WASHINGTON	2,462	50.9	144
WAYNE	3,066	63.7	46
WEBSTER	0	*	
WHEELER	938	72.4	10
WHITE	1,672	68.9	22
WHITFIELD	8,455	53.2	136
WILCOX	992	59.3	83
WILKES	1,571	70.4	17
WILKINSON	1,694	70.9	14
WORTH	2,858	56.4	113
GEORGIA	**790,956**	**62.1**	

* No public high school or public high school closed during time period



YOUTH COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Graduates per 100 students enrolled in 9th grade three years earlier, 1980–1992

42

GEORGIA'S 1993 NATIONAL RANK
42

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

There is an important connection between poverty and the wide range of problems faced by children who are often described as "at-risk." Poor health, delinquency, teen pregnancy and educational problems all put children at risk, and each is critical in its own right. Yet study after study shows that poverty is a constant, contributing factor in negative outcomes for children and their families.

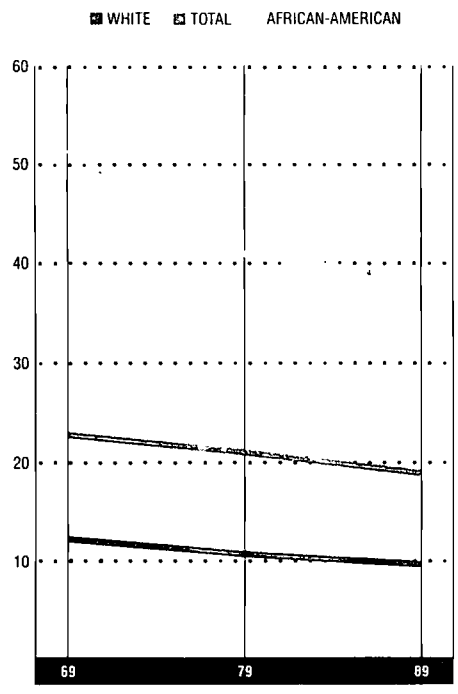
In 1989, the most recent year for which county-level data are available, 343,068 children were living below the federal poverty level ($11,890 for a family of three in 1993). Of all children under age five, 107,676 (or 22.1%) were living in poverty and 235,392 (or 19.3%) children ages five to 17 were poor. The poverty rate for African-American children was about four times the rate for white children in Georgia.

Over the past two decades, the percent of children under age 18 living in poverty has declined from 24.1% in 1969 to 20.1% in 1989. Among African-American children, the rate fell from 51.3% in 1969 to 40% in 1989 with the largest decline occurring during the 1970's. The poverty rate for white children also declined during this period, but less dramatically, from 11.7% to 9.9%. Despite these improvements, Georgia's child poverty rate remains one of the highest in the nation.

While the state average for all children living in poverty was 20.1% in 1989, poverty rates in Georgia's counties ranged from 2.7% in Fayette County to 49.3% in Randolph

Child Poverty Rate, Georgia, 1969–1989

Percent of children under 18 in families with income below poverty level



County. Among the state's smaller counties, Randolph, Clay and Turner had the highest child poverty rates. Among the larger counties, Dougherty, Fulton and Muscogee had the highest rates.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The impact of poverty on children and families is far-reaching. Research shows:

- poor newborns are more likely to be exposed to drugs than newborns from higher income families;
- poor children under age six are more likely to have retarded growth and poor nutritional status and are more likely to be exposed to higher doses of lead in their environments;

ESTIMATED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASING SELF-SUFFICIENCY AMONG POOR GEORGIANS

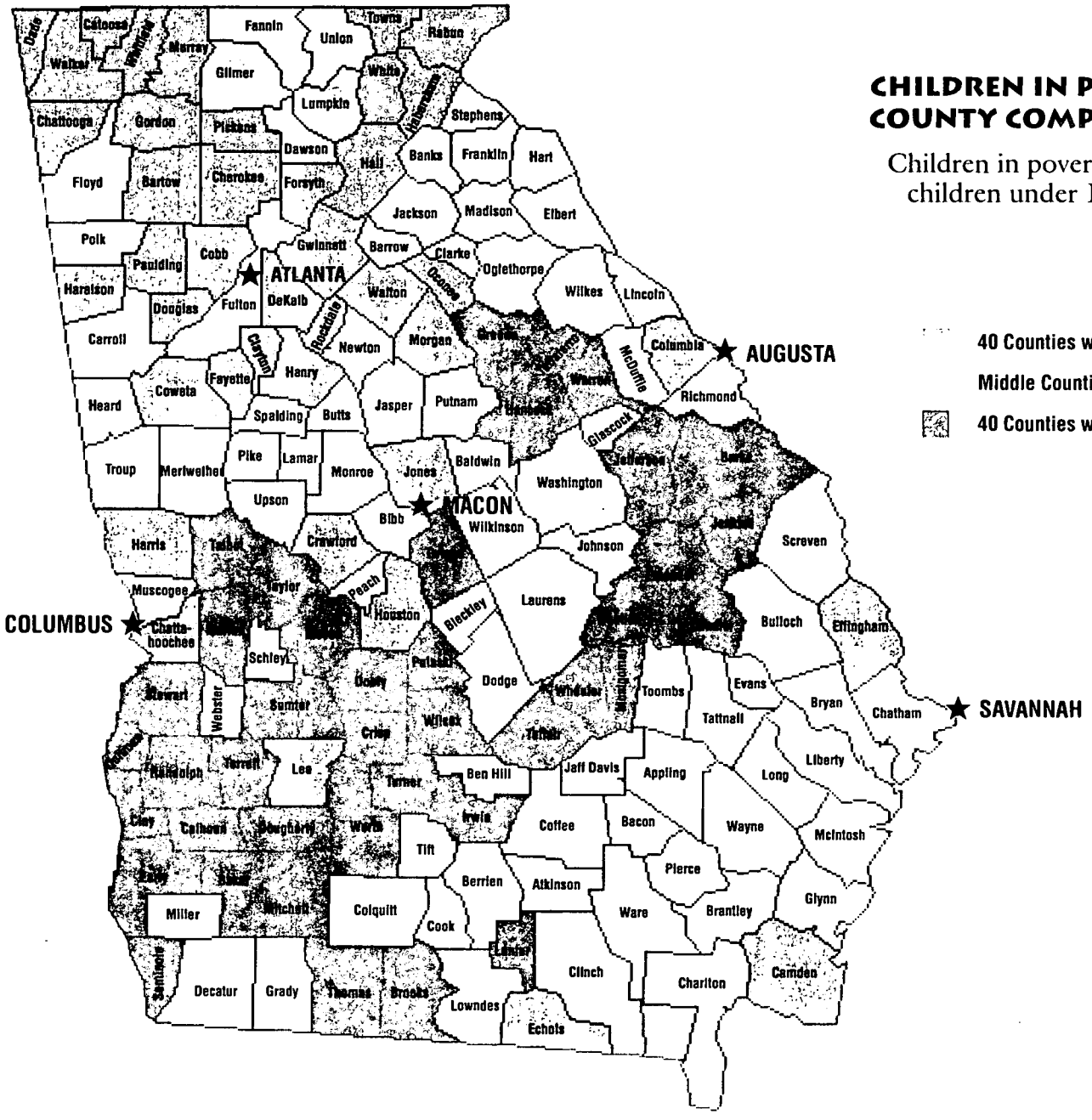
- **$764 per child per year for health insurance (Medicaid)**
- **$158 per child per month for subsidized child care (PEACH)**
- **$323 per person for job training and support (PEACH)**
- **Little or no state funds for increasing utilization of the federal Earned Income Credit**

- accidents, both fatal and nonfatal, occur more often among poor and low-income children than among others;
- poor children are more likely than nonpoor children to miss school days and be low achievers in school, to repeat one or two grades and to eventually drop out of school;
- poor children are more likely than nonpoor children to engage in delinquent, aggressive and criminal behavior and to become parents as teenagers.

But the impact of poverty reaches beyond those who live with it day to day. Economists have concluded that a state with a child poverty rate of 20% will not be able to produce a labor force qualified to meet its productivity needs in the next 20 years. The status of children today will be a measure of Georgia's future economy.

