

# Georgia's Obstetrical Care System

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November, 9, 2015



## Obstetrical care system is fragile

- 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> in maternal mortality
- 45<sup>th</sup> in low birth weight babies
- 4<sup>th</sup> in nation in repeat teen pregnancies

## **One of the largest states east of Mississippi**

- Huge amount of rural geography to cover
- Over 40 counties without OB providers

# A Rural Hospital does not guarantee an L&D Unit

- Approximately 180 hospitals in GA
- Less than 75 L&D Units left in Georgia
- Many rural hospitals have closed OB units
- OB units closings are accelerating
- Concern over access to OB care

# L & D Cost Hospitals Money

- L&D closures are seen as a necessary cost-cutting measure because they lose money
- Declining reimbursements, staffing needs and other factors impact hospital L&Ds
- Medicaid covers 60% of deliveries statewide. Rural hospitals experience higher Medicaid
- Declining DSH payments are also a concern

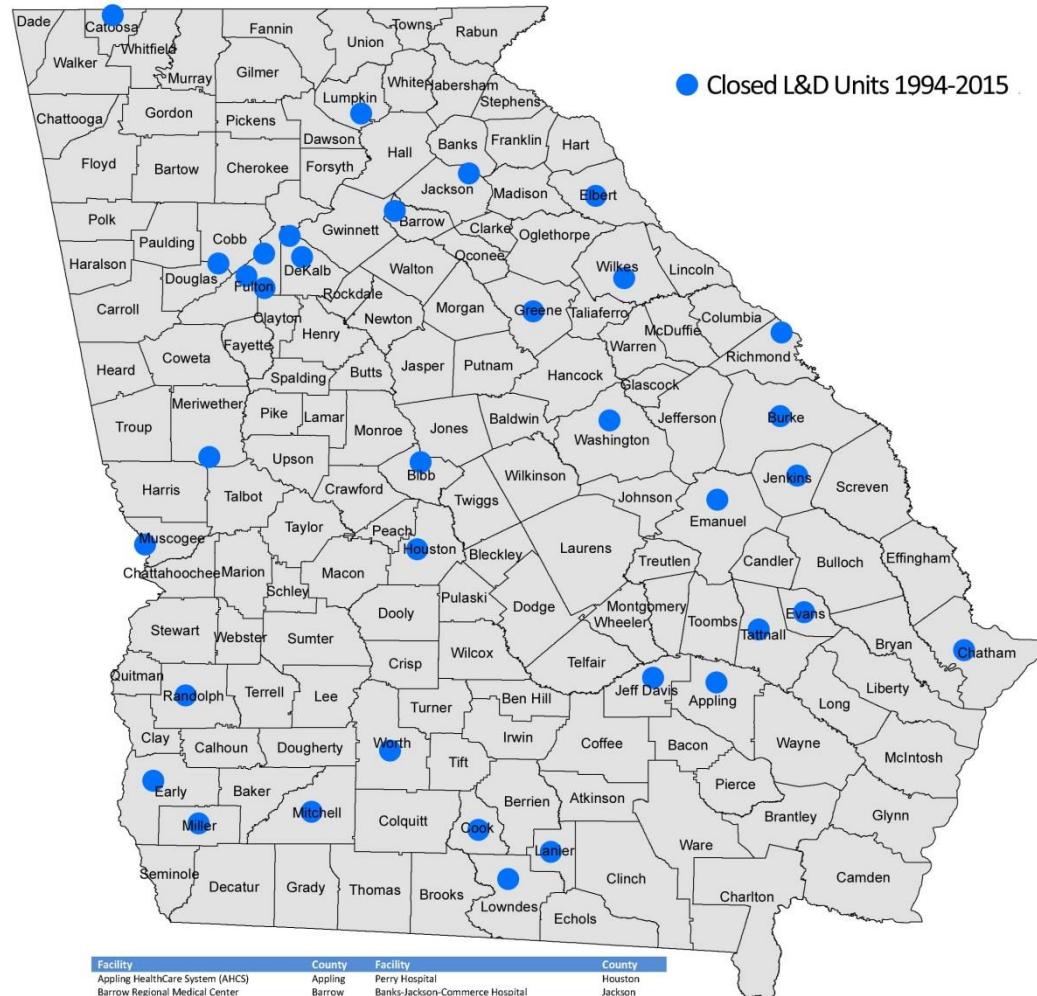
# Distance Makes a Difference!

