

DPH Home Visiting Program

Public Health Study Committee / Chris Tice / September 17, 2025

DPH Home Visiting Program

Public health nurses and trained community health workers provide personalized care for women during and after pregnancy, as well as for their infants, up to the first birthday. There is no cost to women for services.

Care may include:

For mothers

- Checking blood pressure
- Monitoring blood sugar
- Screening for anxiety and depression
- Breastfeeding help and lactation support

For infants

- Feeding
- Monitoring weight
- Tracking head circumference
- Assessing developmental milestones

DPH Home Visiting Program

Goal

- **Improve maternal and infant birth outcomes**

Performance Measures

- 37 weeks or greater gestation at delivery
- Infant birth weight 2500 grams or greater
- Postpartum appointments completed
- Contraceptive method use by 6-8 weeks postpartum
- Breastfeeding at three months postpartum

DPH Home Visiting Program

The Maternal Mortality Review Committee recommended home visiting to help prevent maternal deaths

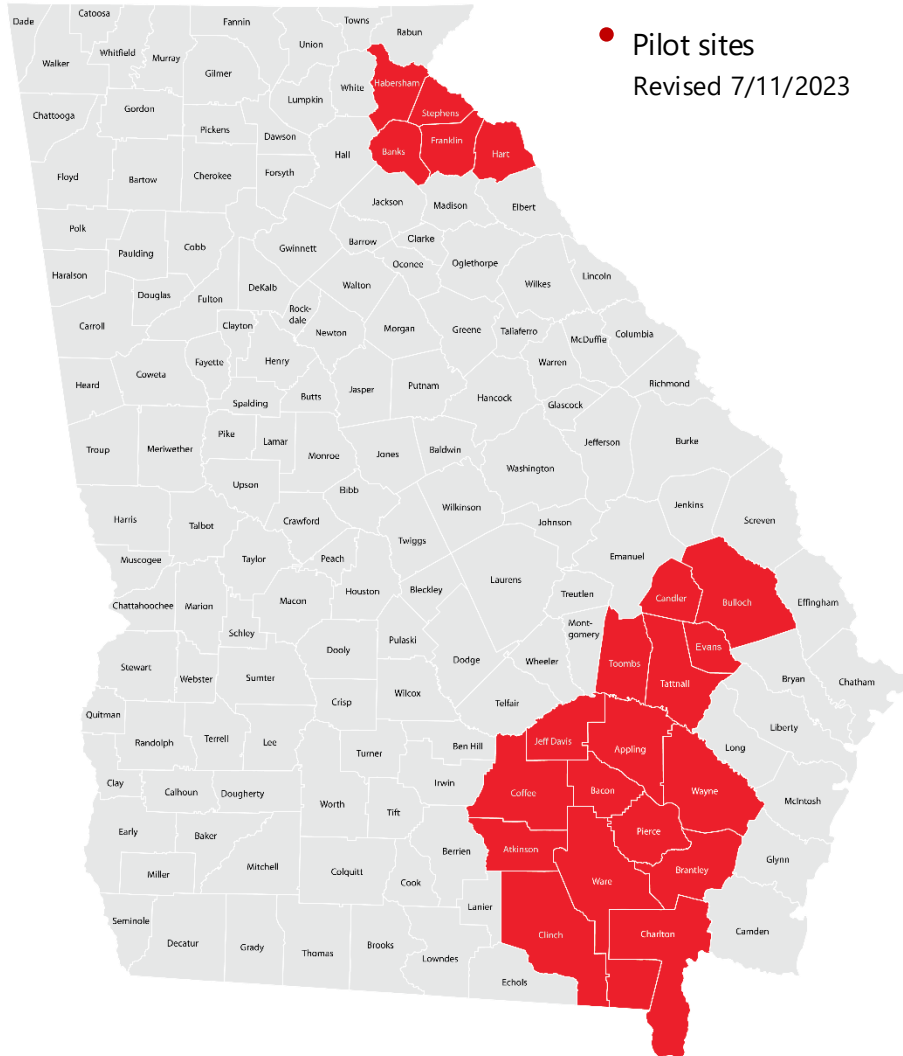
State funding provided for a perinatal home visiting pilot July 2023

Rural counties with limited birthing facilities and obstetrical providers were targeted