Children in poverty, by age, 1989: number, rate (per 100), and rank by rate

COUNTY	UNDER 5	5-17	TOTAL	RATE	RANK
APPLING	255	956	1,211	26.5	86
ATKINSON	148	437	585	31.5	115
BACON	302	567	869	31.6	116
BAKER	126	243	369	34.6	127
BALDWIN	616	1,339	1,955	22.6	67
BANKS	153	321	474	17.4	45
BARROW	396	1,020	1,416	17.3	44
BARTOW	653	1,365	2,018	13.3	19
BEN HILL	480	1,046	1,526	30.8	108
BERRIEN	276	662	938	25.0	79
BIBB	3,593	7,406	10,999	28.0	91
BLECKLEY	171	482	653	24.0	75
BRANTLEY	217	471	688	21.0	59
BROOKS	487	1,099	1,586	35.1	130
BRYAN	281	566	847	17.2	43
BULLOCH	812	1,898	2,710	28.3	96
BURKE	751	2,036	2,787	40.7	146
BUTTS	232	655	887	22.4	65
CALHOUN	141	454	595	40.6	145
CAMDEN	455	842	1,297	14.2	21
CANDLER	208	460	668	33.1	122
CARROLL	985	2,276	3,261	17.4	46
CATOOSA	536	1,058	1,594	14.7	25
CHARLTON	231	421	652	25.0	77
CHATHAM	4,434	9,885	14,319	25.5	81
CHATTAHOOCHEE	93	499	592	12.9	15
CHATTOOGA	285	590	875	15.8	29
CHEROKEE	524	1,187	1,711	6.8	5
CLARKE	1,563	3,058	4,621	26.4	85
CLAY	147	318	465	48.1	158
CLAYTON	2,148	3,904	6,052	12.0	13
CLINCH	158	439	597	32.1	118
COBB	2,741	4,750	7,491	6.7	4
COFFEE	729	1,790	2,519	28.7	100
COLQUITT	964	2,202	3,166	31.4	114
COLUMBIA	443	1,255	1,698	8.4	8
COOK	360	819	1,179	31.1	112
COWETA	732	1,756	2,488	16.4	35
CRAWFORD	135	289	424	16.6	38
CRISP	707	1,822	2,529	42.3	149
DADE	135	421	556	16.7	39
DAWSON	181	269	450	17.6	48
DECATUR	604	1,716	2,320	31.0	111
DEKALB	5,786	12,719	18,505	14.4	24
DODGE	339	937	1,276	28.0	92
DOOLY	382	834	1,216	40.2	144
DOUGHERTY	3,192	7,084	10,276	35.3	131
DOUGLAS	529	1,103	1,632	8.3	7
EARLY	397	1,091	1,488	43.0	151
ECHOLS	30	87	117	16.5	36
EFFINGHAM	353	941	1,294	16.3	33
ELBERT	373	885	1,258	25.0	78
EMANUEL	515	1,634	2,149	34.8	129
EVANS	192	581	773	31.0	109
FANNIN	224	603	827	22.5	86
FAYETTE	110	373	483	2.7	1
FLOYD	1,227	2,281	3,508	18.3	51
FORSYTH	287	553	640	7.5	6
FRANKLIN	218	605	823	21.3	61
FULTON	15,095	29,033	44,128	28.6	98
GILMER	203	478	681	20.7	58
GLASCOCK	27	73	100	18.1	50
GLYNN	1,159	2,444	3,603	22.6	69
GORDON	299	942	1,241	13.3	18
GRADY	431	1,257	1,688	30.0	105
GREENE	280	944	1,224	34.5	126
GWINNETT	1,437	2,893	4,330	4.4	2
HABERSHAM	216	529	745	11.4	12
HALL	1,103	2,201	3,304	13.7	20
HANCOCK	317	708	1,025	37.7	137
HARALSON	337	617	954	16.7	40
HARRIS	175	573	748	16.5	37
HART	255	651	906	18.7	52
HEARD	172	431	603	24.1	76
HENRY	269	763	1,032	6.4	3
HOUSTON	1,264	2,711	3,975	15.9	30
IRWIN	327	610	937	38.0	138
JACKSON	461	927	1,388	17.5	47
JASPER	145	373	518	21.8	62
JEFF DAVIS	268	521	789	23.5	74
JEFFERSON	661	1,650	2,311	43.8	153
JENKINS	185	648	833	34.2	124
JOHNSON	173	577	750	31.0	110
JONES	224	513	737	13.0	16
LAMAR	188	519	707	20.5	58
LANIER	163	469	632	39.8	143
LAURENS	943	2,271	3,214	28.7	99
LEE	214	564	778	14.9	26
LIBERTY	1,575	2,034	3,609	23.0	71
LINCOLN	106	333	439	22.0	63
LONG	215	321	536	30.5	106
LOWNDES	1,840	3,798	5,638	27.2	88
LUMPKIN	153	444	597	17.0	41
MACON	525	1,050	1,575	38.7	140
MADISON	338	805	1,143	20.6	57
MARION	135	432	567	35.9	135
MCDUFFIE	653	1,124	1,777	30.7	107
MCINTOSH	168	494	662	28.0	90
MERIWETHER	603	1,409	2,012	31.2	113
MILLER	115	356	471	27.8	89
MITCHELL	668	1,899	2,567	40.7	147
MONROE	262	526	788	17.2	42
MONTGOMERY	190	436	626	34.5	125
MORGAN	154	413	567	15.9	31
MURRAY	284	629	913	12.3	14
MUSCOGEE	4,720	8,742	13,462	28.2	94
NEWTON	731	1,603	2,334	20.0	55
OCONEE	159	302	461	9.1	10
OGLETHORPE	143	345	488	19.4	53
PAULDING	414	795	1,209	10.0	11
PEACH	524	1,298	1,822	32.0	117
PICKENS	165	405	570	16.0	32
PIERCE	246	703	949	26.3	84
PIKE	151	323	474	17.7	49
POLK	535	1,207	1,742	19.6	54
PULASKI	221	489	710	32.7	120
PUTNAM	262	581	843	23.3	73
QUITMAN	73	189	262	46.0	155
RABUN	89	295	384	15.5	27
RANDOLPH	276	860	1,136	49.3	159
RICHMOND	4,238	8,916	13,154	26.0	83
ROCKDALE	363	929	1,292	8.5	9
SCHLEY	72	185	257	26.0	82
SCREVEN	269	904	1,173	28.8	101
SEMINOLE	335	527	862	38.2	139
SPALDING	1,128	2,333	3,461	22.7	70
STEPHENS	415	954	1,369	25.1	80
STEWART	184	467	651	42.7	150
SUMTER	955	1,984	2,939	33.2	123
TALBOT	169	460	629	35.7	133
TALIAFERRO	46	178	224	43.3	152
TATTNALL	425	768	1,193	28.0	93
TAYLOR	250	619	869	41.0	148
TELFAIR	291	799	1,090	35.8	134
TERRELL	392	1,003	1,395	44.5	154
THOMAS	1,052	2,565	3,617	32.9	121
TIFT	963	1,937	2,900	29.5	104
TOOMBS	679	1,585	2,264	32.3	119
TOWNS	72	98	170	14.3	22
TREUTLEN	223	355	578	34.8	128
TROUP	1,125	2,271	3,396	22.2	64
TURNER	359	949	1,308	47.9	157
TWIGGS	277	772	1,049	35.3	132
UNION	150	477	627	23.3	72
UPSON	349	1,041	1,390	21.0	60
WALKER	635	1,726	2,361	15.6	28
WALTON	502	1,251	1,753	16.3	34
WARE	821	1,863	2,684	29.1	103
WARREN	240	564	804	47.5	156
WASHINGTON	412	1,062	1,474	26.6	87
WAYNE	516	1,304	1,820	28.2	95
WEBSTER	53	126	179	29.0	102
WHEELER	143	403	546	38.8	141
WHITE	119	310	429	14.4	23
WHITFIELD	720	1,705	2,425	13.1	17
WILCOX	190	581	771	39.1	142
WILKES	235	547	782	28.3	97
WILKINSON	174	486	660	22.6	68
WORTH	709	1,498	2,207	38.9	136
GEORGIA	107,676	235,392	343,068	20.1	



CHILDREN IN POVERTY: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Children in poverty per 100 children under 18, 1989

- 40 Counties with Lowest Rates
- Middle Counties
- 40 Counties with Highest Rates

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

School readiness can no longer be measured simply in terms of a child's knowledge of basic letters and numbers, or ability to socialize with other children. It reflects a wide range of issues that not only assess the health and well-being of the child but of the family and community as well.

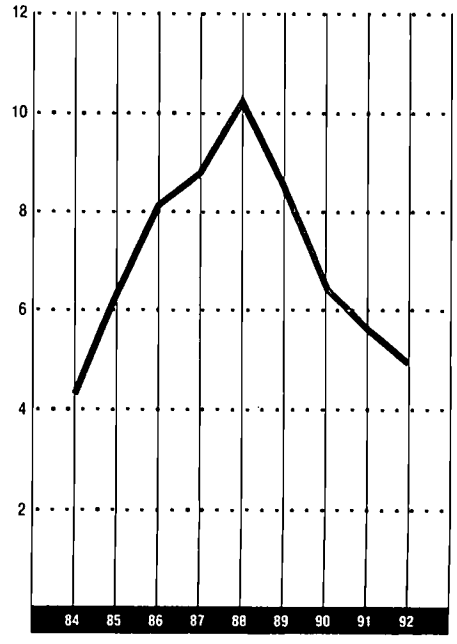
The percent of children retained in kindergarten is one measure of school readiness. Often, if a child fails kindergarten, something has gone wrong. Was the community environment dangerous or without adequate resources to stimulate the child? Was the school environment flexible enough to meet the individual needs of the child? Did the parents have the skills and the means to prepare their child? These issues are critical not only to readiness for school but to a child's on-going development and future success.

In the 1991-92 school year, 4,913, or 5% of Georgia's kindergarteners were retained. National comparisons on this indicator are not possible because many states do not track kindergarten retentions. When compared to the 7 states in the Southern region for which data are available, only West Virginia had a higher rate than Georgia.

In Georgia, during the nine year period from school years 1983-84 to 1991-92, a total of 59,522 children were retained in kindergarten. Beginning in 1983-84 at a rate of 4.2%, kindergarten retentions increased steadily until a 1987-88 peak at

Kindergarten Retention Rate, Georgia, 1984–1992

Children retained in kindergarten per 100 enrolled



10.4%. Retention rates then declined over the next four years, to 5% in 1991-92. Experts speculate that the introduction of a standardized test for kindergarteners in 1985-86 played a significant role in local retention decisions, leading to the high rates over the next three years. The retention rate declined with the introduction of a new hands-on kindergarten assessment program in 1989-90, which relies more on the judgement of teachers.

From 1984 to 1992, the average state rate for kindergarten retentions was 7.1%. In the counties, the rate ranged from a high of 16.1% in Grady County to a low of 0.4% in Gwinnett County. Among the state's smaller counties, Grady, Decatur and Dooly had the highest kindergarten

ESTIMATED COST OF SCHOOL FAILURE IN THE EARLY YEARS

► **$4,100 per child for kindergarten retentions**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

► **$55 per child for a preventive health screening (EPSDT)**

► **$580 per family per year for parent support and education**

► **$3,248 per child for Head Start or $3,700 per child for state-funded pre-kindergarten program**

► **Little or no state money for school breakfasts, as these meals are federally funded**

retention rates. Among the larger counties, Bibb, Hall and Dougherty had the highest rates.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

It is difficult to overestimate the impact that school failure can have on a child's self-esteem and motivation. In fact, studies have demonstrated that retention is a key predictor of dropouts. Many students who fail a grade eventually give up on education.

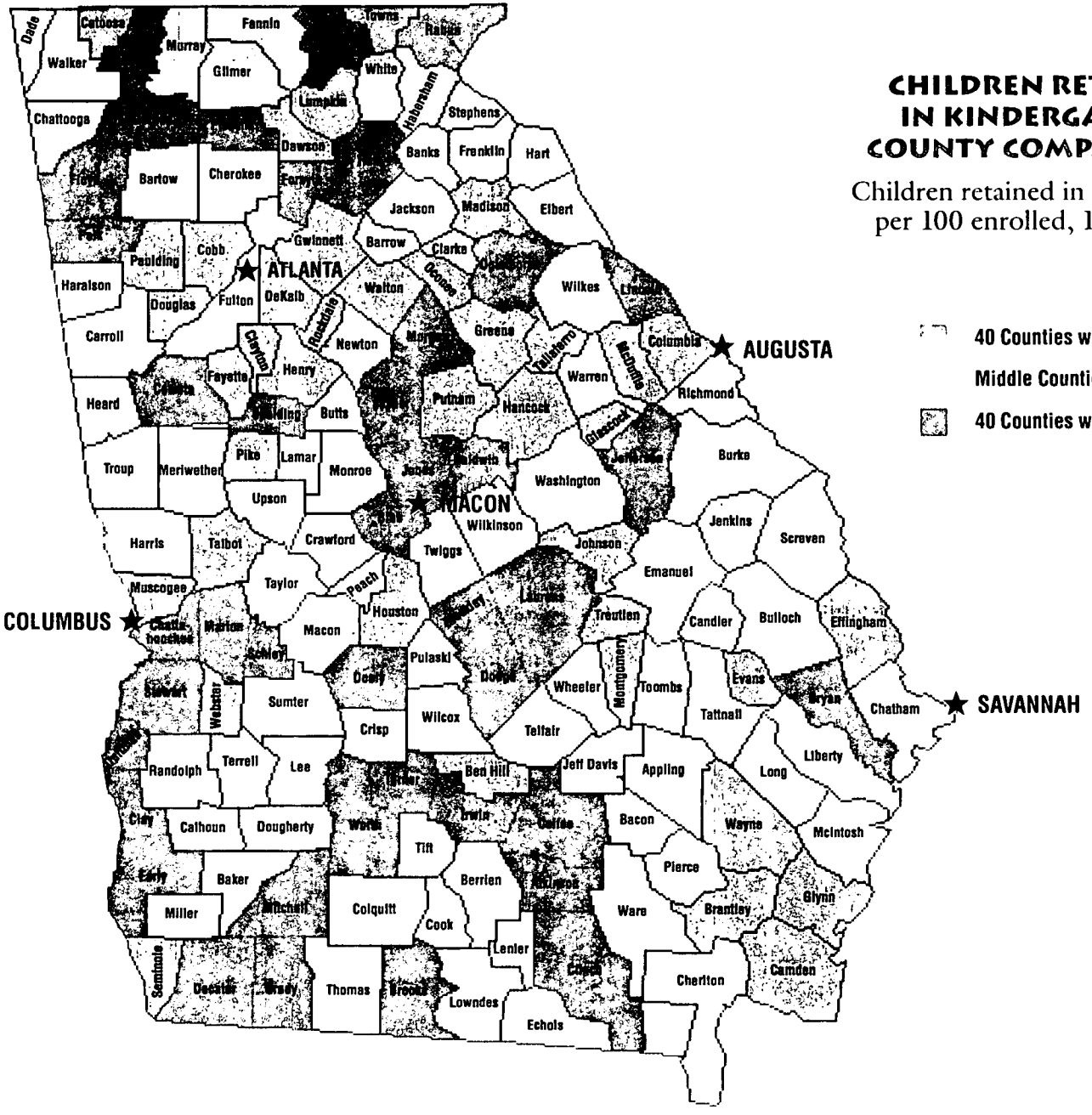
We know that preparing a child for success in school means ensuring his or her overall health and well-being, making sure he or she has stimulating experiences in early childhood and ensuring that schools are prepared with flexible, supportive developmentally appropriate curricula. Yet in Georgia, 77% of eligible children under age six do not receive free health screenings, 29% of schools do not serve breakfast, student to teacher ratios in kindergarten classrooms do not meet national standards and there are significant gaps in the availability of early care and education and parent support programs.

