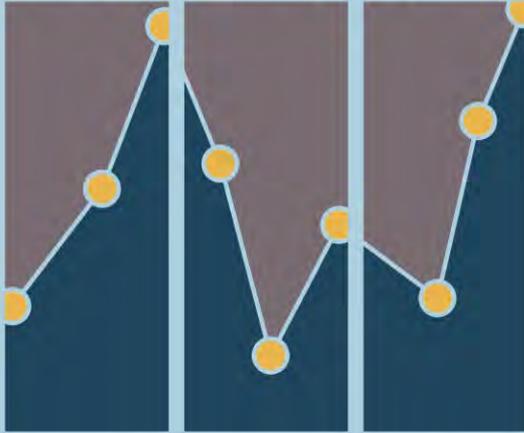


Office of Analytics and Program Improvement



A Division of the Georgia Department of Community Health

Georgia Department of Community Health  
*Office of Analytics and Program Improvement*

State Health Benefit Plan Rural Health Initiative  
*Regional Metrics to Support Strategic Decisions*

November 2021

To assist with strategic decisions related to implementing healthcare initiatives in rural communities across Georgia, the following data were collected:

- SHBP Overview Metrics
- Top Clinical Conditions
- Regional Risk Scores
- Regional Telemedicine Utilization
- Regional DSM Metrics

### Notes:

-Analysis includes data with dates of service from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2021 with paid dates through 09/30/2021.

-SOURCE: IBM DSS AS, 11/2021

The following data provides an overview of SHBP for Fiscal Year 2021.

FY 2021 State Health Benefit Plan Annual Report			
Member Average	Total Payment	PMPY	PMPM
668,754	\$5,427,328,317	\$8,115.58	\$676.30

SHBP Payments Per Member by Fiscal Year



# TOP CLINICAL CONDITIONS | WHICH CONDITIONS CREATE THE HEAVIEST BURDEN?

The below data provides an overview of the diagnosis groups which burden SHBP the most, by volume of patients and costs.

## Top Clinical Conditions by 3 Yr Avg Cost / Patient

Chemotherapy	\$ 45,468.86
Myasthenia Gravis (AI disorder)	\$ 36,882.91
Pancreatic Cancer	\$ 19,768.48
Alpha 1-Antitrypsin Deficiency (AAT Deficiency)	\$ 19,261.06
Congenital dyserythropoietic anemia (CDA)	\$ 15,753.36
Leukemia	\$ 17,092.10
Multiple Sclerosis	\$ 16,214.56
Radiation Therapy	\$ 16,609.31
Congenital Respiratory Disorders	\$ 10,581.20
Ovarian Cancer	\$ 13,950.10

