

The Importance of Health Equity within Rural Georgia

Milledgeville, GA

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**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**
College of Public Health

PURSUE UNDERSTANDING. TAKE ACTION.



Agenda

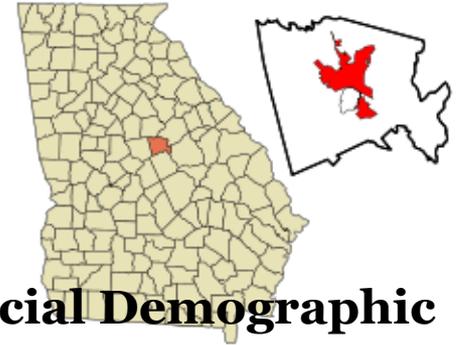
- Overview of Milledgeville, GA
- Central State Hospital
- Project Goals
- County Comparisons
- Source #1: County Health Rankings
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- Observations
- Next Steps
- Acknowledgements



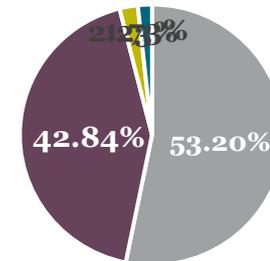
Overview of Milledgeville, GA

“The First Lady of Georgia”

- Capital of Georgia (1804 – 1868)
- Named in honor of John Milledge
- Located in Baldwin County
- Population Estimate: 44,823
- Median Household Income: \$42,700
- Persons below poverty level: 41.2%



Racial Demographic



■ Non-Hispanic White ■ Non-Hispanic Black ■ Hispanic ■ Asian





Central State Hospital

Focus: Milledgeville community health indicators in comparison to comparable cities across the state

Project Goals

- Gain an understanding of Milledgeville's community health in comparison to other Georgia counties
- Develop a large data set and presentation about the current state of Baldwin County
- Utilize data to locate counties with health initiatives that can be implemented in Milledgeville



County Comparisons



Counties with Similar Population	
Georgia County	Population Size
Coffee, GA	43,093
Thomas, GA	44,448
Habersham, GA	45,388
Colquitt, GA	45,592

Counties of Interest
McDuffie, GA
Spaulding, GA
Towns County, GA



Source #1

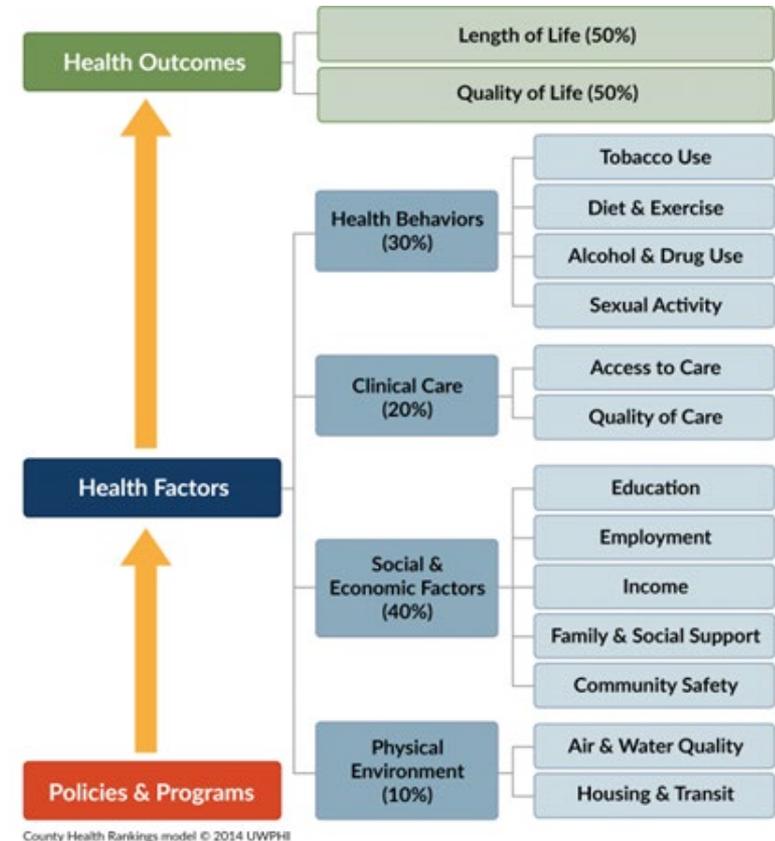
County Health Rankings

County Health Rankings

Annual rankings that provide a snapshot of health within a community

Data Collected:

- Demographics
- Social and Economic Factors
- Health Outcomes
- Health Factors and Behaviors
- Clinical Care and Services
- Residential Segregation



Health Outcomes

Represents how healthy a county is right now and reflects the physical and mental well-being of residents.

Habersham, GA	24
Towns County, GA	47
Thomas, GA	85
Coffee, GA	109
Baldwin, GA	124
Colquitt, GA	125
McDuffie, GA	135
Spalding, GA	143

Length of Life

Refers to how long people in a community typically live.

