

" PROMOTING HEALTHCARE, WELLNESS, AND
ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR GEORGIA' S CHILDREN."



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Chairman's Letter

2. GASBHA Overview

3. Operational SBHCs

4. Flu and RSV:
Why Should You Care

5. Interview with SBHC
Champion

6. National SBHC Awareness
Month

7. Awareness Month Cont.
GADOE Updates

8. Announcements

February is National School-Based Health Care Awareness Month. During this month, we take time to reflect on the value and achievements of school-based health centers (SBHCs) nationwide. Here in Georgia, we are in the throes of expanding SBHCs to address the unmet needs of health access and student academic achievement. For the past 15 years, PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health at Emory University has worked with communities throughout the state to develop SBHCs in communities where access to healthcare and academic achievement are top priorities. Most recently, PARTNERS has partnered with Georgia's Department of Education to expedite this expansion through an unprecedented financial gift from Governor Brian Kemp's Office of Planning and Budget. This system of care has grown from two to over one hundred and twenty (120) sites since 2013. As a result, over 70,000 students along with an equal number of siblings and school staff have had an increase in access to quality healthcare through these centers.

In 2023, the third Georgia SBHC survey was administered to over 100 centers. There was a response rate of approximately 65% and, of importance, the data collected was from the 2021-2022 school year. The findings reflect the impact of COVID on student attendance and the schools' COVID precautionary protocols. A summary of the findings are as follows:

- Greater than 50% are in small towns or rural communities.
- 50% have been open for 3 or more years.
- 96% were sponsored by Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- 60% operated less than 32 hours/week/40% operated 32-40hours/week.
- Staffing - 100% were staffed by an Advanced Practice Practitioner (NP or PA) w/Physician supervision; 75% employed a Medical Assistant; 66% employed an on-site Behavioral Specialist; 53% employed Dental Hygienist, and 46% employed an Outreach Worker.
- Services provided – 97% Health Checks; 89% Sports Physicals; 85% Immunizations; 69% provide on-site Behavioral Health, and 52% provide Dental Services.

The goal of Georgia's SBHCs is to improve the health and well-being of Georgia's students resulting in increased attendance and improved academic performance. Health is defined as 'the complete physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being of the child and not merely the absence of disease'. Our SBHCs address the needs of the 'whole child' understanding that the psychosocial issues are as important or, at times, more important as the physical health problems in determining the optimal health and educational outcomes for children and adolescents. We are proud of the progress our state has made in taking this model to scale and applaud the efforts of the communities that support these centers and the SBHC staff who provide quality healthcare to the most valued treasures in the state, our children.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@GASBHA1



