



Family Resource Agency
of North Georgia
Community Assessment Update
2023-2024



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Head Start Performance Standards-Community Assessment

1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources>

(b) Community wide strategic planning and needs assessment:

(1) To design a program that meets community needs, and builds on strengths and resources, a program must conduct a community assessment at least once over the five-year grant period. The community assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs, and resources and include, at a minimum:

(i) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:

(A) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));

(B) Children in foster care; and

(C) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;

(ii) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;

(iii) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;

(iv) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;

(v) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,

(vi) Strengths of the community.

(2) A program must annually review and update the community assessment to reflect any significant changes including increased availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten- (including an assessment of how the pre-kindergarten available in the community meets the needs of the parents and children served by the program, and whether it is offered for a full school day), rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in community demographics and resources.

(3) A program must consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds that would be supported by other funding sources, including private pay, in addition to the program's eligible funded enrollment. A program must not enroll children from diverse economic backgrounds if it would result in a program serving less than its eligible funded enrollment.

Executive Summary-Overview

A complete in-depth Community Assessment is required by Head Start Performance Standards 1302.11 (b). The Community Assessment is to be completed on a 5 year cycle with updates to the assessment in the off years. The overall purpose of the Community Assessment is to gather data regarding services that are available to children and families in the communities, determine gaps in services, and provide guidance for program planning. Once gathered, the information is then utilized to determine appropriate operation of the Head Start Program and it is included in the grant application (ACYF-IM-HS-00-12).

This is an annual update to the Community Assessment.

Based upon our surveys and statistical data we have determined the following issues to be of the greatest need or have found them to be an on-going concern and have developed plans to address each point:

1. Data shows there is a continuous need for affordable, quality infant/toddler care in the service area. This is supported by the high rate of teen pregnancies in woman who have not graduated high school and 15 to 19 year old woman pregnancy rates in the service area which are higher than Georgia and United States averages.
2. Families have many needs that we will continue to address. Those needs are education/training on employment skills, obtaining housing, financial planning, language barriers, and mental health/medical/dental care support. The Family Service Specialists work closely with families, through individual interactions, Family Progress Meetings, and Parent Cafe's. If families need additional information, referrals are made or partnerships with other community agencies are provided for skill development, training, and classes.

Some of the trainings Family Resource Agency of N. GA provides to families, but are not limited to are:

- Advocacy/Transitioning
- Child Abuse
- First Aid/CPR
- Growth & Development
- Medical/Dental Care and Support
- Mental Health Care and Support
- Parenting Skills
- Personal Growth and Development
- Nutrition
- Safety Practices
- Second Steps Anti-Violence
- Stress Management

Family Resource Agency of North Georgia-Goals and Objectives



Parent, Family, Community Engagement: Family goals are categorized into 7 family outcomes identified by the Parent, Family, Community Engagement Framework:

1. Family Well Being
2. Positive Parent-Child Relationships
3. Families as Lifelong Learners
4. Families as Learners
5. Family Engagement in Transition
6. Family Connections to Peers and Community
7. Families as Advocates and Learners

Successful Family Outcomes support each child's school readiness. Family Service Specialists engage parents in ways that assist them in achieving their goals and outcomes. The program reviews progress of Family Outcomes 3 times per year (fall, spring, winter).

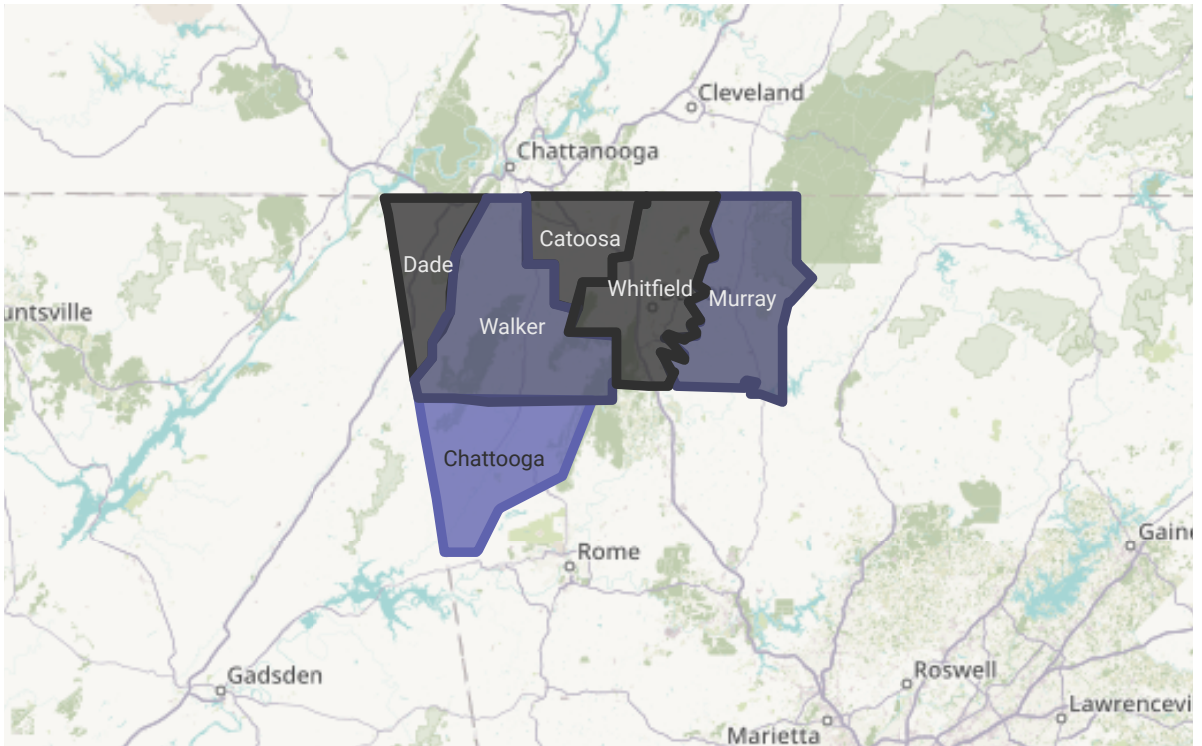


School Readiness: The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, Parent- Family-Community Engagement Framework, Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS), and requirements/expectations of local schools are used to guide our program curriculum implementation, ongoing assessment of children's progress, and preparation for school success. We have adopted the following as our definition for school readiness:

School Readiness means that each child will enter school ready to learn based on early learning experiences received in Head Start/Early Head Start/Pre-K that best promotes each child's success in all areas of development as identified in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

The program reviews progress of Child Outcomes 3 times per year (fall, spring, winter).

Service Area



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia is funded to provide Head Start, Pre-K, Early Head Start, and Childcare Partnership services to 692 children and their families in the six northwest counties of Georgia. These counties are in the extreme northwest corner of the state and are bordered by Tennessee to the north and Alabama to the west. Geographically, the counties cover an area of 1,725.1 square miles of rural and mountainous (Chattahoochee National Forest) terrain. The service counties consist of small towns and villages.

The largest populated city is Dalton, within Whitfield County with a population of 34,366. Fort Oglethorpe in Catoosa and Walker counties is the 2nd largest populated city with a population of 10,537.

The next largest populated cities are Rossville in Walker County with a population of 4,017; Chickamauga in Walker County with 3,553; Ringgold in Catoosa County with 3,474; and Trenton in Dade County with 2,271.

Our six county service area is also home to many undocumented children and families who may live in the metropolitan areas. The counties have a total population of 322,362.

County Characteristics

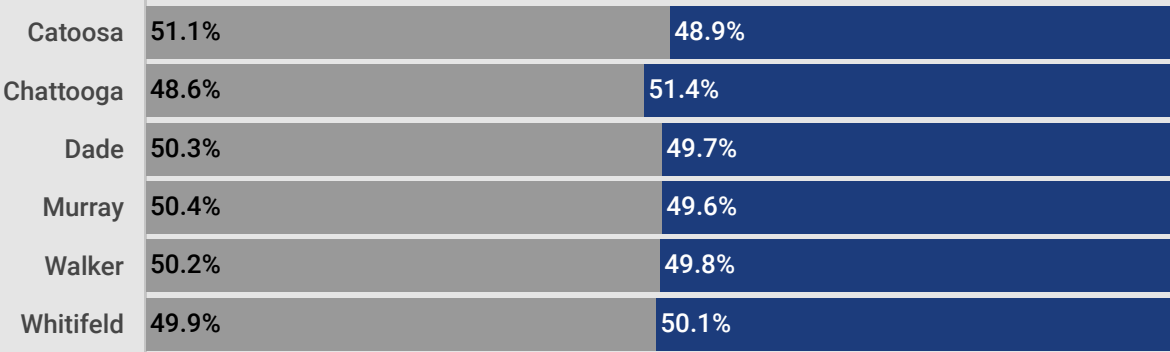
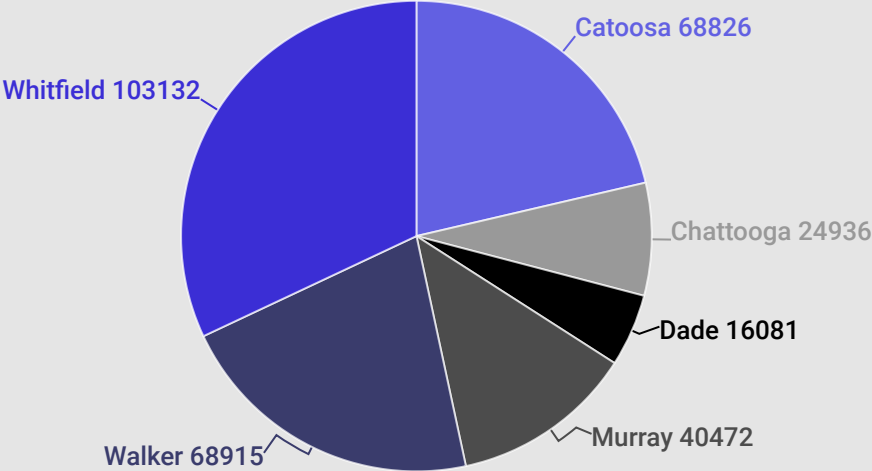
Family Resource Agency of North Georgia is funded to provide Head Start, Pre-K, Early Head Start, and Childcare Partnership services to children and their families in six northwest counties of Georgia. These counties are in the extreme northwest corner of the state and are bordered by Tennessee to the north and Alabama to the west (See Service Area Map-page 6). Geographically, the counties cover an area of 1,725.1 square miles of rural and mountainous (Chattahoochee National Forest) terrain as follows:

County	Square Miles	Distinguishing Characteristics
Catoosa	162.7	Is in the northern sector of the service area and borders the State of Tennessee to the north, Walker County to the south and west, and Whitfield County to the south and east. This county is the smallest geographically, covering only 162.7 square miles. 49% of the land is forest land (Chattahoochie National Forest).
Chattooga	314.0	Located in the southern-most sector of the service area. Borders the state of Alabama to the west, Walker County on the north, and Floyd County to the south. Third largest geographically, covering 314 square miles. 71.7% of the county is forest land (Chattahoochie National Forest).
Dade	174.1	Located in the northwestern most sector of the service area. Borders the state of Alabama to the west, the state of Tennessee to the north, and Walker County on the east. Second smallest geographically, covering only 174.1 square miles. Bordered on both the east and west by mountains-Lookout on the east and Sand on the west. 70.1% of the county is forest land.
Murray	336.9	Second largest of our counties with 336.9 square miles. Located in the northeastern most sector of the service area. Borders the state of Tennessee to the north, Whitfield County to the west, Fannin and Gilmer Counties to the east, and Gordon County to the south. Very mountainous and contains the western edge of the Chattahoochie National Forest-Blue Ridge Mountain Area. 73.9% of the county is forest land.
Walker	446.7	Largest county in our service region with a total of 446.7 square miles. Borders the state of Tennessee to the north, Dade County to the west; Catoosa and Whitfield Counties to the east, and Chattooga County to the south. At the very southeast tip, Walker County also intersects with Floyd and Gordan counties. Characterized by rural and rural mountain areas and encompasses a portion of the Chattahoochie National Forest and is 64.6% forest land.
Whitfield	290.7	Mountainous county that borders the state of Tennessee to the north, Murray County to the east; Catoosa and Walker Counties to the west, and Gordon County to the south. Ranked fourth in size with 290.7 square miles. Chattahoochie National Forest covers much of the county and is 53.4% forest land.

