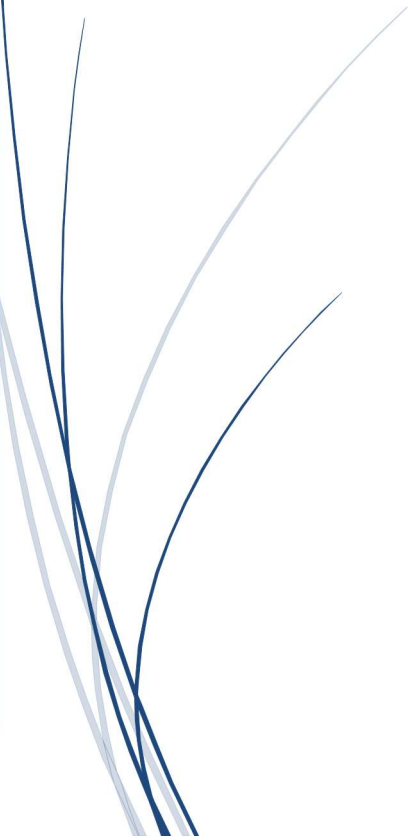




Coastal Plain Area E.O.A. Inc.  
A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

## Community Needs Assessment 2021



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## Executive Summary

### County Profiles

Data presented in the assessment cover numerous topics, including demographics, economy, public assistance, food and nutrition, employment, housing, transportation, crime, pregnancy and births, children and education and health outcomes. Data, when possible, are divided into subgroups by age, race, gender and other special population characteristics, such as veterans, as well as geographic areas.

Ideas and opinions were compiled from a survey of over 300 community members, a survey of 19 (key informants) and participants from five conference calls.

The following key factors and trends were identified in Coastal Plain EOA's service counties:

- 1) All Coastal Plain EOA service counties are below the state and nation median household income levels of \$61,950 and \$65,912 respectively. Turner County households have the lowest median household income of \$35,400.
- 2) During the sixteen year period (2000 – 2019), six of the ten counties experienced growth - from a growth of 43% in Lanier County which is greater than the growth of Georgia and the United States - to six percent in Tift County.
- 3) In 2019, it is estimated that there were 22,841 households, or 24.2%, living in poverty within the report area which is twice the percentage of the Nation. Turner County has the greatest percentage of its households in poverty (32.6%) of all Coastal Plain's counties. While Tift County has the lowest percentage of its households in poverty (21.2%), all of the counties have greater percentages of their households in poverty than Georgia and the United States.
- 4) A slightly greater percentage of females in the report area live in poverty than males, 26% versus 23%. Turner County has the greatest percentage of its males (28.5%) and females living in a state of poverty (38.0%) of all Coastal Plain EOA's service areas and double that of the State and Nation.

### Primary Research Conducted

An online survey constructed for Coastal Plain EOA's Board and Policy Council garnered 19 responses. When asked about the top three needs of the community, the Board members stated Affordable, safe housing, Employment and Education. The Policy Council had nine different issues but no one of them garnered more than one response. An online survey for the general public was posted on Coastal Plain's website and other avenues resulted in the top concerns by segmented population. Head Start Parents' top three community concerns included Jobs/Employment, Places for youth and activities, and Affordable, safe housing. Business Partners responded Education, Afterschool care tied with Jobs and Health Insurance. Community members stated Workforce, Community Activities, Race Relations, Safety, Abundant resources and informing the community were all tied. Coastal Plain EOA Staff responded Jobs, Affordable, safe housing and afterschool programs for kids. Transportation was at the bottom of the list for the aforementioned population; however it was on the top of the list for conference call participants who included CSBG and Weatherization clients.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1964, President Johnson took on the economy by waging a "war on poverty." In his State of the Union Address, Johnson proclaimed, ***"This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America."*** Inspired by President Kennedy and his New Frontier, President Johnson launched what he envisioned as "The Great Society". Before Kennedy was assassinated, he had asked his economic advisors to draw up some proposals to address the problem of American poverty. Johnson took up this charge after he succeeded Kennedy as President by expanding and revising the proposals given to Kennedy and developing the Economic Opportunity Act. The Act was signed into law in August of the same year, creating the nationwide Community Action Network. This network, comprised of Community Action Agencies (CAAs), equips low-income citizens with the tools and potential for becoming self-sufficient. The structure of program is unique – federal dollars are used locally to offer specialized programming in communities. It is a coordinated effort to address the root effects of poverty and to, ultimately, move families and individuals to self-sufficiency. There are now over 1000 CAAs throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Community Action has continued fighting the "War on Poverty" even during times of adversity and challenges. Over the past several years, federal funding has been challenged by various administrations. President George W. Bush denounced Community Action programs as being static. However, Community Action remains an important safety net for many vulnerable individuals and families.

Community Action entered a new phase in 2001, "the age of accountability" when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("USHHS") issued Information Memorandum 49, requiring eligible entities to conduct needs assessments and use the results to design programs to meet community needs. Community Action answered the call and improved their reporting through the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) framework and continuously seeks ways to improve outreach and services. The National Community Action Partnership now encourages all Community Action Agencies to embrace the National Standards of Excellence as a pathway to improve and empower agency operations.

In 2015, CAAs were faced with another level of accountability under Information Memorandum No. 138, which established the Organizational Standards. The Organizational Standards were designed to provide "performance goals, administrative standards, financial management requirements, and other requirements" that ensure an appropriate level of accountability and quality among CAAs and/or CSBG eligible entities. Category three identifies the purpose of this report, the community needs assessment, requiring CAAs or eligible entities receiving CSBG funds, to conduct a Community Needs Assessment and develop a Community Action Plan to address the needs identified in the needs assessment. Accordingly, the standard requires the organization to conduct a community assessment and issue a report every three years.

## PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide current and accurate information to the Coastal Plain EOA Executive Board, organizational leaders and team members for the purpose of strategic planning, priority setting, program outcomes, and program improvements. While the community needs assessment is developed in compliance with the Organizational Standards and the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG), the necessity far exceeds the need to simply be compliant. For Coastal Plain EOA, the real purpose is to serve as the guide for the agency's annual planning process which allows for data-based decision making whereby services are based on identified needs. Thus, this tool is intended to act as a "Road Map" that demonstrates the linkages between community needs, assets, and services provided by Coastal Plain.

## METHODOLOGY

While there is no single method that works best, most effective assessments will utilize more than one method for data collection and when possible use both quantitative and qualitative data collection. To effectively create a strategy to address the needs of the communities served by Coastal Plain EOA, the primary data methods utilized included surveys from key stakeholders and the general public. For secondary data collection, information was gathered and retrieved from reliable online sources and government websites.

A variety of methods were utilized to collect qualitative and quantitative data. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conference calls replaced focus groups. A summary of these methods are listed below:

### Conference Calls

1. Community Clients/Residents

The intent of the conference calls was to increase the understanding of the community's needs and key stakeholders' perception of the main challenges facing the region. Topics covered during the sessions included perception of needs across housing, employment, education, healthcare, transportation, food and nutrition and financial issues. Conference call participants were asked to provide their perspective with respect to the following: The biggest problems facing youth ages 0-12, 5-17 and 16-22, in the community and the biggest problems facing adults in the community.

2. Electronic Survey – Board and Policy Council

Participants included 10 members of Coastal Plain EOA's Board and 8 members of its Policy Council.

3. Client/Public Surveys

Survey responses, 316, were collected online and analyzed to gauge how their families and neighborhoods were fairing and determine their levels of concern about lifestyle topics.

4. Statistical Research

Statistical information was gathered utilizing federal, state, and local data via the internet

# Community Input

## A. Conference Calls

### Methodology

The community needs assessment was completed through a series of five conference call sessions. Participants were recruited by Coastal Plain EOA and were chosen to ensure multiple, varied perspectives among all key stakeholders. All sessions were designed to be homogenous, allowing people with similar backgrounds to feel comfortable sharing ideas. Conference call sessions were held among key stakeholders, and were approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour in length. Key stakeholders included Coastal Plain's community residents that comprise its service area. The intent of the conference calls was to increase the understanding of the community's needs and key stakeholders' perception of the main challenges facing the region. Topics covered during the sessions included perception of needs across housing, employment, education, healthcare, transportation, legal issues, food and nutrition and financial issues. Conference call participants were asked to provide their perspective with respect to the following:

- a. The biggest problems facing youth, ages 0 to 12, ages 5 to 17 in the community
- b. The biggest problems facing adults in the community

Conference call participants were also allowed to name the top three concerns of their community and comment on any additional challenges they saw in the community. After discussing each key issue, participants were asked to share thoughts on potential resources and solutions to address identified needs across the community problem discussed. Potential resources/solutions were discussed across the following key areas/demographics:

<u><b>Key Areas</b></u>	<u><b>Key Demographics</b></u>
Employment and education	Adults
Further education or training	Young Children (0-12 years old)
Housing and Utilities	Young Children (5-17 years old)
Financial Literacy	Seniors
Transportation	
Recreation	
Healthcare	

Conference calls were chosen as focus groups could not be conducted because of COVID-19 pandemic. Conference calls are a valuable method for obtaining in-depth qualitative information on topics of interest. Qualitative methods in data collection can play an important role in strengthening findings

from other data collected. While conference calls garner valuable information, it is important to note that results from these calls are not generalized across an entire population; but instead, are used to describe the findings with greater insight.

Conference call data was recorded and were transcribed.

### Key Stakeholder Representation

Stakeholder representation among conference call participants was as follows:

Community Residents
Adult male– Lake Park, GA
Adult female– Tifton, GA
Adult male – Ray City, GA
Adult female– Fitzgerald, GA (2)
Adult female– Naylor, GA
Adult female– Quitman, GA (2)
Adult male– Valdosta, GA
Adult female– Ocilla, GA
Adult female– Ray City, GA (2)
Adult female– DuPont, GA
Adult female– Valdosta, GA (3)
Adult female– Nashville, GA (2)

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## Key Findings and Stakeholder Recommendations

### Youth, Ages 0-12

#### Across Key Partners

#### Across Clients and Community Residents

Lack of Family Structure and Discipline— Because most homes are headed by a single parent, often kids are left to their own devices (wandering the streets, getting into trouble)

Lack of Affordable, High Quality Childcare

Lack of recreation or places for youth to gather

Lack of after school activities

Lack of Head Start in areas

Lack of Early Head Start

Mentorship

### Youth, Ages 5-17

#### Across Clients and Community Residents

Mentorship

Lack of a stable home

Lack of after school/extra-curricular activities/recreational outlets

Lack of access to reliable internet service

Tutoring/Help with homework

Lack of places for youth to safely hang out/gather

Lack of materials needed for school including computers

Lack of activity during the summer – could work for Coastal Plain helping seniors

Lack of free or low-cost after school programs/activities

Lack of parenting skills

Lack of basic life skills

Financial literacy – how to budget – how to write checks

Lack of Family Structure and Discipline



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### *Youth, Ages 5-17 (Continued)*

Lack of Adult Role Model

The quality of school varies based on your community

Lack of a Boys and Girls Club in multiple towns

### *Adults*

When identifying problems among Adults, there were four salient themes that resonated within all stakeholder groups. The four problem themes were:

1. Lack of transportation
2. Lack of recreational outlets for kids
3. Lack of employment and job opportunities
4. Lack of affordable, quality housing

All groups identified that there is a need to for public transportation. A new transportation system has been created in Valdosta recently with reasonable fees – maybe \$2 a trip per participants. Participants mentioned that the new transportation system may just accept ambulatory customers and not those relegated to wheelchairs and stretchers. Participants shared that it is difficult to obtain a job without adequate, reliable transportation and it is difficult to purchase a vehicle without funds which come from job wages, so it becomes “chicken versus the egg” scenario. The lack of a job that offers benefits and good wages does not afford the poor to save money. Subsequently, if their vehicle needs repairs, or one gets sick and requires a doctor’s visit or medicine, many times there is not enough funding to pay all of their bills which often leaves many adults unable to pay all of their bills and/or unable to pay their bills on time. A participant mentioned that there are several transportation companies in Berrien County that takes people to their doctors appointments but not grocery shopping – just medical appointments. Also, employment is apparently bountiful in Berrien County per a participant – it has three factories and two sawmills.

Participants mentioned the need for kids to have some type of recreational outlet – whether it is organized activities held by schools or by city recreation departments or just plain parks with up-to-date equipment. One participant mentioned that someone used a bus to take kids to recreational activities

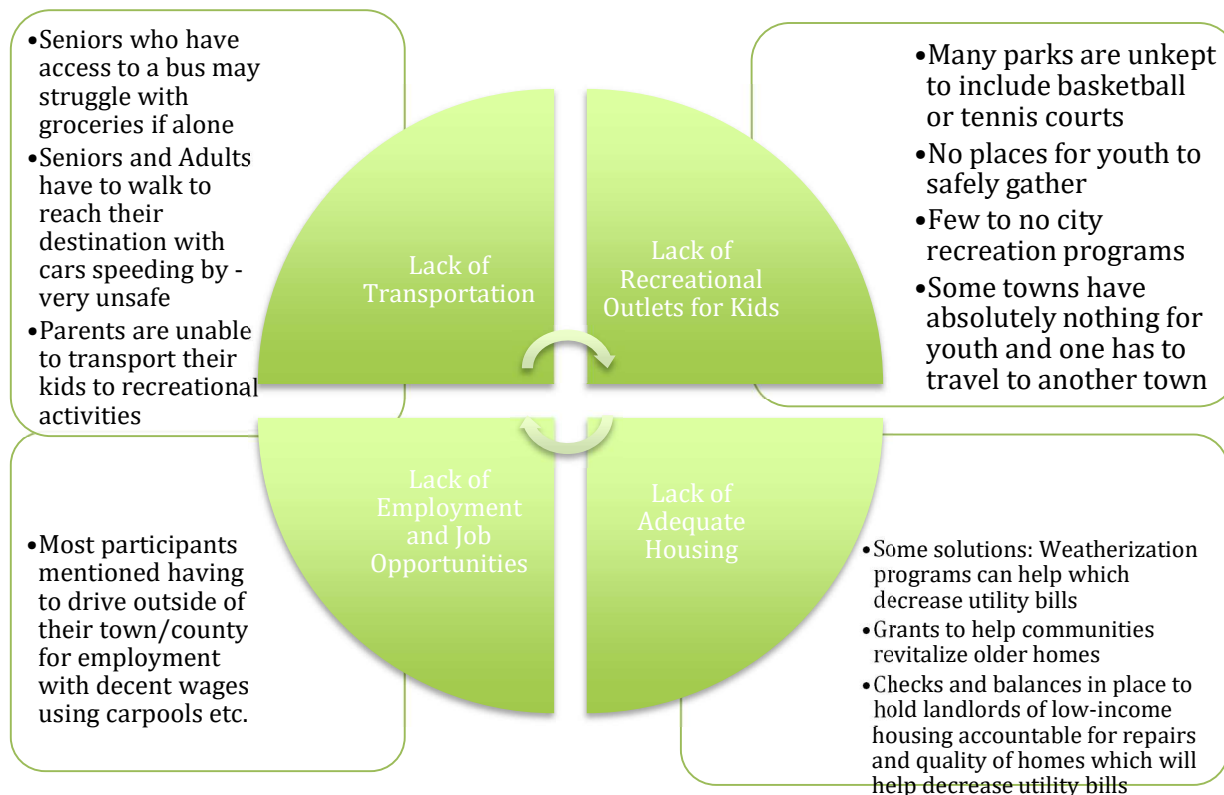
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but that service is no longer operable. Youth are left to aimlessly wander the streets and could find themselves in trouble eventually. Some towns/cities have excellent recreation departments for their youth; however, the participants stated that only one or two towns provide this service. Participants would favor organized activities. Some participants suggested that there could be a program for youth to do yardwork for seniors which would help both demographics. One participant mentioned that Berrien County has an excellent recreation program.

Lastly, participants identified that lack of adequate housing is a problem among this group as many adults are living in substandard housing conditions, where residents have holes in housing floors, no adequate power sources or water heaters. This was identified as a linkage to increased utility bills as well with a lack of weatherization or resources to weatherize low-income properties. Participants who have used Coastal Plain EOA's Weatherization program have high regards for the program. They mentioned that prior to the project start, the employees informed the seniors of the process and kept them up-to-date on their progress. The seniors extolled significant decreases in their utility bills and being comfortable in the homes year round.

It was mentioned that offering classes to adults and to children in school regarding life skills would be extremely valuable. By teaching this in high school, the children would be prepared once they enter into adulthood.

Stakeholders identified the following as problems and provided some solutions:



### Additional Issues Facing Adults in the community

Lack of financial literacy

Lack of computer literacy

LIHEAP program registration is problematic – system can't handle the volume of calls

Lack of financial literacy

Parents are in need of resources to help them learn how to effectively parent

Lack of awareness about available resources

Lack of education (GED, high school diploma)

Lack of good paying jobs

Lack of contractors for seniors needing home repairs who have been vetted

Put resources in one location – one stop shop – Coastal Plain could renovate the old Lomax Campus and bring all the resources into one location

# Key Issues across Demographics

In summarizing the findings from the overall process, it is important to note that the majority of the

## *Common themes on challenges to Employment:*

*Lack of job opportunities/limited job market*

*Lack of transportation to get to the job*

*Lack of decent wages or low wages*

*Need for job training - trade*

conference call participants brought up similar themes when discussing the key issues. Some groups discussed topics more extensively than others, however, in general, the issues related to lack of the following: 1) education; 2) recreation for youth; 3) affordable, safe housing; 4) employment transportation; and 5) employment generated more discussion than challenges related to health insurance and legal aid/support. In discussing how to address noted challenges, participants also found similar solutions to community problems. Below are

the key findings arranged by the issues that were discussed.

## *Employment*

Challenges to employment were discussed during the conference call sessions. Participants their concerns about the lack of job opportunities/limited job market, low wages and lack of job transportation. Participants described a disconnection between the jobs that are available and the skills of the community. Citing that many in the community lack basic life skills and job dedication. In many instances, participants agreed that many adults lack these skills, and therefore are unable to serve as good role models for youth in developing the skills. Several participants commented that unemployment and poor wages made the community unhealthy as people were no longer able to afford basic necessities, had to either choose between food and medications, or put off paying bills. A limited job market and low wages was another common theme discussed across all counties. Comments about the minimum wage not being a living wage were heard often, and participants described many in their community as living “pay-check-to-pay check.” Many expressed a concern for single mothers and low-income families who are faced with rising costs on limited incomes, and as a result described a lower quality of life within these subpopulations.

## *Education, Further Education, and/or Training*

Challenges to quality education was discussed during the conference call sessions. Participants shared many comments regarding their inability to further their education because of challenges with childcare and transportation.

In terms of solutions, participants' ideas focused on increasing student success by improving personal responsibility. For example, one solution most often heard was to increase the life skills training available to young people and parenting skill classes to young parents . Participants expressed a great concern for young people being unprepared for the challenges of life. The skills often associated with life skills training are: decision-making skills, social skills, employability and career planning, money management, and issues related to health and family. These skills were often described as lacking not only in young people but in many adults as well, particularly parents. Partnerships with local colleges and local businesses were cited as good strategies to support community members in pursuing additional education and/or training.

*Common themes on challenges to education, further education and/or training*

*Lack of transportation*

*Lack of affordable education options*

*Low wage jobs offer free training like Certified Nursing Assistant at a nursing home – agree to their employment upon completion*

*You can further your education but will have to move out of town in order get a good paying job*

# *Housing and Energy*

Housing and energy were also important challenges raised during conference call sessions. Some participants shared concerns regarding lack of affordable housing, and energy efficient housing. Many noted the need for more quality, low-income housing options, (e.g. subsidized housing) outside of housing projects, and the need for resources that can support community members in maintaining their households on a monthly basis. Participants indicated that lack of accountability for landlords to make rental home repairs and tenant rights were widespread. Participants also discussed the need for weatherization support among homeowners, and cited the value of the current weatherization support provided by Coastal Plain EOA. Substandard living conditions came up a second time. As stated previously, these circumstances are often tied to underemployment across the region, thus limiting quality across housing options. In terms of solutions, participants stated that many homeowners, particularly the elderly, need financial assistance to support home repairs or make improvements geared towards energy conservation. In instances where financial assistance is limited, participants indicated that at a minimum, community members should be provided with information on other available resources that have been vetted by Coastal Plain EOA.

## *Common themes on challenges to housing and energy:*

*Lack of affordable, quality housing for low-income households*

*Limited resources to support home repairs and making homes more energy efficient*

*Lack of knowledge of the process of obtaining government assistance and submitting necessary paperwork*

# *Financial Literacy*

Conference call participants discussed the need for financial literacy citing this a common thread among some of the challenges already noted, especially housing. Lack of insight around how to manage money impacts individual's ability to maintain a household, including paying bills and other responsibilities.

Additionally, participants alluded to the fact that lack of financial literacy limits upward mobility among low-income households, keeping them in a cycle of poverty. There were strong agreements that young people are not equipped with basic life skills that will support their development into high-functioning adults. In many instances, they also agreed that many adults lacked these skills as well and therefore are unable to serve as good role models for the youth. One participant suggested that Coastal Plain EOA offer a Summer work program to teach youth financial literacy and the importance of good work ethic in addition to exposing her to different jobs and career options.

*Common themes on challenges to financial literacy:*

*Lack of financial planning knowledge (e.g. how to budget, save, and invest)*

*It was suggested that students and adults take classes to learn basic life skills )*

# Transportation

Many participants expressed a deep concern for the challenges faced by Coastal Plain EOA's region with respect to their need for transportation. Participants explained that transportation options are either limited or non-existent, and that lack of transportation impacts access to employment opportunities, additional education/learning opportunities, and needed healthcare services. However, a

new transportation system has been created in Valdosta per some participants. While this limitation impacts every segment of the Coastal Plain EOA region, the elderly, or those with chronic health conditions are those are most burdened by this challenge. Lack of transportation increases the isolation among these subpopulations making it more difficult for them to live independently.

## *Common themes on challenges to transportation*

**Limited to non-existent local transit system for everyday commuting purposes**

**Limited local transport to/from medical appointments (offered in some counties)**

**Lack of knowledge about and money for car care/maintenance and repairs**

# Additional Community Issues

## *Food and Nutrition*

## *Medication*

## *Seniors*

Participants did not believe that food and nutrition was a community concern. They mentioned that school children are getting feed by the school system even while distance learning at home. Pantrys, churches and others are ensuring that their communities have food to ingest.

Participants openly expressed a majority concern for seniors. Many identified that seniors are in need of assistance to remain in their homes, assistance with prescription medications and assistance with healthy food options. Participants stated that many seniors are unable to afford their prescribed medications (e.g. insulin for diabetes management). This challenge has many seniors unable to obtain medications that help them manage their health condition, which in many cases are serious chronic

## *Common themes on challenges to health insurance, food and nutrition and seniors:*

***Lack of transportation to get to grocery stores***

***Lack of education and awareness around nutrition and healthy foods options***

***Lack of affordable prescription medication***



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diseases. Participants expressed that additional medical assistance programs are needed to support coverage or provisions of diabetic medications. To help seniors stay in their homes, It was suggested that Coastal Plain EOA create a program where a group of young people would help seniors by cleaning gutters, painting, etc. This would teach young people to give back to the community.

Nutrition was a less discussed concern, but participants were able to identify a few challenges facing the community. Many participants expressed the need for education around nutrition and healthy food options. Participants indicated that they believe the community would select more nutritious options if they knew more about nutrition and how to prepare healthy meals. A few residents mentioned a concern related accessing quality foods. Participants mentioned that community members are merely buying foods they can afford and sometimes they are not quality foods. Participants also mentioned a need for additional food commodity programs that could potentially teach people how to prepare meals as well.

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# Implications

The absence of economic resources impacts housing choices, food options, and overall lifestyle choices. In addition to traditional metrics like poverty rates, the total impact of poverty is now being measured with renewed focus on local conditions that exacerbate the impact of widespread low income households. The findings discussed in this report highlight the complex and dynamic relationship between economics and culture in the development and provisions of services and systems that are responsive to the diverse needs across high burden communities. The overarching themes summarize a range of experiences across multiple stakeholders and are similar to many of the challenges of what we see nationwide. Thus, themes that suggest socioeconomic barriers are not unique to Coastal Plain EOA rather they mirror social patterns that have challenged rural communities for years. Nevertheless, the challenges discussed in this report represent an important call to action.

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Unique and creative programs are needed to enhance equity across the communities. Echoing themes found in the literature, these findings suggest that, when asked, stakeholders are in tune with community needs and understand what will work in the community. This was well illustrated by the range of recommendations for improving programs offered by Coastal Plain EOA. While all recommendations may not be feasible to implement now, some likely represent low-hanging fruit that can be implemented with minimal effort or costs. To address challenges noted by respondents, it is recommended that Coastal Plain EOA form a stakeholder workgroup, and engage in a comprehensive strategic planning process. Individuals invited to join this workgroup should include service users, direct providers, and relevant individuals from Coastal Plain EOA leadership. The goal of this group should be to discuss the feasibility of implementing recommendations for improving critical needs across the 10-county area. In forming this workgroup, Coastal Plain should identify individuals responsible for advancing goals, timeframes for implementing work, and strategies for measuring success. Such concrete planning will assist in the translation of ideas into action, and guard against losing any momentum needed to address noted challenges. Further, inclusion of service users in the process of planning can create greater alignment between service needs and service offerings, ultimately reducing the significant need burden as a whole. While it is beyond the scope of this document to present a comprehensive discussion across the range of recommendations offered by service users and community members, some findings and recommendations are discussed to provide an illustration of the ways in which recommendations and findings can inform the development of specific programs. Such translation of recommendations for enhancing quality of life, should be an ongoing task of the workgroup, or some other action planning group charged with continuous quality of life improvement in the key areas noted within the report.

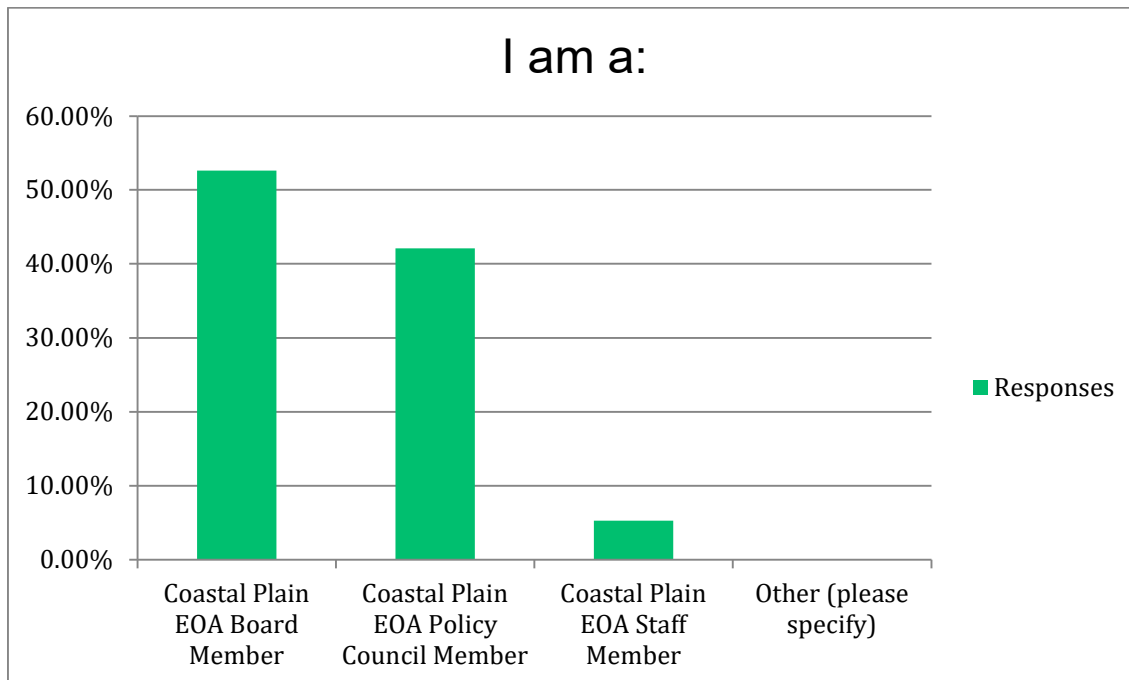
# Agency Input

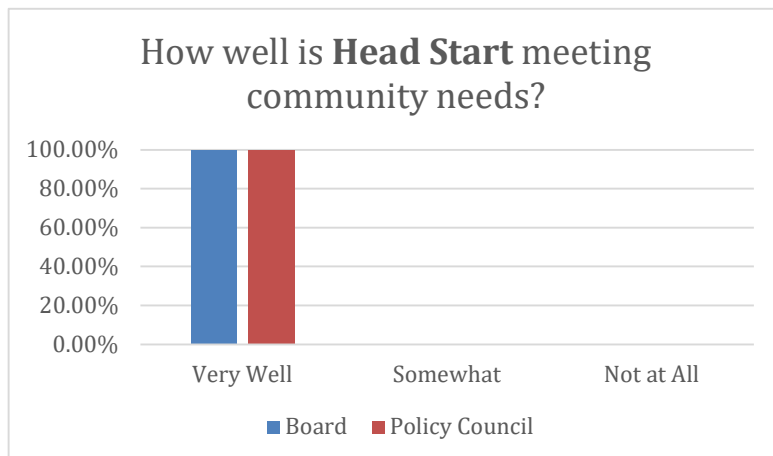
## B. Board and Policy Council Internal Survey

Ten out of 16 Coastal Plain EOA Board members and eight Policy Council members participated in a survey which evaluated the agency's programs/services and gleaned their opinions of issues and needs of the community. The lone staff member's responses were added to the Community Survey where other staff members participated.

### I am a:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Coastal Plain EOA Board Member	52.63%	10
Coastal Plain EOA Policy Council Member	42.11%	8
Coastal Plain EOA Staff Member	5.26%	1
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
<b>Answered</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>0</b>





	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	100.00%	100.00%
Somewhat	0.00%	0.00%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	10	8
Skipped	0	0

All respondents to the internal survey believe that Head Start is meeting the needs of the community very well.

#### Comments:

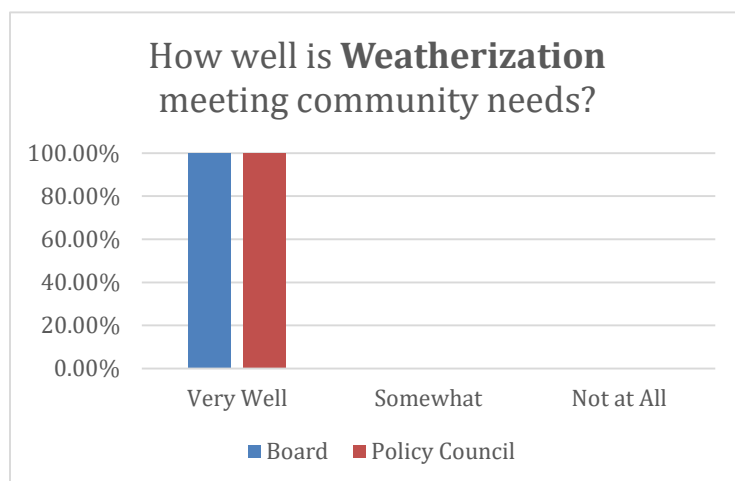
##### Board:

1) We all face difficulties with COVID-19 Pandemic, but the Leadership really provided excellent learning environment for the kids.

2) Wonderful always helping

##### Community Members:

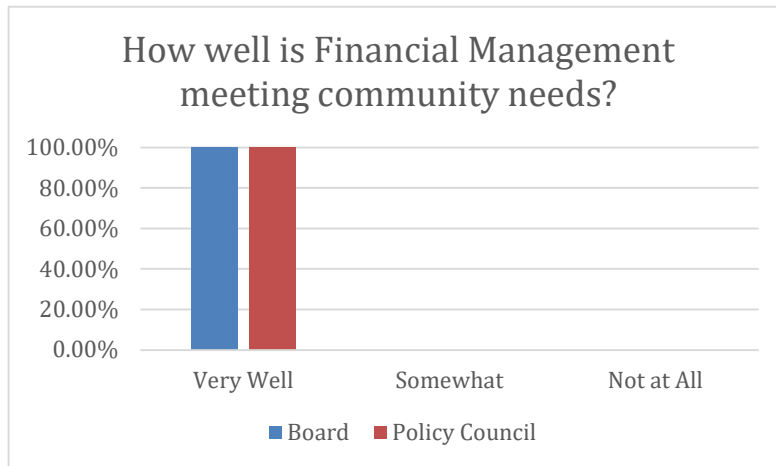
- 1) apply again for Early Head Start
- 2) We need early head start
- 3) Improve the communication so that it is consistent and unified from the leadership down to the custodians. As a parent, I don't want the first time I hear or learn about something to be on the day of, the day before, or after there's been multiple instances.



	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	100.00%	100.00%
Somewhat	0.00%	0.00%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	10	8
Skipped	0	0

All Board and Policy Council members believe the Weatherization program is meeting the needs of the community very well.

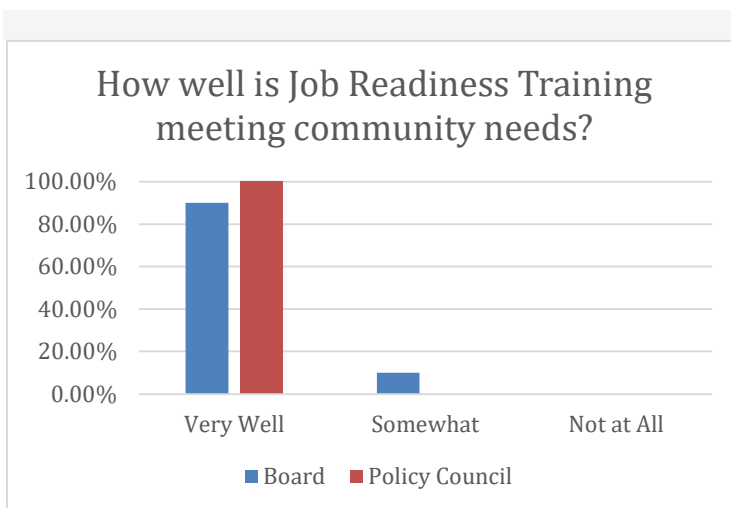
Board Comments: They served several families.



	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	100.00%	100.00%
Somewhat	0.00%	0.00%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	10	8
Skipped	0	0

“Very Well” was the response of ten Board members and eight Policy Council members when asked how well Coastal Plain

EOA’s Financial Services are meeting the needs of the community.



	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	90.00%	100.00%
Somewhat	10.00%	0.00%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	10	8
Skipped	0	0

Of the ten Board members, nine believe that the Job Readiness program is meeting the community’s needs very well. All Policy Council members echo the sentiment.

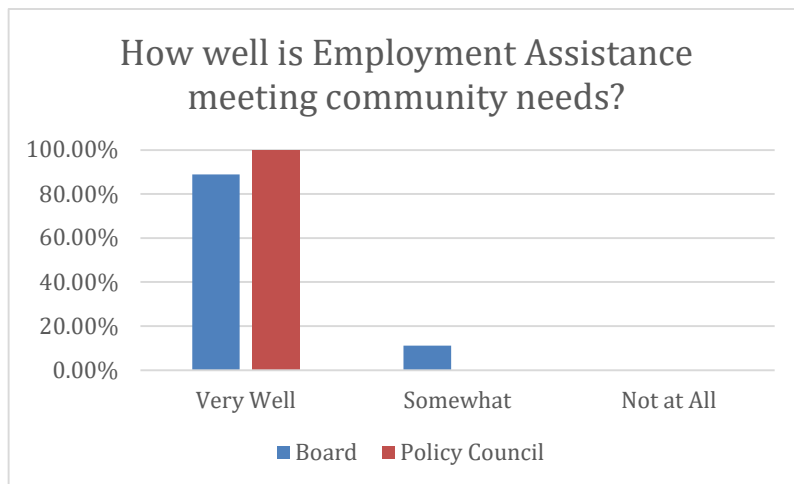
Comments:

Board:

- 1) Great

Community Members:

- 1) I didn't know this was available



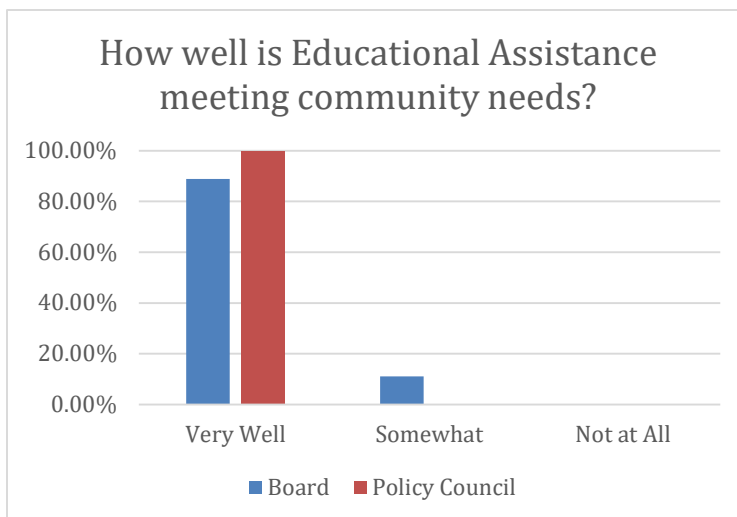
	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	88.89%	100.00%
Somewhat	11.11%	0.00%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	9	8
Skipped	1	0

All Policy Council members believe that the Employment Assistance program is meeting community needs very well;

while a majority (89%) of Board members concur.

Board comments: Very Pleased

Community Members' comments: I didn't know this was available

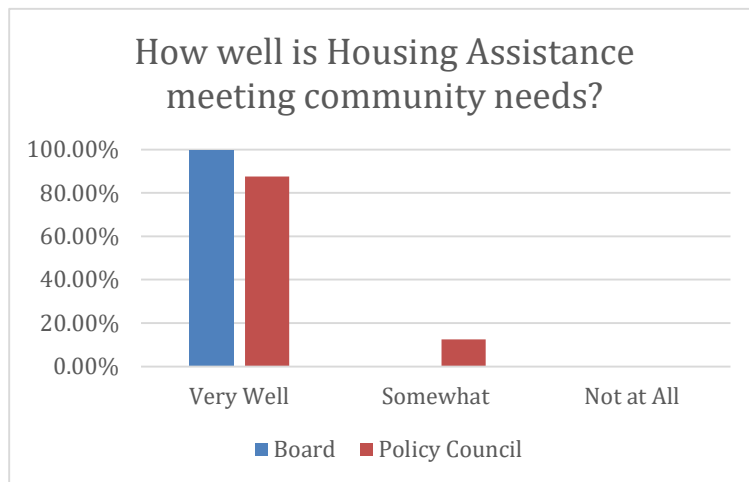


	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	88.89%	100.00%
Somewhat	11.11%	0.00%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	9	8
Skipped	1	0

Policy Council members unanimously agreed that Educational Assistance at Coastal Plain EOA is meeting community needs. One lone Board Member thought the services were meeting community needs

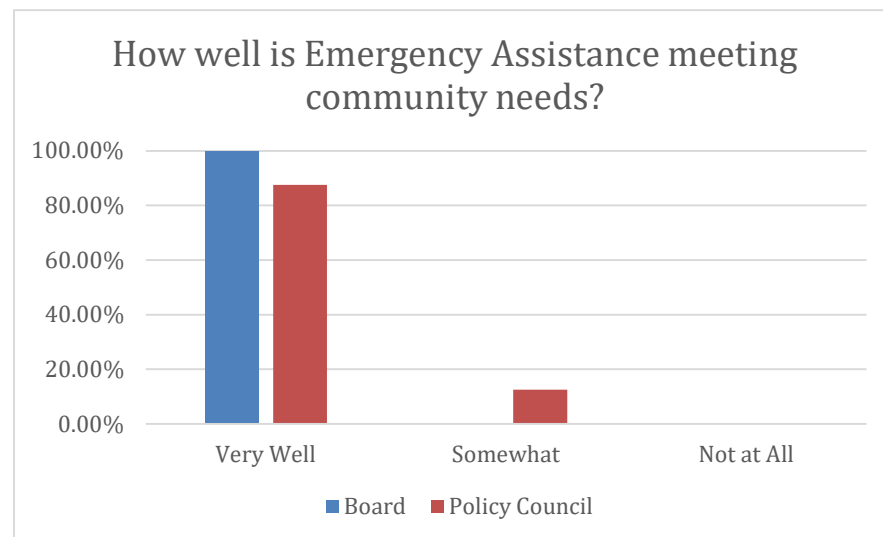
somewhat.

Board Comments: Very Pleased



	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	100.00%	87.50%
Somewhat	0.00%	12.50%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	9	8
Skipped	1	0

Board members think Housing Assistance services are meeting community needs 100%, while most Policy Council members concur with one member stating "Somewhat".  
Board Comments: Great



	Board	Policy Council
Very Well	100.00%	87.50%
Somewhat	0.00%	12.50%
Not at All	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	9	8
Skipped	1	0

One lone Policy Council member thinks Emergency Assistance services are somewhat

meeting community needs. But all Board members think the services are meeting community needs very well.

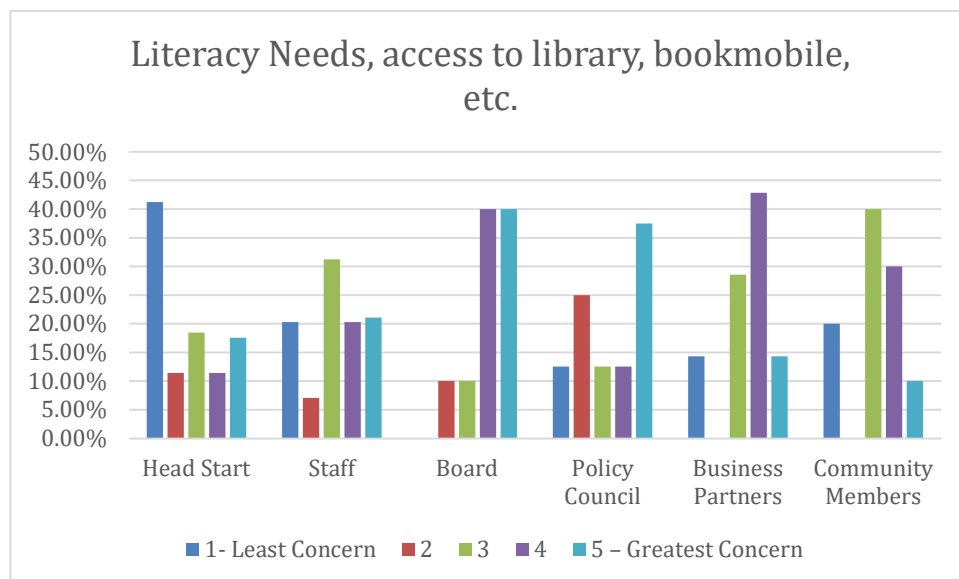
Board comments: Doing very well.



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being greatest concern and 1 being least concern, respondents were asked to rate some social and community ills that face their community.

#### Literacy Needs, access to library, bookmobile, etc.

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1- Least Concern	41.23%	20.31%	0.00%	12.50%	14.29%	20.00%
2	11.40%	7.03%	10.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%
3	18.42%	31.25%	10.00%	12.50%	28.57%	40.00%
4	11.40%	20.31%	40.00%	12.50%	42.86%	30.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	17.54%	21.09%	40.00%	37.50%	14.29%	10.00%
Total Respondents	114	128	10	8	7	10.00%
Weighted Average	2.53	3.15	4.1	3.38	3.43	3.10%



Four out of five Board members rated Literacy Needs as a “Greatest Concern” (gave ratings of 4 or 5) followed by Business Partners and Policy Council members. Two out of five Community Members gave ratings of 4 or 5 for this topic. Head Start parents rated the topic as “Least Concern”.

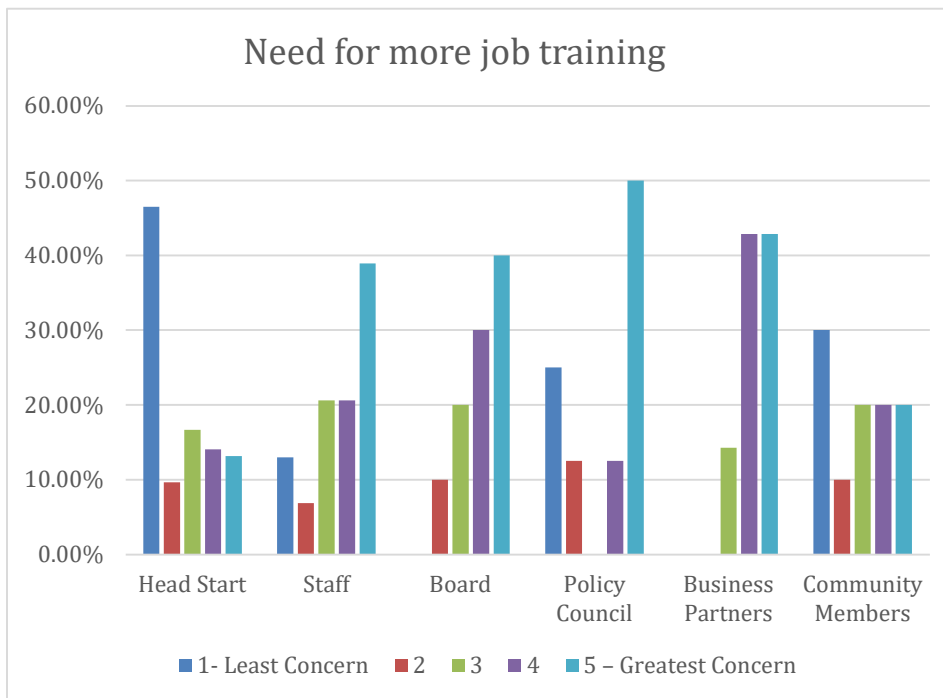
### Literacy Needs Comments:

#### Board:

- 1) The library should be open on Saturdays.
- 2) Will help the kids with their reading

### Need for more job training

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1- Least Concern	46.49%	12.98%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	30.00%
2	9.65%	6.87%	10.00%	12.50%	0.00%	10.00%
3	16.67%	20.61%	20.00%	0.00%	14.29%	20.00%
4	14.04%	20.61%	30.00%	12.50%	42.86%	20.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	13.16%	38.93%	40.00%	50.00%	42.86%	20.00%
Total Respondents	144	131	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.38	3.66	4	3.5	4.29	2.90

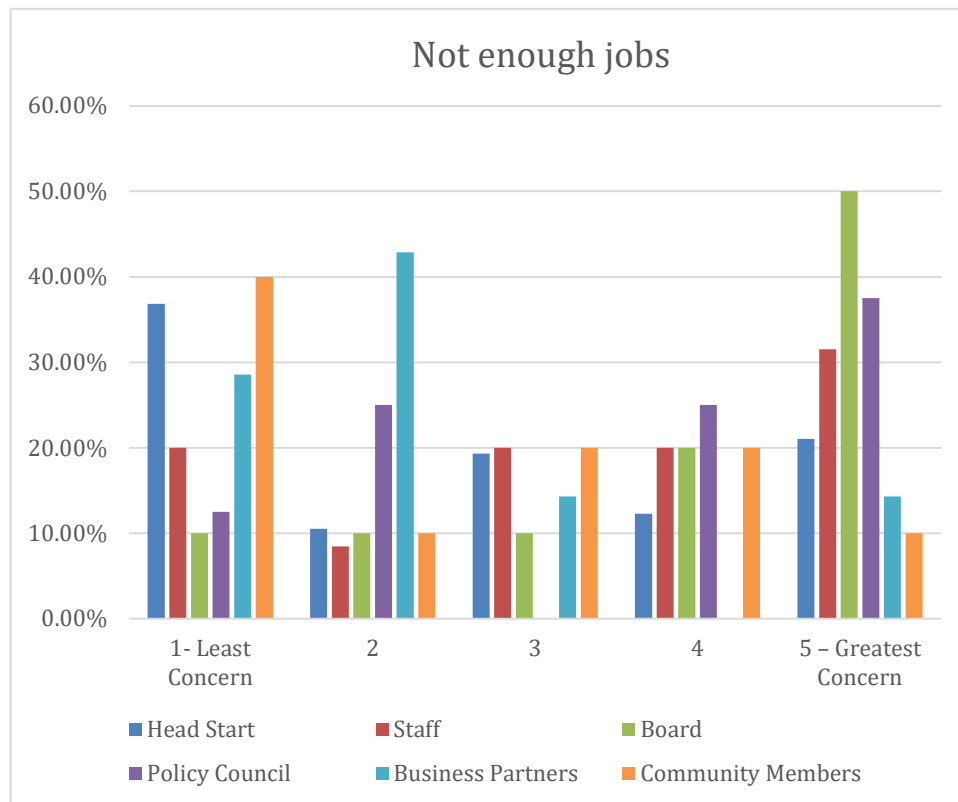


Business Partners, more than any other respondent type, believe “Need for More Job Training” is a greatest concern – ratings of 4 and 5. Two out of five Board members gave the topic a rating of 5. One half of Policy Council members awarded the topic a rating of 5. Three out of five Staff believe this topic is a greatest

concern. Head Start parents and Community members believe this topic is least concerning.

## Not enough Jobs

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1- Least Concern	36.84%	20.00%	10.00%	12.50%	28.57%	40.00%
2	10.53%	8.46%	10.00%	25.00%	42.86%	10.00%
3	19.30%	20.00%	10.00%	0.00%	14.29%	20.00%
4	12.28%	20.00%	20.00%	25.00%	0.00%	20.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	21.05%	31.54%	50.00%	37.50%	14.29%	10.00%
Total Respondents	114	130	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.70	3.35	3.90	3.50	2.29	2.5



Seventy-one percent of Business Partners think “Not enough jobs” is least concerning in the community, followed by 50% of Community members and Head Start parents.

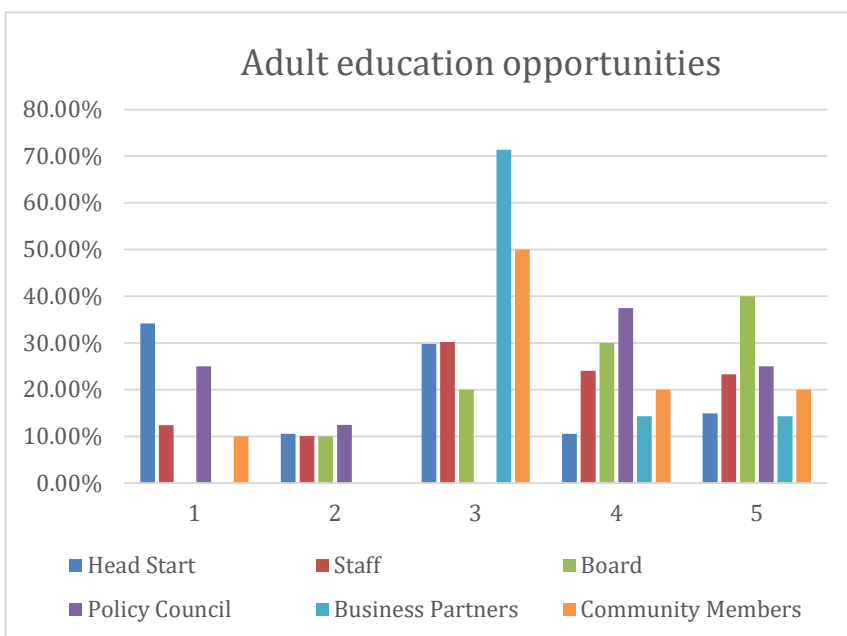
### Comments:

#### Board:

It will help with more families being able to provide for themselves.

## Adult education opportunities

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 - Least Concern	34.21%	12.40%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	10.00%
2	10.53%	10.08%	10.00%	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%
3	29.82%	30.23%	20.00%	0.00%	71.43%	50.00%
4	10.53%	24.03%	30.00%	37.50%	14.29%	20.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	14.91%	23.26%	40.00%	25.00%	14.29%	20.00%
Total Respondents	114	129	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.61	3.36	4.00	3.25	3.43	3.4



### Comments:

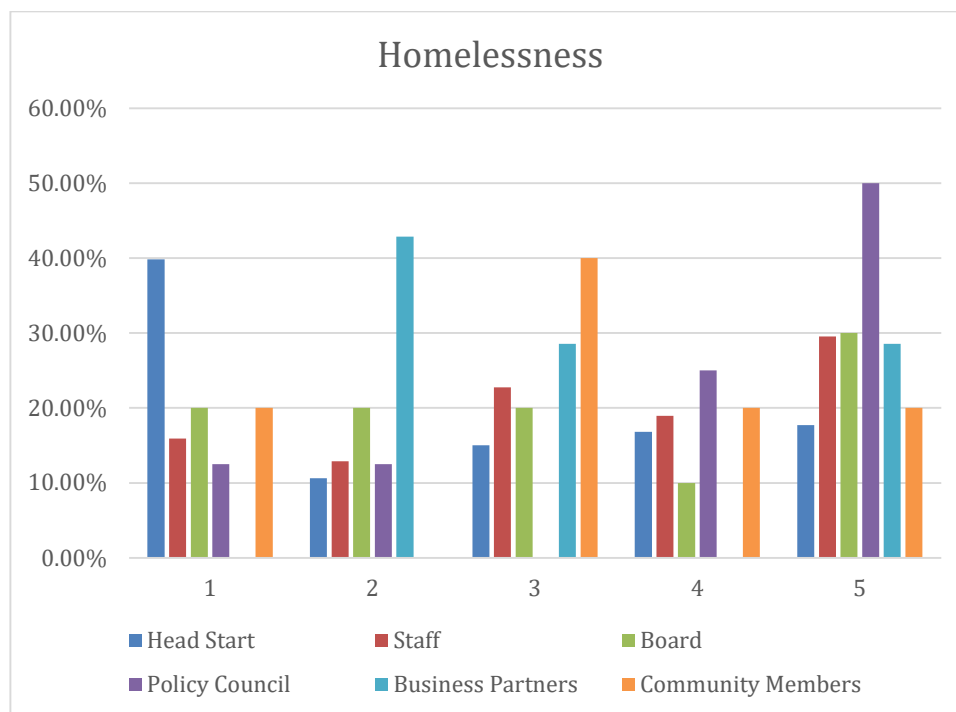
#### Board:

Will help change some of the current patterns with families

Business Partners appear to be lukewarm when it comes to Adult Education Opportunities as a community ill. Seventy-one percent of them gave this topic a rating of 3. Head Start parents think the topic is least concerning – 45% rated it as a 1 or 2 on the rating scale. Two out of five Community members think Adult Education Opportunities is of great concern. Board members appear to view most topics as of greatest concern. Almost one-half of Staff view the topic as of greatest concern (ratings of 4 or 5).

