



*We connect, communicate, and count
what matters to communities*

Georgia Family Connection Partnership: Dedicated to Improving Outcomes at State Level

- **Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP) was created in 2001 to provide formal support to the Family Connection statewide network.**
- **GaFCP is a public/private nonprofit that supports the local collaboratives in efforts to improve outcomes for children and families.**
- **Georgia KIDS COUNT grantee provides data and information on child, family, and community well-being**



Georgia Family Connection: Dedicated to Improving Outcomes at Local Level

- **Driven by Kids Count statistics**
- **Started with 15 communities in 1991**
- **Has grown to the largest statewide network of collaboratives in the nation (159 counties) committed to improving results for children and families in Georgia**

What is a County Collaborative?

A public/private partnership that serves as the local decision-making body for improving results for children and families.

Those partnerships include leadership from:

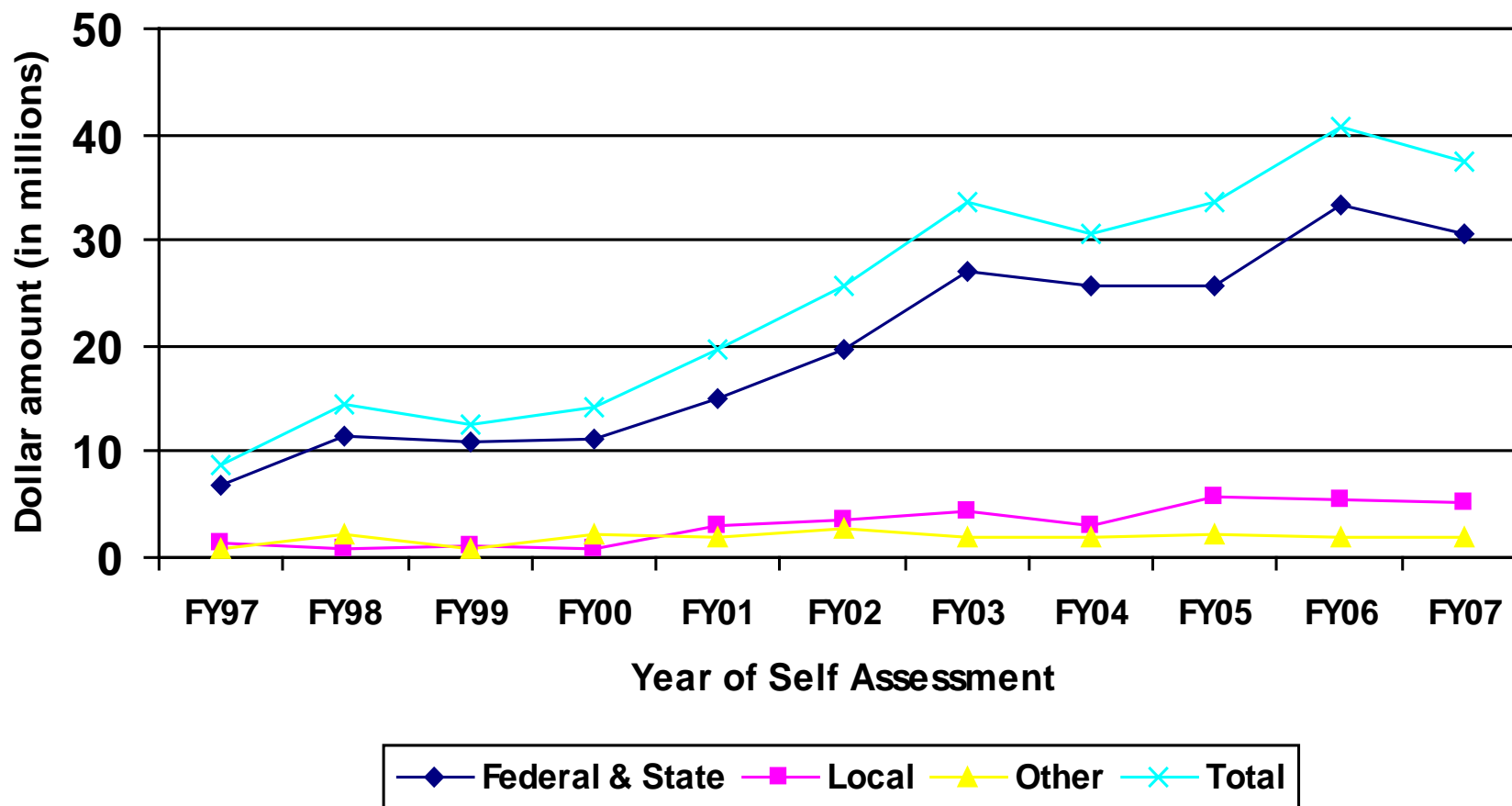
- public agencies
- private nonprofits
- local governments
- consumers/volunteers
- business
- education
- faith-based
- organizations

