



Georgia Department of Public Health

Georgia Telehealth Initiative

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Telehealth Director
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We Protect Lives.



Background

- Georgia is ranked 40th in the nation in physician distribution in terms of specialty and geographic location, according to the Georgia Board of Physician Workforce.
- Fifty-two percent of all physicians are located in five primary areas that serve just 38% of the population.
- In 2008, 32 of the state's 159 counties had fewer than five physicians.
- In Georgia, obesity is more prevalent among non-Hispanic blacks at 37.6% than non-Hispanic whites at 26.1%.

America's Health Rankings

UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION | AMERICA'S HEALTH RANKINGS® 2012

GEORGIA

Ranking: Georgia is 36th this year; it was 38th in 2011.

Highlights:

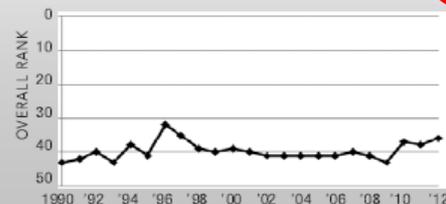
- ★ In Georgia, 2 million adults are obese and almost 750,000 adults have diabetes.
- In the past 5 years, the high school graduation rate increased from 61.2 percent to 67.8 percent of ninth graders who graduate in 4 years.
- ★ While Georgia is still challenged by a high infant mortality rate, in the past 10 years it has declined from 8.4 to 7.7 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- In the past 5 years, the rate of preventable hospitalizations decreased from 82.0 to 68.4 discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees.
- In the past 10 years, the rate of uninsured population increased from 15.0 percent to 19.3 percent.

Health Disparities:

In Georgia, obesity is more prevalent among non-Hispanic blacks at 37.6 percent than non-Hispanic whites at 26.1 percent; smoking is more prevalent among non-Hispanic whites at 18.8 percent than Hispanics at 13.6 percent; and sedentary lifestyle is more prevalent among Hispanics at 30.1 percent than non-Hispanic whites at 22.6 percent.

State Health Department Website: www.health.state.ga.us

Overall Rank: 36



Change: ▲ 2

Determinants Rank: 37

Outcomes Rank: 39

Strengths:

- Low prevalence of binge drinking
- High immunization coverage

Challenges:

- Low high school graduation rate
- High levels of air pollution
- ★ High prevalence of low birthweight
- High infant mortality rate