## Homelessness

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	39.82%	15.91%	20.00%	12.50%	0.00%	20.00%
2	10.62%	12.88%	20.00%	12.50%	42.86%	0.00%
3	15.04%	22.73%	20.00%	0.00%	28.57%	40.00%
4	16.81%	18.94%	10.00%	25.00%	0.00%	20.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	17.70%	29.55%	30.00%	50.00%	28.57%	20.00%
Total Respondents	113	132	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.62	3.33	3.10	3.88	3.14	3.2

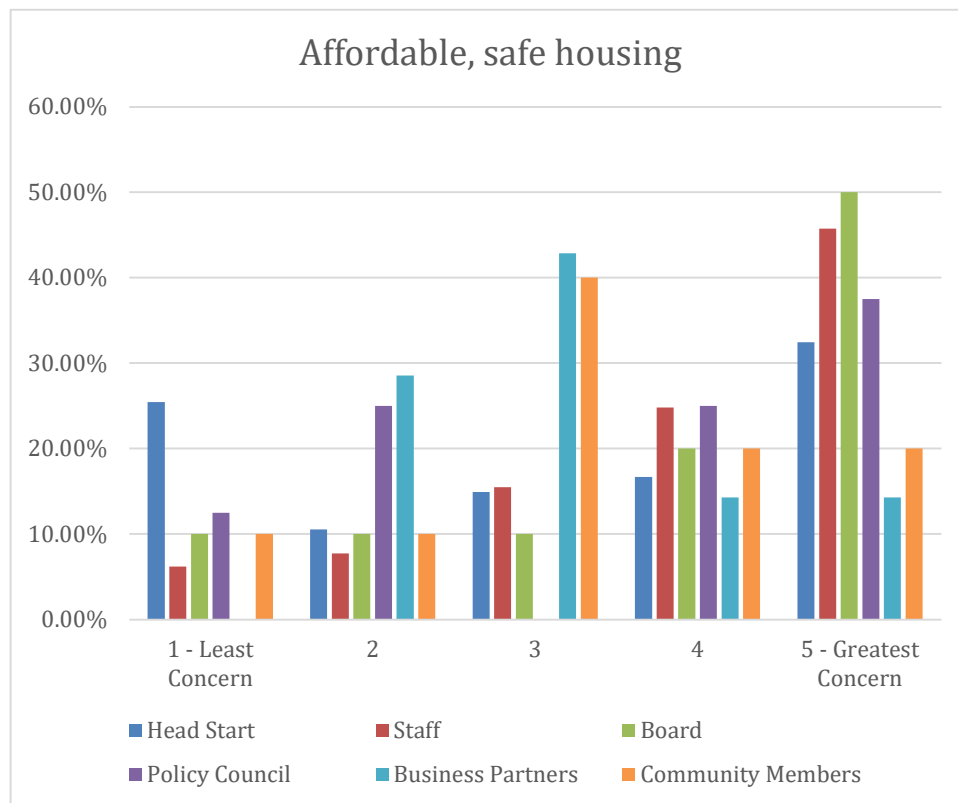


Homelessness doesn't appear to be a topic of greatest concern – according to the weighted averages. The averages range from 2.62 given by Head Start parents to 3.88 given by Policy Council members on a scale of 1 to 5. Seventy-five percent (75%) of Policy Council members gave the topic a 4 or 5. Two out of five Community and Board members expressed

Homelessness as a greatest concern of the community. Business Partners was the least of all respondents to think Homelessness as a greatest concern.

## Affordable, Safe Housing

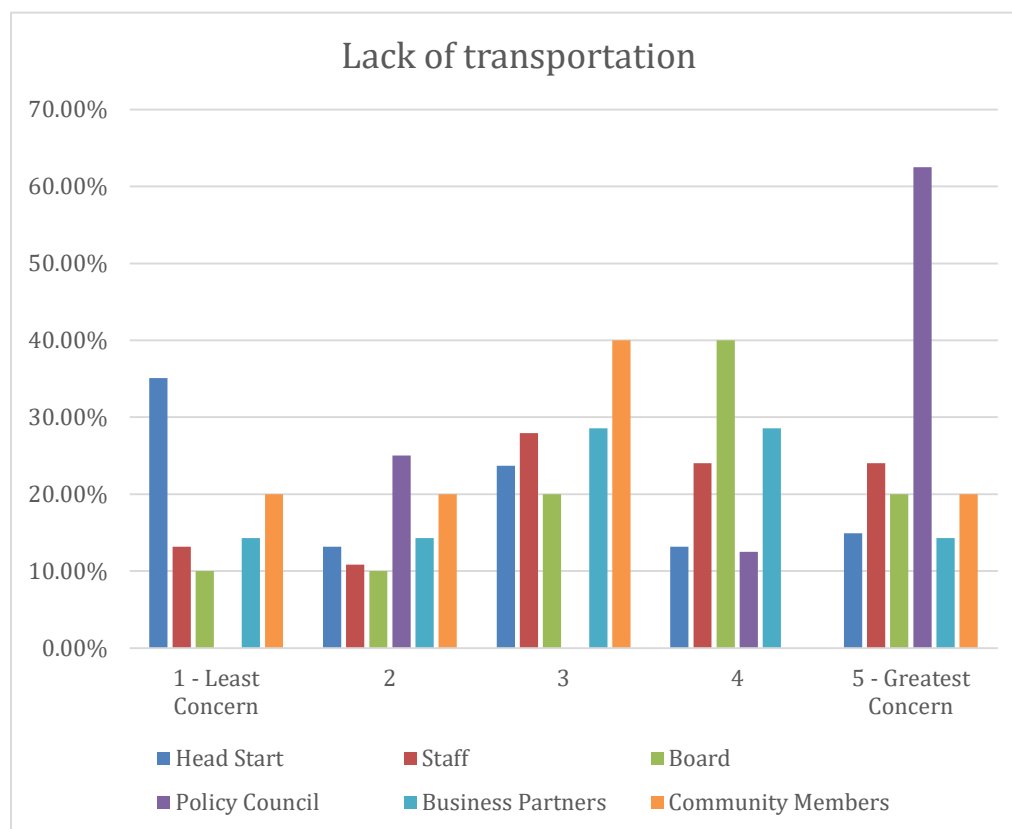
	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 - Least Concern	25.44%	6.20%	10.00%	12.50%	0.00%	10.00%
2	10.53%	7.75%	10.00%	25.00%	28.57%	10.00%
3	14.91%	15.50%	10.00%	0.00%	42.86%	40.00%
4	16.67%	24.81%	20.00%	25.00%	14.29%	20.00%
5 - Greatest Concern	32.46%	45.74%	50.00%	37.50%	14.29%	20.00%
Total Respondents	114	129	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	3.20	3.96	3.90	3.50	3.14	3.3



Staff and Board members equally gave Affordable, Safe Housing higher ratings (70%) than other respondents. Business Partners were divided on this topic as 29% gave ratings of 1 or 2 and 4 or 5.

## Lack of Transportation

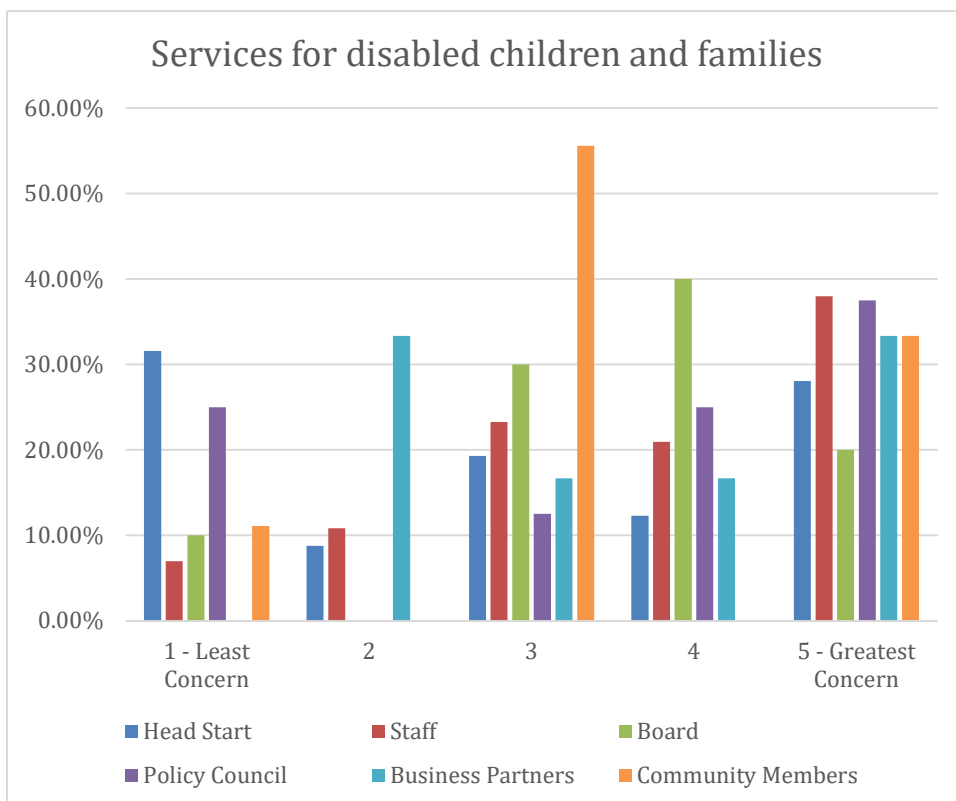
	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 - Least Concern	35.09%	13.18%	10.00%	0.00%	14.29%	20.00%
2	13.16%	10.85%	10.00%	25.00%	14.29%	20.00%
3	23.68%	27.91%	20.00%	0.00%	28.57%	40.00%
4	13.16%	24.03%	40.00%	12.50%	28.57%	0.00%
5 - Greatest Concern	14.91%	24.03%	20.00%	62.50%	14.29%	20.00%
Total Respondents	114	129	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.6	3.35	3.5	4.13	3.14	2.8



Head Start parents continue not to be concerned with the topics or community ills; 48% of them gave Lack of Transportation a 1 or 2 which equal “least concern”. About 3 out of 5 Policy Council members gave this topic a 5 which equates to greatest concern.

### Services for disabled children and families

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 - Least Concern	31.58%	6.98%	10.00%	25.00%	0.00%	11.11%
2	8.77%	10.85%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%
3	19.30%	23.26%	30.00%	12.50%	16.67%	55.56%
4	12.28%	20.93%	40.00%	25.00%	16.67%	0.00%
5 - Greatest Concern	28.07%	37.98%	20.00%	37.50%	33.33%	33.33%
Total Respondents	114	129	10	8	6	9
Weighted Average	2.96	3.72	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.44

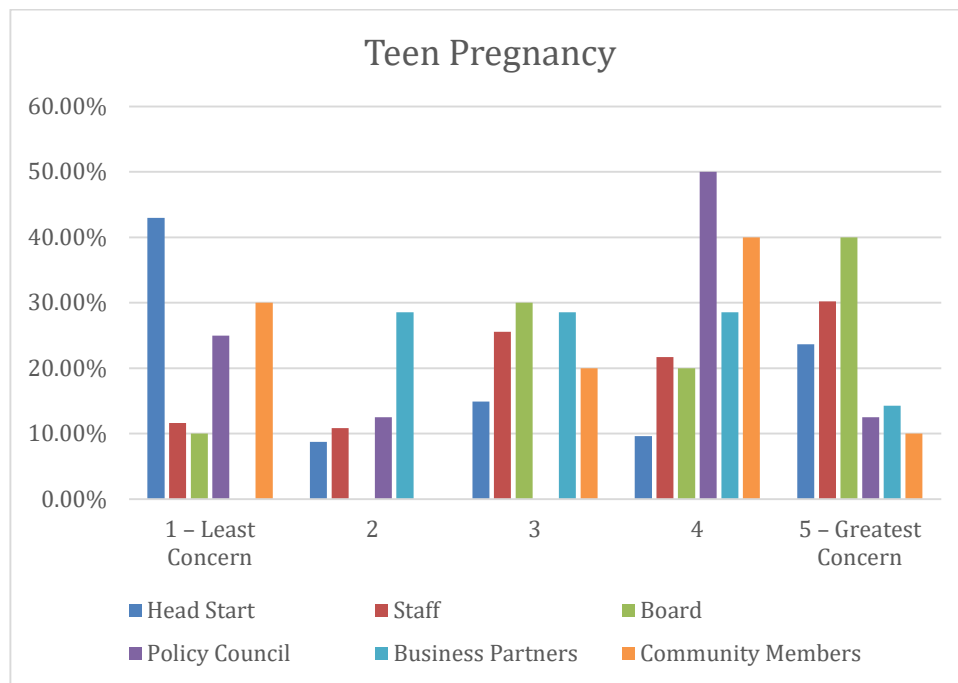


Services for disabled children and families was not of great concern to Head Start parents. Staff and Policy Council members rated this topic of greatest concern. Three out of five Board members gave the topic a 4 or 5.



## Teen Pregnancy

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	42.98%	11.63%	10.00%	25.00%	0.00%	30.00%
2	8.77%	10.85%	0.00%	12.50%	28.57%	0.00%
3	14.91%	25.58%	30.00%	0.00%	28.57%	20.00%
4	9.65%	21.71%	20.00%	50.00%	28.57%	40.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	23.68%	30.23%	40.00%	12.50%	14.29%	10.00%
Total Respondents	114	129	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.62	3.48	3.80	3.13	3.29	3.00



Three out of five Board members gave Teen Pregnancy 4s or 5s. About the same percentage of Policy Council members gave the topic similar ratings. Head Start parents continue to view the topics as being of least concern.

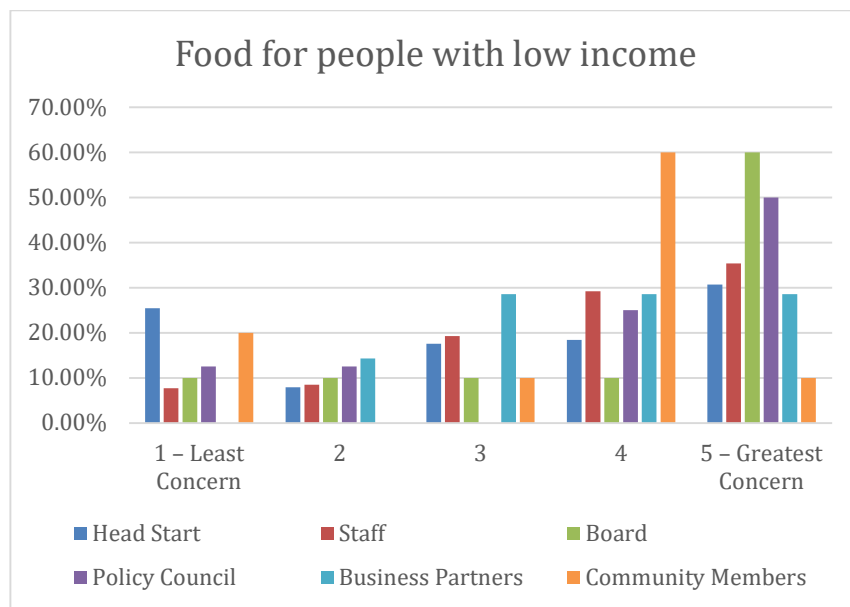
### Comments:

#### Board:

More information and education on teen pregnancy should be taught.

## Food for people with low income

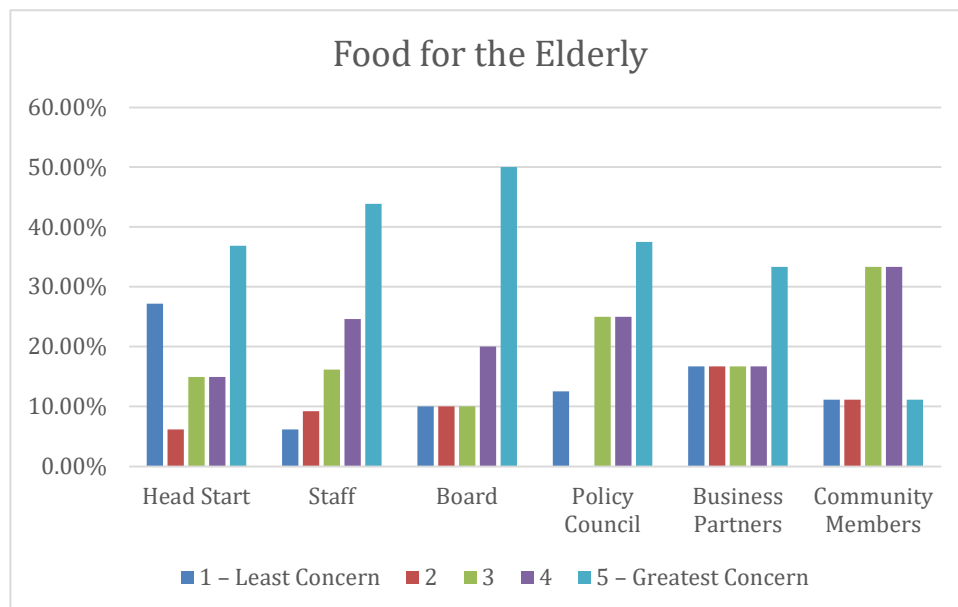
	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	25.44%	7.69%	10.00%	12.50%	0.00%	20.00%
2	7.89%	8.46%	10.00%	12.50%	14.29%	0.00%
3	17.54%	19.23%	10.00%	0.00%	28.57%	10.00%
4	18.42%	29.23%	10.00%	25.00%	28.57%	60.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	30.70%	35.38%	60.00%	50.00%	28.57%	10.00%
Total Respondents	114	130	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	3.21	3.76	4.00	3.88	3.71	3.40



Although Policy Council members gave this topic a rating of 3.88, 75% of them awarded Food for People with Low Income a 4 or 5 – of great concern. Seventy percent (70%) of Board and Community Members gave Food for People with Low Income a rating of either 4 or 5 just transposed. Head Start Parents do not think the topic is a concern.

## Food for the Elderly

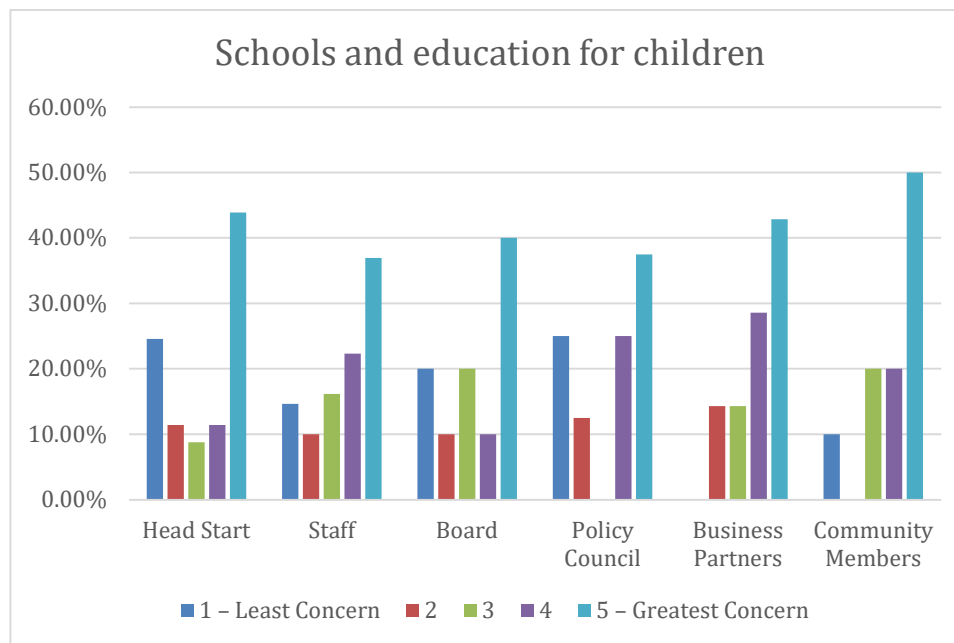
	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	27.19%	6.15%	10.00%	12.50%	16.67%	11.11%
2	6.14%	9.23%	10.00%	0.00%	16.67%	11.11%
3	14.91%	16.15%	10.00%	25.00%	16.67%	33.33%
4	14.91%	24.62%	20.00%	25.00%	16.67%	33.33%
5 – Greatest Concern	36.84%	43.85%	50.00%	37.50%	33.33%	11.11%
Total Respondents	114	130	10	8	6	9
Weighted Average	3.28	3.91	3.90	3.75	3.33	3.22



Head Start parents' weighted average of 3.28 for the topic "Food for the Elderly" is not the lowest of the respondents. Community Members gave the topic its lowest rating, 3.22. Staff of Coastal Plain EOA awarded this topic the highest weighted average of all respondents, however Board members came in a close second with an average of 3.90.

## Schools and Education for children

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	24.56%	14.62%	20.00%	25.00%	0.00%	10.00%
2	11.40%	10.00%	10.00%	12.50%	14.29%	0.00%
3	8.77%	16.15%	20.00%	0.00%	14.29%	20.00%
4	11.40%	22.31%	10.00%	25.00%	28.57%	20.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	43.86%	36.92%	40.00%	37.50%	42.86%	50.00%
Total Respondents	114	130	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	3.39	3.57	3.40	3.38	4.00	4.00



Head Start Parents barely edged out Policy Council members regarding weighted average. Head Start Parents gave Schools and Education for Children an average of 3.39 – just barely higher than Policy Council members' 3.38 average. Business Partners and Community Members both had

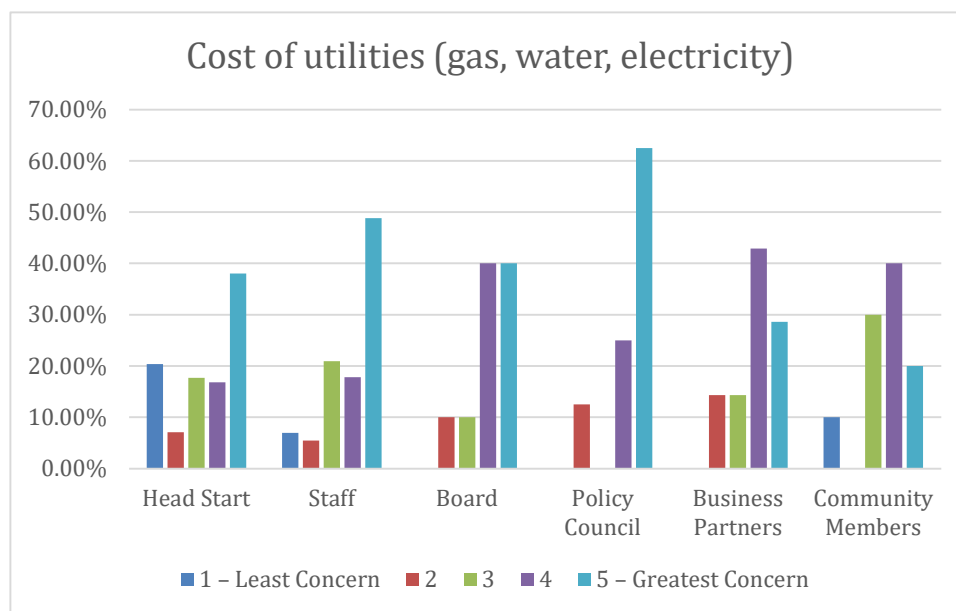
averages of 4.00 for this topic with percentages of 4s and 5s of 71% and 70%, respectively.

Comments:

Board Comments: Summer school for all kids focusing on math and reading.

## Cost of utilities

	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	20.35%	6.98%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.00%
2	7.08%	5.43%	10.00%	12.50%	14.29%	0.00%
3	17.70%	20.93%	10.00%	0.00%	14.29%	30.00%
4	16.81%	17.83%	40.00%	25.00%	42.86%	40.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	38.05%	48.84%	40.00%	62.50%	28.57%	20.00%
Total Respondents	113	129	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	3.45	3.96	4.10	4.38	3.86	3.60

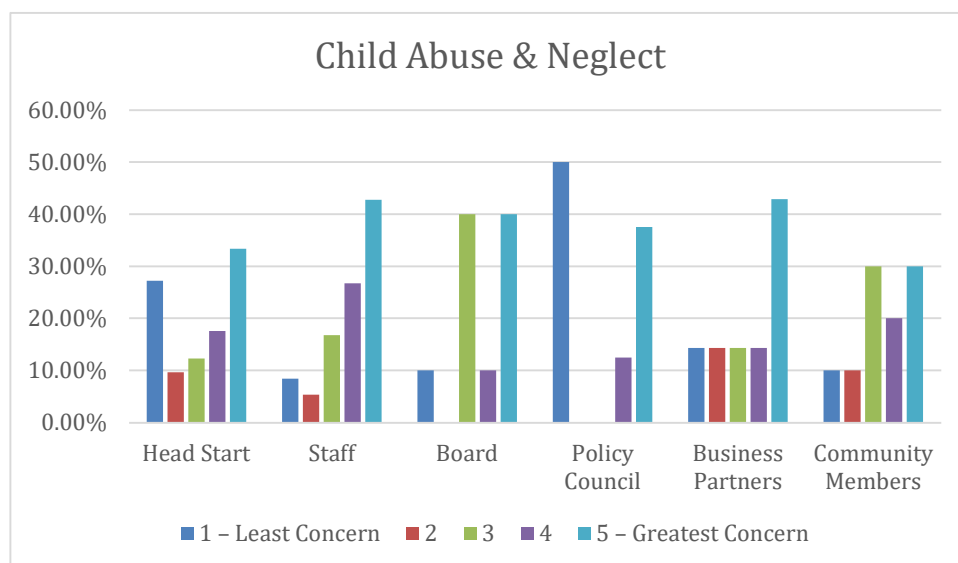


No Board members, Policy Council members, or Business Partners awarded Cost of Utilities a rating of 1 – Least Concern. Eighty-eight percent of Policy Council members gave the topic a 4 or 5 while 80% of Board members did. Head

Start parents lag other respondents with an average of 3.45 and 27% of them giving Cost of Utilities ratings of 1 or 2 – least concern.

## Child Abuse & Neglect

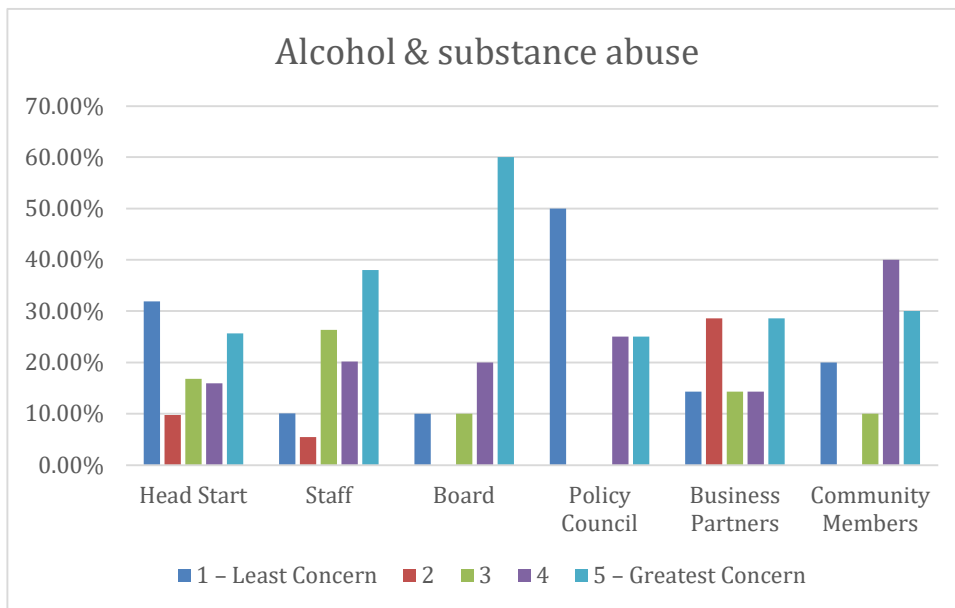
	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	27.19%	8.40%	10.00%	50.00%	14.29%	10.00%
2	9.65%	5.34%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	10.00%
3	12.28%	16.79%	40.00%	0.00%	14.29%	30.00%
4	17.54%	26.72%	10.00%	12.50%	14.29%	20.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	33.33%	42.75%	40.00%	37.50%	42.86%	30.00%
Total Respondents	114	131	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	3.20	3.90	3.70	2.88	3.57	3.50



Sixty-nine percent (69%) of Coastal Plain EOA Staff rated “child abuse and neglect” a 4 or 5 on the concern scale and a 3.90 – the highest weighted average of all respondent categories. Policy Council members didn’t view the topic as a big concern – a weighted average of 2.88 (the lowest of all respondent categories) and one-half of them gave the topic a 1 – least concern. Head Start Parents edged out Policy Council members regarding weighted averages 3.20 versus 2.88.

## Alcohol & substance abuse

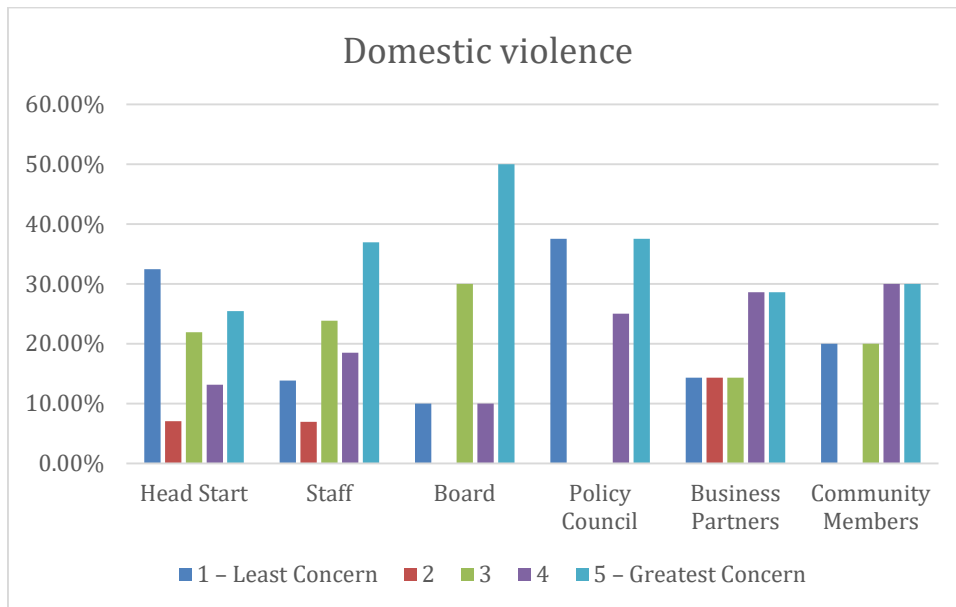
	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	31.86%	10.08%	10.00%	50.00%	14.29%	20.00%
2	9.73%	5.43%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%
3	16.81%	26.36%	10.00%	0.00%	14.29%	10.00%
4	15.93%	20.16%	20.00%	25.00%	14.29%	40.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	25.66%	37.98%	60.00%	25.00%	28.57%	30.00%
Total Respondents	113	129	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.94	3.71	4.20	2.75	3.14	3.60



Policy Council members were divided on the topic of Alcohol & Substance Abuse. Fifty percent of them gave the topic a 1 and the same percentage gave the topic a 4 or 5, thereby having the lowest weighted average of all the respondents (2.75). Four out of five Board members gave the topic a 4 or 5 on the concern rating for the highest weighted average of 4.20. Head Start again edged out Policy Council members for an average of 2.94 versus 2.75.

## Domestic Violence

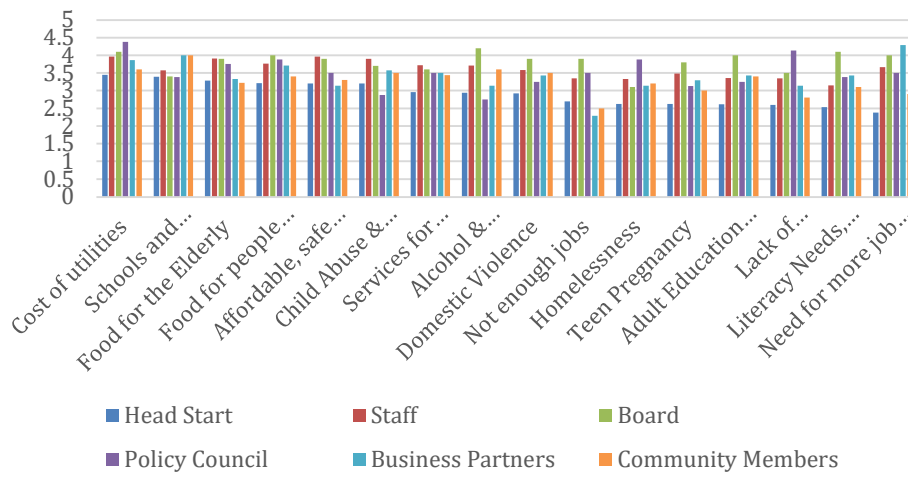
	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
1 – Least Concern	32.46%	13.85%	10.00%	37.50%	14.29%	20.00%
2	7.02%	6.92%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%
3	21.93%	23.85%	30.00%	0.00%	14.29%	20.00%
4	13.16%	18.46%	10.00%	25.00%	28.57%	30.00%
5 – Greatest Concern	25.44%	36.92%	50.00%	37.50%	28.57%	30.00%
Total Respondents	114	130	10	8	7	10
Weighted Average	2.92	3.58	3.90	3.25	3.43	3.50



The weighted averages of all the respondent categories are not very high alluding to the thought that Domestic Violence is not a great concern in the community. But even given that, three out of five Board members and Community members gave the topic a 4 or 5. About two out of five Policy Council members gave Domestic Violence a rating of 1 – least concern, followed by 32% of Head Start Parents.



Concern Scale: 1=Least Concern  
5 = Greatest Concern in the Community



	Head Start	Staff	Board	Policy Council	Business Partners	Community Members
Cost of utilities	3.45	<b>3.96</b>	4.1	<b>4.38</b>	3.86	<b>3.6</b>
Schools and education for children	3.39	3.57	3.4	3.38	4	4
Food for the Elderly	3.28	3.91	3.9	3.75	3.33	3.22
Food for people with low income	3.21	3.76	4	3.88	3.71	3.4
Affordable, safe housing	3.2	<b>3.96</b>	3.9	3.5	3.14	3.3
Child Abuse & Neglect	3.2	3.9	3.7	2.88	3.57	3.5
Services for disabled children and families	2.96	3.72	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.44
Alcohol & Substance Abuse	2.94	3.71	<b>4.2</b>	2.75	3.14	<b>3.6</b>
Domestic Violence	2.92	3.58	3.9	3.25	3.43	3.5
Not enough jobs	2.7	3.35	3.9	3.5	2.29	2.5
Homelessness	2.62	3.33	3.1	3.88	3.14	3.2
Teen Pregnancy	2.62	3.48	3.8	3.13	3.29	3
Adult Education Opportunities	2.61	3.36	4	3.25	3.43	3.4
Lack of transportation	2.6	3.35	3.5	4.13	3.14	2.8
Literacy Needs, access to library, bookmobile, etc.	2.53	3.15	4.1	3.38	3.43	3.1
Need for more job training	2.38	3.66	4	3.5	<b>4.29</b>	2.9

The social or community ill that received the highest weighted average from Head Start parents, Policy Council and Community Members was Cost of Utilities, 3.45, 4.38 and 3.6 respectively. For Staff, Cost of Utilities and Affordable, Safe Housing tied for the top concerns with a 3.96 ratings. The top concern for Board members is Alcohol & Substance Abuse with a 4.2 rating. The top concern for Business Partners is Need for More Job Training with a 4.29 rating.

Respondents were asked to give three concerns of the community in their perspective. The following is a list of the top three concerns and number of responses per the Board and Policy Council:

Board

Policy Council

1<sup>st</sup> Concern

Employment - 5

Utility Assistance – 1

Affordable, Safe, Quality Housing – 3

Paying next bills - 1

Education – 1

Rental Assistance - 1

Children in poverty - 1

2<sup>nd</sup> Concern

Affordable, Safe Housing – 3

School materials - 1

Jobs/better wages – 2

Job Training - 1

Recreation for kids – 1

Transportation - 1

Transportation - 1

Homelessness - 1

Education/GED - 1

3<sup>rd</sup> Concern

Safe, Affordable Housing – 2

Housing – 1

Childcare - 2

Childcare – 1

Jobs – 1

Domestic Violence - 1

Home Repair - 1

Safety – 1

Education – 1

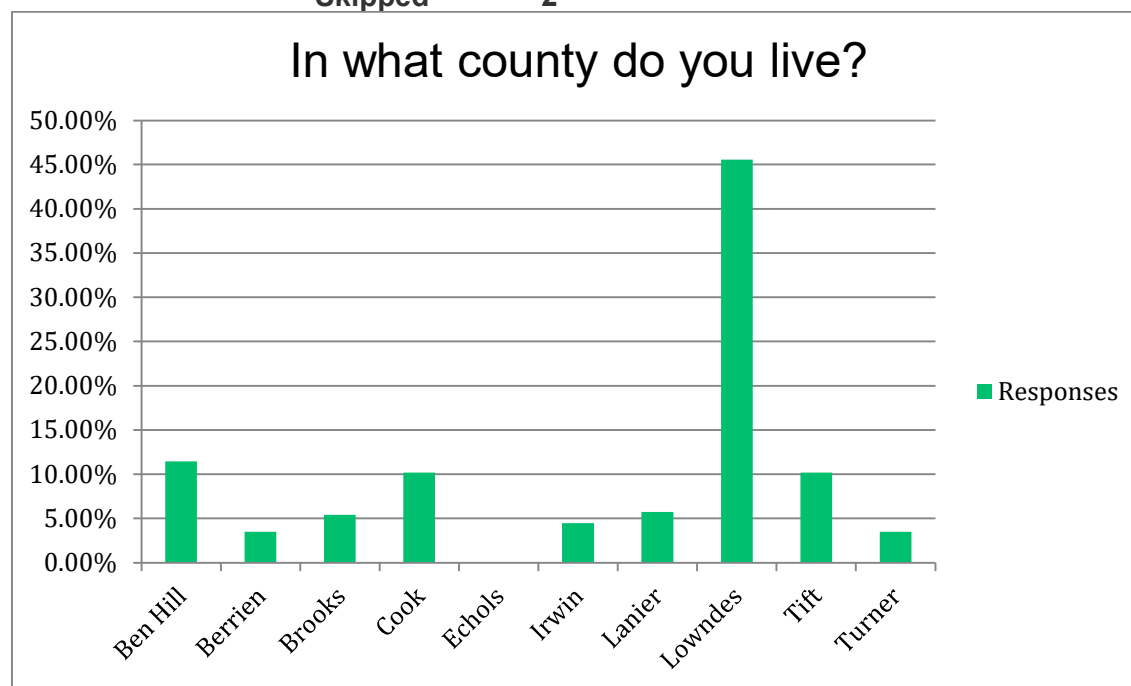
Access to Medical Care – 1

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

In order to obtain information about community needs, a survey was developed and placed online on Coastal Plain EOA's website. The end result was 316 responses.

### In what county do you live?

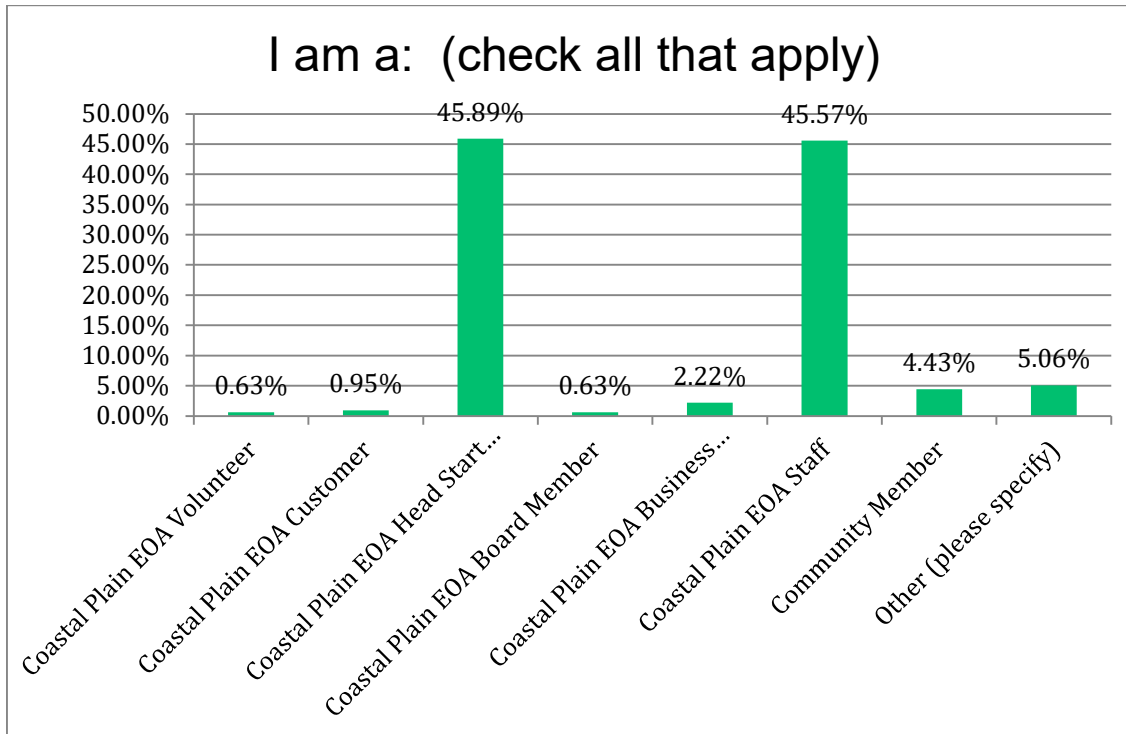
Answer Choices	Responses	
Ben Hill	11.46%	36
Berrien	3.50%	11
Brooks	5.41%	17
Cook	10.19%	32
Echols	0.00%	0
Irwin	4.46%	14
Lanier	5.73%	18
Lowndes	45.54%	143
Tift	10.19%	32
Turner	3.50%	11
<b>Answered</b>		<b>314</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>2</b>



Respondents to Coastal Plain EOA's Community Needs Assessment were asked their county of residence. Almost one-half (46%) live in Lowndes County, followed by Ben Hill (11%), Tift and Cook (10%). There were no respondents from Echols County.

**I am a: (check all that apply)**

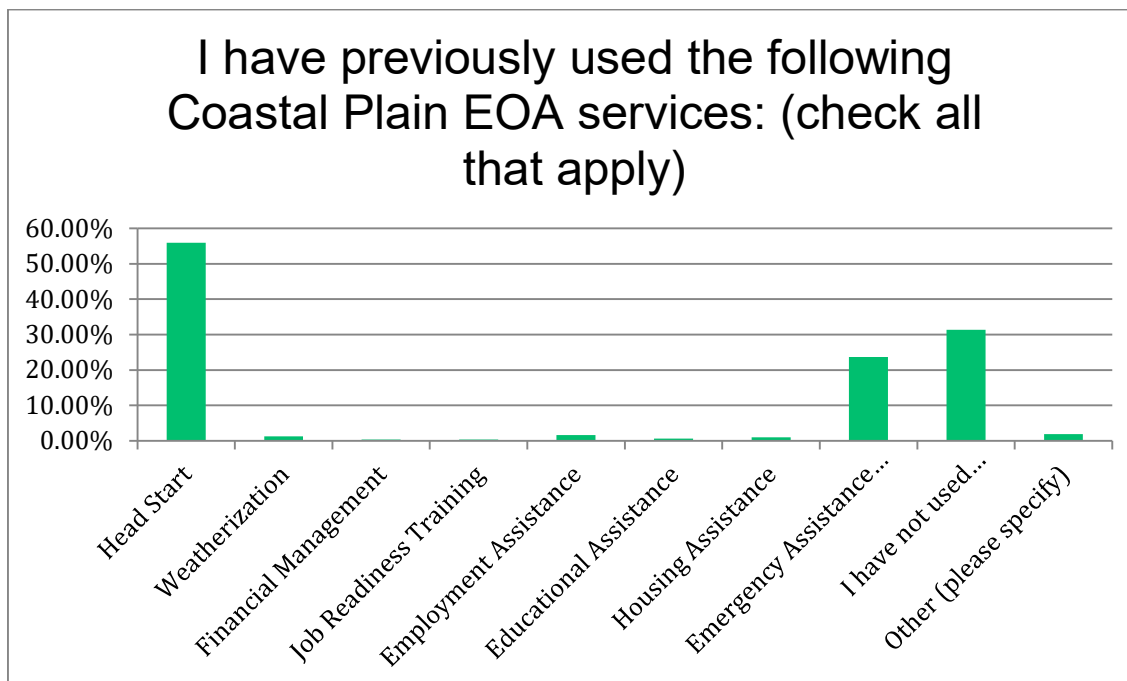
Answer Choices	Responses	
Coastal Plain EOA Volunteer	0.63%	2
Coastal Plain EOA Customer	0.95%	3
Coastal Plain EOA Head Start parent	45.89%	145
Coastal Plain EOA Board Member	0.63%	2
Coastal Plain EOA Business Partner	2.22%	7
Coastal Plain EOA Staff	45.57%	144
Community Member	4.43%	14
Other (please specify)	5.06%	16
<b>Answered</b>		<b>316</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>0</b>



Most of the respondents were Head Start parents (45.9%) followed by Coastal Plain EOA Staff (45.6%).

### I have previously used the following Coastal Plain EOA services: (check all that apply)

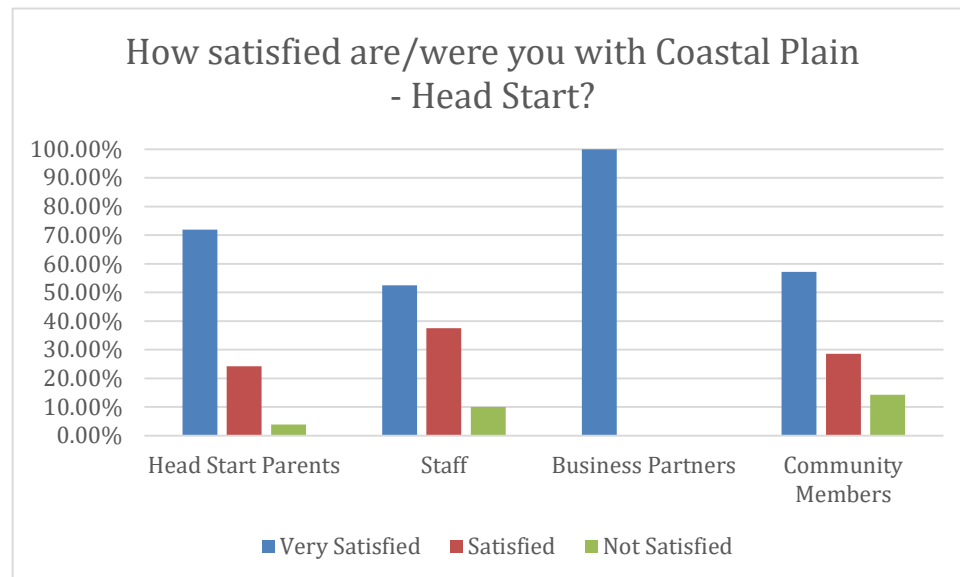
Answer Choices	Responses	
Head Start	55.91%	175
Weatherization	1.28%	4
Financial Management	0.32%	1
Job Readiness Training	0.32%	1
Employment Assistance	1.60%	5
Educational Assistance	0.64%	2
Housing Assistance	0.96%	3
Emergency Assistance (car insurance/repair, utility bill, rent/mortgage, food)	23.64%	74
I have not used Coastal Plain EOA services	31.31%	98
Other (please specify)	1.92%	6
<b>Answered</b>		<b>313</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>3</b>



Of all the services received from the agency, respondents used Head Start/Early Head Start the most (56%), followed by Emergency Assistance (24%). About one-third of the respondents have not used Coastal Plain's services.

## How satisfied are/were you with Head Start?

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	71.88%	52.50%	100.00%	57.14%
Satisfied	24.22%	37.50%	0.00%	28.57%
Not Satisfied	3.91%	10.00%	0.00%	14.29%
Answered	128	40	1	7
Skipped	17	104	6	7



About three out of four (72%) Head Start parents indicate that they are very satisfied with Head Start. One-half of Coastal Plain Staff (53%) are very satisfied with the program, while 57% of Community Members are as well. One lone Business Partner

was very satisfied with Head Start.

### Comments:

**Head Start Parents:** 1) Everything seem to run smooth for the whole year very pleased with the services they provided for my son. 2) Better bus,need a bus that run all the time. 3) Better communication system from school to parents. Most emails sent are not always visible. Notices need to be sent our a week prior to an event rather than a couple of days before.. 4) Keep the bus running at all times. 5) More lines of communication. 6) Have running buses. stop requiring so much paper work throughout the year. 7) CAN THE KIDS GO IN AT 7:30 AND BE DROPPED OFF. ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE KIDS AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. PARENTS HAVE TO BE TO WORK AT 8:00 AM. 8) Staff needs to look for signs of sickness besides just a fever and not let sick kids in school.. Ianier headstart needs a better principle like mrs Henderson..mrs westbrooks let's sick children in the school now my child is missing alot of school bc he got sick from the school. 9) Be more hands on & make it a nice place for kids. 10) More communication. 11) Improve the communication so that it is consistent and unified from the leadership down to the custodians. As a parent, I don't want the first time I hear or learn about something to be on the day of, the day before, or after there's been multiple instances. 12) Covid -19 restrictions need to GO AWAY so that parents are able to participate and interact. 13) Allow parents to drop off at specified time, notify parents when something happens to child/behavior/sickness, notify parents about

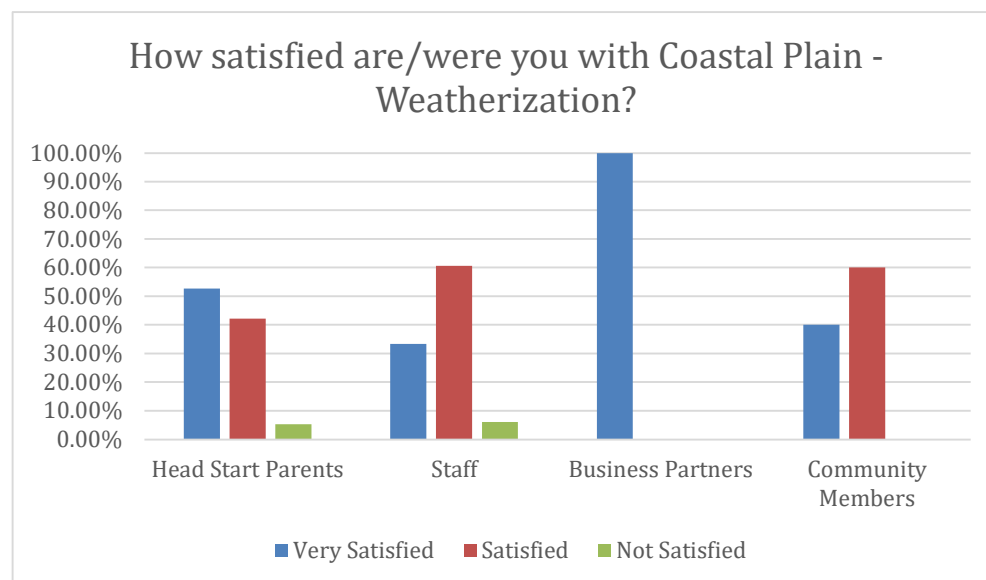
closing dates. 14) Better train staff when it comes to presenting information about parents children , taking parents feelings into accountability.

**Staff:** 1) Listen to the staff & their ideas on how to improve the program. 2) I would like to see about having more job incentives. 3) communication, clear instructions. 4) Better communication. 5) Awesome program. 6) Lack of organization and employee appreciation

**Community Members:** 1) We need early head start. 2) apply again for Early Head Start. 3) Improve the communication so that it is consistent and unified from the leadership down to the custodians. As a parent, I don't want the first time I hear or learn about something to be on the day of, the day before, or after there's been multiple instances.

#### How satisfied are/were you with Coastal Plain's Weatherization program?

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	52.63%	33.33%	100.00%	40.00%
Satisfied	42.11%	60.61%	0.00%	60.00%
Not Satisfied	5.26%	6.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	114	33	1	5
Skipped	31	111	6	9



A majority of Head Start Parents are very satisfied with the Weatherization program (53%). One-third of Staff and two out of five Community Members are very satisfied with the program. The one Business Partner who responded was

very satisfied with the program as well.

#### Comments:

**Head Start Parents:** 1) Never used this service. 2) My grandmother still haven't got her house fixed. 3) When it's cold are raining have to stand outside waiting on someone to open the door.

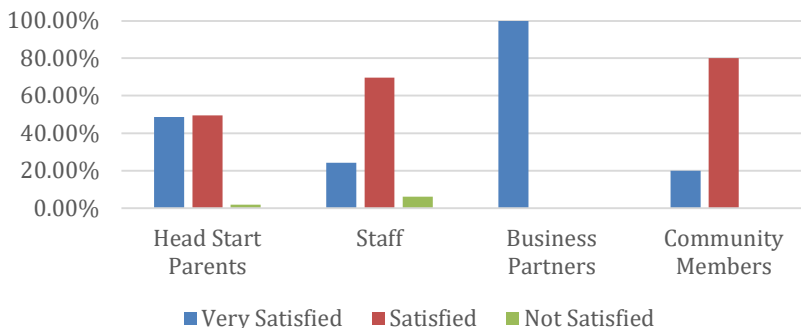
**Staff:** 1) I really don't know about their department. 2) I have never use this service but i have reoffered other to use the service and they say they couldn't use it.

**Community Members –** 1) I'm not sure we aren't allowed in the building.

## Financial Management

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	48.62%	24.24%	100.00%	20.00%
Satisfied	49.54%	69.70%	0.00%	80.00%
Not Satisfied	1.83%	6.06%	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	109	33	1	5
Skipped	36	111	6	9

How satisfied are/were you with Coastal Plain - Financial Management Services



One hundred percent of Community Members (5) were satisfied or very satisfied with the Financial Management services of Coastal Plain EOA. Ninety-eight percent of Head Start Parents felt this way also. About four out of six Staff were satisfied with these services.

### Comments:

Head Start Parents: 1) Never used it. 2) Never used

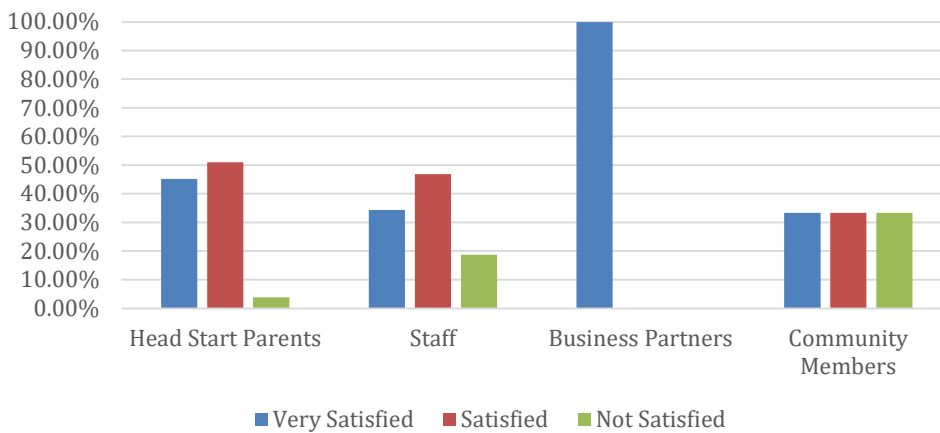
Staff: 1) Never used it. 2) i have never use this service

## Job Readiness Training

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	45.19%	34.38%	100.00%	33.33%
Satisfied	50.96%	46.88%	0.00%	33.33%
Not Satisfied	3.85%	18.75%	0.00%	33.33%
Answered	104	32	1	3
Skipped	41	112	6	11



### How satisfied are/were you with Coastal Plain - Job Readiness Training?



One-third of the Community Members and Coastal Plain Staff are very satisfied with the Job Readiness Training program. A little more than two out of five of Head Start Parents are very satisfied with the program.

#### Comments:

Head Start Parents: 1) Never used. 2) Never used

Staff: 1) Never used. 2) Train each individual that comes in to work before placing them at their school.

Community Members: 1) I didn't know this was available

#### Employment Assistance

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	47.17%	23.53%	100.00%	66.67%
Satisfied	47.17%	55.88%	0.00%	33.33%
Not Satisfied	5.66%	20.59%	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	106	34	1	3
Skipped	39	110	6	11

### How satisfied are/were you with Coastal Plain - Employment Assistance?



One out of five Staff were not satisfied with their Agency's Employment Assistance services. All of the Community Members and the one Business Partner indicated that they were "Very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the Employment Assistance services. Ninety-four percent of Head Start

Parents were either very satisfied or satisfied with Employment Assistance services.

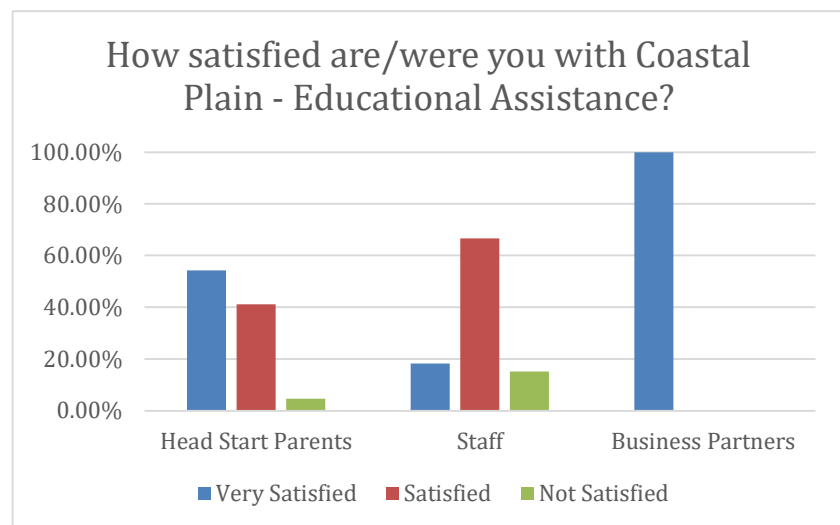
Comments:

Head Start Parents: 1) Never used

Staff: 1) Better advertisement! make the staff aware of the assistance is there for there use

### Educational Assistance

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	54.21%	18.18%	100.00%	66.67%
Satisfied	41.12%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%
Not Satisfied	4.67%	15.15%	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	107	33	1	3
Skipped	38	111	6	11



A majority of Head Start Parents and Community Members are very satisfied with the Educational Assistance program. Two-thirds of Staff expressed satisfaction with the program.