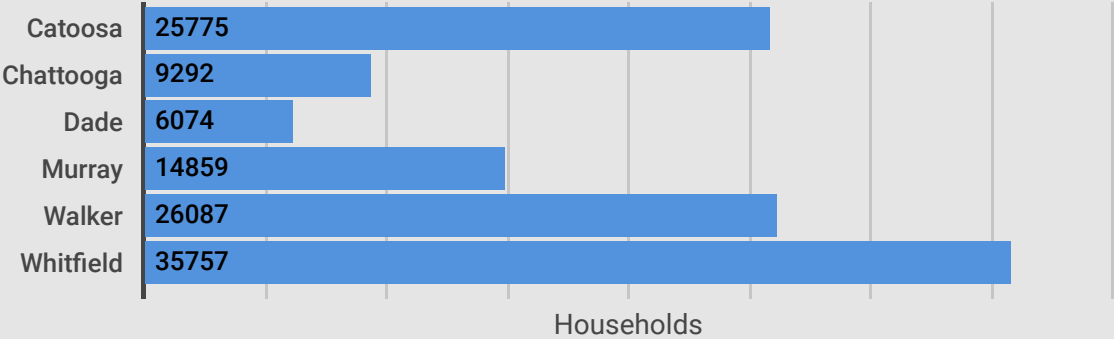
Service Area Governing Authorities

County	Governing Authority
Catoosa	County operates under a 5 member Board of Commissioners that are elected by the voters. Commissioners are elected by specific districts and the chairman is elected at-large. The Board, as the county's governing authority, is responsible for establishing policy for county operations, enacting ordinances and resolutions to promote the county's health, safety, and welfare (www.catoosa.com).
Chattooga	County operates under a Sole Commissioner. The Sole Commissioner is the chief legislative and executive government officer in the county. The Commissioner's office handles roads and revenue, and is available to answer citizen's concerns on a host of county government issues. The commissioner is not chief of all other local government offices. The commissioner works in close collaboration with other governmental agencies and community groups to ensure a safe and prosperous county (chattoogacounty.org).
Dade	County operates under a 5 member Board of Commissioners. The Board has the power to adopt ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to county property, county affairs, and the operation of local government. Constitutional officers also have governing powers; these positions include the: sheriff, tax commissioner, Clerk of the Superior Court, and the Probate Court (dadecounty-ga-gov).
Murray	County is led by a sole commissioner who holds all the legislative and executive powers (and responsibilities) in the county and who oversees a county staff of employees charged with providing services to the the citizens of Murray County (murraycountychamber.org).
Walker	County is led by a Sole Commissioner. The commissioner is responsible for public works, finance, administration, purchasing, fire, rescue, emergency management, planning, economic development, and public health and welfare. The commissioner's staff help carry out these functions (walkercountyga.gov).
Whitfield	The county is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, who are elected from five districts. Candidates must compete in party primaries before advancing to the general election. The commissioners make policies, including setting long-term goals, evaluating outcomes, making financial decisions, adopting ordinances, and making land use decisions. Commissioners play multiple roles in Dalton and Whitfield County government (whitfieldcountyga.com).

Service Area Population



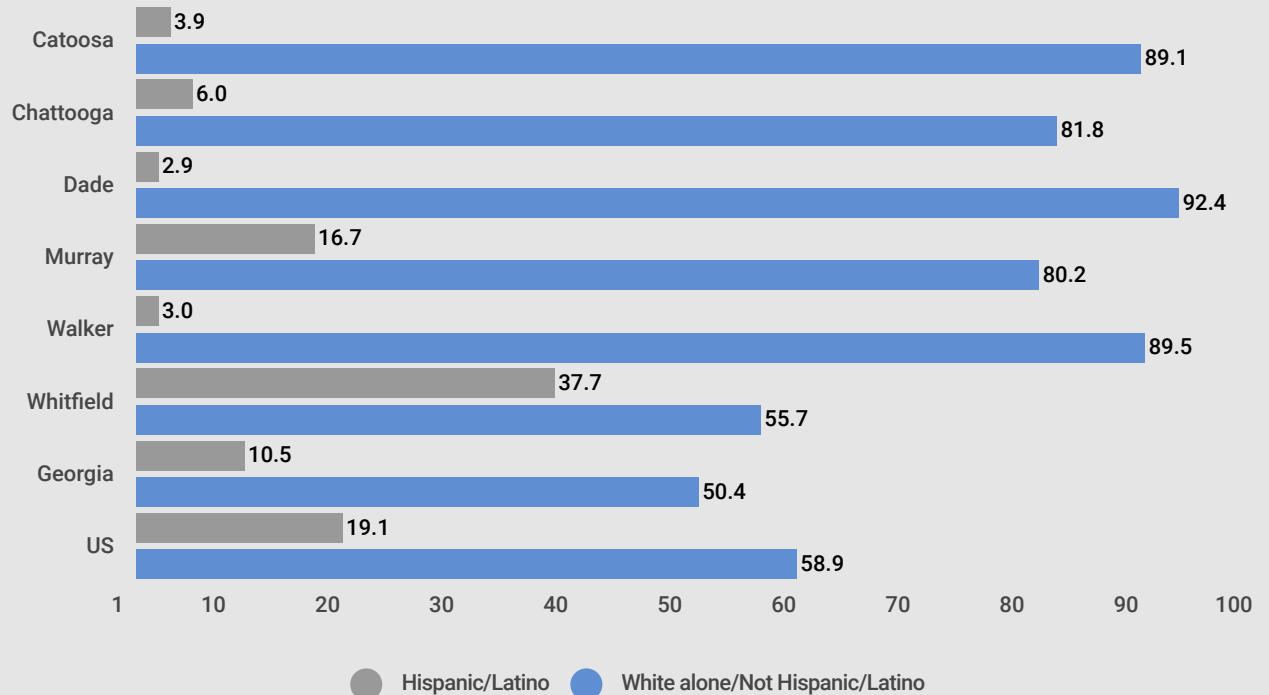
● Females ● Males



Data obtained from US Census Quick Facts Population Estimates July 1, 2022 (accessed Jan.10, 2024)

Race and Hispanic Origin Percentages-Service Area

	White	Black or African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/Other	Two or More Races
Service Area	92.45	4.3	0.81	1.05	0.26	1.88
Catoosa County	92.3	3.4	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.1
Chattooga County	86.4	9.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.2
Dade County	94.8	1.6	0.7	1.0	0.3	1.8
Murray County	98.8	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.3	1.5
Walker County	92	4.8	0.5	0.8	0.1	1.9
Whitfield County	90.4	4.4	1.5	1.7	0.3	1.8
Georgia	59	33.1	0.6	4.8	0.1	2.4
United States	75.5	13.6	1.3	6.3	0.3	3.0



Languages Spoken-Service Area

	People Who Speak a Language other than English at Home	People Who Speak Language Less than Very Well	People Who Speak Spanish at Home
Catoosa	4.7%	1.3%	2.2%
Chattooga	5.7%	3.1%	4.8%
Dade	3.7%	0.8%	2.2%
Murray	11%	4.1%	10.6%
Walker	2.2%	0.5%	1.5%
Whitfield	30%	14.4%	28.6%
Service Area Average	9.55%	4%	8.32%

Of service area residents 9.55% speak a language other than English at home; 4% speak language less than very well; 8.32% speak Spanish at home. In Whitfield County there is a high concentration, 30% that speak a language other than English at home; 14.4% who speak language less than very well; and 28.6% who speak Spanish at home. The public schools in Whitfield County indicate that 50% of school age children attending are Hispanic/Latino.

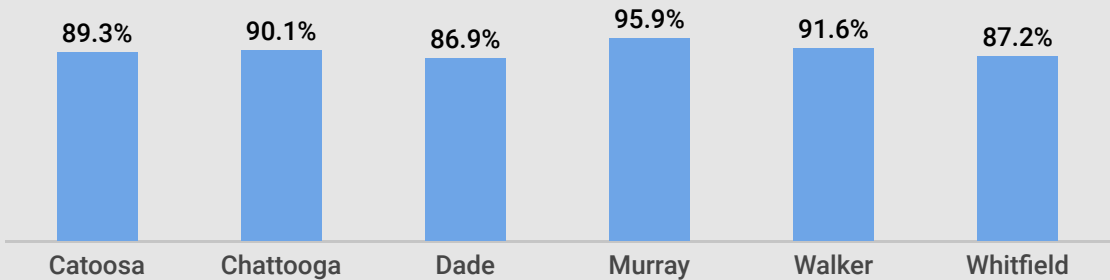


Service Area-Education Obtained

High School

Georgia's rising public high school graduation rate hit a record in 2023, with the State Department of Education stating that 84.4% of seniors graduated on time in Spring 2023. That's up slightly from 84.1% last year, and a record high since Georgia began using calculations that require a student to graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma.