## Top 10 Clinical Conditions by 3 Yr Avg Patient Count

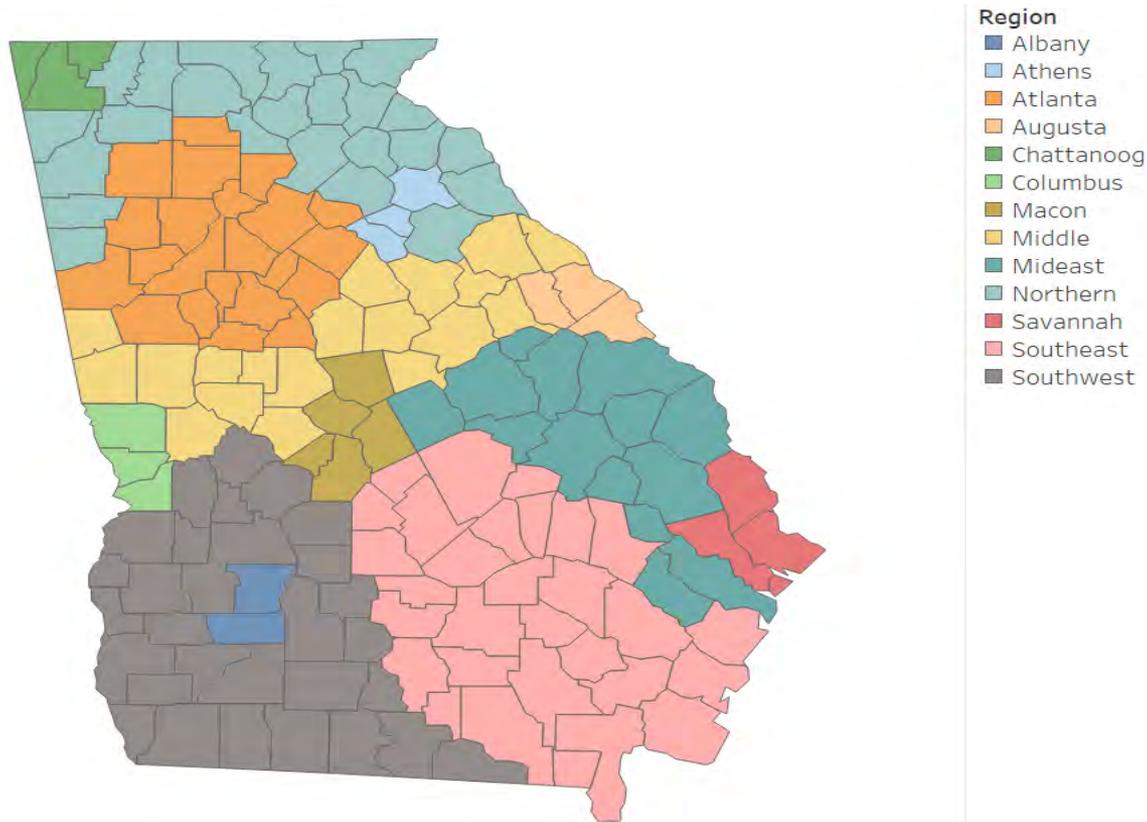
Hypertension	155,364
Arthropathies and Joint Disorders	130,554
ENT Infections	127,709
Skin Infections and Inflammation	126,397
Respiratory Infections	106,105
Diabetes	87,767
ENT Disorders	83,486
Gastrointestinal Disorders	77,491
Lipid Disorders	76,465
Respiratory Disorders	71,331

## Top 10 Clinical Conditions by 3 Yr Total Cost

Osteoarthritis	\$ 383,728,653.49
Chemotherapy	\$ 345,292,732.15
Coronary Artery Disease	\$ 294,531,075.22
Spinal and Low Back Disorders	\$ 290,943,845.43
Renal Function Failure	\$ 280,849,886.90
Respiratory Infections	\$ 249,841,936.05
Arthropathies and Joint Disorders	\$ 247,282,881.10
Pregnancy	\$ 239,889,363.16
Hypertension	\$ 238,171,274.01
Breast Cancer	\$ 235,424,671.60