- Women who delivered preterm (<37wks) lived an average of 40 minutes from their delivery facility
- Women who delivered at term lived an average of 32 minutes from their facility
- **24%** of women delivering singleton infants had to drive >45min to access obstetric services between 1999 and 2009

# Distance Makes a Difference!

- Independent of individual and population-level risk factors, women in Georgia who drive more than 45 minutes to their hospital are more than 1.5 times as likely to deliver preterm as women who drive less than 15 minutes.

# Labor & Delivery Unit Closures, Georgia, 1994-2015



Facility	County	Facility	County
Appling HealthCare System (AHCS)	Appling	Perry Hospital	Houston
Barrow Regional Medical Center	Barrow	Banks-Jackson-Commerce Hospital	Jackson
Macon Northside Hospital	Bibb	Jeff Davis Hospital	Jeff Davis
Burke Medical Center	Burke	Jenkins County Hospital	Jenkins
St. Josephs - Candler of Savannah	Chatham	Chestatee Regional Hospital	Lumpkin
Medical Center of Adel	Cook	Louis Smith Memorial Hospital	Lanier
Dawwoody Medical Center	DeKalb	Smith Northview Hospital	Lowndes
Emory Northlake Regional Medical Center	DeKalb	Georgia Baptist Meriwether Hospital	Meriwether
Parkway Medical Center	Douglas	Miller County Hospital	Miller
Early Memorial Hospital	Early	Mitchell County Hospital	Mitchell
Elbert Memorial Hospital	Elbert	Doctors Hospital - Columbus	Muscogee
Emanuel Medical Center	Emanuel	Southwest Georgia Regional Medical Center	Randolph
Evans Memorial Hospital	Evans	Augusta Surgical Center	Richmond
Southwest Hospital and Medical Center	Fulton	Tattnall Memorial Hospital	Tattnall
West Paces Medical Center	Fulton	Washington Medical Center	Washington
South Fulton Medical Center	Fulton	Wills Memorial Hospital	Wilkes
Hutcheson Medical Center	Catoosa		