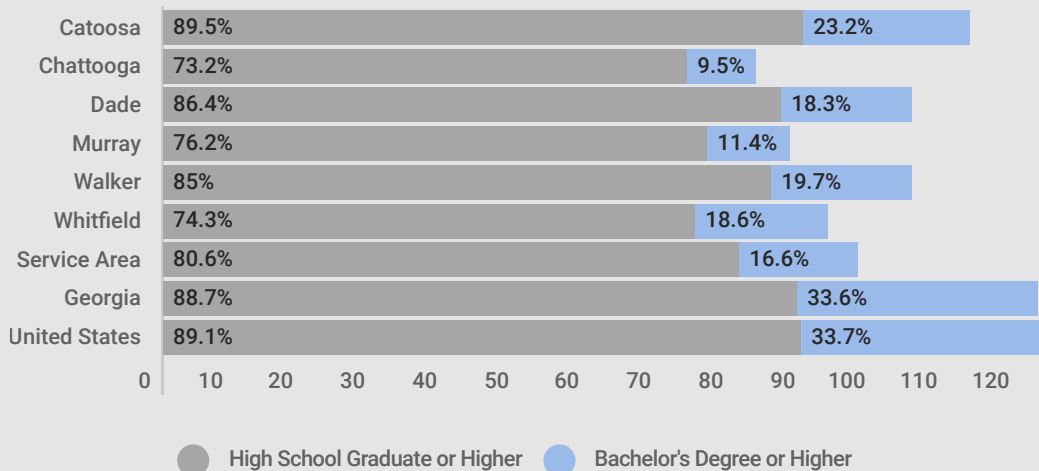
"Every data point represents an actual student and new opportunities that have opened up for their future," state Superintendent Richard Woods said in a statement, "I'm confident we'll continue to see positive results as we invest in academic recovery and building a student-centered educational system."



Data obtained from the Georgia Department of Education, 2023 Graduation Rate Report by county and state-accessed Jan. 2024

College

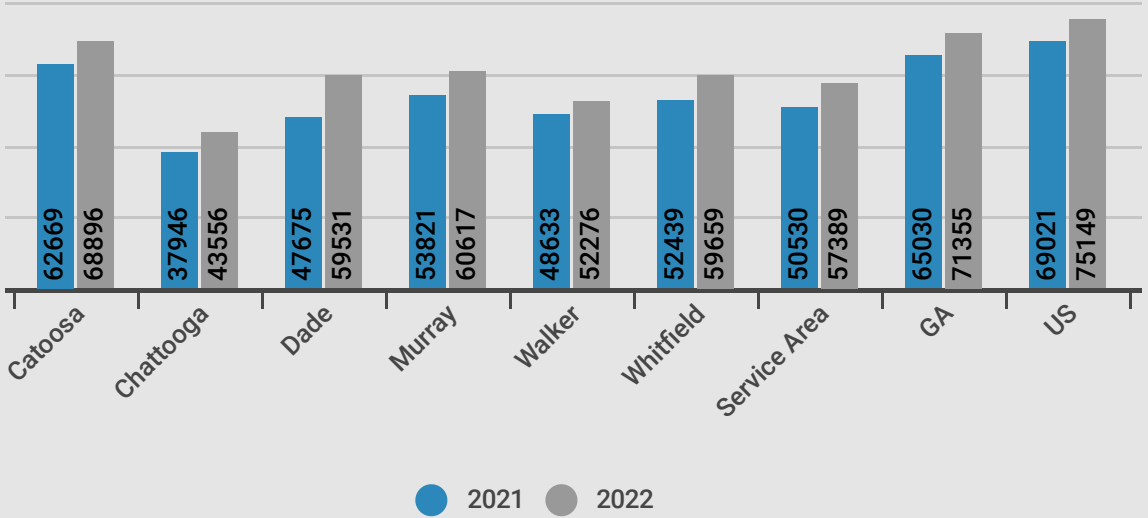
Degree attainment: 33.7% of the population 25+ years and older have a Bachelor's degree or higher. In the FRAGA service area 16.6% have a Bachelor's degree or higher which is lower than the GA average of 33.6% and the national average of 33.7%. Colleges available in the service areas are: Georgia Northwestern Technical College (Catoosa, Walker, Whitfield-Murray counties), Dalton State College (Whitfield County), and Covenant College (Dade County).



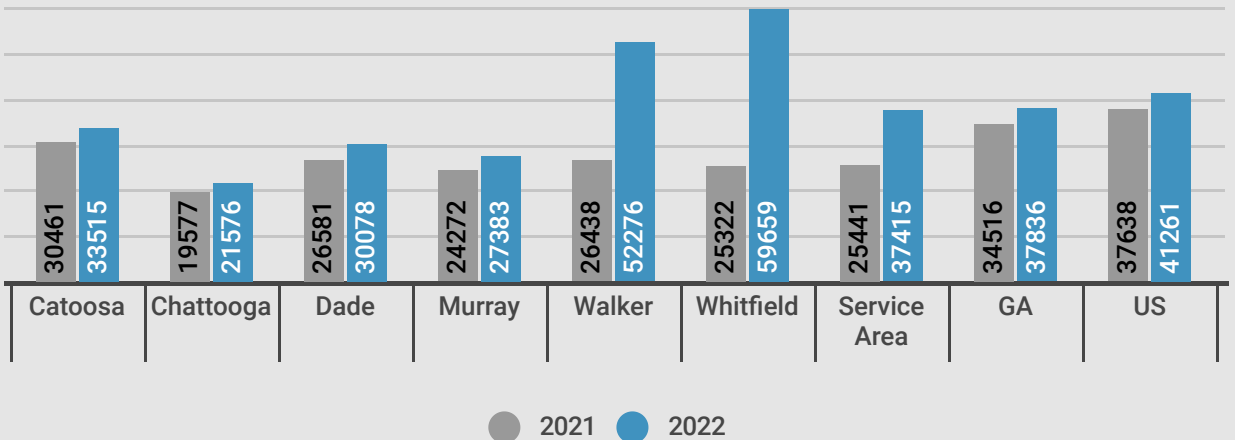
Data obtained from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/GA,US/PST045222>-accessed Jan. 2024

Service Area-Income Rates

Median Household Income: the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above the amount, and half having income below the amount. The 2023 Average Median Income in the service area was \$57,389 which is lower than the GA median income of \$71,355 and the national median income of \$75,149. In the service area median income increased from 50,530 in 2021 to 57,389 in 2022.



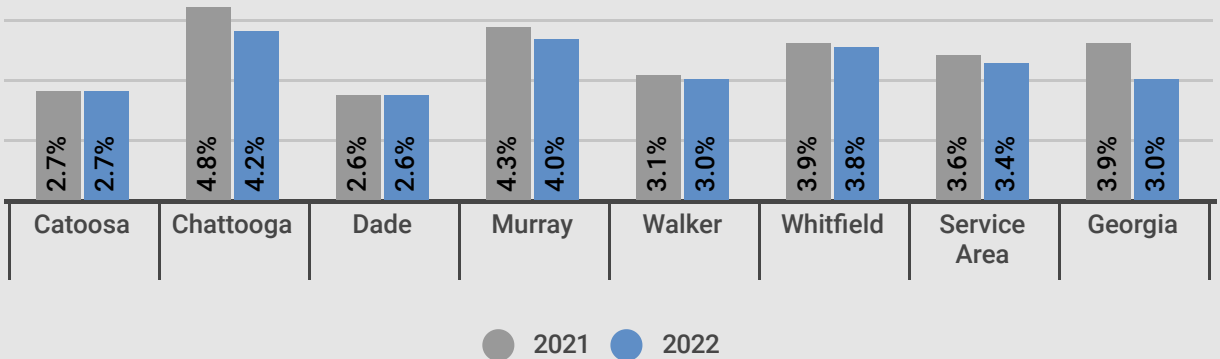
Per Capita Income/Average income earned per person: average income per person in each county of the service area ranges from \$21,576 to \$59,659. The average per-capita income for the service area is \$37,415 and is lower than the Georgia per capita income of \$37,836 and the national per capita income of \$41,261. Per capita income in the service area increased from \$25,441 in 2021 to \$37,415 in 2022.



Unemployment Rates-Service Area

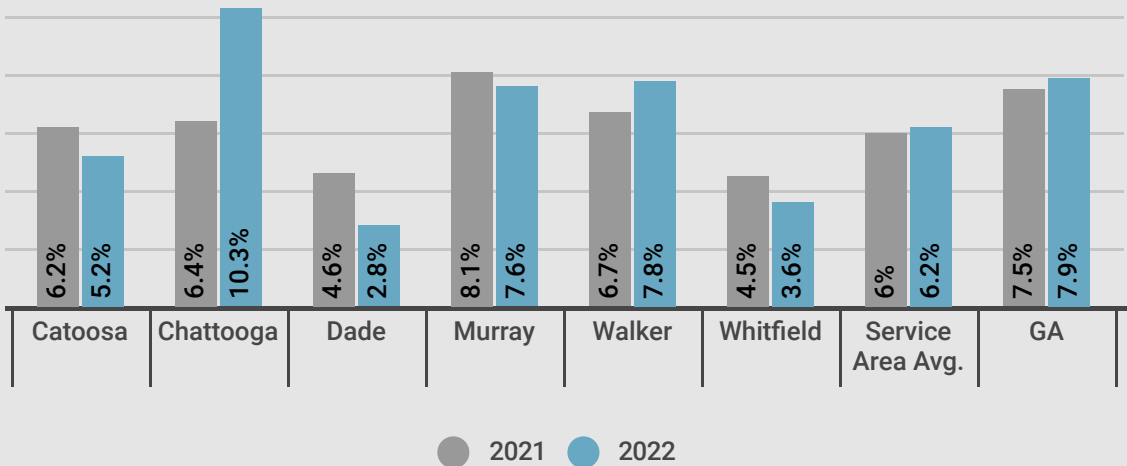
Unemployment

Georgia Kid's Count Data Center reports service area unemployment rates that vary from 2.6% (Dade County) to 4.2% (Chattooga). The service area had a 2022 average unemployment rate of 3.4% which was higher than the 3.0% unemployment rate for Georgia. The service area unemployment rate decreased from 3.6% in 2021 to 3.4% in 2022.



