



Family Resource Agency
of North Georgia
Community Assessment Update
2022-2023

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Head Start Performance Standards

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 15-19 year old woman pregnancy rates in the service area.
2. Families have many needs that we will continue to address. Those needs are education/training on employment skills, financial planning, language barriers, mental health/medical/dental care support. The program Family Service Specialists work closely with the 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, 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-National 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

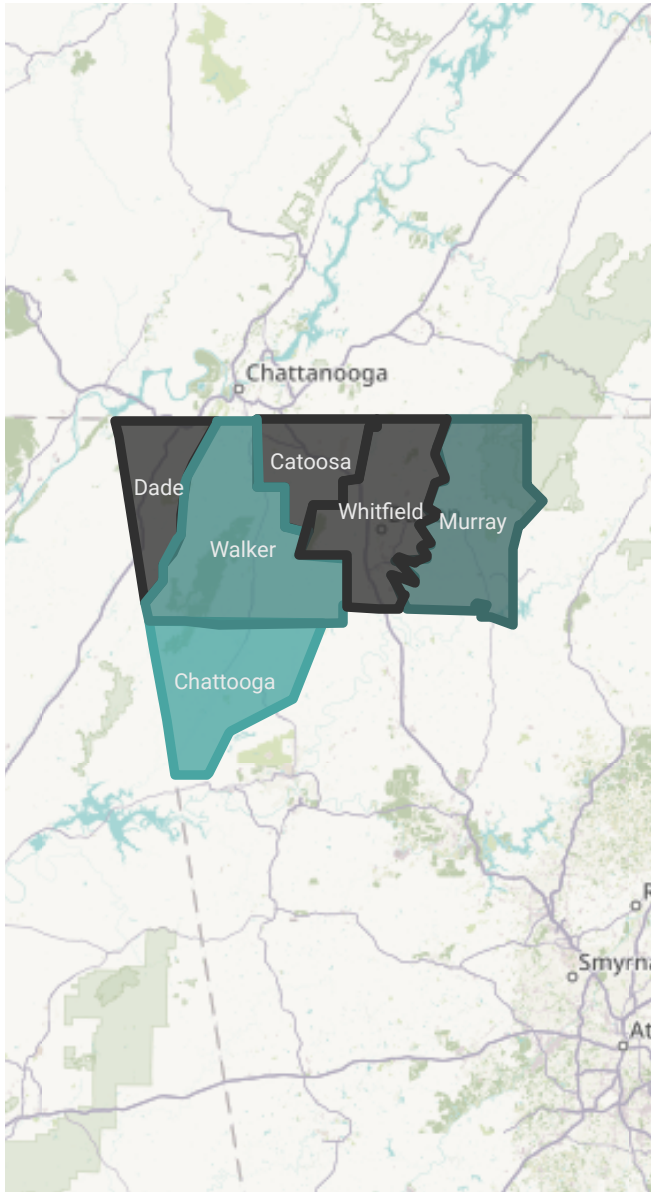
Successful Family Outcomes support each child's school readiness. Family Service Specialists engage parents in ways that assist them in achieving their goals and outcomes. The program reviews progress of goals and outcomes 3 times per year.



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 were 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.

Service Area



Family Resource Agency of North Georgia is funded to provide Head Start, Pre-K, Early Head Start, and Childcare Partnership services to 941 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 (See Service Area Map- page 5). 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. Dalton, within Whitfield County had a 2021 population of 33,921 and the combined Rossville-Fort Oglethorpe areas of Catoosa and Walker Counties had a 2021 estimated population of 13,941.

The largest populations are in Trenton of Dade County with 2,159; Summerville of Chattooga County with 4,159; and Chatsworth of Murray County with a population of 4,264.

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 322,970.

County Characteristics

Family Resource Agency of North Georgia is funded to provide Head Start, Pre-K, Early Head Start, and Childcare Partnership services to 941 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 (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:

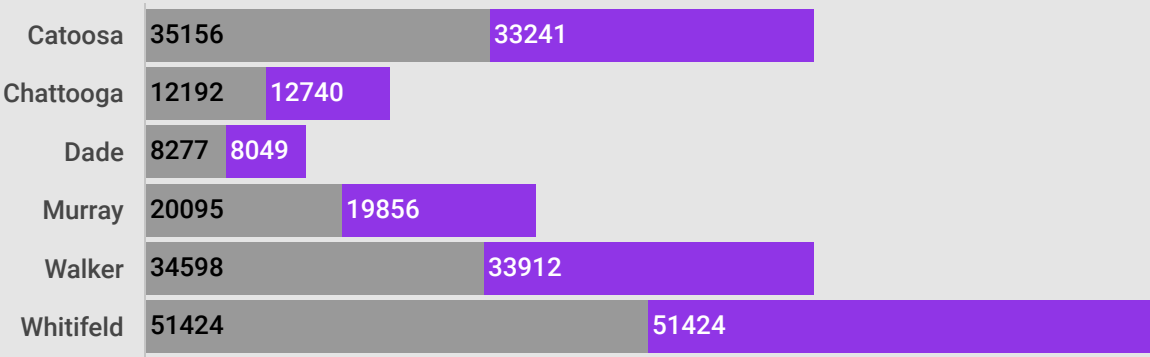
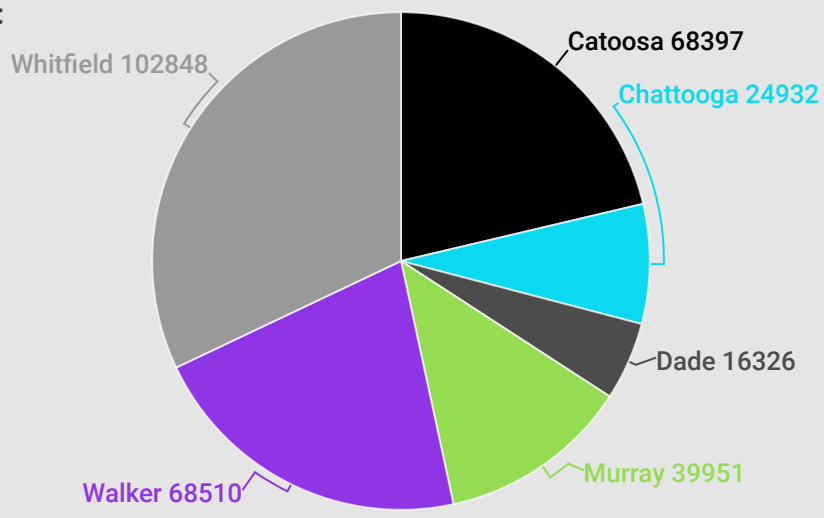
County	Square Miles	Distinguishing Characteristics
Catoosa	162.7	Is in the northern sector of the service area and borders the State of Tennessee to the north, Walker County to the south and west, and Whitfield County to the south and east . This county is the smallest geographically, covering only 162.7 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

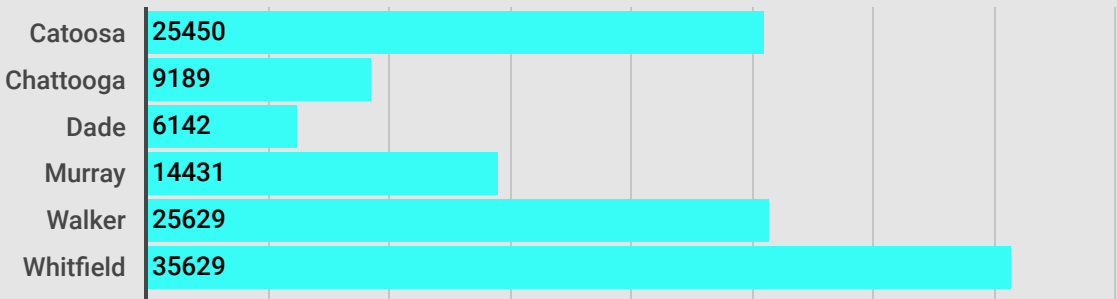
County	Governing Authority
Catoosa	County operates under a 5 member Board of Commissioners that are elected by the voters. Commissioners are elected by specific districts and the chairman is elected at-large. The Board, as the county's governing authority, is responsible for establishing policy for county 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 Whitfield County Commissioner makes policy for Dalton, including setting long-term goals and evaluating outcomes. He adapts Dalton budgets, approves taxation and financial decisions, adopts ordinances, and makes land use decisions. Commissioners play multiple roles in Dalton and Whitfield County government (whitfieldcountyga.com).