Comments:

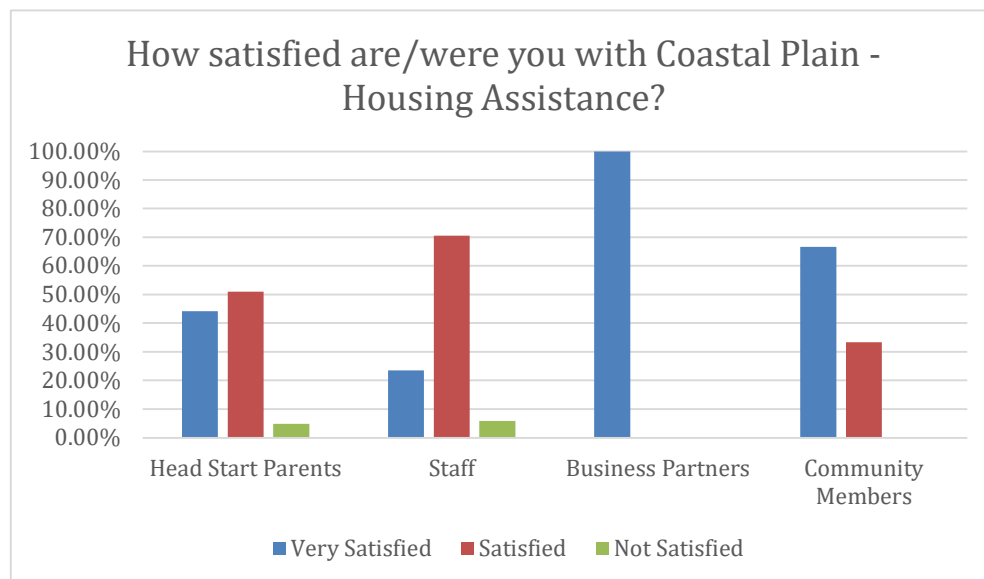
Head Start Parents: 1) Never used

Staff: 1) Their should be more schools tied into Head Start to help further education. 2)

make the staff aware of education assistance.

### Housing Assistance

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	44.12%	23.53%	100.00%	66.67%
Satisfied	50.98%	70.59%	0.00%	33.33%
Not Satisfied	4.90%	5.88%	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	102	34	1	3
Skipped	43	110	6	11



All three Community Members and the lone Business Partner did not express any dissatisfaction with Housing Assistance. About 95% of Head Start Parents and Staff were either satisfied or very satisfied with the program.

**Comments:**

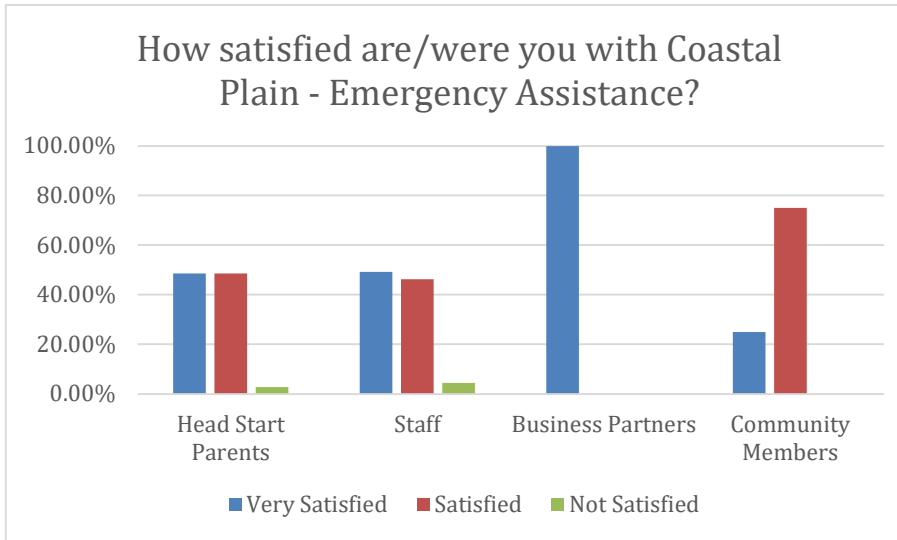
Head Start Parents: 1) Never used. 2) I can use assistance

Staff: 1) make clear on how to get and use housing assistance. 2) it ok

**Emergency Assistance (car insurance/repair, utility bill, rent/mortgage, food)**

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Very Satisfied	48.60%	49.25%	100.00%	25.00%
Satisfied	48.60%	46.27%	0.00%	75.00%
Not Satisfied	2.80%	4.48%	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	107	67	1	4
Skipped	38	77	6	10

All of the Community Members and the lone Business Partner expressed complete satisfaction with the Emergency Assistance services of Coastal Plain EOA.



Over 95% of Head Start Parents and Staff were satisfied to very satisfied with this program.

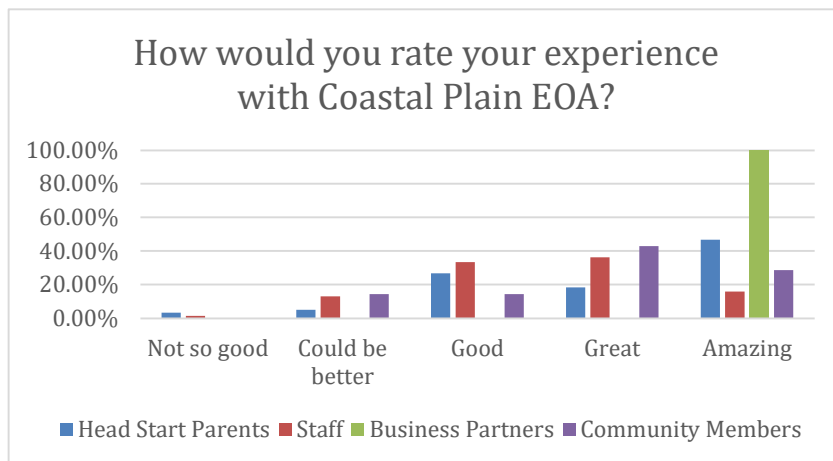
#### Comments:

**Head Start Parents:** 1) Have people more aware of the dates of availabilities. 2) Great! 3) Didn't know it existed. 4) Maybe allow more than one time

**Staff:** 1) Help your staff first after the elderly. 2) Have someone to reach out to the staff when there is Assistance to be gotten. Because we be working when they be doing it through the phone or internet. So the staff be left out of getting help. And there be a lot of staff that be needing help also. 3) have a person who is not judgmental on the situation and more helpful. let the public know the need so that they can get the help they need. 4) If you work for costal plain you should be able to get assistance even if you don't live in tift co or country. 5) it ok. 6) I think with the rental assistance the client should not have to be 2 months behind on their payment in order to receive help. 7) Wish they would help out employees first.

#### Rate Your Experience with Coastal Plain EOA

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Not so good	3.33%	1.45%	0.00%	0.00%
Could be better	5.00%	13.04%	0.00%	14.29%
Good	26.67%	33.33%	0.00%	14.29%
Great	18.33%	36.23%	0.00%	42.86%
Amazing	46.67%	15.94%	100.00%	28.57%
<b>Answered</b>	120	69	1	7
<b>Skipped</b>	25	75	6	7

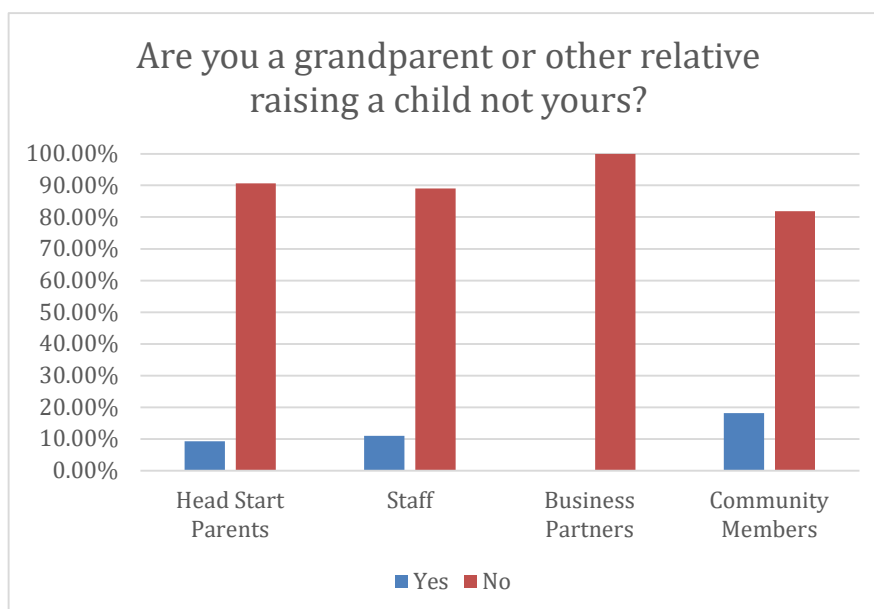


Of the Head Start Parents, 47% said their experience with Coastal Plain EOA was “Amazing” and 18% said “Great”. One-half of the Staff concurred with the Head Start Parents. About three out of four Community Members concurred with the aforementioned. Only eight percent of the Head Start Parents thought their

experience was “not so good” or “could be better” while 14% of the Staff and Community Members agreed.

### Are you a grandparent or other relative raising a child not yours?

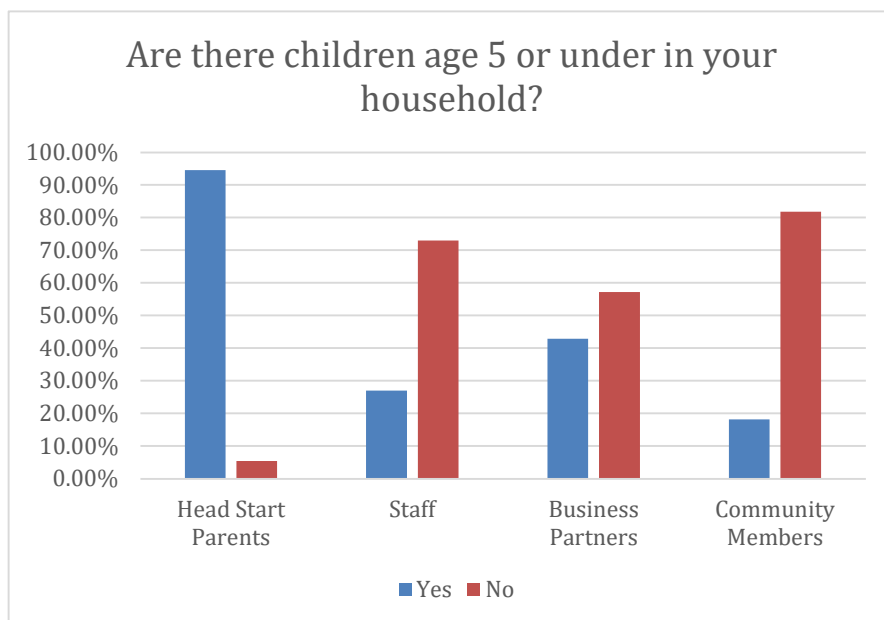
	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Yes	9.30%	10.95%	0.00%	18.18%
No	90.70%	89.05%	100.00%	81.82%
Answered	129	137	7	11
Skipped	16	7	0	3



A majority of respondents are not grandparents or other relative raising a child not theirs. However, 18% of Community Members are grandparents or other relative raising a child not theirs and about 10% of Head Start Parents and Staff answered this question affirmatively.

### Are there children age 5 or under in your household?

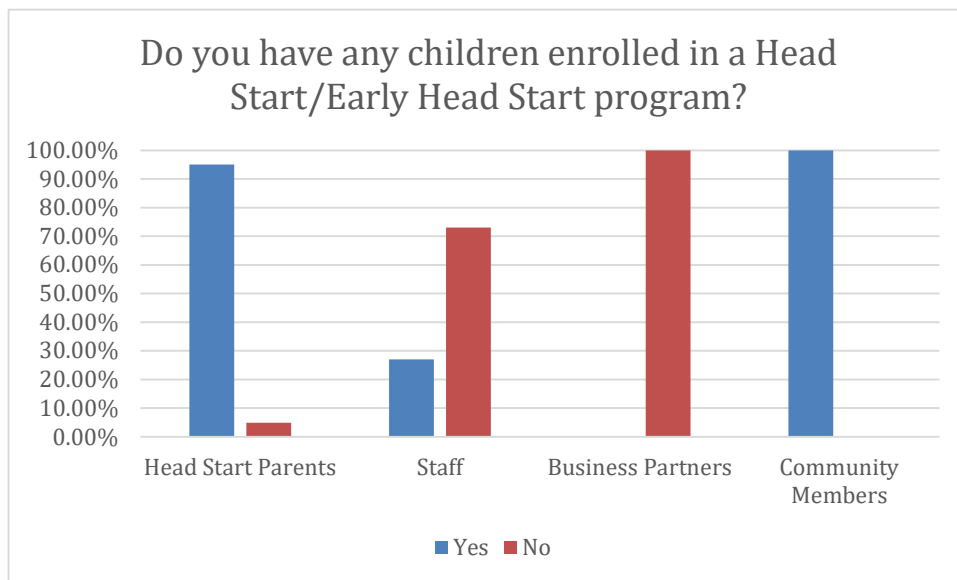
	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Yes	94.57%	27.01%	42.86%	18.18%
No	5.43%	72.99%	57.14%	81.82%
Answered	129	137	7	11
Skipped	16	7	0	3



Most of the Head Start Parents have children age 5 or under in their household (95%). About three out of four Staff, four out of five Community Members and three out of five Business Partners do not have this demographic in their household.

### Do you have any children enrolled in a Head Start/Early Head Start program?

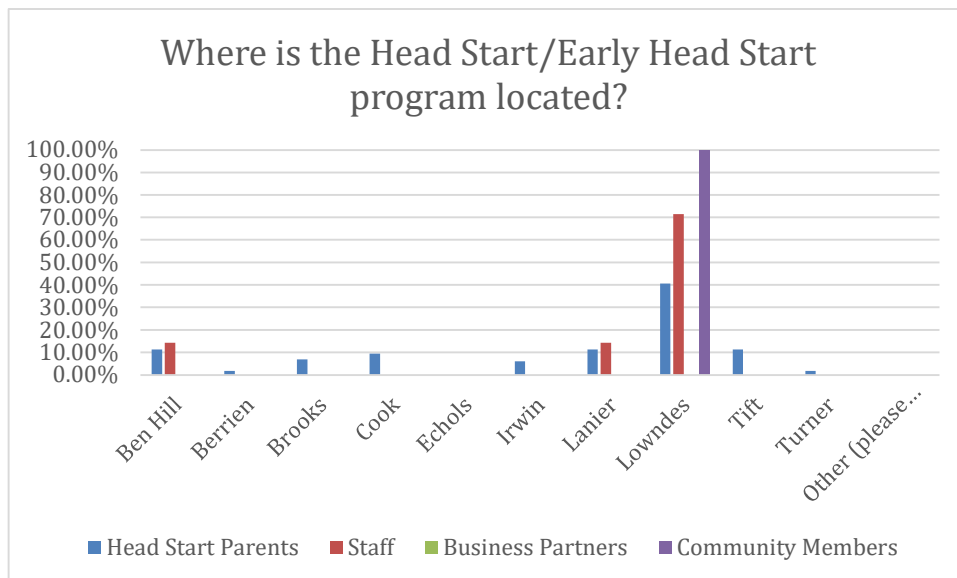
	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Yes	95.08%	27.01%	0.00%	100.00%
No	4.92%	72.99%	100.00%	0.00%
I don't have any children ages 0-5 years old	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Answered	122	38	3	2
Skipped	23	106	4	12



Ninety-five percent of Head Start Parents have children enrolled in a Head Start program while three out of four Staff do not.

#### Where is the Head Start program located?

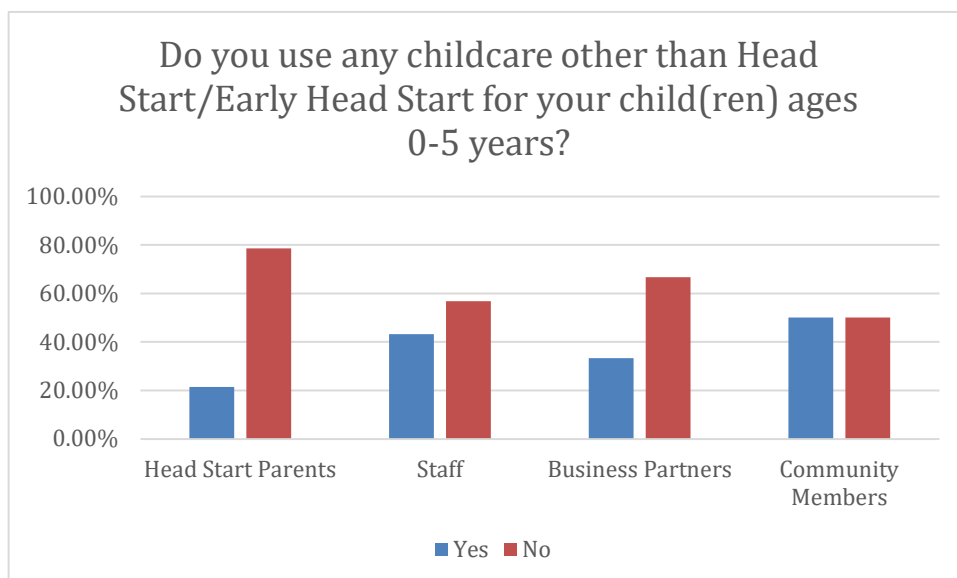
	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Ben Hill	11.21%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%
Berrien	1.72%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Brooks	6.90%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cook	9.48%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Irwin	6.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lanier	11.21%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%
Lowndes	40.52%	71.43%	0.00%	100.00%
Tift	11.21%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Turner	1.72%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Answered</b>	116	7	0	2
<b>Skipped</b>	29	137	7	12



About three out of four Staff have children enrolled in a Head Start/Early Head Start program in Lowndes County. Two out of five Head Start Parents have their children enrolled in this type of program in Lowndes County as well.

### Do you use any childcare other than Head Start/Early Head Start for your child(ren) ages 0-5 years?

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Yes	21.49%	43.24%	33.33%	50.00%
No	78.51%	56.76%	66.67%	50.00%
Answered	121	37	3	2
Skipped	24	107	4	12

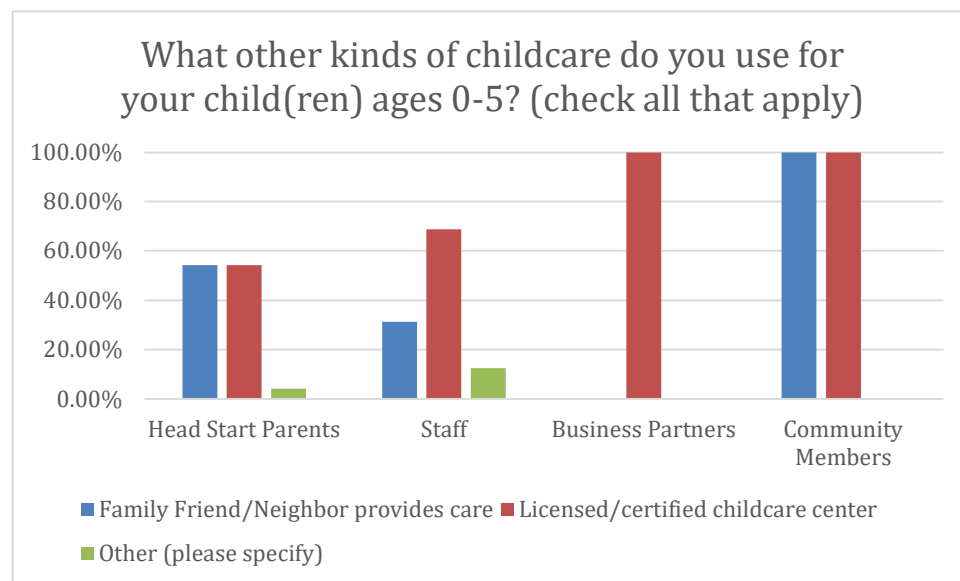


A majority of respondents do not use childcare other than Head Start/Early Head Start for their children ages 0-5. However, about two out of five Staff do use other childcare.



**What other kinds of childcare do you use for your child(ren) ages 0-5? (check all that apply)**

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Family Friend/Neighbor provides care	54.17%	31.25%	0.00%	100.00%
Licensed/certified childcare center	54.17%	68.75%	100.00%	100.00%
Other (please specify)	4.17%	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Answered</b>	24	16	1	1
<b>Skipped</b>	121	128	6	13

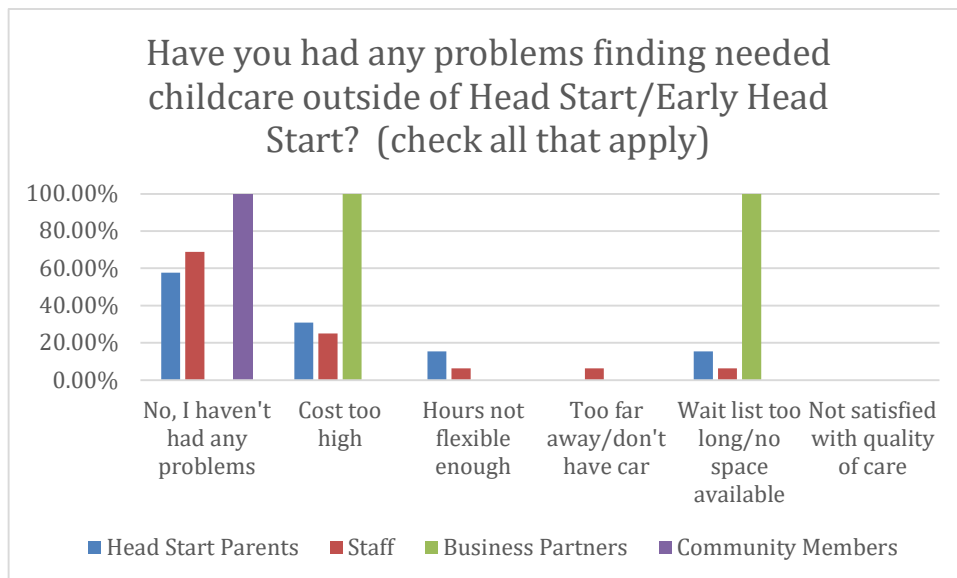


Over two-thirds of Staff use a licensed/certified childcare center for their young children. Head Start Parents responded equally to this question that they use a family friend/neighbor for this care and a licensed/certified childcare center. Respondents were

allowed multiple answers.

**Have you had any problems finding needed childcare outside of Head Start/Early Head Start? (check all that apply)**

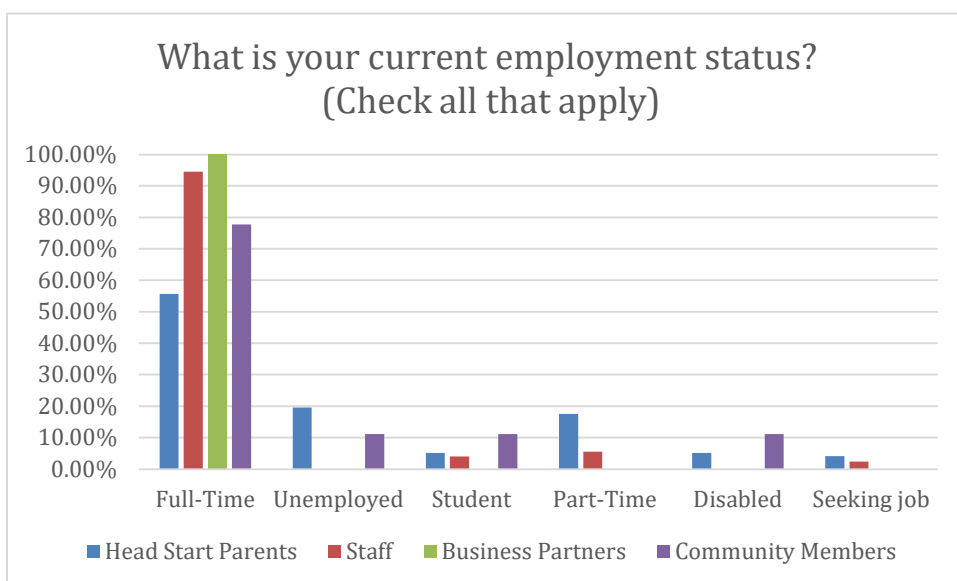
	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
No, I haven't had any problems	57.69%	68.75%	0.00%	100.00%
Cost too high	30.77%	25.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Hours not flexible enough	15.38%	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%
Too far away/don't have car	0.00%	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%
Wait list too long/no space available	15.38%	6.25%	100.00%	0.00%
Not satisfied with quality of care	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Answered</b>	26	16	1	1
<b>Skipped</b>	119	128	6	13



A majority of respondents have not had any problems finding needed childcare outside of Head Start/Early Head Start. However those that did have problems indicated that the cost of this childcare was too high.

### What is your current employment status? Check all that apply

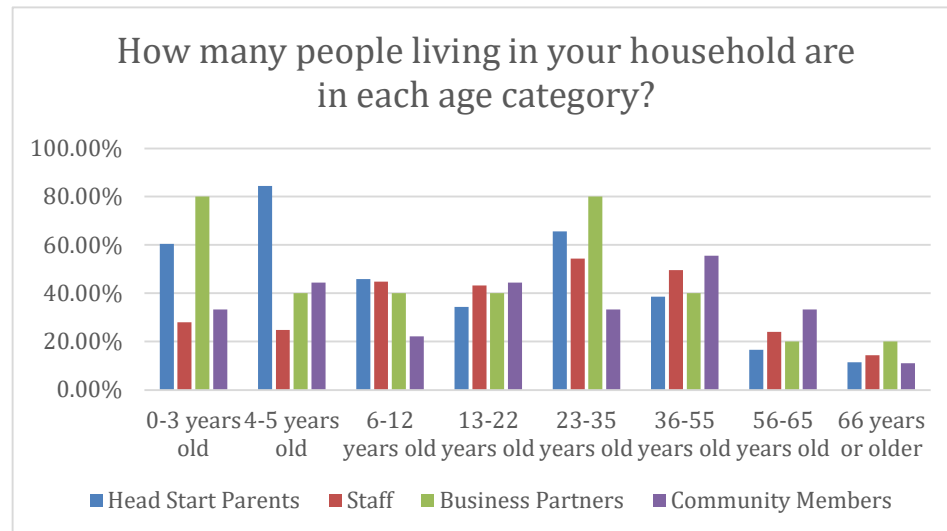
	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Full-Time	55.67%	94.49%	100.00%	77.78%
Unemployed	19.59%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%
Student	5.15%	3.94%	0.00%	11.11%
Part-Time	17.53%	5.51%	0.00%	0.00%
Disabled	5.15%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%
Seeking job	4.12%	2.36%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Answered</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>



When asked about their employment status, at least 50% of each respondent category stated they work full-time.

### How many people living in your household are in each age category?

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
0-3 years old	60.42%	28.00%	80.00%	33.33%
4-5 years old	84.38%	24.80%	40.00%	44.44%
6-12 years old	45.83%	44.80%	40.00%	22.22%
13-22 years old	34.38%	43.20%	40.00%	44.44%
23-35 years old	65.63%	54.40%	80.00%	33.33%
36-55 years old	38.54%	49.60%	40.00%	55.56%
56-65 years old	16.67%	24.00%	20.00%	33.33%
66 years or older	11.46%	14.40%	20.00%	11.11%
<b>Answered</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

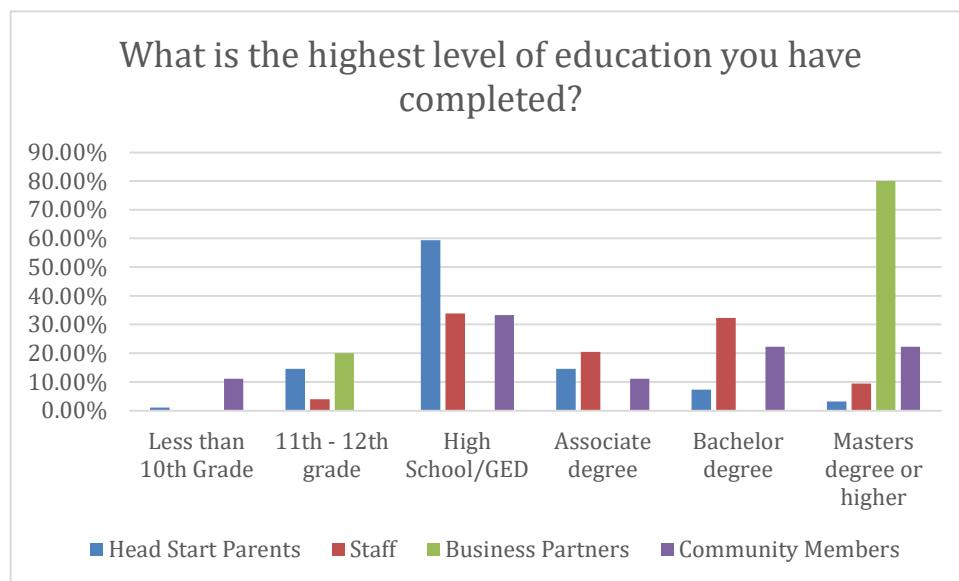


Most of the Head Start Parents have 4-5 year olds in their household than other age categories. Staff have more 23-35 year olds in their households followed by 36-55 year olds. Business Partners have households comprised equally of 0-3 year olds and 23-35 year olds.

Community Members' households are comprised most of 36-55 year olds.

### What is the highest level of education you have completed?

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Less than 10th Grade	1.04%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%
11th - 12th grade	14.58%	3.94%	20.00%	0.00%
High School/GED	59.38%	33.86%	0.00%	33.33%
Associate degree	14.58%	20.47%	0.00%	11.11%
Bachelor degree	7.29%	32.28%	0.00%	22.22%
Masters degree or higher	3.13%	9.45%	80.00%	22.22%
<b>Answered</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

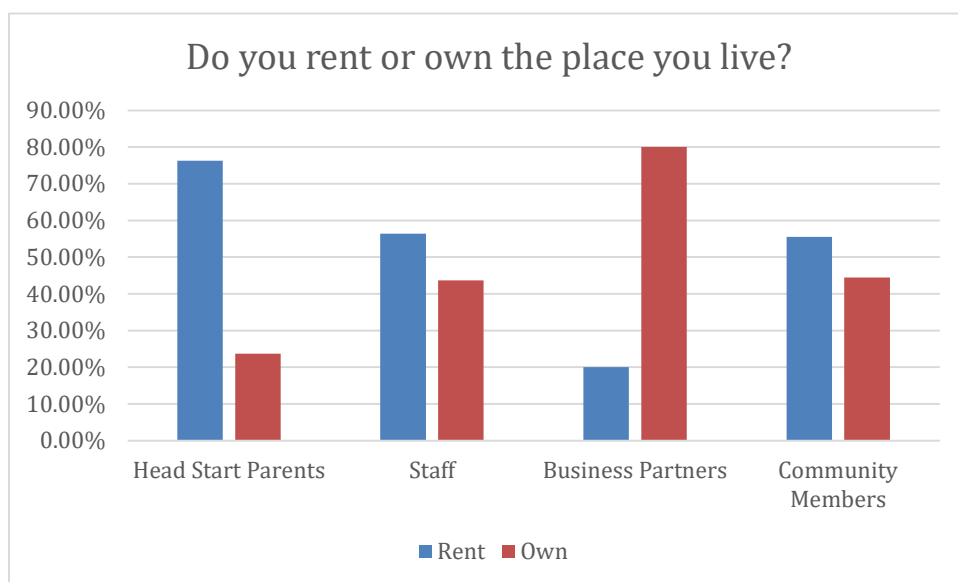


Three out of five Head Start Parents graduated from high school or have a GED. About the same percentage of Staff have a high school diploma or GED as a Bachelor degree. Four out of five Business Partners have a Masters degree or higher. One-third of Community

Members have a high school diploma or GED.

### Do you rent or own the place you live?

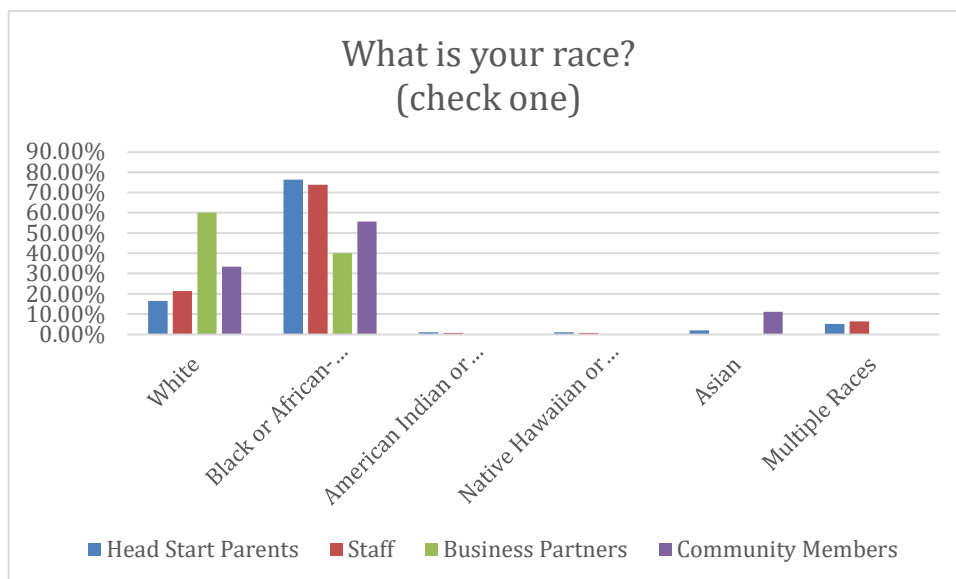
	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
Rent	76.29%	56.35%	20.00%	55.56%
Own	23.71%	43.65%	80.00%	44.44%
Answered	97	126	5	9
Skipped	48	18	2	5



About three out of four Head Start Parents rent their place of residence while almost three out of five Staff and Community Members do as well. Four out of five Business Partners own their place of residence.

## What is your race? (check one)

	Head Start Parents	Staff	Business Partners	Community Members
White	16.49%	21.43%	60.00%	33.33%
Black or African-American	76.29%	73.81%	40.00%	55.56%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1.03%	0.79%	0.00%	0.00%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1.03%	0.79%	0.00%	0.00%
Asian	2.06%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%
Multiple Races	5.15%	6.35%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Answered</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>



Three out of four Head Start Parents and Staff are African-American. About three out of five Community Members are also African-American. Three out of five Business Partners are White.

**In your opinion, what is the greatest unmet need in your community?**

**Staff**

<b>Need</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Jobs/Good Paying Jobs	19
Affordable, Safe Housing	14
After school programs for kids	13
Education	5
Assistance for all needs	4
Public transportation	4
Safety	4
A place for kids to gather	3
Utility assistance	3
Homelessness	3
Parenting Skills	2
Road Repairs	2
Lack of enrichment programs/mentoring for kids	2
Childcare	2
People helping people	1
Staff unappreciated	1
Tuition assistance	1
Money	1
Help for the elderly	1
Good Fathers	1
Support for teachers	1
Health	1
Substance Abuse	1
Togetherness	1
Home repair	1
Young adult activities	1
Help with credit score	1
Child support	1
Resources for low income people	1
Domestic violence	1

**Community Members**

Workforce	1
Community activities	1
Race relations	1
Safety	1
Abundance in resources	1
Getting the word out to the community	1

**In your opinion, what is the greatest unmet need in your community?**

**Business Partners**

<b>Education</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>After school care</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Jobs</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Health insurance</b>	<b>1</b>

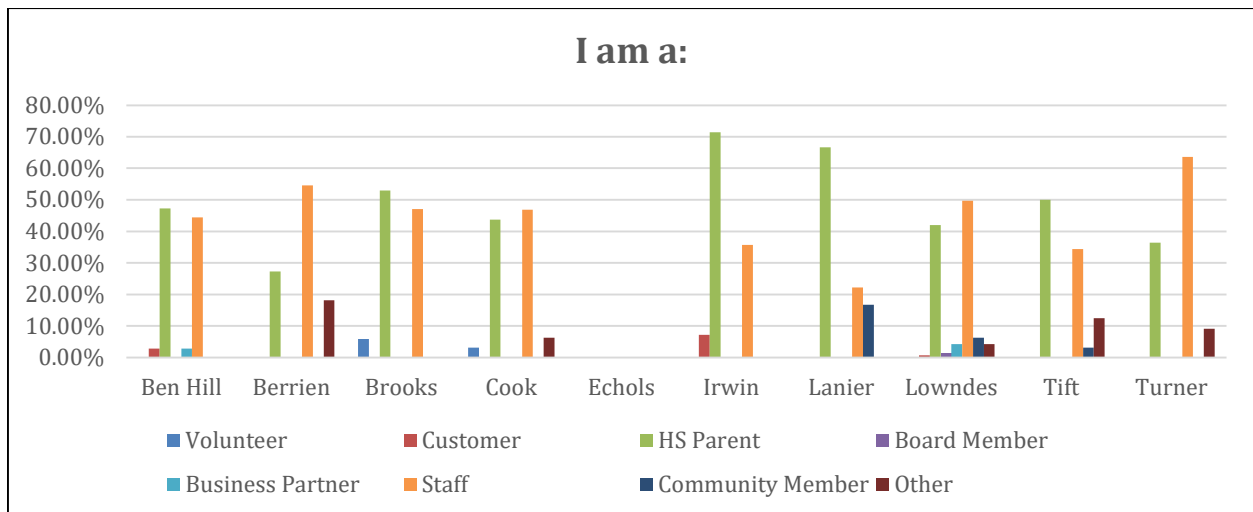
**Head Start Parents**

<b>Jobs/training/higher wages</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Places for youth/activities</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Utility bills</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Park for kids</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Culture Enrichment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>More businesses to stay open &amp; stay in community</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Affordable food</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Brown &amp; Hispanic rights</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Brotherhood</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Home internet</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Homeless</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Honesty</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Gang violence</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Tuition assistance</b>	<b>1</b>

## Community Survey Continued – By County

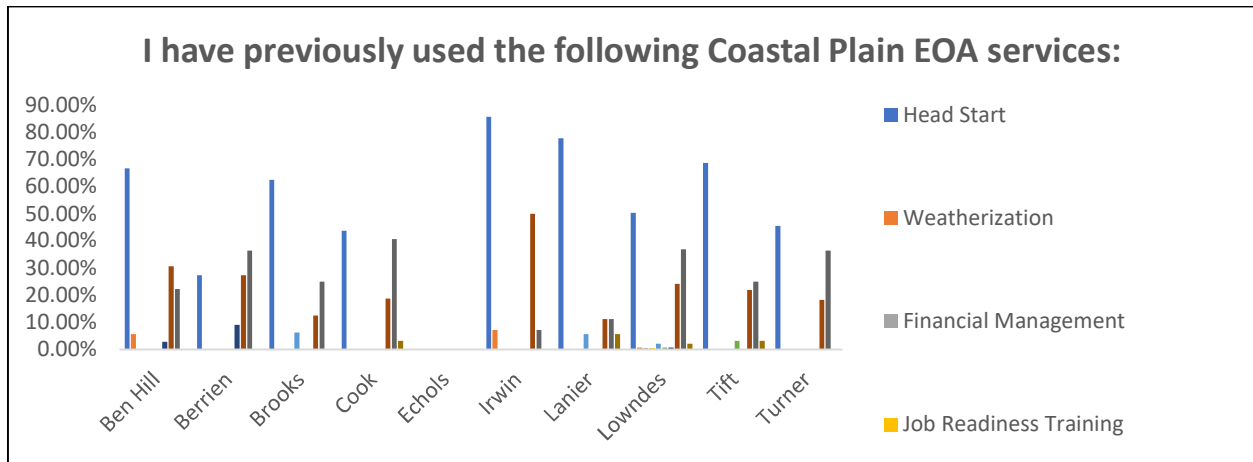
There no participants in the online Community Survey from Echols County. Most of the responses were received from Head Start Parents and Coastal Plain EOA Staff.

I am a:										
	Volunteer	Customer	HS Parent	Board Member	Business Partner	Staff	Community Member	Other	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	0.00%	2.78%	47.22%	0.00%	2.78%	44.44%	0.00%	0.00%	36	0
Berrien	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	0.00%	18.18%	11	0
Brooks	5.88%	0.00%	52.94%	0.00%	0.00%	47.06%	0.00%	0.00%	17	0
Cook	3.13%	0.00%	43.75%	0.00%	0.00%	46.88%	0.00%	6.25%	32	0
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	0.00%	7.14%	71.43%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	0.00%	0.00%	14	0
Lanier	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	16.67%	0.00%	18	0
Lowndes	0.00%	0.70%	41.96%	1.40%	4.20%	49.65%	6.29%	4.20%	143	0
Tift	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	34.38%	3.13%	12.50%	32	0
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	0.00%	0.00%	63.64%	0.00%	9.09%	11	0





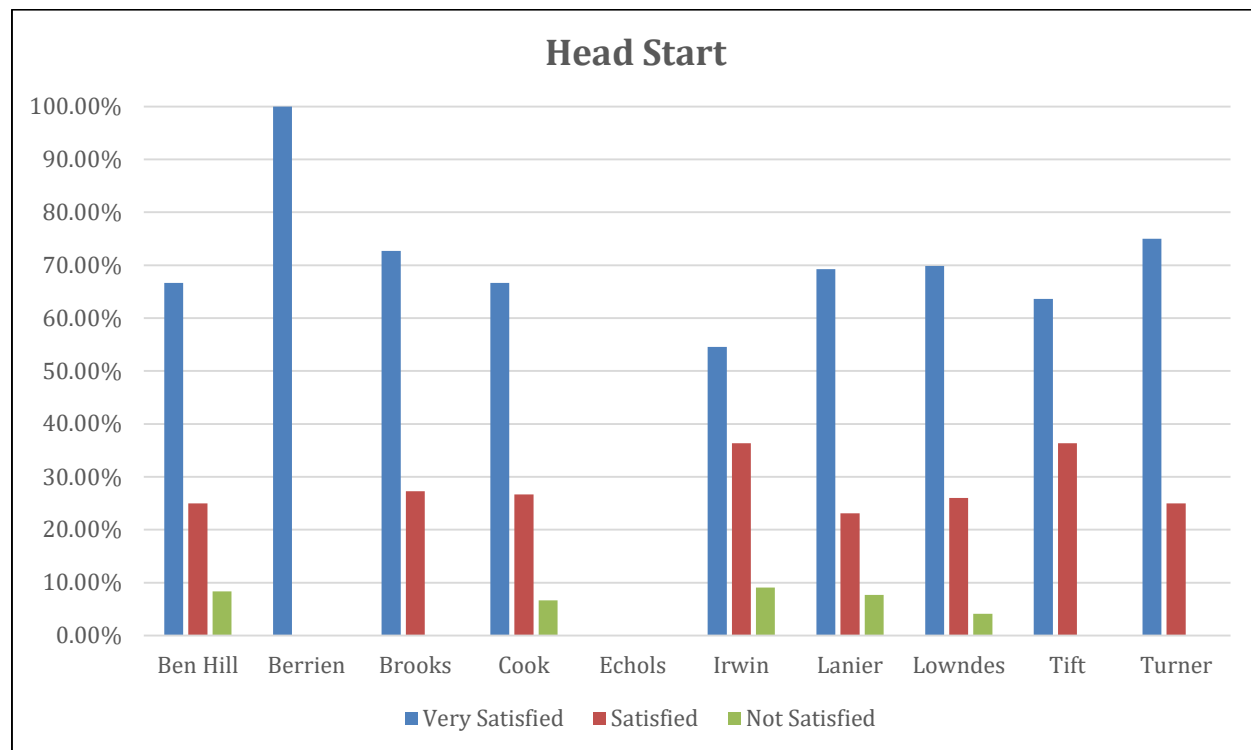
I have previously used the following Coastal Plain EOA services: (check all that apply)										
	Ben Hill	Berrien	Brooks	Cook	Echols	Irwin	Lanier	Lowndes	Tift	Turner
Head Start	66.67%	27.27%	62.50%	43.75%	0.00%	85.71%	77.78%	50.35%	68.75%	45.45%
Weatherization	5.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	0.71%	0.00%	0.00%
Financial Management	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.71%	0.00%	0.00%
Job Readiness Training	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.71%	0.00%	0.00%
Employment Assistance	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	2.13%	0.00%	0.00%
Educational Assistance	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.71%	3.13%	0.00%
Housing Assistance	2.78%	9.09%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.71%	0.00%	0.00%
Emergency Assistance (car insurance/repair, utility bill, rent/mortgage)	30.56%	27.27%	12.50%	18.75%	0.00%	50.00%	11.11%	24.11%	21.88%	18.18%
I have not used Coastal Plain EOA services	22.22%	36.36%	25.00%	40.63%	0.00%	7.14%	11.11%	36.88%	25.00%	36.36%
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.13%	0.00%	0.00%	5.56%	2.13%	3.13%	0.00%
<b>Answered</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



The greatest percentage Head Start users were from Lowndes County. Two out of five Cook County residents have not used Coastal Plain EOA services.

**Respondents were asked “How satisfied are/were you with Coastal Plain EOA services?”  
Head Start**

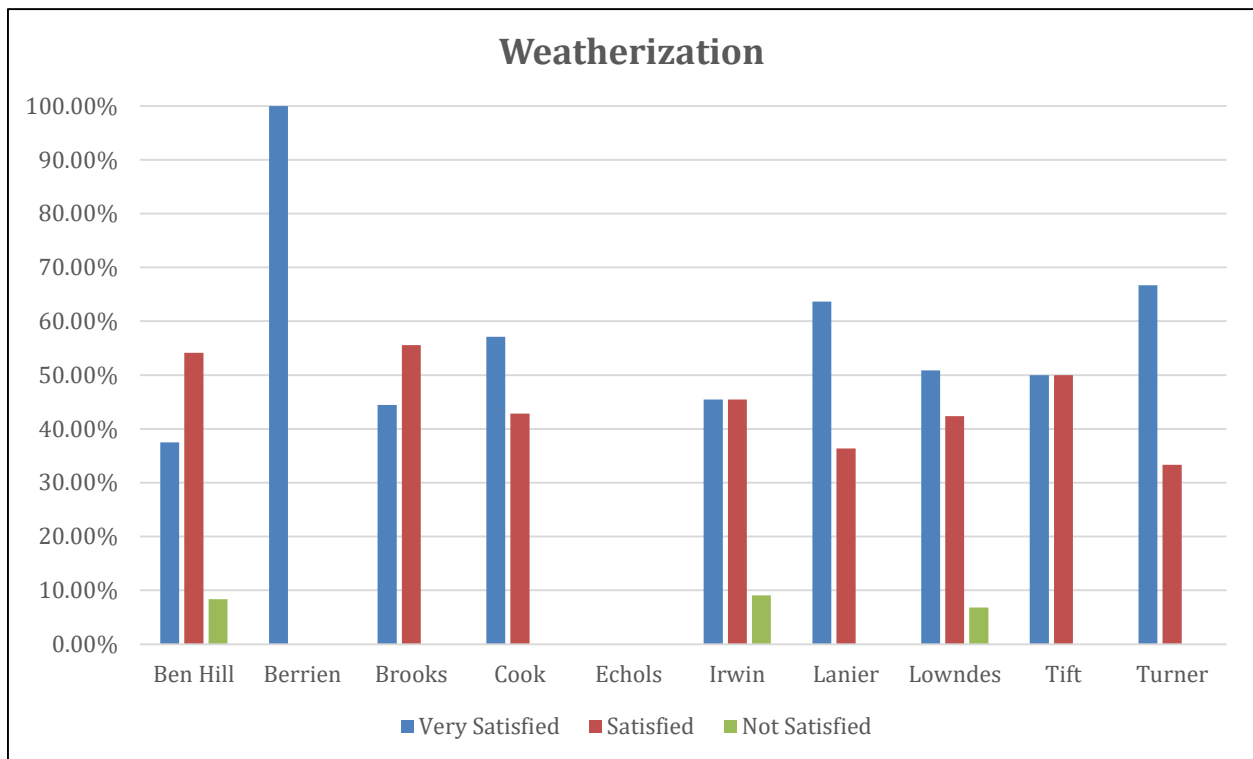
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	66.67%	25.00%	8.33%	24	12
Berrien	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	8
Brooks	72.73%	27.27%	0.00%	11	6
Cook	66.67%	26.67%	6.67%	15	17
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	54.55%	36.36%	9.09%	11	3
Lanier	69.23%	23.08%	7.69%	13	5
Lowndes	69.86%	26.03%	4.11%	73	70
Tift	63.64%	36.36%	0.00%	22	10
Turner	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%	4	7



The county with the greatest percentage of “very satisfied” users of Head Start was Berrien (100%); however, there were only three respondents from the county. Other counties that didn’t have any “not satisfied” residents included Brooks, Tift and Turner.

## Weatherization

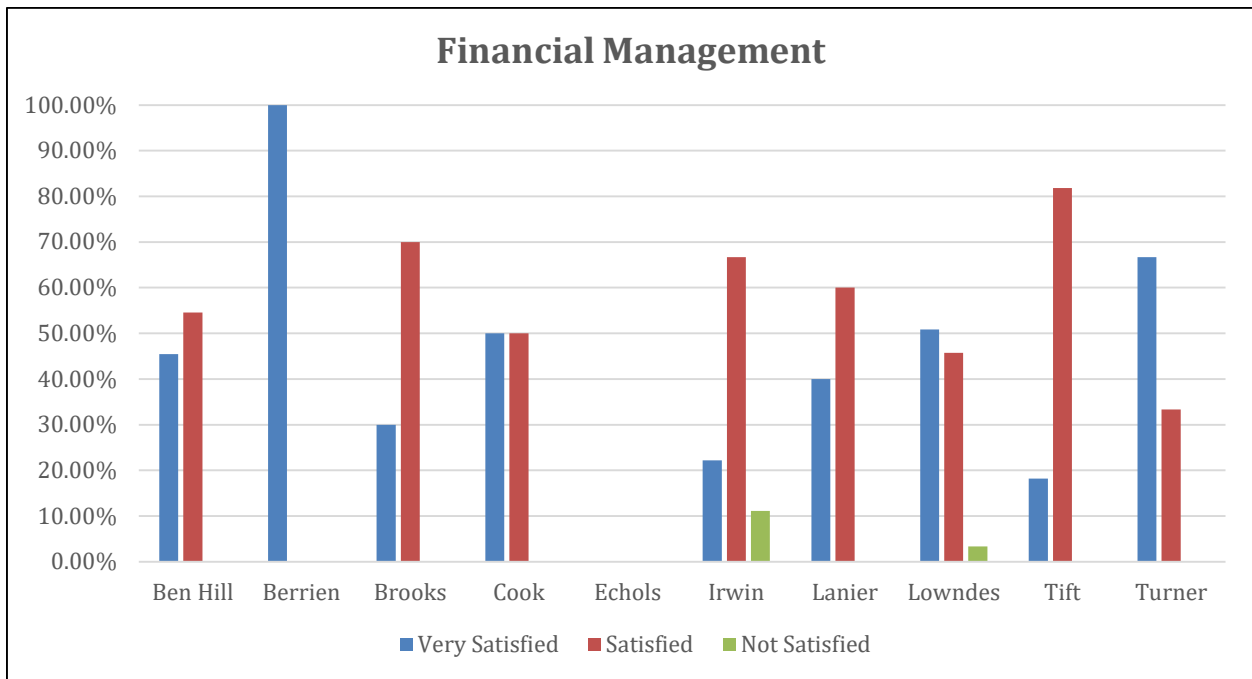
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	37.50%	54.17%	8.33%	24	12
Berrien	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	8
Brooks	44.44%	55.56%	0.00%	9	8
Cook	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%	14	18
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%	11	3
Lanier	63.64%	36.36%	0.00%	11	7
Lowndes	50.85%	42.37%	6.78%	59	84
Tift	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	22	10
Turner	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%	3	8



Residents expressing dissatisfaction with Weatherization were from Ben Hill, Irwin and Lowndes counties. All of Berrien County residents were very satisfied with Coastal Plain EOA's Weatherization services. The counties with greater percentages of very satisfied residents than satisfied residents includes: Berrien, Cook, Lanier, Lowndes and Turner.

## Financial Management

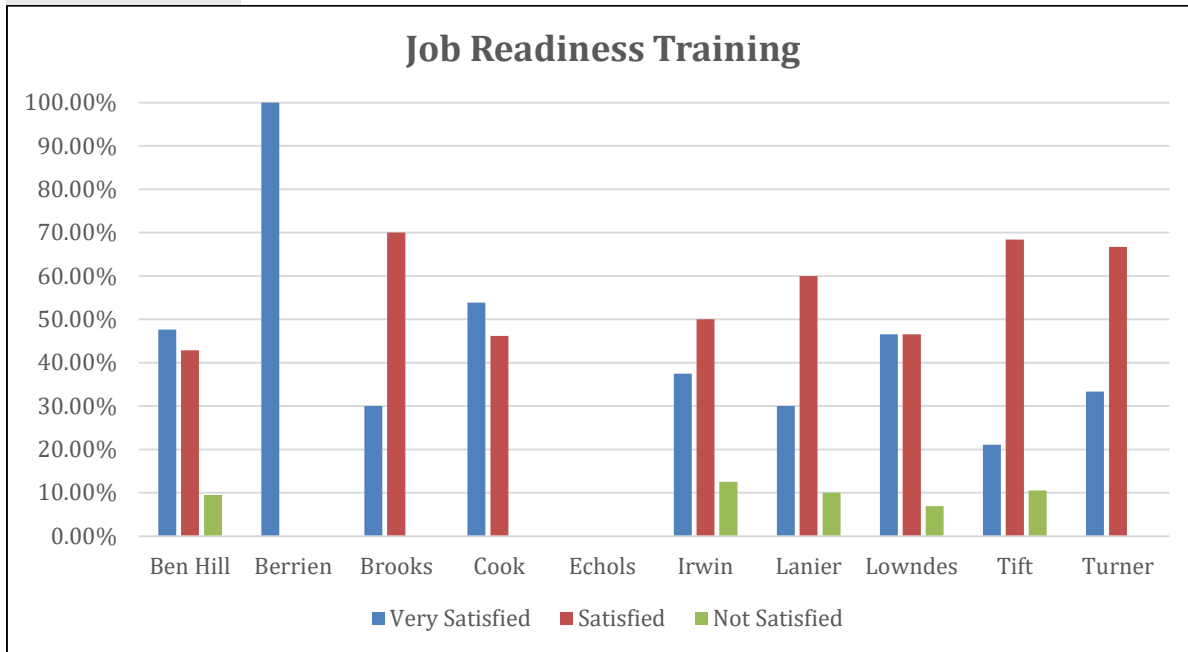
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%	24	12
Berrien	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	8
Brooks	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%	10	7
Cook	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	14	18
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	22.22%	66.67%	11.11%	9	5
Lanier	40.00%	60.00%	0.00%	10	8
Lowndes	50.85%	45.76%	3.39%	69	84
Tift	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%	22	10
Turner	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%	3	8



The only counties where respondents expressed dissatisfaction with Financial Management services of the Agency were Irwin and Lowndes, 11% and 3% respectively.