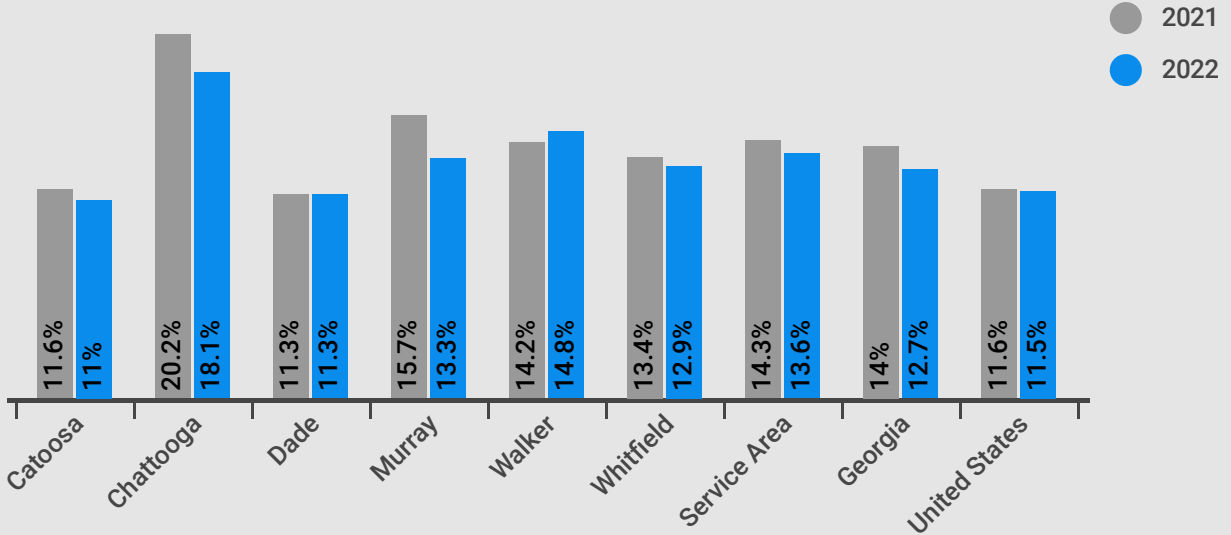
Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment

Percentages range from 2.8% (Dade) to 10.3% (Chattooga). The service area average is 6.2% which is lower than the Georgia average of 7.9%. Children whose parents lack secure employment increased slightly in the service area from 6% in 2021 to 6.2% in 2022.



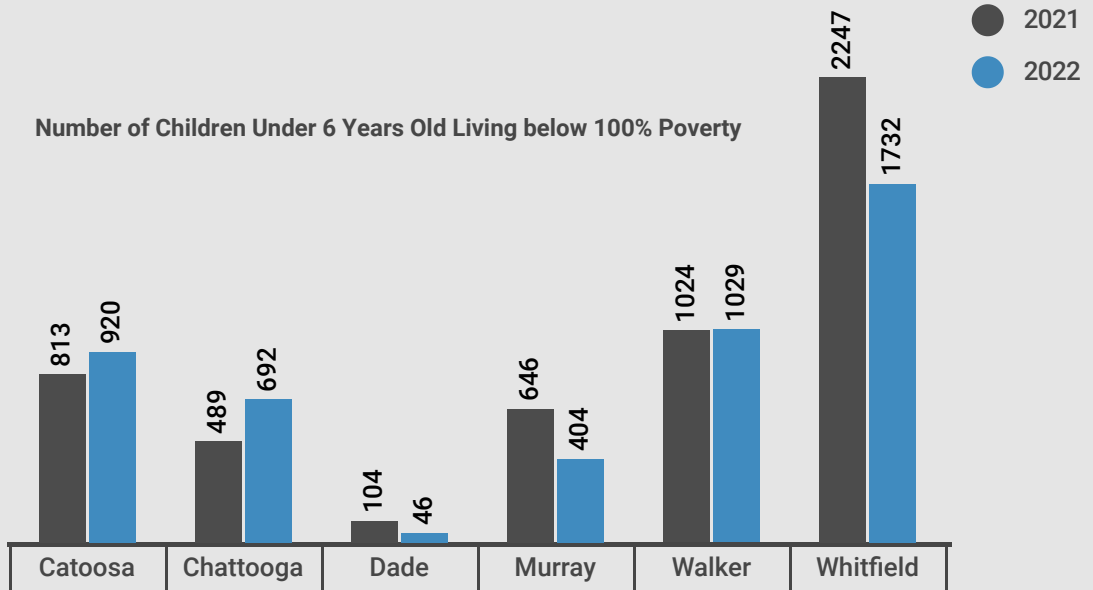
Poverty Rates-Service Area

The 2022 service area poverty rates range from 11% in Catoosa County to 18.1% in Chattooga County. The 2022 average poverty rate for the service area is 13.6% which is higher than the GA poverty rate of 12.7% and the national poverty rate of 11.5%. Poverty rates had a slight decrease from 14.3% in 2021 to 13.6% in 2022.



Data obtained from US Census Quick Facts 2022 (data accessed Jan. 2024.)

Number of Children Under 6 Years Old Living below 100% Poverty

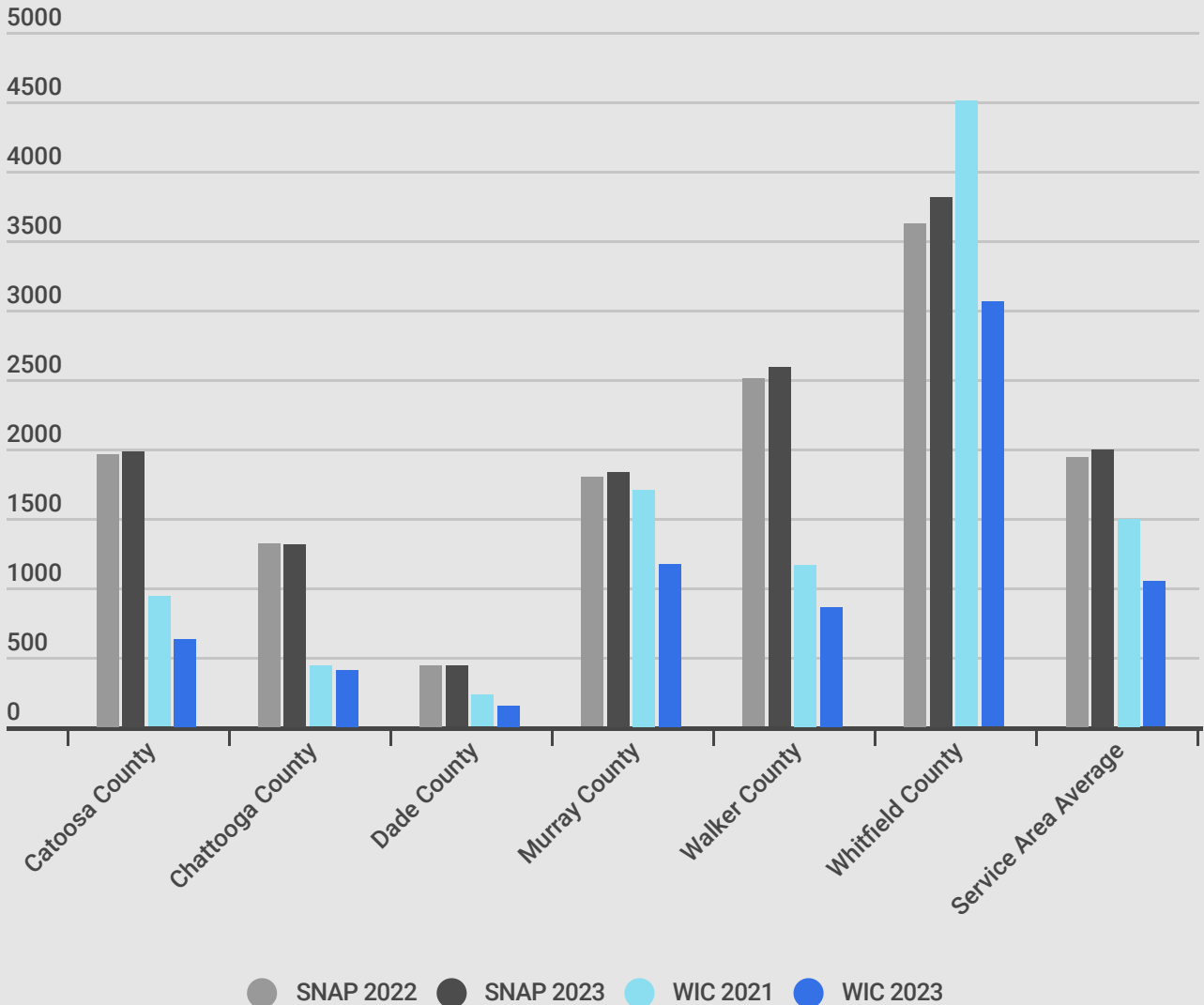


Data obtained from GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students 2022 (accessed Jan 2024)

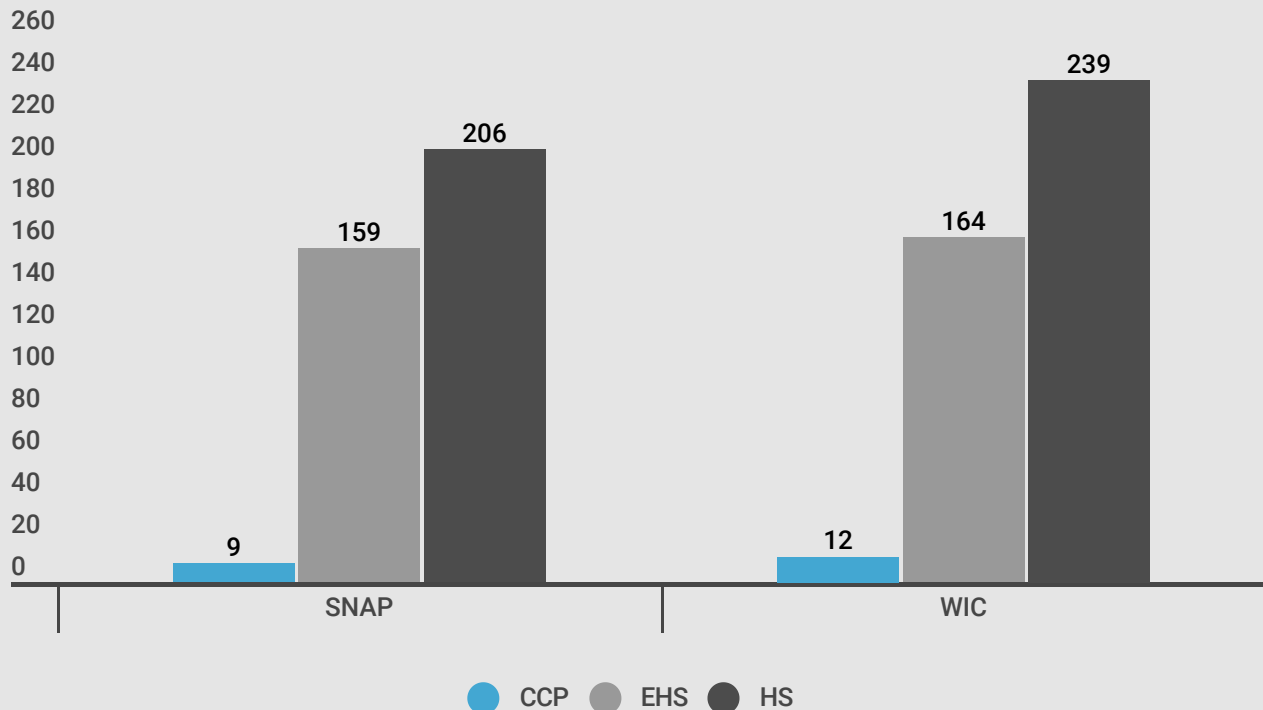
Georgia households with children receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Households on the *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-SNAP* has increased slightly in the service area from 1,940 households in 2022 to 1,993 households in 2023.