Service Area Population

Persons:



● Females ● Males



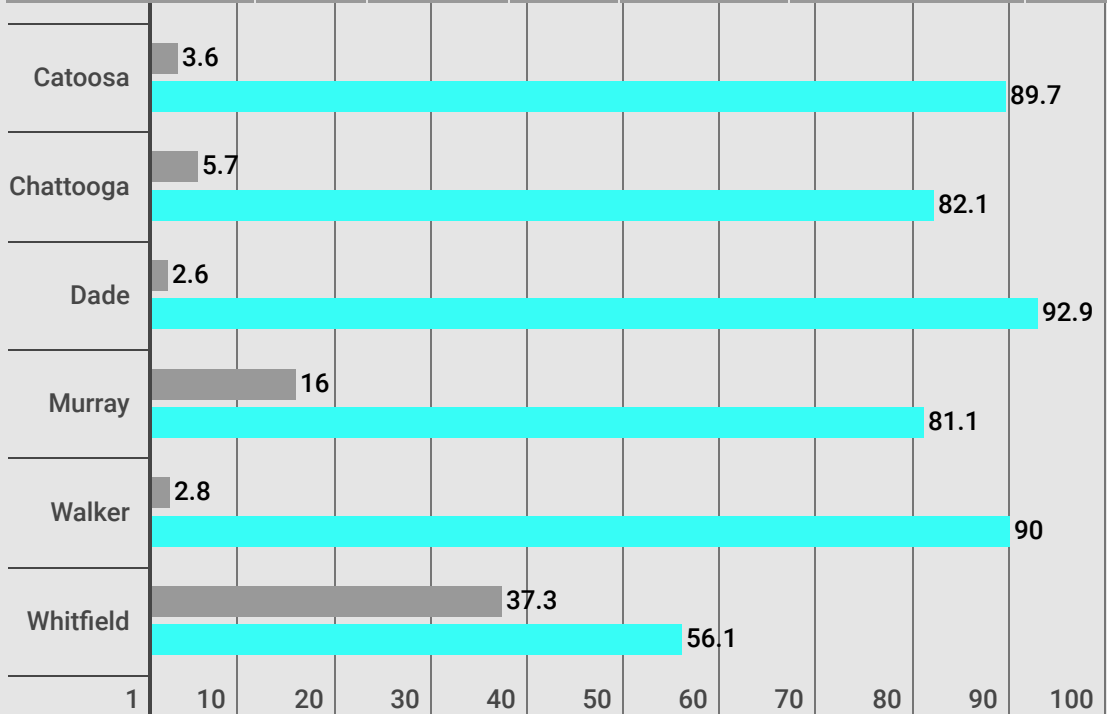
Households

Data obtained from US Census Quick Facts Population Estimates July 1, 2021 (accessed Feb.14, 2023)

Racial and Ethnic Composition

Racial make-up of County-wide Population, Percentages

Percentages	Asian	Bi-racial	Black	Caucasian	Hispanic/Latino	Other
United States	6.1	2.9	13.6	75.8	18.9	0.8
Georgia	4.6	2.4	33	59.4	10.2	0.3
Catoosa County	1.6	1.9	3.2	92.6	3.2	0.4
Chattooga County	0.6	2.1	10	86.6	5.5	0.5
Dade County	1.0	1.5	1.5	95.1	2.3	0.4
Murray County	0.6	1.3	1.4	95.2	15.7	0.7
Walker County	0.8	1.7	4.5	92.4	2.5	0.3
Whitfield County	1.7	1.7	4.4	90.5	36.3	0.9
*Service Area Avg.	3%	3%	4%	92%	11%	0.5%



Hispanic/Latino
 White alone/Not Hispanic/Latino

Languages Spoken

	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%

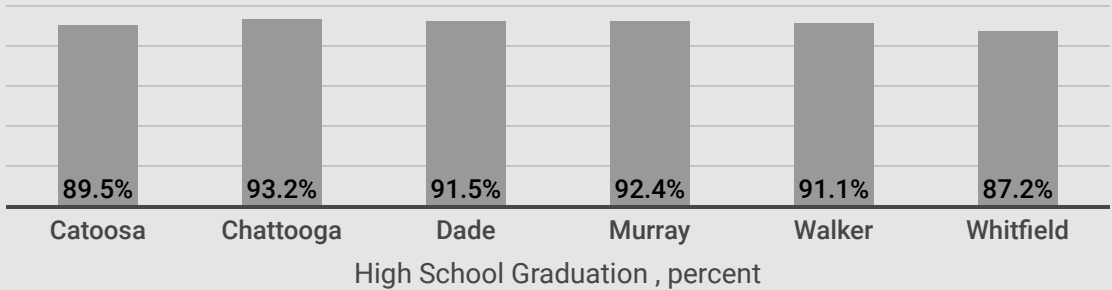
Of service area residents 9.55% speak a language other than English at home; 4% speak language less than very well; 8.32% speak Spanish at home. In Whitfield County there is a high concentration, 30% that speak a language other than English at home; 14.4% who speak language less than very well; and 28.6%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



Education

High School

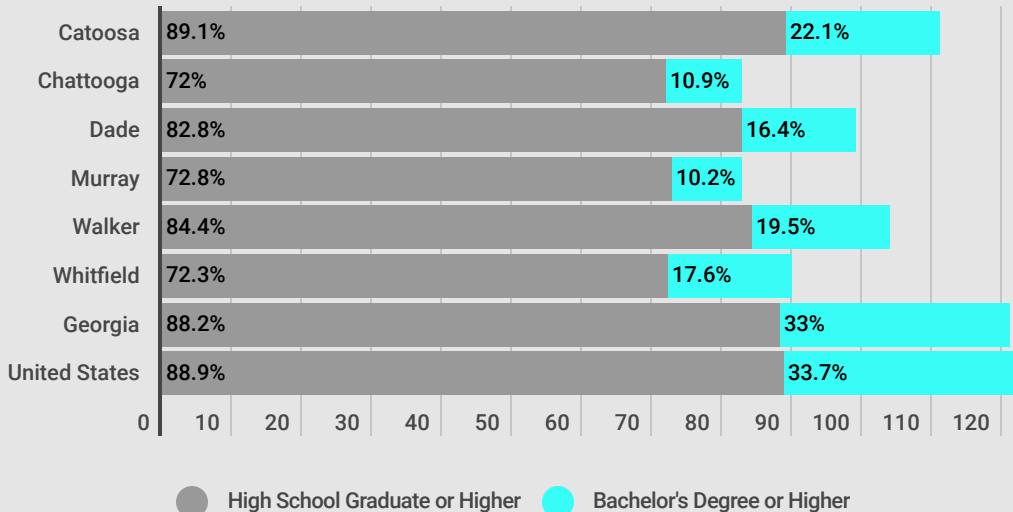
Georgia's high-school graduation rate increased in 2022, rising to 84.1% – an all-time high since the state began using the adjusted cohort calculation now required by federal law, and up from 83.7% in 2021. State School Superintendent Richard Woods said, "I commend Georgia's educators and the class of 2022, and am confident we will continue to see improvements as we expand opportunities for students and invest in the academic recovery of our state."