A County Collaborative...

- **Develops, implements and evaluates a community strategic plan**
- **Makes decisions about results that are desired**
- **Sets priorities to achieve those results**
- **Allocates resources**
- **Holds itself accountable for the well-being of children and families in the community**
- **Measures results on more than 50 indicators of child well-being using KIDS COUNT data**

Leveraging Dollars: \$4 to 1

Statewide Sums of Cash Contributions to Family Connection Collaboratives



Georgia KIDS COUNT

- A national and state-by-state effort funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- Measures how children and families are faring on 45 indicators
- Includes national, state, regional, and county-level data
- Some indicators by Congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school systems

A young man and woman are looking at a document together. The man is on the left, wearing a dark jacket over a white shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored shirt. They are both smiling and looking at the document. The background is blurred with warm, bokeh lights.

Georgia Ranks 40th in Child Well-being

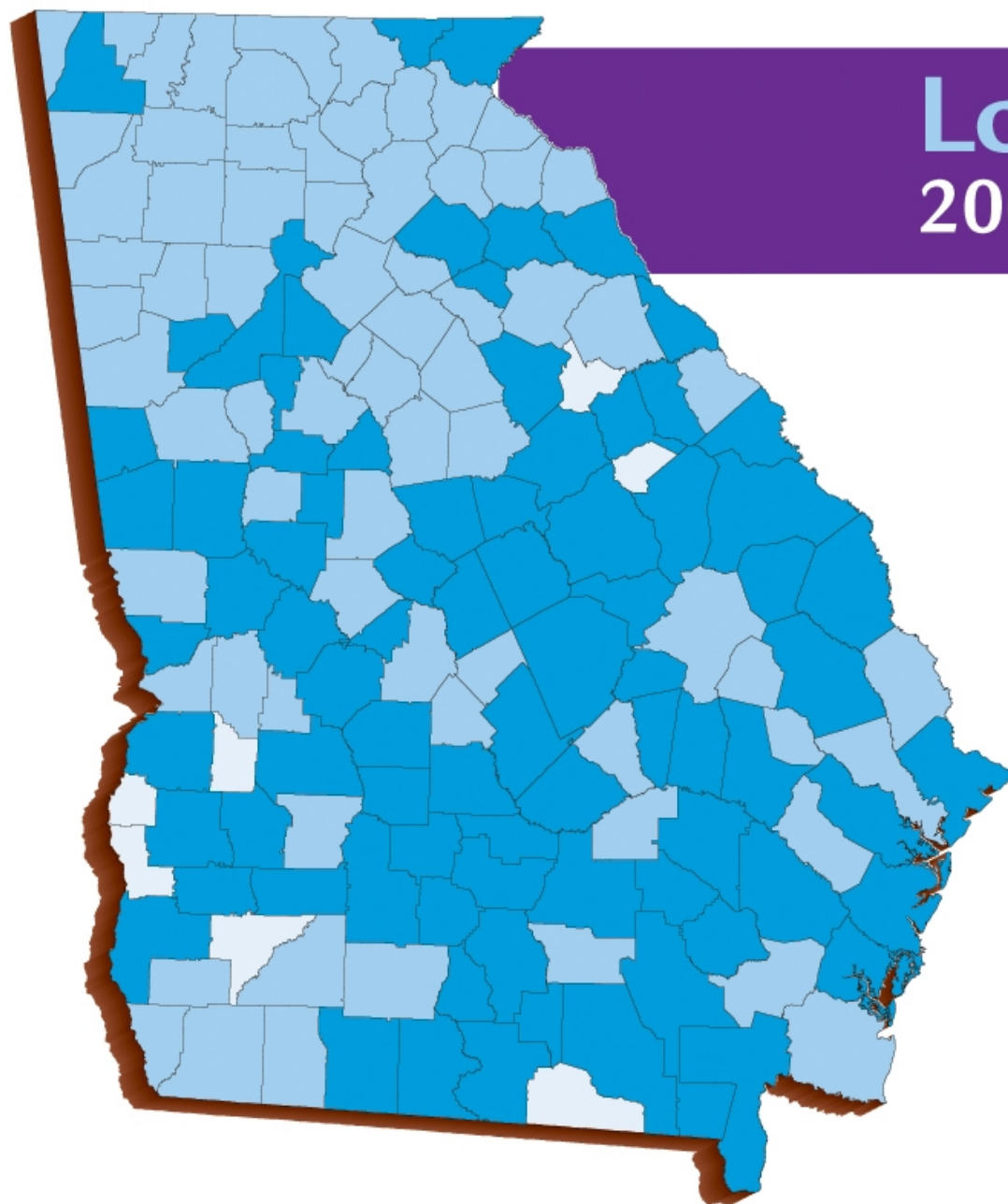
Source: AECF KIDS COUNT 2008 Data Book

Georgia Is In the Bottom 10 States on Five Indicators

- High-school dropouts: **41st**
- Infant mortality: **42nd**
- Low birthweight: **43rd**
- Teen birth rate: **43rd**
- Children in single-parent families: **45th**

Other National Rankings

- Teens not attending school and not working: **36th**
- Percent of children in poverty: **36th**
- Teen death rate: **31st**
- Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment: **29th**
- Child death rate: **27th**



Low Birthweight 2006

Percent

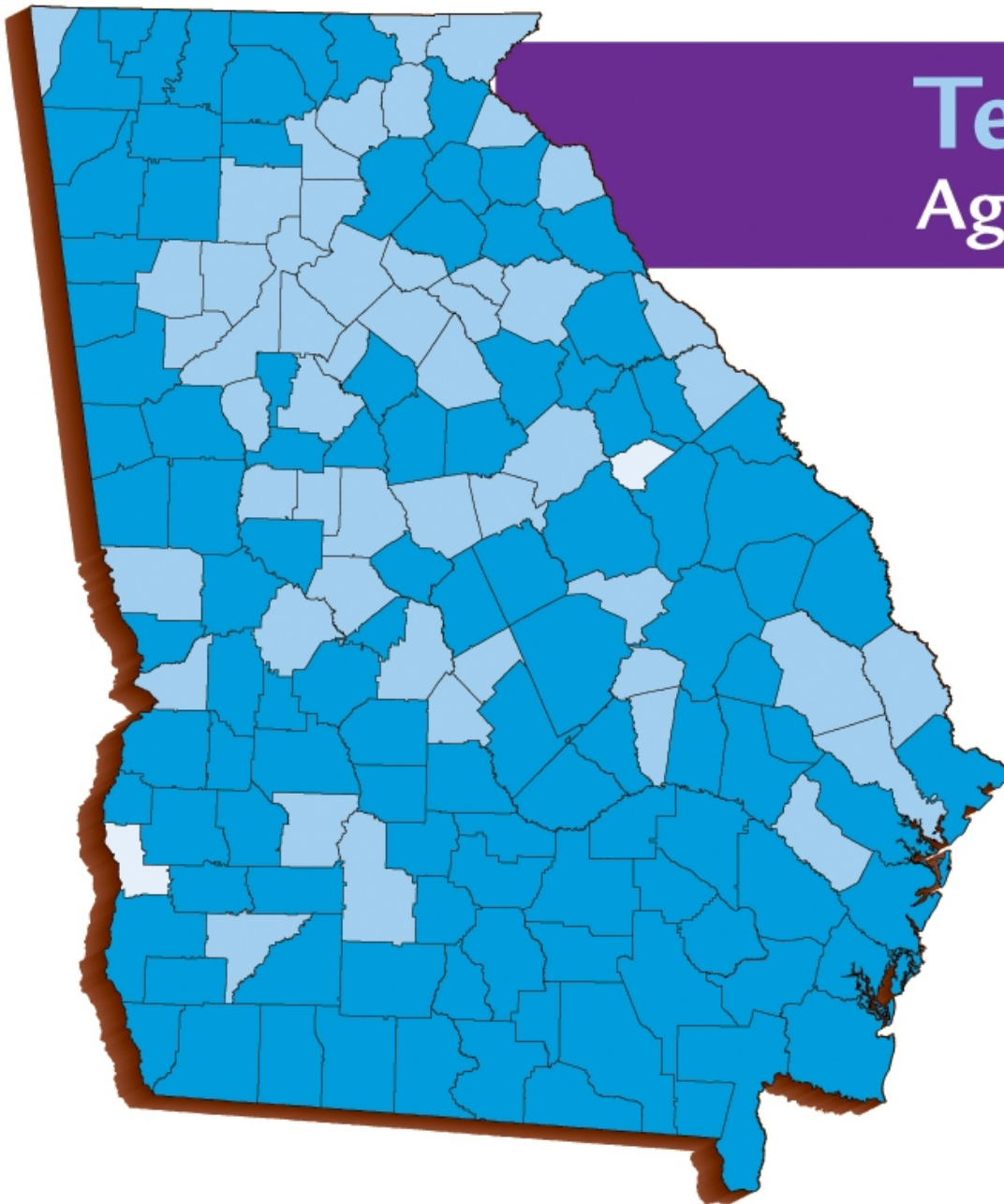
- 4.1 – 9.5
(Better than state average)
- 9.6 – 22.5
(State average or worse)
- Less than 5 events