ga_sbha

GASBHA OVERVIEW

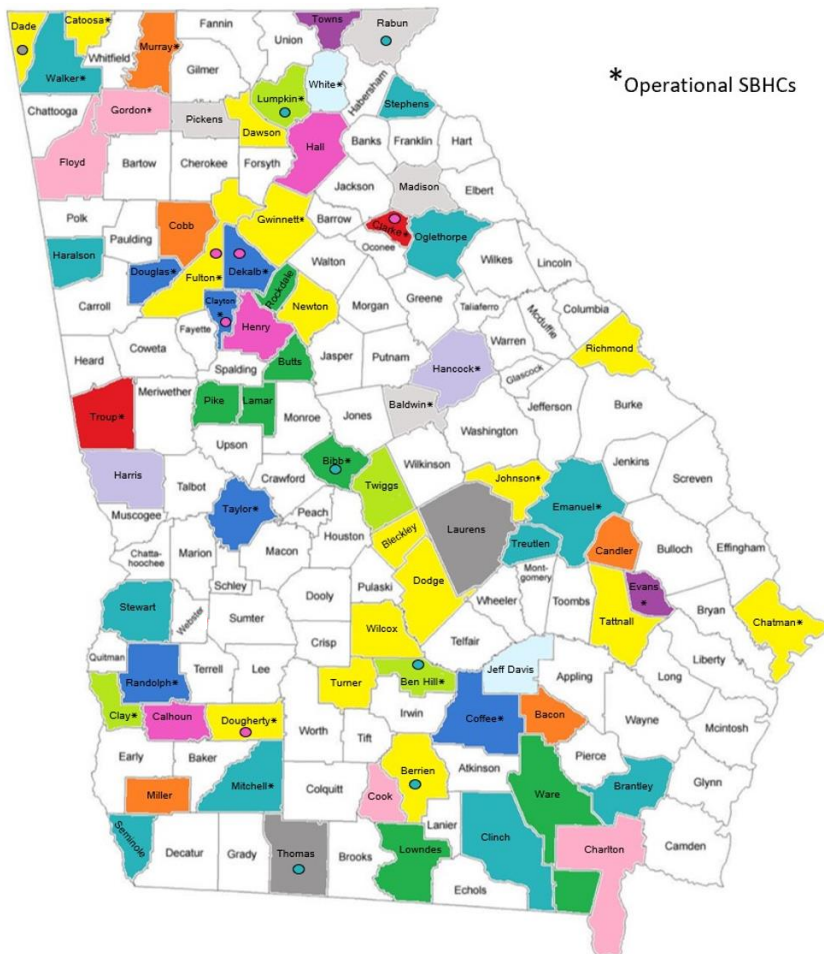
MISSION

GASBHA advances the health and success of Georgia's children through community partnerships to develop and support SBHCs

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase access to healthcare for the uninsured, Medicaid, and CHIP eligible children and adolescents
2. Improve health outcomes for under- resourced children and adolescents
3. Improve academic achievement through reduced absenteeism