Data obtained from the Georgia Department of Education, 2022 Graduation Rate Report by county and state-accessed Feb. 2023

College

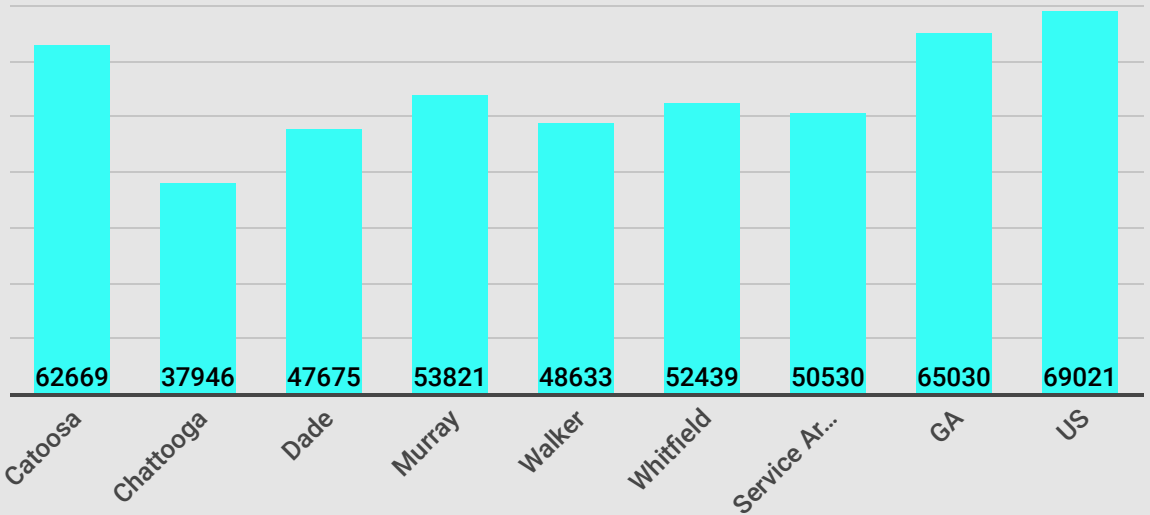
Degree attainment: 37.77% of the population 25+years and older have a Bachelor's degree or higher. In the FRA service area 27% have a Bachelor's degree or higher which is lower than the GA average of 33% and the national average of 33.7%. Colleges available in the service areas are: Georgia Northwestern Technical College (Catoosa, Walker, Whitfield-Murray Counties), Dalton State College (Whitfield County), Covenant College (Dade County).



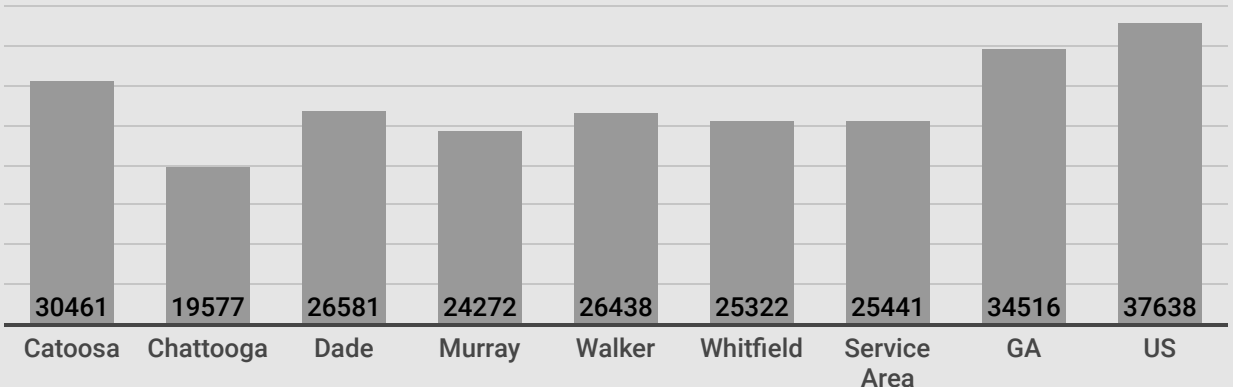
Data obtained from [https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/4-Year 2022](https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/communications/Documents/4-Year%202022) (accessed 2/15/23)

Service Area Income Rates

Median Household Income: amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above the amount, and half having income below the amount: The Average Median Income in the service area is \$50,530 which is lower than the GA median income of \$65,030 and the national median income of \$69,021. In the service area median income increased from 39,206 in 2020 to 50,530 in 2021.

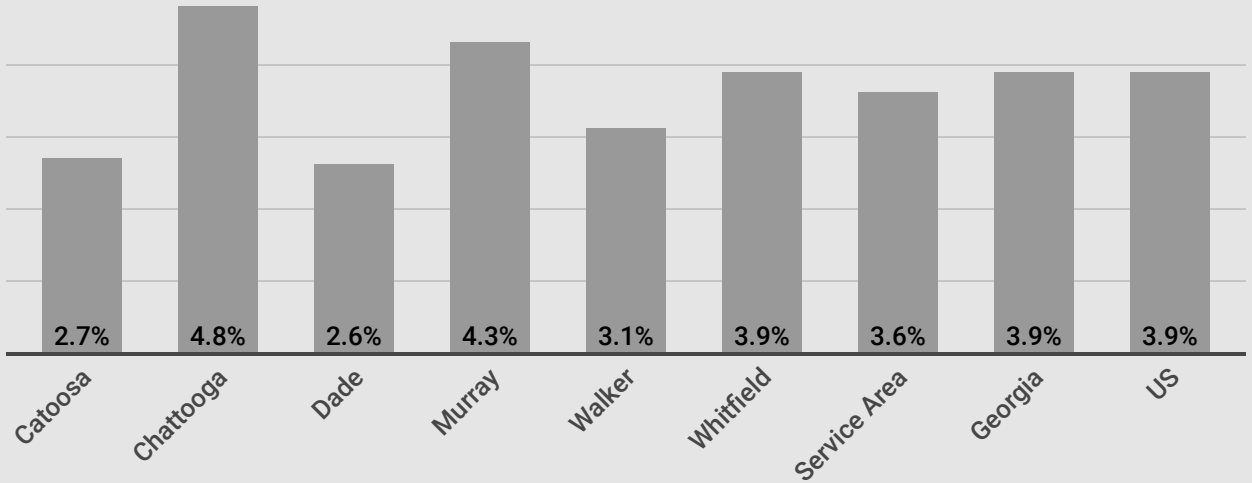


Per Capita Income/Average income earned per person: average income per person in each county of the service area ranges from \$18,715 to \$27,308. The average per-capita income for the service area is \$23,372 and is lower than the Georgia per capita income of \$31,067 and the national per capita income of \$34,103. Per capita income in the service area increased from 23,372 in 2020 to 25,441 in 2021.



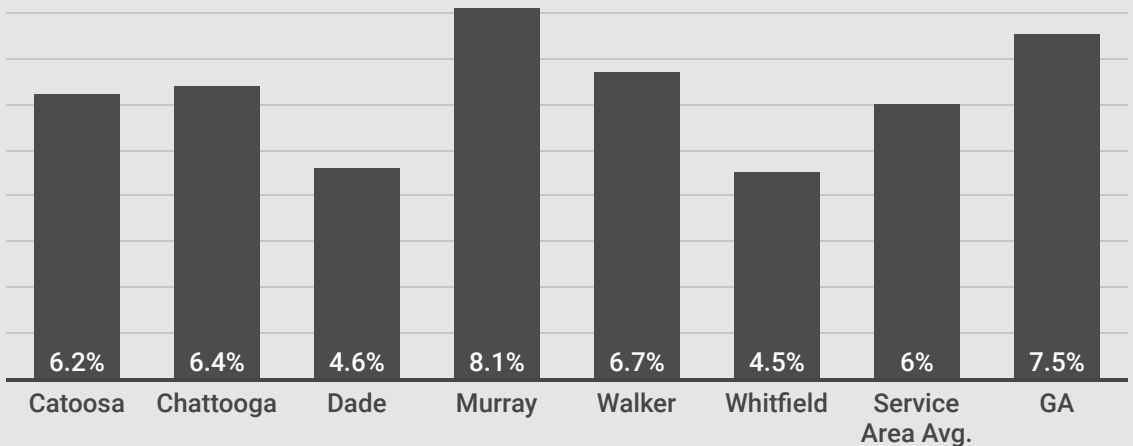
Unemployment

Georgia Kid's Count Data Center reports unemployment rates that vary from 2.6% (Dade County) to 4.8% (Chattooga) in the counties served. Our 6 county service area has an average unemployment rate of 3.6% which is lower than the 3.9% unemployment rate for Georgia and equal to the national rate of 3.7%. The unemployment rate decreased in the service area from 4.17% in 2020 to 3.56% in 2021.