Home visiting services during pregnancy and one year postpartum

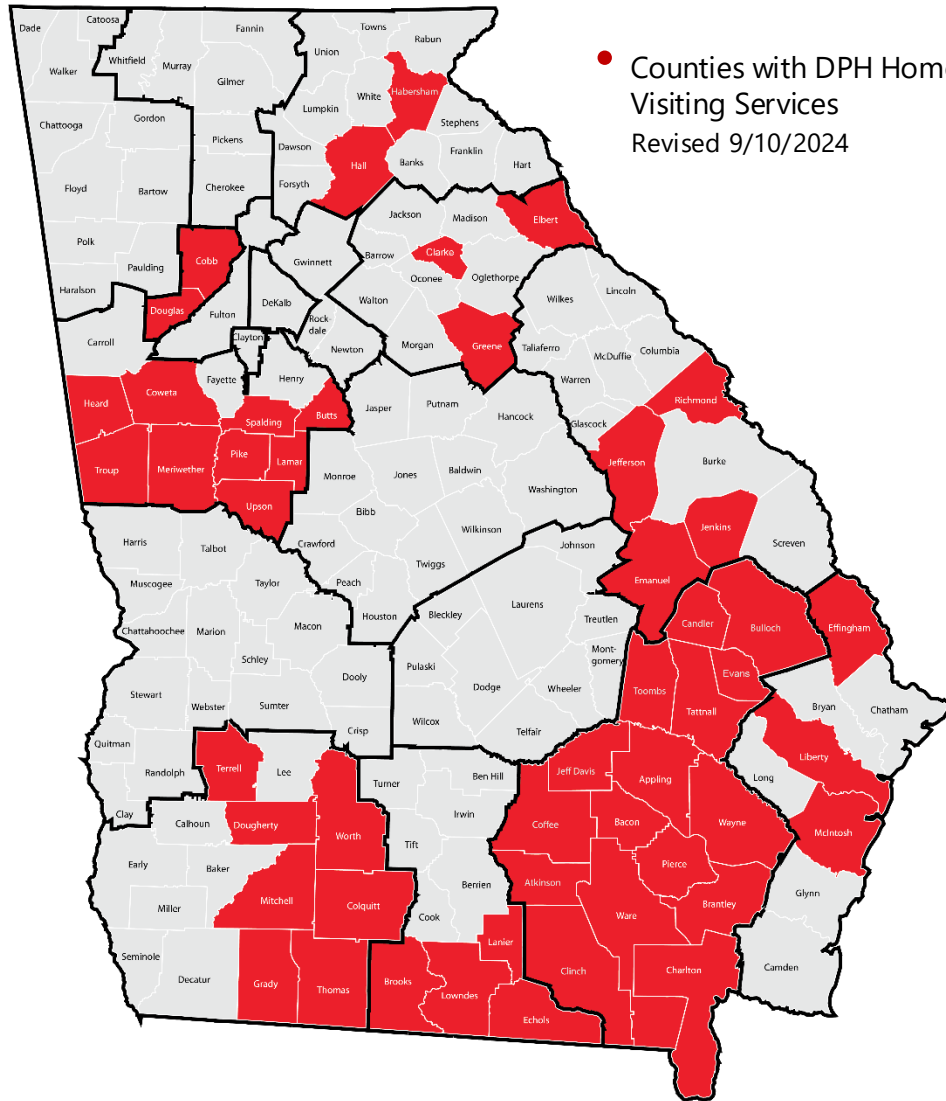
Pregnant women with high-risk conditions or identified risk factors that put them at risk for poor outcomes