PLANNING GRANTEEES MAP

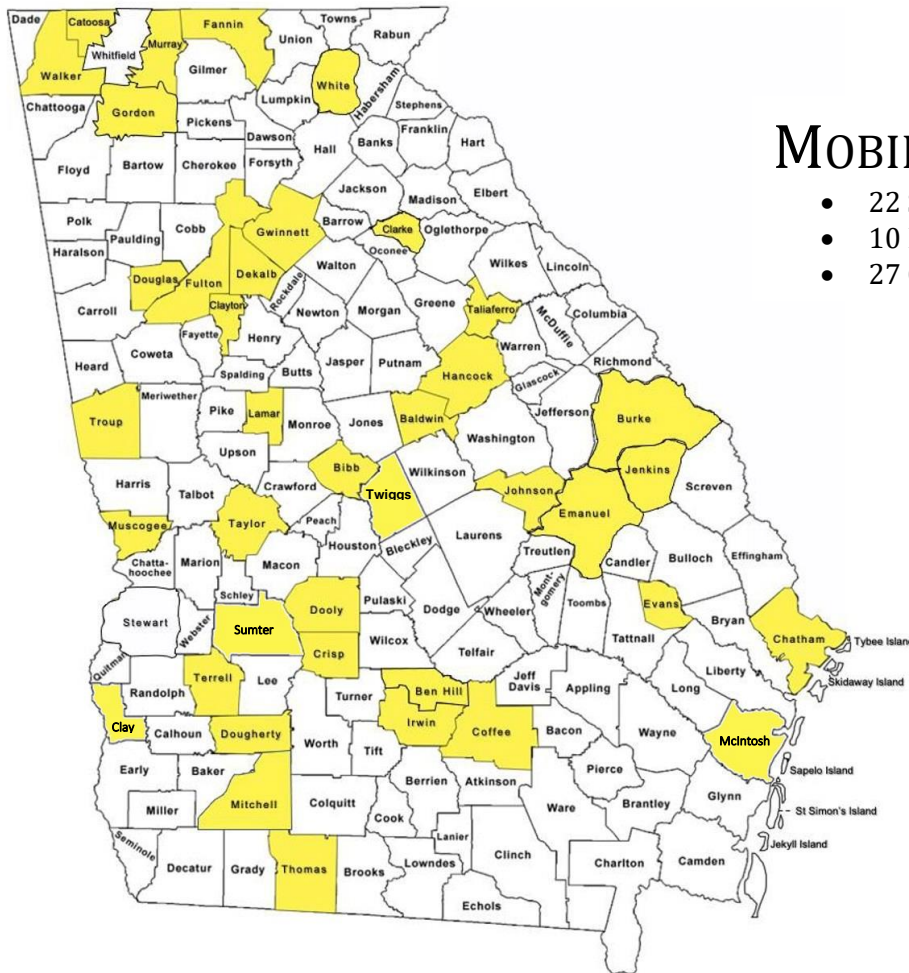


Planning Grantees & Operational SBHC Centers Map

- Round 1, Sept 2010** (11 grantees representing 16 counties)
Dodge consortium includes Beckley, Johnson, Tattnall, & Wilcox counties
- Round 2, Sept 2011** (7 grantees)
- Round 3, Sept 2012** (5 grantees)
- Round 4, Sept 2012** (5 grantees)
- Round 5, Sept 2013** (3 grantees)
Includes DeKalb Board of Health
- Round 6, Sept 2016** (5 grantees)
- Round 7, Sept 2017** (3 grantees)
- Round 8, Sept 2018** (2 grantees)
- Round 9, Sept 2019** (2 grantees)
- Round 10, Sept 2020** (2 grantees)
- Round 11, Sept 2021** (4 grantees)
- Round 12, Sept 2022** (3 grantees)
- Round 13, June 2023** (8 grantees)
- Round 14 Feb 2024** (17 grantees)

Note: Counties with a colored circle have received grants in more than one round. The color corresponds to the secondary round.

OPERATIONAL SBHCs



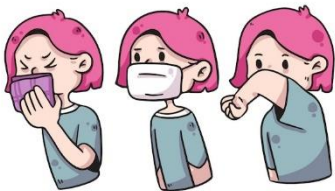
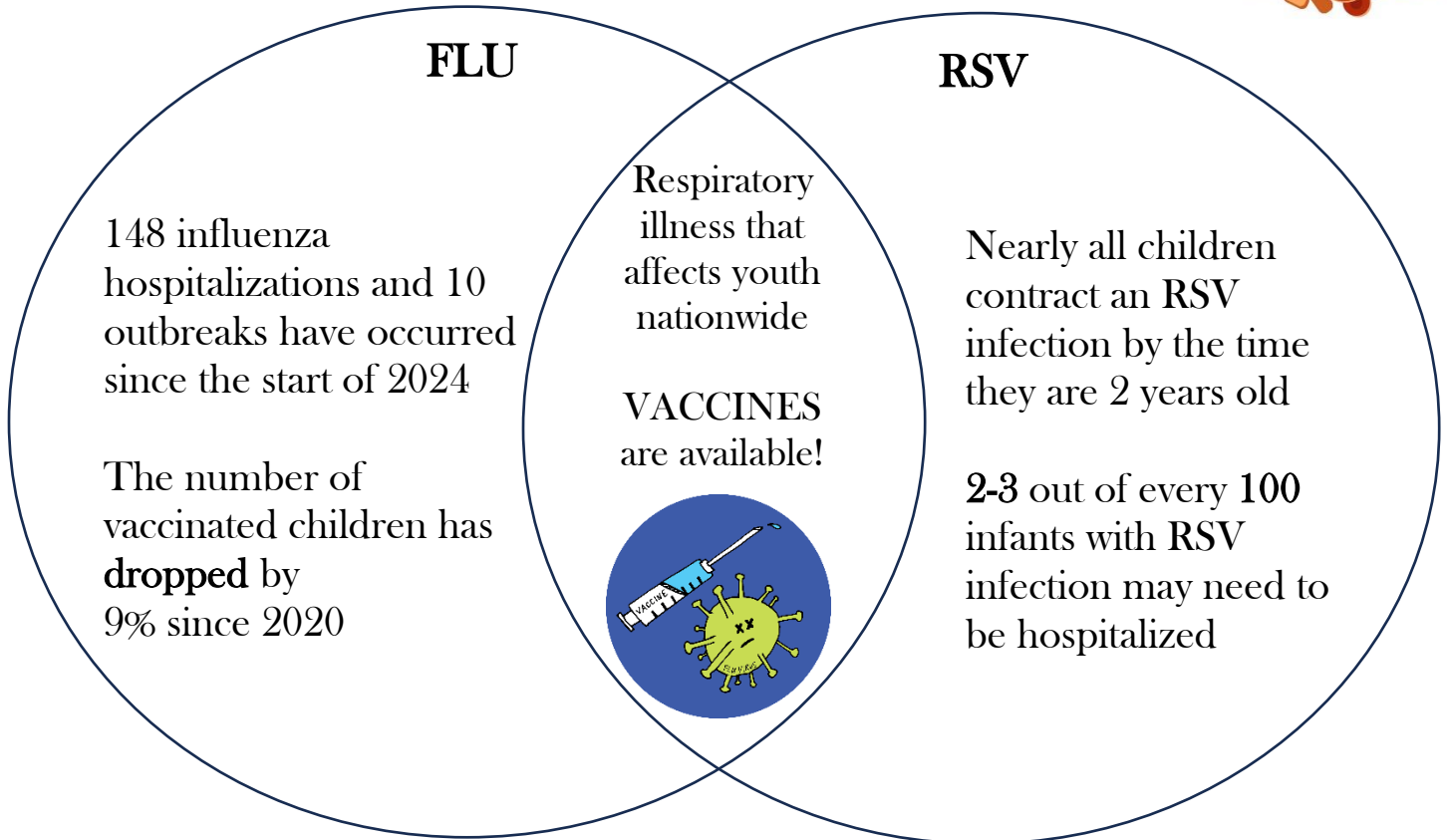
MOBILE UNITS