Households participating in the *Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children-WIC* decreased in the service area from 1,492 households in 2021 to 1,045 households in 2023.
(WIC data for 2022 is unavailable in Kid's Count Data Center).



Families Receiving SNAP/WIC-Family Resource Agency of N. GA.



The chart above shows the number of families with children attending the program who receive SNAP and/or WIC. In an effort to educate families about the importance of nutrition, a newsletter developed by Primary Healthcare titled "*Nutrition and You*" is shared with staff and families. The newsletter covers a variety of nutrition topics, healthy tips, and recipes.

The agency website contains a link to "My Plate" <https://www.myplate.gov/> sponsored by the USDA which has healthy recipes, calorie counters, food information, daily food planning, dietary guidelines, and eating healthy on a budget.

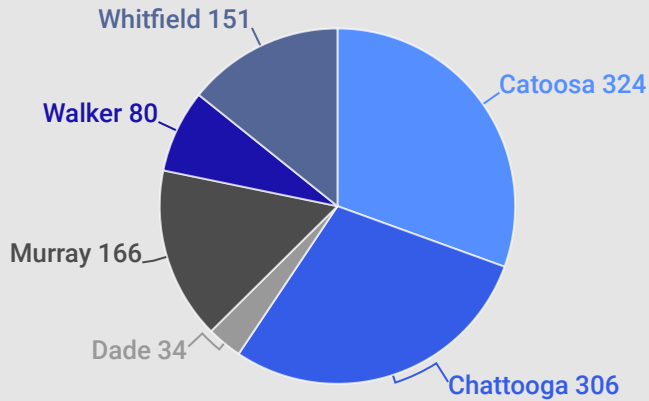
The classrooms utilize nutrition resources such as "*I am Moving, I am Learning*" and implement nutrition activities into lesson plans and classroom activities.

Eligible Infants/Toddlers/Preschool Children-Service Area

Estimate of Eligible Children	Catoosa	Chattooga	Dade	Murray	Walker	Whitfield
# of 0-5 year old children	3,510	1,371	740	2,388	3,721	6,188
X Poverty Rate	11%	18.1%	11.3%	13.3%	14.8%	12.9%
Number in Poverty	386	248	84	318	551	798
Divided by # of age groups (1-5 yrs. old)	5	5	5	5	5	5
# eligible by age group	77	50	17	63	110	160
X # of age groups served (3 and 4 yrs)	2	2	2	2	2	2
3 and 4 year old's eligible for HS	154	100	34	126	220	320
3 and 4 year old children served by HS and Pre-K at Family Resource Agency of N. GA	37	17	16	34	122	154
Eligible children 3-4's not served by FRA HS	117	83	18	92	89	166
X # of age groups served (1, 2, and 3 years)	3	3	3	3	3	3
# 0-3 year old's eligible for EHS	231	150	51	189	330	480
0-3 year old children served by EHS and CCP at Family Resource Agency of N. GA	32	40	24	40	56	120
Eligible children 0-3's not served by FRA EHS	199	110	27	149	274	369

Homeless Children Under 18 Years Old in Georgia

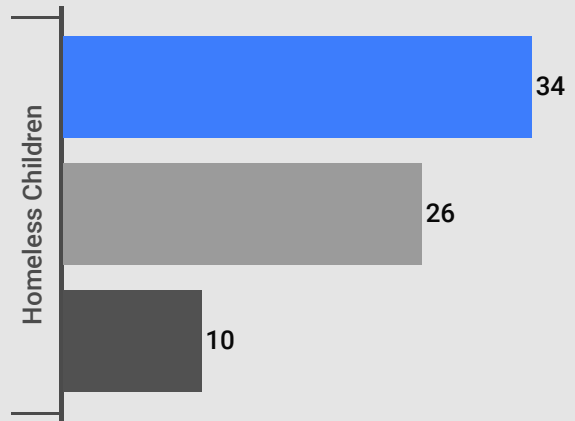
The Total Number of Homeless Children in the Service Area counties vary in number and range from 34 homeless children in Dade County to 324 homeless children in Catoosa County (per the definition provided in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act).



<https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento>

In 2022-23 Family Resource Agency of N. GA served 70 homeless children; 34 in Head Start, 26 in Early Head Start, and 10 in CCP.

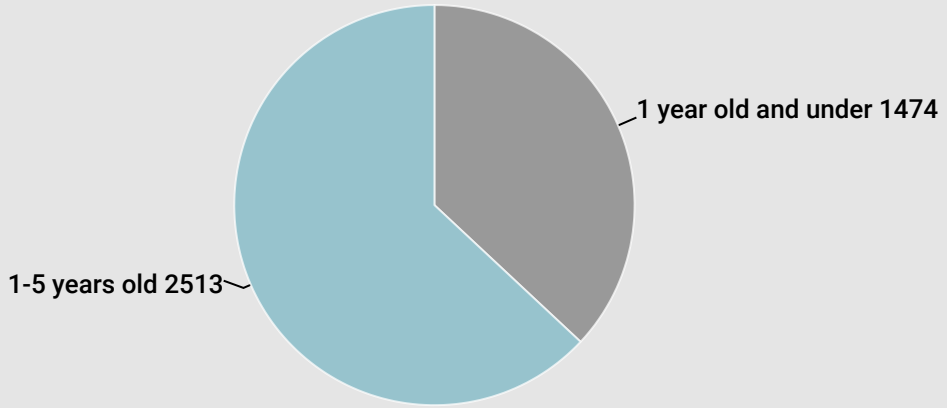
One homeless family in Early Head Start acquired housing in 2022-23.



- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Child Care Partnerships (CCP)

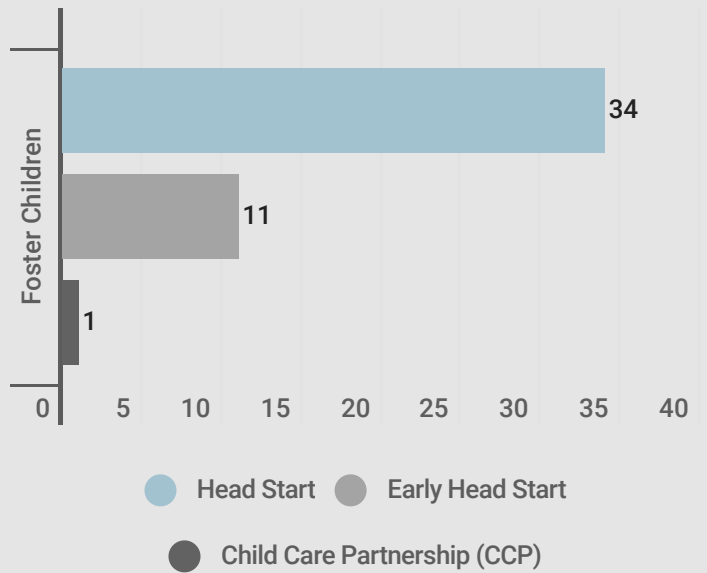
Foster Children in Georgia

There are a total of 8,082 foster children in Georgia. 3,987 foster children are under 5 years



Data obtained from Kid's Count Data Center 2021-accessed-March 2024

Family Resource Agency of N. GA served 45 foster children; 34 in Head Start, 11 in Early Head Start, and 1 in CCP in 2022-23.



Data Obtained from ChildPlus 2022-23 Report #9731 (accessed March 2024).

Health Resources-Service Area

Georgia has over 300 hospitals and medical centers throughout the state. There are seven hospitals located within the six-county service area, with four of those in Whitfield County, two in Murray County, and one in Catoosa County. In addition, there are several hospitals located in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area that are within 50 miles of the furthest county and within 10 miles of our closest county; this includes T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital. Within the service area, over 600 doctors accept Medicaid and PeachCare for kids. The largest concentration of doctors is located in Whitfield with over 300 doctors and Catoosa with over 22 doctors; these range from general and family practitioners to specialists. In addition, each of our six counties has a local health department. This information would indicate that there are sufficient medical resources available to our families within close proximity.

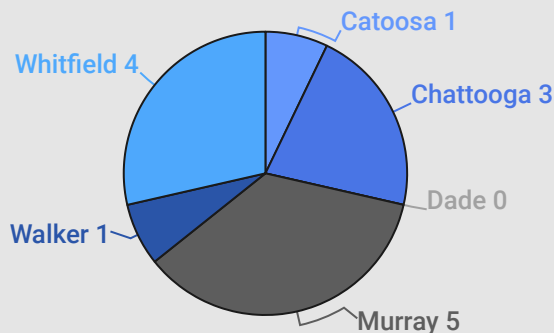
According to the 2023 America's Health Ratings from the United Health Foundation, Georgia is ranked 37; a 1 point decrease from a ranking of 36 in 2022; (1=best/50=worst)

<https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Overall/GA>

The analysis shows that Georgia's challenges are: low percentages of prenatal care before the 3rd trimester and high numbers of uninsured woman. Access to secure and affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, good paying jobs and quality early childhood education are examples of important factors that can put people on a path to a healthier life.

The Georgia Department of Public Health website states "Asthma is a high priority health condition among Georgia children. Asthma is found often among children who live in households with lower incomes. Many of the triggers that cause asthma are found in older housing. Georgia has risk factors pertaining to high air pollution as well.

In Georgia-year 2022, children aged 0-4 had the highest hospitalization rate and second highest rate of emergency room visits due to asthma. Many of Georgia's children aged 0-4 spend most of their day in a childcare setting so early childcare providers are in a unique position to contribute to the reduction in emergency room visits by understanding asthma and asthma management in order to address asthma-related illnesses and emergencies. The pie chart below shows the children who had Asthma related ER visits in Family Resource Agency's service counties:



Dental Resources

The service area has over 40 dentists available. There has been an increase in the total number of dentists as well as, those who accept Medicaid and PeachCare. In addition, more dentists are seeing children under age 3.