Habersham, GA	29
Thomas, GA	83
Baldwin, GA	102
Towns County, GA	109
Coffee, GA	113
Colquitt, GA	126
Spalding, GA	140
McDuffie, GA	145

Quality of Life

Refers to how healthy people feel while alive and represents the well-being of a community

Towns County, GA	15
Habersham, GA	32
Thomas, GA	90
Coffee, GA	97
Baldwin, GA	102
McDuffie, GA	121
Colquitt, GA	124
Spalding, GA	137



KEY FINDINGS

- 1 in 4 individuals reported having poor or fair health



- 1 in 7 individuals reported having frequent physical and mental distress



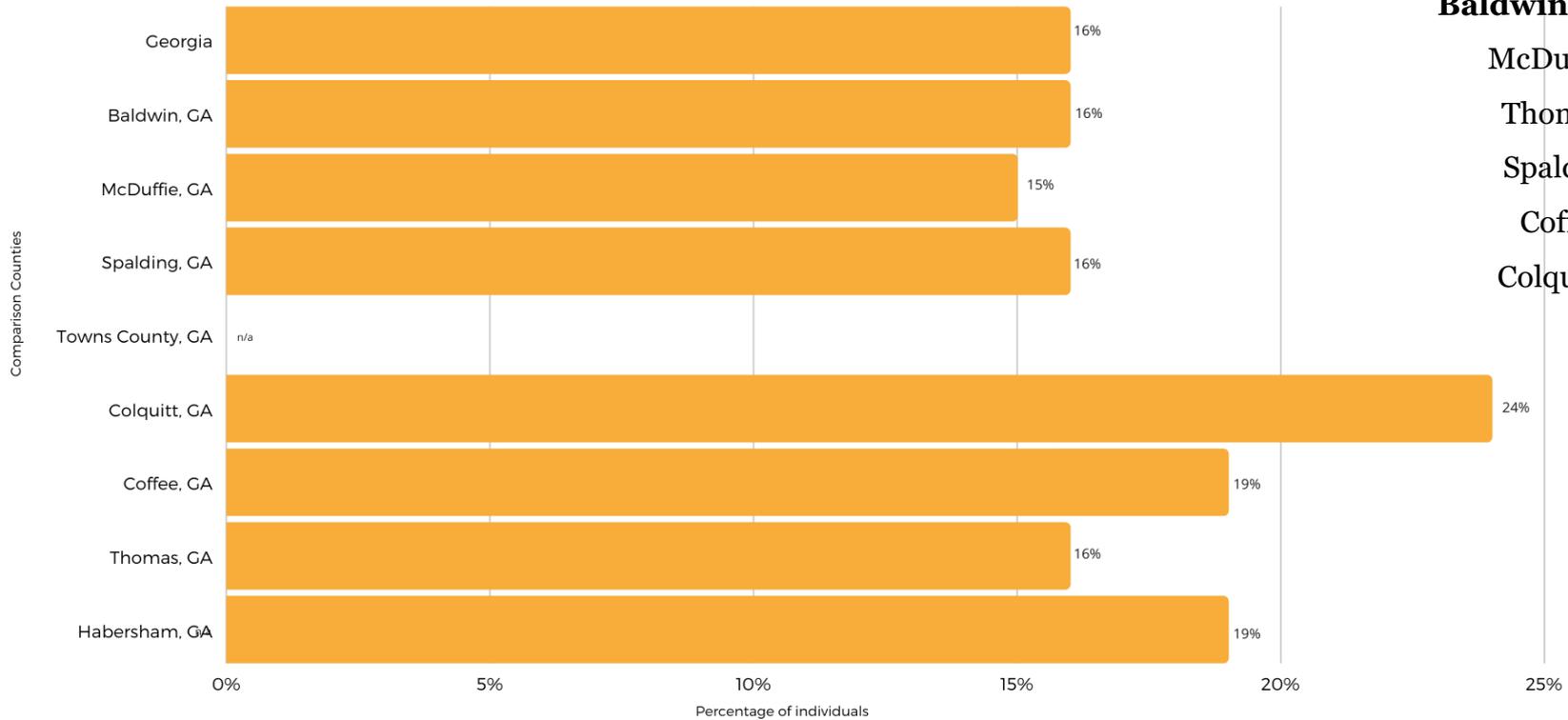
- 1 in 4 individuals reported being physically inactive



Clinical Care and Services

Individuals reported being uninsured

Uninsured: Percentage of individuals under 65 years old without health insurance



Towns County, GA	10
Habersham, GA	24
Baldwin, GA	46
McDuffie, GA	47
Thomas, GA	49
Spalding, GA	73
Coffee, GA	128
Colquitt, GA	133



Source #2

Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS)

Georgia Student Health Survey

Annual survey conducted by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to identify health and safety issues negatively impacting student achievement and school climate.

Data Collected

- Demographics
- Peer Support
- Adult Support
- School Safety
- Suicide
- Mental Health



Interesting Findings

- **1 in 4** students have felt unsafe at school or on their way to/from school



- **1 in 4** students have been concerned about their physical safety at school



- **2 out of 5** students reported not being treated fairly by the adults in their school



Mental Health



1 in 7 reported feeling depressed, sad or withdrawn 1 or 2 days out of the month

1 in 25

reported experiencing intense anxiety, worries, or fears all 30 days

1 in 5

reported feeling some type of mental distress



Observations

Health County Rankings

- Physical and mental health are closely related in Baldwin County
 - 36% of Baldwin County do not have access to physical_____
 - 14% of adults reported more than half of the days in a month they experience poor physical and mental health
- Increase community access to mental health services
 - Ratio of Population to Primary Care Physician – 1800:1
 - Ratio of Population to Mental Health Providers – 720:1
 - Ratio of Population to Primary Care Providers – 1093:1

Observations

Georgia Student Health
Survey

- Ensure that 9-12 mental health services are culturally competent
- Look more into adult social support within the school for the students (outside of mental health professionals)
 - 37.3% of students reported that adults in their school do not treat all students with respect
- Evaluate existing school-based mental health initiatives
 - 36.2% overall reported feeling depression, sad, withdrawn at some point throughout the month
 - 20% intense anxiety, worries, fears that get in the way of their daily activities

Next Steps

Immediate

- Further GSHS report to include other comparable counties

Short Term

- Mental Health Initiatives based in criminal justice

Long Term

- Implementation of mental health police initiative/diversion program





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Thank you!

Questions, Comments, or any Suggestions?