Teen Births

Ages 15–19: 2006

Rate per 1,000

- 14.6 – 54.0
(Better than state average)
- 54.1 – 118.6
(State average or worse)
- Less than 5 events

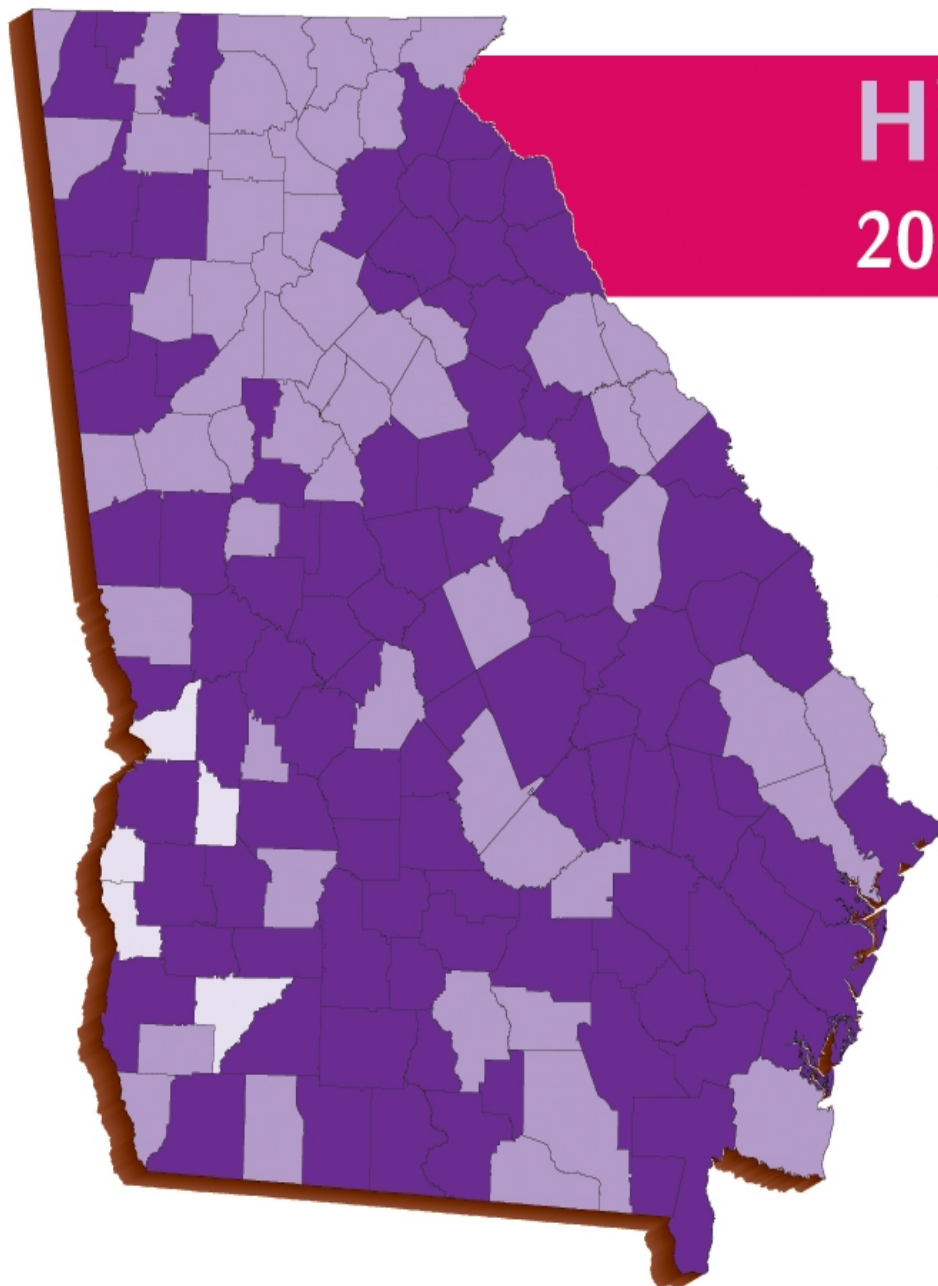




High-School Graduation 2007

Percent

- 72.4 – 91.5
(Better than state average)
- 37.5 – 72.3
(State average or worse)
- No county school system





