

Evidence-Based Home Visiting Program

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 VISIT⁴



Weekly to monthly visits, based on the families' needs



Screening for developmental delays, parent 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

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

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 2020 GEORGIA HOME VISITING PROGRAM⁷

Outcomes after receiving home visiting services:

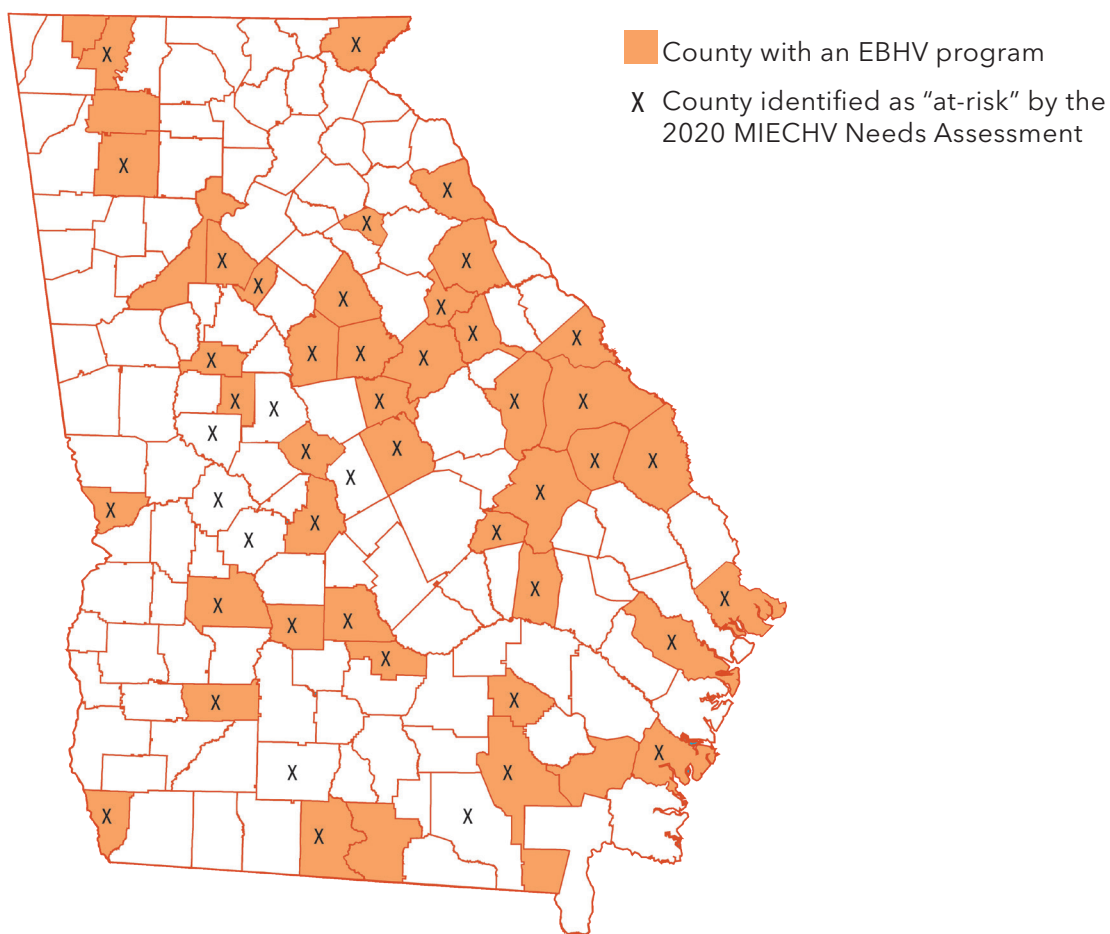
For children:

- **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

GEORGIA 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.⁸

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

- 1 "Home Visiting Program," Georgia Department of Public Health. Accessed January 4, 2022. <https://dph.georgia.gov/homevisiting>.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Georgia Department of Public Health. Georgia Home Visiting Program Annual Report October 2018 - September 2019. Accessed November 4, 2022. <https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/home-visiting-annual-report/download>.
- 4 "Home Visiting Program," Georgia Department of Public Health, Accessed January 4, 2022. <https://dph.georgia.gov/homevisiting>.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Georgia Department of Public Health. Georgia Home Visiting Program Annual Report October 2018 - September 2019. Accessed November 4, 2022. <https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/home-visiting-annual-report/download>.
- 8 Georgia Department of Public Health. Professional Communications. September 2022.