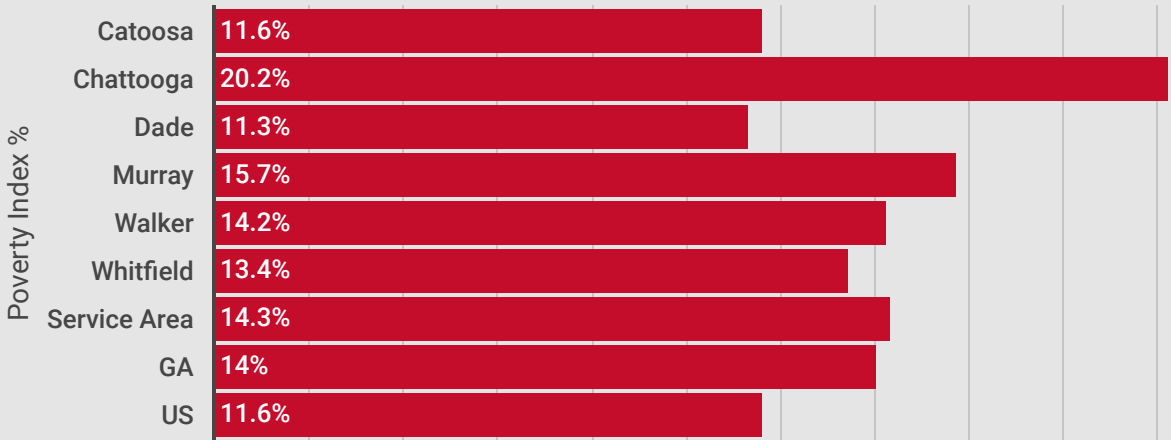
Children Whose Parents Lack Secure Employment

Ranges from 4.5% (Whitfield) to 8.1% (Murray). The service area average is 6% which is lower than the Georgia average of 7.5%. Children whose parents lack secure employment decreased in the service area from 6.9% in 2020 to 6% in 2021.



Poverty Rates in Georgia

The poverty rate in the service area ranges from 11.6% in Catoosa County to 20.2% in Chattooga County. The average poverty rate for the service area is 14.3% which is slightly higher than the GA poverty rate of 14% and lower than the national poverty rate of 11.6%. Although household income increased and employment rates decreased in the service area, poverty rates stayed consistent with a slight increase from 14.3 in 2020 to 14.4 in 2021.



Data obtained from US Census Quick Facts 2021 (data accessed Feb 15, 2023)

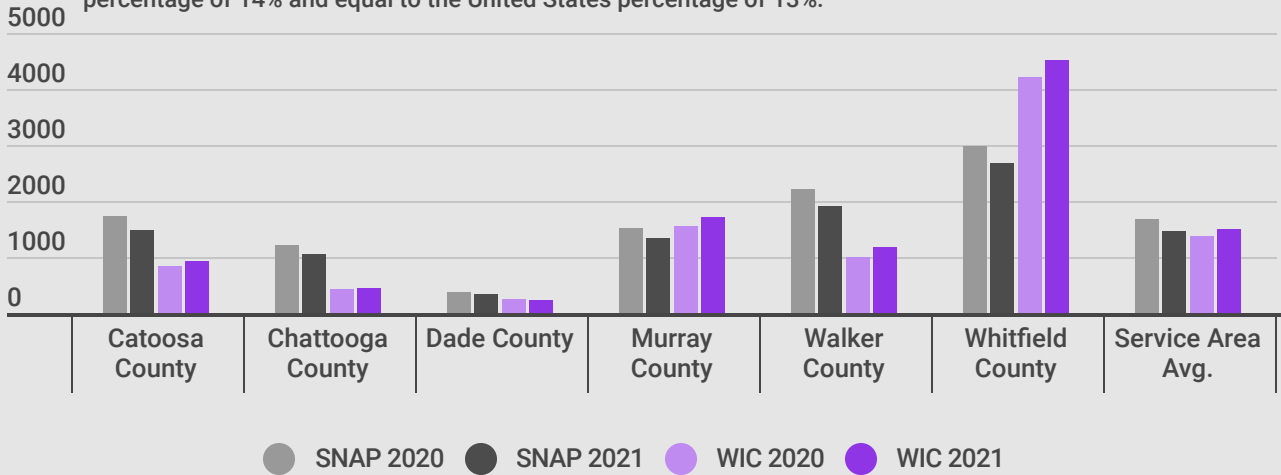
Children Living in Poverty

Children under 6 Years Old: below:	100% Poverty 2021	100% Poverty 2022	150% Poverty 2021	150% Poverty 2022
Catoosa	813 or 18%	1,027 or 23%	1,510 or 34%	1,692 or 37%
Chattooga	489 or 29%	489 or 29%	886 or 52%	886 or 52%
Dade	104 or 12%	99 or 11%	357 or 41%	355 or 41%
Murray	646 or 23%	754 or 27%	1,221 or 43%	1,206 or 43%
Walker	1,024 or 23%	1,001 or 22%	1,887 or 42%	1,682 or 36%
Whitfield	2,247 or 27%	2,247 or 27%	3,581 or 43%	3,581 or 43%
Georgia	24%	22%	37%	37%

Data obtained from GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students 2021/2022 (accessed Feb. 15, 2023)

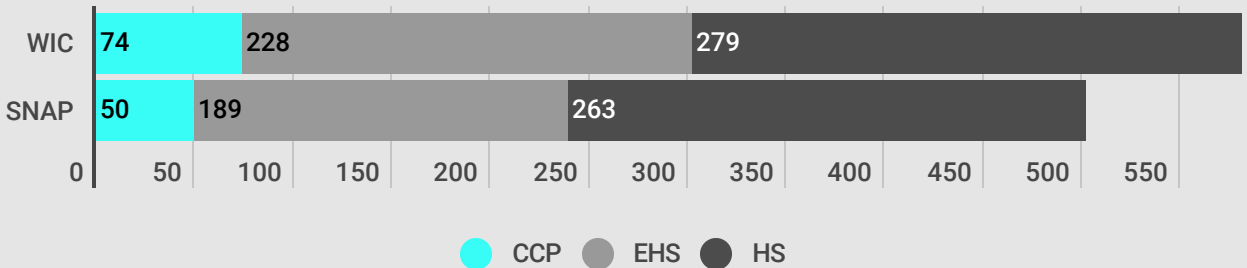
Households with children receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Georgia

Households on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has decreased in the service area from 1,672 in 2020 to 1,460 in 2021, although more households applied for WIC. Percentages range from 10% to 19% of households in the service area. The service area average of 13% is slightly lower than the Georgia percentage of 14% and equal to the United States percentage of 13%.



Data obtained from Kid's Count 2021-accessed Feb. 2023

Service Area-Families Participating in SNAP/WIC



The chart above shows the number of families of 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. Information/Links are provided on the agency web page at <https://www.fragahs.com/> that parents can use as a resource: "Fruit & Veggies Matter" sponsored by Produce for Better Health includes recipes that are child and budget friendly. "My Plate" sponsored by the USDA 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/classroom activities.

(Data Obtained from Childplus 2022-2023 Report # 9731-

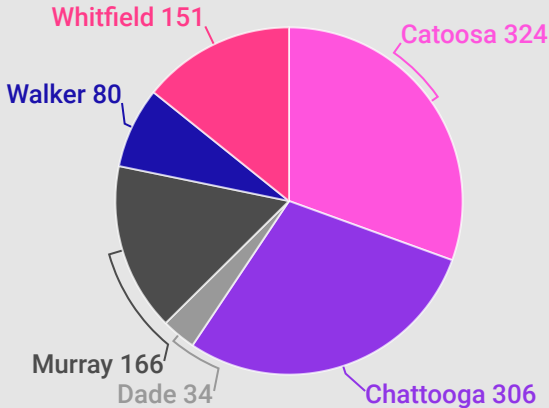
Eligible Infants/Toddlers/Preschool Age children

Estimate of Eligible Children	Catoosa	Chattooga	Dade	Murray	Walker	Whitfield
# of 0-5 year old children	3,488	2,061	767	2,397	3,768	6,377
X Poverty Rate	11.6%	20.2%	11.3%	15.7%	14.2%	13.4%
Number in Poverty	405	416	87	376	535	854
Divided by # of age groups (1-5 yrs. old)	5	5	5	5	5	5
# eligible by age group	81	83	17	75	107	171
X # of age groups served (3 and 4 yrs)	2	2	2	2	2	2
# 3 and 4 year old's eligible for HS	162	166	34	150	214	342
3 and 4 year old children served by HS and Pre-K at Family Resource Agency of N. GA	121	34	34	34	125	185
Eligible children 3/4's not served by FRA HS	41	132	0	116	89	157
X # of age groups served (1, 2, and 3 years)	3	3	3	3	3	3
# 0-3 year old's eligible for EHS	243	249	51	225	321	513
0-3 year old children served by EHS and CCP at Family Resource Agency of N. GA	40	56	32	40	80	144
Eligible children 0/3's not served by FRA EHS	203	193	19	204	241	369

Data Obtained from US Census Quick Facts July 1, 2021-accessed February 2023

Homeless Children Under 18 Years Old in Georgia

Total Number of Homeless Children in the Service Area counties vary in the 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.