## Job Readiness Training

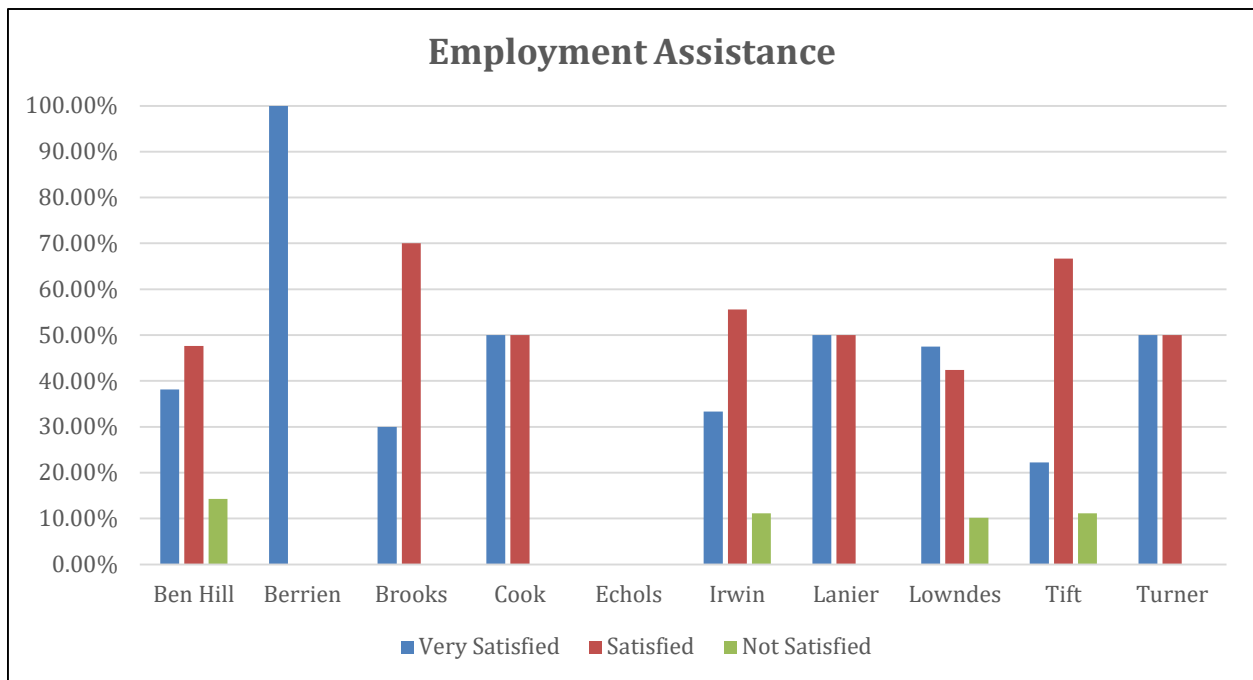
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	47.62%	42.86%	9.52%	21	15
Berrien	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	8
Brooks	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%	10	7
Cook	53.85%	46.15%	0.00%	13	19
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	37.50%	50.00%	12.50%	8	6
Lanier	30.00%	60.00%	10.00%	10	8
Lowndes	46.55%	46.55%	6.90%	58	85
Tift	21.05%	68.42%	10.53%	19	13
Turner	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	3	8



Other than Berrien County, the county with the greatest percentage of residents who were very satisfied with the Job Readiness Training program of Coastal Plain was Cook County (54%).

## Employment Assistance

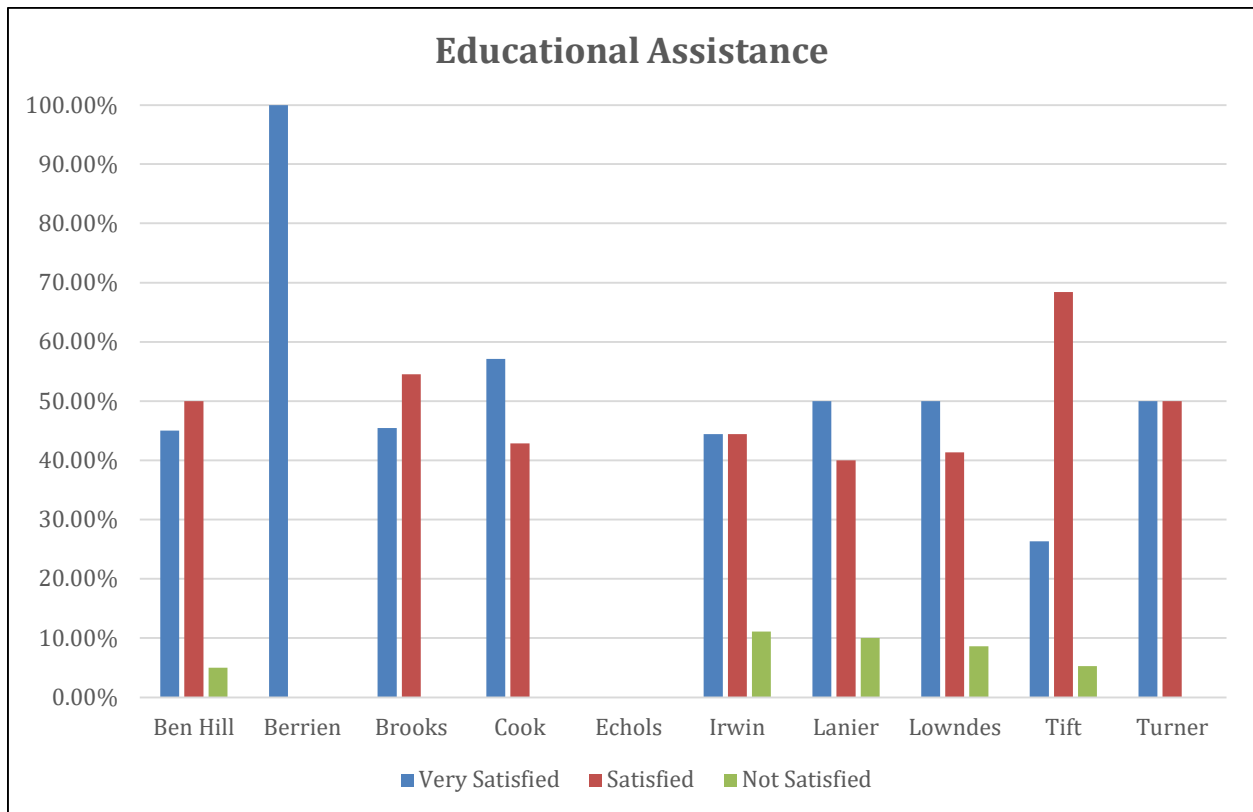
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	38.10%	47.62%	14.29%	21	15
Berrien	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	8
Brooks	30.00%	70.00%	0.00%	10	7
Cook	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	14	18
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	33.33%	55.56%	11.11%	9	5
Lanier	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	10	8
Lowndes	47.46%	42.37%	10.17%	59	84
Tift	22.22%	66.67%	11.11%	18	14
Turner	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	2	9



County residents who did not express complete satisfaction with Employment Assistance were from Ben Hill, Irwin, Lowndes and Tift.

## Educational Assistance

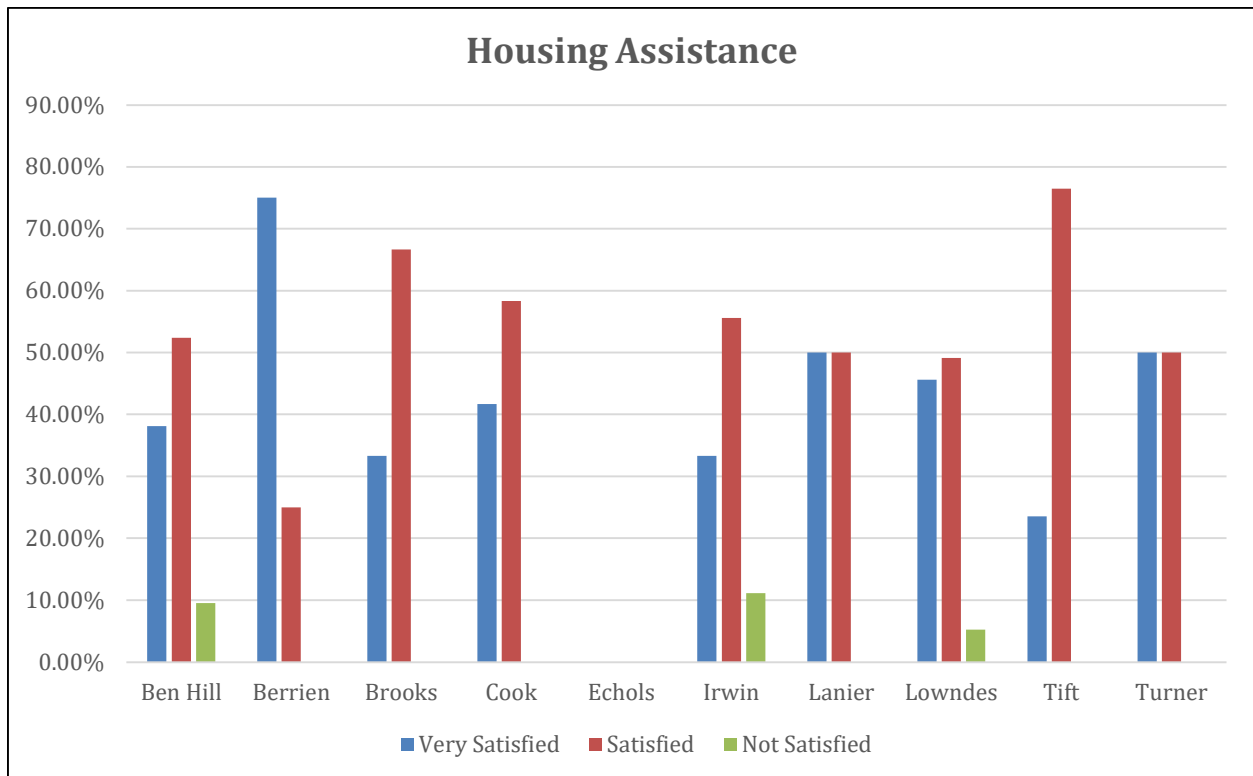
	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	45.00%	50.00%	5.00%	20	16
Berrien	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	8
Brooks	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%	11	6
Cook	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%	14	18
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	44.44%	44.44%	11.11%	9	5
Lanier	50.00%	40.00%	10.00%	10	8
Lowndes	50.00%	41.36%	8.62%	58	85
Tift	26.32%	68.42%	5.26%	19	13
Turner	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	2	9



A majority of county residents who reported being very satisfied with Educational Assistance included Berrien and Cook, 100% and 57% respectively.

## Housing Assistance

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	38.10%	52.38%	9.52%	21	15
Berrien	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%	4	7
Brooks	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	9	8
Cook	41.67%	58.33%	0.00%	12	20
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	33.33%	55.56%	11.11%	9	5
Lanier	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	10	8
Lowndes	45.61%	49.12%	5.26%	57	86
Tift	23.53%	76.47%	0.00%	17	15
Turner	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	2	9

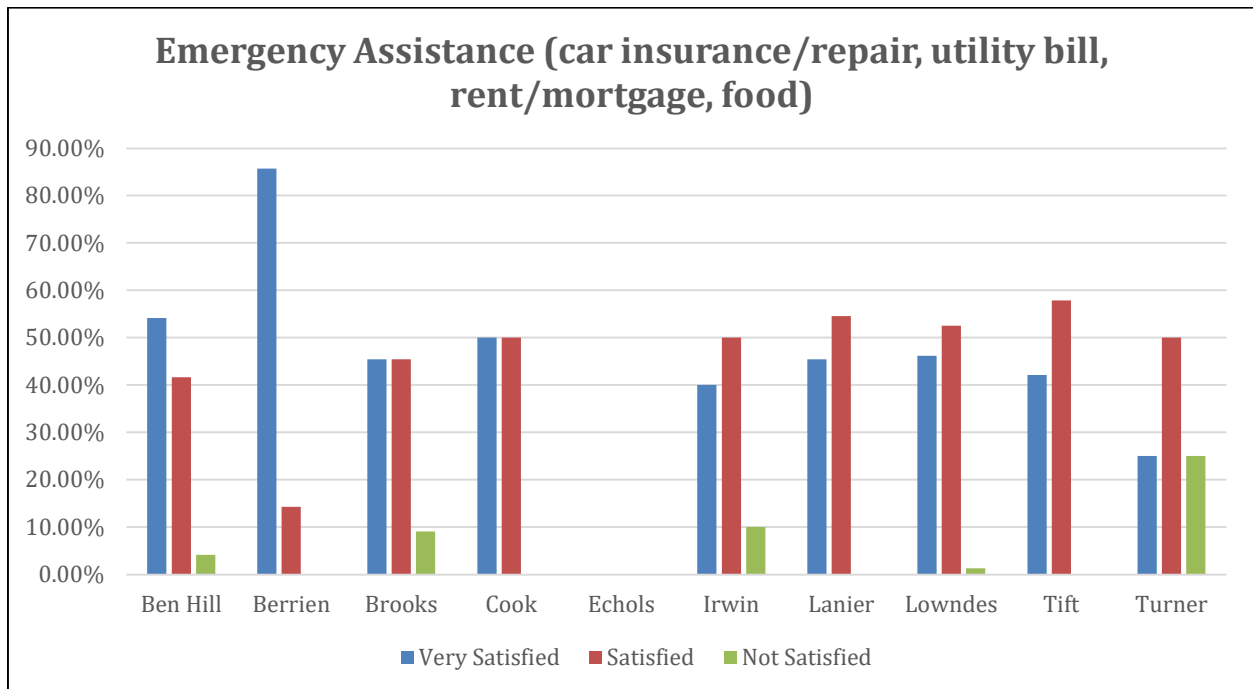


Counties whose residents were more satisfied with Housing Assistance than very satisfied included Ben Hill, Brooks, Cook, Irwin, Lowndes and Tift. Lanier and Turner county residents were equally satisfied.



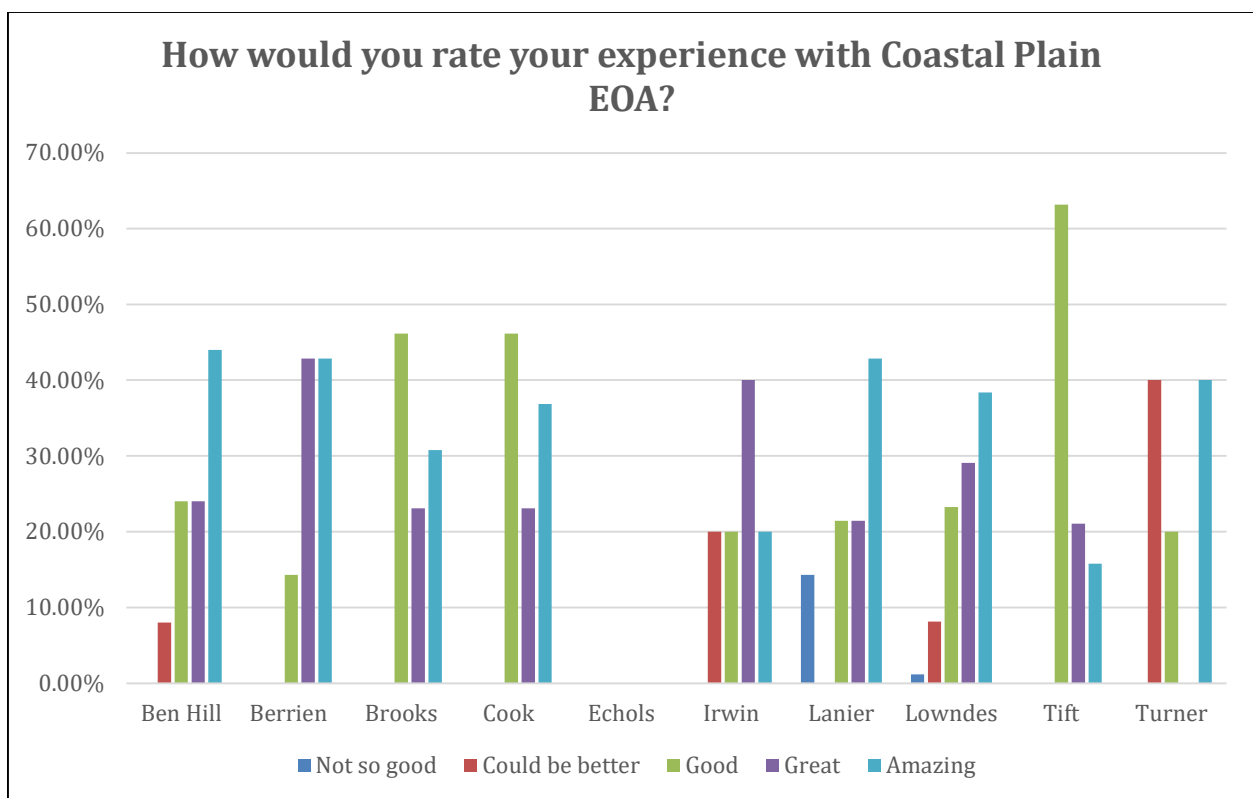
### Emergency Assistance (car insurance/repair, utility bill, rent/mortgage, food)

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	54.17%	41.67%	4.17%	24	12
Berrien	85.71%	14.29%	0.00%	7	4
Brooks	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%	11	6
Cook	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	16	16
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	50.00%	10.00%	10	4
Lanier	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%	11	7
Lowndes	46.15%	52.56%	1.28%	78	65
Tift	42.11%	57.89%	0.00%	19	13
Turner	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	4	7



Equal percentages of Turner County residents were either very satisfied or not satisfied, 25%, with Emergency Assistance. Likewise, equal percentages of Cook County residents were either very satisfied or satisfied – 50%.

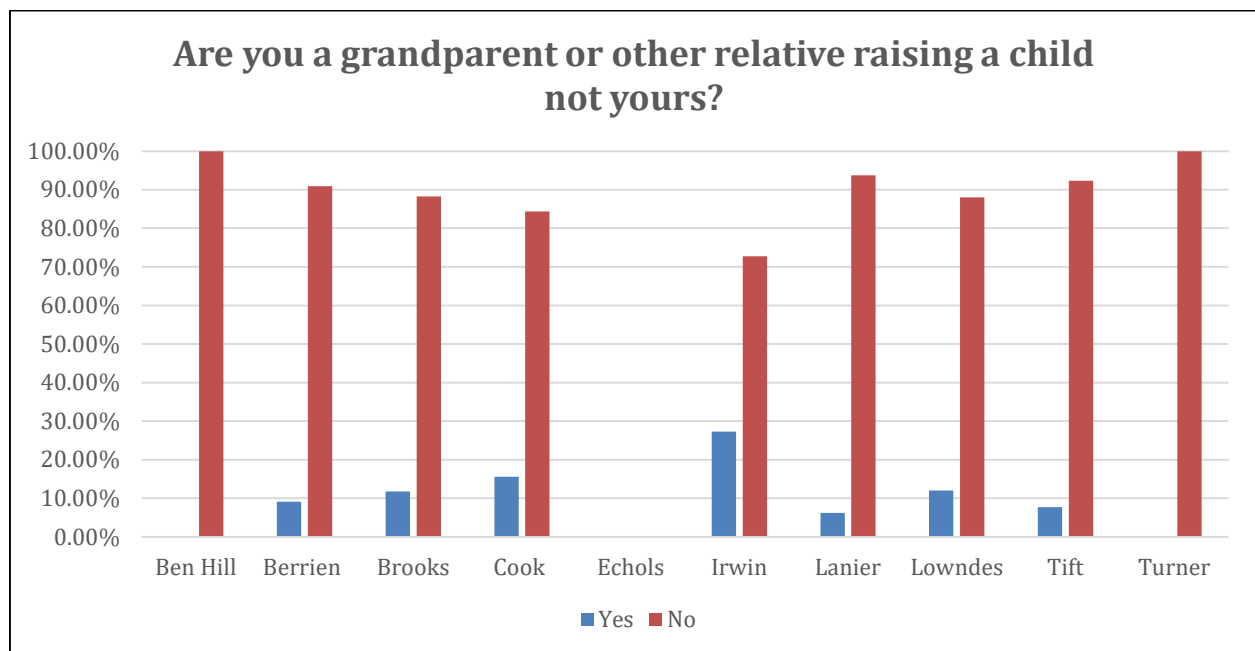
How would you rate your experience with Coastal Plain EOA? Choose one.						Answered	Skipped
	Not so good	Could be better	Good	Great	Amazing		
Ben Hill	0.00%	8.00%	24.00%	24.00%	44.00%	25	11
Berrien	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	7	4
Brooks	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	23.08%	30.77%	13	4
Cook	0.00%	0.00%	46.15%	23.08%	36.84%	19	13
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%	10	4
Lanier	14.29%	0.00%	21.43%	21.43%	42.86%	14	4
Lowndes	1.16%	8.14%	23.26%	29.07%	38.37%	86	57
Tift	0.00%	0.00%	63.16%	21.05%	15.79%	19	13
Turner	0.00%	40.00%	20.00%	0.00%	40.00%	5	6



Two out of five Turner County respondents indicated their experience with Coastal Plain EOA could have been better. More than one-half of the Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Irwin, Lanier and Lowndes respondents rated their experience with Coastal Plain EOA as “great” or “amazing”.

### Are you a grandparent or other relative raising a child not yours?

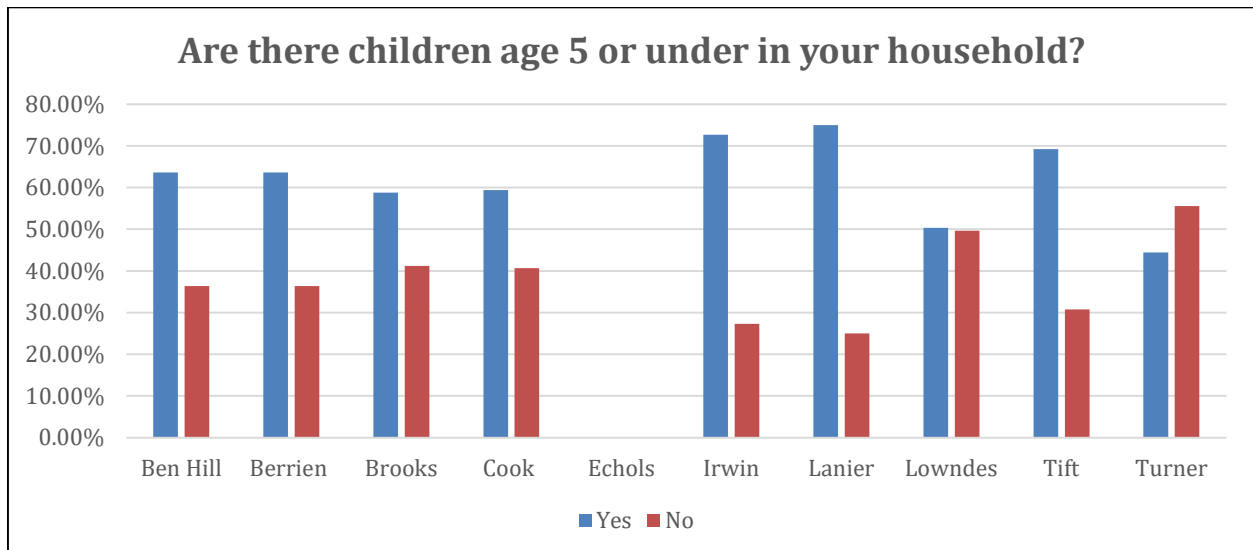
	Yes	No	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	0.00%	100.00%	33	3
Berrien	9.09%	90.91%	11	0
Brooks	11.76%	88.24%	17	0
Cook	15.63%	84.38%	32	0
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	27.27%	72.73%	11	3
Lanier	6.25%	93.75%	16	2
Lowndes	12.03%	87.97%	133	10
Tift	7.69%	92.31%	26	6
Turner	0.00%	100.00%	9	2



Twenty-seven percent (27%) of Irwin County residents are grandparents or other relative raising a child not theirs. There are no grandparents or other relative in Ben Hill or Turner raising a child not theirs.

### Are there children age 5 or under in your household?

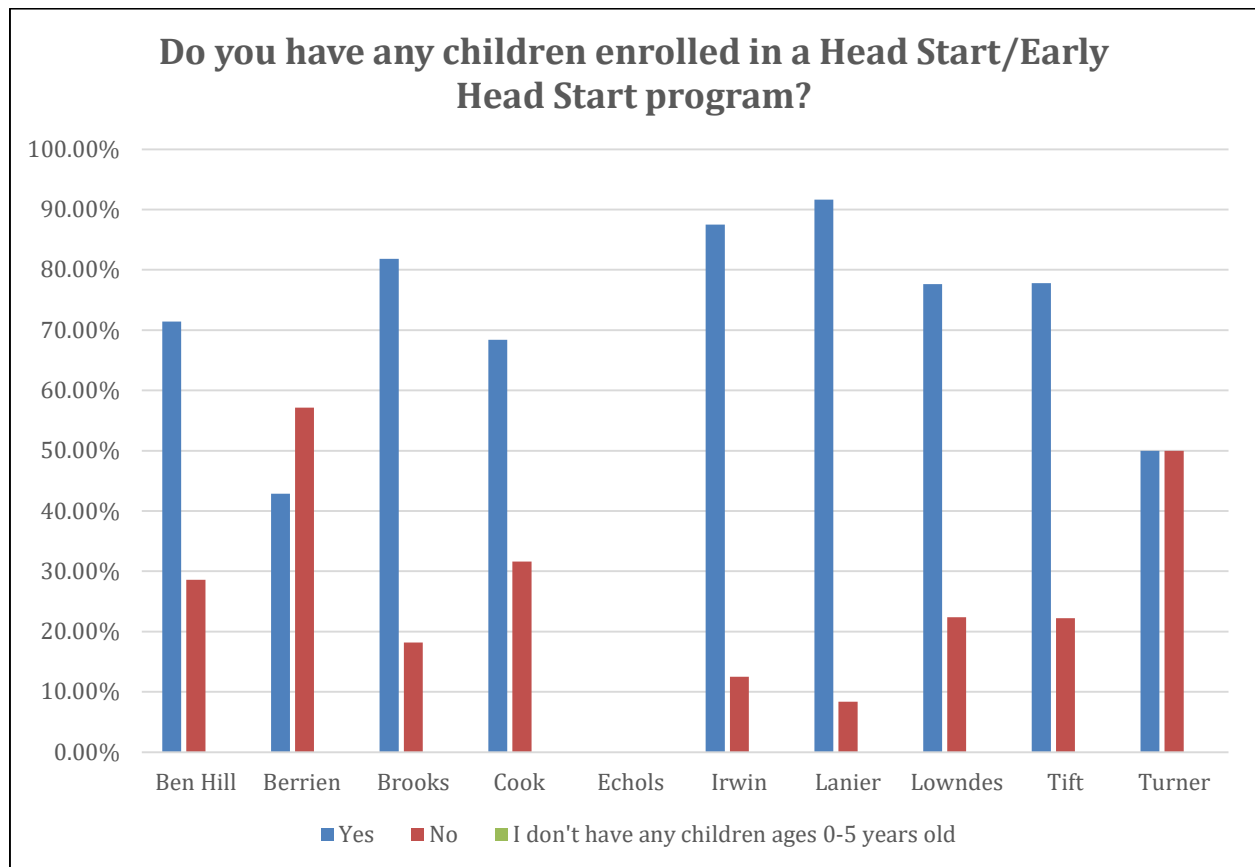
	Yes	No	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	63.64%	36.36%	33	3
Berrien	63.64%	36.36%	11	0
Brooks	58.82%	41.18%	17	0
Cook	59.38%	40.63%	32	0
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	72.73%	27.27%	11	3
Lanier	75.00%	25.00%	16	2
Lowndes	50.38%	49.62%	133	10
Tift	69.23%	30.77%	26	6
Turner	44.44%	55.56%	9	2



Three out of four residents of Lanier County have children age 5 or under in their household. Likewise, about the same ratio of residents of Irwin County answered affirmatively to the question.

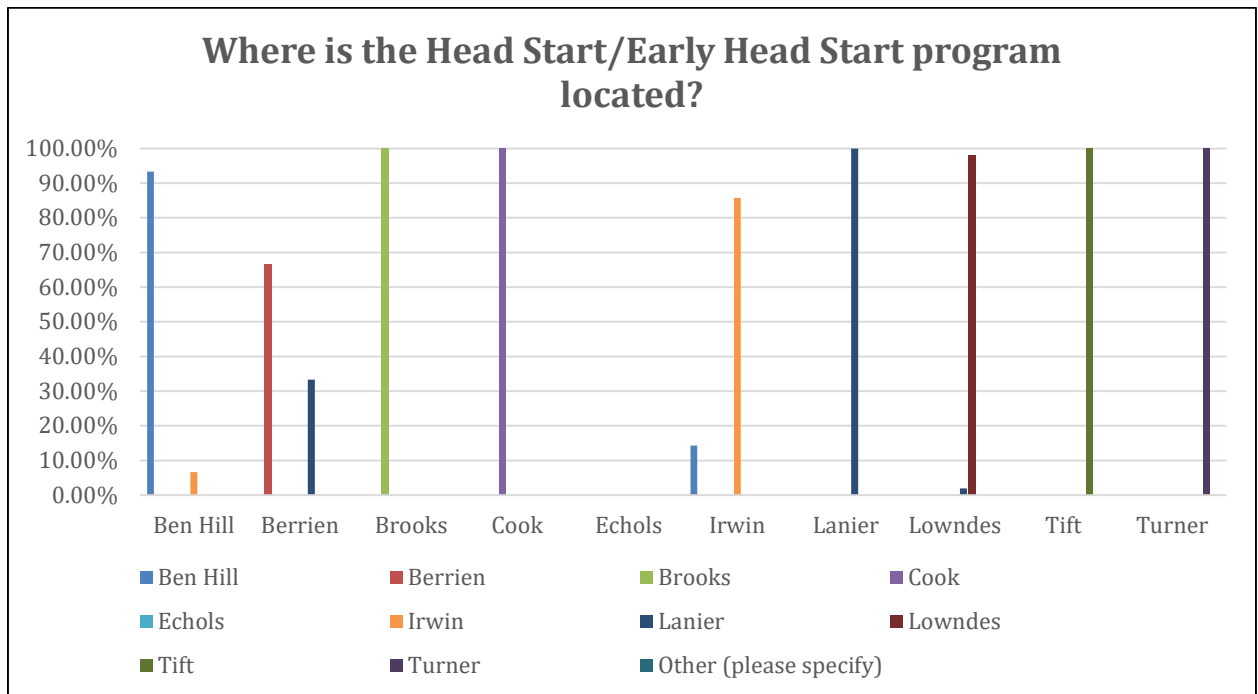
## Do you have any children enrolled in a Head Start/Early Head Start program?

	Yes	No	I don't have any children ages 0-5 years old	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	71.43%	28.57%	0.00%	21	15
Berrien	42.86%	57.14%	0.00%	7	4
Brooks	81.82%	18.18%	0.00%	11	6
Cook	68.42%	31.58%	0.00%	19	13
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	87.50%	12.50%	0.00%	8	6
Lanier	91.67%	8.33%	0.00%	16	2
Lowndes	77.61%	22.39%	0.00%	67	76
Tift	77.78%	22.22%	0.00%	18	14
Turner	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	4	7



A majority of Lanier County residents (92%) have children enrolled in a Head Start/Early Head Start program.

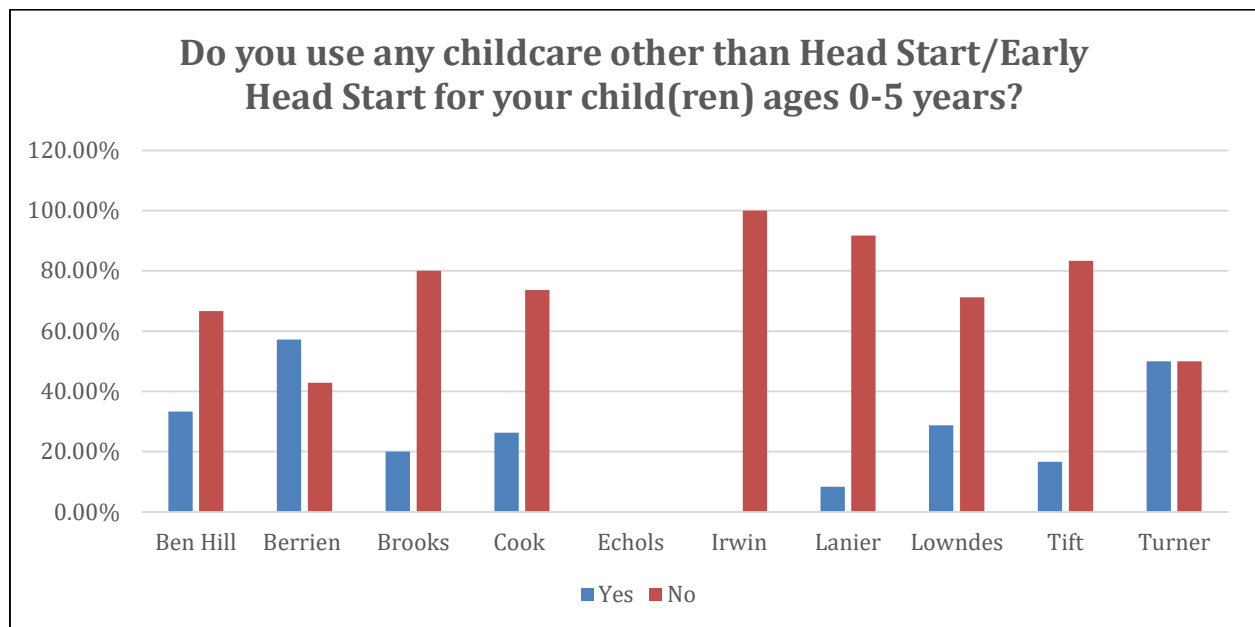
Where is the Head Start/Early Head Start program located?										
	Ben Hill	Berrien	Brooks	Cook	Echols	Irwin	Lanier	Lowndes	Tift	Turner
Ben Hill	93.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Berrien	0.00%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Brooks	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cook	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Irwin	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	85.71%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lanier	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	1.92%	0.00%	0.00%
Lowndes	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	98.08%	0.00%	0.00%
Tift	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Answered</b>	15	3	8	13	0	7	11	52	14	2
<b>Skipped</b>	21	8	9	19	0	7	7	91	18	9



The Head Start/Early Head Start programs are located in the county where the respondent lives.

**Do you use any childcare other than Head Start/Early Head Start for your child(ren) ages 0-5 years?**

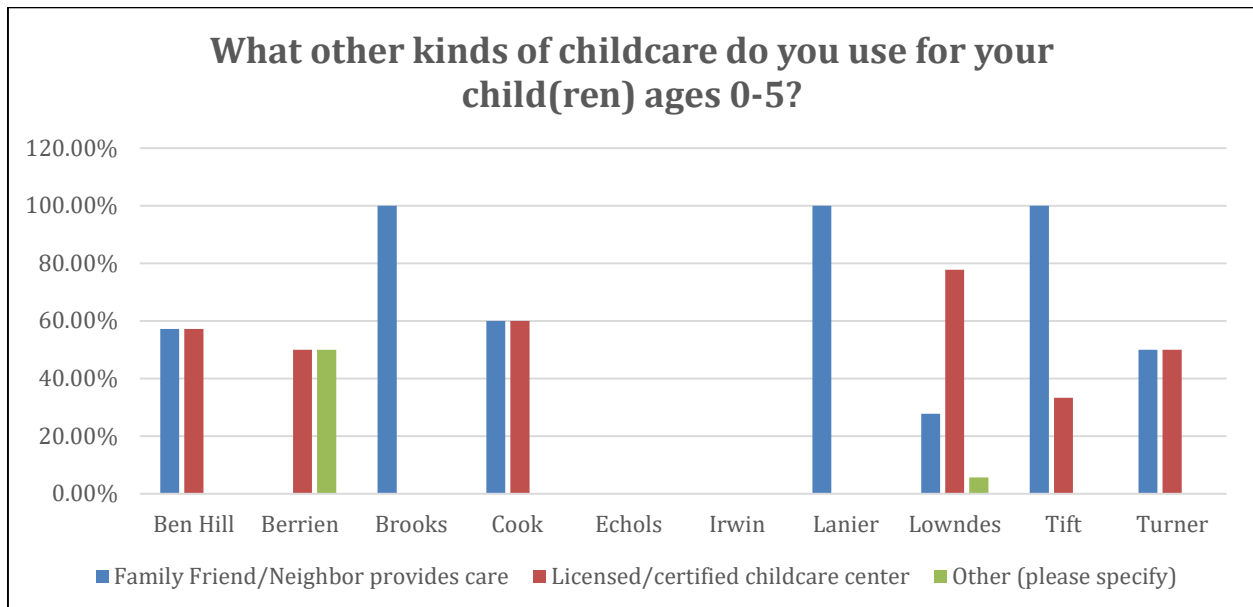
	Yes	No	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	33.33%	66.67%	21	15
Berrien	57.14%	42.86%	7	4
Brooks	20.00%	80.00%	10	7
Cook	26.32%	73.68%	19	13
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	0.00%	100.00%	8	6
Lanier	8.33%	91.67%	12	6
Lowndes	28.79%	71.21%	66	77
Tift	16.67%	83.33%	18	14
Turner	50.00%	50.00%	4	7



Most of the residents of Ben Hill, Brooks, Cook, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes and Tift do not use any childcare other than Head Start/Early Head Start for their children.

**What other kinds of childcare do you use for your child(ren) ages 0-5? (check all that apply)**

	Family Friend/Neighbor provides care	Licensed/certified childcare center	Other (please specify)	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	57.14%	57.14%	0.00%	7	29
Berrien	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	4	7
Brooks	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	16
Cook	60.00%	60.00%	0.00%	5	27
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	14
Lanier	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	17
Lowndes	27.78%	77.78%	5.56%	18	125
Tift	100.00%	33.33%	0.00%	3	29
Turner	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	2	9

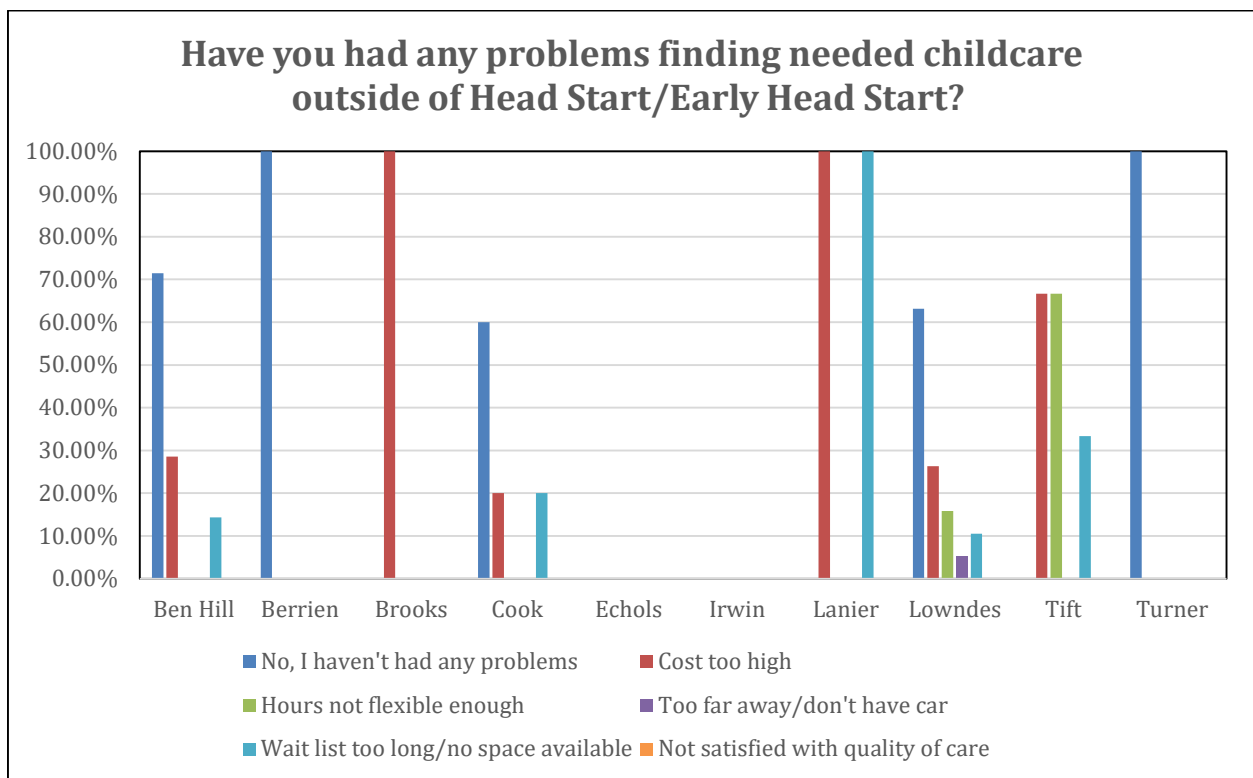


Residents of Brooks, Lanier and Tift use a family friend or neighbor for childcare for their children ages 0-5.



## Have you had any problems finding needed childcare outside of Head Start/Early Head Start? (check all that apply)

	No, I haven't had any problems	Cost too high	Hours not flexible enough	Too far away/don't have car	Wait list too long/no space available	Not satisfied with quality of care	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	71.43%	28.57%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	7	29
Berrien	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	7
Brooks	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	15
Cook	60.00%	20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	0.00%	5	27
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	14
Lanier	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	1	17
Lowndes	63.16%	26.32%	15.79%	5.26%	10.53%	0.00%	19	124
Tift	0.00%	66.67%	66.67%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	3	29
Turner	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	9

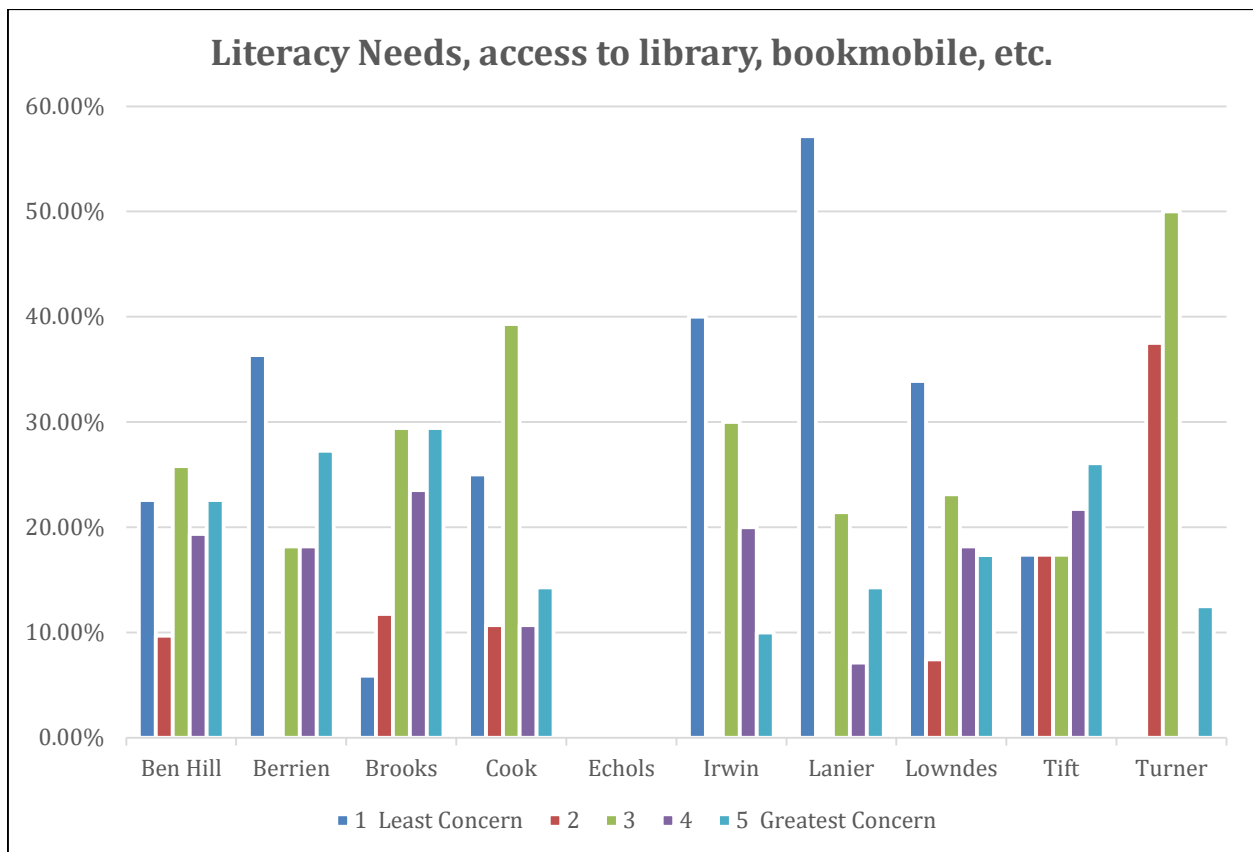


Residents of Berrien and Turner counties have not had any problems finding childcare outside of Head Start/Early Head Start. Brooks County and Lanier County residents stated that the “cost is too high” for childcare outside of Head Start/Early Head Start.

Respondents were asked to use a rating scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the least concern and 5 being the greatest concern about issues their community's experience.

### Literacy Needs, access to library, bookmobile, etc.

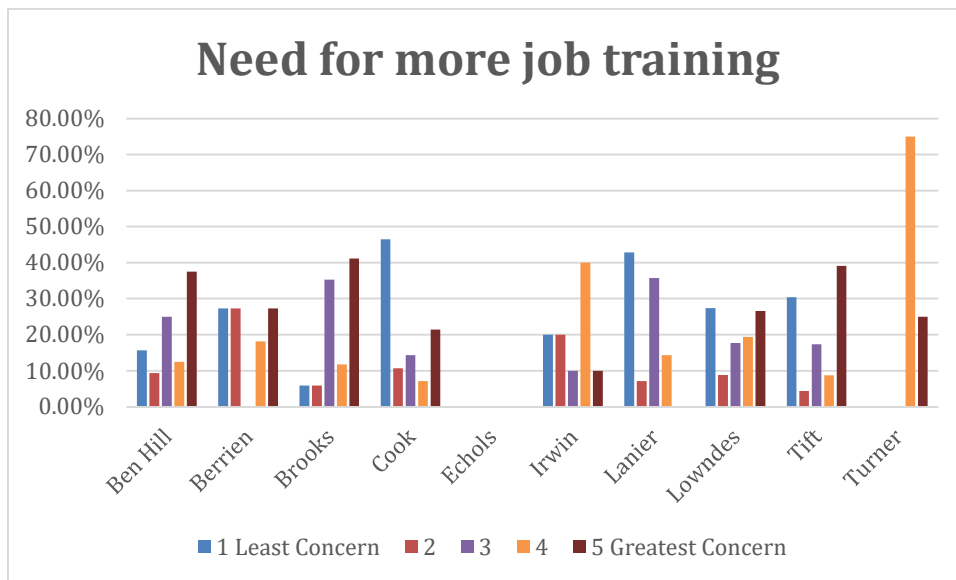
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	22.58%	9.68%	25.81%	19.35%	22.58%	31	3.1
Berrien	36.36%	0.00%	18.18%	18.18%	27.27%	11	3
Brooks	5.88%	11.76%	29.41%	23.53%	29.41%	17	3.59
Cook	25.00%	10.71%	39.29%	10.71%	14.29%	28	2.79
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	0.00%	30.00%	20.00%	10.00%	10	2.6
Lanier	57.14%	0.00%	21.43%	7.14%	14.29%	14	2.21
Lowndes	33.88%	7.44%	23.14%	18.18%	17.36%	121	2.78
Tift	17.39%	17.39%	17.39%	21.74%	26.09%	23	3.22
Turner	0.00%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%	12.50%	8	2.88



Based on the weighted averages, residents did not think Literacy Needs was of great concern; however, Brooks County residents of all the respondents found this topic of greatest concern.

## Need for more job training

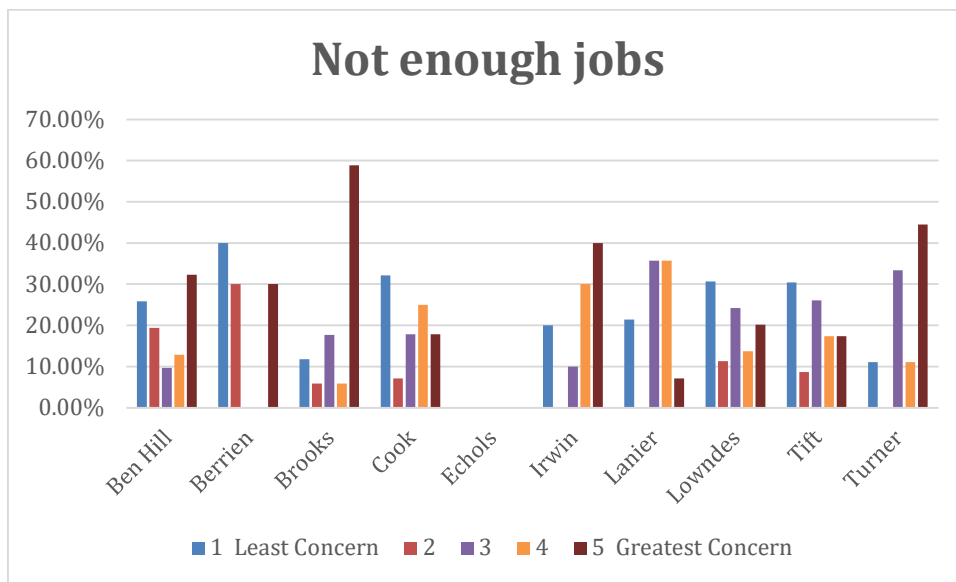
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	15.63%	9.38%	25.00%	12.50%	37.50%	32	3.47
Berrien	27.27%	27.27%	0.00%	18.18%	27.27%	11	2.91
Brooks	5.88%	5.88%	35.29%	11.76%	41.18%	17	3.76
Cook	46.43%	10.71%	14.29%	7.14%	21.43%	28	2.46
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	20.00%	20.00%	10.00%	40.00%	10.00%	10	3
Lanier	42.86%	7.14%	35.71%	14.29%	0.00%	14	2.21
Lowndes	27.42%	8.87%	17.74%	19.35%	26.61%	124	3.09
Tift	30.43%	4.35%	17.39%	8.70%	39.13%	23	3.22
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	8	4.25



All respondents of Turner County think “Need for more job training” is of great concern more than respondents of the other counties.

## Not enough jobs

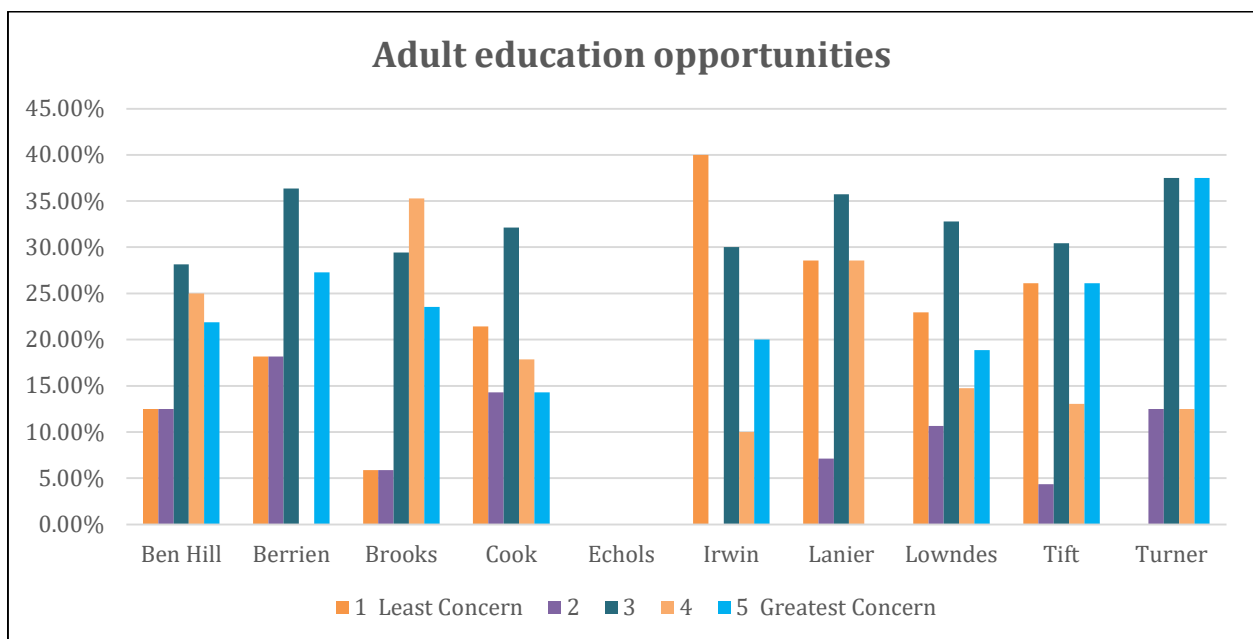
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	25.81%	19.35%	9.68%	12.90%	32.26%	31	3.06
Berrien	40.00%	30.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.00%	10	2.5
Brooks	11.76%	5.88%	17.65%	5.88%	58.82%	17	3.94
Cook	32.14%	7.14%	17.86%	25.00%	17.86%	28	2.89
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	20.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	40.00%	10	3.7
Lanier	21.43%	0.00%	35.71%	35.71%	7.14%	14	3.07
Lowndes	30.65%	11.29%	24.19%	13.71%	20.16%	124	2.81
Tift	30.43%	8.70%	26.09%	17.39%	17.39%	23	2.83
Turner	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	11.11%	44.44%	9	3.78



About three out of five Brooks County residents believe that “not enough jobs” is of greatest concern.

## Adult education opportunities

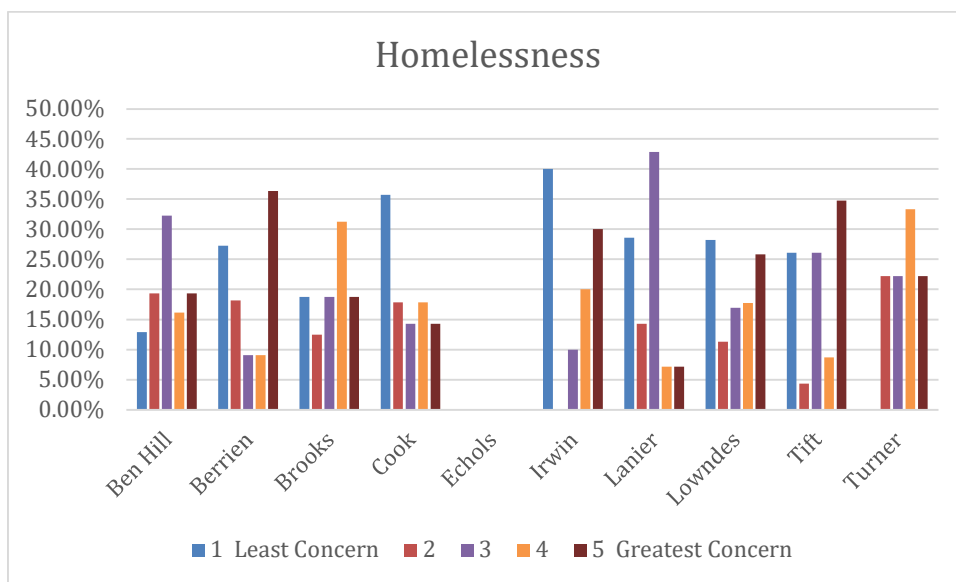
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	12.50%	12.50%	28.13%	25.00%	21.88%	32	3.31
Berrien	18.18%	18.18%	36.36%	0.00%	27.27%	11	3
Brooks	5.88%	5.88%	29.41%	35.29%	23.53%	17	3.65
Cook	21.43%	14.29%	32.14%	17.86%	14.29%	28	2.89
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	0.00%	30.00%	10.00%	20.00%	10	2.7
Lanier	28.57%	7.14%	35.71%	28.57%	0.00%	14	2.64
Lowndes	22.95%	10.66%	32.79%	14.75%	18.85%	122	2.96
Tift	26.09%	4.35%	30.43%	13.04%	26.09%	23	3.09
Turner	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	12.50%	37.50%	8	3.75



Fifty percent (50%) of Turner County residents think “adult education opportunities” is of concern by awarding it a 4 or 5 on the rating scale.