GEORGIA

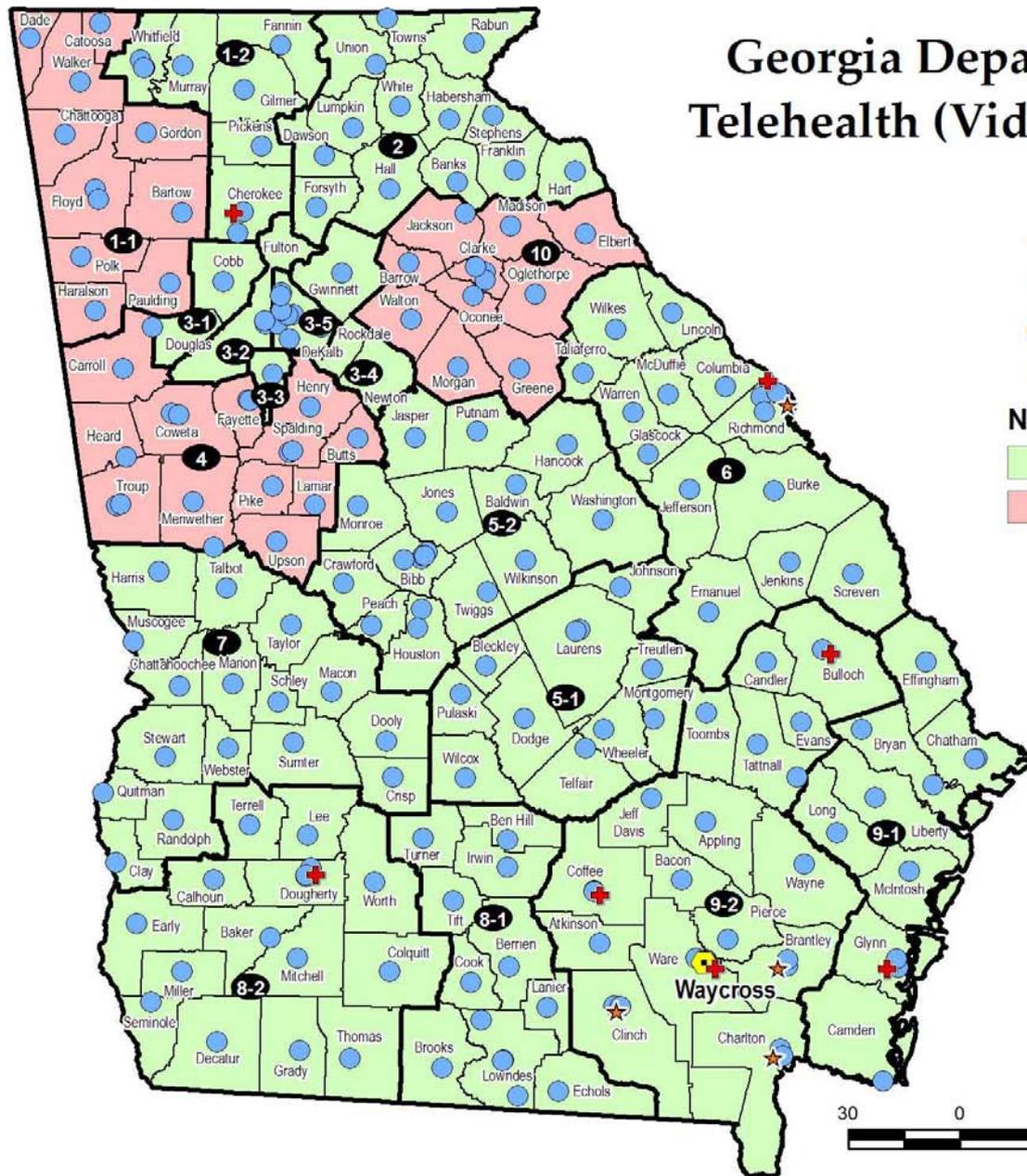
Telehealth vs. Telemedicine

- **Telehealth**- the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing on a secure, private network with store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and wireless communications.
- **Telemedicine** – the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a patient's clinical health status. Telemedicine includes a growing variety of applications and services using two-way video, email, smart phones, wireless tools and other forms of telecommunications technology. May involve medical scopes, x-rays, ultrasound or other medical applications.

Telehealth Goals

- **Increase access to care**
 - Address the state's most pressing health challenges, including infant mortality, oral health, obesity and associated diseases
 - Connect Georgians with the specialized care they need that may not exist in every community, i.e. monitoring of a high-risk pregnancy.
- **Increase capacity at DPH sites statewide**
 - Implement Telehealth in each of the state's 18 Public Health Districts and all 159 counties

Georgia Department of Public Health Telehealth (Videoconferencing) Network

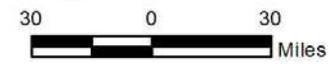


- ★ Teledentistry
- ⊕ Telemedicine
- ◼ Network Hub (Waycross)
- End Point Locations

Network Status

- ◼ Complete
- ◼ Projected Completion: October 2013

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1-1 Northwest | 5-1 South Central |
| 1-2 North Georgia | 5-2 North Central |
| 2 North | 6 East Central |
| 3-1 Cobb/Douglas | 7 West Central |
| 3-2 Fulton | 8-1 South |
| 3-3 Clayton | 8-2 Southwest |
| 3-4 Gwinnett, Newton, & Rockdale | 9-1 Coastal |
| 3-5 DeKalb | 9-2 Southeast |
| 4 District 4 | 10 Northeast |



Created: September, 2013
 By: Office of Health Indicators for Planning (OHIP)
 Source: Department of Public Health
 Projection: Georgia Statewide Lambert Conformal Conic

Telehealth Use / Benefits

- **Administrative/Operational** - employment interviews, staff meetings, HR updates, professional development,
 - **Emergency Preparedness** - virtual District Operations Center, community partner engagement, language translation, planning, communication, and training;
-
- **Decreased travel** and lost wages for patients
 - **Better utilization** of work time and decreased travel costs for staff
 - **Access to specialty services** and training not available in rural settings
 - **Reaches populations** that may otherwise never receive services (convenience)

Telehealth Benefits

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- **High patient satisfaction**

Telemedicine

- Originating Site



- Medical Cart



- Distant Site

- **Originating Site** - the actual location where a patient is located
- **Medical Cart** – interactive and secure telecommunications system
- **Distant Site** – The site where physician or practitioner is located

Telemedicine Technology



We Protect Lives.

