

MATERNAL HEALTH PRIORITY CLUSTER

Summary:

The Maternal health priority cluster addresses the health status of mothers before during and after pregnancy and includes substance abuse (including tobacco and alcohol), poor health status, obesity, poor mental health, and lack of breastfeeding. The GA 2013-2016 plan did not directly address these areas. Poor health status appeared to be a high priority to session 1 attendees. Survey respondents most often noted the following underlying factors: lack of insurance, rural access issues (transportation, location of services, etc.), patient compliance, culture/tradition/generational cycles, stigma, apathy, lack of child care, and limited training of professionals. Catoosa, Dawson, Murray, Polk, and Towns Counties do not appear to have a lot of behavioral health service options.

Session #1 Outcomes:

Facilitating Factor	# Groups Included	Placement in Top 10 of Individual Groups
Poor health status	4 (out of 4)	2 nd , 3 rd , 5 th , and 5 th – In the top five of all four groups
Poor mental health	3 (out of 4)	4 th , 6 th , and 7 th
Substance use	2 (out of 4)	2 nd and 3 rd
Obesity	2 (out of 4)	2 nd and 9 th
Lack of breastfeeding	1 (out of 4)	1

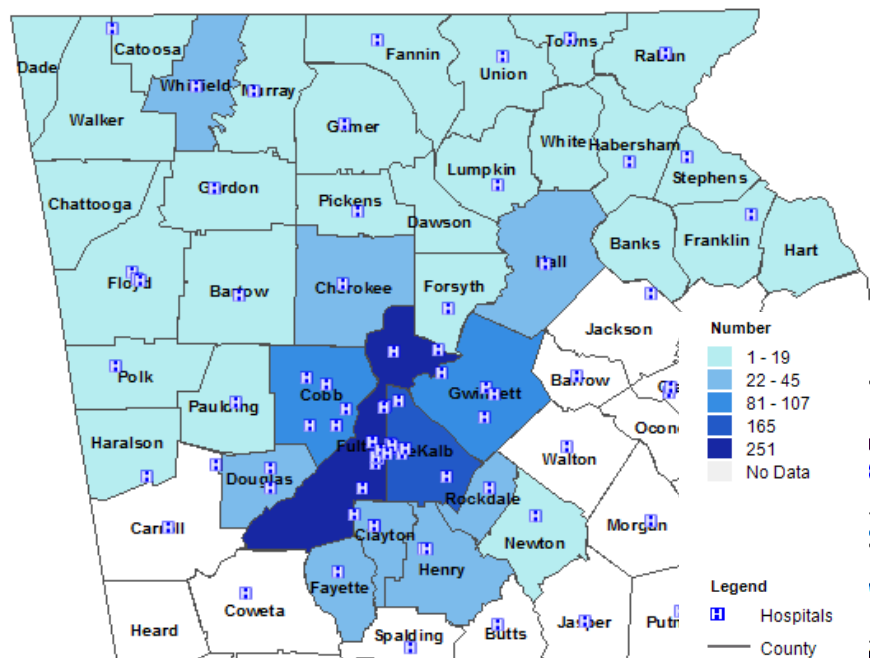
HMHB Directory Map: Maternal Health *

Most counties in the region have at least one mental health resource.

Almost half of the counties in the region (18/39) do not have substance abuse services

The northeast and southern counties have fewer breastfeeding resources listed than the rest of the region.

**See Types of Services Included in the HMHB Directory Maps by Priority Cluster for a list of services included in the Maternal Health Map*



Planned Service Expansion of Survey Respondents by Type of Provider and Counties Served

Planned Service Expansion	Geographic Area
Adolescent Reproductive healthcare	39-County Region, Rockdale, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton, Henry, Newton, Gwinnett
Behavioral health services	39-County Region
Breastfeeding education/support	Habersham
Postpartum Education/advocacy	Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, and Gwinnett
Social services to mothers (including expecting mothers)	Fulton
Interconception Education/advocacy	39-County Region

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Poor health status (Obesity and Hypertension):

- According to the CDC, the percentage of women entering pregnancy obese has increased from 2011 to 2014 in the state (from 27.3% to 28.0%) and the nation (from 23.4% to 24.8%), with higher rates among Black and Hispanic women. Similarly, rate of births associated with hypertension has increased nationally from 39.9 to 56.0 per 1,000 live births from 2005 to 2015.

What is needed:	What is driving the need:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant health education for expecting mothers • Medical management • Additional training and awareness for first responders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Poor compliance with follow-up directives • Lack of access to care (transportation and provider location) • Lack of insurance

Poor mental health:

- According to HMHB State of the State, postpartum depression affects 9-16% of postpartum women in the U.S.
- Most counties in the region have at least one mental health resource listed in the HMHB directory except for Catoosa, Dawson, Murray, Polk, and Towns Counties.

What is needed:	What is driving the need:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral health services for pregnant and postpartum women • Screening and counseling for perinatal mood disorders (postpartum depression) • Presences of ACEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources/reimbursement • Lack of programs/options • Isolation • Transportation issues • Lack of child care offered • Stigma/apathy • Generational cycles • Referral resources for positive screening • Poor attendance of existing programs • Limited awareness of importance/value

Substance use:

- According to OASIS, the percentage of births with reported tobacco exposure has decreased from 2011 to 2015 in the region (4.5% to 4.4%), the state (6.0% to 5.7%), and the nation (9% to 8%). Underreporting is common for this behavior.
- Almost half of the counties in the region (18/39) do not have substance abuse services listed in the HMHB directory (Banks, Catoosa, Cherokee, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Franklin, Gilmer, Habersham, Haralson, Hart, Henry, Murray, Paulding, Polk, Rabun, Towns, and White counties).

What is needed:	What is driving the need:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking cessation resources for pregnant women • Rehabilitation options (Maternal and infant programs) • Foster care options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources in rural areas, in particular • Lack of funding and limited reimbursement

Lack of breastfeeding

- According to HMHB State of the State, 31% of mothers do not initiate breastfeeding in GA compared to 18.9% nationally.
- There are few breastfeeding resources listed in the HMHB directory for the counties in the northeast corner of the region (Banks, Dawson, Fannin, Franklin, Gilmer, Hart, Lumpkin, Murray, Pickens, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, and Union Counties) and the most southern counties (Fayette, Henry, and Newton Counties).

What is needed:	What is driving the need:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent support/education • Breastfeeding training/education/support (IBCLC lactation services in the hospital and at home, training for breast pumps and how to maintain a mother's milk supply for all mothers undergoing any mother/baby separation, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources/reimbursement - Medicaid does not cover lactation care by an IBCLC (GA can choose to change) • Not all communities/hospitals have access to lactation consultants (Habersham) • Home visitors are not always trained to support breastfeeding • Limited social support in the community for mothers breastfeeding