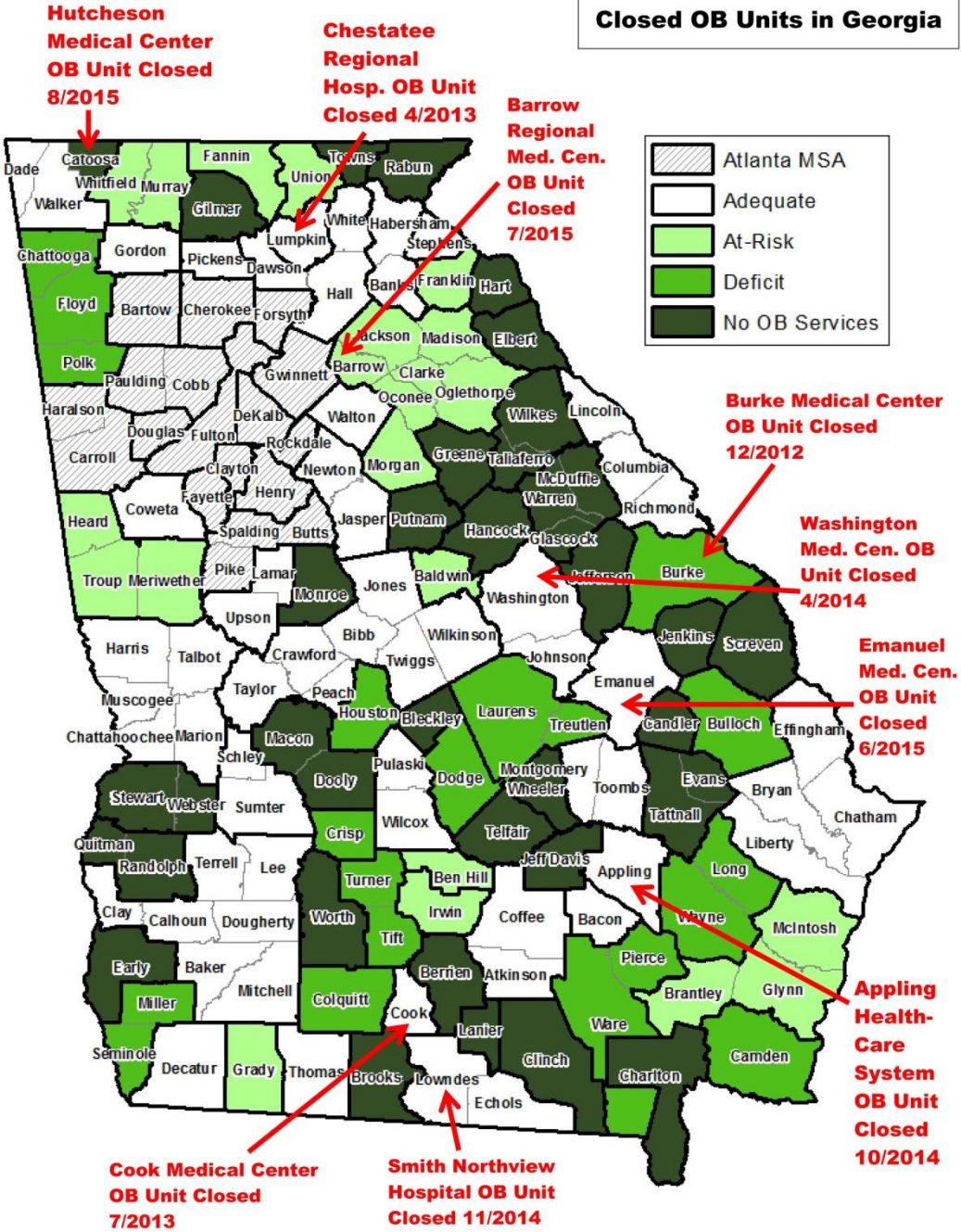


# Closed Labor & Delivery Units

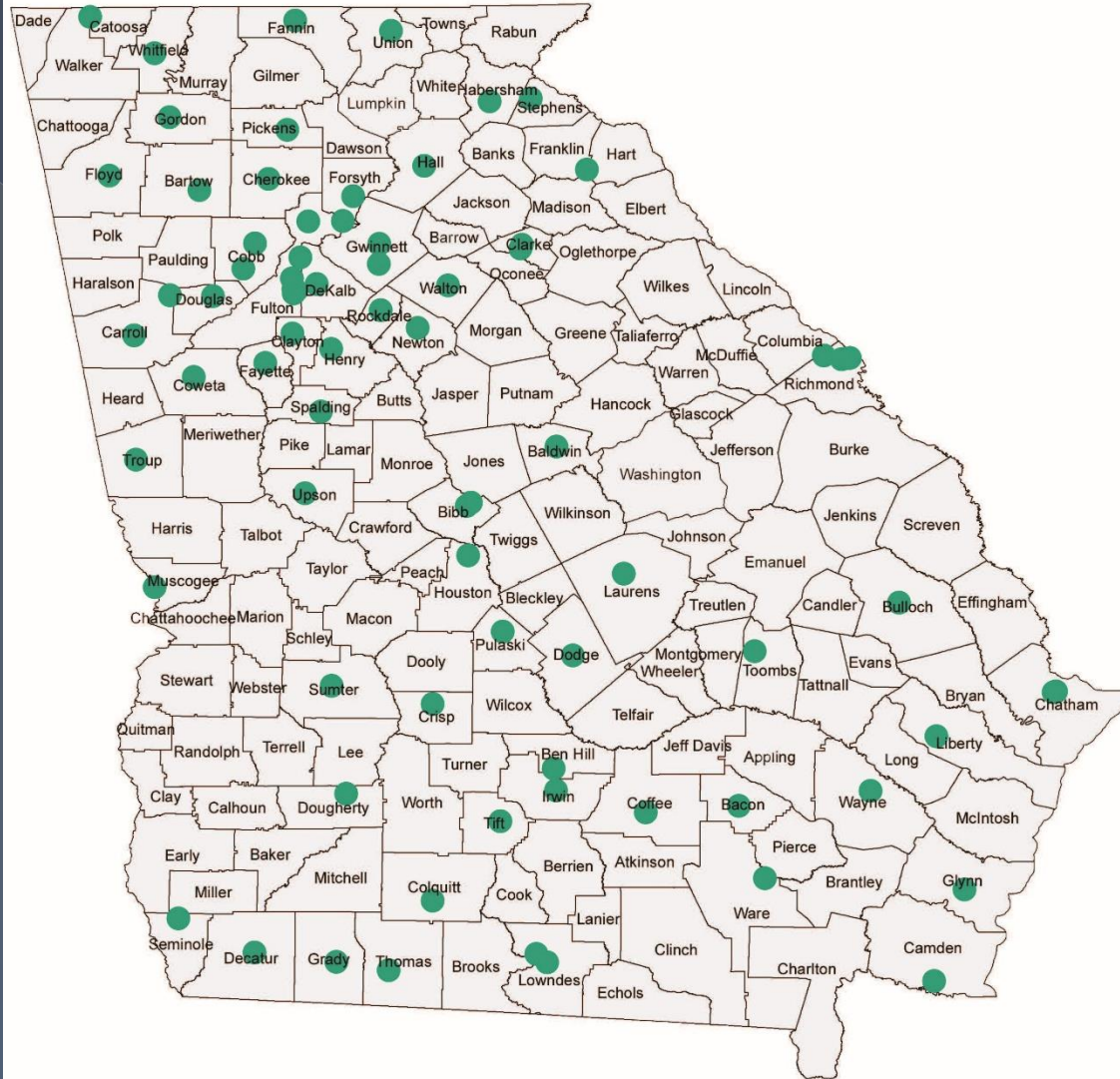
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**Closed OB Units in Georgia**