Research shows that preparing young children for school has long-term benefits: higher earnings and economic status, better educational performance, and lower rates of arrest, teen pregnancy and welfare dependency later in life. Ensuring that Georgia's children are ready for school is an investment in the state's social and economic future.

CHILDREN RETAINED IN KINDERGARTEN

Children retained in kindergarten, 1984–1992: number, rate (per 100), and rank by rate

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	RANK
APPLING	181	7.2	66
ATKINSON	128	11.5	135
BACON	165	10.1	118
BAKER	31	6.9	60
BALDWIN	560	11.9	142
BANKS	97	9.1	94
BARROW	339	8.2	81
BARTOW	695	8.6	87
BEN HILL	186	6.1	39
BERRIEN	125	6.2	42
BIBB	2,160	11.2	132
BLECKLEY	216	14.2	155
BRANTLEY	66	3.9	12
BRDOKS	278	12.5	145
BRYAN	273	10.5	122
BULLOCH	434	8.2	82
BURKE	287	8.6	88
BUTTS	179	8.5	86
CALHOUN	96	10.1	118
CAMDEN	219	5.1	23
CANDLER	77	7.1	64
CARROLL	664	7.0	62
CATDOSA	250	4.8	19
CHARLTON	129	9.2	96
CHATHAM	1,878	7.3	87
CHATTAHOOCHEE	51	12.8	148
CHATTOOGA	257	8.3	85
CHEROKEE	780	6.7	58
CLARKE	768	7.9	76
CLAY	67	13.5	153
CLAYTON	1,312	5.4	26
CLINCH	141	12.2	143
COBB	627	1.3	2
COFFEE	521	10.5	124
COLQUITT	561	9.4	101
COLUMBIA	482	5.4	25
COOK	128	6.1	41
COWETA	837	10.8	128
CRAWFORD	96	9.5	103
CRISP	229	6.6	50
DADE	148	9.4	99
DAWSON	52	4.3	14
DECATUR	715	15.5	158
DEKALB	2,921	5.8	34
DODGE	355	13.9	154
DOOLY	235	15.3	157
DOUGHERTY	1,189	8.1	80
DOUGLAS	429	4.5	16
EARLY	242	11.5	134
ECHOLS	32	8.1	79
EFFINGHAM	219	5.8	33
ELBERT	290	10.1	117
EMANUEL	286	8.0	77
EVANS	29	2.2	3
FANNIN	134	6.5	49
FAYETTE	298	4.1	13
FLOYD	1,096	10.8	130
FORSYTH	805	13.3	152
FRANKLIN	149	6.6	57
FULTON	5,947	7.5	69
GILMER	120	6.6	54
GLASCOCK	13	3.6	10
GLYNN	375	4.8	20
GOROON	694	12.9	150
GRADY	530	16.1	159
GREENE	100	5.4	27
GWINNETT	171	0.4	1
HABERSHAM	280	7.8	74
HALL	1,702	12.7	146
HANCOCK	51	3.7	11
HARALSON	257	8.2	83
HARRIS	192	9.8	111
HART	150	6.6	55
HEARD	93	7.8	73
HENRY	300	4.4	15
HOUSTON	476	4.7	18
IRWIN	180	12.4	144
JACKSON	279	6.6	51
JASPER	142	11.9	140
JEFF DAVIS	140	7.4	68
JEFFERSON	276	10.3	121
JENKINS	123	9.0	90
JOHNSON	64	5.5	29
JONES	298	10.7	127
LAMAR	152	9.1	93
LANIER	92	9.5	102
LAURENS	734	11.4	133
LEE	210	7.8	75
LIBERTY	483	7.6	70
LINCOLN	142	13.0	151
LONG	88	9.6	105
LOWNDES	721	6.6	56
LUMPKIN	58	3.4	9
MACON	125	6.6	52
MADISON	154	5.7	32
MARION	101	11.8	139
MCDUFFIE	164	5.4	24
MCINTOSH	114	9.6	106
MERIWETHER	267	8.3	84
MILLER	98	9.7	107
MITCHELL	374	10.6	126
MONROE	199	9.4	100
MONTGOMERY	49	6.0	38
MORGAN	216	10.9	131
MURRAY	400	10.1	119
MUSCOGEE	1,361	6.0	36
NEWTON	408	6.5	47
OCONEE	112	5.0	22
OGLETHORPE	196	14.6	156
PAULDING	302	5.4	28
PEACH	308	9.8	109
PICKENS	198	10.8	129
PIERCE	135	7.1	63
PIKE	38	3.1	6
POLK	540	10.3	120
PULASKI	93	7.6	72
PUTNAM	97	6.0	37
QUITMAN	39	11.5	137
RABUN	33	3.0	5
RANDOLPH	130	9.8	112
RICHMOND	1,732	6.6	53
ROCKDALE	451	6.1	40
SCHLEY	56	10.5	123
SCREVEN	146	6.5	45
SEMINOLE	40	3.2	8
SPALDING	764	10.6	125
STEPHENS	182	6.5	48
STEWART	103	12.8	147
SUMTER	331	8.0	78
TALBOT	15	2.3	4
TALIAFERRO	13	5.5	31
TATTNALL	242	9.7	108
TAYLOR	71	6.3	43
TELFAIR	183	9.9	114
TERRELL	153	9.8	110
THOMAS	558	9.9	113
TIFT	487	9.2	95
TOOMBS	274	6.8	59
TOWNS	18	3.1	7
TREUTLEN	54	5.8	35
TROUP	786	9.3	97
TURNER	198	11.9	141
TWIGGS	95	6.5	48
UNION	167	11.6	138
UPSON	305	8.8	89
WALKER	484	6.4	44
WALTON	284	5.5	30
WARE	476	9.0	91
WARREN	85	10.0	115
WASHINGTON	266	9.6	104
WAYNE	154	4.7	17
WEBSTER	14	4.9	21
WHEELER	51	7.2	65
WHITE	140	9.0	92
WHITFIELD	1,392	12.9	149
WILCOX	74	7.6	71
WILKES	110	6.9	61
WILKINSON	155	9.3	98
WORTH	335	11.5	136
GEORGIA	59,522	7.1	



CHILDREN RETAINED IN KINDERGARTEN: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Children retained in kindergarten per 100 enrolled, 1984–1992

- 40 Counties with Lowest Rates
- Middle Counties
- 40 Counties with Highest Rates

GEORGIA'S 1993 NATIONAL RANK 38*

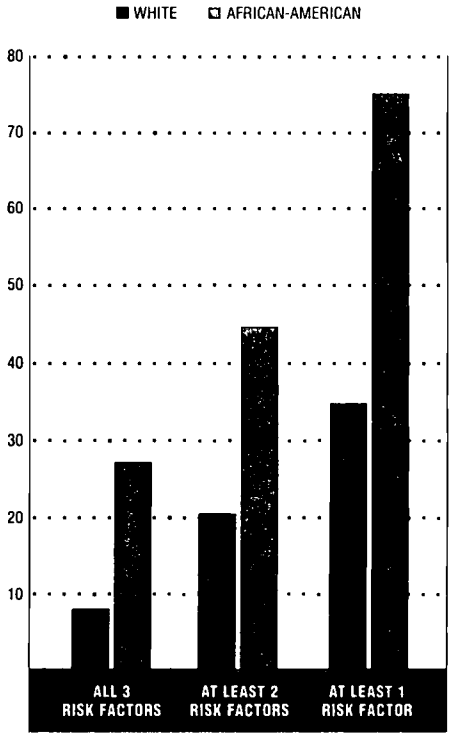
TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Families are our most fundamental social unit and each one is unique, with strengths and weakness that are not always easy to quantify.

Yet there are certain family characteristics that have been demonstrated to predict a likelihood of future problems. Research has shown that the parents' marital status, the mother's age at first birth and her educational status are all associated with the future economic success of their family. Families in which the parents are not married, the mother has her first child before the age of 20, or has not graduated from high school are at greater risk of future instability and poverty. Families with all three of these characteristics are at the greatest risk of negative outcomes.

The family risk index is based on Georgia mothers who had their first baby between 1989 and 1991. When compared to other states, Georgia ranks 38th in the number of these families who had at least one of the three risk factors, 39th if two

Percent of First Births to Women Younger Than Age 20, Not a High School Graduate or Unmarried, By Race, 1989–1991



* National rank is for families with at least one of three risk factors

CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHERS HAVING THEIR FIRST BABY BETWEEN 1989–1991, BY RACE

MATERNAL CHARACTERISTICS	WHITE		AFRICAN-AMERICAN		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Younger Than Age 20	19,512	22.6	17,881	42.2	37,393	29
Not A High School Graduate	18,966	21.9	13,457	31.7	32,423	25.2
Unmarried	16,866	19.5	31,145	73.4	48,011	37.3

out of three risk factors were present and 41st in the number of families who had all three risk factors.

Among the 128,882 first births to Georgia women between 1989 and 1991, 49.3% were to families with one or more risk factors. Of these, 37.3% were unmarried, 29% were under age 20 and 25.2% had not completed high school. Racial disparities were significant. Among African-American women, 75.9% had at least one risk factor and 27.4% had all three. Among white women, 36.2% had one or more risk factor and 7.7% had all three.