DPH Home Visiting Program FY24



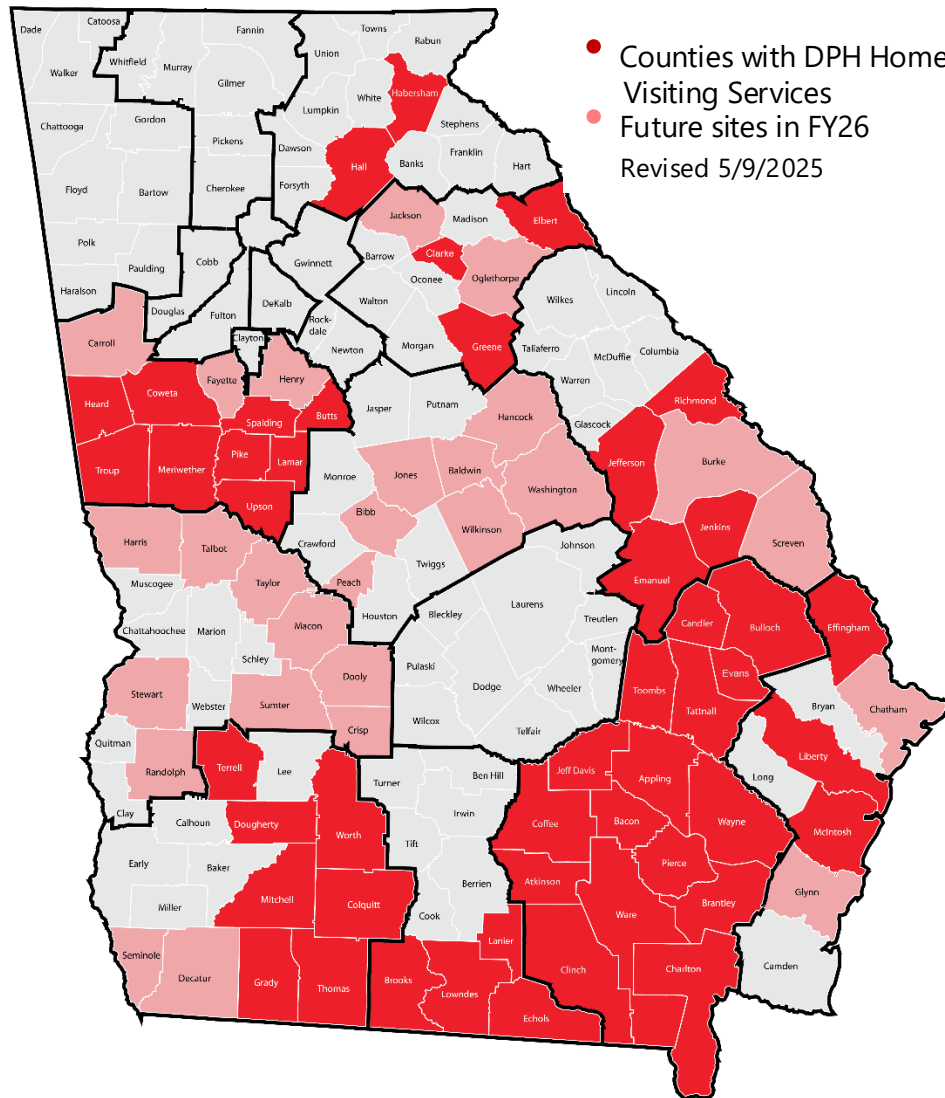
- \$1.68 million appropriated
- Piloted in 21 counties in 2 districts
- 6/30/2024:
 - 14 home visiting staff
 - 225 patients enrolled

DPH Home Visiting Program FY25



- \$1.75 million in additional state funding appropriated
- Total state funding \$3.43 million
- 50 counties
- 7 new districts
- 5/31/2025:
 - 46 home visiting staff
 - 582 patients enrolled

DPH Home Visiting Program FY26



- \$2.98 million in additional funding appropriated
- Total state funding: \$6.42 million
- 25 additional counties
- 2 new districts
- Development of staffing plans, recruitment, onboarding, and training

Referral Sources

Maternal and Infant Providers

Hospitals

DFCS

Other community organizations, providers, and partners

Health department programs

Self-referral

Referral Conditions

Maternal patients with:

- Hypertension or gestational hypertension
- Preeclampsia
- Diabetes
- Multiple gestation
- Prior preterm delivery
- Preterm labor
- Chronic conditions or co-morbidities
- Prior 2nd-trimester pregnancy loss
- Prior fetal/neonatal death
- Pre-existing health conditions, medical conditions/concerns for poor outcome
- Substance use disorder
- Mental health condition
- Poor support system
- Difficulty complying with provider recommendations or follow-up

Referral Conditions

Infants with:

- Recent NICU discharge
- VLBW or LBW
- <36 weeks gestation at delivery
- Positive maternal screening for substances at delivery
- Suspected or confirmed congenital syphilis or HIV infection
- Poor maternal support system or other environmental concerns

Maternal Services

Clinical assessment for pregnancy and postpartum complications, including:

- Blood pressure
- Blood glucose
- Weight
- Urine
- Fetal heart tones

Maternal Services

Screening for pregnancy and postpartum warning signs and symptoms:

- Vaginal bleeding or fluid leaking (during pregnancy and postpartum)
- Severe headaches
- Severe abdominal pain
- Extreme swelling of hands or face
- Changes in vision
- Severe swelling, redness, or pain in the leg or arm
- Trouble breathing
- Chest pain or fast-beating heart
- Depression and anxiety

Infant Services

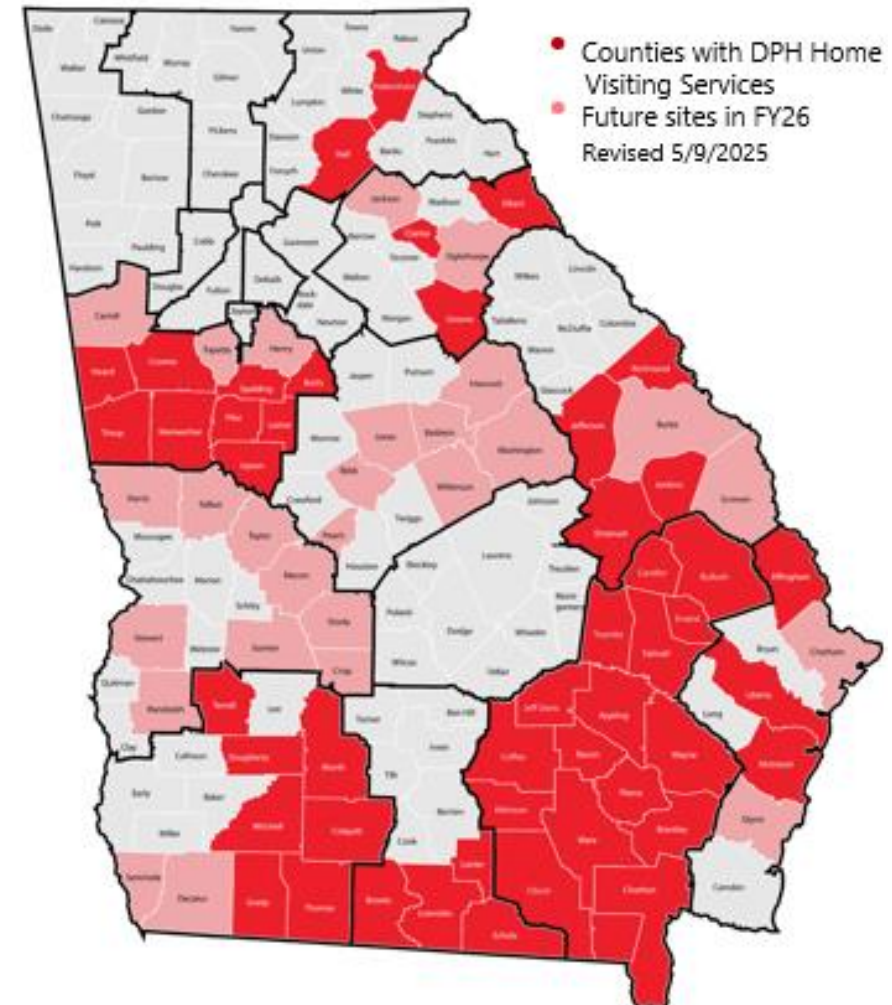
Clinical assessments including:

- Feeding
- Weight
- Head circumference
- Developmental screening



Enrollment and Staffing

- January 2024
 - 21 counties
 - 13 staff members
 - 118 patients enrolled
- November 2024
 - 50 counties
 - 39 staff members
 - 380 patients enrolled
- June 2025
 - **50** counties
 - **46** staff members
 - **626** patients enrolled



Questions

For additional information, please contact:

Chris Tice, CNM, MSN

Director, DPH Home Visiting

Division of Women, Children, and Nursing Services

christina.tice@dph.ga.gov