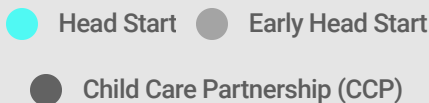
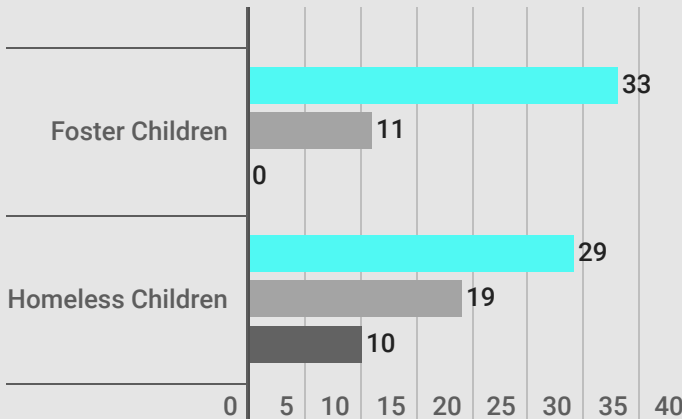
Foster Children in Georgia

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 2023

<https://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Documents/McKinney-Vento-accessed-March-2023>



Foster/Homeless Children FRA Serves:

At Family Resource Agency of N. GA we are serving 33 foster children in Head Start, 11 in Early Head Start, and 0 in CCP in 2022-23.

We are serving 29 Homeless children in Head Start 19 in Early Head Start, and 10 in CCP in 2022-23.

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

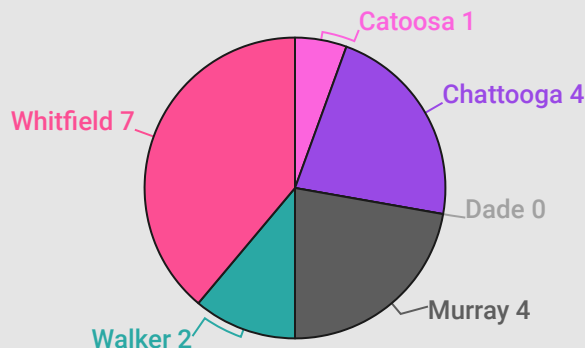
Health

Georgia has over 300 hospitals/medical centers throughout the state. There are seven hospitals located within our 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 our furthest county and within 10 miles of our closest county; this includes T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital which is well known in the area.

Within our service area, over 600 doctors accept Medicaid and PeachCare for kids. The largest concentration of doctors is located in Whitfield with over 300 and Catoosa with over 22, 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 2022 America's Health Ratings from the United Health Foundation, Georgia is ranked 36th (1=best/50=worst) in the country for overall health – an improvement from a ranking of 40 in 2019. 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 our counties:



Dental

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.

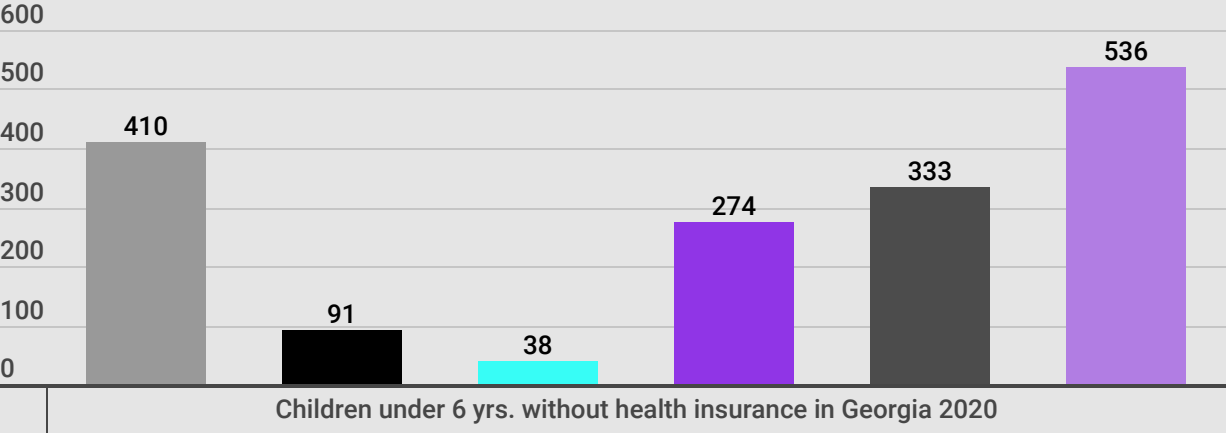
County	# of Dentists	Medicaid or PeachCare accepted	Head Start Payment Accepted	Accepts Children under age 3	Accepts Children under age 5	Accepts Pregnant Moms
Catoosa	7	1	1	1	4	6
Chattooga	8	5	4	1	6	7
Dade	2	2	2	0	2	2
Murray	2	2	2	0	2	2
Walker	4	2	4	0	4	4
Whitfield	22	3	3	4	16	18
Totals	45	15	16	6	34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

Mental Health

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 then 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 without Insurance in Georgia