- 22 Savannah Mobile Unites (Chatham County)
- 10 Kids Doc on Wheels (DeKalb County)
- 27 CHOA Ronald McDonald Units (Fulton County)

- AB Williams Elementary, Savannah
- Albany Middle (Dental), Albany
- Alice Coachman Elementary, Albany
- Baldwin County Early Learning Center, Milledgeville
- Banneker High School
- Ben Hill Middle School, Fitzgerald
- Bloomingdale Elementary, Savannah
- Brock Elementary, Savannah
- Burnett/Eastside Elementary, Douglasville
- Calloway Elementary, La Grange
- Chatsworth Elementary, Chatsworth
- Claxton Elementary School, Claxton
- Clay County Elementary-Middle Academies
- Coffee Middle, Douglas
- College Park Elementary, College Park
- Cooper-Carver Elementary, Dawson
- Dobbs Elementary, Atlanta
- Dooly County Elementary, Pinehurst
- Doraville United, Doraville
- Doraville United, Doraville
- Dorothy Height Elementary School, Columbus
- Fairmount Elementary, Fairmount
- Fox Elementary, Columbus
- Gilbert Elementary, LaFayette
- Hancock Central High School, Sparta
- Hilsman Middle School, Athens
- Hollis Innovation Academy, Atlanta
- Ingram-Pye Elementary, Macon
- Irwin County Middle and High Schools, Irwin
- Jenkins County Elementary, Millen
- Johnson Elementary, Wrightsville
- KIPP Vision, Atlanta
- Lake Forest Elementary, Sandy Springs
- Lamar County Primary School, Barnesville
- Live Oak Elementary, Albany
- L.P. Miles Elementary, Atlanta
- Martin Luther King Middle, Atlanta
- Mitchell County Elementary, Bancanton
- North Clayton High, College Park
- Randolph County High School, Cuthbert
- Ringgold High School, Ringgold
- Robert Harvey Elementary, Albany
- Roseville Elementary, Rossville
- Rossville Middle, Rossville
- Sumter County Primary Elementary School
- Taliaferro County K-12, Crawfordville
- Taylor County Primary, Butler
- Taylor County Upper Elementary, Butler
- The Wellness Center, Twigs County
- Thomas County Middle School, Thomasville
- Tiger Clinic, McIntosh County
- Tiger Creek Elementary, Tunnel Hill
- Toomer Elementary, Atlanta
- Turner Elementary (Dental)
- Twin City Elementary, Twin City
- Waynesboro Primary School
- Westside Elementary, Rossville
- White County High School, Cleveland
- Whiteford Elementary, Atlanta

FLU AND RSV

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?



What can you do to lower respiratory illness?