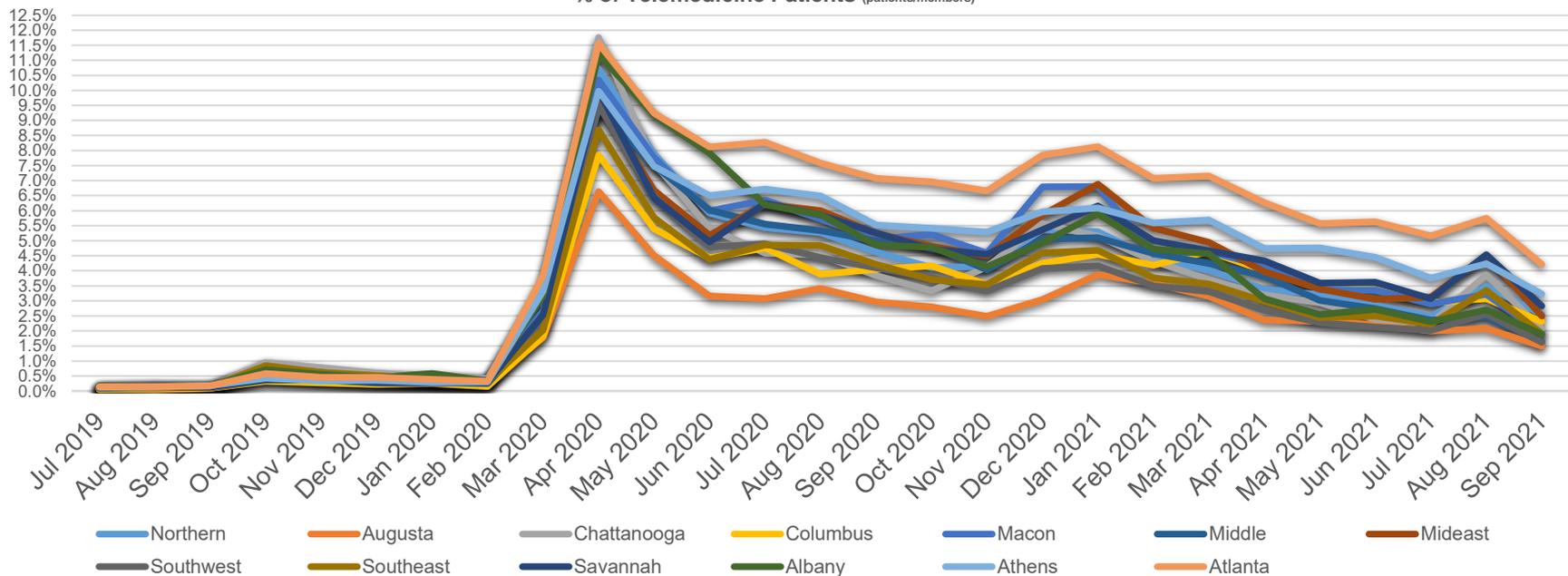
# GEORGIA BY REGION | WHAT'S THE URBAN – RURAL STRATIFICATION?

The state is grouped by county to create urban areas, represented by city names and rural areas, represented by geographical location within the state.



# REGIONAL TELEMEDICINE UTILIZATION | WHAT'S THE REGIONAL UPTAKE?

Telemedicine Uptake by Region  
% of Telemedicine Patients (patients/members)



Though SHBP telemedicine utilization increased significantly at the start of the pandemic, utilization has continued to wane over the last several months. The CDC estimates national telemedicine uptake in 2021 is between 19 – 26%, however SHBP’s rates are currently below 10%. Most regions were consistently in a range of 2-3 percentage points; however, the Atlanta region leads uptake, and the Augusta region has consistently demonstrated the lowest telemedicine uptake.

SOURCE: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/telemedicine-use.htm>

# REGIONAL RISK SCORES | WHAT ARE OUR MOST AND LEAST HEALTHY REGIONS?

Risk scores, using a culmination of medical and pharmacy claims data, are assigned to SHBP members to indicate if they are health, stable, at risk, struggling or in crisis. On average, 50% of the SHBP population is healthy and 5% are in crisis. Based on the distribution of each region's population, rural areas in middle, northern and southwest Georgia are the least healthy and are in the most need. The least healthy region overall is Columbus, Georgia. The below chart highlights regions whose risk scores are below average for the healthy and stable categories and above average for at risk, struggling and in crisis categories.

**Risk Scores by Region - CY2020**

Region	No Claims	Healthy	Stable	At Risk	Struggling	In Crisis
Albany	8%	52%	10%	13%	13%	5%
Athens	7%	54%	12%	12%	11%	4%
Atlanta	9%	48%	14%	14%	11%	4%
Augusta	8%	54%	9%	12%	12%	6%
Chattanooga	7%	55%	11%	13%	10%	4%
<b>Columbus</b>	9%	49%	10%	14%	13%	6%
Macon	8%	52%	10%	12%	12%	5%
<b>Middle</b>	8%	48%	11%	14%	14%	6%
Mideast	8%	50%	11%	13%	13%	5%
<b>Northern</b>	8%	45%	13%	15%	14%	5%
Savannah	9%	50%	12%	13%	11%	5%
Southeast	8%	51%	11%	13%	13%	5%
<b>Southwest</b>	7%	50%	10%	14%	13%	6%

# REGIONAL DSM METRICS | HOW DO REGIONS COMPARE BASED ON SELECT CHRONIC CONDITIONS?

The below charts compares utilization metrics across all regions for Asthma. Macon presents the largest number of asthma patients per 1000 members, in addition to having above average admits per 100 members. Macon's ER visits per 100 members is almost three times the average for SHBP.