● Catoosa ● Chattooga ● Dade ● Murray ● Walker ● Whitfield

Data Obtained from GEEARS (health insurance) accessed March 2023

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

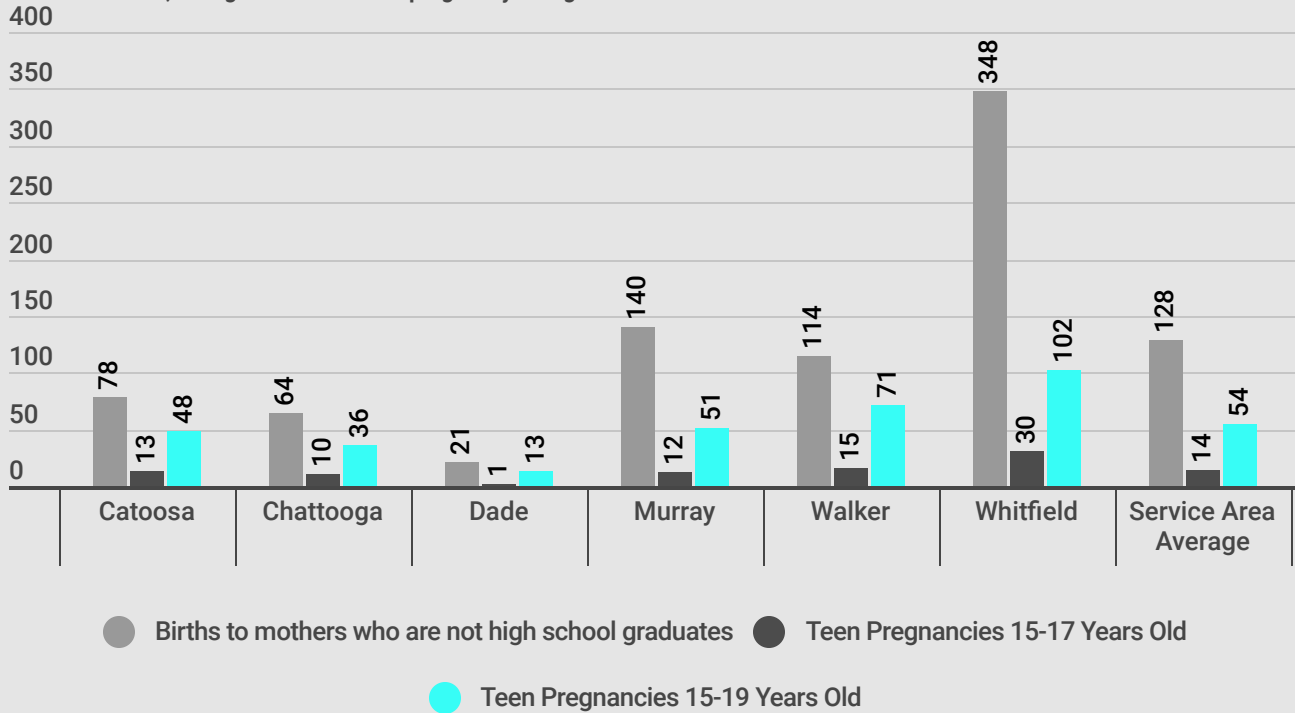


● CCP ● EHS ● HS

Data Obtained from Childplus PIR Report #9900-accessed March 2023

Teen Pregnancy in Service Area Counties

The Service Area Average for births to mothers who are not high school graduates is 128; this is the most vulnerable group in the service area; ages 15-17 years old average is 28% Murray County is above the state average whereas other counties are below or equal to the state average. The state percentage of teen pregnancies ages 15-19 is 23%; Chattooga, Murray, Walker, and Whitfield are above the state average. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, Georgia's national teen pregnancy rating is 14.7 in 2023.



Data obtained from Kid's Count-GA & GEEARS-Counties 2019/accessed March 2023

Pregnant Moms Served at Family Resource Agency in 2022-2023		
Mom Enrolled during 1st Trimester		0
Mom Enrolled during 2nd Trimester		6
Mom Enrolled during 3rd Trimester		5
Received Prenatal Healthcare		12
Received Postnatal Healthcare		10

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 941 children and families in six northwest counties of Georgia. Currently the program operates 82 classrooms in 26 centers located in 6 counties. The current 941 funded enrollment slots are divided between 4 separate programs: Head Start (HS) with 453 slots, Blended Pre-K/Head Start with 80 slots, Early Head Start (EHS) with 312 slots, and Childcare Partnerships (CCP) with 96 slots.

	Total Slots	CCP Slots	EHS Slots	HS Slots	Blended Pre-K/HS Slots
Catoosa	135	0	48	67	20
Chattooga	90	0	56	34	0
Dade	66	16	16	34	0
Murray	74	16	24	34	0
Walker	213	16	72	85	40
Whitfield	363	48	96	199	20
Total Children	941	96	312	453	80
Total Classes	82	12	39	27	4
Total Staff 259					

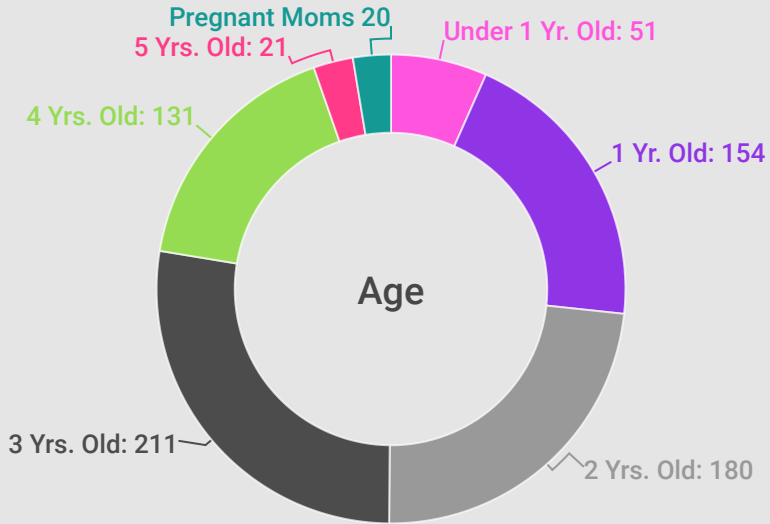
Childplus Report 2001 (grp. by all/region/site/summery)-accessed March 2023

Georgia Program Enrollment in Service Area

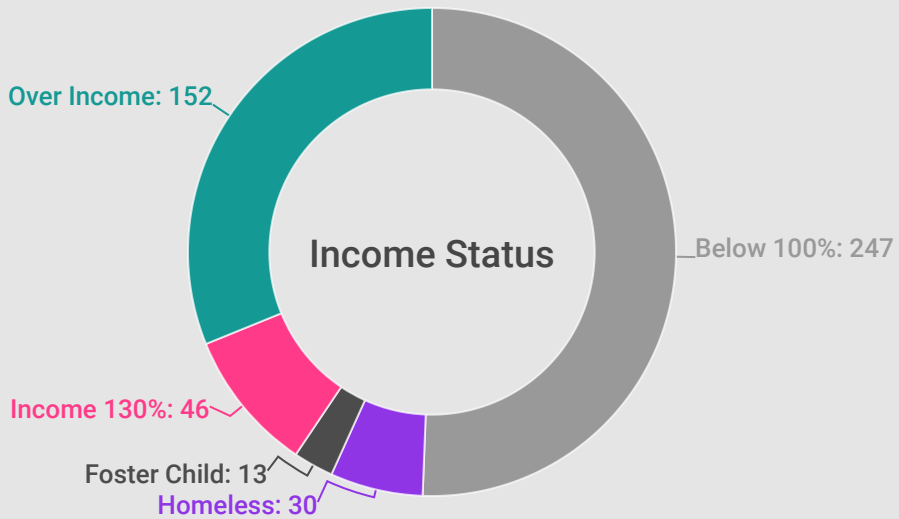
County	Children Ages Birth-5 Living Below 100% Poverty	FRA HS and Pre-K enrollment	FRA EHS/CCP enrollment	Georgia Pre-K enrollment	At-risk Served by Pre-K	Eligible Children Birth-5 not Served
Catoosa	813	87	48	468 (37% at risk)	173	505
Chattooga	489	34	56	231 (51% at risk)	118	281
Dade	104	34	32	98 (49% at risk)	48	0
Murray	646	34	40	292 (52% at risk)	152	420
Walker	1,024	125	88	429 (54% at risk)	232	579
Whitfield	904	219	144	868 (50% at risk)	434	107

Data Obtained from GEEARS Early Childhood Profiles (arcgis.com) accessed March 2023

Number of Children/Pregnant Moms on FRA Waitlists by Age & Income Status



Data Obtained from 2022-23 ChildPlus Report 2250/2025-Waitlist Enrollment by Age-accessed March 2023



Data Obtained from 2022-23 ChildPlus Report 2250-Waitlist Charts by Income Status-March 2023

Centers and Family Care Homes in Service Area

County	Total Providers	Child Care Centers	Serves Infants	Serves Toddlers	Serves Preschoolers	Family Child Care	Other
Catoosa	24	18	56%	61%	100%	0	6
Chattooga	11	6	67%	67%	100%	1	4
Dade	7	3	100%	100%	100%	2	2
Murray	6	4	100%	100%	100%	1	1
Walker	22	12	100%	100%	100%	1	9
Whitfield	40	18	78%	83%	100%	6	16

Program Enrollment in Service Area

	Kindergarten	Lottery Funded Pre-K	-At Risk Served by Pre-K	Head Start/Early Head Start
Catoosa	749	468	37%	177
Chattooga	285	231	51%	90
Dade	152	98	49%	66
Murray	480	292	52%	74
Walker	764	429	54%	205
Whitfield	1,544	868	50%	347

Licensed Capacity in Service Area

	Total Licensed Capacity/Slots	Learning Center Slots	Family Childcare Slots
Catoosa	2,138	2,138	0
Chattooga	414	408	6
Dade	261	249	12
Murray	380	374	6
Walker	1,439	1,433	6
Whitfield	2,107	2,071	36