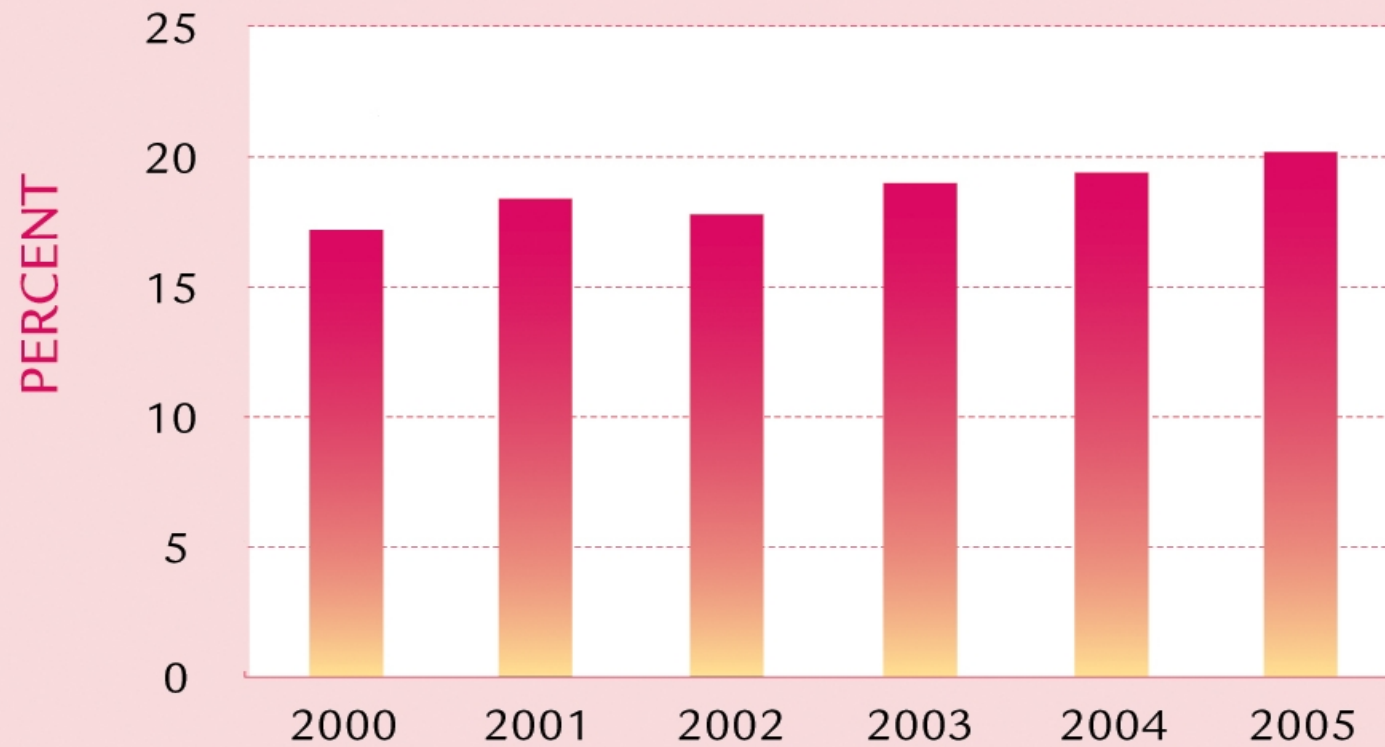
Strong Communities

- The educational level of adults has slightly increased.
- The percentage of adults age 25 or older with a high-school diploma or higher has increased from 81.5% in 2002 to 82.2% in 2006.
- The violent crime rate and property crime rate remained level in 2006 after more than tripling from 2004 to 2005.