Region Metro Rural	Patients	Asthma Patients / 1000 Members	Visits ER	ER Visits / 100	Admits	Admits / 100	Visits Office Med	Office Visits / 100	Total Cost of Coverage	Cost / Patient
Albany	238	23.56	8	3.4	-	-	401	168.5	\$106,597.25	\$447.89
Athens	326	22.07	14	4.3	-	-	444	136.2	\$173,187.77	\$531.25
Atlanta	8,447	25.47	334	4.0	61	0.7	12,824	151.8	\$3,940,745.30	\$466.53
Augusta	455	19.92	30	6.6	4	0.9	581	127.7	\$182,855.76	\$401.88
Chattanooga	240	24.77	7	2.9	2	0.8	410	170.8	\$133,904.57	\$557.94
Columbus	249	19.34	14	5.6	2	0.8	412	165.5	\$166,871.70	\$670.17
<b>Macon</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>24.87</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>183.0</b>	<b>\$478,347.39</b>	<b>\$759.28</b>
Middle	660	19.02	30	4.5	4	0.6	1,168	177.0	\$387,945.99	\$587.80
Mideast	542	22.50	20	3.7	1	0.2	879	162.2	\$190,373.89	\$351.24
Northern	2,086	23.82	60	2.9	11	0.5	3,626	173.8	\$1,022,954.41	\$490.39
Savannah	498	23.07	25	5.0	3	0.6	744	149.4	\$390,599.28	\$784.34
Southeast	1,132	20.50	55	4.9	8	0.7	1,838	162.4	\$614,410.69	\$542.77
Southwest	1,019	21.83	51	5.0	8	0.8	1,556	152.7	\$508,250.10	\$498.77

# REGIONAL DSM METRICS | HOW DO REGIONS COMPARE BASED ON SELECT CHRONIC CONDITIONS?

The below charts compares utilization metrics across all regions for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder. Though there is not one region which has a significant disparity in all or most metrics, all rural regions have a higher prevalence per 1000 members, in addition to having either high visit rates per 100 or an above average cost per patient.

Region Metro Rural	Patients	COPD Patients / 1000 Members	Visits ER	ER Visits / 100	Admits	Admits / 100	Visits Office Med	Office Visits / 100	Total Cost of Coverage	Cost / Patient
Albany	138	13.66	11	8.0	7	5.1	197	142.8	\$113,533.12	\$822.70
Athens	116	7.85	9	7.8	1	0.9	140	120.7	\$69,652.92	\$600.46
Atlanta	2,613	7.88	173	6.6	81	3.1	3,605	138.0	\$3,202,388.58	\$1,225.56
Augusta	319	13.96	11	3.4	2	0.6	388	121.6	\$182,644.45	\$572.55
Chattanooga	148	15.27	7	4.7	1	0.7	198	133.8	\$98,104.69	\$662.87
Columbus	162	12.58	14	8.6	5	3.1	212	130.9	\$122,666.64	\$757.20
Macon	339	13.38	25	7.4	11	3.2	459	135.4	\$304,803.53	\$899.13
Middle	622	17.93	49	7.9	17	2.7	1,171	188.3	\$536,269.84	\$862.17
Mideast	420	17.44	29	6.9	15	3.6	571	136.0	\$361,929.23	\$861.74
Northern	1,287	14.70	77	6.0	30	2.3	1,875	145.7	\$1,268,822.30	\$985.88
Savannah	334	15.47	12	3.6	7	2.1	502	150.3	\$174,365.67	\$522.05
Southeast	980	17.75	66	6.7	17	1.7	1,123	114.6	\$754,533.17	\$769.93
Southwest	801	17.16	59	7.4	29	3.6	962	120.1	\$629,084.65	\$785.37

# REGIONAL DSM METRICS | HOW DO REGIONS COMPARE BASED ON SELECT CHRONIC CONDITIONS?

The below charts compares utilization metrics across all regions for Congestive Heart Failure. Though there is not one region which has a significant disparity in all or most or metrics, the middle and southeast regions have above average cost per patient, in addition to higher prevalence rates per 1000 members.