Among African-American women who had their first baby between 1989 and 1991, 42.2% were under age 20 when they had their first child, 31.7% had not completed high school and 73.4% were unmarried. Among white women, 22.6% were under age 20, 21.9% had not completed high school and 19.5% were unmarried.

In Georgia's counties, the rate of first births to mothers with one or more risk factors ranged from 23.3% in Gwinnett to 88.2% in Taliaferro. Among the state's smaller counties, Taliaferro, Clay and Early had the highest rates of families at risk. Among the larger counties, Dougherty, Bibb and Richmond had the highest rates.

ESTIMATED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORMATION OF HIGH RISK FAMILIES:

- **$18,133 per child over twenty years for income maintenance, nutritional and medical support**
- **$7,020 per teenager per year in lost earnings due to school dropout**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREVENTION

- **$500 per teen per school year for a comprehensive youth program for the non-school hours**
- **$90 per person for family planning services**
- **$1,800 per child per school year for in-school child care and related support and educational services for teen parents**
- **$580 per family per year for parent support and education services**

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic support of families started by teenagers and the loss of earnings and tax revenues from a teen that has dropped out of high school are significant expenditures for Georgia.

If we know that families begun by teenagers or by women who are unmarried or undereducated are at greatest risk, then we know that to decrease the costs we bear in supporting these families, we must:

- invest more in preventing teen childbearing,
- put services into place that will enable teen parents to build the skills and resources they need to beat the odds and become self-sufficient,
- take steps to increase high school completion rates;
- ensure that single parents are receiving adequate child support and other income.

While the human value of prevention for families at risk is clear, the economic arguments for the state are equally compelling.

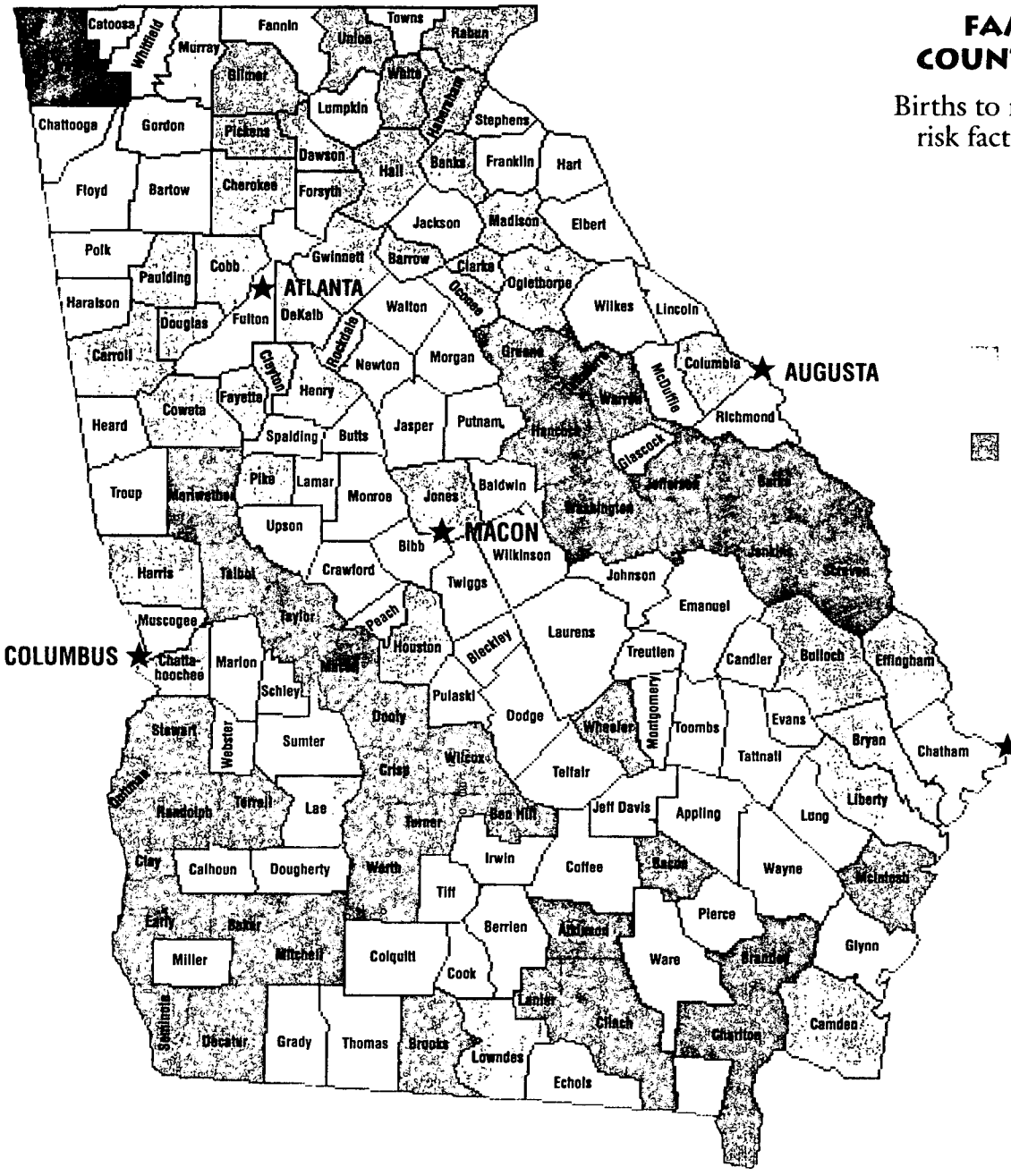
First births to mothers with at least one risk factor,* 1989-1991: number, rate (per 100), and rank by rate

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	RANK
APPLING	184	60.1	91
ATKINSON	92	67.6	130
BACON	112	68.7	136
BAKER	45	71.4	145
BALDWIN	357	55.1	58
BANKS	53	40.2	13
BARROW	314	46.2	20
BARTOW	633	53.4	53
BEN HILL	203	69.0	137
BERRIEN	159	59.8	89
BIBB	1,672	57.5	74
BLECKLEY	99	51.8	41
BRANTLEY.	134	66.3	123
BROOKS	193	71.5	146
BRYAN	167	49.0	30
BULLOCH	328	48.8	28
BURKE	287	70.5	140
BUTTS	168	65.6	119
CALHOUN	36	55.4	80
CAMDEN	186	40.9	15
CANOLER	89	62.2	98
CARROLL	736	50.7	37
CATOOSA	290	63.7	108
CHARLTON	90	72.6	151
CHATHAM	2,319	51.9	42
CHATTAHOOCHEE	80	34.0	7
CHATTOOGA	210	60.5	93
CHEROKEE	586	26.0	3
CLARKE	633	46.7	25
CLAY	49	84.5	158
CLAYTON	1,910	46.6	22
CLINCH	78	66.1	122
COBB	2,711	26.5	4
COFFEE	414	63.6	106
COLQUITT	378	63.7	109
COLUMBIA	437	34.2	8
COOK	152	63.1	104
COWETA	590	50.6	36
CRAWFORD	70	56.0	63
CRISP	255	70.1	139
DADE	96	71.1	144
DAWSON	89	45.9	19
DECATUR	293	67.8	132
DEKALB	5,309	46.8	26
DODGE	218	63.2	105
DOOLY	118	65.9	121
DOUGHERTY	1,244	64.4	113
DOUGLAS	615	41.4	16
EARLY	135	82.8	157
ECHOLS	19	61.3	96
EFFINGHAM	237	49.3	32
ELBERT	201	64.2	112
EMANUEL	227	62.5	99
EVANS	93	57.4	73
FANNIN	104	56.5	69
FAYETTE	209	25.3	2
FLOYD	823	53.2	51
FORSYTH	279	32.9	5
FRANKLIN	177	57.7	75
FULTON	7,500	55.8	61
GILMER	125	46.6	23
GLASCOCK	20	52.6	46
GLYNN	631	55.3	59
GORDON	406	53.1	49
GRADY	206	65.0	116
GREENE	154	70.6	143
GWINNETT	1,848	23.3	1
HABERSHAM	229	51.5	40
HALL	1,025	49.2	31
HANCOCK	121	76.1	155
HARALSON	197	53.2	52
HARRIS	156	51.3	38
HART	154	65.3	117
HEARD	70	53.4	55
HENRY	464	34.9	9
HOUSTON	801	45.3	17
IRWIN	64	59.8	90
JACKSON	275	52.3	44
JASPER	81	57.9	76
JEFF DAVIS	129	58.9	82
JEFFERSON	263	71.7	148
JENKINS	95	66.9	125
JOHNSON	100	60.6	94
JONES	165	45.7	18
LAMAR	170	62.7	102
LANIER	63	71.6	147
LAURENS	434	57.3	72
LEE	139	49.5	33
LIBERTY	562	39.5	12
LINCOLN	72	62.1	97
LONG	73	52.1	43
LOWNDES	725	49.0	29
LUMPKIN	135	53.1	50
MACON	166	70.6	142
MADISON	198	46.7	24
MARION	68	64.2	111
MCDUFFIE	218	59.6	86
MCINTOSH	124	71.7	149
MERIWETHER	258	68.6	134
MILLER	51	56.0	64
MITCHELL	295	72.3	150
MONROE	183	52.9	48
MONTGOMERY	69	58.5	79
MORGAN	150	59.5	85
MURRAY	329	57.1	71
MUSCOGEE	2,200	54.8	57
NEWTON	570	58.6	80
OCONEE	99	33.9	6
OGLETHORPE	90	46.4	21
PAULDING	386	36.4	10
PEACH	271	62.6	101
PICKENS	113	51.4	39
PIERCE	131	53.7	56
PIKE	97	49.5	34
POLK	384	59.3	83
PULASKI	74	59.7	88
PUTNAM	126	58.1	77
QUITMAN	24	70.6	141
RABUN	94	50.5	35
RANDOLPH	105	75.0	154
RICHMOND	2,330	56.2	66
ROCKDALE	399	40.6	14
SCHLEY	31	59.6	87
SCREVEN	180	66.9	126
SEMINOLE	101	73.2	152
SPALDING	700	60.2	92
STEPHENS	203	52.5	45
STEWART	72	76.6	156
SUMTER	384	64.9	115
TALBOT	89	66.4	124
TALIAFERRO	15	88.2	159
TATTNALL	184	62.6	100
TAYLOR	111	67.7	131
TELFAIR	127	64.1	110
TERRELL	154	73.3	153
THOMAS	453	63.6	107
TIFT	423	60.9	95
TOOMBS	320	64.5	114
TOWNS	38	55.9	62
TREUTLEN	78	65.5	118
TROUP	523	56.2	65
TURNER	113	67.3	129
TWIGGS	100	58.1	78
UNION	69	47.3	27
UPSON	273	59.5	84
WALKER	552	69.2	138
WALTON	429	52.6	47
WARE	405	63.0	103
WARREN	75	67.0	127
WASHINGTON	232	65.7	120
WAYNE	241	58.8	61
WEBSTER	18	56.3	87
WHEELER	59	67.0	128
WHITE	87	38.3	11
WHITFIELD	867	57.0	70
WILCOX	79	68.7	135
WILKES	89	56.3	68
WILKINSON	110	53.4	54
WORTH	269	67.9	133
GEORGIA	63,492	49.3	

* Risk factors are age (under 20), education (not a high school graduate), and marital status (not married)

FAMILIES AT RISK: COUNTY COMPARISONS

Births to mothers with at least one risk factor per 100, 1989–1991



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PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

CHILDREN

FOCUS AND SCOPE

Programs that help children and families in Georgia are as diverse as they are numerous. Through the public, private, non-profit and religious sectors, many families find health care, economic assistance, training and education, as well as help and intervention in times of trouble. These programs are supported by public funds, foundations, private institutions and by individual Georgia citizens. They reach into the farthest corners of the state.