## Homelessness

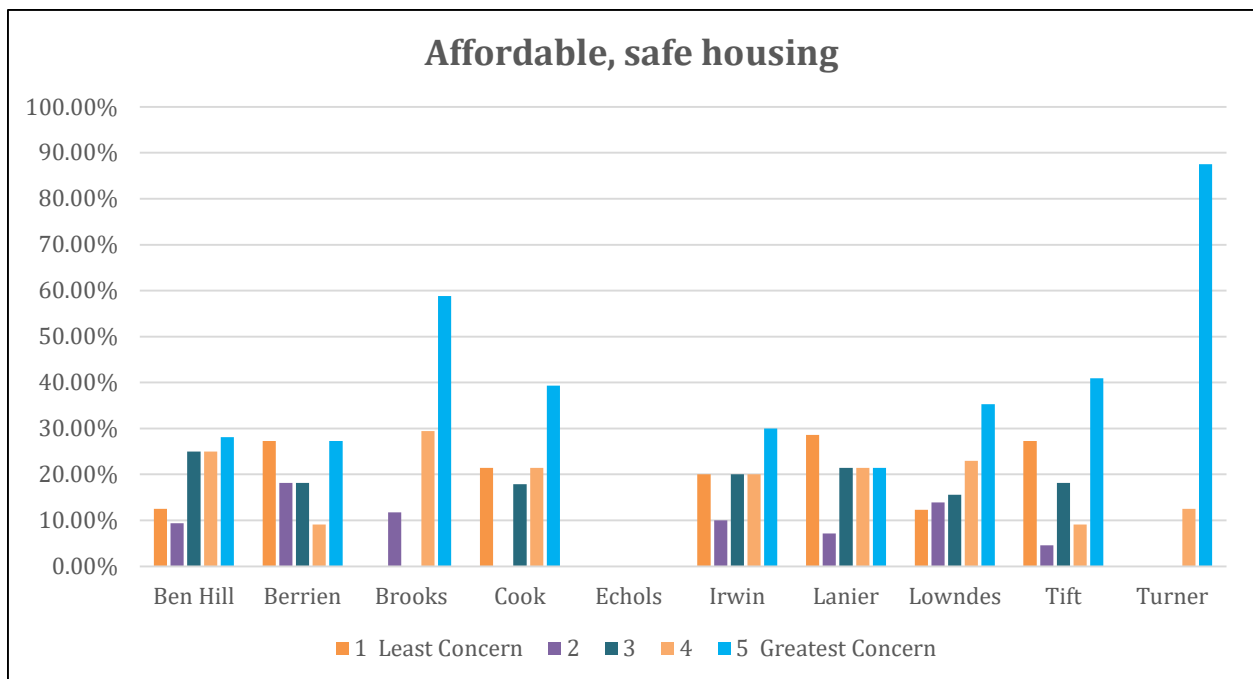
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	12.90%	19.35%	32.26%	16.13%	19.35%	31	3.1
Berrien	27.27%	18.18%	9.09%	9.09%	36.36%	11	3.09
Brooks	18.75%	12.50%	18.75%	31.25%	18.75%	16	3.19
Cook	35.71%	17.86%	14.29%	17.86%	14.29%	28	2.57
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	30.00%	10	3
Lanier	28.57%	14.29%	42.86%	7.14%	7.14%	14	2.5
Lowndes	28.23%	11.29%	16.94%	17.74%	25.81%	124	3.02
Tift	26.09%	4.35%	26.09%	8.70%	34.78%	23	3.22
Turner	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	33.33%	22.22%	9	3.56



Turner County residents were the only respondents to not rate homelessness as a 1 -least concern- on the rating scale. They also had the highest weighted average of all the counties.

## Affordable, safe housing

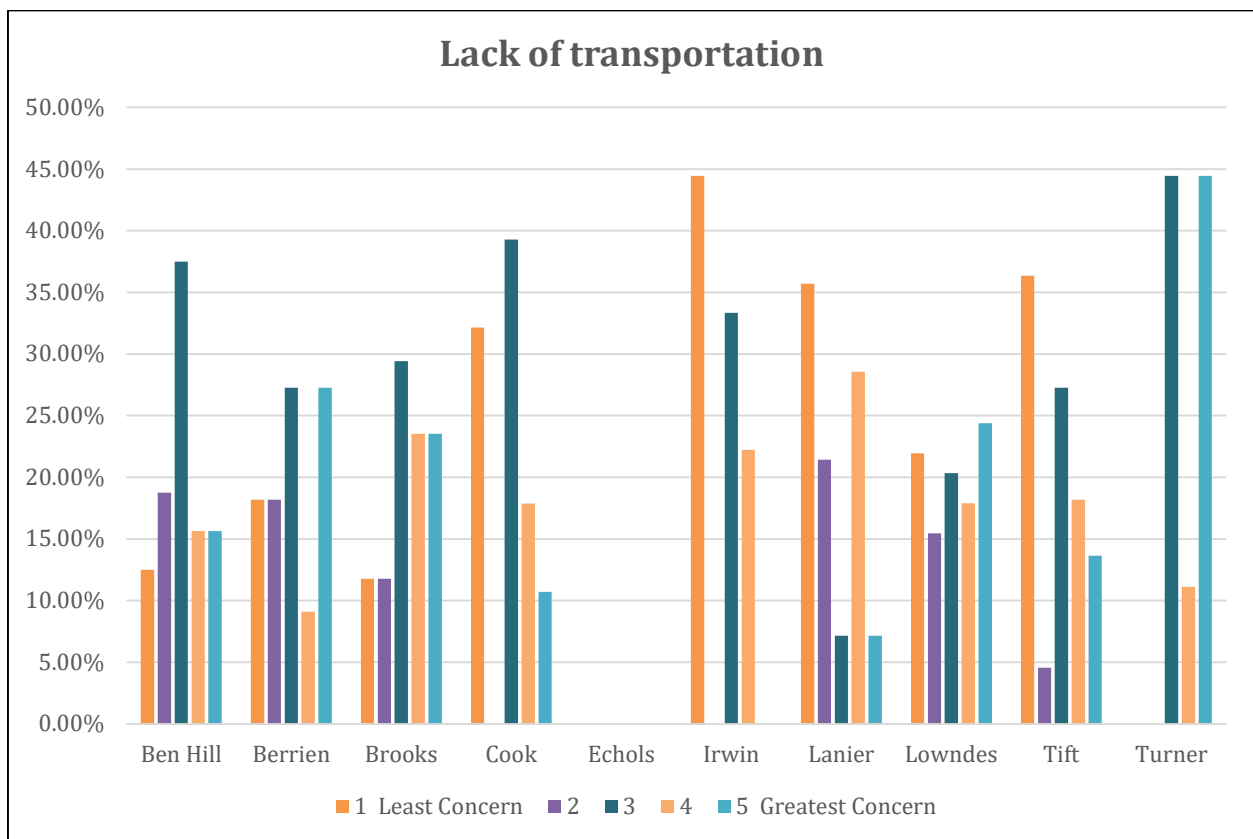
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	12.50%	9.38%	25.00%	25.00%	28.13%	32	3.47
Berrien	27.27%	18.18%	18.18%	9.09%	27.27%	11	2.91
Brooks	0.00%	11.76%	0.00%	29.41%	58.82%	17	4.35
Cook	21.43%	0.00%	17.86%	21.43%	39.29%	28	3.57
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	20.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	30.00%	10	3.3
Lanier	28.57%	7.14%	21.43%	21.43%	21.43%	14	3
Lowndes	12.30%	13.93%	15.57%	22.95%	35.25%	122	3.55
Tift	27.27%	4.55%	18.18%	9.09%	40.91%	22	3.32
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	8	4.88



Turner County respondents awarded “Affordable, safe housing” the highest weighted average. All of them gave the topic a 4 or 5 on the rating scale.

## Lack of transportation

	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	12.50%	18.75%	37.50%	15.63%	15.63%	32	3.03
Berrien	18.18%	18.18%	27.27%	9.09%	27.27%	11	3.09
Brooks	11.76%	11.76%	29.41%	23.53%	23.53%	17	3.35
Cook	32.14%	0.00%	39.29%	17.86%	10.71%	28	2.75
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	44.44%	0.00%	33.33%	22.22%	0.00%	9	2.33
Lanier	35.71%	21.43%	7.14%	28.57%	7.14%	14	2.5
Lowndes	21.95%	15.45%	20.33%	17.89%	24.39%	123	3.07
Tift	36.36%	4.55%	27.27%	18.18%	13.64%	22	2.68
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	11.11%	44.44%	9	4

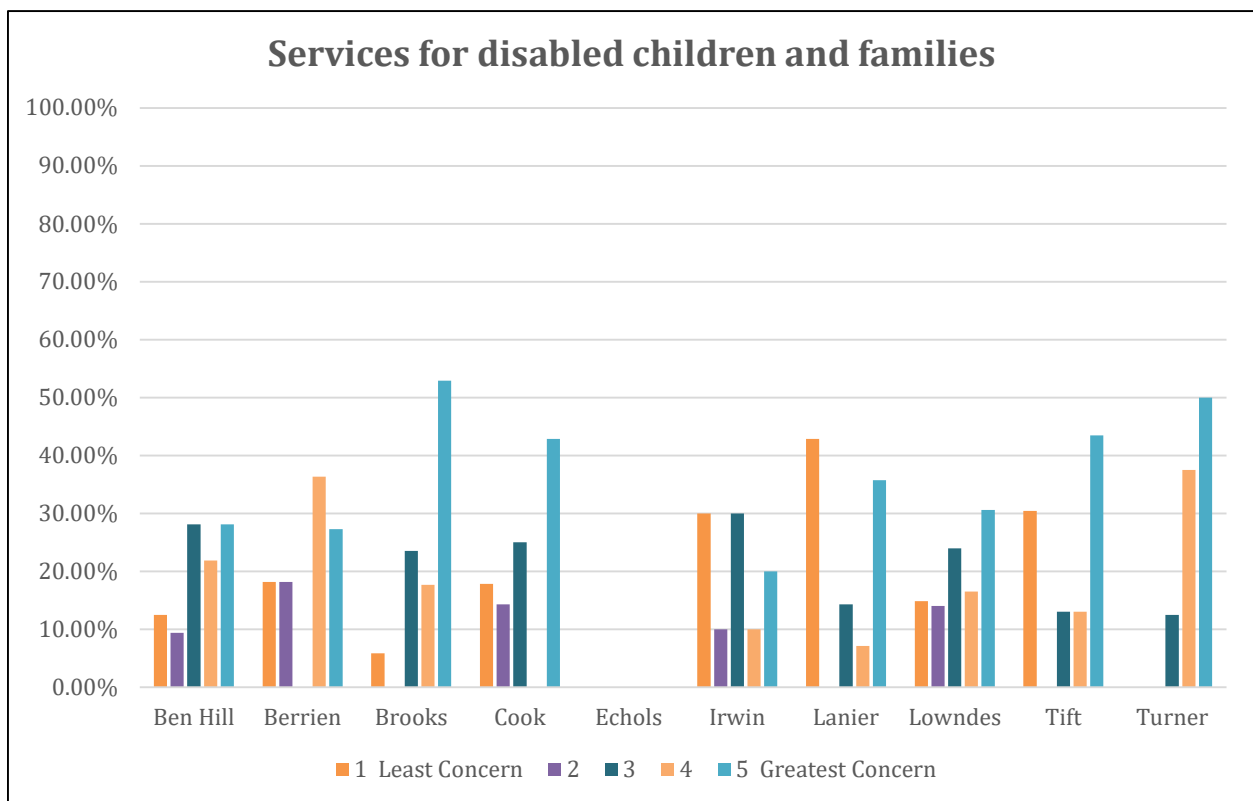


The highest weighted average is awarded to Turner County respondents – 4.0. One hundred percent of them gave “lack of transportation” at least a rating of 3 on the “concern” scale.



## Services for disabled children and families

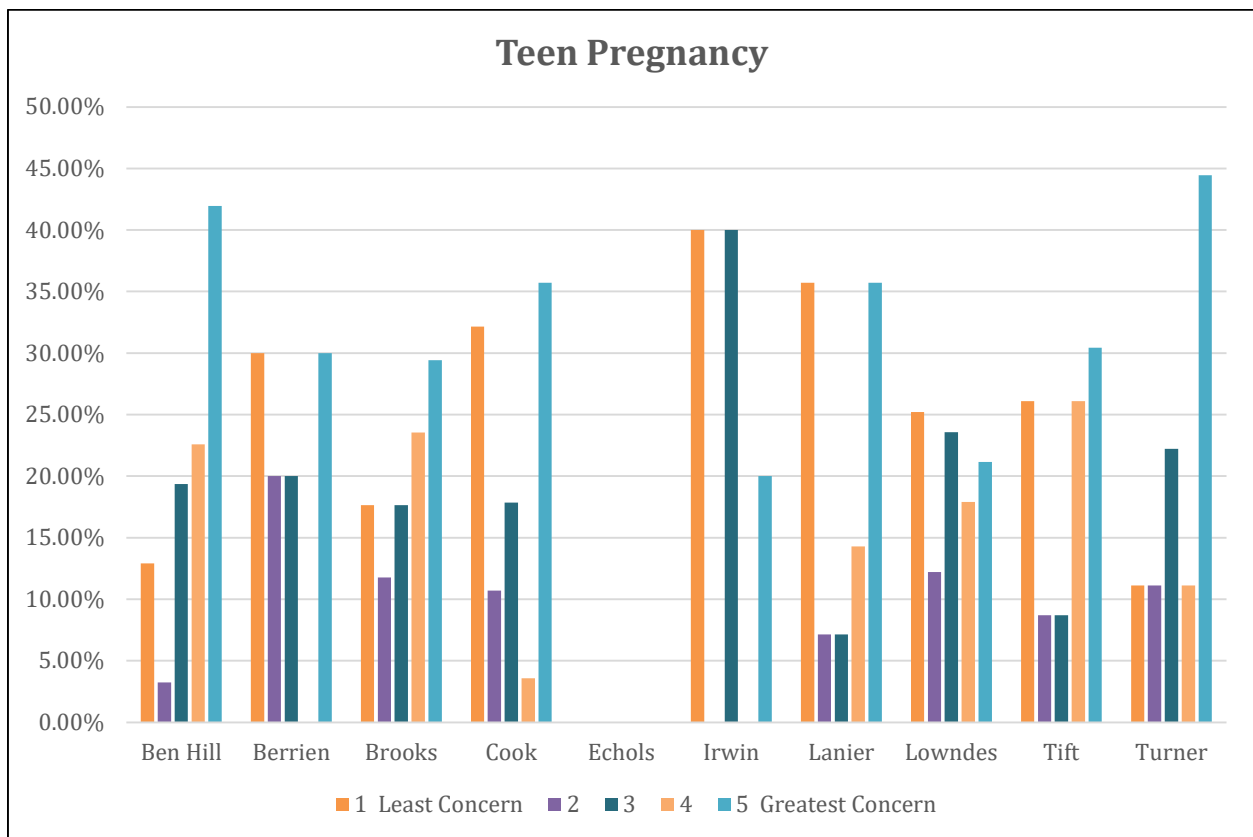
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	12.50%	9.38%	28.13%	21.88%	28.13%	32	3.44
Berrien	18.18%	18.18%	0.00%	36.36%	27.27%	11	3.36
Brooks	5.88%	0.00%	23.53%	17.65%	52.94%	17	4.12
Cook	17.86%	14.29%	25.00%	0.00%	42.86%	28	3.36
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	30.00%	10.00%	30.00%	10.00%	20.00%	10	2.8
Lanier	42.86%	0.00%	14.29%	7.14%	35.71%	14	2.93
Lowndes	14.88%	14.05%	23.97%	16.53%	30.58%	121	3.34
Tift	30.43%	0.00%	13.04%	13.04%	43.48%	23	3.39
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%	8	4.38



Turner County respondents awarded “services for disabled children and families” the highest weighted average of 4.38; they gave the topic at least a 3 or better on the rating scale.

## Teen Pregnancy

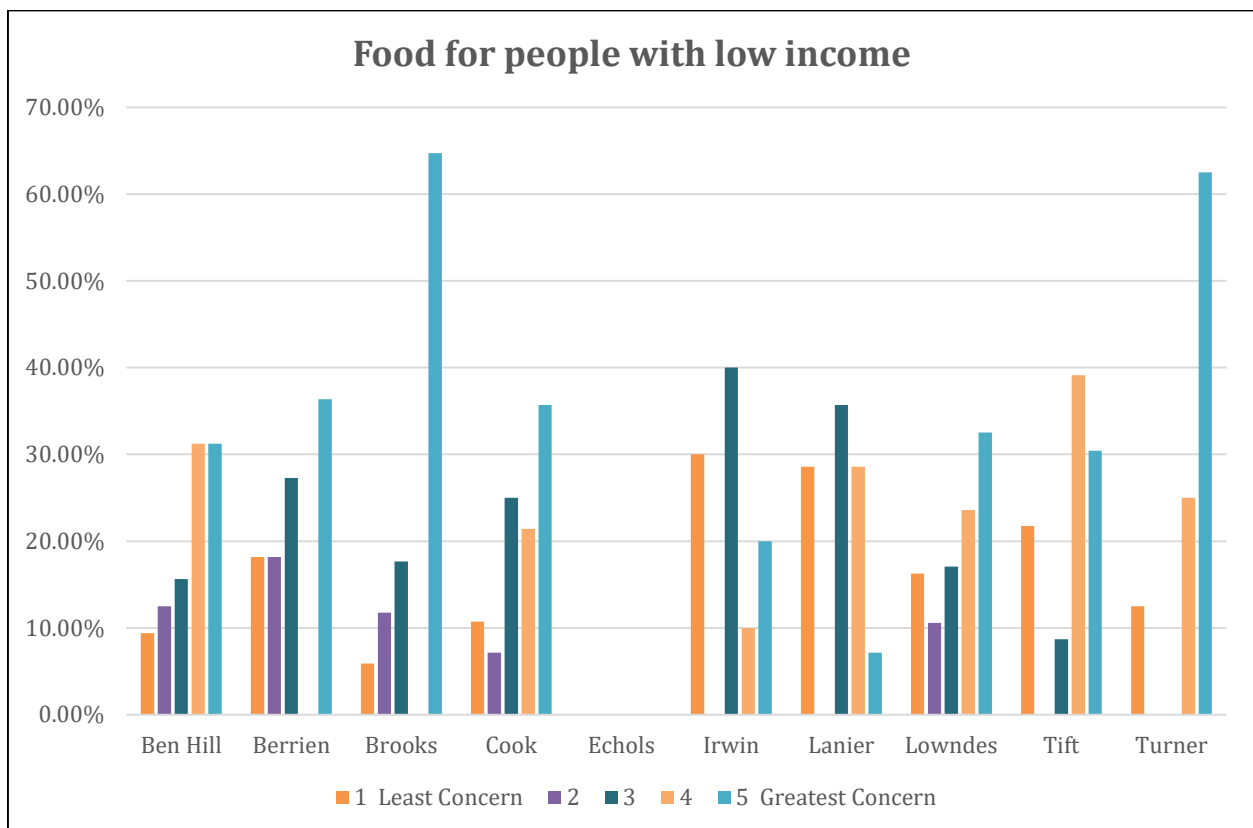
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	12.90%	3.23%	19.35%	22.58%	41.94%	31	3.77
Berrien	30.00%	20.00%	20.00%	0.00%	30.00%	10	2.8
Brooks	17.65%	11.76%	17.65%	23.53%	29.41%	17	3.35
Cook	32.14%	10.71%	17.86%	3.57%	35.71%	28	3
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	0.00%	40.00%	0.00%	20.00%	10	2.6
Lanier	35.71%	7.14%	7.14%	14.29%	35.71%	14	3.07
Lowndes	25.20%	12.20%	23.58%	17.89%	21.14%	123	2.98
Tift	26.09%	8.70%	8.70%	26.09%	30.43%	23	3.26
Turner	11.11%	11.11%	22.22%	11.11%	44.44%	9	3.67



Ben Hill County respondents awarded “teen pregnancy” the highest weighted average, 3.77 of all the counties. More than three out of five of them gave the topic a rating of 4 or 5.

## Food for people with low income

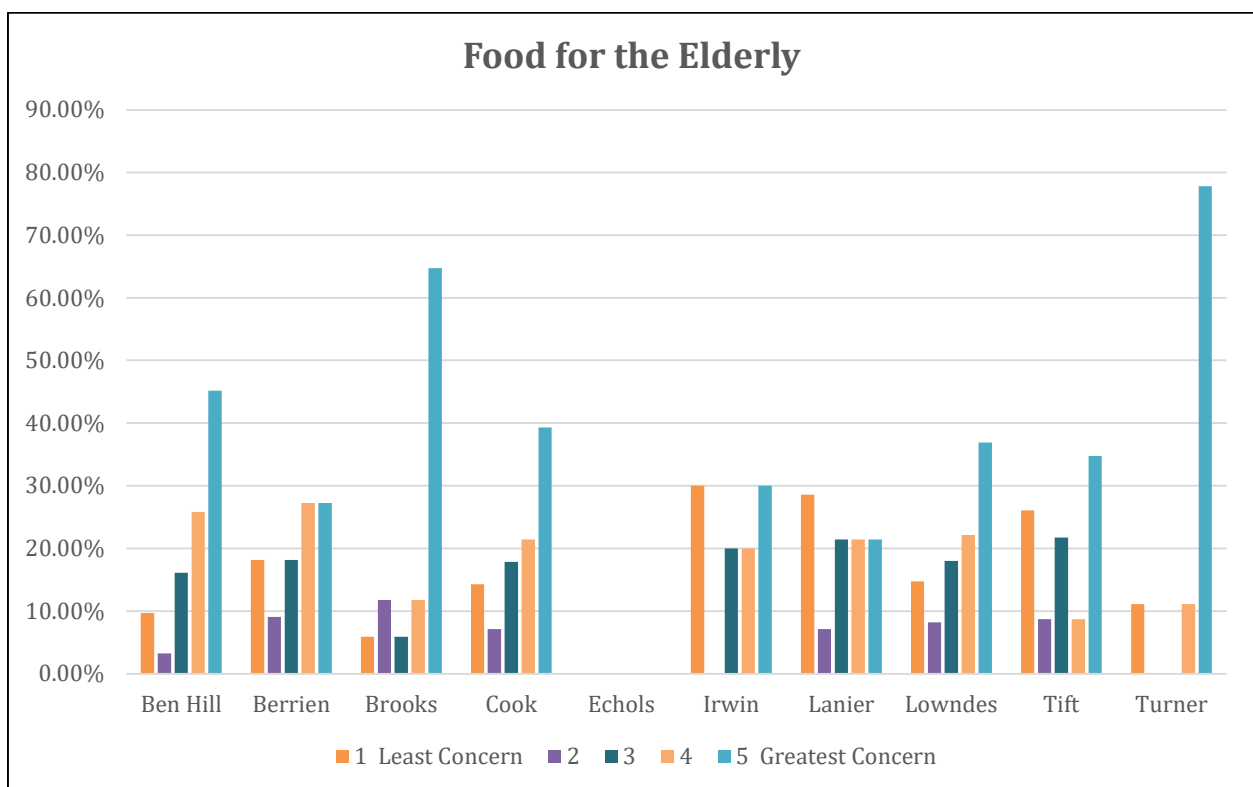
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	9.38%	12.50%	15.63%	31.25%	31.25%	32	3.63
Berrien	18.18%	18.18%	27.27%	0.00%	36.36%	11	3.18
Brooks	5.88%	11.76%	17.65%	0.00%	64.71%	17	4.06
Cook	10.71%	7.14%	25.00%	21.43%	35.71%	28	3.64
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	30.00%	0.00%	40.00%	10.00%	20.00%	10	2.9
Lanier	28.57%	0.00%	35.71%	28.57%	7.14%	14	2.86
Lowndes	16.26%	10.57%	17.07%	23.58%	32.52%	123	3.46
Tift	21.74%	0.00%	8.70%	39.13%	30.43%	23	3.57
Turner	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	62.50%	8	4.25



About 88% of Turner County respondents gave “food for people with low income” a rating of 4 or 5 on the concern scale of 1 to 5; their weighted average of 4.25 was also the highest average of all counties.

## Food for the Elderly

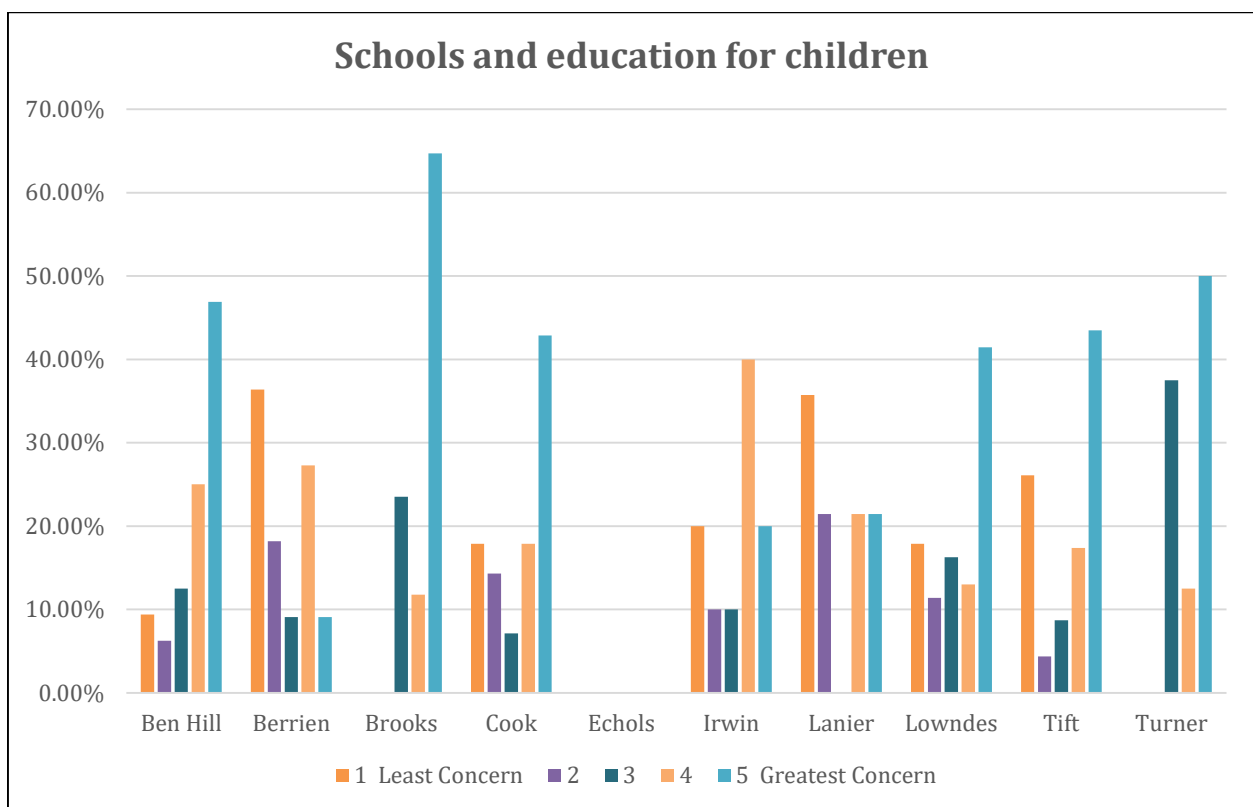
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	9.68%	3.23%	16.13%	25.81%	45.16%	31	3.94
Berrien	18.18%	9.09%	18.18%	27.27%	27.27%	11	3.36
Brooks	5.88%	11.76%	5.88%	11.76%	64.71%	17	4.18
Cook	14.29%	7.14%	17.86%	21.43%	39.29%	28	3.64
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	30.00%	0.00%	20.00%	20.00%	30.00%	10	3.2
Lanier	28.57%	7.14%	21.43%	21.43%	21.43%	14	3
Lowndes	14.75%	8.20%	18.03%	22.13%	36.89%	122	3.58
Tift	26.09%	8.70%	21.74%	8.70%	34.78%	23	3.17
Turner	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	77.78%	9	4.44



About four out of five Turner County respondents rated “food for the Elderly” the greatest concern and an average of 4.44 – highest of all averages.

## Schools and education for children

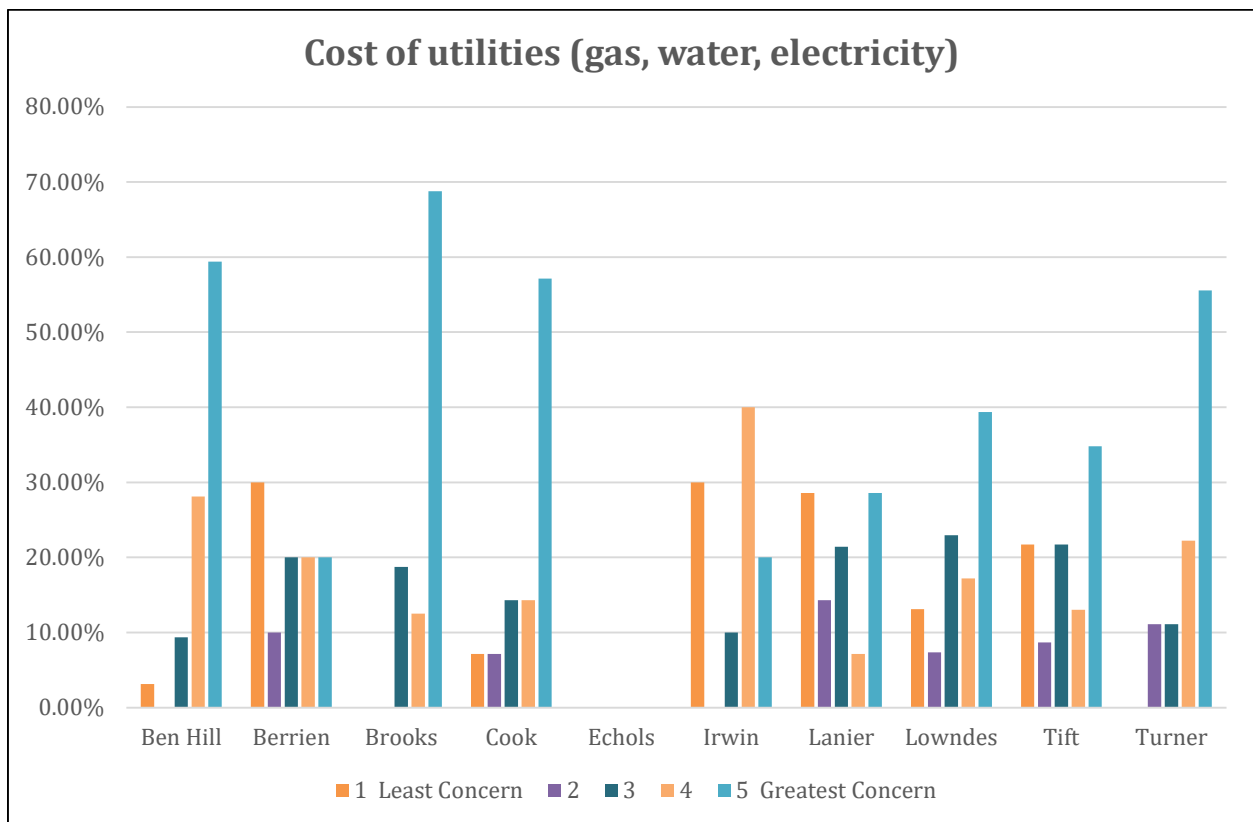
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	9.38%	6.25%	12.50%	25.00%	46.88%	32	3.94
Berrien	36.36%	18.18%	9.09%	27.27%	9.09%	11	2.55
Brooks	0.00%	0.00%	23.53%	11.76%	64.71%	17	4.41
Cook	17.86%	14.29%	7.14%	17.86%	42.86%	28	3.54
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	20.00%	10.00%	10.00%	40.00%	20.00%	10	3.3
Lanier	35.71%	21.43%	0.00%	21.43%	21.43%	14	2.71
Lowndes	17.89%	11.38%	16.26%	13.01%	41.46%	123	3.49
Tift	26.09%	4.35%	8.70%	17.39%	43.48%	23	3.48
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	12.50%	50.00%	8	4.13



About two out of three Brooks County respondents gave “schools and education for children” a rating of “greatest concern” and had the greatest weighted average – 4.41.

## Cost of utilities (gas, water, electricity)

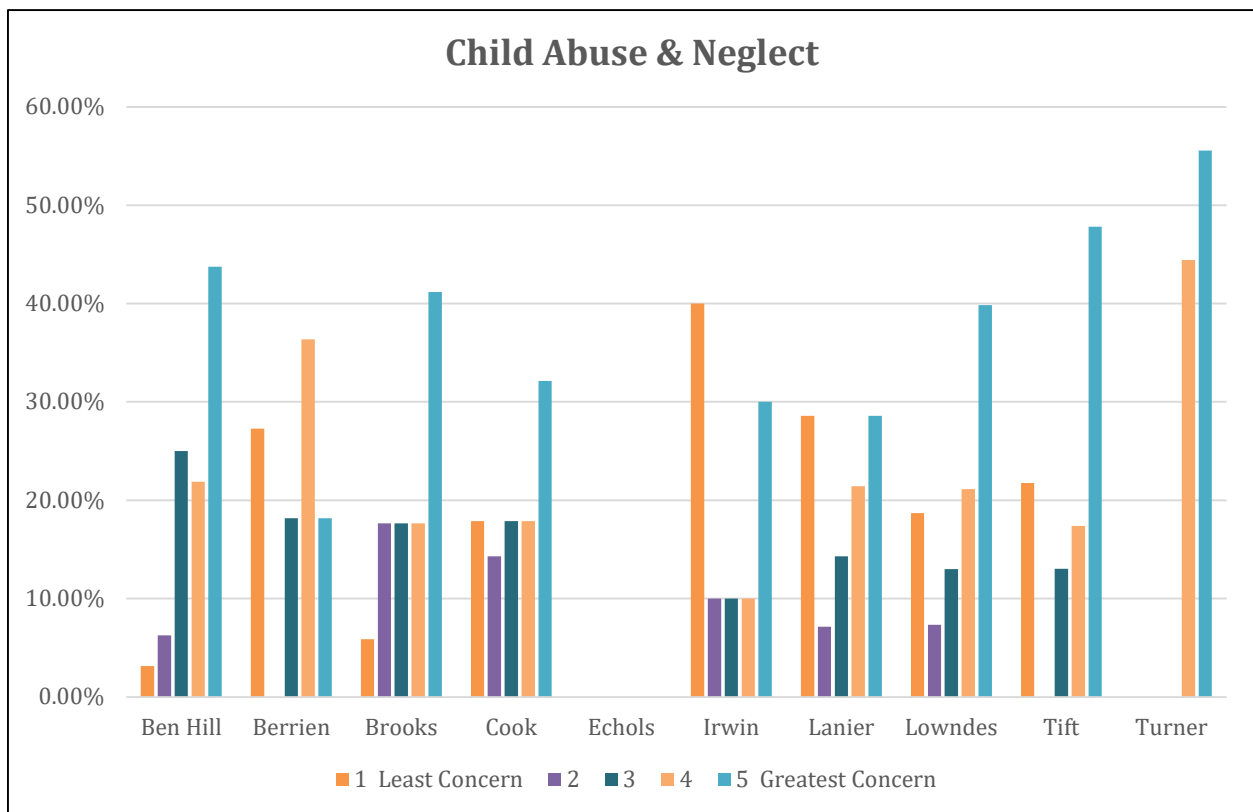
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	3.13%	0.00%	9.38%	28.13%	59.38%	32	4.41
Berrien	30.00%	10.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	10	2.9
Brooks	0.00%	0.00%	18.75%	12.50%	68.75%	16	4.5
Cook	7.14%	7.14%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%	28	4.07
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	30.00%	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	20.00%	10	3.2
Lanier	28.57%	14.29%	21.43%	7.14%	28.57%	14	2.93
Lowndes	13.11%	7.38%	22.95%	17.21%	39.34%	122	3.62
Tift	21.74%	8.70%	21.74%	13.04%	34.78%	23	3.3
Turner	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	22.22%	55.56%	9	4.22



Brooks County respondents gave “cost of utilities” a weighted average of 4.5 – the highest of all the counties with four out of five giving 4s and 5s on the concern scale. Ben Hill County respondents were very close behind with a rating of 4.41 and 88% giving 4s or 5s on the rating scale.

## Child Abuse & Neglect

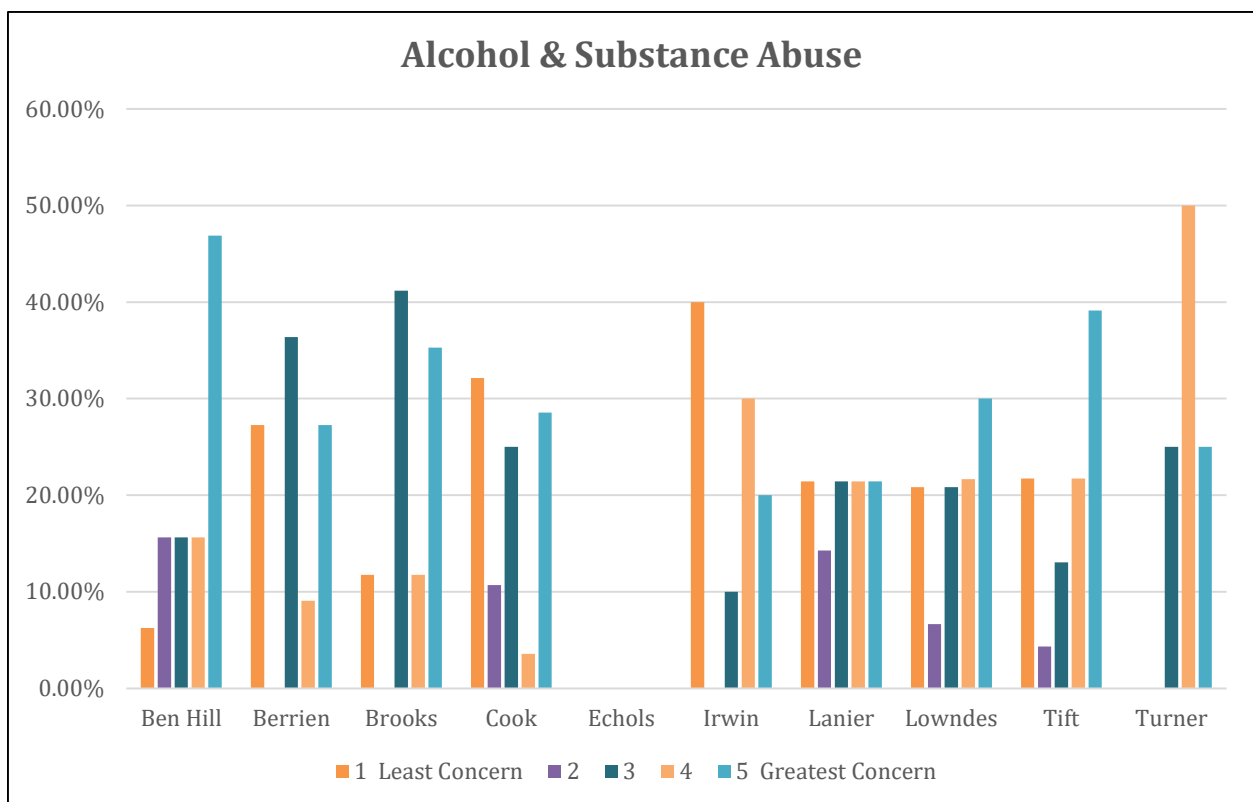
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	3.13%	6.25%	25.00%	21.88%	43.75%	32	3.97
Berrien	27.27%	0.00%	18.18%	36.36%	18.18%	11	3.18
Brooks	5.88%	17.65%	17.65%	17.65%	41.18%	17	3.71
Cook	17.86%	14.29%	17.86%	17.86%	32.14%	28	3.32
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	30.00%	10	2.8
Lanier	28.57%	7.14%	14.29%	21.43%	28.57%	14	3.14
Lowndes	18.70%	7.32%	13.01%	21.14%	39.84%	123	3.56
Tift	21.74%	0.00%	13.04%	17.39%	47.83%	23	3.7
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	9	4.56



One hundred percent (100%) of Turner County respondents gave “child abuse & neglect” a rating of great concern (4s and 5s), 4.56.

## Alcohol & Substance Abuse

	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	6.25%	15.63%	15.63%	15.63%	46.88%	32	3.81
Berrien	27.27%	0.00%	36.36%	9.09%	27.27%	11	3.09
Brooks	11.76%	0.00%	41.18%	11.76%	35.29%	17	3.59
Cook	32.14%	10.71%	25.00%	3.57%	28.57%	28	2.86
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	0.00%	10.00%	30.00%	20.00%	10	2.9
Lanier	21.43%	14.29%	21.43%	21.43%	21.43%	14	3.07
Lowndes	20.83%	6.67%	20.83%	21.67%	30.00%	120	3.33
Tift	21.74%	4.35%	13.04%	21.74%	39.13%	23	3.52
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	8	4

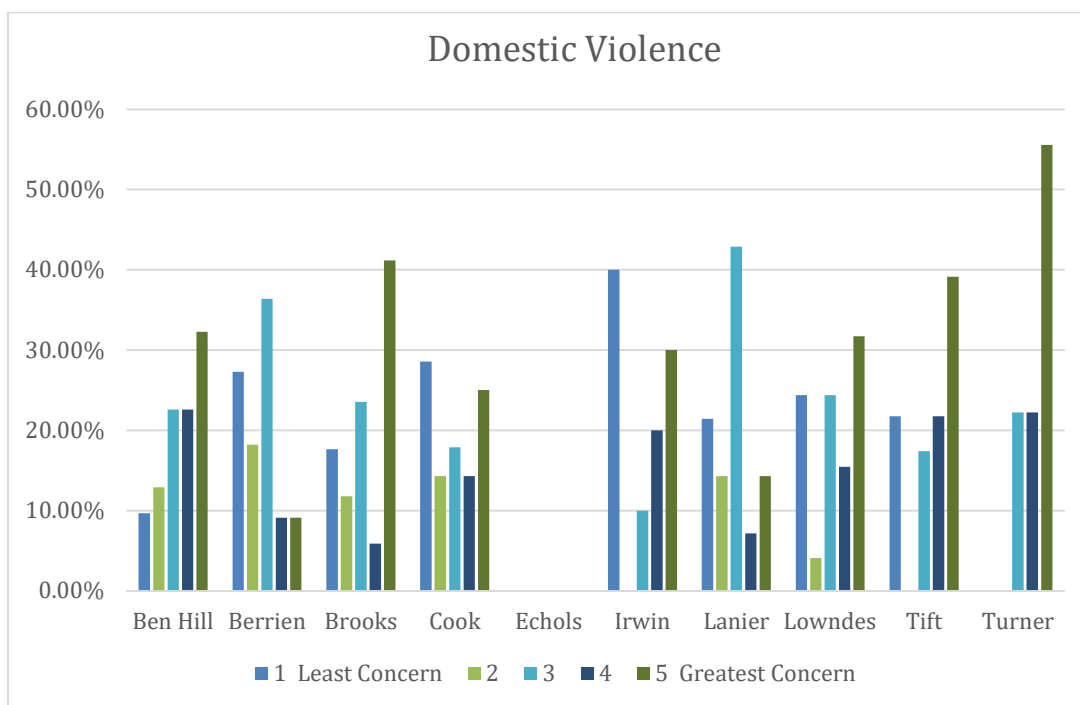


Turner County respondents awarded “alcohol & substance abuse” the highest average of all counties – a 4.0. All of its respondents gave ratings of at least a 3 on the scale.



## Domestic violence

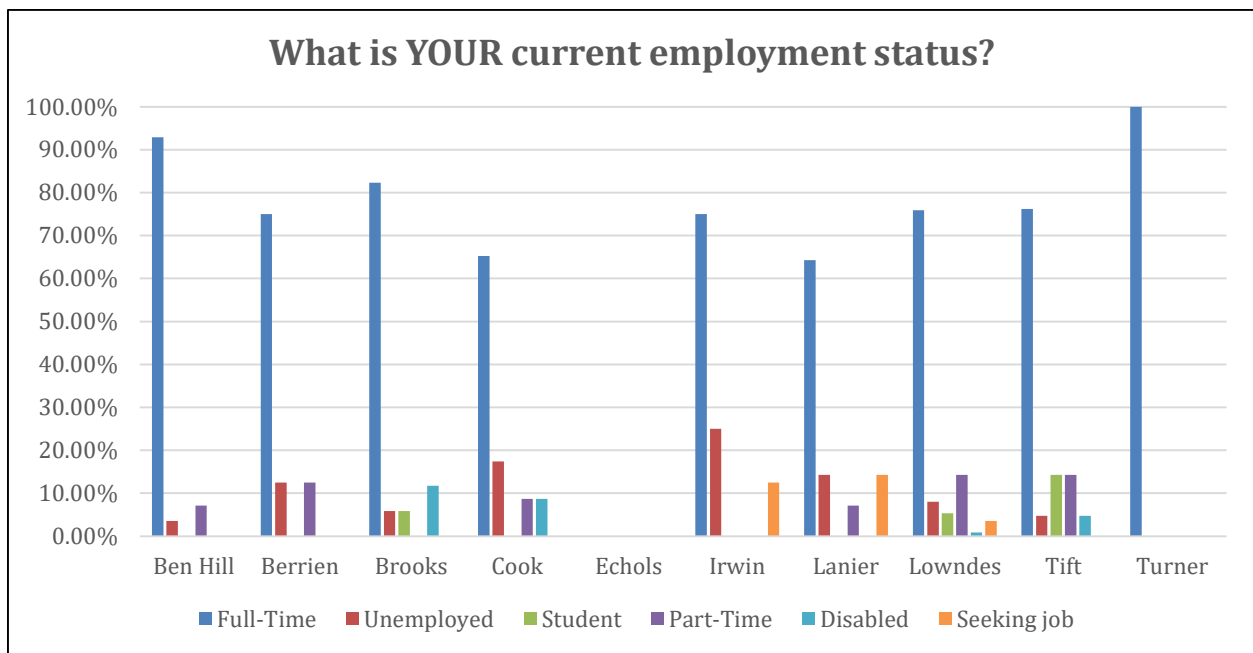
	1 Least Concern	2	3	4	5 Greatest Concern	Total	Weighted Average
Ben Hill	9.68%	12.90%	22.58%	22.58%	32.26%	31	3.55
Berrien	27.27%	18.18%	36.36%	9.09%	9.09%	11	2.55
Brooks	17.65%	11.76%	23.53%	5.88%	41.18%	17	3.41
Cook	28.57%	14.29%	17.86%	14.29%	25.00%	28	2.93
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	40.00%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	30.00%	10	3
Lanier	21.43%	14.29%	42.86%	7.14%	14.29%	14	2.79
Lowndes	24.39%	4.07%	24.39%	15.45%	31.71%	123	3.26
Tift	21.74%	0.00%	17.39%	21.74%	39.13%	23	3.57
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	55.56%	9	4.33



Once again, Turner County respondents awarded the highest average of 4.33 to “domestic violence”. The lowest rating given by them was a 3 – 100% gave ratings of 3 or better.

## What is YOUR current employment status? (check all that apply)

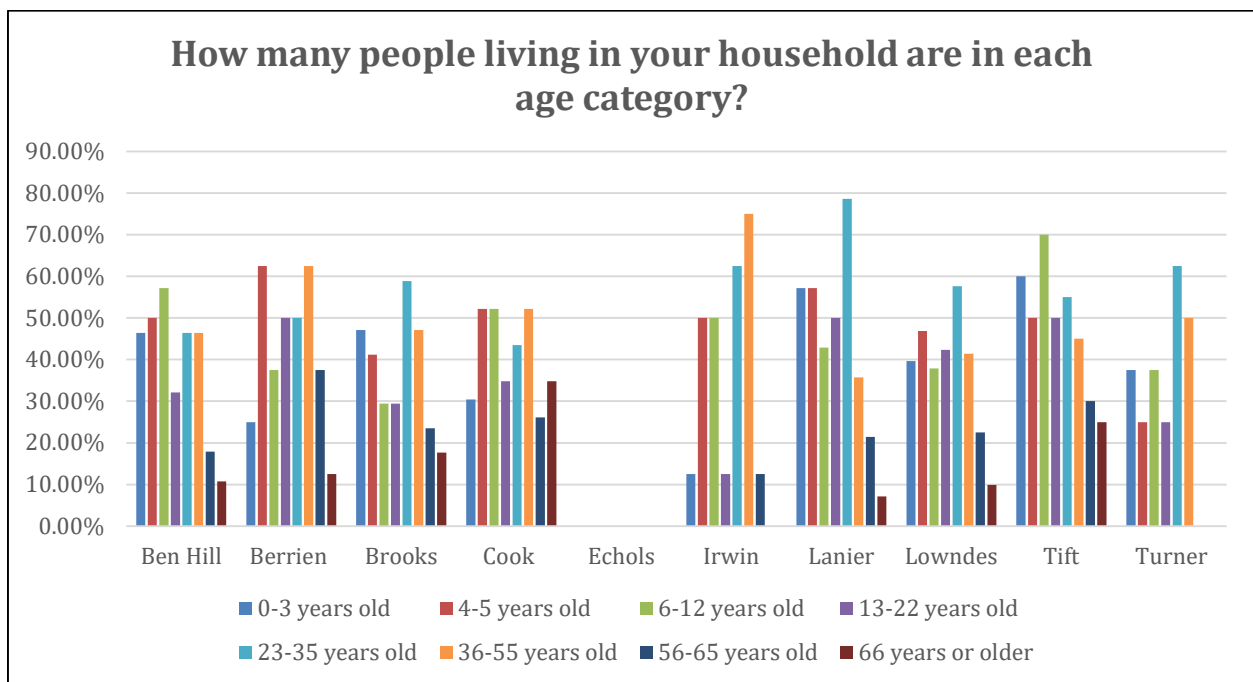
	Full-Time	Unemployed	Student	Part-Time	Disabled	Seeking job	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	92.86%	3.57%	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%	28	8
Berrien	75.00%	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3
Brooks	82.35%	5.88%	5.88%	0.00%	11.76%	0.00%	17	0
Cook	65.22%	17.39%	0.00%	8.70%	8.70%	0.00%	23	9
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	75.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	8	6
Lanier	64.29%	14.29%	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	14.29%	14	4
Lowndes	75.89%	8.04%	5.36%	14.29%	0.89%	3.57%	19	124
Tift	76.19%	4.76%	14.29%	14.29%	4.76%	0.00%	3	29
Turner	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	9



The majority of respondents in all counties work full-time.

## How many people living in your household are in each age category?

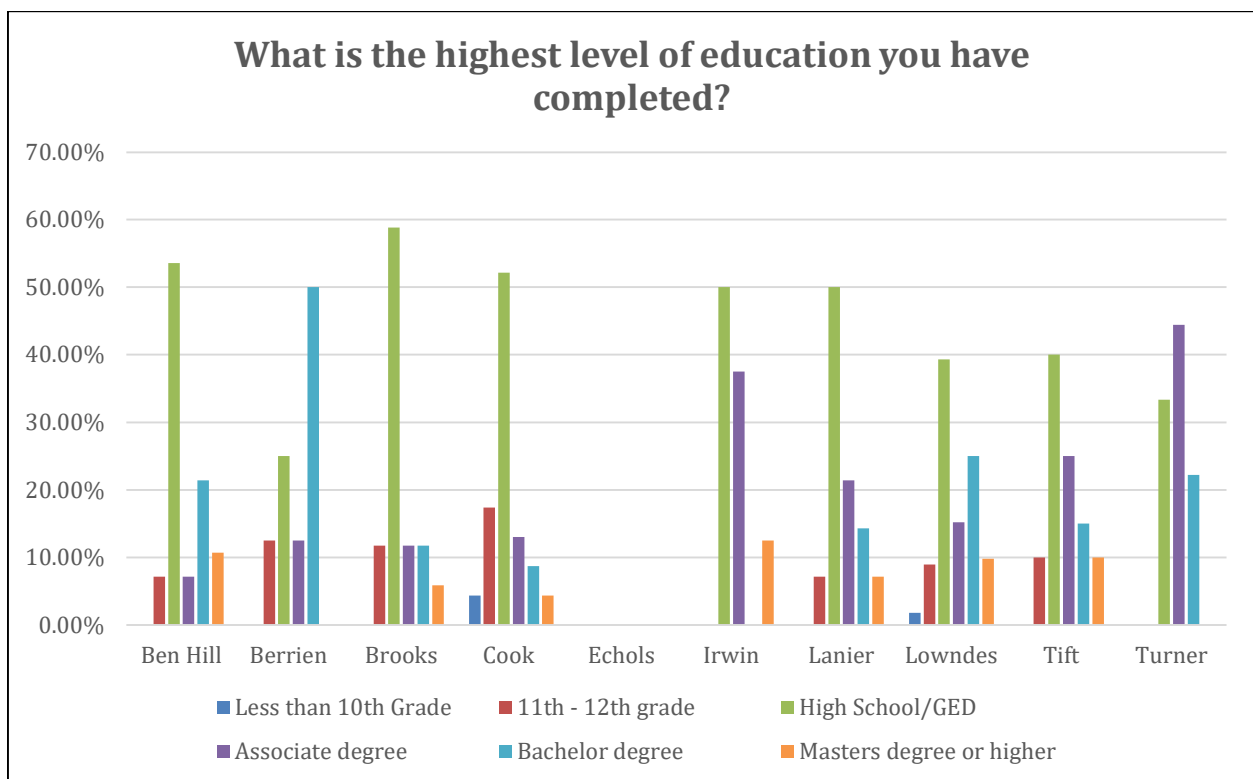
	0-3 years old	4-5 years old	6-12 years old	13-22 years old	23-35 years old	36-55 years old	56-65 years old	66 years or older	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	46.43%	50.00%	57.14%	32.14%	46.43%	46.43%	17.86%	10.71%	28	8
Berrien	25.00%	62.50%	37.50%	50.00%	50.00%	62.50%	37.50%	12.50%	8	3
Brooks	47.06%	41.18%	29.41%	29.41%	58.82%	47.06%	23.53%	17.65%	17	0
Cook	30.43%	52.17%	52.17%	34.78%	43.48%	52.17%	26.09%	34.78%	23	9
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	12.50%	50.00%	50.00%	12.50%	62.50%	75.00%	12.50%	0.00%	8	6
Lanier	57.14%	57.14%	42.86%	50.00%	78.57%	35.71%	21.43%	7.14%	14	4
Lowndes	39.64%	46.85%	37.84%	42.34%	57.66%	41.44%	22.52%	9.91%	111	32
Tift	60.00%	50.00%	70.00%	50.00%	55.00%	45.00%	30.00%	25.00%	20	12
Turner	37.50%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	62.50%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3



Tift County respondents have households youthful in age – 60% are 0-3 years old, 50% are 4-5 years old and 70% are 6-12 years old.