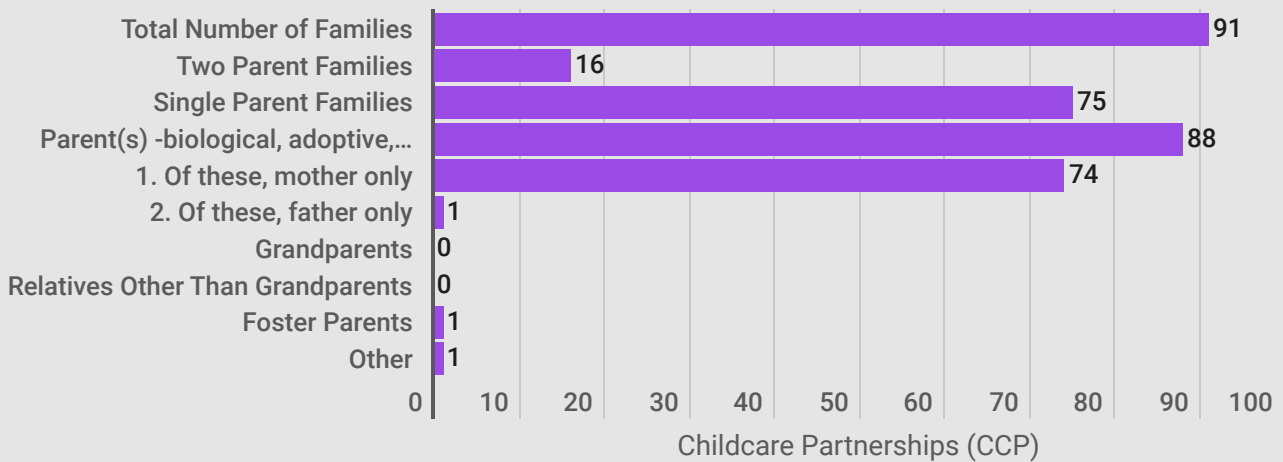
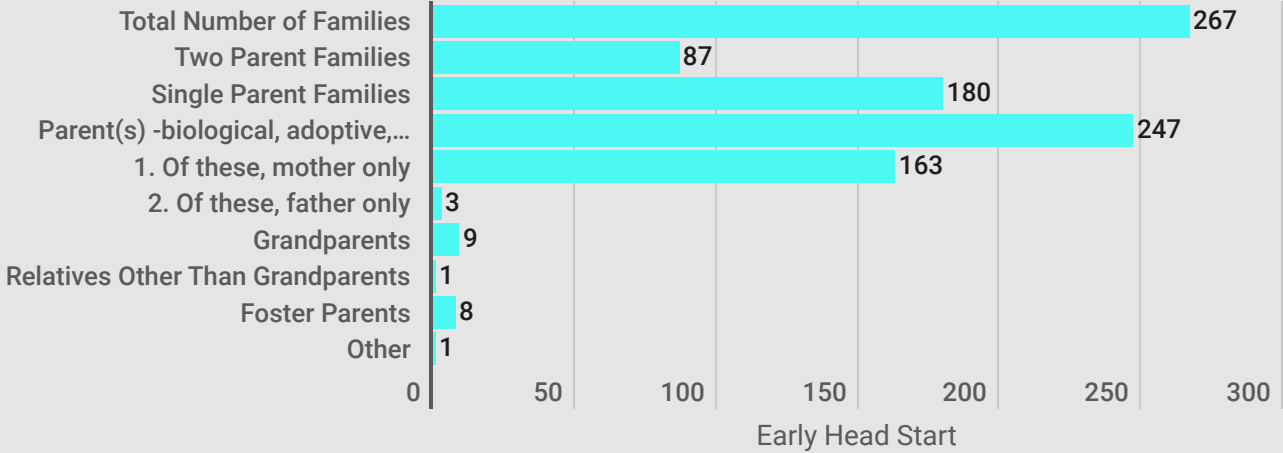
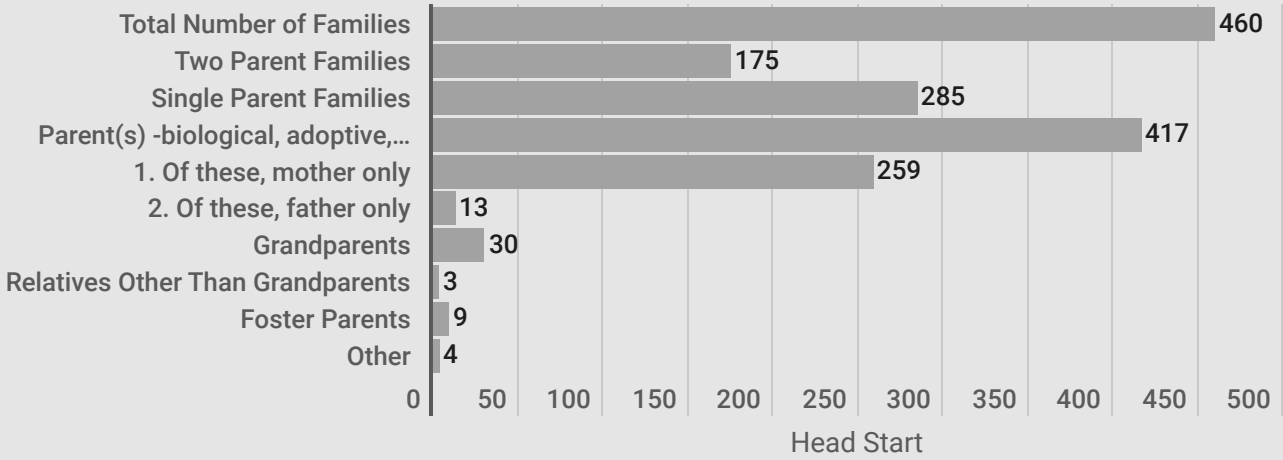
Race and Ethnicity-Family Resource Agency of N. GA Funded Enrollment

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	0	1	1	0
Asian	0	0	0	1	0	0
Black or African American	4	33	1	21	0	5
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	89	291	66	167	18	68
Bi-racial or Multi-racial	10	52	12	26	7	10
Other Race	9	2	5	0	1	0
Total	112	380	84	216	27	83

Data Obtained from ChildPlus Report 9900-2022-23-accessed March 2023



Families by Type



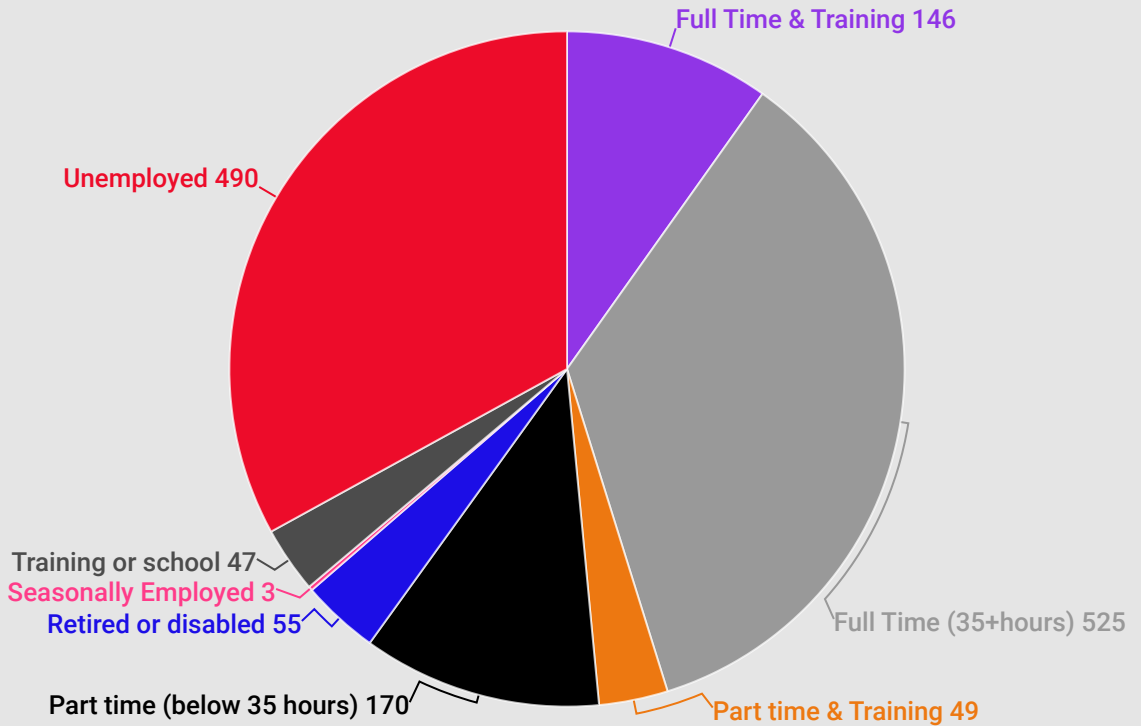
Parent Education Level-Family Resource Agency of N. GA-HS, EHS, and CCP