It is beyond the scope of this book to provide a comprehensive inventory of the array of service programs available in Georgia today. But as a starting point, an understanding of the largest public programs provides an important context for evaluating how children and families in Georgia are faring.

The public programs section of the ***1993 Kids Count Factbook*** provides a snapshot of some of the most often-utilized services in five areas: health, income, nutrition, child protection and family preservation and early care and education. This section seeks to answer the questions: What services are provided? Who is eligible to receive services? How many of those eligible are being served? How are the programs administered and funded? How much does it cost to provide the service?

HEALTH

Physical and emotional health are critical to a family's stability and success in raising children. From prenatal care to the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents, health care services decrease the number of families who are at risk for a crisis.

Many low income Georgians rely on the state's publicly-funded health care delivery system for their medical needs. This system provides a range of services.

Medicaid is a publicly-funded health insurance plan for low income citizens. State and federal dollars support the Medicaid program and eligibility for coverage is based on a family's income as a percent of the federal poverty level.

- Pregnant women and their children under age 1 are eligible at or below 185% of the federal poverty level ($21,996 for a family of

three). Children ages 1–6 are eligible at or below 133% of the federal poverty level ($15,814 for a family of three), and children ages 6–20 are eligible at or below 100% of the federal poverty level ($11,890 for a family of three).

- In 1992, 848,029 Georgians received health care services through Medicaid.
- In state fiscal year 1993, 55% of Medicaid recipients were children under age 21 and their care accounted for 28% of Medicaid expenditures.
- In state fiscal year 1993, federal and state expenditures for the Medicaid program in Georgia were $2.8 billion.

Perinatal Case Management services offer low-income pregnant and postpartum women support and guidance in receiving critical health, social and educational services. Perinatal case management services are funded through Medicaid.

- In state fiscal year 1993, 32,658 Georgia women received perinatal case management services.
- In state fiscal year 1993, the perinatal case management program cost $2.9 million.

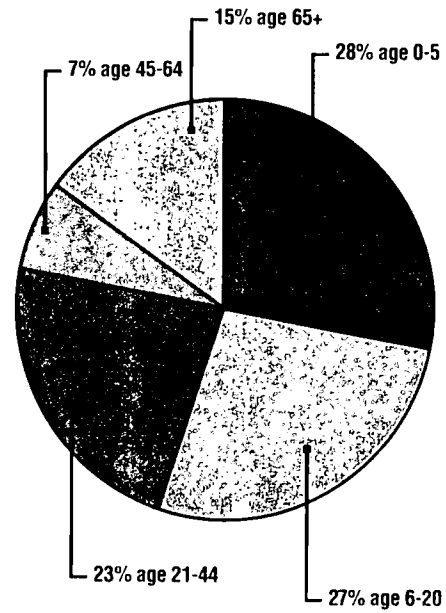
EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) services are available to all children under age 21 who are covered by Medicaid. These services include immunizations, comprehensive physical examinations, preventive dental services, vision and hearing services and health education.

- In state fiscal year 1992, 132,614 children in Georgia received some EPSDT services, 23% of those who are eligible.

Family Planning services include health and sexuality counseling and education, social services referrals, physical examinations and pregnancy testing. A combination of state and federal dollars fund Georgia's family planning program.

- In state fiscal year 1992, Georgia's family planning program served 63% of the estimated 301,150 women at or below 150% of the federal poverty level who are in need of these services.

Medicaid Recipients, by age, Georgia, 1992*



*Source: Annual Report, 1992. Georgia Department of Medical Assistance.

- In state fiscal year 1994, $8.4 million was appropriated for family planning programs in Georgia, close to half of which were federal funds.

Mental Health services for children under age 18 are provided in either residential, academic or juvenile settings, as well as in out-patient clinics. Critical out-patient mental health treatment programs have been identified as: intensive in-home crisis intervention, afternoon and weekend day treatment, therapeutic foster care, respite care and therapeutic group homes.

- In state fiscal year 1993, 23,951 children were served in public mental health programs.
- 10 of Georgia's 27 mental health service areas have funding for half of the needed basic mental health services.
- In 16 of 27 service areas, only out-patient counseling is available.

Substance Abuse services for children under age 18 are also provided in either residential or out-patient settings. Out-patient services include intensive day treatment, family treatment and student assistance programs which are based in schools. Public substance abuse services also include a specialized treatment program for pregnant women and their children.

- In state fiscal year 1993, 1,041 children received public substance abuse services.
- Georgia's 135 residential beds meet 75% of the estimated needed capacity for residential substance abuse services for adolescents.
- 9 of the 27 substance abuse service areas have funding for out-patient treatment for teens.
- Two out of Georgia's 19 health districts have comprehensive treatment programs for substance abusing pregnant women.

INCOME

A stable and sufficient income is a key component of a families ability to succeed. High levels of family stress and a range of negative outcomes for children are associated with poverty. Often, impoverished families are unable to improve their situations independently. Some require assistance from the state and federal government in order to survive, while others can take advantage of programs that may help them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

The Earned Income Credit provides additional income each year to working families who are earning low or moderate wages. The Earned Income Credit is funded in full by the federal government.

- In 1993, 496,000 Georgia families utilized the Earned Income Credit, each receiving an average of $990.

- A recent federal expansion of this program means that an estimated 526,000 Georgia families will receive an average of $1,595 each in 1994.

Child Support Recovery services are provided free of charge or for a $1 fee to help Georgia's single parents establish paternity, obtain a court-order for payment of child support and collect the payment. These services are funded by state and federal dollars.

- In state fiscal year 1993, the Office of Child Support Recovery collected $223 million dollars.
- About 44% of non-custodial parents pay at least some of their child support.

AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) provides financial aid and social services to very poor families with children under age 18 through a combination of state and federal funding. Eligibility for AFDC is based on income, and while most of the eligible families are headed by a single parent, two-parent families in which the principle wage earner is unemployed also have limited eligibility.

- In state fiscal year 1993, 275,354 children received AFDC benefits, 69% of all recipients in Georgia.
- A family of three is eligible for AFDC if its income is below $424 each month (the amount Georgia has determined is adequate to support a family).
- The maximum AFDC benefit paid by the state to a family of three is $280 per month–a total of $3,360 per year. The monthly amount has increased $17 since 1988.

PEACH (Positive Employment and Community Help) services aim to move AFDC recipients into the workforce. They include on-the-job training, community work experience, vocational evaluation, job readiness training, GED preparation and support services for post-secondary education. PEACH is funded by state and federal dollars.

- In state fiscal year 1993, PEACH served 25,632 people and was available in 138 of Georgia's 159 counties.
- In July 1993, the waiting list for PEACH services was 45,973.

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EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT IN GEORGIA: 1993-1994*

	INCOME CUT-OFF	MAXIMUM CREDIT FOR FAMILY	NUMBER OF FAMILIES RECEIVING CREDIT	AVERAGE CREDIT RECEIVED
1993	$23,050	$2,364	496,000	$990
1994	$23,760	$2,528 (Est.)	526,000	$1,595
% change	3.4	6.9	6.0	61

*Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: Washington, D.C., 1993.

NUTRITION

A balanced and adequate diet is critical to a child's physical, emotional and intellectual growth; it is equally critical to a parent's ability to function at work and in the home. Children and families who are hungry are at great risk. Through federally-funded programs, low-income families in Georgia have access to meals as well as to assistance in paying for groceries.

WIC (The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children) provides vouchers for approved foods as well as nutritional education to low-income pregnant and postpartum women and their infants and low income children under age five. In addition to income, eligibility for WIC is based on nutritional risk factors such as birthweight or anemia. WIC is federally-funded.

- In federal fiscal year 1992, 190,106 people participated in the WIC program in Georgia.
- It is estimated that WIC is reaching approximately 62% of those eligible.

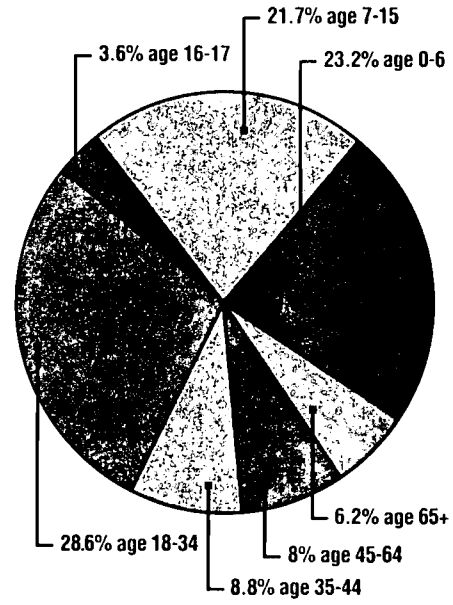
School and Child Care Food Programs provide meals to children who are out of the home during the day. Federal funds support school lunch and breakfast programs in public schools and provide assistance with meals for children in state-licensed child care centers and family and groups day care homes. Family income level determines whether a child receives free meals or pays a small fee.

- 38% of Georgia's school children are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.
- While all public schools in Georgia serve lunch, in 1992, 71% served breakfast.

Food Stamps are federally funded vouchers used to increase the food purchasing power of low-income Georgians so they can maintain a subsistence diet. Eligibility for food stamps is based on income, and benefit levels are determined by a low-cost food plan determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- In state fiscal year 1992, the average monthly number of Food Stamp recipients in Georgia was 718,960, 48% of those recipients were children under age 18.

Food Stamp Recipients, by age, Georgia, 1992*



*Source: Descriptive Data SFY92. Statistics Unit, Department of Human Resources

CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY PRESERVATION

When a family is in crisis, the children often suffer physical or emotional abuse and neglect. The state has an obligation to protect children from parents, caretakers or others who have hurt them. It has also developed programs to intervene with families in crisis. These programs are aimed at preventing abuse and neglect from occurring and avoiding the separation of families.

Child Protective Services (CPS) is the state program charged with investigating reports of child abuse and neglect. CPS workers are trained to identify and intervene in these situations and are mandated to make "reasonable efforts" to maintain children safely in their own homes.

- In 1992, 74,960 reports of child abuse and neglect were received by CPS. Of these, 19,368 were screened out or referred to other agencies for assistance, and the remaining were investigated.