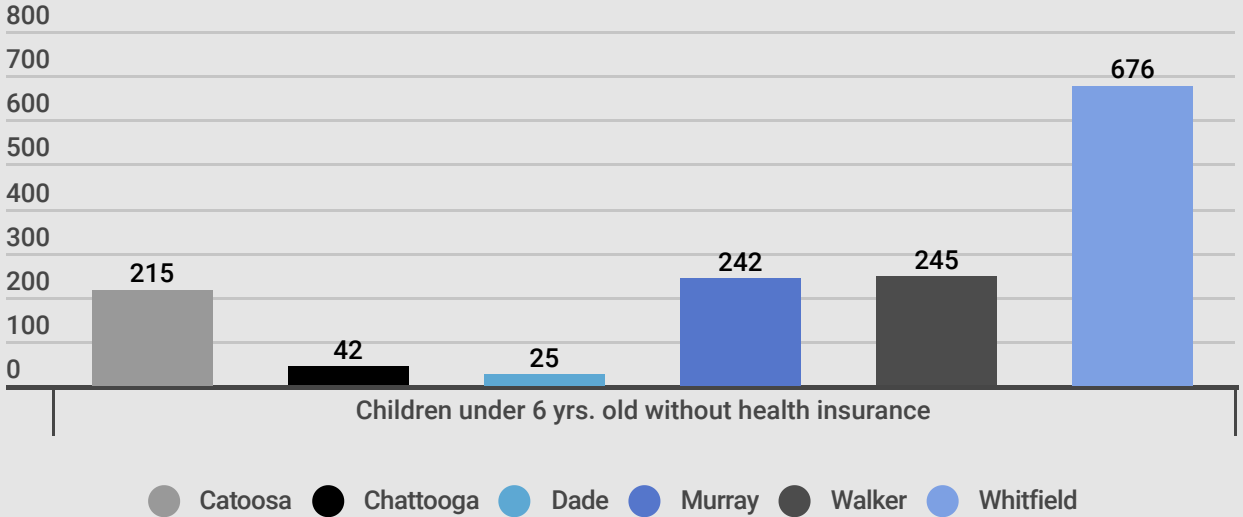
County	# of Dentists	Medicaid or PeachCare accepted	Head Start Payment Accepted	Accepts Children under age 3	Accepts Children under age 5	Accepts Pregnant Moms
Catoosa	7	1	1	1	4	6
Chattooga	8	5	4	1	6	7
Dade	2	2	2	0	2	2
Murray	2	2	2	0	2	2
Walker	4	2	4	0	4	4
Whitfield	22	3	3	4	16	18
Totals	45	15	16	6	34	39

Mental Health Resources

Our six counties are supported by the Region One Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases (MHDDAD) Office. THE MHDDAD Office plans and oversees a network of public mental health, developmental disabilities, addictive disease and prevention services for 25 counties. There is a regional office contact and all six counties have access to 24 hour emergency assistance. They provide a Georgia Crisis and Access Line, a non-emergency mental health and addictive diseases service line, and a non-emergency developmental disabilities services line. In addition, locally there are 7 other agencies who will provide mental health services. We currently contract with Georgia HOPE to provide services to our children and families.

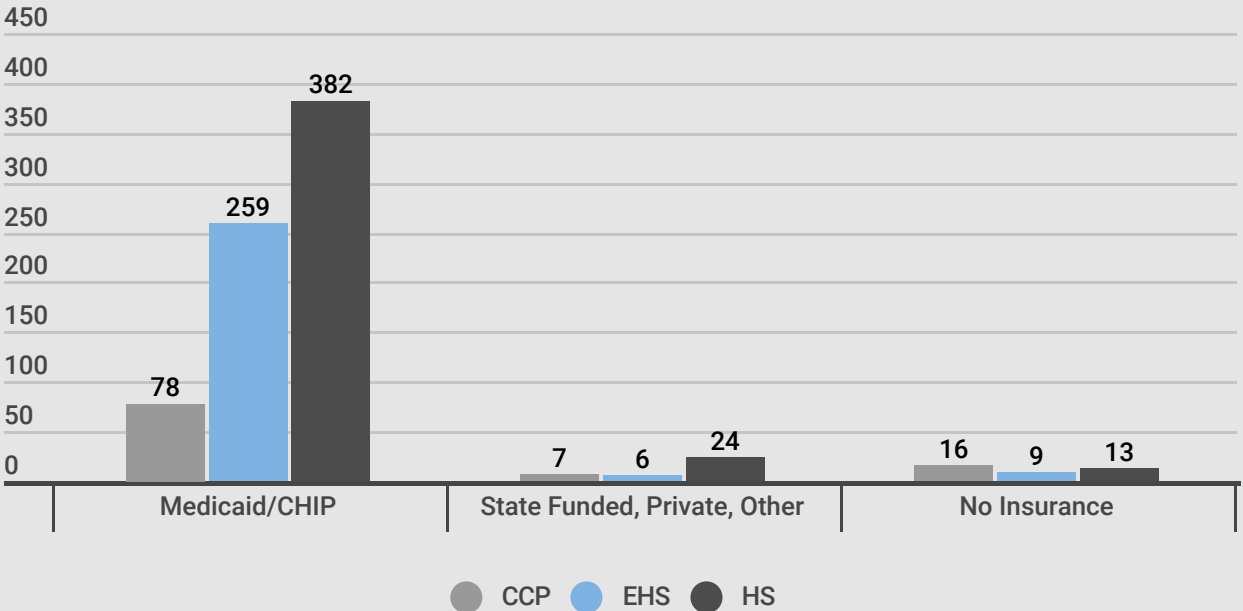


Children-Health Insurance Rates-Service Area



Data Obtained from GEEARS (health insurance) accessed Feb. 2024

Insurance-Children Attending CCP, Early Head Start, and Head Start at Family Resource Agency of N. GA

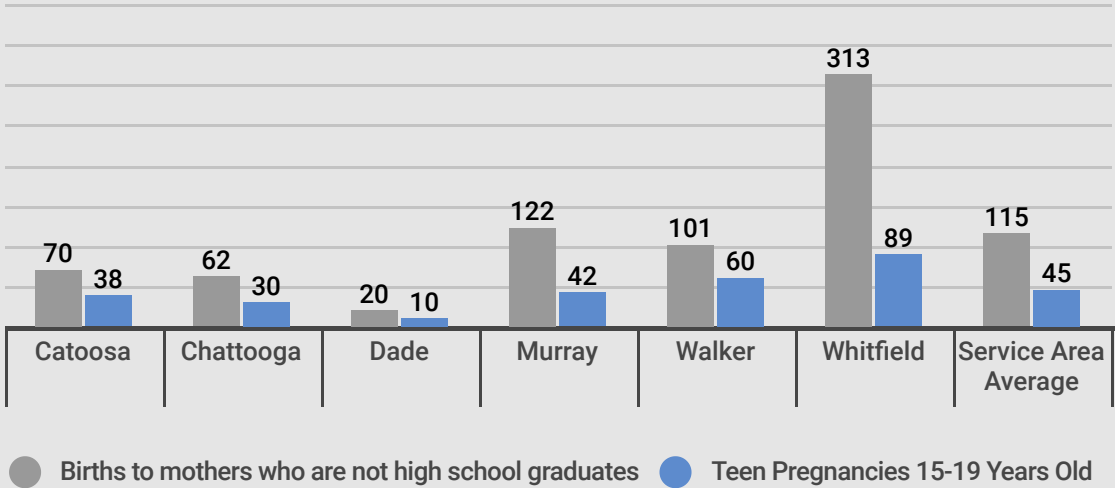


Data Obtained from ChildPlus PIR Report #9900-accessed Feb. 2024

Teen Pregnancy Rates-Service Area

The Service Area Average for births to mothers who are not high school graduates is 115 births; this is the most vulnerable group in the service area ranging from 20 births in Dade County to 313 births in Whitfield County. The Service Area Average for teen pregnancies ages 15-19 is 45 births and range from 10 births in Dade County to 89 births in Whitfield County. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, Georgia's national teen pregnancy rank is number 35 out of 50 states in 2023.

(https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/TeenBirth_MCH/GA.)



Data obtained from GEEARS-Counties 2023/accessed Feb. 2024

Pregnant Moms Served at Family Resource Agency in 2022-2023	
Pregnant Moms Served	14
Mom Enrolled during 1st Trimester	0
Mom Enrolled during 2nd Trimester	9
Mom Enrolled during 3rd Trimester	5
Received Prenatal Healthcare	12
Received Postnatal Healthcare	12

Childplus Report #9740 (2022-23) accessed Feb. 2024

Family Resource Agency Funded Slots in CCP, EHS, and HS

Currently the program is funded to provide Childcare Partnerships, Early Head Start, Head Start, and Blended Pre-K/Head Start to 676 children and families in six northwest counties of Georgia. Currently the program operates 61 classrooms in 16 centers located in 6 counties. The current funded enrollment slots are divided between 4 separate programs: Head Start (HS) with 300 slots, Blended Pre-K/Head Start with 80 slots, Early Head Start (EHS) with 232 slots, and Childcare Partnerships (CCP) with 80 slots.

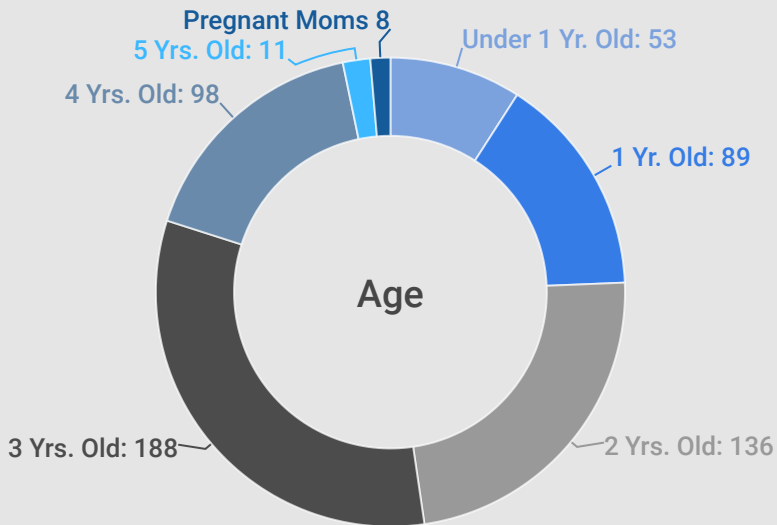
	Total Slots	CCP Slots	EHS Slots	HS Slots	Blended Pre-K/HS Slots
Catoosa	69	16	16	17	20
Chattooga	57	0	40	17	0
Dade	40	0	24	16	0
Murray	74	16	24	34	0
Walker	178	0	56	82	40
Whitfield	258	48	72	134	20
Total Slots	676	80	232	300	80
Total Classrooms	61	10	29	18	4
Total Staff	274				

