

FACT SHEET: PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF HB 481

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HEALTH AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING

- Women who are unable to receive abortion care and subsequently carry unintended pregnancies to term are at high risk of experiencing poor health outcomes, including eclampsia, postpartum hemorrhage, and maternal mortality.¹
- Similar restrictive abortion policies have been associated with an increase in unintended births, which is associated with higher rates of preterm birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality.²⁻⁵
- Increased rates of unintended births that result from lack of access to abortion care have significant implications for Medicaid in Georgia.⁶
- Women who are denied an abortion experience a 4x greater risk of being below the federal poverty level than women who receive an abortion.⁷

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE SYSTEMS

- Georgia currently has a shortage of physicians in rural counties, with many counties having neither an OB/GYN nor a pediatrician.⁸

Of the 159 counties in Georgia:

9 do not have a doctor

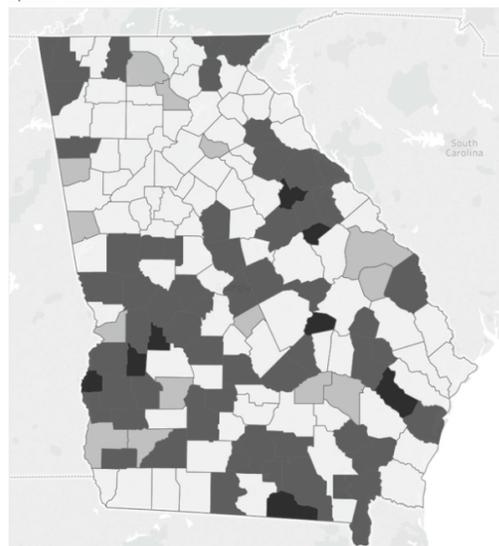
64 do not have a pediatrician

79 do not have an OB/GYN

- OB/GYN and nurse midwife trainees report restrictive abortion policies as a barrier to practicing in Georgia.⁹
- Nearly one-half of OB/GYN (46.6 %) and one-third of nurse midwife (32.1 %) trainees have indicated that they were less likely to stay in Georgia because of prior restrictive abortion policies.⁹
- 55 rural counties have uninsured rates above the state average.¹⁰
- Among states that did not expand Medicaid, Georgia has the second highest uninsured rates for low-income rural adults.¹¹

Georgia's rural doctor shortage

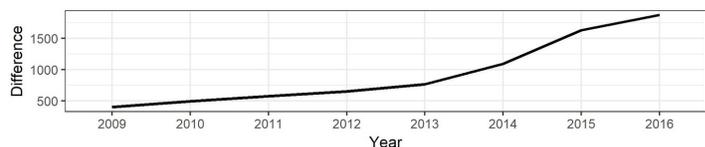
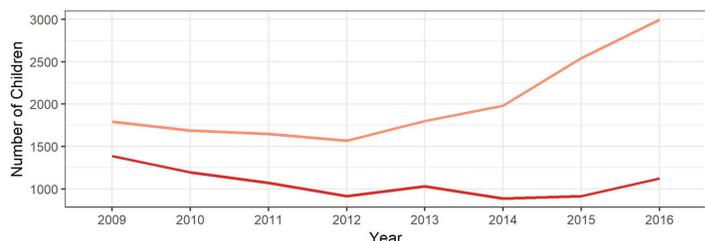
The counties shaded below in black do not have any doctors. Areas slightly lighter in charcoal are without a pediatrician and an OB-GYN. Counties in light gray are missing either a pediatrician or an OB-GYN.



(Source: AJC, 2018)

Children in Foster/Welfare System & Adoption

Number of Children in ... — Welfare System Adopted — Foster Care System Waiting for Adoption



Source: Kids Count (<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>)

- Georgia's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (welfare) denies additional benefits to families who have additional children 10 months after opening a case.¹²
- Although the number of children adopted from the welfare system has increased since 2014, the number of children waiting to be adopted in the foster care system has increased substantially since that same year, suggesting that children are entering the foster care system at higher rates than are being adopted.¹³

REFERENCES

- 1 - Gerdtz C, Dobkin L, Foster DG, Schwarz EB. Side Effects, Physical Health Consequences, and Mortality Associated with Abortion and Birth after an Unwanted Pregnancy. *Women's Health Issues* (2016) Jan-Feb; 26(1):55-9.
- 2 - Wallace ME, Evans MG, Theall K. The Status of Women's Reproductive Rights and Adverse Birth Outcomes. *Womens Health Issues*. 2017;27(2):121-128.
- 3 - Cook PJ, Parnell AM, Moore MJ, Pagnini D. The effects of short-term variation in abortion funding on pregnancy outcomes. *J Health Econ*. 1999;18(2):241-257.
- 4 - Currie J, Nixon L, Cole N. Restrictions on Medicaid Funding of Abortion: Effects on Birth Weight and Pregnancy Resolutions. *The Journal of Human Resources*. 1996;31(1):159-188.
- 5 - Korenbrot CC, Brindis C, Priddy F. Trends in rates of live births and abortions following state restrictions on public funding of abortion. *Public Health Rep*. 1990;105(6):555-562.
- 6 - Sonfield A, Kost K. Public Costs from Unintended Pregnancies and the Role of Public Insurance Programs in Paying for Pregnancy-Related Care: National and State Estimates for 2010. *Guttmacher Institute*;2015.
- 7 - Foster DG, Ralph LJ, Biggs MA, Gerdtz C, Roberts SCM, Glymour MA. Socioeconomic outcomes of women who receive and women who are denied wanted abortions. *American Journal of Public Health* (2018) Mar; 108(3):407-413.
- 8 - <https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/georgia-faces-rural-doctor-shortage/JqAwfs1SLiqCwVNronKScM/>
- 9 - Smulian EA, Zahedi L, Hurvitz J, Talbot A, Williams A, Julian Z, Zertuche AD, Roachat R. Obstetric Provider Trainees in Georgia: Characteristics and Attitudes About Practice in Obstetric Provider Shortage Areas. *Matern Child Health J*. 2016;20:1341-1348.
- 10 - <https://www.gapha.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1-5.401-The-two-Georgias.pdf>
<https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/why-more-difficult-adopt-children-georgia/N1fGhssXI4mDR1NBxz5tLP/>
- 11 - <http://www.georgiahealthnews.com/2018/09/medicaid-expansion-benefit-rural-areas-most-report/>
- 12 - http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/welfare-reform-family-cap-policies.aspx#_edn6
- 13 - <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6666-children-in-child-welfare-system-who-have-been-adopted?loc=12&loct=2#detailed/2/12/false/870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38,35,18/any/13686>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- <https://www.ansirh.org/research/turnaway-study#results>
- <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2013/03/medication-abortion-restrictions-burden-women-and-providers-and-threaten-us-trend-toward>.
- Bitler M, Zavodny M. Child Abuse and Abortion Availability. *Am Econ Rev*. 2002;92(2):363-367.
- Sen B. State Abortion Restrictions and Child Fatal-Injury: An Exploratory Study. *Southern Economic Journal*. 2007;73(3):553-574.
- Sen B, Wingate MS, Kirby R. The relationship between state abortion-restrictions and homicide deaths among children under 5 years of age: a longitudinal study. *Soc Sci Med*. 2012;75(1):156-164.
- The best intentions: Unintended pregnancy and the well-being of children and families. *Committee on Unintended Pregnancy, Institute of Medicine*; 1995.
- Williams SG, Roberts S, Kerns JL. Effects of Legislation Regulating Abortion in Arizona. *Women's Health Issues*. 2018;28(4):297-300