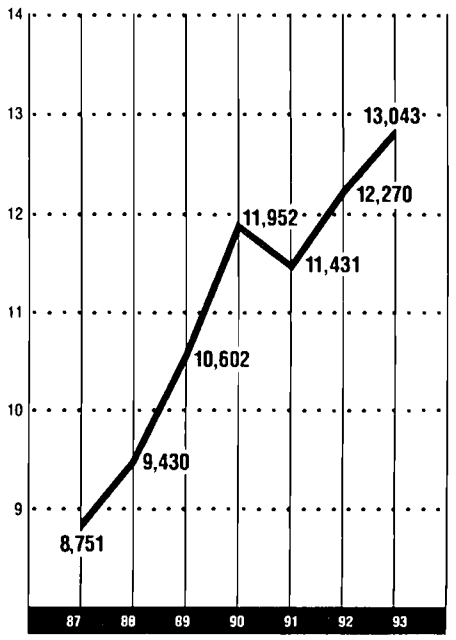
Foster Care provides homes for children whose families are unable to care for them, most often as a result of abuse or neglect. Foster care settings are either family or group homes or institutions, and children may stay for a few days or a few years. A growing number of children in foster care have serious emotional and behavioral or health problems as a result of a parents alcohol or drug addiction.

- In state fiscal year 1993, 13,043 Georgia children were living in foster care.
- Foster care expenditures in that year were $37,942,747.

The PUP Program (Prevention of Unnecessary Placement) provides supportive services to families whose children are at risk of being removed from the home or who are returning from a foster care placement. PUP services include emergency financial assistance for rent, food and clothing, emergency child care care, counseling, parent skills training, help with transportation and assistance in obtaining medical services.

- In state fiscal year 1993, 2,400 families including 5,500 children received PUP services.

Number of Children in Foster Care, Georgia, 1987–1993*



*Source: Division of Family and Children Services, Georgia Department of Human Resources

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- PUP expenditures for that year were $3,997,435.

Homestead is an intensive, in-home intervention program for families whose children are at risk of a foster care placement. Homestead staff provide families with crisis-oriented counseling and support for a period of 90 days.

- 29 Georgia counties have a Homestead program.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Quality child care and early education programs are vital for children and families. Studies show that children who attend preschool programs may be more likely to excel in school and lead productive adult lives. For parents, access to these programs means they can go to work and keep their families financially stable. Both state and federal funds support Georgia's largest early education programs as well as provide some parents with help in financing child care.

Head Start is a federally-funded program providing developmental and educational services to children ages birth to five and their families. At least 90% of Head Start participants must come from families living below the federal poverty level ($11,890 for a family of three).

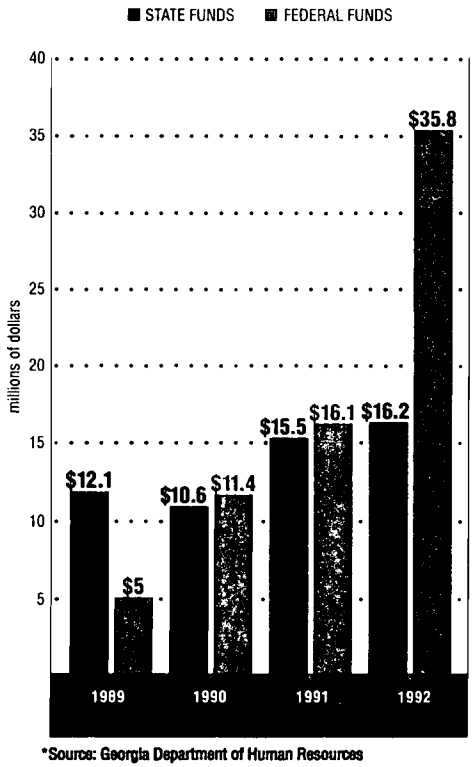
- In federal fiscal year 1992, 16,080 pre-school children were enrolled in Head Start.
- In that year, programs in Georgia received over $52 million in federal funds to operate Head Start.

The Pre-kindergarten Program is funded by the Georgia lottery and provides education and support services to economically disadvantaged four-year-olds and their families. Eligibility for this program is limited to children who aren't in another early education program and receive Medicaid, Food Stamps, WIC, public housing or who have been specifically referred.

- In state fiscal year 1994, about 10,000 four-year-olds and their families participated in the Pre-kindergarten program.
- Lottery proceeds of $37.1 million are being used to fund the program for state fiscal year 1994.

Early Intervention services are provided to infants and

Child Care Funding, Georgia, 1989–1992*



*Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

toddlers under age three who have been identified as having significant developmental delays or an established condition that would predict these delays. These services include a multi-disciplinary evaluation and assessment, service coordination, and individualized physical, occupational, and speech therapies. Early intervention services are paid for with state and federal funds.

- The 1992 daily count showed that 2,078 infants and toddlers received early intervention services.
- It is estimated that 4,572 Georgia children are in need of these services.

Special Education services are provided through local school systems to children who have documented disabilities. School-age children with disabilities can receive a free public education that is based on their individual needs.

- The 1992 daily count showed that 9,957 three- and four-year-old students were identified as having disabilities.
- The 1992 daily count showed that 108,520 Georgia school children (ages 5–21) received special education services.

Child Care Subsidies are available to some of Georgia's low income parents so they can complete education or job training programs or maintain their employment. Much of the money for subsidized child care in Georgia comes from the federal government. Some of it is used to improve the quality of child care programs and increase the supply.

- In state fiscal year 1993, 19,141 families received subsidies for child care.
- The waiting list for subsidized care in Georgia has 18,328 families on it.

INDICATOR TREND DATA, GEORGIA TOTALS, BY YEAR AND RACE

		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Low Birthweight Infants														
TOTAL	Number of low birthweight infants	7,997	7,662	7,604	7,519	7,555	7,774	7,969	8,455	8,884	9,222	9,768	9,481	
	Number of births	92,194	89,805	90,352	90,068	92,258	96,291	98,175	102,486	105,853	110,235	112,573	110,271	
	Rate (per 100)	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.7	8.6	
WHITE	Number of low birthweight infants	3,743	3,452	3,476	3,490	3,541	3,834	3,809	4,094	4,082	4,054	4,355	4,186	
	Number of births	58,076	56,746	57,471	57,862	59,644	62,452	63,474	66,201	67,191	69,319	70,496	68,242	
	Rate (per 100)	6.4	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.1	5.8	6.2	6.1	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of low birthweight infants	4,203	4,139	4,076	3,958	3,947	3,869	4,093	4,281	4,698	5,087	5,291	5,171	
	Number of births	33,288	32,192	31,963	31,258	31,651	32,769	33,547	34,903	37,167	39,378	40,467	40,248	
	Rate (per 100)	12.6	12.9	12.8	12.7	12.5	11.8	12.2	12.3	12.6	12.9	13.1	12.8	
Infant Deaths														
TOTAL	Number of deaths	1,456	1,351	1,205	1,232	1,241	1,222	1,225	1,306	1,327	1,357	1,391	1,252	
	Number of births	92,194	89,805	90,352	90,068	92,258	96,291	98,175	102,486	105,853	110,235	112,573	110,271	
	Rate (per 1,000)	15.8	15.0	13.3	13.7	13.5	12.7	12.5	12.7	12.5	12.3	12.4	11.4	
WHITE	Number of deaths	662	614	553	575	605	586	590	678	606	624	633	506	
	Number of births	58,076	56,746	57,471	57,862	59,644	62,452	63,474	66,201	67,191	69,319	70,496	68,242	
	Rate (per 1,000)	11.4	10.8	9.6	9.9	10.1	9.4	9.3	10.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	7.4	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of deaths	789	733	647	650	629	632	627	620	715	722	744	737	
	Number of births	33,288	32,192	31,963	31,258	31,651	32,769	33,547	34,903	37,167	39,378	40,467	40,248	
	Rate (per 1,000)	23.7	22.8	20.2	20.8	19.9	19.3	18.7	17.8	19.2	18.3	18.4	18.3	
Child Deaths														
TOTAL	Number of deaths	570	548	495	497	479	478	528	530	518	499	486	492	
	Population 1-14	1,242,167	1,253,794	1,265,421	1,277,049	1,288,676	1,300,303	1,311,930	1,323,557	1,335,185	1,346,812	1,358,439	1,370,066	
	Rate (per 100,000)	45.9	43.7	39.1	38.9	37.2	36.8	40.2	40.0	38.8	37.1	35.8	35.9	
WHITE	Number of deaths	343	304	304	289	270	289	304	306	289	268	278	281	
	Population 1-14	823,257	828,014	832,771	837,528	842,285	847,043	851,800	856,557	861,314	866,071	870,828	875,585	
	Rate (per 100,000)	41.7	36.7	36.5	34.5	32.1	34.1	35.7	35.7	33.6	30.9	31.9	32.1	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of deaths	223	243	186	206	206	184	216	222	224	225	202	210	
	Population 1-14	405,943	411,013	416,083	421,153	426,223	431,293	436,362	441,432	446,502	451,572	456,642	461,712	
	Rate (per 100,000)	54.9	59.1	44.7	48.9	48.3	42.7	49.5	50.3	50.2	49.8	44.2	45.5	
Teen Violent Deaths														
TOTAL	Number of violent deaths	454	440	350	324	377	361	376	400	427	417	371	373	
	Population 15-19	530,773	527,411	524,049	520,687	517,325	513,963	510,600	507,238	503,876	500,514	497,152	493,790	
	Rate (per 100,000)	85.5	83.4	66.8	62.2	72.9	70.2	73.6	78.9	84.7	83.3	74.6	75.5	
WHITE	Number of violent deaths	372	334	263	256	297	290	287	305	308	297	262	233	
	Population 15-19	357,566	354,510	351,454	348,398	345,342	342,286	339,230	336,174	333,118	330,062	327,006	323,950	
	Rate (per 100,000)	104.0	94.2	74.8	73.5	86.0	84.7	84.6	90.7	92.5	90.0	80.1	71.9	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of violent deaths	79	105	85	67	80	70	88	95	116	118	106	139	
	Population 15-19	167,724	166,779	165,835	164,890	163,945	163,001	162,056	161,111	160,166	159,222	158,277	157,332	
	Rate (per 100,000)	47.1	63.0	51.3	40.6	48.8	42.9	54.3	59.0	72.4	74.1	67.0	88.3	
Births to Teens														
TOTAL	Number of births to teens	8,067	7,371	6,950	6,670	6,550	6,686	6,829	7,056	7,081	7,573	7,390	7,393	
	Female population 15-17	153,038	151,433	149,828	148,223	146,618	145,014	143,409	141,804	140,199	138,594	136,989	135,384	
	Rate (per 1,000)	52.7	48.7	46.4	45.0	44.7	46.1	47.6	49.8	50.5	54.6	53.9	54.6	
WHITE	Number of births to teens	3,393	3,196	2,918	2,941	2,847	3,030	3,090	3,165	3,030	3,213	3,096	3,030	
	Female population 15-17	102,135	100,806	99,476	98,147	96,817	95,488	94,159	92,829	91,500	90,170	88,841	87,512	
	Rate (per 1,000)	33.2	31.7	29.3	30.0	29.4	31.7	32.8	34.1	33.1	35.6	34.8	34.6	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of births to teens	4,657	4,166	4,023	3,719	3,695	3,644	3,717	3,869	4,020	4,321	4,270	4,332	
	Female population 15-17	49,751	49,300	48,850	48,399	47,948	47,498	47,047	46,596	46,145	45,695	45,244	44,793	
	Rate (per 1,000)	93.6	84.5	82.4	76.8	77.1	76.7	79.0	83.0	87.1	94.6	94.4	96.7	
Juveniles Committed to State Custody														
	Number of commitments			2,575	2,400	2,233	2,299	2,469	2,567	2,697	3,109	3,376	3,385	3,509
	Population 10-17			777,054	773,400	769,745	766,090	762,435	758,780	755,126	751,471	747,816	744,161	740,506
	Rate (per 1,000)			3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.7
Youth Completing High School														
	Number graduated	61,621	62,963	64,489	63,293	60,718	58,654	59,082	60,018	61,765	61,937	56,605	60,088	59,723
	Number enrolled	105,055	101,301	102,647	99,726	95,942	93,297	94,227	95,708	100,848	103,534	94,291	97,786	90,309
	Rate (per 100)	58.7	62.2	62.8	63.5	63.3	62.9	62.7	62.7	61.2	59.8	60.0	61.4	66.1
Children Retained in Kindergarten														
	Number retained					3,117	5,128	7,227	8,246	10,285	8,944	6,309	5,353	4,913
	Number enrolled					74,731	80,658	89,847	94,360	98,941	102,600	98,502	98,363	98,757
	Rate (per 100)					4.2	6.4	8.0	8.7	10.4	8.7	6.4	5.4	5.0