- Wash your hands often
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean frequently touched surfaces
- Stay at home when you are sick



COVID still affects global and local health

Stay safe! Get Tested! Free COVID Test Kits

[Self-Testing At Home or Anywhere | CDC](#)

Resources

[Estimated Influenza Illnesses, Medical Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Prevented by Vaccination in the United States – 2022-2023 Influenza Season | CDC](#)

[Transmission of RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\) | CDC](#)

MEET SBHC CHAMPION

DR. MACK BULLARD



Dr. Bullard has been the Superintendent of Twiggs County Public Schools since 2021 and is excited to open the first school-based health center in the district.

When and why did you get involved in School Based Health Centers?

Dr. Bullard says the journey to opening the SBHC, “has been a labor of love for about two years”. The Robert Wood’s Foundation ranked Twiggs County 179th out of 179 GA counties regarding health conditions. “This immediately became my first call because I know a child’s health directly impacts performance and achievement,” says Dr. Bullard.

How would you describe SBHCs to someone who has never heard of them?

“School Based Health Centers are partnerships with federally qualified health professionals to provide services in the schoolhouse. These services would typically be provided in a practitioner’s office; however, these services are delivered in the building for students to receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services. Faculty, staff, and immediate family also have the opportunity to utilize SBHC services in Twiggs County.”

What has been your greatest victory and greatest challenge?

Dr. Bullard identified his greatest victory as addressing health disparities in Twiggs County, as there is a lack in healthcare services in the area. Dr. Bullard went on to say, “Dr. Veda Johnson and the team were introduced to me, and they became quick partners who helped develop our School Based Health Center. Given the school buildings are roughly 30 years old, the cost and logistics of renovation was challenging for Bullard. Additionally, “finding committed healthcare providers” also presented challenges.

“A School Based Health Center will transform healthcare and quality of life for students, families, and even our staff. This is an absolutely transformative initiative.”

HAPPY NATIONAL SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CARE AWARENESS MONTH

HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE SBHCs POSSIBLE!

“My favorite parts of serving with an amazing SBHC are: the smiles on the faces of the kids, parents, and staff. Knowing that a difference is being made and a positive impact for all. Reducing the sickness while increasing wellness.”



**Ericka Riley,
School Based
Health
Coordinator at
New Hampstead
High School**

“There is easier access to acute care visits when SBHCs are used.”

**Tanesha Buckner,
Provider at Dorothy Height
Elementary School**

“School based health centers provide accessible services for students and their families. SBHCs offer onsite services that are more accessible for those who need them. SBHCs also work one on one with school personnel to provide additional assistance to areas in the school that need it.”

**Jessica Ochei-Gilliam,
Behavioral Health
Therapist at Doraville
United Health Center**



**Sandy Grove Matheson,
Development Officer of
Catoosa and Walker
County**

“SBHCs enable students to have access to care at the convenience of their school without limitations, which means higher grade points and increased time learning!”

“When developing a SBHC, extensive advertising across various audiences such as churches, Chamber of Commerce, civic organizations, school websites, social media, PTA, town hall meetings, and direct mail is essential. This ensures community awareness and utilization of SBHC services.”



**Dr. Mack Bullard,
Superintendent of
Twiggs County
Public Schools**

“Getting the right provider can make a difference in the success of the center. The provider and staff need to be able to work with parents, the school’s administration, teachers, lunchroom workers, school bus driver, and coaches. The Provider needs to be accessible and visible to the point they become part of the fabric of the school system.”

**Robert Tucker,
CEO of South Central Primary Care in
Ben Hill County**

UPDATE FROM GEORGIA’S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (GADOE)



Round 13 Grantees completed their Business Plan Workshop and are looking forward to cutting the ribbon on their health centers in a matter of months

- Round 13: 14 schools representing 8 counties



Round 14 Grantees will begin to work on logistics and planning starting this month

- Round 14: 17 schools representing 17 counties

Announcements

❖ **The First School-Based Health Center in Fulton County is Open!**

We are excited to announce that Banneker High School of Fulton County hosted their ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, and they are ready to serve the community!



❖ ***Save the Date:***

4th Annual GASBHA Conference

Theme: Every Child Succeeds: Utilizing SBHCs to Fulfill the Promise

Date: September 20, 2024

Location: Emory Conference Center Hotel, Atlanta, GA