Child Poverty

2000–2005





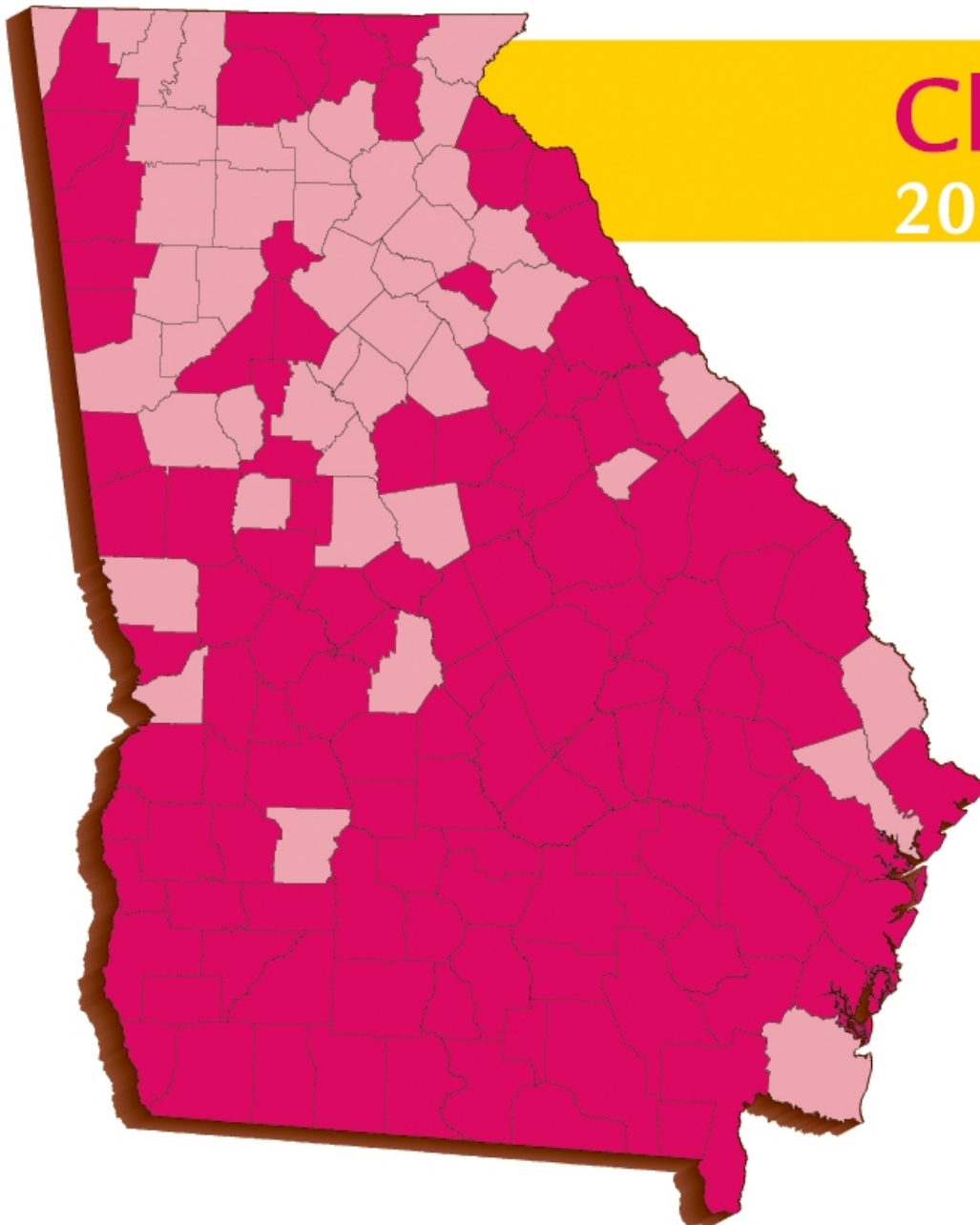


Child Poverty

2005

Percent

-  5.4 – 20.2
(Better than state average)
-  20.3 – 49.9
(State average or worse)





A Stronger Georgia by 10%: Child Poverty

- Georgia ranks 36th in the nation.
- 20% (484,525) of Georgia's children live in poverty.
- *We can achieve a 10-percent improvement:*
- Ensuring (an average of) 304 fewer children live in poverty, per county.



What Works to Build Strong Communities?

- Educate communities about the connection between early childbearing and poverty.
- Offer community-based programs for education completion and technical skills
- Expand and promote asset-building programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- Increase access to traditional banking services in low-income neighborhoods.
- Advocate for more affordable housing.



Economic Challenges to Building Strong Communities

● Teen births, Repeat births	● Lack of educated workforce
● High school dropouts	● High rates of unemployment
● School truancy/ absenteeism	● Low-skilled workforce
● Lack of needed supports for workforce	● Idle youth
● Lack of quality childcare	● Persistent poverty



Policy Opportunities to Building Strong Communities

- Improved access to healthcare, health coverage, family planning services

- Work supports are likely more necessary given economic downturn

- Continued investment in education and programs that improve student achievement

- Investment in quality childcare, early education, childcare subsidies

Improving Outcomes for Georgia

*It takes many people at many levels,
working together,
to effect change in the lives of
Georgia's children and families.*

What has Family Connection Learned . . .

- About partnerships?
- About sustaining community driven initiatives?

Definition: Resource Development

- Identification and acquiring of
 1. Operating funds
 2. In-kind or redirected staff
 3. Supplies or spaceto implement a program or strategy
- *Needs are laid out in a budget and tied to a plan*
- *Implementation has a specified timeframe*