In any data collection process there are always concerns about the accuracy and completeness of the data being collected. All data used in the eleven indicators (with the exception of the child poverty data) were collected through routine data collection systems operated by different agencies of the state of Georgia. We do not have estimates of the completeness of reporting to these systems, and we do not know the accuracy of these systems.

The 1993 Factbook provides data for 11 indicators of child well-being, and the data is presented in three different ways: number, rate and rank.

Number: The most direct measure of the scope of a problem is the count of the number of events of concern–e.g., the number of low birthweight infants born during a time period. The tables in each indicator section show the number of events (by race–White, African-American, total–if available) for the designated time period.

Rate: A rate is a measure of the likelihood (probability) of an event–e.g., out of every 100 births, how many will be low birthweight? It is a measure of the severity of a problem. A rate is calculated by dividing the number of events of interest by the number of persons that are "eligible" for the event. The low birthweight rate is the number of low birthweight births (over a given time period) divided by the total number of births during the same period. A rate is useful if you wish to compare the severity of the problem in one area (your county) with another area (the state) or some standard (the year 2000 objectives). However, if you are planning an intervention and estimating the required resources, you will need the actual numbers.

Rank: In the 1993 Factbook we have used the rate based on the total number of events for all races to assign ranks to the individual counties. We have used the ranks to produce the maps for each indicator. The maps provide a way of looking for patterns of problem severity among the counties. The maps highlight the 40 counties with the highest and lowest rates. With 159 counties in Georgia, 40 is approximately 25% (one quartile). Thus, the value of the rate at the division between the 40th and 41st counties has no statistical significance. For example, Charlton County has a low birthweight of 7.5% and is ranked 40th; four other counties also have a rate (rounded to the first decimal) of 7.5%, but because their rates are slightly higher, they are not included in the "Top 40."

Race: This year we have chosen to calculate rates for the total population. The total rate is a reasonable measure of the severity of the problem in a given county, and provides a basis for comparison of rates among the counties. A major problem with use of a total rate is that it hides the effect of the racial distributions in Georgia counties. Seven counties in northeast Georgia (Dawson, Fannin, Forsyth, Gilmer, Rabun, Towns and Union) had fewer than 10 African-American children identified in the 1990 census. There are also seven counties in central to southwestern Georgia (Clay, Hancock, Randolph, Stewart, Talbot, Terrell and Warren) that have an African-American population that is greater than 70%. For two of the indicators, low birthweight and children living in poverty, over 60% of the variation in the indicator among counties is explained (statistically) by the percent of child population that is African-American.

The issue of racial confounding is a good reason to consider numbers of events by race using data in this factbook. The actual numbers present a clear picture of the scope of a problem, and they provide a basis for understanding and using rates and county ranks.

County Size: Given the range in county population size in Georgia we defined the 16 counties with more than 20,000 children as "large counties." These 16 counties contain 52.8% of the Georgia child population. The remaining 146 counties were defined as "small counties."

The 16 "large counties" include: Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, Chatham, Richmond, Clayton, Muscogee, Bibb, Dougherty, Cherokee, Houston, Hall, Lowndes, Douglas and Columbia.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS

The total numbers of births of infants weighing less than 5.5 pounds to Georgia residents from 1980 through 1991 were used as the numerators for the rate calculations. The sum of the total live births for 1980 through 1991 were used for the denominators. Births occurring on military bases in Georgia were included in the county totals of the county in which the base is located. The rate was calculated as 100 times the number of low birthweight infants divided by the number of births. The counties were ranked based on their rates.

Cost of special education: The per pupil expenditure rate for 1993 is $4,100 (Personal Communication, October 1993, Beck, M., department of Education) multiplied by 13 years of education = $53,300.

The estimated per pupil cost of Special Education is $5,505 ("Annualized Cost of Services to Taxpayers per Client, 1993," Council on Maternal and Infant Health: Atlanta, Ga.) multiplied by 13 years of education = $71,565. The difference between the cost of 13 years of special education and 13 years of regular education is $18,265 per child.

Cost of WIC: In state fiscal year 1992, 190,106 people were served by the Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC) at a cost of $82 million, for a per

person cost of $431 (Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program, Georgia Department of Human Resources: Atlanta, Ga. October, 1993, unpublished data).

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INFANT DEATHS

Data were compiled from birth and death certificate records from 1980 through 1991, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of Vital Statistics. The total number of deaths for infants less than one year of age over the 12 year period were the numerators. All deaths to infants whose state of residence was listed as Georgia–even if the death occurred outside of Georgia–were included in the count. However deaths in Georgia to non-Georgia residents were not included. All live births to Georgia residents during the same period were used as the denominators. The rates were calculated as 1,000 times the number of infant deaths divided by the number of live births. The counties were ranked based on their rates.

Cost of Perinatal Case Management: 32,658 women were served in state fiscal year 1993, at a cost of $2,874,004, for a per person cost of $88. (Personal Communication. October, 1993, Hadley, C., Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Women's Health Section: Atlanta, Ga.)

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CHILD DEATHS

Data were compiled from death certificate records from 1980 through 1991, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources Office of Vital Statistics. Deaths due to all causes to children ages one through fourteen who were Georgia residents were used for the rate numerators. The denominators were estimated from a linear extrapolation of the 1980 and 1990 census populations. For example, the 1991 child population is calculated as the 1990 population plus one-tenth of the change in population from 1980 to 1990. The number of child-years for the

12 year period is the sum of the child populations for the 12 years. The rate was calculated as 100,000 times the total number of child deaths over the 12 year period divided by the number of child years.

If fewer than 5 child deaths occurred in a county over the 12 year period, no rate was calculated for that county. The counties were ranked based on their rates. Counties without a calculated rate were not ranked. The unranked counties were included in the "Middle Range" of the map of county ranks.

Child safety laws: In the 1993 session of the Georgia General Assembly, two child safety laws were passed: bicycle helmets are now required for riders and passengers age 16 or younger. Safety belts are now required for all children under age 18 traveling in motor vehicles; children under age 3 must be buckled into an approved child safety seat. The new law imposes a maximum penalty of $25 per child for failure to comply.

Cost of background checks: Projected cost for instituting background checks for gun purchases = $1.2 million (Georgia State Senate, Senate Research Office, unpublished data) divided by the Georgia state population in 1990: 6,478,216 (most recent population figures available: "The Challenge of Change: What the 1990 Census Tells Us About Children," September, 1992. Center for the Study of Social Policy: Washington, D.C.) = 19 cents per Georgia citizen for establishing background checks for gun purchases.

Cost of EPSDT: $55.38 for an EPSDT screen includes $11.23 for vision and hearing. (Personal Communication, October, 1993. P. Trahey, Maternal and Child Health Division, Department of Medical Assistance).

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TEEN VIOLENT DEATHS

Data were compiled from death certificate records from 1980 through 1991, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources Office of Vital Statistics. The methodology for calculation of the teen violent death rate was the same as that used for the child death rate. The violent deaths to persons ages 15 to 19 were identified from the International Classification of Diseases (ICD 9) "short codes" and include all deaths with codes from 50 to 62, inclusive. This does include among "violent" deaths, deaths due to medical complications (code 55) and adverse drug reaction (code 55).

If fewer than 5 teen violent deaths were recorded for a given county over the 12 year period, a teen violent death rate was not calculated for that county. The counties were ranked based on their rates. Counties without a calculated rate were not ranked. The unranked counties were included in the "Middle Range" of the map of county ranks.

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ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Data were compiled from confirmed case reports for 1992. All confirmed cases of abuse or neglect during this period were used for the rate numerators. If there were less than five confirmed cases for a given county, a rate was not calculated.

The denominators were estimated from a linear extrapolation of the 1980 and 1990 census population values. The 1992 population under age 18 is calculated as the 1990 population plus two-tenths of the change in population from 1980 to 1990. The rate was calculated as 1,000 times the number of confirmed cases divided by the 1992 population less than age 18. The county ranks were based on their rates. Counties without a calculated rate were not ranked.

Cases of child abuse and neglect are reported to the Child Protective Services (CPS) Department of the Division of Family and Children's Services. Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect are investigated by CPS workers to determine the veracity of the report.

Of several reporting systems maintained by CPS, the child abuse registry of all confirmed cases was chosen because it used consistent definitions for the time period of the study. The file used to produce the data is updated as required (the year is not closed). The child abuse data in this report was produced on 10/04/93.

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BIRTHS TO TEENS

The numerators for the teen birth rate calculations are the sum over the 12 year period of all births to girls whose age at delivery was less than 18. (Age at delivery is calculated from birth certificate data– the difference between the mother's date of birth and the birth date for the infant.) The denominators are the sum of the 15 to 17 year old female populations for the 12 year period. The population values were estimated from a linear extrapolation of the 1980 and 1990 census population values. The rate is calculated as 1,000 times the sum of the teen births over the 12 year period, divided by the sum of the populations. The counties are ranked based on their rates.

Lost earnings due to school dropouts: A high school graduate earns an average $12,824 per year; a non-high school graduate earns an average of $5,904, a difference of $7,020 in earnings lost per year. (Personal Communication, 1993, Shapiro, P., Office of Planning and Budget).

Cost per child of a teenage parent, over 20 years: This figure is based on national estimates. "Estimates of costs are based on a percentage of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicaid and Food Stamp payments that are made in a given year to families that began with a teen birth. The figure, which includes direct payments and administrative costs, is actually a conservative estimate. It does not include other public costs commonly associated with family support such as job training, housing subsidies, the Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC), subsidized school meals, special education, foster care or day care." ("Teenage Pregnancy and Too-Early Childbearing: Public Costs, Personal Consequences," [1992]. The Center for Population Options: Washington, D.C.). All births to teens are included in this calculation, whether or not they receive public assistance. Since only one out of three teens does receive such help (national average), the actual amount going to a family receiving public assistance after a teen birth is approximately three times the amount noted ("Teen Childbearing: Public Costs in Georgia, 1988," [1991]. Georgia Cooperative Extension Services: Consumer and Family Resources: Athens, Ga.).