# Open Labor & Delivery Units, Georgia, 2015

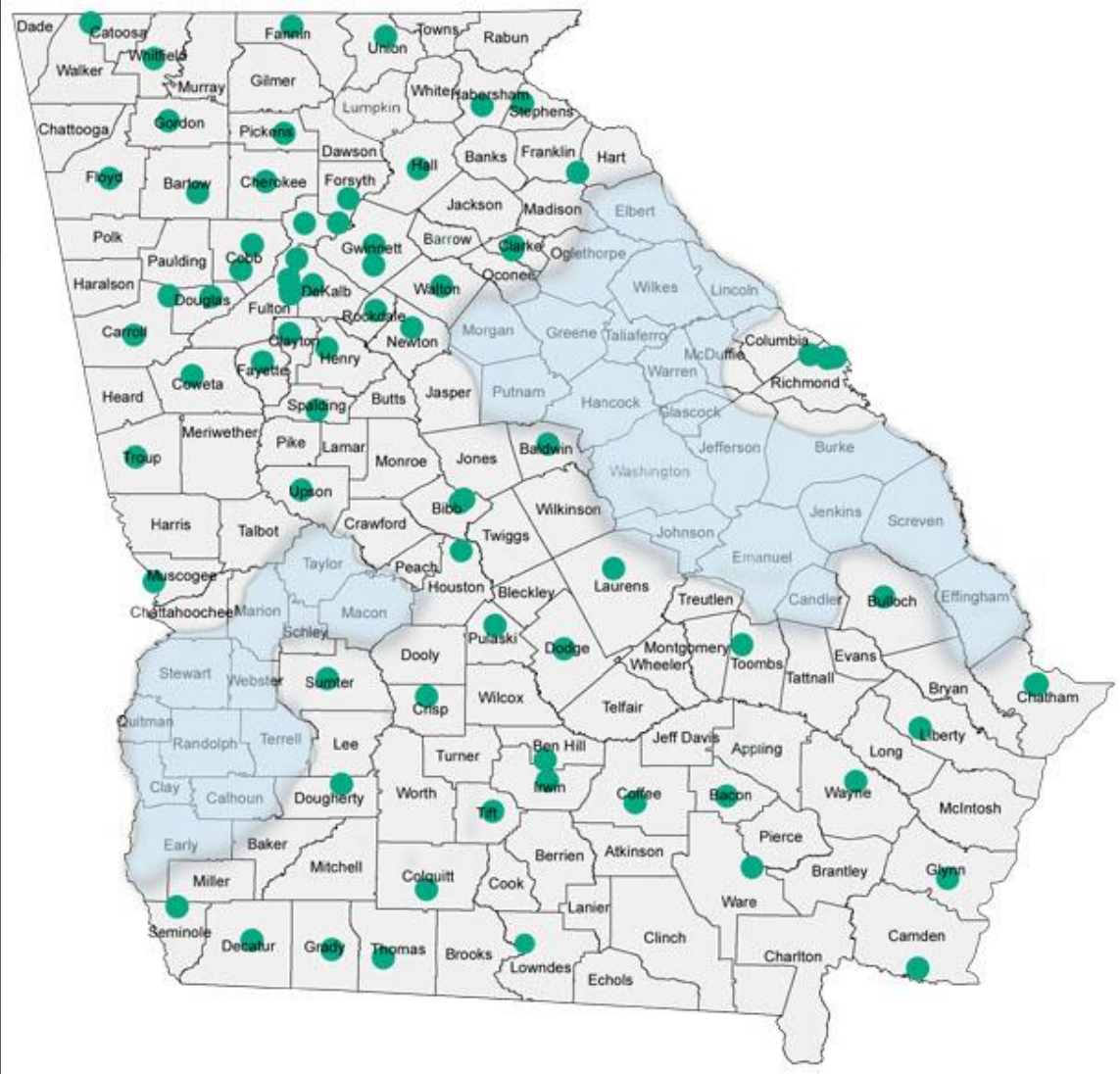


Prepared by the Georgia Maternal and Infant Health Research Group, 2014.  
Map Source: U.S. Census 2013 TIGER/Line Shapefile. Accessed on October 22, 2013.  