Definition: Sustainability

- Sustainability is an extension of the resource development activity and focuses on maintaining or extending a program or strategy.

Sustainable efforts are characterized by the following:

1. Renewable
2. Built on local efforts
3. Not competitive in nature

Partnership is Key to Success

Broad cross section of local leaders and advocates must

1. Value the program or strategy and
2. Be fully committed to using their individual and corporate leverage on behalf of the effort to insure its continued availability.

Building Partnerships

- Reach out and engage on common interests
- The ones who matter are the ones who came
- Work with those who care about the issue
- Work to increase the circle of those who care – informing, reporting, adding value to other efforts
- Never say never - if a partner does not join right away allow for possibility of getting on board down the line

Our Partners are the future

- Who in our community relies this initiative and its outcomes?
- E.g. How do we improve quality of life not only for individuals but other stakeholders in community well-being?
- Can/will our partners support this work?



Analysis of the Resource Data

- What do we need?
- What do we have?
- What is the gap?

Building the Resource Development Plan

- Who are the partners in the strategy and resource development effort – who cares?
- Identify new or existing partners with a stake in the outcome
- Craft revenue development plan

Sustain the Work not the Program

- When preparing to attract other investors and partners in the work, the goal is not to “maintain our program or keep our staff”
- Always identify needs in terms of results
- An investment of \$x by local government will yield y units of affordable housing or z number of new home owning taxpayers

Investors Need/Want Results

In a sustainability effort we need a track record

Is your data:

- Current?
- Results based?
- Quantified for cost savings?

Georgia Family Connection Partnership

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