



Georgia's **Evidence-based Home Visiting (EBHV) Program**, under the Georgia Department of Public Health, provides new parents the supports they may need when having a baby. EBHV provides training for at-risk pregnant women, new moms, and families with children 0-5 years old the skills they need to raise healthy children.¹ The overall goals of home visiting programs are to:²

- increase healthy pregnancies,
- improve parenting skills,
- improve child health and development,
- strengthen family connectedness to community support, and
- reduce child abuse and neglect.

From October 2020 to September 2021, 19,958 home visits were conducted for 1,505 families through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs.³

What does a home visit look like?⁴



Weekly to monthly visits, based on a family's needs



Screening for developmental delays, parental depression, and domestic violence



Visits last 1 to 1.5 hours



Making referrals to community resources



Answering questions about child development



Encouraging perinatal and well-child visits



Promoting engaged, positive parenting practices



Supporting parents' education and employment goals

Who is eligible for EBHV?⁵

A professional with [First Steps Georgia](#) conducts a screening with a caregiver to determine the resources they may need to create the best environment for their family. To be eligible, parents must be in need of ongoing support and meet some of the following criteria:

- Low-income
- First time parent
- Younger than 21 years old
- Lack of employment or stable housing
- Low educational attainment
- Lacking access to prenatal care
- Experienced child abuse or neglect
- History of, or ongoing, substance abuse or mental health challenges
- Is receiving, or has received, special education services
- Has veteran or active military members in the family



Who funds Georgia's EBHV Program?⁶

The federal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program is the primary funding source for home visiting; additional funding streams include Title V, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, and other state dollars.

Effectiveness of the Georgia MIECHV Home Visiting Programs⁷

Outcomes after receiving home visiting services:

For children:

- **99%** were **not involved in maltreatment investigations**
- **97%** spent **quality time** with a caregiver (e.g., read a story, sang songs)
- **90%** were **screened for developmental delays** at the appropriate time
- **100%** of those referred to early interventions services for developmental delays **received services in a timely manner**


For primary caregivers:

- **92%** received **postpartum care**
- **94%** were **screened for depression**
- **89%** were **using safe sleep practices**
- **96%** were **screened for intimate partner violence**
- **74%** **maintained health insurance** for at least 6 months of the year


NEW! Home Visiting Pilot⁸

DPH was funded nearly \$1.7 million FY24 dollars to conduct a multi-agency, comprehensive (e.g., DHS, DCH, DECAL, DBHDD, community health workers, nurses) home visiting pilot within 13 counties. This pilot will incorporate physical and mental health services for mother and baby, parental skill-building, and connection to social services for women at high-risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, all aimed at improving birth outcomes, reducing preterm deliveries, and decreasing infant and maternal mortality/morbidity.

Clinical Services for pregnant women:

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- ✓ Blood pressure checks
 - ✓ Assessment of pregnancy warning signs
 - ✓ Fetal heart tones

Clinical Services for postpartum women & their infants:

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- ✓ Postpartum maternal assessments
 - ✓ Lactation support
 - ✓ Safe sleep practices and education
 - ✓ Assessment and support for mother/infant bonding
 - ✓ Bleeding, incision checks (if indicated)
 - ✓ Feeding assessment
 - ✓ Age-appropriate infant development screening
 - ✓ Postpartum depression screening and link to services

Resources connection and services:

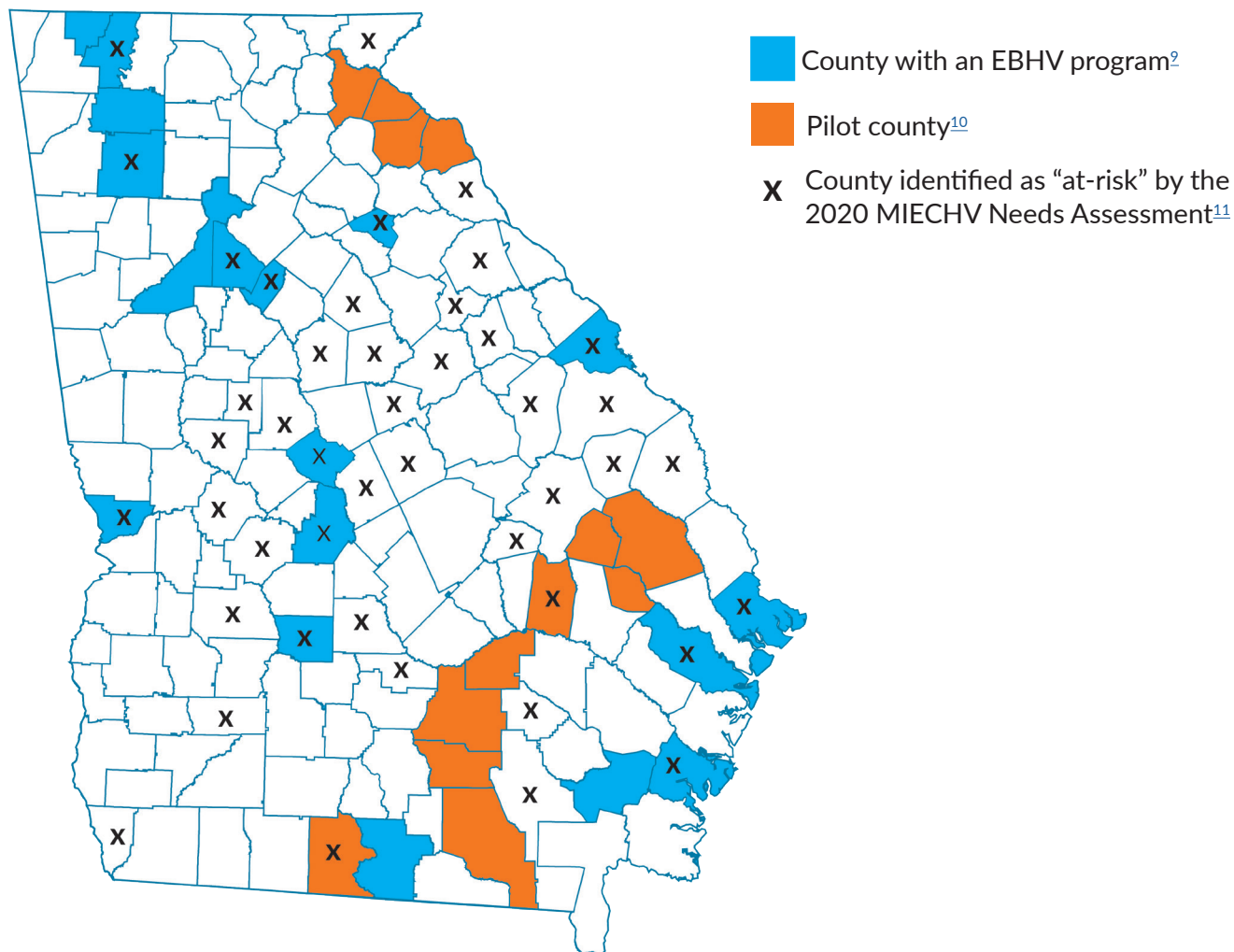
- Local OB/GYNs
- Emergency Rooms
- Pregnancy Medicaid
- WIC
- SNAP
- TANF
- Division of Family and Children Services
- Federally Qualified Health Centers

13 Pilot Counties:

- Atkinson
- Banks
- Bulloch
- Candler
- Clinch
- Coffee
- Evans
- Franklin
- Habersham
- Hart
- Jeff Davis
- Stephens
- Toombs



Georgia's Home Visiting Program County Coverage by Program Type*



*This chart is a non-comprehensive list of the Georgia Department of Public Health EBHV programs across the state.¹²

Policy Recommendations

- ✓ Continue to fund existing home visiting programs, including the pilot locations; this includes setting aside funds for a possible state match for MIECHV-funded programs.
- ✓ Leverage findings from the SB 106: The Healthy Babies Act to inform home visiting services and expansion opportunities.





References for Georgia's Evidence-Based Home Visiting Program

Suggested citation: Voices for Georgia's Children. (2023). Fact Sheet: Georgia's Evidence-Based Home Visiting Program. Voices for Georgia's Children. <https://adobe.ly/410wnmv>.

- 1 "Home Visiting Program," Georgia Department of Public Health. Accessed October 10, 2023. <https://dph.georgia.gov/homevisiting>.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Georgia Department of Public Health. Georgia Home Visiting Program Annual Report October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. Accessed October 24, 2023. <https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/georgia-home-visiting-program-miechv-annual-report-annual-report-fy21/download>.
- 4 "Home Visiting Program," Georgia Department of Public Health, Accessed October 10, 2023. <https://dph.georgia.gov/homevisiting>.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Georgia Department of Public Health. Georgia Home Visiting Program Annual Report October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. Accessed October 24, 2023. <https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/georgia-home-visiting-program-miechv-annual-report-annual-report-fy21/download>.
- 8 Voices for Georgia's Children. Home Visiting Pilot One Pager. Accessed November 20, 2023. <https://georgiavoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Home-Visiting-Pilot-One-Pager-2023.pdf>.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Ibid.