Childplus Report 2001 (grp. by all/region/site/summery)-accessed Feb. 2024

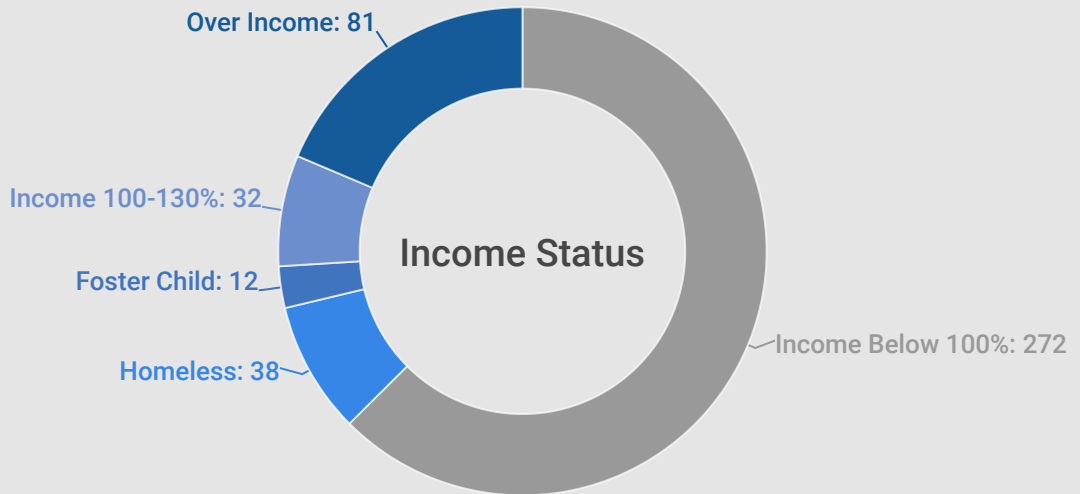
Program Enrollment-Service Area

County	Children Ages Birth-5 Living Below 100% Poverty	FRAGA HS and Pre-K enrollment	FRAGA EHS/CCP enrollment	Georgia Pre-K enrollment-low income families	Eligible Children Birth-5 not Served by Head Start or Pre-K
Catoosa	920	37	32	177	674
Chattooga	692	17	40	112	692
Dade	46	16	24	36	0
Murray	404	34	40	186	404
Walker	1,029	122	64	180	663
Whitfield	1,732	154	120	397	1,061

Family Resource Agency Waitlists



ChildPlus Report 2250-Waitlist by Age-accessed Feb. 2024



ChildPlus Report 2250-Waitlist by Income Status-Feb. 2024

Centers and Family Care Homes in Service Area

County	Total Providers	Child Care Centers	Serves Infants	Serves Toddlers	Serves Preschoolers	Family Child Care	Other Providers
Catoosa	24	18	67%	78%	100%	0	6
Chattooga	11	6	67%	67%	100%	1	4
Dade	6	3	100%	100%	100%	1	2
Murray	6	4	100%	100%	100%	1	1
Walker	20	10	90%	100%	100%	1	9
Whitfield	39	15	87%	93%	100%	8	16

Program Enrollment in Service Area

	Kindergarten	Lottery Funded Pre-K	-At Risk Served by Pre-K	Head Start/Early Head Start
Catoosa	655	462	37%	177
Chattooga	316	215	59%	81
Dade	153	105	69%	45
Murray	449	279	57%	66
Walker	756	419	51%	98
Whitfield	1,424	813	66%	325

Licensed Capacity in Service Area

	Total Licensed Capacity/Slots	Learning Center Slots	Family Childcare Slots
Catoosa	2,223	2,223	0
Chattooga	458	452	6
Dade	272	266	6
Murray	380	374	6
Walker	1,262	1,256	6
Whitfield	2,132	2,084	48

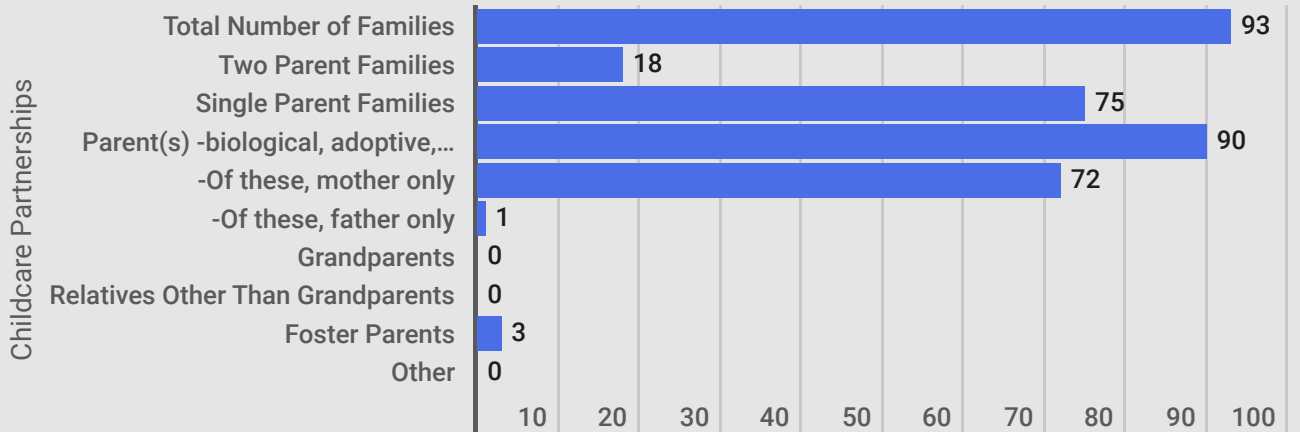
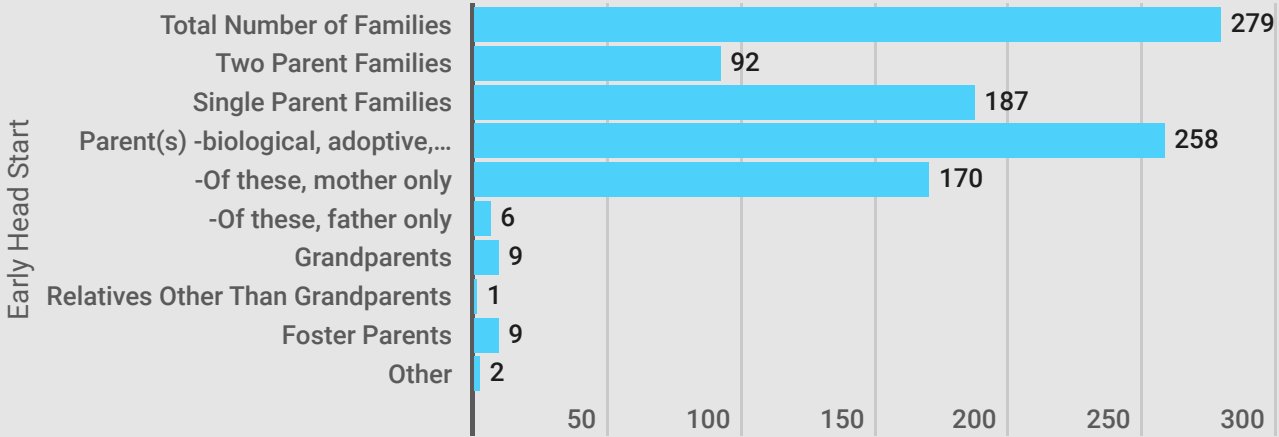
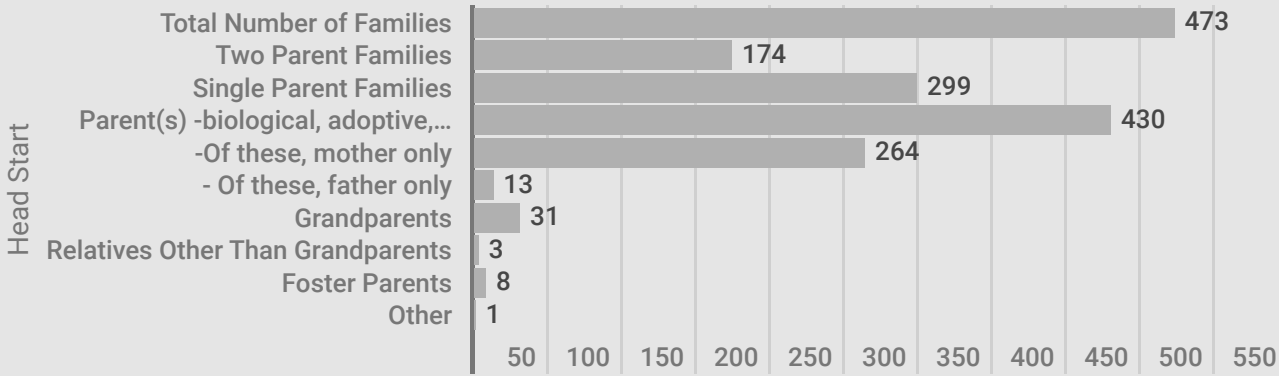
Race and Ethnicity-Family Resource Agency of N. GA

PIR 2022-23	HS (funded enrollment=533)		EHS (funded enrollment=312)		CCP (funded enrollment=96)	
	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic/Latino	Non-Hispanic
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	2	1	0	1	0
Asian	0	0	0	1	0	0
Black or African American	4	34	1	22	0	5
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	91	299	75	177	18	68
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	11	52	12	28	9	9
Other Race	10	3	3	0	1	0
Total	116	390	92	228	29	83

ChildPlus Report 9900-2022-23-accessed March 2024



Families by Type-Family Resource Agency of N. GA



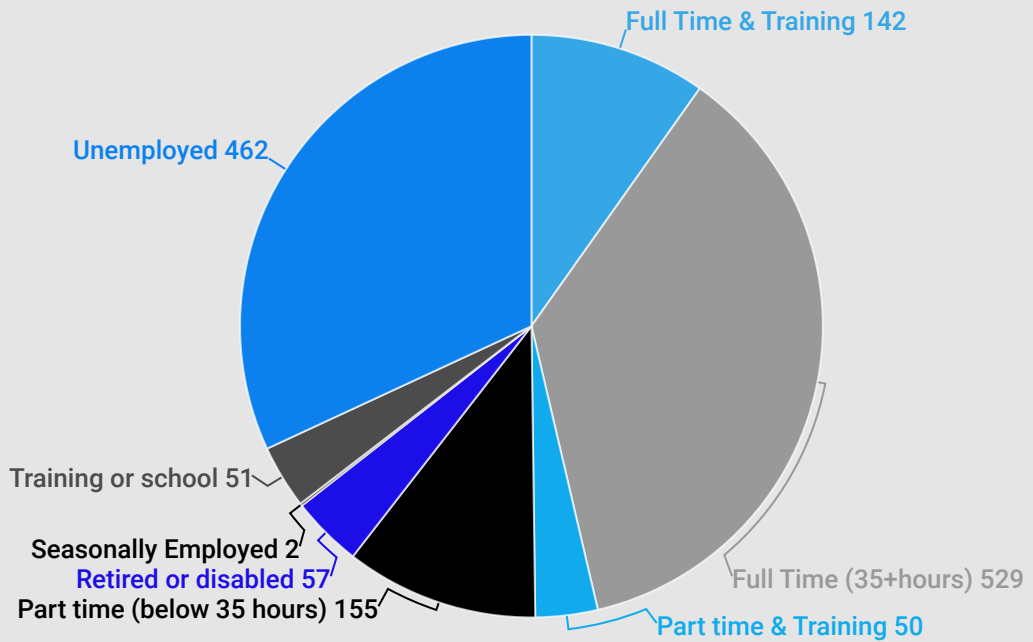
Parent Education-Family Resource Agency of N. GA-PIR