## What is the highest level of education you have completed? (check one)

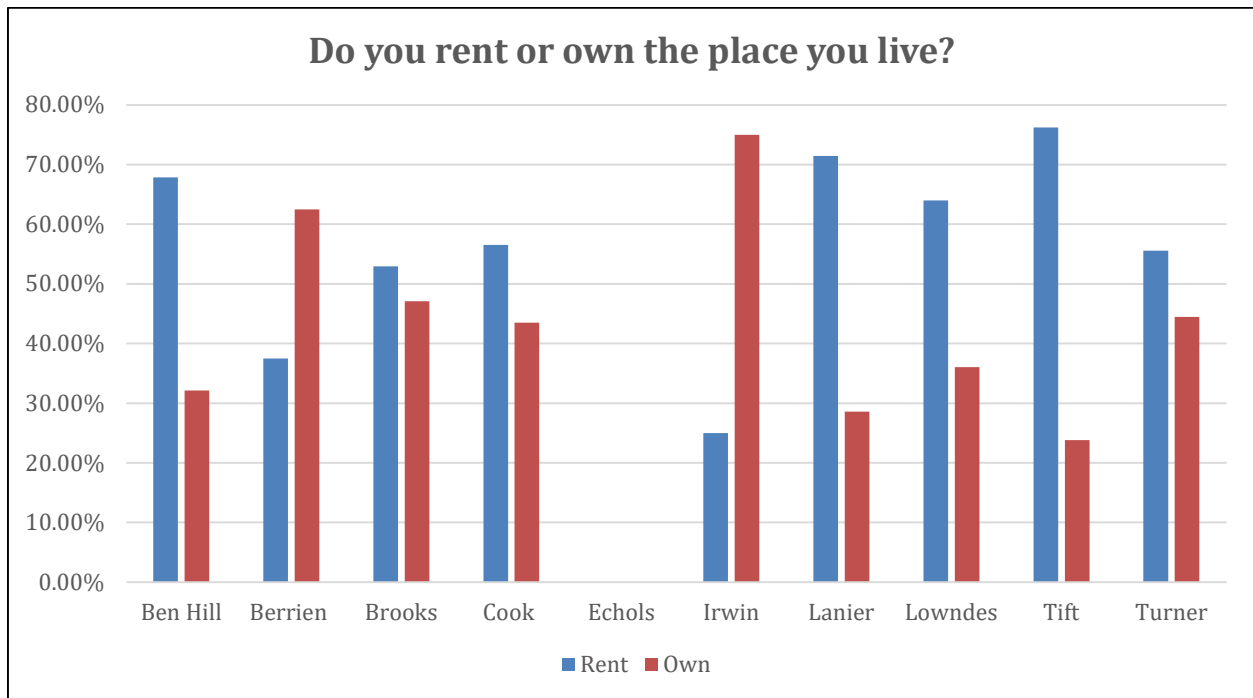
	Less than 10th Grade	11th - 12th grade	High School/GED	Associate degree	Bachelor degree	Masters degree or higher	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	0.00%	7.14%	53.57%	7.14%	21.43%	10.71%	28	8
Berrien	0.00%	12.50%	25.00%	12.50%	50.00%	0.00%	8	3
Brooks	0.00%	11.76%	58.82%	11.76%	11.76%	5.88%	17	0
Cook	4.35%	17.39%	52.17%	13.04%	8.70%	4.35%	23	9
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	37.50%	0.00%	12.50%	8	6
Lanier	0.00%	7.14%	50.00%	21.43%	14.29%	7.14%	14	4
Lowndes	1.79%	8.93%	39.29%	15.18%	25.00%	9.82%	112	31
Tift	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	25.00%	15.00%	10.00%	20	12
Turner	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	44.44%	22.22%	0.00%	9	2



Berrien County respondents appear to have the highest level of education compared to the other respondents – 50% have at least a Bachelor degree.

## Do you rent or own the place you live?

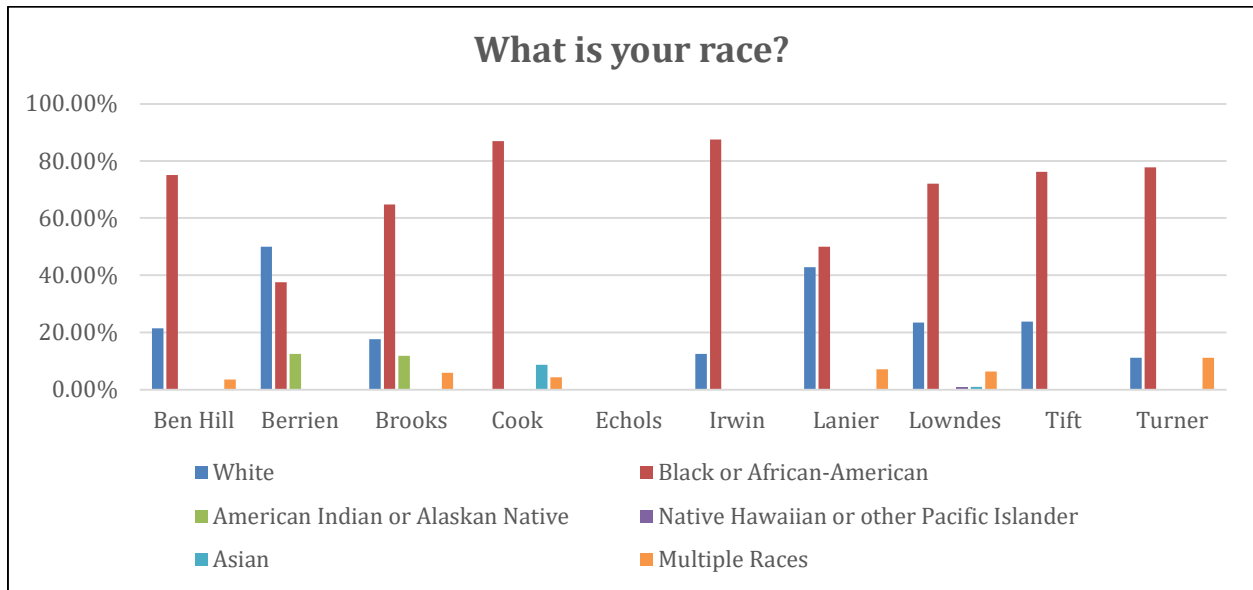
	Rent	Own	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	67.86%	32.14%	28	8
Berrien	37.50%	62.50%	8	3
Brooks	52.94%	47.06%	17	0
Cook	56.52%	43.48%	23	9
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	25.00%	75.00%	8	6
Lanier	71.43%	28.57%	14	4
Lowndes	63.96%	36.04%	111	32
Tift	76.19%	23.81%	21	11
Turner	55.56%	44.44%	9	2



Three out of four Tift County respondents rent the place they live. Also, three out of four Irwin County respondents own the place they live.

## What is your race? (check one)

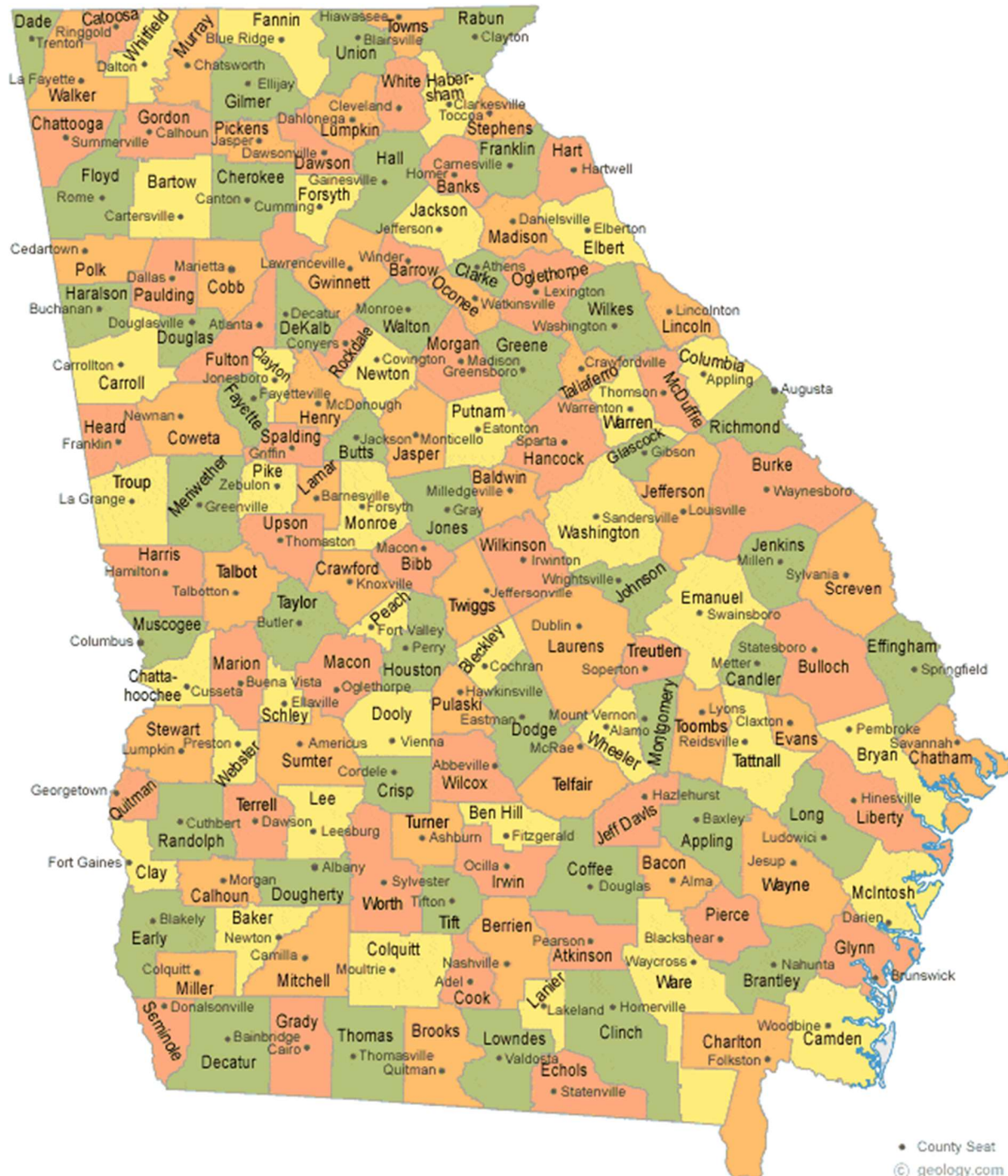
	White	Black or African-American	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Asian	Multiple Races	Answered	Skipped
Ben Hill	21.43%	75.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	28	8
Berrien	50.00%	37.50%	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3
Brooks	17.65%	64.71%	11.76%	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%	17	0
Cook	0.00%	86.96%	0.00%	0.00%	8.70%	4.35%	23	9
Echols	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0
Irwin	12.50%	87.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	6
Lanier	42.86%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	14	4
Lowndes	23.42%	72.07%	0.00%	0.90%	0.90%	6.31%	111	32
Tift	23.81%	76.19%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21	11
Turner	11.11%	77.78%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	9	2



The greatest percentage of White respondents live in Berrien County (50%). Irwin County has the greatest percentage of Black respondents - 88%.

## UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMUNITY

### DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION



#### Total Population

A total of 256,481 people live in the 3,439.65 square mile report area defined for this assessment according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015-19 5-year estimates. The population density for this area, estimated at 74.57 persons per square mile, is less than the

national average population density of 91.93 persons per square mile. Echols County appears to be very rural, with an average population density of 9.47 persons per square mile while Lowndes County has an average population density of 232.05.

Report Area	Total Population, 2019 ACS	Total Land Area (square miles)	Population Density (Per square mile)
Report Location	256,481	3,439.65	74.57
Ben Hill County, GA	17,033	250.12	68.10
Berrien County, GA	19,152	453.38	42.24
Brooks County, GA	15,590	493.09	31.62
Cook County, GA	17,177	228.28	75.25
Echols County, GA	3,981	420.41	9.47
Irwin County, GA	9,320	354.36	26.30
Lanier County, GA	10,380	196.54	52.81
Lowndes County, GA	115,364	497.15	232.05
Tift County, GA	40,541	260.90	155.39
Turner County, GA	7,943	285.42	27.83
Georgia	10,403,847	57,594.80	180.64
United States	324,697,795	3,532,068.58	91.93

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: Tract*

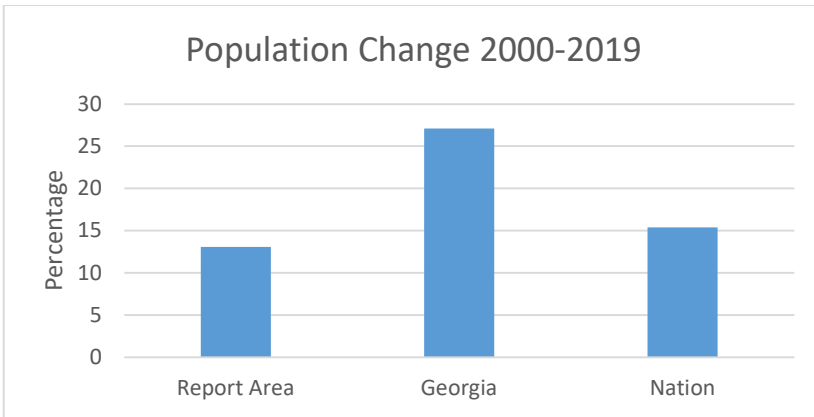
### **Population Change**

Population change within the report area from 2000-2019 is shown below. During the sixteen-year period, total population estimates for the report area grew by 13.04 percent, increasing from 226,892 persons in 2000 to 256,481 persons in 2019.

During the sixteen year period, six of the ten counties experienced growth - from a growth of 43% in Lanier County which is greater than the growth of Georgia and the United States - to six percent in Tift County.

The state of Georgia experienced growth during the same period of 27%, higher than the USA's 15%.



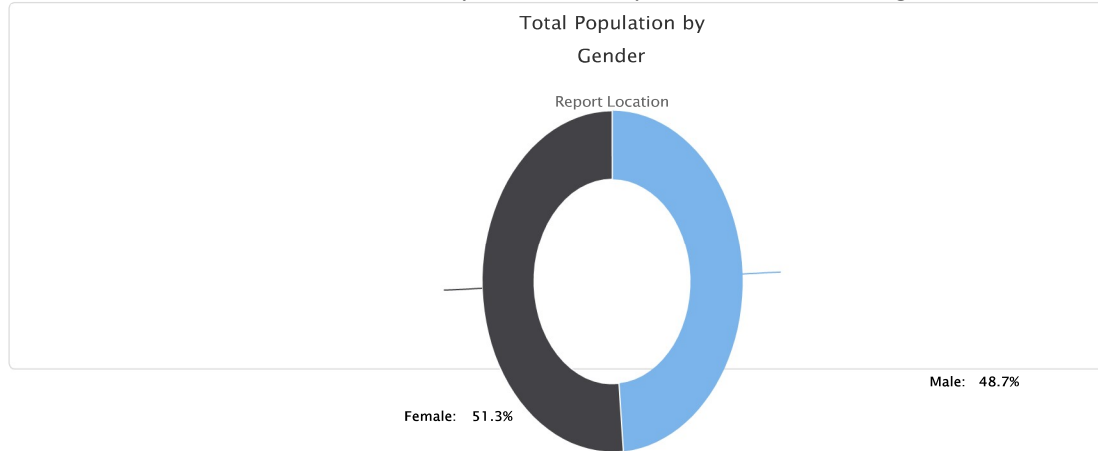


Report Area	Total Population, 2019 ACS	Total Population, 2000 Census	Population Change from 2000 -2019 Census/ACS	Percent Change from 2000 -2019 Census/ACS
Report Location	256,481	226,892	29,589	<b>13.04%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	17,033	17,484	-451	-2.58%
Berrien County, GA	19,152	16,235	2,917	17.97%
Brooks County, GA	15,590	16,450	-860	-5.23%
Cook County, GA	17,177	15,771	1,406	8.92%
Echols County, GA	3,981	3,754	227	6.05%
Irwin County, GA	9,320	9,931	-611	-6.15%
Lanier County, GA	10,380	7,241	3,139	43.35%
Lowndes County, GA	115,364	92,115	23,249	25.24%
Tift County, GA	40,541	38,407	2,134	5.56%
Turner County, GA	7,943	9,504	-1,561	-16.42%
Georgia	10,403,847	8,186,453	2,217,394	27.09%
United States	324,697,795	281,421,906	43,275,889	15.38%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#). 2015-19.  
Source geography: County

## Gender Demographics

Population by gender within the report area is shown below. According to ACS 2015-2019 5 year population estimates for the report area, the female population comprised 51.34% of the report area, while the male population represented 48.66%. All of the counties, except one - Irwin, are comprised of females more than males and closely mirror the representations of Georgia and the United States.



Report Area	Male	Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Area	124,798	131,683	48.66%	51.34%
Ben Hill	8,139	8,894	47.78%	52.22%
Berrien	9,384	9,768	49.00%	51.00%
Brooks	7,612	7,978	48.83%	51.17%
Cook	8,224	8,953	47.88%	52.12%
Echols	1,888	2,093	47.43%	52.57%
Irwin	4,904	4,416	52.62%	47.38%
Lanier	5,028	5,352	48.44%	51.56%
Lowndes	56,144	59,220	48.67%	51.33%
Tift	19,674	20,867	48.53%	51.47%
Turner	3,801	4,142	47.85%	52.15%
Georgia	5,062,096	5,341,751	48.66%	51.34%
United States	159,886,919	164,810,876	49.24%	50.76%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County

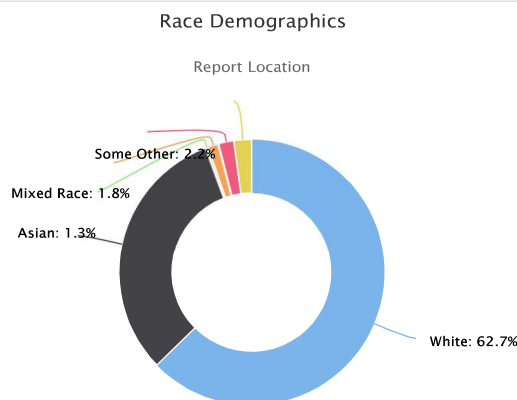
## Age and Gender Demographics

According to the ACS Community Survey for the 2015 – 2019 estimates, the report area is composed mostly of females aged 18-64 which is in keeping with Georgia and the United States. However, this is not true for Echols, Irwin, Lanier or Turner counties. These counties have more males ages 18 to 64 than their female counterparts. Also, there are more females ages 64 and over than males in Coastal Plain EOA's service area. But there are more males ages 0-4 and 5-17 in the report area than females of like ages.

Report Area	0 to 4 Male	0 to 4 Female	5 to 17 Male	5 to 17 Female	18 to 64 Male	18 to 64 Female	Over 64 Male	Over 64 Female
Report Location	9,058	8,217	22,440	22,301	77,460	80,193	14,477	20,972
Ben Hill County, GA	654	441	1,546	1,633	4,783	5,126	1,096	1,694
Berrien County, GA	598	610	1,737	1,703	5,492	5,648	1,464	1,807
Brooks County, GA	568	415	1,257	1,215	4,501	4,690	1,181	1,658
Cook County, GA	615	510	1,603	1,668	4,808	5,244	1,137	1,531
Echols County, GA	64	111	241	465	1,261	1,198	248	319
Irwin County, GA	238	185	865	764	3,005	2,522	713	945
Lanier County, GA	336	416	890	975	3,174	3,155	535	806
Lowndes County, GA	4,161	3,996	9,926	9,599	36,236	37,743	5,269	7,882
Tift County, GA	1,601	1,225	3,694	3,557	11,939	12,666	2,251	3,419
Turner County, GA	223	308	681	722	2,261	2,201	583	911
Georgia	335,418	321,259	941,248	907,315	3,173,859	3,318,263	566,553	794,914
United States	10,112,614	9,655,056	27,413,920	26,247,802	99,841,782	100,642,825	20,320,351	28,265,193

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County

## Race Demographics



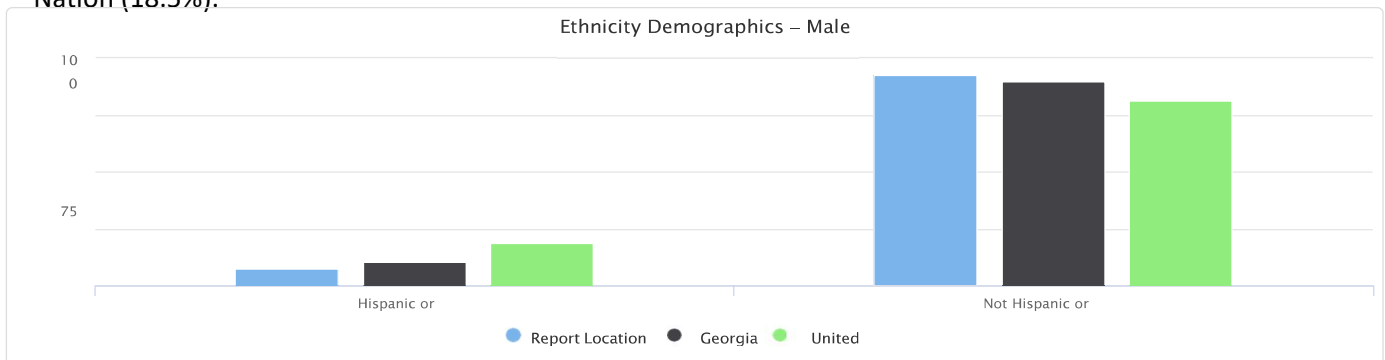
According to ACS 2015-2019 population estimates, Coastal Plain EOA's service area is 62.7% white compared to Georgia (58.6%) and United States (72.5%). Berrien County is the least diverse – 83.0% White – of all counties. The county's White population is 24% greater than Georgia's White population. Lowndes County is the most diverse – 57.0% White. *Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.*  
*Source geography: County*

Report Area	White Total	Black Total	American Indian Total	Asian Total	Native Hawaiian Total	Some Other Total	Mixed Race Total
Report Location	160,718	81,347	814	3,209	192	5,544	4,657
Ben Hill County, GA	10,163	6,236	0	117	0	346	171
Berrien County, GA	15,904	2,247	103	212	0	359	327
Brooks County, GA	9,298	5,604	0	66	20	415	187
Cook County, GA	11,796	4,631	50	124	0	241	335
Echols County, GA	2,939	79	87	0	0	698	178
Irwin County, GA	6,503	2,674	11	38	0	50	44
Lanier County, GA	7,683	2,532	17	21	0	55	72
Lowndes County, GA	65,740	42,096	441	2,011	172	2,180	2,724
Tift County, GA	26,142	12,007	105	559	0	1,121	607
Turner County, GA	4,550	3,241	0	61	0	79	12
Georgia	6,098,889	3,289,020	37,440	414,481	6,233	291,872	265,912
United States	235,377,662	41,234,642	2,750,143	17,924,209	599,868	16,047,369	10,763,902

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*

### Ethnicity Demographics – Male

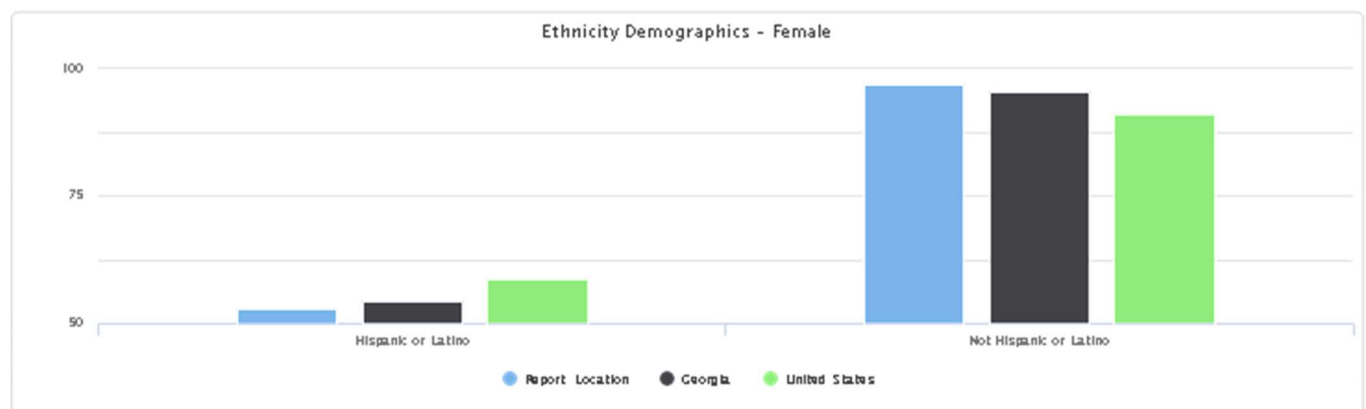
The percentage of Hispanic/Latino males in the report area is 7.6, a lower percentage than Georgia (10.3%) and United States (18.5%) – a difference of three and 11 percentage points respectively. Echols County has the greatest percentage of Hispanic/Latino males (32.5%) of Coastal Plain's other service counties. Lanier County, with Brooks County closely following, have the least percentages of Hispanic males, 4.5% and 4.7% respectively. Tift County's percentage of Hispanic males is squarely between the State (10.3%) and the Nation (18.5%).



Report Area	Total Males Hispanic / Latino	Total Males Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Males Hispanic / Latino	Percent Males Not Hispanic / Latino
Report Location	9,494	115,304	7.61%	92.39%
Ben Hill County, GA	568	7,571	6.98%	93.02%
Berrien County, GA	544	8,840	5.80%	94.20%
Brooks County, GA	356	7,256	4.68%	95.32%
Cook County, GA	503	7,721	6.12%	93.88%
Echols County, GA	614	1,274	32.52%	67.48%
Irwin County, GA	321	4,583	6.55%	93.45%
Lanier County, GA	228	4,800	4.53%	95.47%
Lowndes County, GA	3,464	52,680	6.17%	93.83%
Tift County, GA	2,660	17,014	13.52%	86.48%
Turner County, GA	236	3,565	6.21%	93.79%
Georgia	519,530	4,542,566	10.26%	89.74%
United States	29,534,902	130,352,017	18.47%	81.53%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County

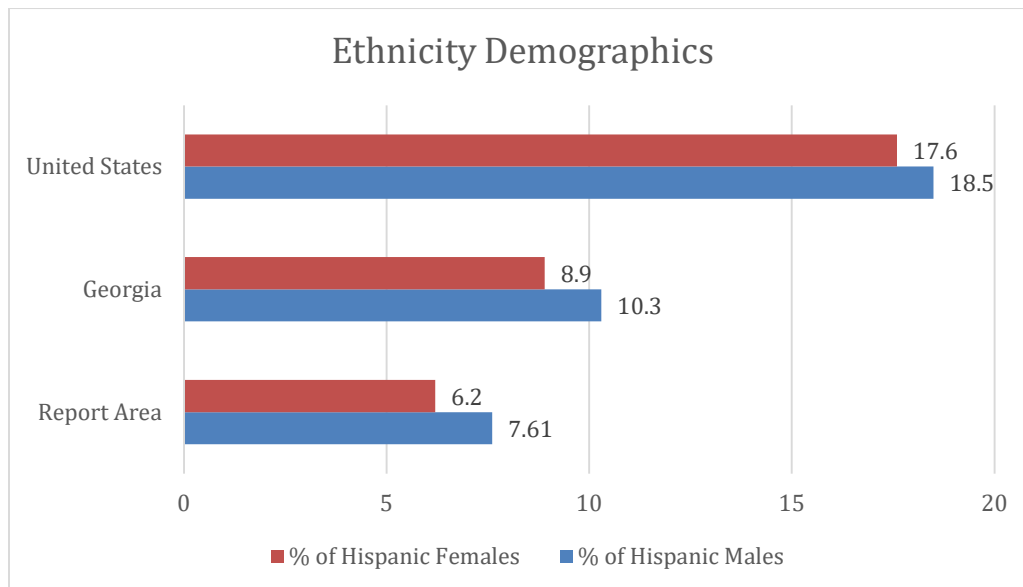
## Ethnicity Demographics – Female



The percentage of Hispanic/Latino females in the report area is 6.2, a lower percentage than Georgia (8.9%) and United States (17.6%) – a difference of three and 11 percentage points respectively. As was the case with Hispanic/Latino males, Echols County has the greatest percentage of Hispanic/Latino females (23%) of Coastal Plain’s other service counties. Irwin County has the least percentage of Hispanic females, 0.8%.

Report Area	Total Females Hispanic / Latino	Total Females Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Females Hispanic / Latino	Percent Females Not Hispanic / Latino
Report Location	8,158	123,525	6.20%	93.80%
Ben Hill County, GA	473	8,421	5.32%	94.68%
Berrien County, GA	427	9,341	4.37%	95.63%
Brooks County, GA	564	7,414	7.07%	92.93%
Cook County, GA	490	8,463	5.47%	94.53%
Echols County, GA	472	1,621	22.55%	77.45%
Irwin County, GA	36	4,380	0.82%	99.18%
Lanier County, GA	366	4,986	6.84%	93.16%
Lowndes County, GA	3,071	56,149	5.19%	94.81%
Tift County, GA	2,116	18,751	10.14%	89.86%
Turner County, GA	143	3,999	3.45%	96.55%
Georgia	472,864	4,868,887	8.85%	91.15%
United States	28,944,468	135,866,408	17.56%	82.44%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County



## Race Demographics – Female

The number of White females in the report area is almost twice that of Black females. The number of Black, American Indian and Mixed Race females in Echols County are in double-digits.

Report Area	White Female	Black Female	American Indian Female	Asian Female	Native Hawaiian Female	Some Other Female	Mixed Race Female
Report Location	81,378	43,220	427	1,867	161	2,534	2,096
Ben Hill County, GA	5,212	3,409	0	50	0	130	93
Berrien County, GA	8,017	1,219	97	67	0	155	213
Brooks County, GA	4,665	2,952	0	28	8	264	61
Cook County, GA	6,042	2,550	20	67	0	134	140
Echols County, GA	1,582	57	46	0	0	356	52
Irwin County, GA	3,110	1,181	11	32	0	49	33
Lanier County, GA	3,873	1,389	17	21	0	22	30
Lowndes County, GA	33,202	22,346	179	1,257	153	940	1,143
Tift County, GA	13,357	6,379	57	309	0	440	325
Turner County, GA	2,318	1,738	0	36	0	44	6
Georgia	3,082,255	1,752,717	18,701	215,439	3,030	135,440	134,169
United States	118,991,252	21,521,521	1,387,197	9,411,630	300,391	7,811,071	5,387,814

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*

## Race Demographics – Male

The number of White males in the Report Area is more than twice than that of Black males. There are fewer Black males in Echols County than any other race. There are more Black females in Echols County than Black males.

Report Area	White Male	Black Male	American Indian Male	Asian Male	Native Hawaiian Male	Some Other Male	Mixed Race Male
Report Location	79,340	38,127	387	1,342	31	3,010	2,561
Ben Hill County, GA	4,951	2,827	0	67	0	216	78
Berrien County, GA	7,887	1,028	6	145	0	204	114
Brooks County, GA	4,633	2,652	0	38	12	151	126
Cook County, GA	5,754	2,081	30	57	0	107	195
Echols County, GA	1,357	22	41	0	0	342	126
Irwin County, GA	3,393	1,493	0	6	0	1	11
Lanier County, GA	3,810	1,143	0	0	0	33	42
Lowndes County, GA	32,538	19,750	262	754	19	1,240	1,581
Tift County, GA	12,785	5,628	48	250	0	681	282
Turner County, GA	2,232	1,503	0	25	0	35	6
Georgia	3,016,634	1,536,303	18,739	199,042	3,203	156,432	131,743
United States	116,386,410	19,713,121	1,362,946	8,512,579	299,477	8,236,298	5,376,088

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*

### Veteran Status – Male and Female

Veterans, Age and Gender Demographics show the number of veterans living in the report area. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 8.09% of the adult population in the report area are veterans, which is more than the national average of 7.29%. The greatest percentage of adult male veterans reside in Turner County (18.9%). There are no female veterans living in Echols County.

Report Area	Veterans Total	Veterans Male	Veterans Female	% Pop over 18 Total	% Pop over 18 Males	% Pop over 18 Females
Report Location	15,459	13,469	1,990	8.09%	14.88%	1.98%
Ben Hill County, GA	820	796	24	6.46%	13.54%	0.35%
Berrien County, GA	906	832	74	6.28%	11.92%	0.99%
Brooks County, GA	1,119	1,035	84	9.23%	17.88%	1.32%
Cook County, GA	1,022	951	71	8.00%	15.83%	1.05%
Echols County, GA	110	110	0	3.55%	6.95%	0.00%
Irwin County, GA	553	472	81	7.61%	12.42%	2.34%
Lanier County, GA	667	559	108	9.03%	15.92%	2.78%
Lowndes County, GA	7,858	6,518	1,340	9.27%	16.43%	2.97%
Tift County, GA	1,788	1,648	140	5.87%	11.47%	0.87%
Turner County, GA	616	548	68	10.25%	18.92%	2.19%
Georgia	629,302	554,789	74,513	8.02%	14.83%	1.81%
United States	18,230,322	16,611,283	1,619,039	7.29%	13.68%	1.26%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*



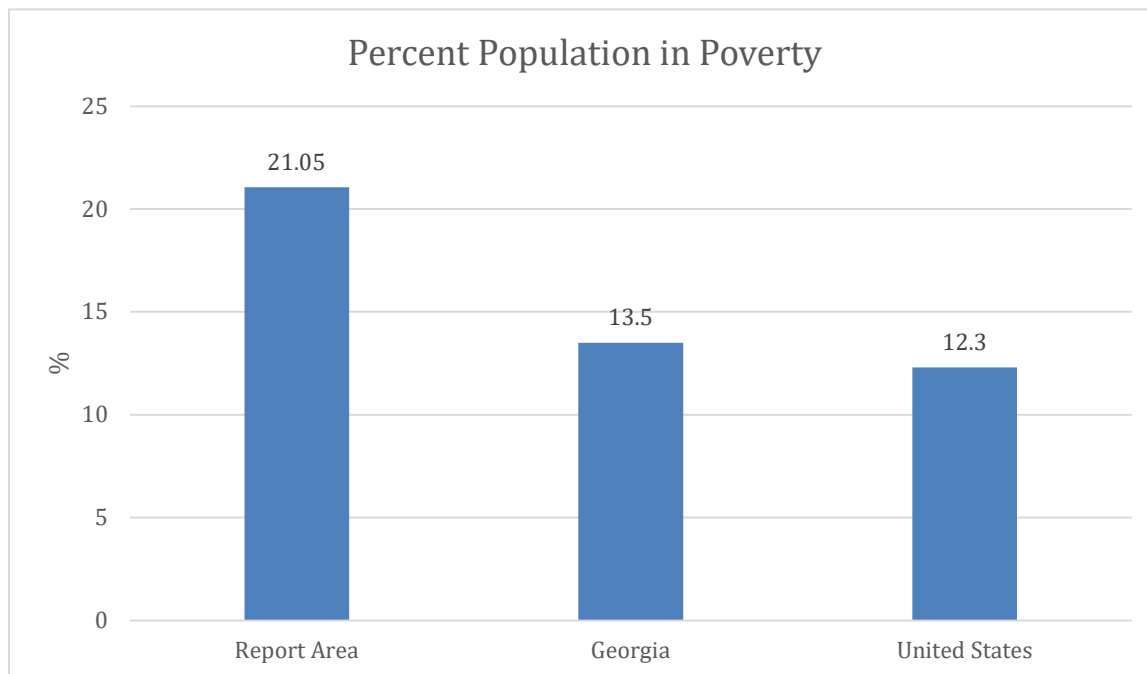
Turner County has the greatest percentage of veterans (10.3%) which is greater than that of Georgia (8.0%) and the United States (7.3%). Echols County has the least percentage of veterans in its population (3.6%) than any other counties.

Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Total Veterans	Veterans, Percent of Total Population
Report Location	191,041	15,459	8.09%
Ben Hill County, GA	12,701	820	6.46%
Berrien County, GA	14,419	906	6.28%
Brooks County, GA	12,127	1,119	9.23%
Cook County, GA	12,781	1,022	8.00%
Echols County, GA	3,100	110	3.55%
Irwin County, GA	7,268	553	7.61%
Lanier County, GA	7,390	667	9.03%
Lowndes County, GA	84,793	7,858	9.27%
Tift County, GA	30,453	1,788	5.87%
Turner County, GA	6,009	616	10.25%
Georgia	7,849,349	629,302	8.02%
United States	250,195,726	18,230,322	7.29%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*

## **Poverty**

Twenty-one percent of the population in the report area live in poverty versus 14% of Georgians and 12% of the United States.



2019 poverty estimates show a total of 52,235 persons living below the poverty level in the report area. Poverty information is at 100% of the federal poverty income guidelines. The poverty rate of people ages 5-17 of the report area is twice that of the United States. The poverty rate of people ages 0-17 of the report area is only one percentage point lower than the age group 5-17.

Report Area	All Ages No of Persons	All Ages Poverty Rate	Age 0-17 No of Persons	Age 0-17 Poverty Rate	Age 5-17 No of Persons	Age 5-17 Poverty Rate
Report Location	52,235	<b>21.05%</b>	18,501	29.83%	13,874	31.01%
Ben Hill County, GA	3,738	22.8%	1,291	32%	871	29.1%
Berrien County, GA	3,843	20.1%	1,299	28.6%	913	27.4%
Brooks County, GA	3,372	21.9%	1,158	35.3%	840	34.8%
Cook County, GA	3,654	21.4%	1,368	32.2%	1,026	32.7%
Echols County, GA	861	21.6%	316	31%	220	27.2%
Irwin County, GA	1,699	20.5%	562	29.2%	409	28.6%
Lanier County, GA	1,871	18.5%	698	28.6%	448	25.3%
Lowndes County, GA	22,685	20.4%	7,912	28.6%	6,364	32.1%
Tift County, GA	8,380	21.5%	3,069	31%	2,184	30.6%
Turner County, GA	2,132	28%	828	43%	599	43.6%
Georgia	1,397,607	13.5%	479,379	19.5%	337,151	18.6%
United States	39,490,096	12.3%	12,000,470	16.34%	8,258,906	15.39%

### **Poverty Rate Change**

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2000 to 2019 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 2.70%, compared to a national increase of 1.0%.

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2000	Poverty Rate 2000	Persons in Poverty 2019	Poverty Rate 2019	Change in Poverty Rate 2000-2019
Report Location	39,963	18.35%	52,235	21.05%	<b>2.70%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	3,262	19.1%	3,738	22.8%	3.7%
Berrien County, GA	2,762	17.3%	3,843	20.1%	2.8%
Brooks County, GA	3,614	22.4%	3,372	21.9%	-0.5%
Cook County, GA	2,979	18.8%	3,654	21.4%	2.6%
Echols County, GA	795	20.7%	861	21.6%	0.9%
Irwin County, GA	1,733	18.1%	1,699	20.5%	2.4%
Lanier County, GA	1,348	19.6%	1,871	18.5%	-1.1%
Lowndes County, GA	14,378	16.8%	22,685	20.4%	3.6%
Tift County, GA	6,861	18.3%	8,380	21.5%	3.2%
Turner County, GA	2,231	23.6%	2,132	28.0%	4.4%
Georgia	1,006,329	12.3%	1,397,607	13.5%	1.2%
United States	31,581,086	11.3%	39,490,096	12.3%	1.0%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates](#). 2019. Source geography: County*

## Households in Poverty

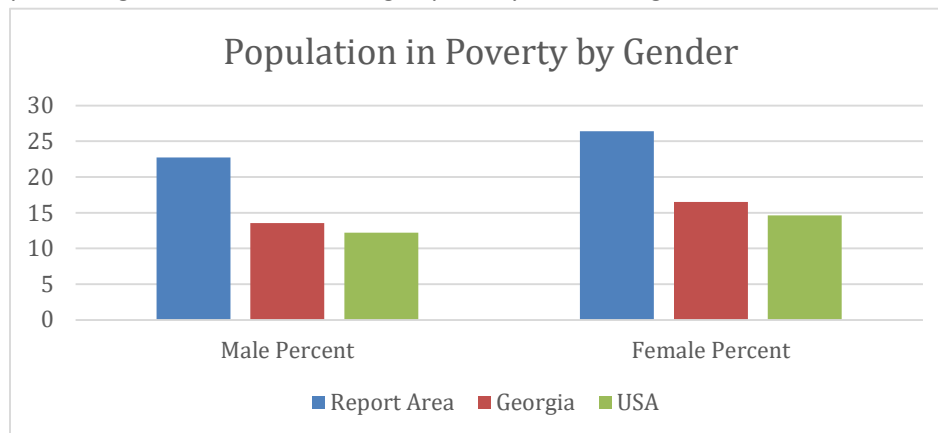
The number and percentage of households in poverty are shown in the report area. In 2019, it is estimated that there were 22,841 households, or 24.2%, living in poverty within the report area which is twice the percentage of the Nation. Turner County has the greatest percentage of its households in poverty (32.6%) of all Coastal Plain's counties. While Tift County has the lowest percentage of its households in poverty (21.2%), all of the counties have greater percentages of their households in poverty than Georgia and the United States.

Report Area	Total Households	Households in Poverty	Percent Households in Poverty
Report Location	94,561	22,841	<b>24.15%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	6,443	1,900	29.5%
Berrien County, GA	7,367	1,858	25.2%
Brooks County, GA	6,335	1,426	22.5%
Cook County, GA	6,217	1,456	23.4%
Echols County, GA	1,561	400	25.6%
Irwin County, GA	3,329	670	20.1%
Lanier County, GA	3,714	920	24.8%
Lowndes County, GA	41,282	9,968	24.2%
Tift County, GA	15,144	3,210	21.2%
Turner County, GA	3,169	1,033	32.6%
Georgia	3,758,798	535,264	14.2%
United States	120,756,048	15,610,142	12.9%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County Table

## Population in Poverty by Gender

A slightly greater percentage of females in the report area live in poverty than males, 26% versus 23%. Turner County has the greatest percentage of its males (28.5%) and females living in a state of poverty (38.0%) of all Coastal Plain EOA's service areas and double that of the State and Nation. All of the counties have a greater percentage of its residents living in poverty than Georgia and the United States.



Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Report Location	27,112	34,048	22.72%	26.42%
Ben Hill County, GA	2,140	2,785	26.86%	32.14%
Berrien County, GA	1,934	2,630	20.98%	27.26%
Brooks County, GA	1,547	1,953	20.58%	24.64%
Cook County, GA	1,568	2,483	19.49%	28.13%
Echols County, GA	459	501	24.31%	23.94%
Irwin County, GA	1,225	961	25.40%	22.16%
Lanier County, GA	948	1,361	20.11%	25.81%
Lowndes County, GA	12,173	14,947	22.94%	25.73%
Tift County, GA	4,115	4,872	22.13%	24.46%
Turner County, GA	1,003	1,555	28.48%	37.96%
Georgia	662,968	865,590	13.57%	16.51%
United States	18,909,451	23,601,392	12.19%	14.61%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19.*

Of the residents in Coastal Plain EOA's report area who do not consider themselves to be Hispanic, 24% of them live in poverty which is double that of the Nation. The percentage of Hispanics living in poverty in Echols County is more than double the percentage of Non-Latinos living in poverty. Turner County also experiences a high percentage of its Hispanics living in poverty (60%), which is about twice that of Non-Hispanics.

### **Population in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone**

Report Area	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
Report Location	6,186	54,974	35.98%	23.80%
Ben Hill County, GA	440	4,485	42.43%	28.76%
Berrien County, GA	305	4,259	31.64%	23.79%
Brooks County, GA	361	3,139	39.71%	21.60%
Cook County, GA	340	3,711	34.91%	23.34%
Echols County, GA	573	387	52.76%	13.37%
Irwin County, GA	115	2,071	34.43%	23.47%
Lanier County, GA	143	2,166	24.74%	23.02%
Lowndes County, GA	1,990	25,130	31.77%	23.96%
Tift County, GA	1,697	7,290	36.28%	21.55%
Turner County, GA	222	2,336	60.00%	32.23%
Georgia	222,438	1,306,120	22.95%	14.26%
United States	11,256,244	31,254,599	19.64%	12.05%

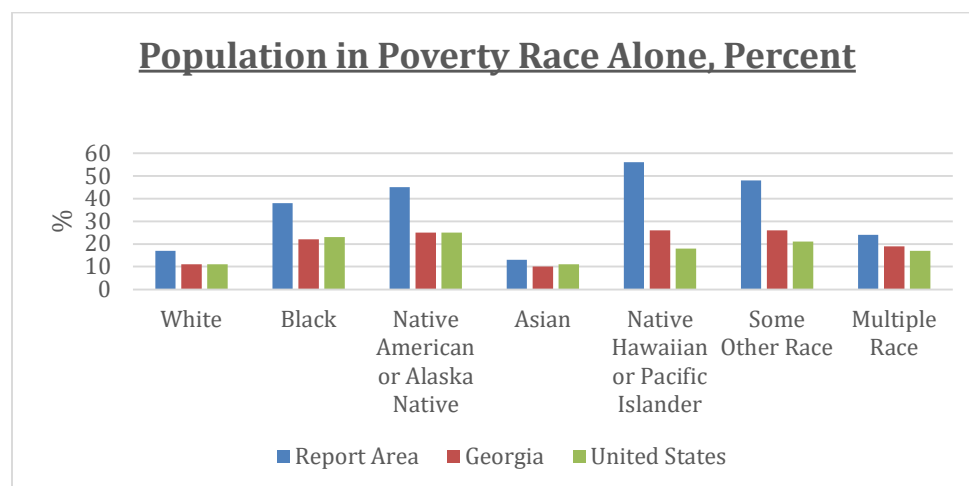
*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*

### **Population in Poverty Race Alone, Percent**

The percentage of residents in the report area who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander are twice as likely to live in poverty than Georgians or residents of the United States.

Report Area	White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Location	17.01%	38.41%	44.67%	13.31%	55.73%	48.02%	24.32%
Ben Hill County, GA	18.92%	47.32%	No data	0.00%	No data	44.74%	11.11%
Berrien County, GA	21.57%	35.95%	74.76%	0.00%	No data	31.75%	64.49%
Brooks County, GA	13.67%	35.91%	No data	0.00%	60.00%	50.85%	17.11%
Cook County, GA	20.40%	33.79%	34.00%	0.00%	No data	36.51%	12.24%
Echols County, GA	14.66%	25.32%	0.00%	No data	No data	72.06%	3.37%
Irwin County, GA	8.93%	59.37%	0.00%	0.00%	No data	59.18%	75.00%
Lanier County, GA	14.08%	51.98%	0.00%	No data	No data	44.90%	0.00%
Lowndes County, GA	16.45%	36.41%	44.82%	20.81%	55.23%	36.62%	21.69%
Tift County, GA	16.80%	33.80%	70.83%	1.62%	No data	60.39%	31.16%
Turner County, GA	22.09%	49.48%	No data	0.00%	No data	71.05%	100.00%
Georgia	11.27%	21.50%	24.71%	10.29%	25.73%	25.79%	18.70%
United States	11.15%	23.04%	24.86%	10.94%	17.51%	21.04%	16.66%

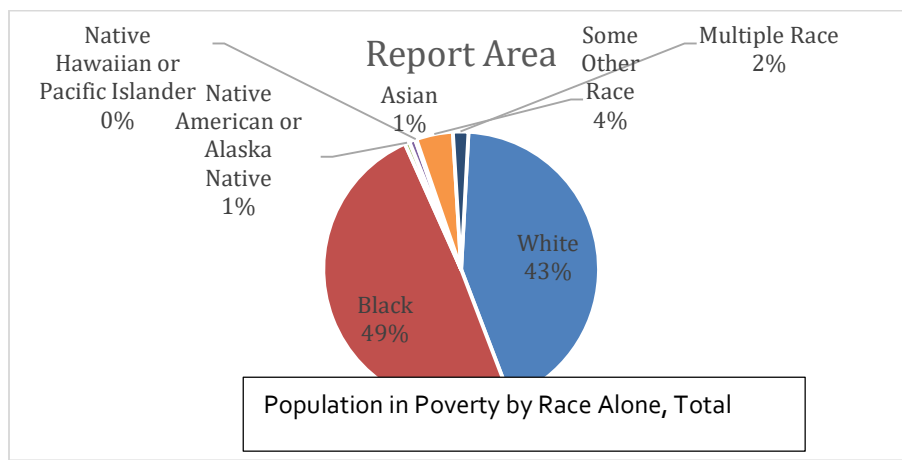
*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*



## Population in Poverty by Race Alone, Total

There are fewer numbers of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders living in poverty in the report area compared to other races.

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Location	26,514	30,047	348	417	107	2,628	1,099
Ben Hill County, GA	1,878	2,875	0	0	0	153	19
Berrien County, GA	3,388	778	77	0	0	114	207
Brooks County, GA	1,261	1,986	0	0	12	209	32
Cook County, GA	2,350	1,555	17	0	0	88	41
Echols County, GA	431	20	0	0	0	503	6
Irwin County, GA	572	1,552	0	0	0	29	33
Lanier County, GA	1,052	1,235	0	0	0	22	0
Lowndes County, GA	10,491	14,594	186	408	95	779	567
Tift County, GA	4,120	3,931	68	9	0	677	182
Turner County, GA	971	1,521	0	0	0	54	12
Georgia	672,464	682,103	8,993	41,679	1,562	73,518	48,239
United States	25,658,220	9,114,217	660,695	1,922,319	101,826	3,313,183	1,740,383



## Poverty Rate < 200% FPL (ACS)

In the report area 47.04% or 116,772 individuals are living in households with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Echols County has the smallest percentage of its population living at or below 200% FPL (43%) of all the counties. Ben Hill County has the largest percentage of its population living at this level. This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Report Area	Total Population	Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL	Percent Population with Income at or Below 200% FPL
Report Location	248,214	116,772	47.04%
Ben Hill County, GA	16,630	8,765	52.71%
Berrien County, GA	18,867	8,763	46.45%
Brooks County, GA	15,442	7,568	49.01%
Cook County, GA	16,872	8,137	48.23%
Echols County, GA	3,981	1,724	43.31%
Irwin County, GA	9,159	4,388	47.91%
Lanier County, GA	9,987	4,593	45.99%
Lowndes County, GA	111,150	51,538	46.37%
Tift County, GA	38,508	17,475	45.38%
Turner County, GA	7,618	3,821	50.16%
Georgia	10,130,335	3,470,773	34.26%
United States	316,715,051	97,747,992	30.86%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: Tract

## Poverty Rate < 125% FPL (ACS)

In the report area 30.47% or 75,624 individuals are living in households with income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Again, Echols County has the smallest percentage of its population living at or below 125% of all the counties. Unlike the previous table, Turner County has the greatest percentage of its population living at this level of all the counties. This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Report Area	Population, Total	Population with Income at or Below 125% FPL	Population with Income at or Below 125% FPL, Percent
Report Location	248,214	75,624	30.47%
Ben Hill County, GA	16,630	5,586	33.59%
Berrien County, GA	18,867	5,761	30.53%
Brooks County, GA	15,442	4,622	29.93%
Cook County, GA	16,872	5,192	30.77%
Echols County, GA	3,981	1,093	27.46%
Irwin County, GA	9,159	2,864	31.27%
Lanier County, GA	9,987	2,863	28.67%
Lowndes County, GA	111,150	33,172	29.84%
Tift County, GA	38,508	11,477	29.80%
Turner County, GA	7,618	2,994	39.30%
Georgia	10,130,335	2,013,540	19.88%
United States	316,715,051	56,269,559	17.77%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: Tract



## Family Poverty Rate 125% (ACS)

In the report area 23.90% or 14,808 family households are living with income below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Turner County, like the previous table, has the greatest percentage (33%) of its family households living at or below 125% FPL which is double that of the state (15.32%) and nation (13.06).

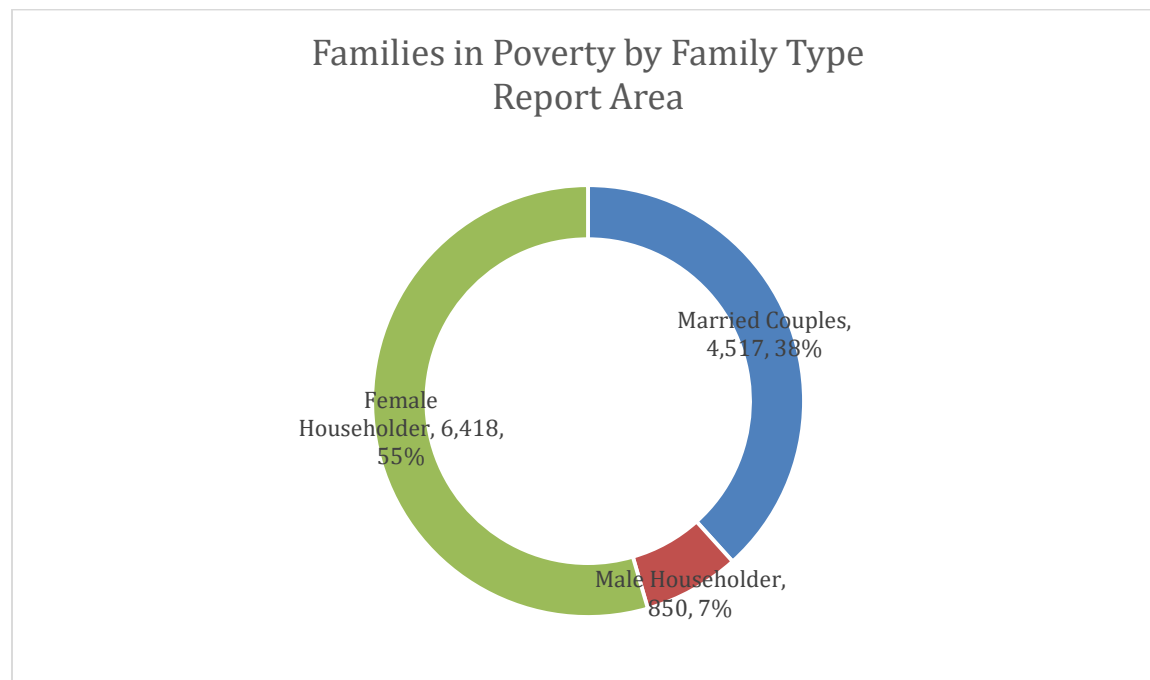
Report Area	Family Households , Total	Families with Income at or Below 125% FPL	Families with Income at or Below 125% FPL, Percent
Report Location	61,960	14,808	23.90%
Ben Hill County, GA	4,019	1,136	28.27%
Berrien County, GA	5,055	1,177	23.28%
Brooks County, GA	4,015	971	24.18%
Cook County, GA	4,243	1,048	24.70%
Echols County, GA	1,097	255	23.25%
Irwin County, GA	2,090	449	21.48%
Lanier County, GA	2,536	618	24.37%
Lowndes County, GA	25,905	5,800	22.39%
Tift County, GA	10,703	2,589	24.19%
Turner County, GA	2,297	765	33.30%
Georgia	2,524,982	386,783	15.32%
United States	79,114,031	10,336,134	13.06%

## **Families in Poverty by Family Type**

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates 11,785 families are living in poverty within the report area. There are 6,418 female heads of household living in poverty and 850 male heads of household. Additionally, out of the total families living in poverty, 4,517 were married couples. Echols County doesn't have any households headed by males living in poverty.

Report Area	Total Families	Families in Poverty Total	Families in Poverty Married Couples	Families in Poverty Male Householder	Families in Poverty Female Householder
Report Location	61,960	11,785	4,517	850	6,418
Ben Hill County, GA	4,019	1,015	325	35	655
Berrien County, GA	5,055	870	468	31	371
Brooks County, GA	4,015	724	334	64	326
Cook County, GA	4,243	817	285	119	413
Echols County, GA	1,097	235	184	0	51
Irwin County, GA	2,090	306	68	25	213
Lanier County, GA	2,536	491	217	95	179
Lowndes County, GA	25,905	4,728	1,750	211	2,767
Tift County, GA	10,703	1,959	659	175	1,125
Turner County, GA	2,297	640	227	95	318
Georgia	2,524,982	285,289	94,821	27,557	162,911
United States	79,114,031	7,541,196	2,764,595	803,863	3,972,738

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County



## Family Poverty Rate by Family Type - Percentages

The percentage of households in poverty by household type are shown for the report area. It is estimated that 19.0% of all households were living in poverty within the report area, compared to the national average of 9.5%. Of the households in poverty, female headed households represented 54.5% of all households in poverty, compared to 38.3% and 7.2% of households headed by married couples and males, respectively. Irwin County has the greatest percentage of its households led by females living in poverty (69.6%) than any other county.