Region Metro Rural	Patients	CHF Patients / 1000 Members	Visits ER	ER Visits / 100	Admits	Admits / 100	Visits Office Med	Office Visits / 100	Total Cost of Coverage	Cost / Patient
Albany	111	11		-	1	0.9	128	115.3	\$68,989.23	\$621.52
Athens	159	11	3	1.9	4	2.5	237	149.1	\$229,834.26	\$1,445.50
Atlanta	3,233	10	51	1.6	31	1.0	4,010	124.0	\$4,520,393.93	\$1,398.20
Augusta	306	13	2	0.7	1	0.3	276	90.2	\$364,003.63	\$1,189.55
Chattanooga	112	12	1	0.9		-	160	142.9	\$92,855.13	\$829.06
Columbus	240	19	4	1.7	4	1.7	295	122.9	\$251,326.75	\$1,047.19
Macon	349	14	4	1.1	3	0.9	429	122.9	\$335,055.80	\$960.05
<b>Middle</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>124.7</b>	<b>\$1,259,348.59</b>	<b>\$2,120.12</b>
Mideast	329	14	22	6.7	3	0.9	403	122.5	\$358,635.98	\$1,090.08
Northern	1,263	14	31	2.5	13	1.0	1,865	147.7	\$1,477,908.03	\$1,170.16
Savannah	219	10	2	0.9	1	0.5	293	133.8	\$171,798.21	\$784.47
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>117.7</b>	<b>\$1,974,323.48</b>	<b>\$2,942.36</b>
Southwest	693	15	17	2.5	7	1.0	726	104.8	\$563,174.95	\$812.66

# REGIONAL DSM METRICS | HOW DO REGIONS COMPARE BASED ON SELECT CHRONIC CONDITIONS?

The below charts compares utilization metrics across all regions for Coronary Artery Disease. Though the Albany region has the lowest prevalence of CAD per 1000 members, the region ranks consistently high across all utilization and cost metrics.

Region	Metro	Rural	Patients	CAD Patients / 1000 Members	Visits ER	ER Visits / 100	Admits	Admits / 100	Visits Office Med	Office Visits / 100	Total Cost of Coverage	Cost / Patient
Albany			169	16.73	14	8.3	18	10.7	244	144.4	\$948,626.31	\$5,613.17
Athens			410	27.76	26	6.3	22	5.4	616	150.2	\$1,376,522.85	\$3,357.37
Atlanta			9,211	27.77	549	6.0	584	6.3	14,144	153.6	\$34,921,577.68	\$3,791.29
Augusta			841	36.81	48	5.7	55	6.5	1,097	130.4	\$3,050,245.29	\$3,626.93
Chattanooga			433	44.68	23	5.3	23	5.3	680	157.0	\$1,338,814.74	\$3,091.95
Columbus			552	42.88	33	6.0	34	6.2	989	179.2	\$1,671,200.43	\$3,027.54
Macon			901	35.57	57	6.3	61	6.8	1,495	165.9	\$2,483,071.87	\$2,755.91
Middle			1,661	47.88	95	5.7	115	6.9	2,890	174.0	\$5,645,279.41	\$3,398.72
Mideast			982	40.77	72	7.3	67	6.8	1,484	151.1	\$3,485,420.28	\$3,549.31
Northern			3,826	43.69	254	6.6	252	6.6	5,901	154.2	\$16,035,517.55	\$4,191.20
Savannah			509	23.58	27	5.3	28	5.5	839	164.8	\$1,721,370.80	\$3,381.87
Southeast			2,397	43.41	171	7.1	162	6.8	4,084	170.4	\$10,098,444.51	\$4,212.95
Southwest			1,927	41.27	112	5.8	121	6.3	3,018	156.6	\$8,195,641.29	\$4,253.06

# REGIONAL DSM METRICS | HOW DO REGIONS COMPARE BASED ON SELECT CHRONIC CONDITIONS?

The below charts compares utilization metrics across all regions for Diabetes. The Albany, Macon, southeast and southwest regions have higher than average cost per patient, with varying above average performance in utilization metrics.

