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 gives 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.

**In 2021, 22,863 home visits were conducted for 1,925 Georgia families.\(^3\)**

### ELEMENTS OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISIT\(^4\)

- Weekly to monthly visits, based on the families’ needs
- Visits last 1 to 1.5 hours
- Answering questions about child development
- Promoting engaged, positive parenting practices
- Screening for developmental delays, parent depression, and domestic violence
- Making referrals to community resources
- Encouraging perinatal and well-child visits
- Supporting parents’ education and employment goals

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EBHV?\(^5\)

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 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

### FUNDING FOR EBHV\(^6\)

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.

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For children:
• 99% had no reports of maltreatment
• 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

Outcomes after receiving home visiting services:

RECOMMENDATIONS
• Create and fund an interagency workgroup (overseen by DPH) to map current state home visiting efforts, identify national best practices, and develop and execute a strategic plan to increase the availability of home visiting throughout the state.
• Continue to fund existing Georgia home visiting programs at current levels; this includes (pending passage of the proposed federal MIECHV reauthorization) setting aside funds for a possible state match for MIECHV-funded programs.
Sources for Evidence-Based Home Visiting

2. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.