Data supplied by Georgia Board for Physician Workforce (2013), Georgia Ob/Gyn Society (2011)  
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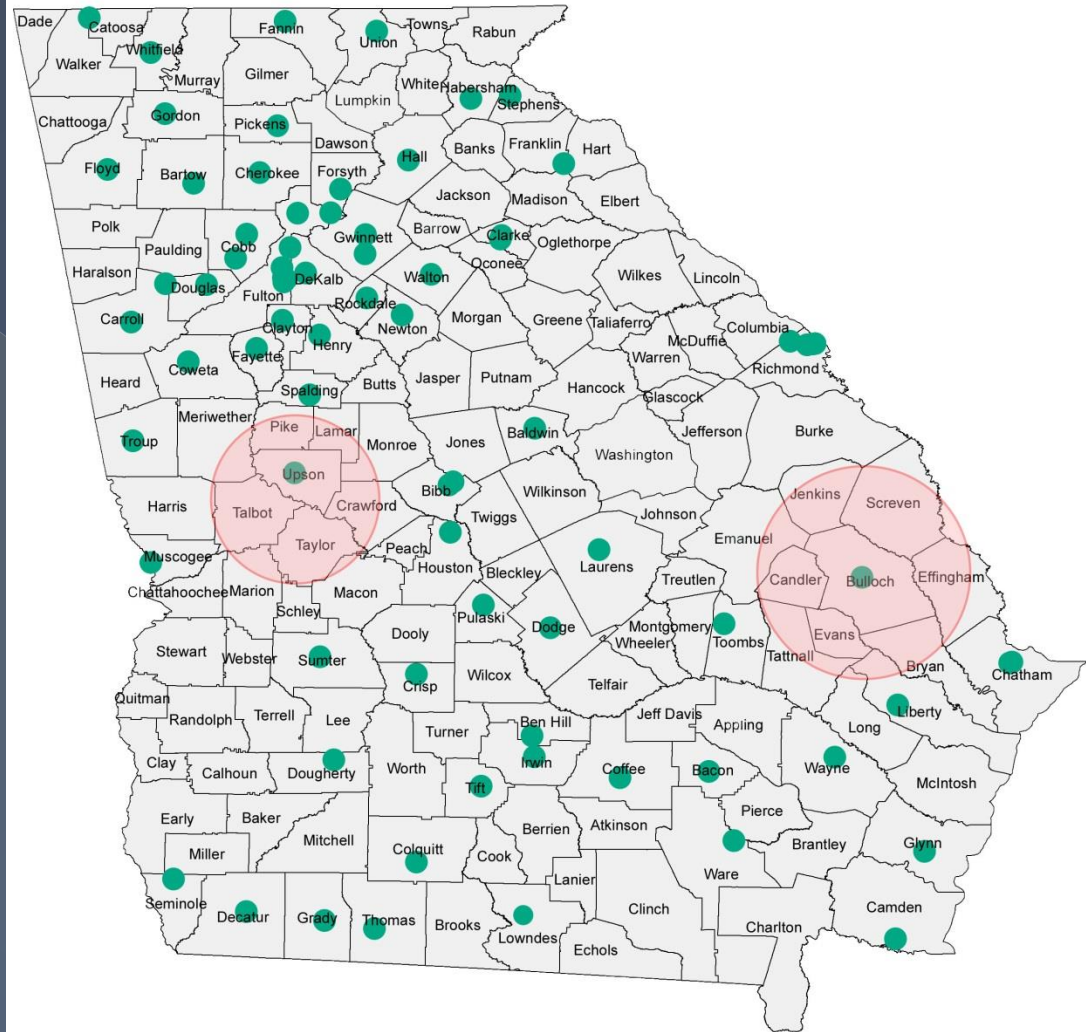
# Open Labor & Delivery Units, Georgia, 2015