Region Metro Rural	Patients	Diabetes Patients / 1000 Members	Visits ER	ER Visits / 100	Admits	Admits / 100	Visits Office Med	Office Visits / 100	Total Cost of Coverage	Cost / Patient
Albany	1,579	156	35	2.2	22	1.4	4,181	264.8	\$1,480,706.01	\$937.75
Athens	1,483	100	30	2.0	27	1.8	3,371	227.3	\$897,436.43	\$605.15
Atlanta	36,666	111	688	1.9	605	1.7	74,398	202.9	\$25,134,176.03	\$685.49
Augusta	3,366	147	82	2.4	65	1.9	8,105	240.8	\$2,225,064.09	\$661.04
Chattanooga	1,103	114	18	1.6	17	1.5	2,361	214.1	\$627,140.38	\$568.58
Columbus	1,901	148	30	1.6	23	1.2	5,052	265.8	\$1,107,846.93	\$582.77
Macon	3,413	135	95	2.8	77	2.3	8,323	243.9	\$2,767,755.08	\$810.94
Middle	5,206	150	105	2.0	92	1.8	12,667	243.3	\$3,533,563.27	\$678.75
Mideast	3,361	140	69	2.1	60	1.8	7,144	212.6	\$1,960,997.64	\$583.46
Northern	11,105	127	166	1.5	145	1.3	25,707	231.5	\$7,494,738.28	\$674.90
Savannah	2,904	135	57	2.0	35	1.2	7,980	274.8	\$1,645,444.97	\$566.61
Southeast	7,299	132	143	2.0	143	2.0	16,034	219.7	\$5,664,423.50	\$776.05
Southwest	6,805	146	154	2.3	114	1.7	16,944	249.0	\$4,830,118.04	\$709.79

# REGIONAL DSM METRICS | HOW DO REGIONS COMPARE BASED ON SELECT CHRONIC CONDITIONS?

The below charts compares utilization metrics across all regions for Hypertension. Though there is not one region which has a significant disparity in all or most or metrics, the middle, mideast and southwest regions have above average utilization rates and above average cost per patient. Though the cost per patient for hypertension is lower than other chronic conditions, it is a top 10 clinical condition based on total number of patients and total costs.

Region Metro Rural	Patients	Hypertension Patients / 1000 Members	Visits ER	ER Visits / 100	Admits	Admits / 100	Visits Office Med	Office Visits / 100	Total Cost of Coverage	Cost / Patient
Albany	2,627	260.05	82	3.1	29	1.1	5,337	203.2	\$1,170,040.80	\$445.39
Athens	2,606	176.46	66	2.5	32	1.2	4,231	162.4	\$1,080,907.52	\$414.78
Atlanta	58,932	177.69	1,686	2.9	720	1.2	95,223	161.6	\$32,887,504.47	\$558.06
Augusta	5,386	235.77	136	2.5	86	1.6	8,982	166.8	\$2,517,649.89	\$467.44
Chattanooga	2,011	207.51	59	2.9	30	1.5	4,197	208.7	\$881,969.23	\$438.57
Columbus	3,648	283.38	99	2.7	28	0.8	8,211	225.1	\$1,689,735.69	\$463.20
Macon	6,300	248.72	184	2.9	71	1.1	14,532	230.7	\$3,206,094.49	\$508.90
Middle	9,855	284.07	262	2.7	114	1.2	19,800	200.9	\$4,395,251.98	\$445.99
Mideast	6,743	279.93	185	2.7	66	1.0	12,361	183.3	\$4,448,873.68	\$659.78
Northern	20,132	229.91	450	2.2	226	1.1	35,680	177.2	\$10,800,550.85	\$536.49
Savannah	4,881	226.12	85	1.7	35	0.7	9,236	189.2	\$1,334,978.01	\$273.51
Southeast	14,464	261.94	316	2.2	143	1.0	27,907	192.9	\$6,726,236.35	\$465.03
Southwest	12,453	266.73	325	2.6	140	1.1	22,166	178.0	\$6,775,705.81	\$544.10