At Enrollment 2022-2023	Head Start	Early Head Start	Childcare Partnerships (CCP)
Total Number of Families	460	267	91
Less than High School	106	62	21
High School Graduate/GED	282	71	55
Associate/Vocational/Some College	58	24	14
Advanced or BA Degree	14	10	1

Parent Employment/Job Training/School-Family Resource Agency of N. GA -HS, EHS , CCP

At Enrollment 2022-2023	Head Start	Early Head Start	Child Care Partnerships
Total Number of Families	460	267	91
At least 1 parent/guardian is employed, in job training, or in school	337	196	66
Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian is employed	330	176	62
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)	90	56	18
Of these families, the number in which one or more parent/guardian 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)	122	71	25

Work, School, and Training Schedules of Parents



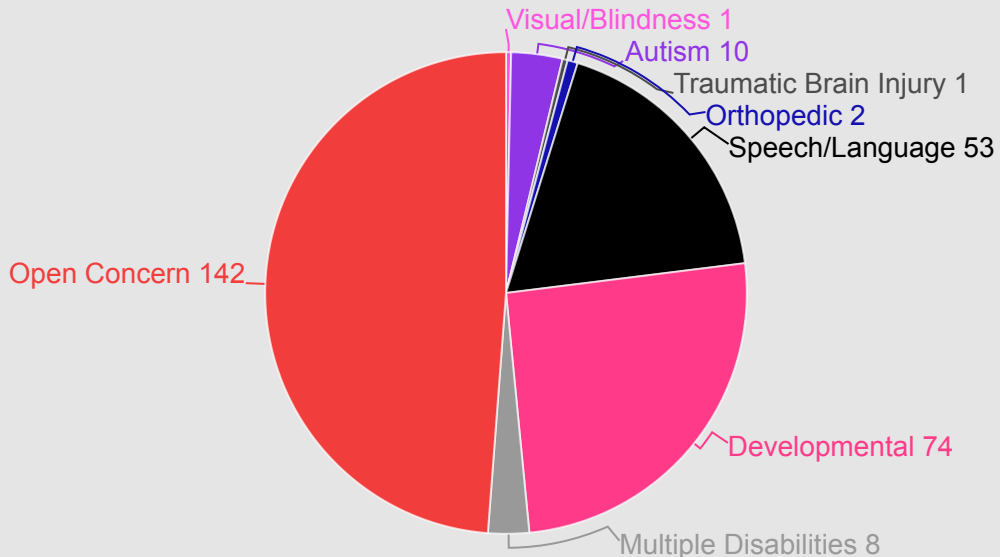
The total number of families being served in 2022-2023 In Head Start, Early Head Start/Pre-K, and CCP is 818 families. Of these families 18% are working and in training full-time, 64% are working full-time, 6% are working and in training part-time, 21% are working part-time (below 35 hours), and 60% are unemployed. Of the 818 families 7% are retired or disabled.

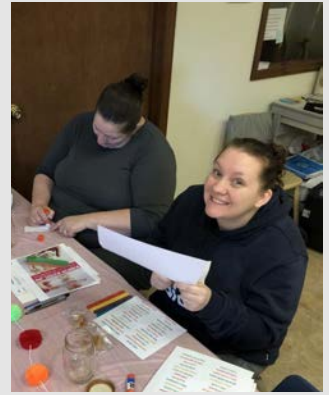
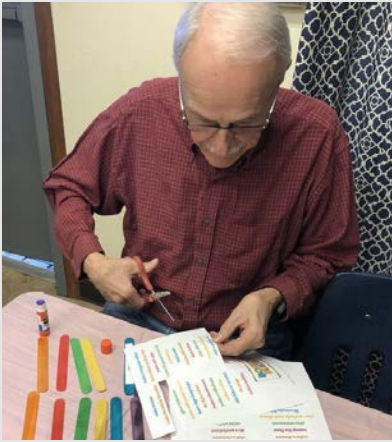
Disabilities-Funded Enrollment

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.

Program Wide Disability Summary 2022-2023





Family Surveys



Family Survey Results

Participating Families:

Survey Monkey was used to gather information from families about our program. 737 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 2022-2023 school year, the majority of surveys indicated the services provided are excellent or satisfactory. The lowest scoring questions were the program's reputation in the community and how well the class schedules meet the families needs although 97% families scored these areas as excellent or satisfactory.

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?
99% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

* Question-Regarding the communication between staff and parents?
99% scored this as excellent or satisfactory.

*Question-"Regarding how well the class schedule meets families' needs?
97% 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, other child attended, Facebook/social media

Question-Regarding how we could improve the program?
Extended hours, summer childcare, and provide transportation

Program Staff Surveys



Program Staff Survey Results:

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

The main results were:

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

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

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

Provide transportation; extended hours; consistent qualified teaching staff; more support for children-trauma, health, and socialization; higher wages for staff; easier way to provide proof of SNAP for enrollment purposes.

What are strong points of Head Start services provided?

Relationships with families; family partnerships; school readiness; meals/diapers provided; teamwork at centers; assisting families with community resources; follow licensing requirements; highly qualified teachers, parent/male involvement activities; early intervention services; safe environments; helps the entire family as a whole.

What are strong points of families receiving Head Start services?

School/home connections; communication with teachers; families feel safe leaving their children in our hands; families are educated in ways to support their child's education; families want their children to learn; families enroll and bring their children to class; volunteering is high at some centers; families have goals and want the best for their children.

What are the biggest challenges for families we serve?

Transportation, gas cost; program hours not long enough to meet work schedule needs; help/support with children; parent participation/volunteering; poverty.

What is the biggest challenge you have with getting parents involved at the center, volunteering, attending parent cafe's, participating in male involvement activities, serving on policy council etc.?

Working parents; cost of gas, childcare for siblings; time restraints; not interested in training topics.

What types of parent trainings have been provided to families during Parent Cafe's at your center(s) this year?

First aid/CPR; Child Abuse; Parenting; Mental Health; Stress Management; Medical/Dental; Second Steps; Personal Growth; Nutrition; Safety Practices; Advocacy & Transition; Growth & Development.

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

Flourish, DFACS, The Cottage, Rooted by Grace, Rossville Library, Primary Health Care, Babies Can't Wait, Pre-K, North Georgia Community Action Inc, United Way of North GA, DOC-UP, City of Refuge, Dalton's Greater Works, The Haven, The Crisis Center, Lafayette Housing Authority, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, County Collaborative Meetings, DFCS. The CARE Mission, Housing Authority, Walker County Schools, Communities in Schools, Parents are Teachers, Four Points, Rockbridge Community Church, Catoosa Learning Center, Catoosa Public Library, Dalton Outreach Center, DEO clinic, The Salvation Army, Dalton Park and Recreation, Health Departments, Chattooga Family Connection, Trion City School System, PALS, Chattooga County Division of Family and Children Services, Dade First Family Connection, Parents as Teachers at PLC, Walker County Collaborative, Walker County Public Schools, school nurses at high schools in area, libraries, learning centers, health depts.

Analysis

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

1. Identify community needs and make decisions regarding services provided by Head Start and Early Head Start.
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.
4. identify issues that can be addressed in other groups, such as the County Collaborative Councils.

This process assists Family Resource Agency of North Georgia on reflection and re-examination of our mission, vision, and program goals to insure services provided meet the needs of children and families in our 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, 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 HS and Pre-K. There is no need to expand Head Start services in these areas. However, additional services are needed for pregnant woman, teen moms, and infants/toddlers (birth-3) as there are eligible infants/toddlers not receiving services. High pregnancy rates in girls who are not high school graduates is the most vulnerable group. Pregnancies rates for 15-19 year old girls is also high in our service areas.

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 information from the program staff and family surveys there is a high need for transportation, extended classroom hours, and consistent qualified teaching staff.

Resources:

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

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

Childplus PIR and Reports 2023

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)