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JUVENILES COMMITTED TO STATE CUSTODY

The Department of Children and Youth Services provided data on the number of youth ages 10 through 17 who were placed by court order in state custody. The rate numerators are the sum of all youth committed from 1982 through 1992. The youth populations were estimated by a linear extrapolation from the 1980 and 1990 youth populations. The denominators are the sum of the youth populations for the 11 year period. The custody rates are calculated as 1,000 times the total number of youth placed in custody during this period, divided by the sum of the youth populations for the period. If there were less than 5 commitments in a given county during this 11 year period, no rate was calculated. The counties were ranked based on their rates. Counties without a calculated rate were not ranked.

Average daily cost and attendance in Georgia's juvenile programs in state fiscal year 1992: State Youth Development Centers: 725 enrolled x $102 each per day = $73,950; Regional Youth Development Centers: 821 enrollees x $56 each per day = $45,976; Court Services: 11,118 x $3 each per day = $33,354; Contract Homes: 293 enrollees x $21 each per day = $6,153; Community Treatment Centers: 523 enrollees x $13 each per day = $6,799; Group Homes: 23 enrollees x $98 each per day = $2,254; Day Centers: 112 enrollees x $22 each per day = $2,464; Intensive Supervision: 112 enrollees x $15 each per day = $1,680; Community Detention: 119 enrollees x $23 each per day = $2,737; Wilderness Programs: 41 enrollees x $69 each per day = $2,829; Special Residential Services: 86 enrollees x $79 each per day = $6,794. Total per day expenditures = $184,990. "1992 Recidivism Report," (January, 1993). Department of Children and Youth Services, Management Information: Atlanta, Ga.

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YOUTH COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL

Data on high school graduates were obtained from the Department of Education. The numerators are the total number of high school graduates from 1980 through 1992. The denominators are the numbers of students enrolled in the ninth grade three years earlier (1977-1989). The rate is calculated as 100 times the total graduates divided by the total ninth grade enrollment. If there was no public high school or if the public high school closed in a county during this period, no rate was calculated for that county. All city school systems were added in with the county in which they are located. The county ranks are based on their rates. Counties without a calculated rate were not ranked. This number is not adjusted for in- and out-migration and does not include students who receive GED certificates.

Lost earnings due to school dropouts: A high school graduate earns an average $12,824 per year; a non-high school

graduate earns an average of $5,904, a difference of $7,020 in earnings lost per year. (Personal Communication, [1993]. Shapiro, P., State of Georgia Office of Planning and Budget).

Cost per child of a teenage parent, over 20 years: This figure is based on national estimates. "Estimates of costs are based on a percentage of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicaid and Food Stamp payments that are made in a given year to families that began with a teen birth. The figure, which includes direct payments and administrative costs, is actually a conservative estimate. It does not include other public costs commonly associated with family support such as job training, housing subsidies, the Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC), subsidized school meals, special education, foster care or day care." ("Teenage Pregnancy and Too-Early Childbearing: Public Costs, Personal Consequences," [1992]. The Center for Population Options: Washington, D.C.).

"All births to teens are included in this calculation, whether or not they receive public assistance. Since only one out of three teens does receive such help (national average), the actual amount going to a family receiving public assistance after a teen birth is approximately three times the amount noted." ("Teen Childbearing: Public Costs in Georgia, 1988," [1991]. Georgia Cooperative Extension Services: Consumer and Family Resources: Athens, Ga.).

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CHILDREN IN POVERTY

The counts of children (less than 18 years of age) living in poverty were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census table P119 (STF 3A, 1990). The table provides counts by age group (less than 5, 5, and 6 through 17). The "5" and "6 through 17" age categories were added to provide the "5 through 17" category. The percent of children in poverty is 100 times the number living in poverty divided by the total number of children.

Cost of PEACH: In state fiscal year 1992, there were 16,751 PEACH participants at a total cost of $5,408,268, for a per participant cost of $323. ("Descriptive Data, State Fiscal Year 1992," Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Family and Children's Services, Administrative Support Unit: Atlanta, Ga.)

Cost of subsidized child care: In state fiscal year 1992, (Georgia Department of Human Resources: Atlanta, Ga., unpublished data.)

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CHILDREN RETAINED IN KINDERGARTEN

Data on children retained in kindergarten were obtained from the Department of Education. The sums of all children retained in kindergarten from 1984 through 1992 were used as the numerator. The sums of all kindergarten enrollments during the same time period were used as the denominators. The rates were calculated as 100 times the retentions divided by the enrollments. The county ranks are based on their rates. Race-specific data are not available. These data do not reflect special programs found in some Georgia school districts that place children who have completed kindergarten in transitional classroom.

Cost of EPSDT: $55.38 for a screen includes $11.23 for vision and hearing. (Personal Communication, October, 1993. P. Trahey, Maternal and Child Health Division).

Cost of Pre-kindergarten Program: 10,000 children served, at an overall cost of $37 million = $3,700 per child. (Personal Communication, October, 1993, Collins, E., Georgia Department of Education, Division of Student Support, Early Childhood Program).

Cost of Head Start: In Federal fiscal year 1992, 16,080 children were enrolled in Head Start at a cost of $52,224,673, for a per person cost of $3,248. ("Project Head Start: Statistical Factsheet," January, 1993. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families: Washington, D.C.).

Standards for classroom ratios: The National Association for the Education of Young Children recommends a teacher-to-pupil ratio of 1:10-12 for kindergarten-age children ("Recommended Staff-Child Ratios Within Group Size," [1993], National Association for the Education of Young Children: Washington, D.C.).

States included in the southern region: As identified by the Southern Regional Education Board: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. States for which rates were available and their rates for the 1991–92 school year are Florida–3.9%, Georgia–5%, Maryland–.6%, Mississsippi–3.7%, North Carolina–2.9%, Virginia–3.1% and West Virginia–5.5%.

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FAMILIES AT RISK

Data on first births to mothers with one or more of three possible risk factors was obtained from birth certificate records. Only White women and African-American women were considered. The three risk factors considered were age (less than 20 years old), education (not a high school graduate), and marital status (unmarried). The numerators were calculated as the sums of all first births from 1989 through 1991 to women who had one or more of these three risk factors.

The denominators were calculated as the sums of all first births to White or African-American women during the three year period. The rates were obtained by multiplying 100 times the sums of first births with risk factors during the three year period, divided by all first births during the same three year period. The counties were ranked based on their rates.

Lost earnings due to school dropouts: A high school graduate earns an average $12,824 per year; a non-high school graduate earns an average of $5,904, a difference of $7,020 in earnings lost per year. (Personal Communication October, 1993, Shapiro, P., Office of Planning and Budget (1993), unpublished data.)

Cost per child of a teenage parent, over 20 years: This figure is based on national estimates. "Estimates of costs are based on a percentage of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Medicaid and Food Stamp payments that are made in a given year to families that began with a teen birth. The figure, which includes direct payments and administrative costs, is actually a conservative estimate. It does not include other public costs commonly associated with family support such as job training, hous-

ing subsidies, the Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC), subsidized school meals, special education, foster care or day care." ("Teenage Pregnancy and Too-Early Childbearing: Public Costs, Personal Consequences," [1992]. The Center for Population Options: Washington, D.C.).

"All births to teens are included in this calculation, whether or not they receive public assistance. Since only one out of three teens does receive such help (national average), the actual amount going to a family receiving public assistance after a teen birth is approximately three times the amount noted" ("Teen Childbearing: Public Costs in Georgia, 1988," [1991]. Georgia Cooperative Extension Services: Consumer and Family Resources: Athens, Ga.).

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Percent of eligible children receiving EPSDT screening services: The total number of children eligible for EPSDT in federal fiscal year 1992 was 579,198 and the number of children who received screening services that year was 132,614 (Draft: "EPSDT Program Indicators: Fiscal Year 1992," 1993. Medicaid Special Program Initiatives Staff, Medicaid Bureau, Health Care Financing Administration) which is 22.9% of 579,198.

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Maximum AFDC benefit for a family of three: The maximum monthly benefit, $280 (Personal Communication, September, 1993. Myers, L., Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Family and Children Services, Administrative Support Section), multiplied by 12 months = $3,360 maximum per year.

Family of three is eligible if its monthly income is below $424: The level at which Georgia says a family's resources are adequate for survival, and consequently the point above which a family is ineligible for financial assistance (the "Standard of Need") is less than half (46.4%) of the federal poverty level, or $424 per month for a family of three. It is important to note that Georgia does not pay this amount in benefits. Georgia's maximum monthly payment to a family of three is $280 or 30% of the federal poverty level.

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EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Head Start (Administration for Children and Families, Office of the Regional Administrator, Region IV, Atlanta).

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The ***1993 Georgia Kids Count Factbook*** is the effort of many individuals. Georgians for Children Staff members:

Marti Keller, MA
Executive Director

Laurie Dopkins, PhD
Director of Research

Wendy Jacobson, MSW
Director of Policy

Angela Primm, MSSA
Campaign Coordinator

Katie Roche, MSW
Research Associate

Catherine Foster
Policy Associate

Linda Poe
Administrative Assistant

Hank Curry
Volunteer

Emory University School of Public Health, for database development and analytical support:

John Carter, MPH, PhD

Barbara Beavers
Research Assistant

GEORGIA KIDS COUNT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. William Weston III
Advisory Committee Chair
Medical College of Georgia
Board of Directors, Georgians for Children

Bill Dahlberg
President and CEO
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Yvonne DeWright
Host "Latin Atlanta"

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Children and Youth Coordinating Council

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Russ Toal
Commissioner
Department of Medical Assistance

Michael Walters
Vice President of Human Resources
Coca-Cola Company

Sue Whitney
President
League of Women Voters of Georgia

GEORGIA KIDS COUNT INTER-AGENCY DATA TEAM:

Doug Bachtel, PhD (Department of Housing and Consumer Economics, College of Family and Consumer Services, University of Georgia), ***Deb Bauer, MPH*** (Health Consultant), ***Steve Cramer, PhD*** (Performance Assessment and Test Development, Georgia Department of Education), ***Abbott Ferris, PhD*** (Social Indicators Network News, Emory University), ***Elizabeth Kinne*** (Commissioner's Office, Georgia Department of Human Resources), ***Mary Lou Mandell*** (Director, Management Information Services, Georgia Department of Children and Youth Services), ***Billy McCorkle*** (Division of Family and Children's Services, Georgia Department of Human Resources), ***Paul Nolan*** (Division of Family and Children Services, Georgia Department of Human Resources), ***Roger Rochat*** (Division of Public Health, Georgia Department of Human Resouirces), ***Albert Skellie, PhD*** (Director, Program Evaluation Georgia Department of Medical Assistance), ***Martie Sik*** (Policy Analyst, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget), ***Dr. Gene Wallace*** (Department of Education).

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