# APPENDIX | COUNTY TO REGION MAPPING

County	Region	County	Region	County	Region	County	Region
Dougherty	Albany	Baldwin	Middle	Gilmer	Northern	Pulaski	Southeast
Lee	Albany	Crawford	Middle	Gordon	Northern	Tattall	Southeast
Clarke	Athens	Greene	Middle	Habersham	Northern	Telfair	Southeast
Madison	Athens	Hancock	Middle	Hall	Northern	Toombs	Southeast
Oconee	Athens	Heard	Middle	Haralson	Northern	Treutlen	Southeast
Barrow	Atlanta	Jasper	Middle	Hart	Northern	Ware	Southeast
Bartow	Atlanta	Lamar	Middle	Jackson	Northern	Wayne	Southeast
Butts	Atlanta	Lincoln	Middle	Lumpkin	Northern	Wheeler	Southeast
Carroll	Atlanta	Meriwether	Middle	Murray	Northern	Wilcox	Southeast
Cherokee	Atlanta	Monroe	Middle	Oglethorpe	Northern	Baker	Southwest
Clayton	Atlanta	Morgan	Middle	Polk	Northern	Brooks	Southwest
Cobb	Atlanta	Pike	Middle	Rabun	Northern	Calhoun	Southwest
Coweta	Atlanta	Putnam	Middle	Stephens	Northern	Clay	Southwest
DeKalb	Atlanta	Talbot	Middle	Towns	Northern	Colquitt	Southwest
Douglas	Atlanta	Taliaferro	Middle	Union	Northern	Cook	Southwest
Fayette	Atlanta	Troup	Middle	White	Northern	Crisp	Southwest
Forsyth	Atlanta	Upson	Middle	Whitfield	Northern	Decatur	Southwest
Fulton	Atlanta	Warren	Middle	Bryan	Savannah	Dooly	Southwest
Gwinnett	Atlanta	Wilkes	Middle	Chatham	Savannah	Early	Southwest
Henry	Atlanta	Bulloch	Mideast	Effingham	Savannah	Echols	Southwest
Newton	Atlanta	Burke	Mideast	Appling	Southeast	Grady	Southwest
Paulding	Atlanta	Candler	Mideast	Atkinson	Southeast	Lowndes	Southwest
Pickens	Atlanta	Emanuel	Mideast	Bacon	Southeast	Macon	Southwest
Rockdale	Atlanta	Evans	Mideast	Ben Hill	Southeast	Marion	Southwest
Spalding	Atlanta	Glascok	Mideast	Berrien	Southeast	Miller	Southwest
Walton	Atlanta	Jefferson	Mideast	Bleckley	Southeast	Mitchell	Southwest
Columbia	Augusta	Jenkins	Mideast	Brantley	Southeast	Quitman	Southwest
McDuffie	Augusta	Johnson	Mideast	Camden	Southeast	Randolph	Southwest
Richmond	Augusta	Liberty	Mideast	Charlton	Southeast	Schley	Southwest
Catoosa	Chattanooga	Long	Mideast	Clinch	Southeast	Seminole	Southwest
Dade	Chattanooga	Screven	Mideast	Coffee	Southeast	Stewart	Southwest
Walker	Chattanooga	Washington	Mideast	Dodge	Southeast	Sumter	Southwest
Chattahoochee	Columbus	Wilkinson	Mideast	Glynn	Southeast	Taylor	Southwest
Harris	Columbus	Banks	Northern	Irwin	Southeast	Terrell	Southwest
Muscogee	Columbus	Chattooga	Northern	Jeff Davis	Southeast	Thomas	Southwest
Bibb	Macon	Dawson	Northern	Lanier	Southeast	Tift	Southwest
Houston	Macon	Elbert	Northern	Laurens	Southeast	Turner	Southwest
Jones	Macon	Fannin	Northern	McIntosh	Southeast	Webster	Southwest
Peach	Macon	Floyd	Northern	Montgomery	Southeast	Worth	Southwest
Twiggs	Macon	Franklin	Northern	Pierce	Southeast		