Report Area	Poverty Rate All Types	Percent of Poverty Married Couples	Percent of Poverty Male Householder	Percent of Poverty Female Householder
Report Location	19.0%	38.3%	7.2%	54.5%
Ben Hill County, GA	25.3%	32.0%	3.4%	64.5%
Berrien County, GA	17.2%	53.8%	3.6%	42.6%
Brooks County, GA	18.0%	46.1%	8.8%	45.0%
Cook County, GA	19.3%	34.9%	14.6%	50.6%
Echols County, GA	21.4%	78.3%	0.0%	21.7%
Irwin County, GA	14.6%	22.2%	8.2%	69.6%
Lanier County, GA	19.4%	44.2%	19.3%	36.5%
Lowndes County, GA	18.3%	37.0%	4.5%	58.5%
Tift County, GA	18.3%	33.6%	8.9%	57.4%
Turner County, GA	27.9%	35.5%	14.8%	49.7%
Georgia	11.3%	33.2%	9.7%	57.1%
United States	9.5%	36.7%	10.7%	52.7%

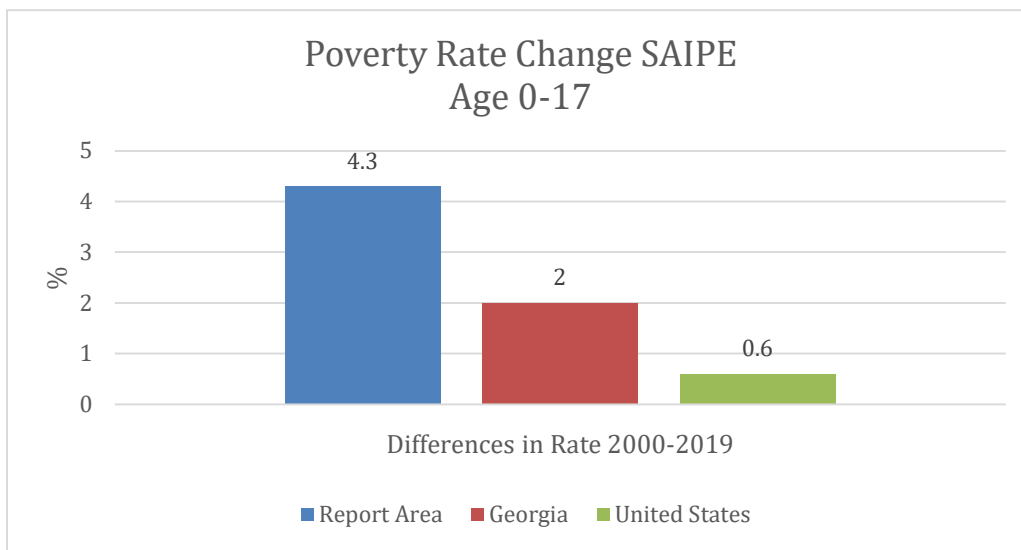
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: County

## Poverty Rate Change (SAIPE) Age 0-17

The poverty rate change for all children (age 0-17) in the report area from 2000 to 2019 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 4.3%, compared to a national increase of 0.6%. Turner County witnessed the greatest variance in rate change (+9.2%). All individual counties experienced an increase in poverty rate and rates above the national average.

Report Area	Poverty Age 0-17 2000	Poverty Rate Age 0-17 2000	Poverty Age 0-17 2019	Poverty Rate Age 0-17 2019	Difference in Rate Age 0-17 2000 - 2019
Report Location	15,755	26.0%	18,501	30.3%	<b>4.3%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	1,338	28.3%	1,291	32.0%	3.7%
Berrien County, GA	1,084	25.3%	1,299	28.6%	3.3%
Brooks County, GA	1,457	33.6%	1,158	35.3%	1.7%
Cook County, GA	1,238	27.6%	1,368	32.2%	4.6%
Echols County, GA	319	29.4%	316	31.0%	1.6%
Irwin County, GA	690	27.0%	562	29.2%	2.2%
Lanier County, GA	503	26.6%	698	28.6%	2.0%
Lowndes County, GA	5,372	22.4%	7,912	28.6%	6.2%
Tift County, GA	2,804	26.9%	3,069	31.0%	4.1%
Turner County, GA	950	33.8%	828	43.0%	9.2%
Georgia	772,195	17.5%	958,759	19.5%	2.0%
United States	34,757,074	16.2%	35,996,680	16.8%	0.6%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates](#). 2019. Source geography: County

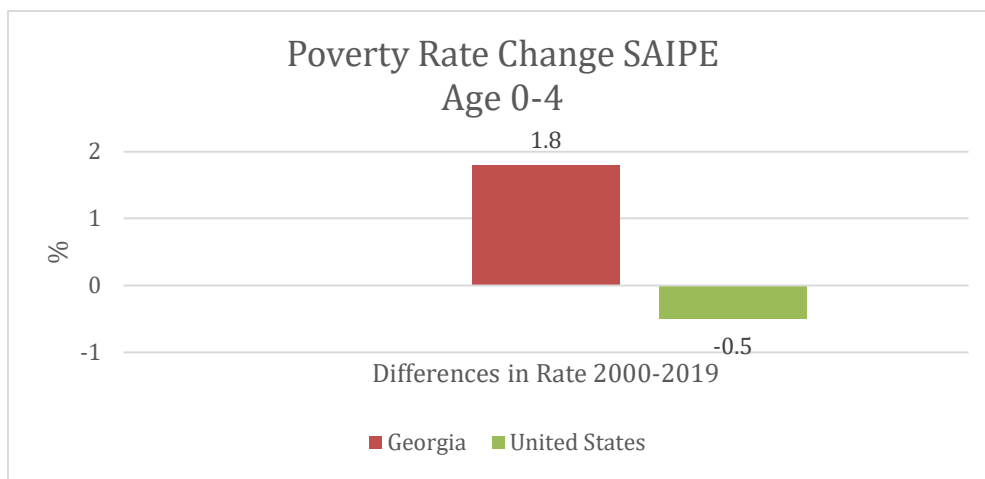


## Poverty Rate Change (SAIPE) Age 0-4

The poverty rate change for all children (age 0 - 4) in the report area from 2000 to 2019 is shown below. The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates only calculates poverty for this age on the state and national levels. The national poverty rate change for this age group decreased by -0.5% over the described time period while the state poverty rate increased by +1.8% over the described time period.

Report Area	Poverty Age 0-4 2000	Poverty Rate Age 0-4 2000	Poverty Age 0-4 2019	Poverty Rate Age 0-4 2019	Difference in Rate Age 0-4 2000 - 2019
Report Location	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Ben Hill County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Berrien County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Brooks County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Cook County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Echols County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Irwin County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lanier County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lowndes County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Tift County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Turner County, GA	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Georgia	118,328	19.2%	134,041	21.0%	1.8%
United States	7,166,195	18.7%	6,915,377	18.2%	-0.5%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates](#). 2019. Source geography: County

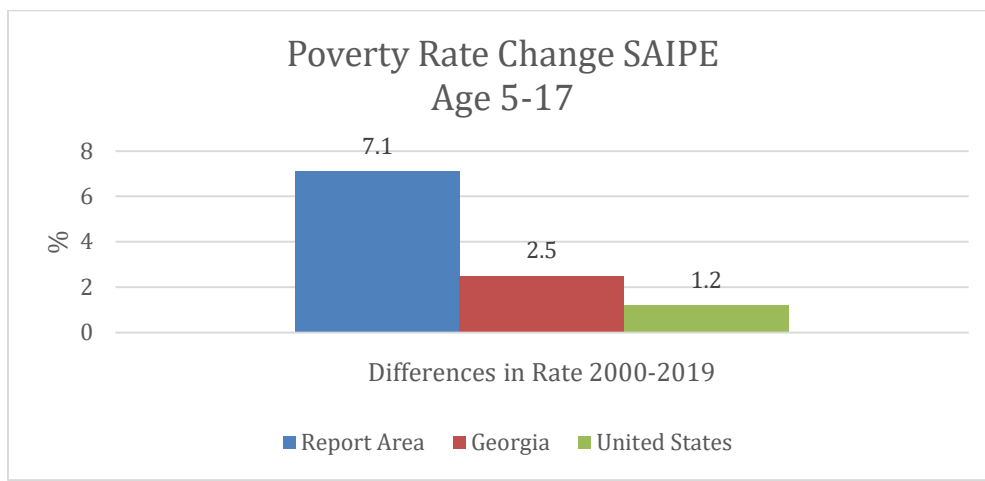


## Poverty Rate Change (SAIPE) Age 5-17

The poverty rate change for all children (age 5 -17) in the report area from 2000 to 2019 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area increased by 7.1%, compared to state and national increases of 2.5% and 1.2% respectively. Lowndes and Turner counties experienced increases in poverty rates for the specified period and age group of 11.7% and 11.6% respectively. Echols County which had the greatest poverty rate of all counties in 2000, experienced the only decline in poverty.

Report Area	Poverty Age 5-17 2000	Poverty Rate Age 5-17 2000	Poverty Age 5-17 2019	Poverty Rate Age 5-17 2019	Difference in Rate Age 5-17 2000 - 2019
Report Location	10,555	24.3%	13,874	31.4%	7.1%
Ben Hill County, GA	891	26.8%	871	29.1%	2.3%
Berrien County, GA	732	23.5%	913	27.4%	3.9%
Brooks County, GA	1,010	31.5%	840	34.8%	3.3%
Cook County, GA	855	26.6%	1,026	32.7%	6.1%
Echols County, GA	244	32.2%	220	27.2%	-5.0%
Irwin County, GA	488	26.1%	409	28.6%	2.5%
Lanier County, GA	329	24.3%	448	25.3%	1.0%
Lowndes County, GA	3,488	20.4%	6,364	32.1%	11.7%
Tift County, GA	1,868	25.3%	2,184	30.6%	5.3%
Turner County, GA	650	32.0%	599	43.6%	11.6%
Georgia	504,652	16.1%	674,302	18.6%	2.5%
United States	22,606,876	14.6%	24,773,503	15.8%	1.2%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates](#). 2019. Source geography: County

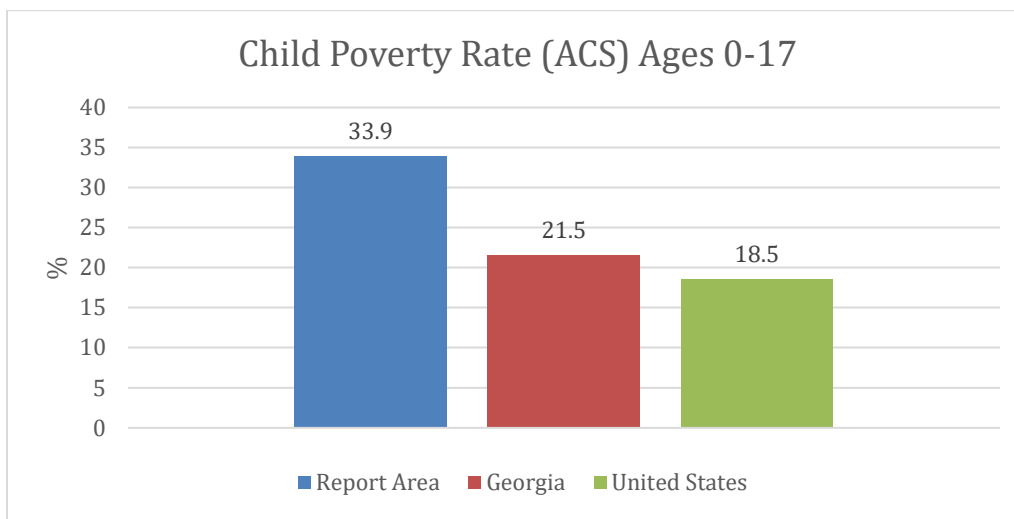


### **Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17**

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-17 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5 year data, an average of 33.9% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is greater than the national average of 18.5% and greater than the state average of 21.5%. All of the counties have greater poverty rates than the state and national averages.

Report Area	Ages 0-17 Total Population	Ages 0-17 In Poverty	Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate
Report Location	61,012	20,675	<b>33.9%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	4,204	2,079	49.5%
Berrien County, GA	4,549	1,406	30.9%
Brooks County, GA	3,395	1,273	37.5%
Cook County, GA	4,188	1,459	34.8%
Echols County, GA	881	196	22.2%
Irwin County, GA	2,021	647	32.0%
Lanier County, GA	2,531	565	22.3%
Lowndes County, GA	27,318	8,449	30.9%
Tift County, GA	10,023	3,610	36.0%
Turner County, GA	1,902	991	52.1%
Georgia	2,468,726	531,056	21.5%
United States	72,235,700	13,377,778	18.5%

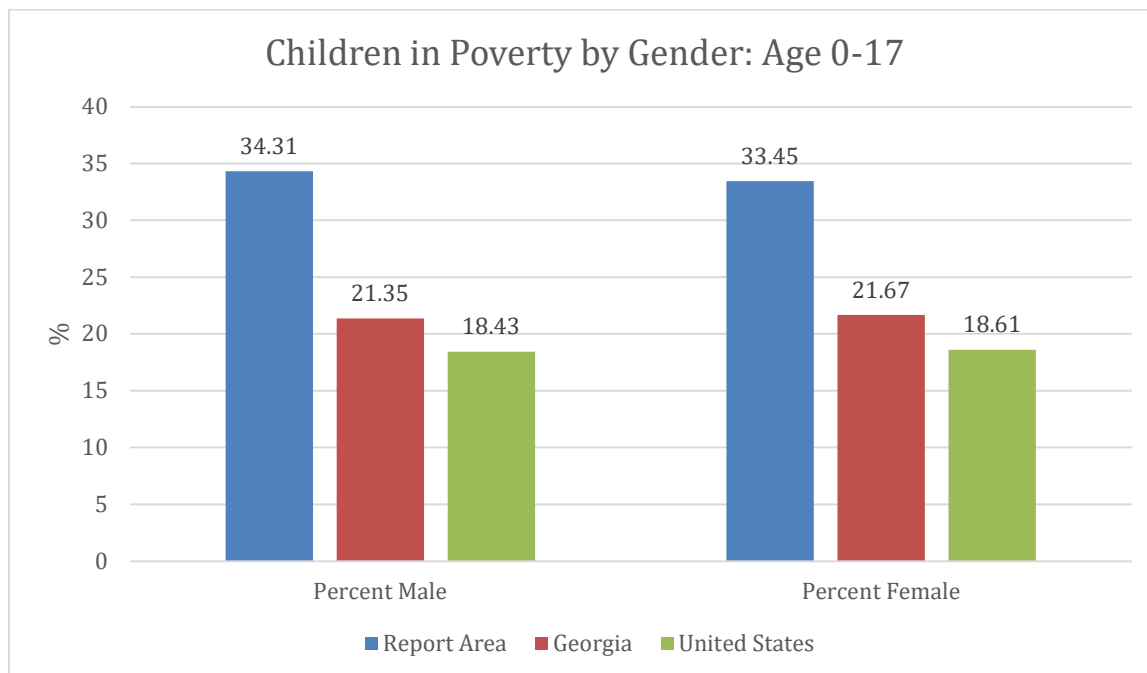
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-2019. Source geography: County



## Children in Poverty by Gender: Age 0 – 17

According to report area data, poverty is not significantly more prevalent in the female population (33.45%) than the male population (34.31%). This ratio is fairly consistent with state and national statistics of males and females in poverty. By county, Lanier has the smallest percentage of males living in poverty (19.17%) while Echols has the smallest percentage of females living in poverty (19.10%).

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Location	10,626	10,049	34.31%	33.45%
Ben Hill County, GA	994	1,085	45.47%	53.77%
Berrien County, GA	553	853	24.28%	37.56%
Brooks County, GA	609	664	33.70%	41.81%
Cook County, GA	636	823	30.68%	38.91%
Echols County, GA	86	110	28.20%	19.10%
Irwin County, GA	337	310	31.44%	32.67%
Lanier County, GA	230	335	19.17%	25.17%
Lowndes County, GA	4,493	3,956	32.27%	29.53%
Tift County, GA	2,239	1,371	42.64%	28.73%
Turner County, GA	449	542	51.49%	52.62%
Georgia	268,529	262,527	21.35%	21.67%
United States	6,799,287	6,578,491	18.43%	18.61%

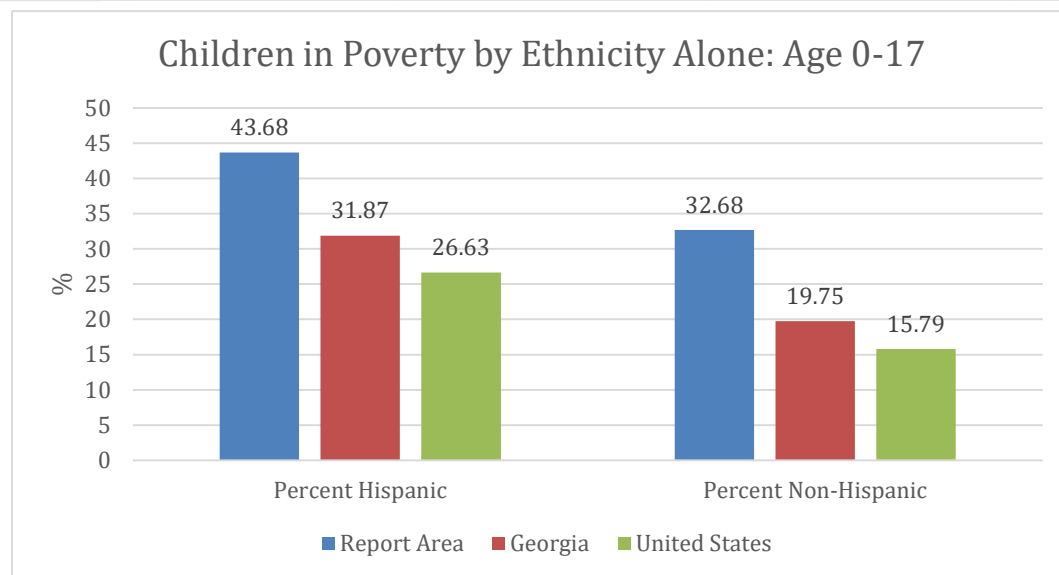




### **Children in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone: Age 0-17**

Out of the total population of 2,925 Latino/ Hispanic children ages 0-17 in the report area, 43.68% are living in poverty which exceeds the state and national averages of 31.87% and 26.63%, respectively. The greatest variance between Hispanic and Non-Hispanic children occurs in Echols County where the percent of Hispanics living in poverty is about seven times greater than Non-Hispanic children.

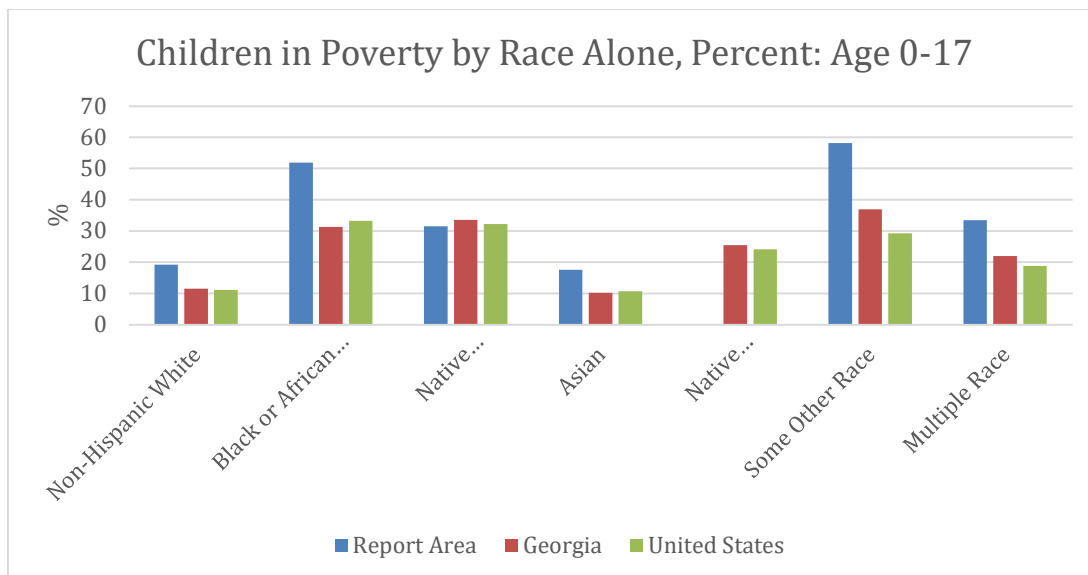
Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic or Latino
Report Location	2,925	17,750	43.68%	32.68%
Ben Hill County, GA	320	1,759	66.53%	47.25%
Berrien County, GA	127	1,279	31.91%	30.81%
Brooks County, GA	197	1,076	61.37%	35.00%
Cook County, GA	213	1,246	54.90%	32.79%
Echols County, GA	148	48	52.86%	7.99%
Irwin County, GA	40	607	25.16%	32.60%
Lanier County, GA	17	548	6.20%	24.28%
Lowndes County, GA	866	7,583	37.62%	30.31%
Tift County, GA	894	2,716	45.61%	33.68%
Turner County, GA	103	888	76.87%	50.23%
Georgia	114,476	416,580	31.87%	19.75%
United States	4,839,972	8,537,806	26.63%	15.79%



## Children in Poverty by Race Alone, Percent: Age 0 - 17

Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks, “Some Other Race” and “Multiple Race” experience poverty to a greater degree than state and national averages. However, Native Americans/Alaska Natives and Asians experience poverty less than state and national averages.

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Location	19.22%	51.93%	31.51%	17.52%	0.00%	58.11%	33.42%
Ben Hill County, GA	22.08%	77.49%	No data	0.00%	No data	69.29%	0.00%
Berrien County, GA	25.52%	45.88%	0.00%	0.00%	No data	32.24%	75.23%
Brooks County, GA	20.07%	53.01%	No data	No data	0.00%	89.27%	0.00%
Cook County, GA	28.15%	43.56%	No data	0.00%	No data	69.62%	13.50%
Echols County, GA	8.84%	0.00%	0.00%	No data	No data	59.11%	No data
Irwin County, GA	3.88%	84.75%	No data	No data	No data	0.00%	100.00%
Lanier County, GA	7.91%	65.73%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lowndes County, GA	16.34%	47.21%	32.08%	32.25%	0.00%	37.08%	26.71%
Tift County, GA	22.91%	46.02%	100.00%	0.00%	No data	87.42%	48.20%
Turner County, GA	34.53%	65.04%	No data	0.00%	No data	100.00%	100.00%
Georgia	11.52%	31.33%	33.52%	10.18%	25.41%	36.89%	21.97%
United States	11.13%	33.23%	32.23%	10.64%	24.13%	29.19%	18.78%

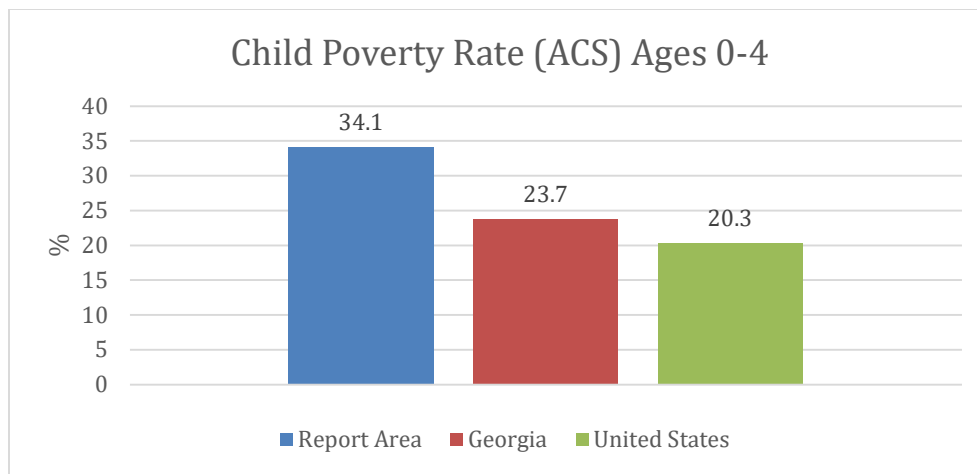


### Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-4

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-4 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5 year data, an average of 34.1% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is less than the national average of 20.3%. All of the counties have poverty rates greater than the state and national averages. There is a smaller percentage of children ages 0-4 in Irwin County in poverty (24.5%) than other counties in the service area. The poverty rate for this age group was greatest in Ben Hill County (51.9%).

Report Area	Ages 0-4 Total Population	Ages 0-4 In Poverty	Ages 0-4 Poverty Rate
Report Location	16,899	5,771	<b>34.1%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	1,046	543	51.9%
Berrien County, GA	1,208	430	35.6%
Brooks County, GA	961	244	25.4%
Cook County, GA	1,085	408	37.6%
Echols County, GA	175	62	35.4%
Irwin County, GA	412	101	24.5%
Lanier County, GA	710	295	41.5%
Lowndes County, GA	7,977	2,415	30.3%
Tift County, GA	2,826	1,050	37.2%
Turner County, GA	499	223	44.7%
Georgia	646,042	153,424	23.7%
United States	19,430,702	3,948,405	20.3%

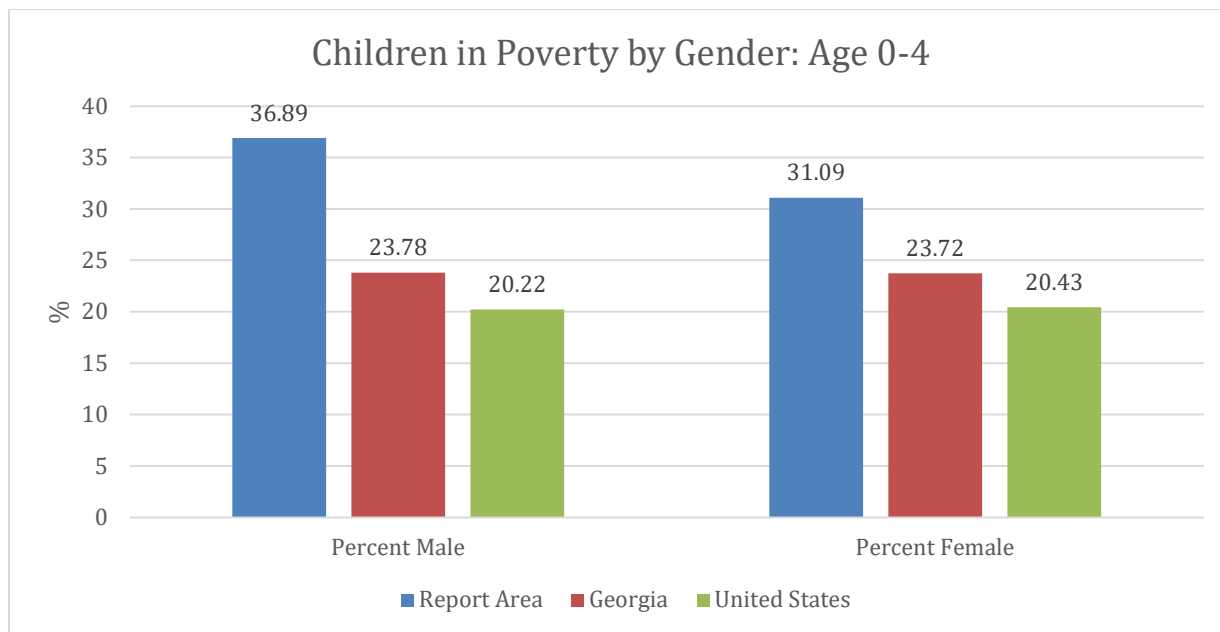
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County



### Children in Poverty by Gender: Age 0-4

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Location	3,286	2,485	36.89%	31.09%
Ben Hill County, GA	307	236	47.97%	58.13%
Berrien County, GA	129	301	21.57%	49.34%
Brooks County, GA	148	96	26.06%	24.43%
Cook County, GA	252	156	42.28%	31.90%
Echols County, GA	41	21	64.06%	18.92%
Irwin County, GA	87	14	38.33%	7.57%
Lanier County, GA	103	192	33.23%	48.00%
Lowndes County, GA	1,585	830	38.55%	21.47%
Tift County, GA	604	446	37.73%	36.41%
Turner County, GA	30	193	15.71%	62.66%
Georgia	78,395	75,029	23.78%	23.72%
United States	2,009,414	1,938,991	20.22%	20.43%

The percentages of males and females in the report area who live in poverty are greater than the state and national averages. Sixty-four percent of males who live in Echols County live in poverty while only 19% of females in the county live in poverty. Two counties, Irwin (7.57%) and Lowndes (21.47%), have lower percentages of females living in poverty than Georgians.

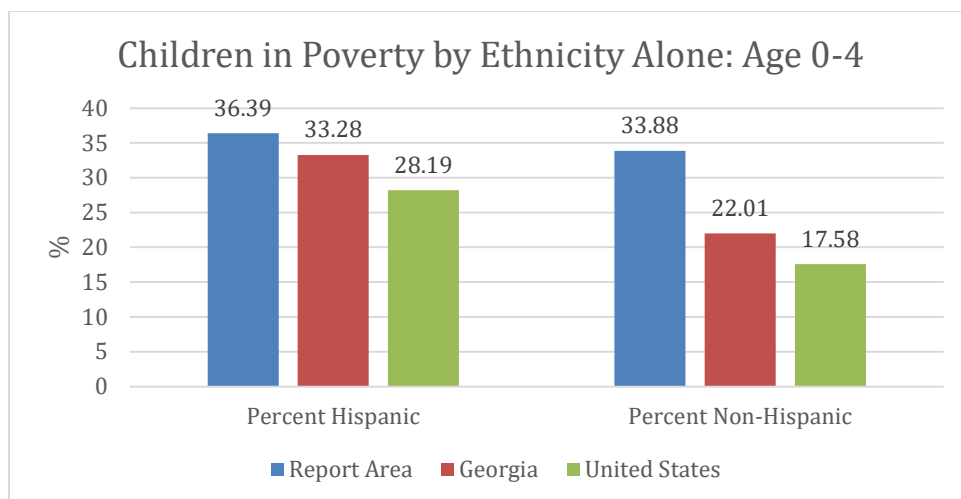


### Children in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone: Age 0 - 4

Thirty-six percent of Hispanic children ages 0-4 live in poverty in the report area compared to 33% for the state of Georgia and 28% for the Nation. For children in this age group, there was a slightly smaller percentage of non-Hispanics in poverty in the report area (34%) than Georgia (22%) and the Nation (18%). All of the Hispanics who live in Lanier or Turner counties, live in poverty. All of the counties have greater percentages of Non-Hispanics living in poverty than the state and national averages.

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic or Latino
Report Location	659	5,112	36.39%	33.88%
Ben Hill County, GA	66	477	75.00%	49.79%
Berrien County, GA	59	371	93.65%	32.40%
Brooks County, GA	12	232	14.81%	26.36%
Cook County, GA	55	353	62.50%	35.41%
Echols County, GA	28	34	39.44%	32.69%
Irwin County, GA	0	101	0.00%	26.17%
Lanier County, GA	17	278	100.00%	40.12%
Lowndes County, GA	268	2,147	34.40%	29.83%
Tift County, GA	137	913	23.58%	40.67%
Turner County, GA	17	206	100.00%	42.74%
Georgia	33,231	120,193	33.28%	22.01%
United States	1,415,710	2,532,695	28.19%	17.58%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*

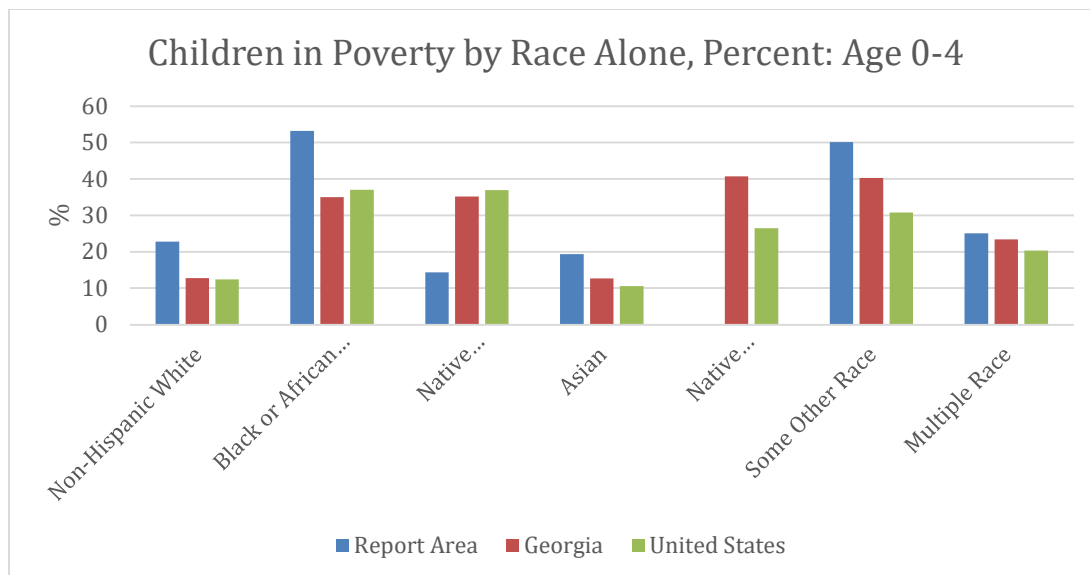


### **Children in Poverty by Race Alone, Percent: Age 0 – 4**

For the report area, all races ages 0-4, except Native American/Alaska Native, live in poverty to a greater degree than state and national averages.

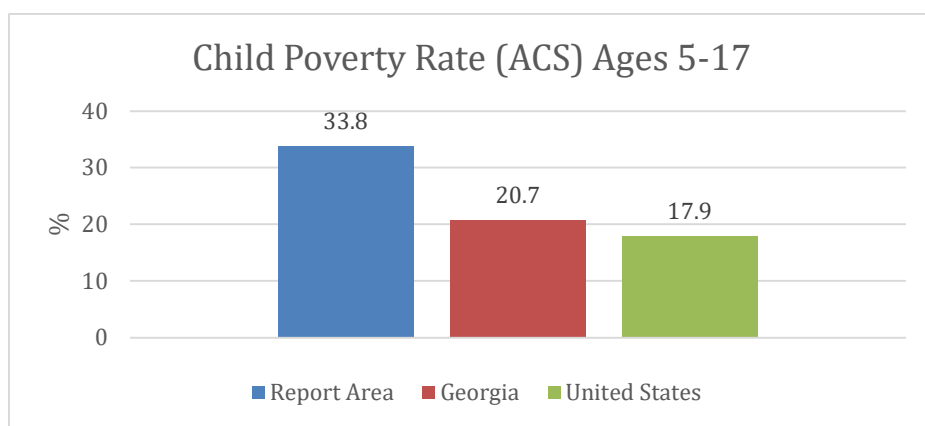
Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Location	22.78%	53.18%	14.29%	19.31%	No data	50.11%	25.04%
Ben Hill County, GA	27.88%	80.68%	No data	No data	No data	100.00%	0.00%
Berrien County, GA	29.06%	39.10%	No data	0.00%	No data	84.62%	90.00%
Brooks County, GA	26.58%	32.11%	No data	No data	No data	0.00%	0.00%
Cook County, GA	23.66%	66.99%	No data	0.00%	No data	100.00%	0.00%
Echols County, GA	32.69%	No data	No data	No data	No data	41.38%	No data
Irwin County, GA	2.97%	76.70%	No data	No data	No data	No data	100.00%
Lanier County, GA	12.12%	96.10%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lowndes County, GA	19.40%	46.09%	14.29%	29.20%	No data	38.13%	21.88%
Tift County, GA	31.75%	54.92%	No data	0.00%	No data	68.29%	0.00%
Turner County, GA	22.51%	59.75%	No data	No data	No data	No data	100.00%
Georgia	12.75%	34.95%	35.19%	12.63%	40.69%	40.23%	23.40%
United States	12.42%	37.04%	36.94%	10.56%	26.45%	30.81%	20.31%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County*



### **Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 5-17**

Population and poverty estimates for children age 5-17 are shown below. According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, 54.7% of children living in Turner County live in poverty, which is greater than those in the other counties, report area, Georgia, and the Nation. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is significantly more than the national average of 17.9% and the state rate of 20.7%. Lanier County has the smallest percentage of children in poverty in this age group (14.8%) than Coastal Plain EOA's other service counties.



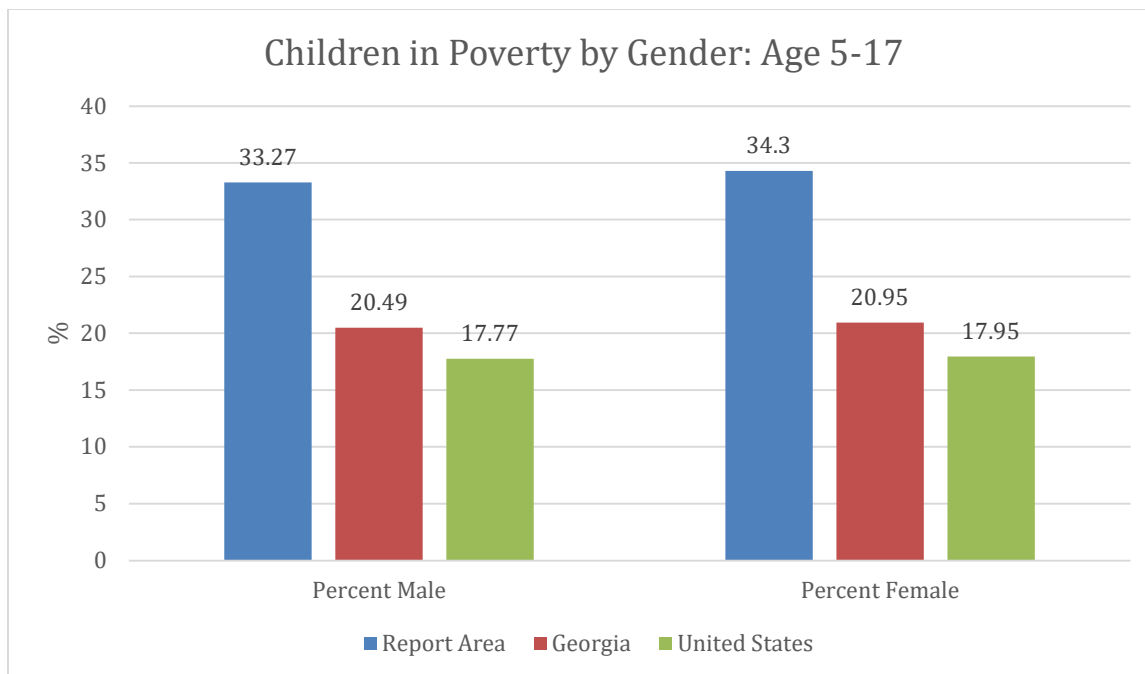
Report Area	Ages 5-17 Total Population	Ages 5-17 In Poverty	Ages 5-17 Poverty Rate
Report Location	44,113	14,904	<b>33.8%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	3,158	1,536	48.6%
Berrien County, GA	3,341	976	29.2%
Brooks County, GA	2,434	1,029	42.3%
Cook County, GA	3,103	1,051	33.9%
Echols County, GA	706	134	19.0%
Irwin County, GA	1,609	546	33.9%
Lanier County, GA	1,821	270	14.8%
Lowndes County, GA	19,341	6,034	31.2%
Tift County, GA	7,197	2,560	35.6%
Turner County, GA	1,403	768	54.7%
Georgia	1,822,684	377,632	20.7%
United States	52,804,998	9,429,373	17.9%

## Children in Poverty by Gender: Age 5 - 17

According to data, poverty is slightly more prevalent in the female population (34.30%) in the report area than the male population (33.27%). This ratio is fairly consistent with state and national statistics. However, Turner County is more than twice as likely to have a greater percentage of people identifying as female, living in poverty (48.34%) than the Georgia (20.95%) and national (17.95%) averages.

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Location	7,340	7,564	33.27%	34.30%
Ben Hill County, GA	687	849	44.44%	52.67%
Berrien County, GA	424	552	25.24%	33.23%
Brooks County, GA	461	568	37.21%	47.53%
Cook County, GA	384	667	26.00%	41.02%
Echols County, GA	45	89	18.67%	19.14%
Irwin County, GA	250	296	29.59%	38.74%
Lanier County, GA	127	143	14.27%	15.36%
Lowndes County, GA	2,908	3,126	29.64%	32.80%
Tift County, GA	1,635	925	44.79%	26.08%
Turner County, GA	419	349	61.53%	48.34%
Georgia	190,134	187,498	20.49%	20.95%
United States	4,789,873	4,639,500	17.77%	17.95%





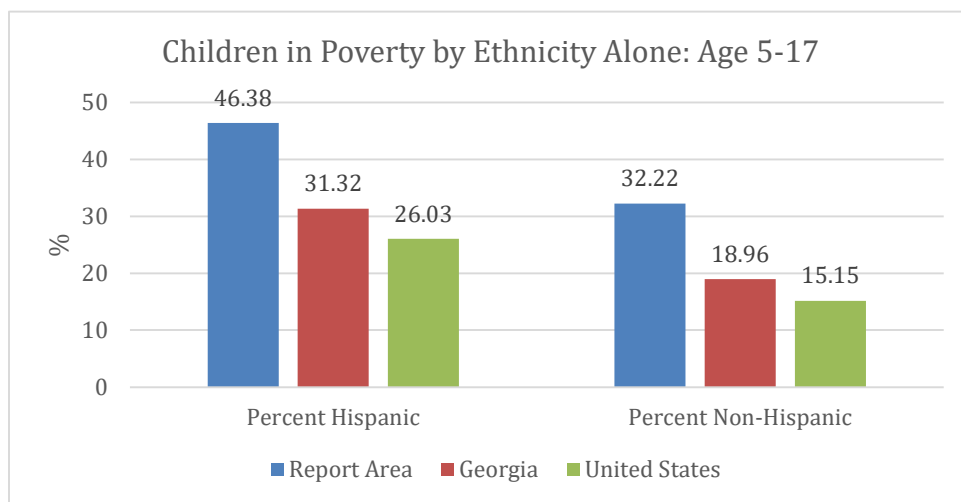
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

### **Children in Poverty by Ethnicity Alone: Age 5 – 17**

Once again, the percentage of Hispanic children living in poverty in the report area (32.22%) is at least double than Non-Hispanics in the nation (15.15). Here, Brooks County has the greatest percentage of Hispanic children ages 5-17 living in poverty (77.08%) of all the counties and three times the national average (26.03). Echols County has the lowest rate of Non-Hispanics living in poverty (2.82%), but has on 14 Non-Hispanics living in poverty.

Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic or Latino
Report Location	2,266	12,638	46.38%	32.22%
Ben Hill County, GA	254	1,282	64.63%	46.37%
Berrien County, GA	68	908	20.30%	30.21%
Brooks County, GA	185	844	77.08%	38.47%
Cook County, GA	158	893	52.67%	31.86%
Echols County, GA	120	14	57.42%	2.82%
Irwin County, GA	40	506	30.08%	34.28%
Lanier County, GA	0	270	0.00%	17.26%
Lowndes County, GA	598	5,436	39.26%	30.51%
Tift County, GA	757	1,803	54.89%	30.99%
Turner County, GA	86	682	73.50%	53.03%
Georgia	81,245	296,387	31.32%	18.96%
United States	3,424,262	6,005,111	26.03%	15.15%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. 2015-2019. Source geography: County



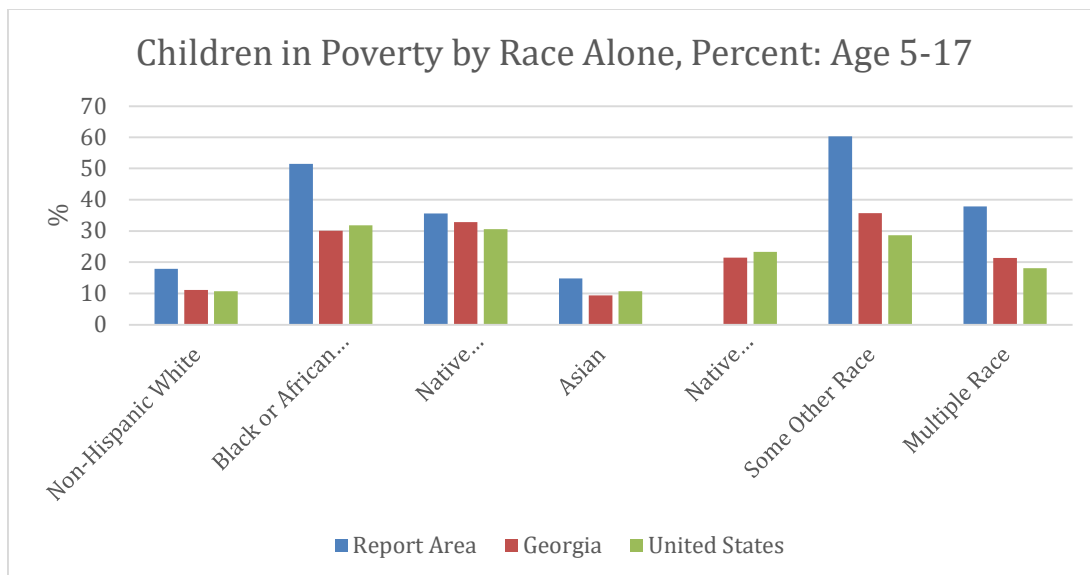
**Children in Poverty  
by Race Alone,  
Percent: Age 5 – 17**

Of all the races, the smallest percentage of non-Hispanic white children ages 5-17 living in poverty live in Echols County (3.19%). This rate is three times less than Georgia and the

national rate. As was witnessed for other age groups, Native American/Alaska Natives and Asians live in poverty in the report area in greater percentages than the state and national rates.

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Location	17.87%	51.48%	35.59%	14.75%	0.00%	60.34%	37.88%
Ben Hill County, GA	19.99%	76.48%	No data	0.00%	No data	63.25%	0.00%
Berrien County, GA	24.24%	48.13%	0.00%	0.00%	No data	25.00%	69.75%
Brooks County, GA	17.86%	61.10%	No data	No data	0.00%	95.76%	0.00%
Cook County, GA	29.76%	36.23%	No data	No data	No data	52.94%	17.74%
Echols County, GA	3.19%	0.00%	0.00%	No data	No data	66.21%	No data
Irwin County, GA	4.14%	86.35%	No data	No data	No data	0.00%	100.00%
Lanier County, GA	6.23%	48.53%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lowndes County, GA	15.10%	47.61%	52.00%	40.91%	0.00%	36.51%	29.79%
Tift County, GA	19.43%	42.45%	100.00%	0.00%	No data	89.36%	52.14%
Turner County, GA	39.14%	66.97%	No data	0.00%	No data	100.00%	100.00%
Georgia	11.09%	30.07%	32.86%	9.35%	21.45%	35.73%	21.32%
United States	10.66%	31.84%	30.60%	10.66%	23.25%	28.61%	18.08%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. 2015-2019. Source geography: County

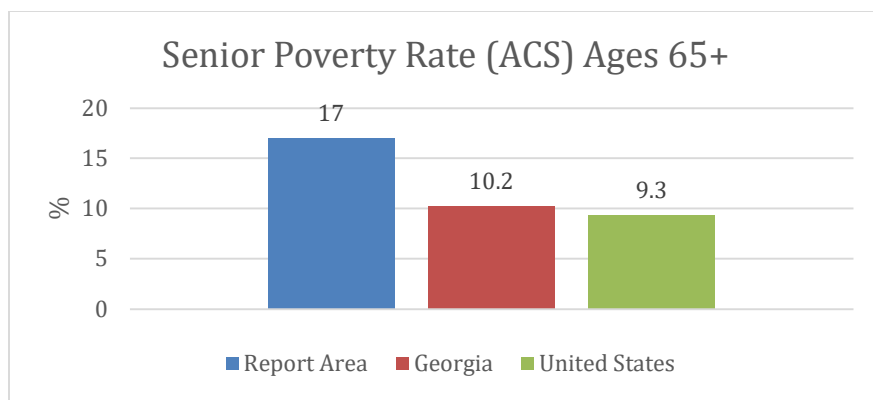


## Seniors in Poverty

Population and poverty estimates for persons age 65 and up are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year data, an average of 17.0% of people lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for people living in the report area is less than the national average of 9.3%. Tift County witnesses the smallest percentage of seniors living in poverty (12.1%). Lanier County has largest percentage of seniors living in a state of poverty (30.3%) of all the counties – three times that of the state and nation, 10.2% and 9.3% respectively.

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Report Location	35,872	6,086	<b>17.0%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	2,713	474	17.5%
Berrien County, GA	3,277	523	16.0%
Brooks County, GA	2,934	493	16.8%
Cook County, GA	2,654	514	19.4%
Echols County, GA	641	105	16.4%
Irwin County, GA	1,656	210	12.7%
Lanier County, GA	1,396	423	30.3%
Lowndes County, GA	13,430	2,227	16.6%
Tift County, GA	5,678	689	12.1%
Turner County, GA	1,493	428	28.7%
Georgia	1,376,650	140,097	10.2%
United States	49,488,799	4,587,432	9.3%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates. 2015-2019. Source geography: County



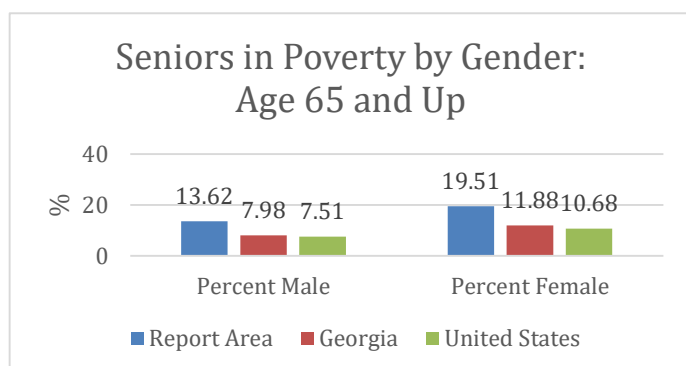
### **Poverty by Gender: Age 65 and Up**

Poverty rates for seniors (persons age 65 and over) are shown below. According to American Community Survey estimates, there were 2,115 male seniors, or 13.62%, and 3,971 female seniors or

Report Area	Total Male	Total Female	Percent Male	Percent Female
Report Location	2,115	3,971	13.62%	19.51%
Ben Hill County, GA	127	347	11.27%	21.88%
Berrien County, GA	226	297	14.74%	17.03%
Brooks County, GA	180	313	14.03%	18.96%
Cook County, GA	178	336	15.24%	22.61%
Echols County, GA	26	79	8.07%	24.76%
Irwin County, GA	103	107	13.04%	12.36%
Lanier County, GA	152	271	24.96%	34.43%
Lowndes County, GA	759	1,468	13.26%	19.06%
Tift County, GA	246	443	10.44%	13.34%
Turner County, GA	118	310	19.38%	35.07%
Georgia	47,919	92,178	7.98%	11.88%
United States	1,656,650	2,930,782	7.51%	10.68%

19.51% living in poverty within the report area. On all levels and in all counties, except Irwin County, the percentage of female seniors living in poverty is higher than that of male seniors. Echols County has the smallest percentage of male seniors in poverty of all Coastal Plain EOA's service counties.

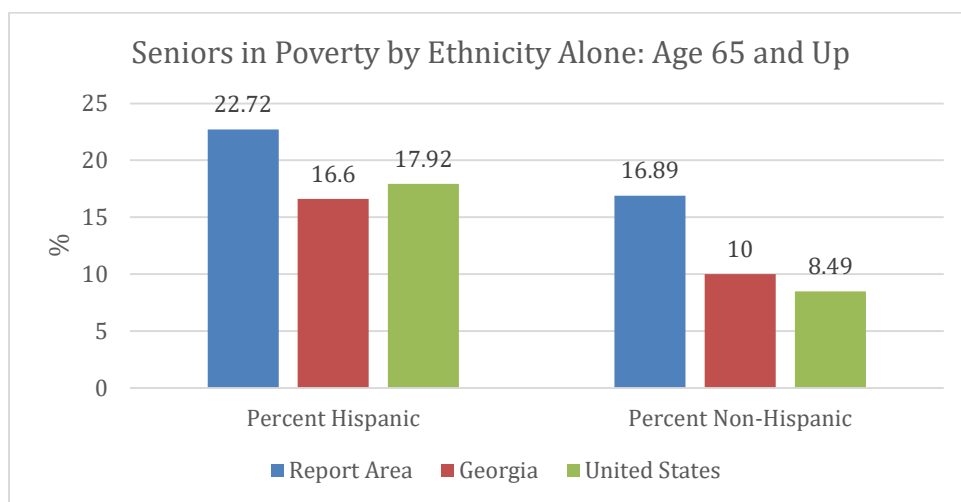
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. 2015-2019. Source geography: County



## Poverty by Ethnicity Alone: Age 65 and Up

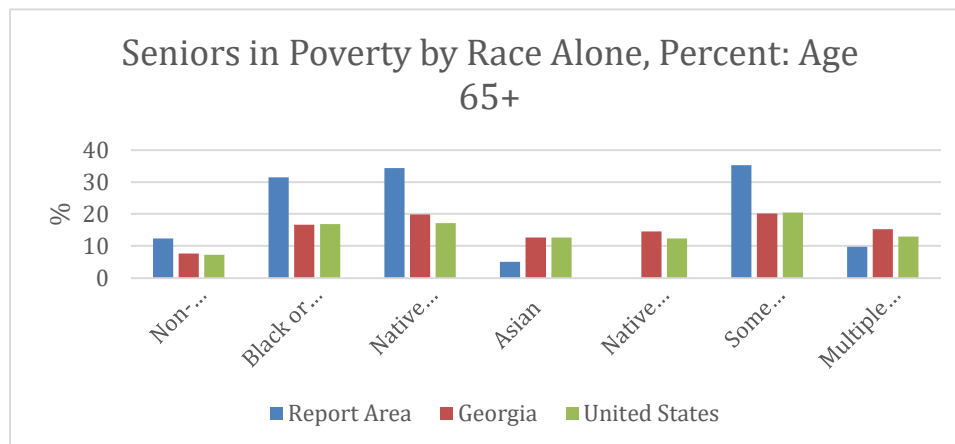
Report Area	Total Hispanic / Latino	Total Not Hispanic / Latino	Percent Hispanic / Latino	Percent Not Hispanic or Latino
Report Location	112	5,974	22.72%	16.89%
Ben Hill County, GA	0	474	0.00%	17.61%
Berrien County, GA	31	492	86.11%	15.18%
Brooks County, GA	19	474	61.29%	16.33%
Cook County, GA	0	514	No data	19.37%
Echols County, GA	19	86	100.00%	13.83%
Irwin County, GA	0	210	0.00%	13.29%
Lanier County, GA	0	423	No data	30.30%
Lowndes County, GA	43	2,184	26.71%	16.46%
Tift County, GA	0	689	0.00%	12.35%
Turner County, GA	0	428	0.00%	29.68%
Georgia	6,226	133,871	16.60%	10.00%
United States	733,181	3,854,251	17.92%	8.49%

For the age group 65 and up, a greater percentage of Hispanics of the report area are living in poverty compared to those not Hispanic or Latino. The percentages of this group are also greater than those of the state (16.60%) and nation (17.92%).



### Poverty by Race Alone, Percent: Age 65 and Up

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	Native American / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Report Location	12.32%	31.45%	34.41%	5.00%	No data	35.23%	9.76%
Ben Hill County, GA	11.52%	33.33%	No data	No data	No data	0.00%	0.00%
Berrien County, GA	12.45%	37.18%	91.18%	0.00%	No data	No data	100.00%
Brooks County, GA	16.19%	16.89%	No data	No data	No data	No data	100.00%
Cook County, GA	14.73%	36.72%	4.17%	No data	No data	No data	0.00%
Echols County, GA	13.40%	0.00%	0.00%	No data	No data	100.00%	100.00%
Irwin County, GA	7.49%	33.05%	No data	0.00%	No data	No data	0.00%
Lanier County, GA	22.55%	57.01%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lowndes County, GA	11.63%	29.27%	0.00%	6.01%	No data	30.00%	0.00%
Tift County, GA	7.05%	31.48%	0.00%	0.00%	No data	No data	0.00%
Turner County, GA	23.53%	45.43%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Georgia	7.65%	16.68%	19.89%	12.61%	14.54%	20.12%	15.27%
United States	7.20%	16.85%	17.13%	12.66%	12.34%	20.42%	12.90%



The percentage of all races of seniors (65 and up) living in poverty in the report area are higher than

the national percentage and the state percentage for Non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks, Native Americans/Alaska Natives, and “Some Other Race”. There are several instances in the table where the counties do not have representation of all races in poverty.

## Employment

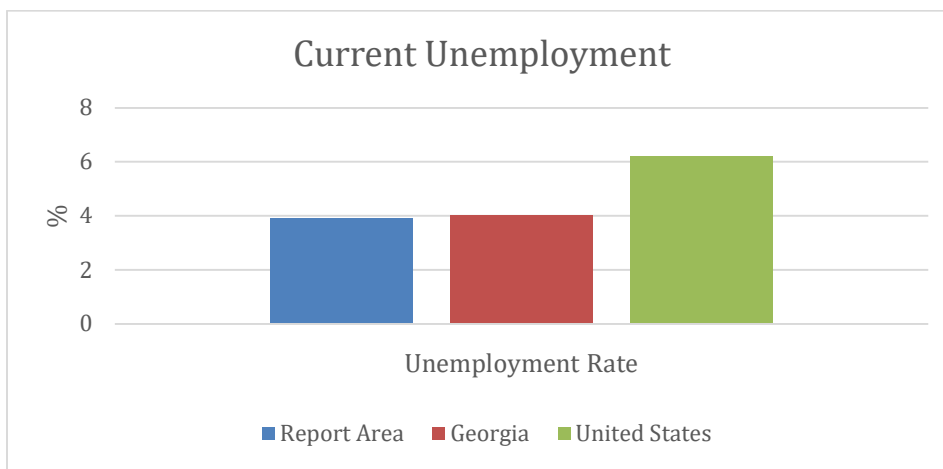
### Current Unemployment

Understanding unemployment is critical when assessing the community. Communities suffer as unemployment rates increase. As more people become unemployed and apply for federal or state assistance, governmental expenditures continue to grow, which increase government borrowing. People who are unemployed also spend less, which impacts local businesses by reducing their revenue. Underemployment and unemployment are also key linkages to poverty.

Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for each county in the report area is provided in the table below. Overall, the report area experienced a 3.9% unemployment rate in March 2021. The unemployment rate is lower than both the national and state rates of 6.2% and 4.0%, respectively. Turner County has the greatest unemployment rate of all Coastal Plain EOA's service counties, 6.5%.

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Report Location	116,073	111,489	4,584	3.9%
Ben Hill County, GA	5,502	5,211	291	5.3%
Berrien County, GA	7,715	7,444	271	3.5%
Brooks County, GA	7,137	6,868	269	3.8%
Cook County, GA	8,373	8,101	272	3.2%
Echols County, GA	1,986	1,933	53	2.7%
Irwin County, GA	3,595	3,439	156	4.3%
Lanier County, GA	3,853	3,720	133	3.5%
Lowndes County, GA	53,170	51,012	2,158	4.1%
Tift County, GA	21,371	20,610	761	3.6%
Turner County, GA	3,371	3,151	220	6.5%
Georgia	5,174,235	4,966,214	208,021	4.0%
United States	161,465,957	151,482,405	9,983,550	6.2%

Data Source: US Department of Labor, [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). 2021 - March. Source geography: County



## **Household Income**

Since this reports a median amount, a "Report Area" value is not able to be calculated. The following chart shows the national, state and county level median household income. All Coastal Plain EOA service counties are below the state and nation median household income levels of \$61,950 and \$65,912 respectively. Turner County households have the lowest median household income of \$35,400.

Report Area	Estimated Population	Median Household Income
Ben Hill County, GA	17,033	\$35,931
Berrien County, GA	19,152	\$42,058
Brooks County, GA	15,590	\$39,554
Cook County, GA	17,177	\$40,670
Echols County, GA	3,981	\$40,408
Irwin County, GA	9,320	\$42,317
Lanier County, GA	10,380	\$42,667
Lowndes County, GA	115,364	\$46,450
Tift County, GA	40,541	\$47,764
Turner County, GA	7,943	\$35,400
Georgia	10,403,847	\$61,950
United States	324,697,795	\$65,712

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates](#). 2019. Source geography: County

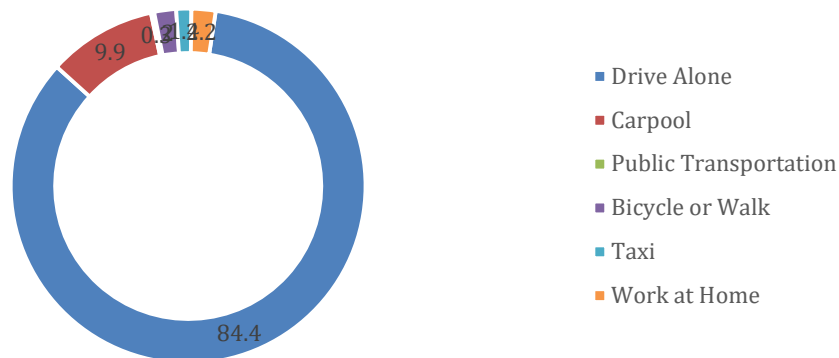


## Commuter Travel Patterns

This table shows the method of transportation workers used to travel to work for the report area. Of the 106,881 workers in the report area, 84.4% drove to work alone while 9.9% carpooled. Less than one percent, 0.3%, of all workers reported that they used some form of public transportation, while others used some optional means including 2.0% walking or riding bicycles, and 1.4% used taxicabs to travel to work.

Report Area	Workers 16 and Up	Percent Drive Alone	Percent Carpool	Percent Public Transportation	Percent Bicycle or Walk	Percent Taxi or Other	Percent Work at Home
Report Location	106,881	84.4%	9.9%	0.3%	2.0%	1.4%	2.2%
Ben Hill County, GA	6,133	88.6%	7.8%	0.0%	0.2%	2.6%	0.8%
Berrien County, GA	7,313	81.8%	12.7%	0.2%	1.3%	1.7%	2.3%
Brooks County, GA	6,018	80.3%	10.3%	0.8%	4.3%	1.7%	2.7%
Cook County, GA	7,083	81.1%	13.5%	0.2%	1.5%	0.7%	3.1%
Echols County, GA	1,748	86.6%	6.0%	0.3%	1.8%	3.6%	1.8%
Irwin County, GA	3,586	90.6%	4.6%	0.0%	0.5%	3.4%	0.9%
Lanier County, GA	3,707	88.2%	3.8%	0.0%	4.8%	0.5%	2.8%
Lowndes County, GA	49,990	84.4%	9.4%	0.3%	2.1%	1.2%	2.5%
Tift County, GA	18,231	84.5%	11.2%	0.3%	1.6%	0.9%	1.5%
Turner County, GA	3,072	83.1%	14.8%	0.3%	0.9%	0.6%	0.2%
Georgia	4,781,201	79.2%	9.6%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	5.8%
United States	152,735,781	76.3%	9.0%	5.0%	3.2%	1.3%	5.2%

Commuter Travel Patterns  
Report Area

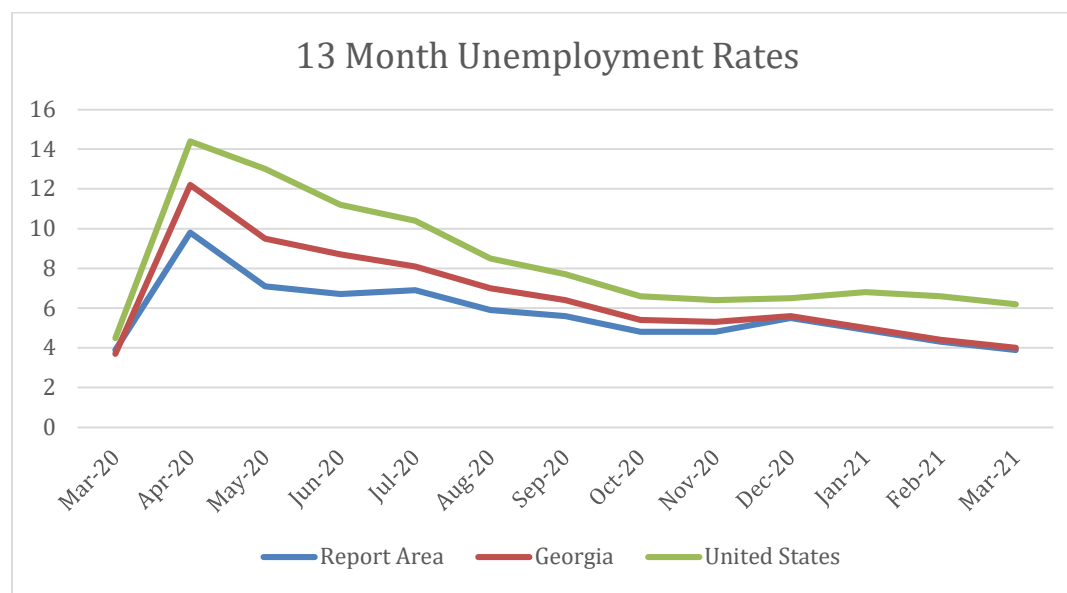


## Thirteen Month Unemployment Rates

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this thirteen-month period remained at 3.9% at the beginning of the period and the end of the period.

Report Area	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Report Location	3.9%	9.8%	7.1%	6.7%	6.9%	5.9%	5.6%	4.8%	4.8%	5.5%	4.9%	4.3%	3.9%
Ben Hill County, GA	5.7%	10.6%	6.8%	7.3%	7.4%	7.0%	6.6%	6.5%	6.6%	7.5%	7.1%	6.0%	5.3%
Berrien County, GA	4.4%	14.6%	6.7%	6.0%	5.9%	5.1%	5.0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.9%	4.3%	3.8%	3.5%
Brooks County, GA	4.1%	7.6%	5.8%	5.9%	6.5%	5.5%	5.4%	4.5%	4.6%	5.3%	4.5%	4.2%	3.8%
Cook County, GA	3.3%	7.9%	5.2%	5.2%	5.8%	5.0%	4.9%	4.1%	4.1%	4.7%	4.1%	3.6%	3.2%
Echols County, GA	3.0%	5.8%	4.9%	4.9%	4.8%	4.0%	3.7%	3.3%	3.2%	3.8%	3.0%	2.9%	2.7%
Irwin County, GA	4.6%	8.5%	6.1%	6.1%	6.0%	5.6%	5.0%	4.5%	4.7%	5.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.3%
Lanier County, GA	4.0%	9.6%	6.0%	5.7%	5.9%	5.1%	4.7%	4.2%	4.5%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.5%
Lowndes County, GA	3.8%	10.2%	8.3%	7.5%	7.6%	6.3%	5.9%	5.1%	5.0%	5.7%	5.2%	4.5%	4.1%
Tift County, GA	3.4%	9.0%	6.3%	5.8%	6.2%	5.2%	5.1%	4.4%	4.2%	4.9%	4.3%	3.8%	3.6%
Turner County, GA	4.5%	10.6%	7.5%	8.0%	8.1%	7.7%	8.1%	7.1%	7.6%	8.5%	7.2%	6.1%	6.5%
Georgia	3.7%	12.2%	9.5%	8.7%	8.1%	7.0%	6.4%	5.4%	5.3%	5.6%	5.0%	4.4%	4.0%
United States	4.5%	14.4%	13.0%	11.2%	10.4%	8.5%	7.7%	6.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.8%	6.6%	6.2%

Data Source: US Department of Labor, [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). 2021 - March. Source geography: County

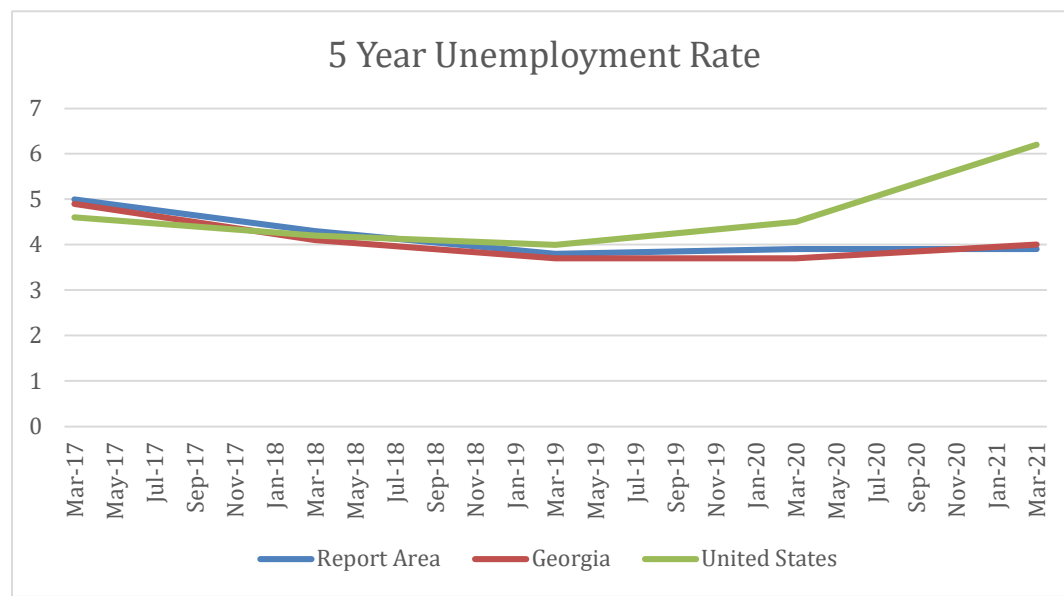


## Five Year Unemployment Rate

Unemployment change within the report area from March 2017 to March 2021 is shown in the chart below. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment for this five year period fell from 5.0% to 3.9%. Irwin County experienced the greatest decline in unemployment for this period – 3.1%.

Report Area	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021
Report Location	5.0%	4.3%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%
Ben Hill County, GA	8.0%	6.3%	5.5%	5.7%	5.3%
Berrien County, GA	5.5%	4.4%	3.8%	4.4%	3.5%
Brooks County, GA	4.7%	4.3%	3.6%	4.1%	3.8%
Cook County, GA	4.7%	3.9%	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%
Echols County, GA	3.9%	3.3%	2.9%	3.0%	2.7%
Irwin County, GA	7.4%	5.9%	4.9%	4.6%	4.3%
Lanier County, GA	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%	4.0%	3.5%
Lowndes County, GA	4.7%	4.1%	3.8%	3.8%	4.1%
Tift County, GA	4.7%	4.2%	3.6%	3.4%	3.6%
Turner County, GA	5.8%	5.2%	4.0%	4.5%	6.5%
Georgia	4.9%	4.1%	3.7%	3.7%	4.0%
United States	4.6%	4.2%	4.0%	4.5%	6.2%

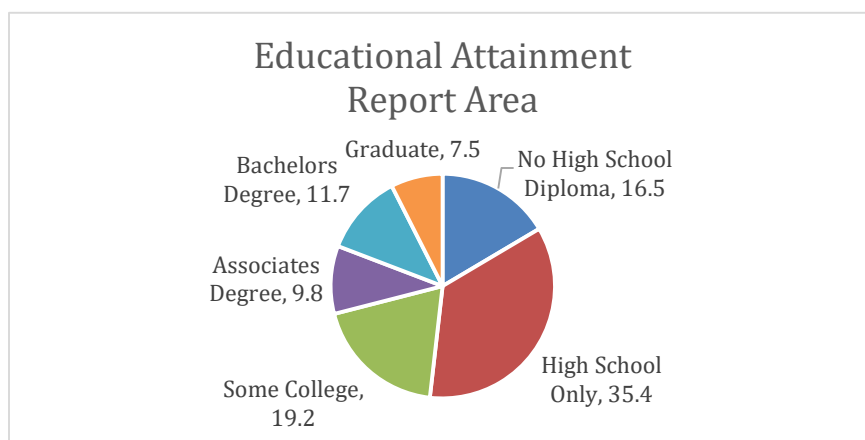
Data Source: US Department of Labor, [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). 2021 - March. Source geography: County



## Education

### Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of educational attainment levels in the report area. Poverty and education are inextricably linked. Individuals living in poverty may oftentimes quit school to go to work, which leads to lack of literacy and numerous other skills which consequently affects employability. Thus,



assessing and understanding education as a poverty indicator is key to eliminating associated barriers to self-sufficiency.

Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25, and is an estimated average for the period from 2014 to 2019. For the selected area, 11.7% have at least a college bachelor's degree. Many residents in the Coastal Plain EOA service counties have only a high school diploma (35.4%) compared

with 27.7% in Georgia and 27.00% nationally). Four communities (Ben Hill – 45.3%, Berrien – 42.4%, Echols – 41.9% and Irwin – 40.2% suffer from extremely high rates, greater than 40%. According to the U.S. Census

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates Degree	Bachelors Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Report Location	16.5%	35.4%	19.2%	9.8%	11.7%	7.5%
Ben Hill County, GA	16.47%	45.3%	17.8%	9.3%	7.5%	3.7%
Berrien County, GA	20.97%	42.4%	17.4%	7.8%	7.4%	4.0%
Brooks County, GA	14.87%	35.0%	22.0%	10.4%	12.6%	5.2%
Cook County, GA	20.86%	36.4%	19.9%	9.4%	8.4%	5.1%
Echols County, GA	25.84%	41.9%	16.2%	6.3%	6.0%	3.8%
Irwin County, GA	18.55%	40.2%	15.9%	10.3%	8.7%	6.4%
Lanier County, GA	20.03%	37.9%	16.5%	9.1%	10.7%	5.8%
Lowndes County, GA	13.36%	31.4%	20.5%	9.4%	15.4%	9.9%
Tift County, GA	18.08%	34.7%	17.4%	11.7%	9.7%	8.5%
Turner County, GA	18.80%	38.0%	19.6%	11.9%	6.5%	5.2%
Georgia	12.86%	27.7%	20.3%	7.8%	19.2%	12.1%
United States	12.00%	27.0%	20.4%	8.5%	19.8%	12.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: County

Bureau's American Community Survey, a total of 16.5% of the individuals age 25 and older do not have a high school diploma. This is noticeably higher than the state's 12.86% and national 12.00%. Six communities have rates above 20% (Echols – 25.84%, Berrien - 20.97%, Cook – 20.86%, Lanier – 20.03%). Actually, all of the counties have percentages of residents without a high school diploma greater than the state (12.86%) and nation (12.00%).

## Housing

Total Housing Units, Median Year Built, and Median Age in 2017 for the report area are shown below. Housing units used in housing age include only those that the year built is known. According to the information obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the median age of homes in the nation is 41 years. This is higher than the average age of 30 years for Georgia homes.

In the service area, Turner County has the oldest homes, with a median age of 45 years - built in 1974, of all Coastal Plain EOA's counties, the state and the nation. This is followed by Irwin County at 39 years. Seven additional counties, Irwin (39), Ben Hill (38), Cook (36), Tift (36), Brooks (35), Berrien (34) and Echols (32) have median housing age higher than the statewide average. Lanier County has the newest housing units, built in 1992 followed by Lowndes built in 1990.

### Housing Age

Report Area	Total Housing Units	Median Year Built	Median Age (from 2019)
Report Location	110,702	No data	No data
Ben Hill County, GA	8,001	1981	38
Berrien County, GA	8,798	1985	34
Brooks County, GA	7,791	1984	35
Cook County, GA	7,419	1983	36
Echols County, GA	1,871	1987	32
Irwin County, GA	4,066	1980	39
Lanier County, GA	4,419	1992	27
Lowndes County, GA	47,654	1990	29
Tift County, GA	16,745	1983	36
Turner County, GA	3,938	1974	45
Georgia	4,283,477	1989	30
United States	137,428,986	1978	41

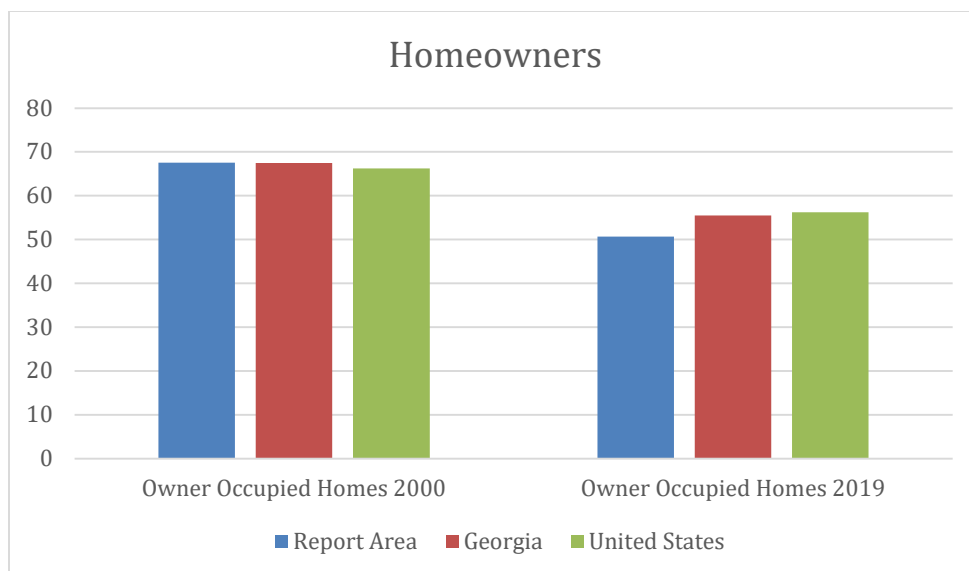
Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: County

## Homeowners

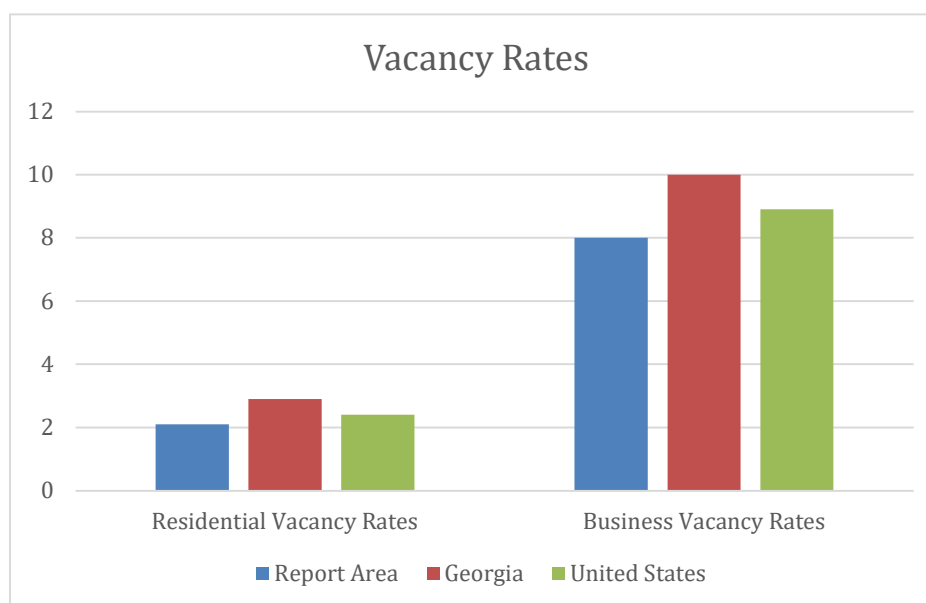
The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 56,109 owner occupied homeowners of the estimated 110,702 housing units in the report area in 2019. This 50.68% is a decrease over the 67.57% owner occupied homes in 2000. The decrease is also under the state rate (55.51%) and nation rate (56.23%). The county with the lowest percentage of owner-occupied homes is Lowndes (45.32%) while Brooks and Irwin have the greatest percentages (60%).

Report Area	Total Housing Units 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Owner Occupied Homes 2000	Total Housing Units 2019	Owner Occupied Homes 2019	Owner Occupied Homes 2019
Report Location	82,480	55,733	67.57%	110,702	56,109	50.68%
Cook County, GA	5,882	4,405	74.89%	7,419	4,127	55.63%
Lanier County, GA	2,593	1,977	76.24%	4,419	2,392	54.13%
Berrien County, GA	6,261	4,720	75.39%	8,798	4,731	53.77%
Tift County, GA	13,919	9,370	67.32%	16,745	9,087	54.27%
Ben Hill County, GA	6,673	4,449	66.67%	8,001	3,791	47.38%
Irwin County, GA	3,644	2,800	76.84%	4,066	2,450	60.26%
Brooks County, GA	6,155	4,732	76.88%	7,791	4,685	60.13%
Echols County, GA	1,264	957	75.71%	1,871	1,058	56.55%
Lowndes County, GA	32,654	19,865	60.83%	47,654	21,597	45.32%
Turner County, GA	3,435	2,458	71.56%	3,938	2,191	55.64%
Georgia	3,006,369	2,029,154	67.50%	4,283,477	2,377,773	55.51%
United States	105,480,101	69,815,753	66.19%	137,428,986	77,274,381	56.23%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). US Census Bureau, [Decennial Census](#). 2015-19. Source geography: County



## Vacancy Rates



The U.S. Postal Service provided information quarterly to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on addresses identified as vacant in the previous quarter. Residential and business vacancy rates

for the report area in the fourth quarter of 2020 are reported.

For this reporting period, a total of 2,725 residential addresses were identified as vacant in the report area, a vacancy rate of 2.1% which is slightly less than the state (2.9%) and nation (2.4%). There were 991 business addresses reported as vacant in the report area, a rate of 8.0% which is 1-2 percentage points lower than the state (10.0%) and nation (8.9%). Cook County has the greatest residential vacancy rate (4.2%), while Brooks County has the greatest business vacancy rate, 16.8%.

Report Area	Residential Addresses	Vacant Residential Addresses	Residential Vacancy Rate	Business Addresses	Vacant Business Addresses	Business Vacancy Rate
Report Location	128,997	2,725	2.1%	12,450	991	8.0%
Ben Hill County, GA	9,121	312	3.4%	889	102	11.5%
Berrien County, GA	9,207	195	2.1%	656	72	11.0%
Brooks County, GA	8,135	281	3.5%	561	94	16.8%
Cook County, GA	8,165	347	4.2%	707	109	15.4%
Echols County, GA	1,651	0	0.0%	42	0	0.0%
Irwin County, GA	4,716	68	1.4%	358	33	9.2%
Lanier County, GA	4,738	29	0.6%	265	4	1.5%
Lowndes County, GA	57,667	1,074	1.9%	5,765	451	7.8%
Tift County, GA	21,004	385	1.8%	2,737	121	4.4%
Turner County, GA	4,593	34	0.7%	470	5	1.1%
Georgia	5,015,975	146,979	2.9%	500,553	50,163	10.0%
United States	152,217,762	3,617,537	2.4%	13,968,713	1,246,050	8.9%

Data Source: [US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#). 2020-Q4. Source geography: County



## **Number of Unsafe, Unsanitary Homes**

The number and percentage of occupied housing units without plumbing are shown for the report area. U.S. Census data shows 457 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2000 and ACS 5 year estimates show 574 housing units in the report area were without plumbing in 2019 (0.61%). Irwin County has the greatest percent of its housing units without plumbing in 2019 (2.67%) of all the counties, state and nation.

<b>Report Area</b>	<b>Occupied Housing Units 2000</b>	<b>Housing Units without Plumbing 2000</b>	<b>Percent without Plumbing 2000</b>	<b>Occupied Housing Units 2019</b>	<b>Housing Units without Plumbing 2019</b>	<b>Percent without Plumbing 2019</b>
Report Location	82,480	457	0.55%	94,561	574	<b>0.61%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	6,673	37	0.49%	6,443	0	0.00%
Berrien County, GA	6,261	4	0.06%	7,367	119	1.62%
Brooks County, GA	6,155	75	1.05%	6,335	0	0.00%
Cook County, GA	5,882	58	0.88%	6,217	19	0.31%
Echols County, GA	1,264	0	0.00%	1,561	0	0.00%
Irwin County, GA	3,644	18	0.43%	3,329	89	2.67%
Lanier County, GA	2,593	12	0.40%	3,714	26	0.70%
Lowndes County, GA	32,654	143	0.39%	41,282	278	0.67%
Tift County, GA	13,919	64	0.42%	15,144	30	0.20%
Turner County, GA	3,435	46	1.17%	3,169	13	0.41%
Georgia	3,006,369	17,117	0.52%	3,758,798	12,345	0.33%
United States	106,741,426	736,626	0.69%	121,948,702	486,413	0.40%

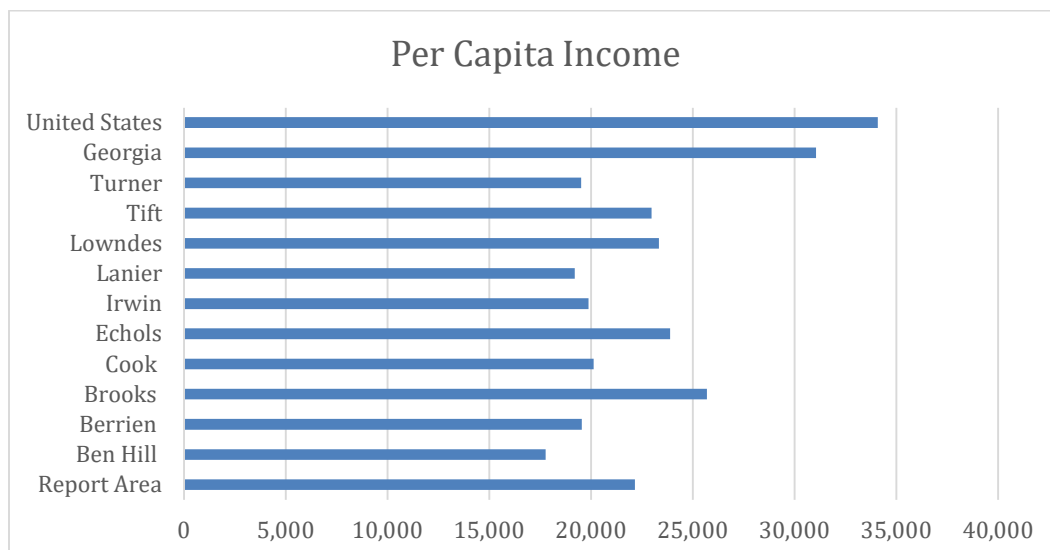
## Income

### Income Levels and Household Income

Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income, based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Both measures are shown for the report area below. The average Per Capita Income for the report area is \$22,159, compared to a national average of \$34,103 and state average of \$31,067. Ben Hill County had the lowest per capita income of Coastal Plain EOA's service area, \$17,774 – almost half that of the nation. Brooks County has the highest per capita income of all the counties, \$25,700 but still much lower than Georgia and the nation. Tift County has the highest Median Household Income of the counties, \$45,639 but much lower than Georgia and the nation. Ben Hill County has the lowest Median Household Income of all the counties with \$32,229.

Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Report Location	No data	\$22,159
Ben Hill County, GA	\$32,229	\$17,774
Berrien County, GA	\$40,415	\$19,547
Brooks County, GA	\$38,285	\$25,700
Cook County, GA	\$41,854	\$20,128
Echols County, GA	\$39,494	\$23,885
Irwin County, GA	\$37,736	\$19,878
Lanier County, GA	\$40,986	\$19,207
Lowndes County, GA	\$42,441	\$23,348
Tift County, GA	\$45,639	\$22,974
Turner County, GA	\$37,039	\$19,527
Georgia	\$58,700	\$31,067
United States	\$62,843	\$34,103

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: County



## Nutrition

### **Free and Reduced Lunch Program**

Out of 44,672 total public school students in the report area, 36,771 were eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program in the latest report year. This represents 82.3% of public school students, which is higher than the state average of 60.3%. All of Coastal Plain EOA's counties had greater percentages of its students eligible for free or reduced price lunch than the state and nation averages.

Report Area	Total Students	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch, Percent
Report Location	44,672	36,771	<b>82.3%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	3,125	2,864	91.6%
Berrien County, GA	3,161	2,640	83.5%
Brooks County, GA	2,168	2,139	98.7%
Cook County, GA	3,134	2,498	79.7%
Echols County, GA	873	797	91.3%
Irwin County, GA	1,719	1,408	81.9%
Lanier County, GA	1,725	1,650	95.7%
Lowndes County, GA	19,642	13,953	71.0%
Tift County, GA	7,887	7,602	96.4%
Turner County, GA	1,238	1,220	98.5%
Georgia	1,767,202	1,065,921	60.3%
United States	50,744,629	25,124,175	52.4%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, [NCES - Common Core of Data](#). 2018-19. Source geography: Address

## Children Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch by School Year, 2012-13 through 2018-19

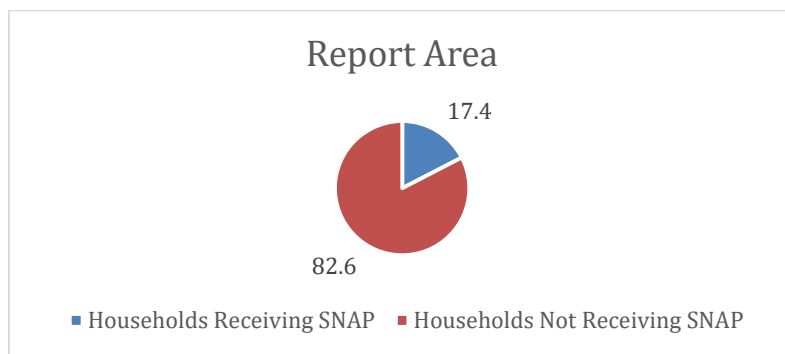
The table below shows local, state, and national trends in student free lunch eligibility. About four out of five students in the report area were eligible for free lunch or reduced price lunch in 2018-19 while three out of five Georgian were eligible. About one out of two students in the United States were eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

Report Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Report Location	67.8%	78.1%	81.5%	82.5%	82.6%	82.6%	82.3%
Ben Hill County, GA	81.8%	82.3%	80.7%	98.5%	98.5%	98.5%	91.6%
Berrien County, GA	69%	69.6%	83.5%	83.5%	83.5%	83.5%	83.5%
Brooks County, GA	83.4%	95.5%	95.5%	95.8%	95.8%	95.8%	98.7%
Cook County, GA	68.8%	68.4%	86.1%	81.2%	81.5%	81.5%	79.7%
Echols County, GA	73%	90.6%	90.6%	90.8%	91.1%	91.1%	91.3%
Irwin County, GA	69.9%	69.1%	69.2%	75.4%	81.9%	81.9%	81.9%
Lanier County, GA	70.3%	73.4%	95.7%	95.6%	95.7%	95.7%	95.7%
Lowndes County, GA	60.9%	70.9%	71.5%	71.2%	71.3%	71.3%	71%
Tift County, GA	68.3%	94.7%	94.7%	94.7%	94.8%	94.8%	96.4%
Turner County, GA	80.3%	95.6%	95.6%	95.6%	94.5%	94.5%	98.5%
Georgia	59.8%	62.2%	62.5%	62.5%	62%	62%	60.3%
United States	51.8%	52.4%	52.3%	52.7%	52.1%	52.1%	52.4%

## Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

The below table shows that according to the American Community Survey (ACS), 16,496 households (or 17.4%) received SNAP payments during 2019. During this same period there were 13,261 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments. Echols County has the lowest percentage (10.3%) of its households receiving SNAP of all the counties which is within 1-2 percentage points of the state and nation. Turner County has the greatest percentage (25.1%) of its households receiving SNAP.

(Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2015-19. Source geography: County)



Report Area	Households Receiving SNAP Total	Households Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Total	Households Not Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty
Report Location	16,496	17.4%	9,580	6,916	78,065	82.6%	13,261	64,804
Ben Hill County, GA	1,145	17.77%	678	467	5,298	82.23%	1,222	4,076
Berrien County, GA	1,502	20.39%	789	713	5,865	79.61%	1,069	4,796
Brooks County, GA	927	14.63%	571	356	5,408	85.37%	855	4,553
Cook County, GA	1,150	18.50%	686	464	5,067	81.50%	770	4,297
Echols County, GA	161	10.31%	63	98	1,400	89.69%	337	1,063
Irwin County, GA	476	14.30%	365	111	2,853	85.70%	305	2,548
Lanier County, GA	573	15.43%	379	194	3,141	84.57%	541	2,600
Lowndes County, GA	7,519	18.21%	4,229	3,290	33,763	81.79%	5,739	28,024
Tift County, GA	2,249	14.85%	1,329	920	12,895	85.15%	1,881	11,014
Turner County, GA	794	25.06%	491	303	2,375	74.94%	542	1,833
Georgia	481,103	12.80%	233,959	247,144	3,277,695	87.20%	301,305	2,976,390
United States	14,171,567	11.74%	6,707,025	7,464,542	106,584,481	88.26%	8,903,117	97,681,364

## Health Care

### Medicare and Medicaid Providers

Total institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, Federally

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics	Community Mental Health Centers
Report Location	87	10	15	13	5	1
Ben Hill County, GA	6	1	2	1	2	0
Berrien County, GA	3	1	1	1	0	0
Brooks County, GA	11	1	1	2	1	1
Cook County, GA	7	1	1	1	2	0
Irwin County, GA	6	1	2	3	0	0
Lanier County, GA	2	1	1	0	0	0
Lowndes County, GA	32	3	4	0	0	0
Tift County, GA	17	1	2	3	0	0
Turner County, GA	3	0	1	2	0	0
Georgia	2,103	185	357	275	100	10
United States	75,851	7,160	15,350	9,859	4,661	125

qualified health centers, rural health clinics and community mental health centers for the report area are shown. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 87 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in the report area in the third quarter of 2020.

## **Persons Receiving Medicare**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that a total of 46,935 persons were receiving Medicare benefits in the report area in 2019. A large number of individuals in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits. A total of 9,352 disabled persons in the report area received Medicare benefits in 2019.

Report Area	Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	Disabled Persons Receiving Medicare	Total Persons Receiving Medicare
Report Location	37,583	9,352	46,935
Ben Hill County, GA	2,969	862	3,831
Berrien County, GA	2,984	810	3,795
Brooks County, GA	3,139	765	3,904
Cook County, GA	2,723	726	3,449
Echols County, GA	459	102	561
Irwin County, GA	1,603	328	1,931
Lanier County, GA	1,227	405	1,632
Lowndes County, GA	14,658	3,515	18,172
Tift County, GA	6,247	1,446	7,693
Turner County, GA	1,574	393	1,967
Georgia	2,897,012	557,418	3,454,431
United States	52,987,966	8,519,960	61,507,926

## Uninsured Population

The uninsured population is calculated by estimating the number of persons eligible for insurance (generally those under 65) minus the estimated number of insured persons. The percentage of uninsured for the report area (14.7%) is just one percentage point higher than that of Georgia but is about six percentage points higher than the United States. Irwin County has the lowest percentage of uninsured of all the counties (10.8%), while Echols County has the greatest percent (21.5%). *Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2015-2019. Source geography: County*

Report Area	Insurance Population (2019 Estimate)	Number Insured	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
Report Location	256,481	170,267	37,746	<b>14.72%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	17,033	11,341	2,118	12.43%
Berrien County, GA	19,152	12,467	3,194	16.68%
Brooks County, GA	15,590	9,730	2,438	15.64%
Cook County, GA	17,177	11,448	2,627	15.29%
Echols County, GA	3,981	2,554	856	21.50%
Irwin County, GA	9,320	5,761	1,006	10.79%
Lanier County, GA	10,380	7,233	1,342	12.93%
Lowndes County, GA	115,364	78,641	16,670	14.45%
Tift County, GA	40,541	26,199	6,440	15.89%
Turner County, GA	7,943	4,893	1,055	13.28%
Georgia	10,403,847	7,397,367	1,398,968	13.45%
United States	324,697,795	240,092,386	27,954,329	8.61%



### *Federally Qualified Health Centers*

County	Provider Number	FQHC Name	Address	City	Phone
Ben Hill County	PN: 111988	SOUTH CENTRAL WOMEN'S HEALTH	119 NORMAN DORMINY DR.	FITZGERALD	(229) 426-7685
Berrien County	PN: 111017	BETTY DUPREE HEALTH CARE CENTER	201 N. BARTOW STREET	NASHVILLE	(229) 686-2774
Brooks County	PN: 111060	PRIMARY CARE OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA, INC.	907 N COURT ST	QUITMAN	(229) 263-5787
Brooks County	PN: 111098	NORTHSIDE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER	247 NORTHSIDE DR.	VALDOSTA	(229) 253-1206
Cook County	PN: 111087	LENOX FAMILY MEDICINE	15 S RAILROAD ST	LENOX	(229) 546-4206
Irwin County	PN: 111086	IRWIN FAMILY MEDICINE	361 CARGILE RD	OCILLA	(229) 468-0045
Irwin County	PN: 111115	KIDS HEALTH OCILLA	200 607C NORTH IRWIN AVENUE	OCILLA	(229) 468-9166
Irwin County	PN: 111856	SOUTH CENTRAL PRIMARY CARE CENTER, INC	602 NORTH IRWIN AVE, SUITE B	OCILLA	(229) 468-9163
Tift County	PN: 111080	CARECONNECT HEALTH, INC.	1909 US HWY 82 W, SUITE 5	TIFTON	(229) 386-4300
Tift County	PN: 111088	CARECONNECT HEALTH, INC.	1909 US HWY 82 WEST, SUITE 3&4	TIFTON	(229) 273-8881
Tift County	PN: 111943	TIFTON URGENT CARE	1401 NORTH TIFT AVENUE	TIFTON	(229) 382-5554
Turner County	PN: 111056	ASHBURN FAMILY PRACTICE & PEDIATRICS	317 E WASHINGTON AVE.	ASHBURN	(229) 567-4414
Turner County	PN: 111070	CARECONNECT SCHOOL CLINIC	705 HUDSON AVE.	ASHBURN	(229) 567-2783

## Homelessness

According to the 2019 Georgia Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness, the number of homeless are shown in the table below. In terms of homeless being served by Coastal Plain EOA, the services are often provided to the “hidden homeless” who are staying with one set of family or friends for a period and then moving on to other family and friends after a while.

County	# Homeless
Ben Hill	4
Berrien	1
Brooks	0
Cook	1
Echols	0
Irwin	0
Lanier	0
Lowndes	144
Tift	37
Turner	0

### Homelessness Services

	2018	2019
Total number of families experiencing homelessness that were served during the enrollment year as a % of Total Families (TF)	1.25%	1.43%
Total number of children experiencing homelessness that were served during the enrollment year as % of Total Cumulative Enrollment TCE)	1.35%	1.53%
Total # of families experiencing homelessness that acquired housing during the enrollment year as a % of TF	0.77%	0.61%

### Foster Care and Child Welfare

Total number of enrolled children who were in foster care at any point during the program year as a % of TCE	0.81%	2.00%
Total number of enrolled children who were referred to HS/EHS services by a child welfare agency as a % of TCE	2.51%	2.19%

## Head Start

Head Start is a program designed to help children from birth to age five who come from families at or below poverty level. This indicator reports the number and rate of Head Start program facilities per 10,000 children under age 5. Head Start facility data is acquired from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2018 Head Start locator. Population data is from the 2010 US Decennial Census. The report area has a total 12 Head Start programs with a rate of 6.38 per 10,000 children under 5 years old.

Report Area	Children Under Age 5	Total Head Start Programs	Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children)
Report Location	18,800	12	<b>6.38</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	1,398	1	7.15
Berrien County, GA	1,325	1	7.55
Brooks County, GA	1,095	1	9.13
Cook County, GA	1,305	1	7.66
Echols County, GA	358	0	0
Irwin County, GA	602	1	16.61
Lanier County, GA	896	1	11.16
Lowndes County, GA	8,264	4	4.84
Tift County, GA	2,960	1	3.38
Turner County, GA	597	1	16.75
Georgia	686,785	469	6.83
United States	20,426,118	21,511	10.53

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, [Administration for Children and Families](#). 2019. Source geography: Address

Report Area	Population Age 3-4	Population Age 3-4 Enrolled in School	Population Age 3-4 Enrolled in School, Percent
Report Location	7,099	3,073	<b>43.29%</b>
Ben Hill County, GA	594	255	42.93%
Berrien County, GA	526	220	41.83%
Brooks County, GA	508	198	38.98%
Cook County, GA	374	139	37.17%
Echols County, GA	119	33	27.73%
Irwin County, GA	149	124	83.22%
Lanier County, GA	269	90	33.46%
Lowndes County, GA	3,118	1,480	47.47%
Tift County, GA	1,239	454	36.64%

Turner County, GA	203	80	39.41%
Georgia	273,912	137,655	50.26%
United States	8,151,928	3,938,693	48.32%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2015-19. Source geography: County

## Head Start Comparison Data

<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total number of families	1,038	978
Total number of two-parent families	238	177
Total number of single-parent families	800	801
<b>Total Number of Families at Enrollment as a % of TF:</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
A. Of these, the number of two-parent families as a % of TF	22.93%	18.10%
B. Of these, the number of single-parent families as a % of TF	77.07%	81.90%
<b>Of the # of two-parent families (TPF), the # in which the parent/guardian figures are best described as a % of TPF:</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
A. Parents	94.96%	95.48%
B. Grandparents	2.52%	1.13%
C. Relatives other than grandparents	0.42%	1.13%
D. Foster parents not including relatives	1.68%	2.26%
E. Other	0.42%	0.00%
<b>Of the # of single-parent families (SPF), the # in which the parent/guardian figure is best described as a % of SPF:</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
A. Mother	93.25%	92.38%
B. Father	2.75%	3.75%
C. Grandparent	2.50%	2.37%
D. Relative other than grandparent	0.25%	0.37%
E. Foster parent not including relative	1.00 %	0.62%
F. Other	0.25%	0.50%

Source: PIR Data

### **Head Start Specific Elements**

Estimates of the number of children Ages and Income Eligible

2019 Pregnant Women	Pregnant Women	0 Year Olds	1 Year Olds	2 Year Olds	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds
Ben Hill County	191	154	162	172	162	145
Berrien County	179	168	183	206	180	178
Brooks County	143	136	134	142	122	119
Cook County	178	166	173	174	177	153
Echols County	41	38	32	35	29	25
Irwin County	93	72	77	80	80	68
Lanier County	124	109	95	116	109	76
Lowndes County	1,327	1,228	1,232	1,221	1,238	1,091
Tift County	436	421	383	425	443	440
Turner County	112	84	76	98	88	77
2024 Pregnant Women	Pregnant Women	0 Year Olds	1 Year Olds	2 Year Olds	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds
Ben Hill County	186	150	158	167	158	141
Berrien County	174	163	178	200	175	173
Brooks County	139	132	131	138	119	116
Cook County	173	161	168	169	172	149
Echols County	40	36	31	34	28	24
Irwin County	91	70	74	77	77	66
Lanier County	120	106	93	113	106	74
Lowndes County	1,291	1,195	1,199	1,188	1,205	1,062
Tift County	424	409	372	414	431	428
Turner County	109	82	74	96	85	74

25% poverty rate applied to estimates; OASIS Georgia Department of Public Health

Show in the table below, Turner County has the greatest percentage of pregnant White women 55%) and Ben Hill County has the lowest percentage of Hispanic births of the counties.

2019 Pregnant Women	Pregnant Women White, Non-Hispanic	Pregnant Women Black, Non-Hispanic	Pregnant Women Other, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic Births
Ben Hill County	44%	65%	--	44%
Berrien County	43%	38%	31%	49%
Brooks County	38%	54%	39%	54%
Cook County	40%	48%	101%	65%
Echols County	37%	--	--	66%
Irwin County	47%	56%	--	--
Lanier County	52%	60%	45%	51%
Lowndes County	39%	52%	29%	66%
Tift County	34%	55%	69%	68%
Turner County	55%	80%	88%	50%
Georgia	39%	55%	42%	62%

OASIS Georgia Department of Public Health

Estimates of low income children by race/ethnicity	1 year old, White	1 year old, Black	1 year old, Other	1 year old, Hispanic
Ben Hill County	56.0%	39.4%	3.2%	6.5%
Berrien County	83.6%	13.1%	2.0%	7.4%
Brooks County	53.1%	43.6%	2.8%	11.2%
Cook County	61.7%	31.7%	5.2%	12.2%
Echols County	90.5%	--	--	38.1%
Irwin County	58.8%	33.3%	5.9%	6.9%
Lanier County	66.9%	22.0%	7.9%	6.3%
Lowndes County	54.3%	38.7%	6.8%	10.2%
Tift County	60.6%	34.5%	4.9%	20.0%
Turner County	38.6%	51.5%	6.9%	6.9%

Source: OASIS Georgia Department of Public Health

Estimates of low income children by race/ethnicity	2 year old, White	2 year old, Black	2 year old, Other	2 year old, Hispanic
Ben Hill County	54.1%	40.2%	3.9%	9.2%
Berrien County	81.4%	13.5%	3.6%	8.0%
Brooks County	50.8%	45.0%	3.7%	11.1%
Cook County	63.4%	33.6%	2.6%	19.0%
Echols County	91.3%	--	--	43.5%
Irwin County	65.1%	32.1%	--	7.6%
Lanier County	66.5%	23.9%	9.0	8.4%
Lowndes County	53.0%	38.9%	8.0%	11.4%
Tift County	60.5%	33.9%	5.7%	16.6%
Turner County	51.1%	44.3%	--	9.2%

Source: OASIS Georgia Department of Public Health

Estimates of low income children by race/ethnicity	3 year old, White	3 year old, Black	3 year old, Other	3 year old, Hispanic
Ben Hill County	47.2%	50.5%	2.3%	13.0%
Berrien County	79.6%	16.7%	2.5%	7.9%
Brooks County	46.0%	47.9%	5.5%	7.4%
Cook County	64.4%	29.7%	5.9%	9.3%
Echols County	84.6%	--	6.8%	46.2%
Irwin County	67.9%	26.4%	--	7.6%
Lanier County	75.2%	15.2%	7.6%	3.5%
Lowndes County	52.1%	41.0%	4.9%	9.3%
Tift County	60.7%	34.6%	4.8%	22.7%
Turner County	49.6%	50.4%	--	2.6%

Source: OASIS Georgia Department of Public Health

Estimates of low income children by race/ethnicity	4 year old, White	4 year old, Black	4 year old, Other	4 year old, Hispanic
Ben Hill County	54.9%	44.0%	--	5.7%
Berrien County	89.5%	8.0%	2.5%	5.9%
Brooks County	54.1%	40.3%	3.8%	5.7%
Cook County	61.8%	36.3%	--	5.9%
Echols County	93.9%	--	--	12.1%
Irwin County	67.8%	28.9%	--	0.0%
Lanier County	77.2%	22.8%	--	7.9%
Lowndes County	56.8%	37.7%	5.4%	7.8%
Tift County	63.5%	32.7%	3.1%	18.6%
Turner County	51.0%	47.1%	--	2.0%

Source: OASIS Georgia Department of Public Health

#### **COASTAL PLAIN EOA Racial Breakdown**

Race and Ethnicity as a % of Total Cumulative Enrollment	2018		2019	
	Hispanic or Latino Origin %	Non-Hispanic or Latino Origin %	Hispanic or Latino Origin %	Non-Hispanic or Latino Origin %
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	0%	0%	0%
Asian	0 %	0.27%	0 %	0.19%
Black or African American	0.27%	72.20%	0%	71.28%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	0%
White	0.36%	17.13%	0%	15.55%
Biracial/Multi-Racial	2.42%	4.22%	6.24%	4.58%
Other	3.05%	0.09%	6.49%	0.67%
Total	6.10%	93.90%	7.73%	92.27%



## **Language**

English is being spoken at home increasingly as the primary language when reviewing prior Needs Assessments. In 2019, English was the primary language at home for 95.52% of Coastal Plain EOA's clients compared to 96.05% in 2018.

<b>Primary Language of Family at home as a % of TCE</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
A. English	96.05%	95.52%
B. Spanish	3.41%	4.10%
C. Native Central American, South American, Mexican Languages	0%	0%
D. Caribbean Languages	0%	0%
E. Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages	0%	0%
F. East Asian Languages	0.27%	0.38%
G. Native North American/Alaska Native Languages	0%	0%
H. Pacific Island Languages	0%	0%
I. European & Slavic Languages	0%	0%
J. African Languages	0%	0%
K. Other	0%	0%
L. Unspecified	0.27%	0%

Source: PIR data

## Health

In terms of quality of life indicators, the service area is in line with the state averages. For health factors, the service area is mostly on par with state averages with the exception of physical inactivity, access to exercise opportunities and sexually transmitted infections.

	BEN HILL	BERRIEN	BROOKS	COOK
<b>Quality of Life</b>				
Poor or fair health	26%	25%	25%	24%
Poor physical health days	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.8
Poor mental health days	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.8
Low birthweight	14%	12%	11%	11%
<b>Health Factors</b>				
Adult Smoking	24%	25%	23%	24%
Adult Obesity	42%	37%	31%	29%
Food environment index	5.7	6.5	7.2	7.1
Physical inactivity	41%	29%	28%	40%
Access to exercise opportunities	39%	42%	21%	65%
Excessive drinking	14%	16%	16%	16%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	33%	13%	32%	17%
Sexually transmitted infections	700.2	500.4	442.7	752.4
Teen births	54	48	38	45
<b>Clinical Care</b>				
Uninsured	16%	20%	20%	19%
Primary care physicians	2,100:1	4,810:1	5,170:1	1,560:1
Dentists	2,390:1	9,700:1	15,460:1	3,450:1
Mental Health providers	2,780:1	6,470:1	3,860:1	4,320:1
Preventable hospital stays	7,260	6,529	6,059	6,257

	<b>BEN HILL</b>	<b>BERRIEN</b>	<b>BROOKS</b>	<b>COOK</b>
Mammography screening	35%	43%	43%	45%
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b>				
High School graduation	84%	79%	85%	79%
Some college	44%	42%	57%	48%
Unemployment	5.50%	4.00%	3.40%	3.40%
Children in poverty	32%	29%	35%	32%
Income inequality	4.9	4.9	6.4	5.4
Children in single-parent households	50%	20%	36%	31%
Social associations	7.1	4.7	7.7	7.6
Violent crime	361	224	527	302
Injury deaths	74	84	80	86
<b>Physical Environment</b>				
Air pollution-particulate matter	9.3	9.7	9.8	9.6
Drinking water violations	no	no	no	no
Severe housing problems	16%	13%	17%	16%
Driving alone to work	89%	82%	80%	81%
	<b>ECHOLS</b>	<b>IRWIN</b>	<b>LANIER</b>	<b>LOWNDES</b>
<b>Quality of Life</b>				
Poor or fair health	26%	26%	23%	22%
Poor physical health days	5.1	5.2	4.7	4.4
Poor mental health days	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.8
Low birthweight		13%	9%	11%
<b>Health Factors</b>				

	<b>ECHOLS</b>	<b>IRWIN</b>	<b>LANIER</b>	<b>LOWNDES</b>
Adult Smoking	23%	25%	23%	20%
Adult Obesity	34%	35%	27%	36%
Food environment index	7.6	6.9	7.4	6.7
Physical inactivity	27%	31%	39%	30%
Access to exercise opportunities	0%	49%	56%	73%
Excessive drinking	17%	15%	17%	14%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	50%	8%	0%	23%
Sexually transmitted infections	203.3	637.6	431.7	937.8
Teen births	13	32	38	28
<b>Clinical Care</b>				
Uninsured	25%	15%	16%	17%
Primary care physicians		3,130:1		1,740:1
Dentists				
Mental Health providers		4,710:1	5,210:1	580:1
Preventable hospital stays	3,059	6,110	7,582	5,258
Mammography screening	32%	38%	35%	44%
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b>				
High School graduation	74%	81%	80%	87%
Some college	40%	44%	54%	59%
Unemployment	2.80%	4.70%	3.90%	3.50%
Children in poverty	31%	29%	29%	29%
Income inequality	5.3	5.1	7.2	6.2
Children in single-parent households	18%	32%	28%	36%
Social associations	0	5.3	6.8	10.1

	<b>ECHOLS</b>	<b>IRWIN</b>	<b>LANIER</b>	<b>LOWNDES</b>
Violent crime	86	258	383	280
Injury deaths		92	58	60
<b>Physical Environment</b>				
Air pollution-particulate matter	8.4	9.3	9.1	7.3
Drinking water violations	no	no	No	yes
Severe housing problems	15%	11%	21%	17%
Driving alone to work	87%	91%	88%	84%
	<b>TIFT</b>	<b>TURNER</b>	<b>GEORGIA</b>	
<b>Quality of Life</b>				
Poor or fair health	23%	26%	18%	
Poor physical health days	4.9	5.1	3.9	
Poor mental health days	4.8	5	4.2	
Low birthweight	12%	14%	10%	
<b>Health Factors</b>				
Adult Smoking	22%	24%	16%	
Adult Obesity	38%	39%	32%	
Food environment index	7.3	6.5	6.5	
Physical inactivity	34%	40%	26%	
Access to exercise opportunities	79%	20%	75%	
Excessive drinking	15%	15%	17%	
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	10%	23%	20%	
Sexually transmitted infections	766	753.7	632.2	
Teen births	39	52	24	
<b>Clinical Care</b>				
Uninsured	20%	18%	16%	
Primary care physicians	1,310:1	7,910:1	1,510:1	

	<b>TIFT</b>	<b>TURNER</b>	<b>GEORGIA</b>
Mental Health providers	1,270:1	7,990:1	690:1
Preventable hospital stays	5,682	6,228	4,835
Mammography screening	47%	44%	41%
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b>			
High School graduation	82%	81%	87%
Some college	51%	42%	64%
Unemployment	3.40%	3.80%	3.40%
Children in poverty	31%	43%	20%
Children in single-parent households	40%	46%	30%
Social associations	11.1	15.2	8.8
Violent crime	565	1,307	388
Injury deaths	67	80	66
<b>Physical Environment</b>			
Air pollution-particulate matter	9.5	9.2	9.6
Drinking water violations	no	no	No
Severe housing problems	15%	18%	16%
Driving alone to work	85%	83%	79%