Telemedicine Projects

High Risk OB Clinic

- Centering Pregnancy
- Ultrasound / Colposcopy
- Consult w/ Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist

WIC Nutrition

- Breastfeeding Support
- Nutrition Education
- Staff Training/Development

Children's Medical Services

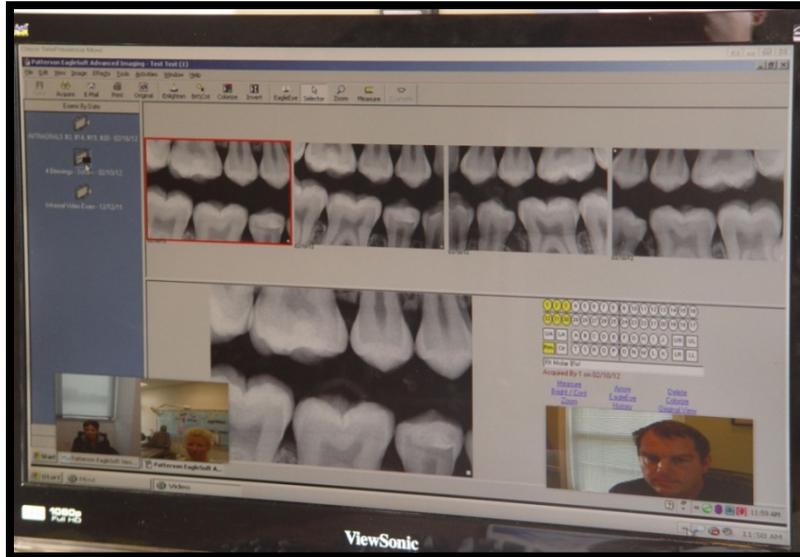
- Asthma/Allergy
- Developmental and Genetics
- Pediatric Neurosurgery
- Endocrinology

HIV/AIDS

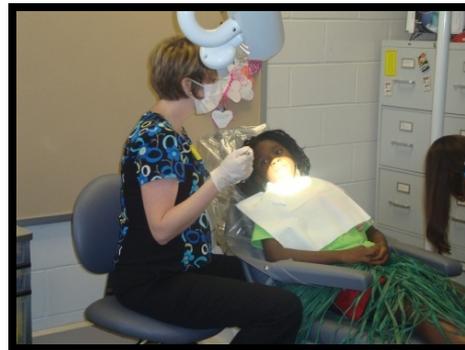
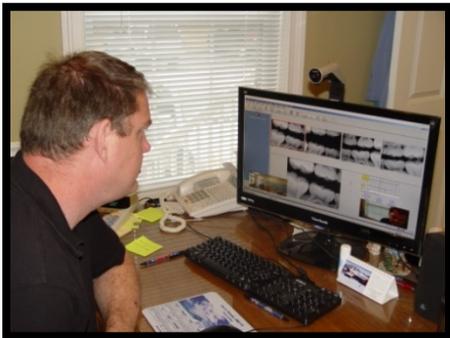
- Patients at local clinics see DPH Infectious Disease specialist
- Mobile presentations from home or community setting

Telemedicine Projects

Teledentistry



- School-based dental clinic provides cleaning, fluoride, x-rays, and education
- Referrals and case management for follow-up
- Primarily HRSA Grant funded
- Access to children in four counties





Future Growth

- **Secure Additional Funding Sources**
 - Purchase five additional telemedicine carts
- **Increase Distant Learning Opportunities**
 - Internal & Stakeholders
- **Expand Network**
 - Recruit & survey additional physicians (Georgia Volunteer Health Care Program: GVHCP)
 - Develop sustainable business model
- **Increase available services**
 - Expand Teledentistry
 - Expand High Risk OB / Centering Pregnancy
 - Division of Family & Children Services (DFACS)
 - School-based telemedicine programs

Some Telemedicine Partners



Contact Information

GA Public Health Video Network 1.855.PHVIDEO

DPH State Contacts

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