At Enrollment 2022-2023	Head Start	Early Head Start	Childcare Partnerships (CCP)
Total Number of Families	473	279	93
Less than High School	109	65	20
High School Graduate/GED	289	176	58
Associate/Vocational/Some College	61	27	14
Advanced or BA Degree	14	11	1

Parent Employment/Job Training/School-Family Resource Agency of N. GA-PIR

At Enrollment 2022-2023	Head Start	Early Head Start	Child Care Partnerships
Total Number of Families	473	279	93
At least 1 parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school:	345	207	67
Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is employed:	339	187	65
Of these families, the number in which on or more parent/guardian is in job training (job training program, professional certificate, apprenticeship, or occupational license):	89	60	18
Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is in school (GED, associate, bachelor, or advanced degree):	11	22	4
Neither/no parent/guardian is employed , in job training, or school (unemployed, retired, disabled):	127	72	26

Parent Employment, School, and Job Training-Family Resource Agency of N. GA PIR



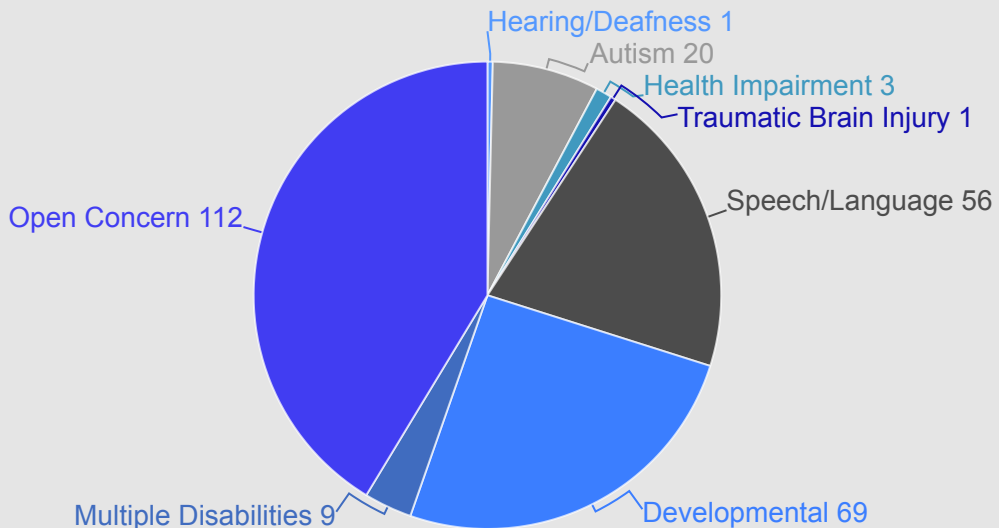
The total number of families served in 2022-2023 Head Start, Early Head Start/Pre-K, and CCP was 845. Of these families 142 were working and in training full-time, 529 were working full-time, 50 were working and in training part-time, 155 were working part-time (below 35 hours), 462 were unemployed, and 57 were retired or disabled.

Disabilities-Family Resource Agency of N. GA-PIR

The program continues to make a commitment to children with special needs. The agency has exceeded the requirement to have at least 10% of the enrollment with a disability. During the 2022-2023 school year, we had an annual total of 496 enrolled in Head Start and 66 or 13.3% with a diagnosis. In Early Head Start, the agency had an annual total of 289 enrolled and of those 31 or 10.7% had a diagnosis. In our CCP classes the agency had an annual total of 103 enrolled and 17 or 16.5% had a diagnosis. The program wide total of enrolled children with a diagnosed disability was 12.8%.

Recruitment efforts with our local school systems and Babies Can't Wait have been successful and both Part B and Part C providers have been outstanding at welcoming and providing services to our children with disabilities. The State of Georgia also develops a plan for services for undiagnosed children ages 3 years and older. This plan is called "Response to Intervention" or RTI. This plan can be implemented if more data is needed to determine if the child is in need of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) by providing enrichment interventions. The program continues to make a commitment to children with special needs. The agency has exceeded the requirement to have at least 10% of the enrollment with a disability in 2022-23.

Program Wide Disability Summary 2022-2023





Customer Surveys



Family Survey Results 2023-2024

Participating Families:

Survey Monkey was used to gather information from families about the program. 720 responses were received. The families are given the opportunity to express opinions in a variety of areas that help to improve the services we provide.

In the 2023-2024 school year, the majority of surveys indicated the services provided are excellent or satisfactory. The lowest scoring question was regarding how well the class schedule meets families' needs (4% somewhat satisfied or not satisfied).

The main results were:

*Question-Regarding the process for enrolling your child in this program, how would you rate your experience?

98% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

*Question-Regarding what is the program's reputation in the community?

97% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

*Question-Our goal is to provide a safe and learning filled classroom environment with staff who are concerned about each child. Tell us how well you think we did on accomplishing that goal?

99% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

*Question-Regarding the quality of other staff, besides the classroom staff, that families have dealt with this year?

97% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

* Question-Regarding the communication between staff and parents?

98% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

*Question-"Regarding how well parent meetings met your interests and needs?"

96% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

*Question-"Regarding how well the class schedule meets families' needs?"

96% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

* Question-In regard to how much learning or progress child has made this year in the program?

99% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

* Question-Regarding overall experience with the program?

99% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

*Question-Regarding how families learned about the program?

Friends or family (56%), other child previously attended (17%), Facebook/social media (13%).

*Question regarding what can be improved in the program?

Menu/foods children like, extend hours/provide after school care, different drop off time, communication, parent resources.

Program Staff Surveys 2023-24

Microsoft Forms Surveys were used to gather information from Family Service Specialists. FSS work with families throughout the year as they develop Family Partnership Agreements, assist parents in meeting their personal goals and family goals, make referrals for other needed services and they can gain a good perspective of the needs of families and communities.

The main results were:

Communities with Head Start eligible children that you feel are underserved:

Chattooga, Dalton, Lafayette, Ringgold, Rossville, South Walker, Trion, Tunnel Hill, Westside.

What gaps in services do you see?

Need more Head Start centers in Catoosa county; families not having gas money to get back and forth to school; families having children with no primary pediatrician or dentist; Dental services not available in Dade county; extended hours needed; families need assistance finding housing; language barrier between staff and Spanish speaking families.

What are ways that Head Start services to families could be improved?

Support for child separation anxiety and providing welcoming classrooms to promote more family engagement; extended hours; families meeting health requirements for children; childcare services to employees regardless of income; access to a remote interpreting service for staff.

What are strong points of Head Start services provided?

Free childcare; diapers and formula provided; family partnerships; Parent Cafes; school readiness; quality care, education, and meals.

What are strong points of families receiving Head Start services?

Families want to be involved in their child's learning; Families want to make a better life for themselves and their children; Families build community; Families are good at following up with the resources we provide for them to get help; Parent Café and Male Involvement participation; Families' commitment to getting children to school every day.

What are the biggest challenges for families we serve?

Dental care for Head Start children; Grandparents raising children; Need more hours (hard to find jobs 7:30-2:00); Families are having trouble finding affordable housing; Health needs-is a challenge to get required exams from families; not having money for food, monthly bills, and clothing.

Please list any community organizations in your county, that you work with, to provide needed resources to children and families:

Catoosa: Catoosa Learning Center, Catoosa Public Library, Parents as Teachers Group, Flourish Foster Care Closet, health departments.

Chattooga: Chattooga Family Connection, Chattooga County Division of Family and Children Services, Chattooga County Food Bank, health departments, Chattooga Baptist Association (rent/utility assistance), Community Resource Center, Flourish Foster Care Closet

Dade: Dade First Family Connection, Dade County Health Department,

Murray: The Cottage Thrift Store, Rooted by Grace, Communication Station, Local churches, Health Department, Habitat for Humanity, Attic Thrift Store.

Walker: Walker County School System, Walker County Collaborative, Walker County Public Schools, Rossville Library, The Haven, low income housing agencies, health departments.

Whitfield: DOC-UP, City of Refuge, Dalton's Greater Works, Dalton Outreach Center, DEO clinic, The Salvation Army, Dalton Park and Recreation, Health Departments, Latin American Association.

All counties: Georgia Northwestern, Babies Can't Wait, Georgia HOPE

Analysis

The information gathered from this community assessment is analyzed in order to:

1. Identify community needs and make decisions regarding services provided by Family Resource Agency of North Georgia Head Start, Early Head Start, and Childcare Partnerships.
2. Determine where services for Head Start and Early Head Start should be located and model options that would best serve the needs of the families.
3. Identify service gaps in the communities.

This process assists Family Resource Agency of North Georgia to reflect on and re-examine our mission and vision to insure services provided meet the needs of children and families in the service area communities.

In conclusion:

1. Head Start families have many needs that the program will continue to address. Some of these needs are obtaining high school diplomas/GEDs, higher education, and employment skills. Setting and achieving goals and having access to high quality childcare enable parents and guardians to attend school, job training, and/or work to improve their quality of life and reach their life goals.

In order to continue providing quality services to Spanish-speaking families, Family Resource Agency will continue giving hiring priority to bilingual staff. Hiring bilingual staff ensures that children's developmental screenings and assessments are completed in the native language as needed. Families also receive assistance, as necessary, when communicating with other community agencies and service providers/partners. Bilingual classroom staff support children transitioning to English-speaking environments while supporting the child's culture and native language.

2. In some of the counties, data indicates that close to 100% of eligible 4/5 year old children are being served through Head Start and Pre-K showing no need to expand Head Start services in these areas. However, additional services are needed for pregnant woman, teen moms, infants and toddlers (birth-3). There are eligible infants and toddlers not receiving services. High pregnancy rates in girls who are not high school graduates is the most vulnerable group in the service area. Teen pregnancy rates for 15-19 year old girls are also high in our service area.

In addition, childcare costs for very young children are out of financial reach of many families in the service areas. Family Resource Agency will continue to work with the public school system, collaborative agencies, and other community partners to determine available funding sources and programs designed to assist young children.

3. Based on results from program staff surveys there is a high need for extended classroom hours, housing assistance for families (housing crisis), primary pediatricians and dentists for children in Chattooga/Dade counties, and support for language barriers between staff and Spanish speaking families in Whitfield county, and help with gas money for families to get children back and forth to school.

4. Based on results from Family Surveys extended classroom hours and transportation to and from school is most needed.

Resources:

American Community Surveys <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/>

ChildPlus PIR and Reports 2022, 2023, 2024

ECLKC <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>

GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, <http://geears.org/>

Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) <http://arcgis.com/>

Georgia Department of Public Health <https://dph.georgia.gov/>

Georgia Department of Education <http://www.gadoe.org/>

https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento/2019EHCY_DataReport.pdf

Kid's Count Data Center <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/#USA/1/0/char/0>

US Census Bureau Quick Facts <https://www.census.gov/>

US Census Bureau/American Community Surveys 2017-2021

Community Assessment created using Infogram ([infogram.com](https://www.infogram.com))