**Areas  
with  
longer  
distances  
to Labor  
and  
Delivery  
Units**



## Open Labor & Delivery Units, Georgia, 2015

**What will happen if more vulnerable areas lose more L&D units?**



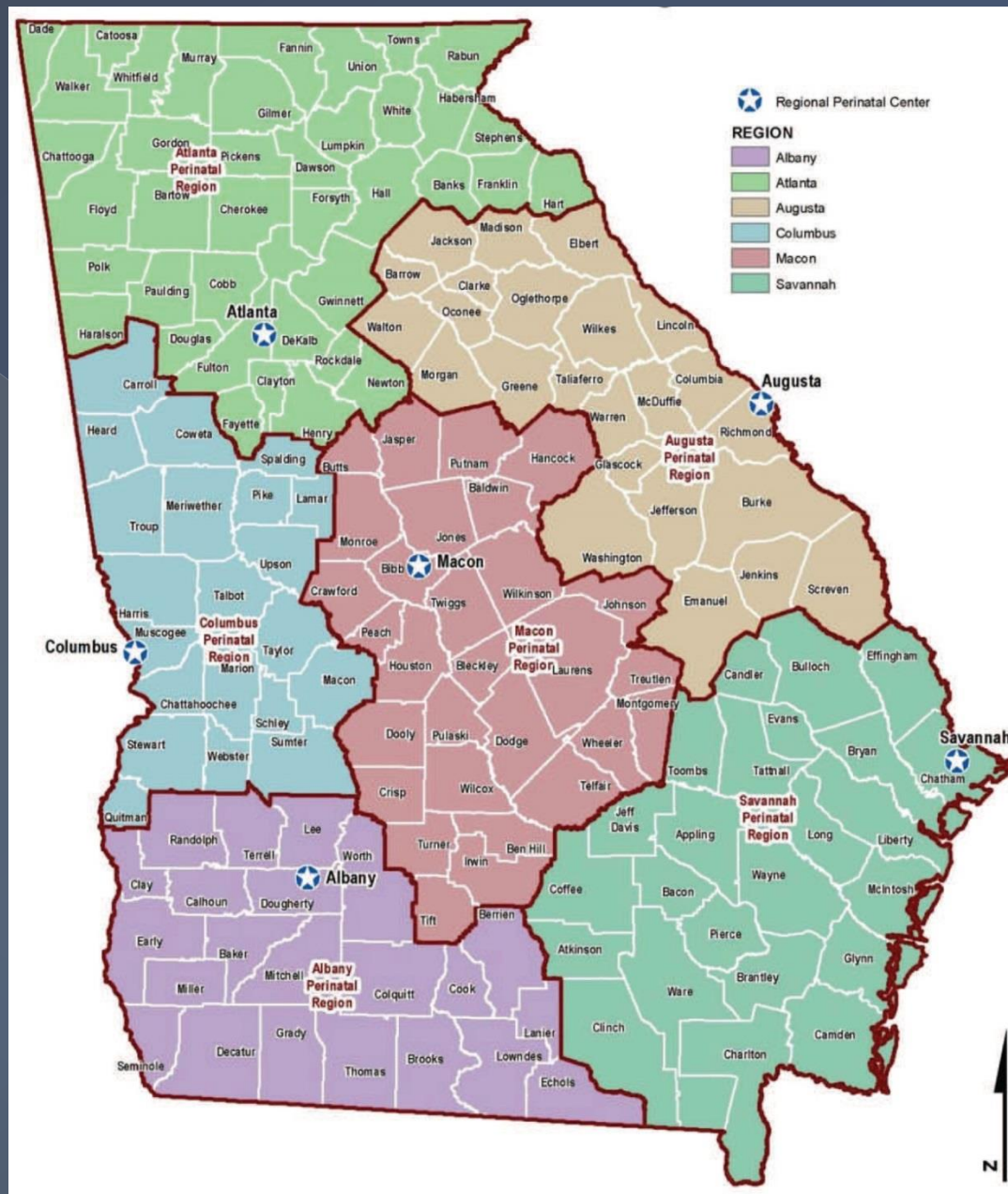
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# Georgia's Regional Perinatal System

Comprised of 6 regional perinatal areas, each with a designated Level III or higher Regional Perinatal Center (RPC).

The designated regions:

- Atlanta
- Augusta
- Columbus
- Macon
- Albany
- Savannah





# Regional Perinatal Centers

## **Atlanta Region:**

- Emory-Grady Memorial Hospital

## **Albany Region:**

- Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital

## **Augusta Region:**

- Georgia Regents Medical Center

## **Columbus Region:**

- Columbus Regional

## **Macon Region:**

- Navicent Health (formerly The Medical Center of Central Georgia)

## **Savannah Region:**

- Memorial Medical Center



# Regional Perinatal Centers

- Referral location for high risk pregnancy and neonates
- Perinatology and neonatology leadership
- Have knowledge of their region
- Contractual relationship with Public Health
- Tasked with perinatal education within their region

# Suggestions

- Convene and fund a state level advisory committee
- Develop a state obstetrical stabilization plan
- Strengthen and update the Regional Perinatal System (backbone)
- Develop a list of key priorities for preserving access to women's healthcare

◉ Thank you

◉ Questions