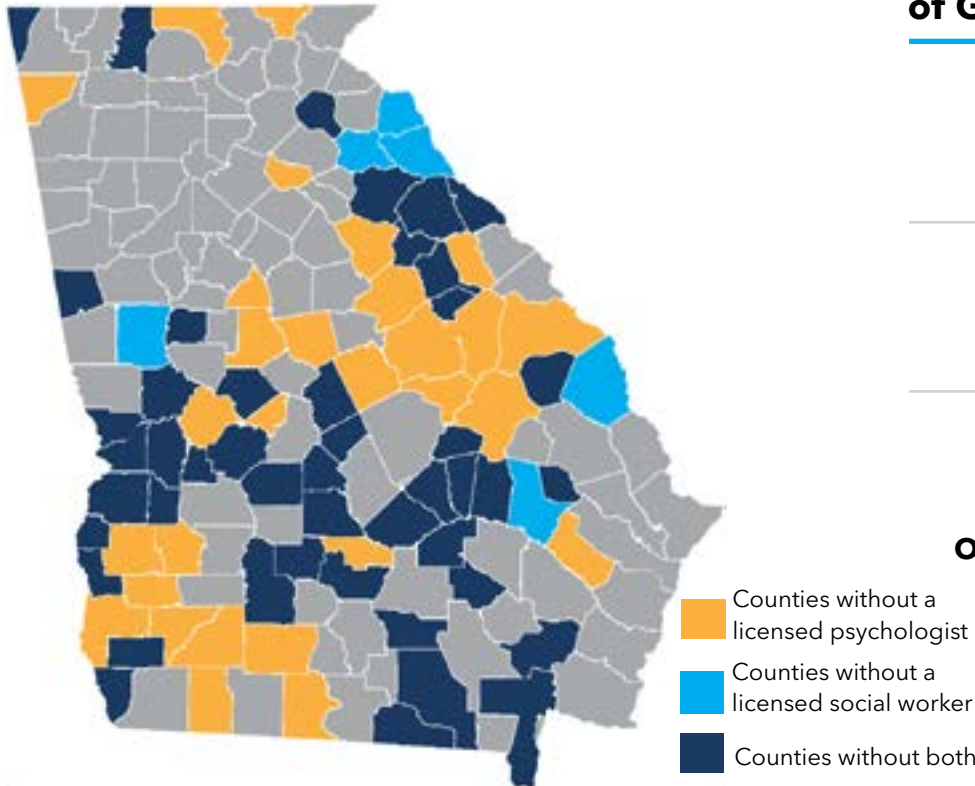


Georgia's Crisis in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health

THE PROBLEM:

More than 40% of children ages 3-17 have trouble accessing the mental health treatment and counseling they need.

Behavioral Health is at the core of the majority of the problems we see in education, juvenile justice, and child welfare. And the challenges don't stop there - they continue into adulthood.



of Georgia's 159 counties

76
do not have
a licensed psychologist

52
do not have
a licensed social worker

45
do not have
a licensed psychologist
OR a licensed social worker

Schools often serve as the primary point of access to behavioral health services and supports.

Social Workers



CURRENTLY:

1 FOR EVERY **2,475** STUDENTS

NEEDED:

1 FOR EVERY **250** STUDENTS

School Psychologists



CURRENTLY:

1 FOR EVERY **2,475** STUDENTS

NEEDED:

1 FOR EVERY **700** STUDENTS

School Nurses



CURRENTLY:

1 FOR EVERY **1,088** STUDENTS

NEEDED:

1 FOR EVERY **750** STUDENTS

ALARMING STATS:

2 in 10 children have one or more emotional, behavioral or developmental conditions.

- **Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death** among youth ages 9 to 17.
- Children with ADHD, autism, or developmental delays are **twice as likely to be chronically absent** compared to kids without these conditions.
- **Almost 70% of youth** in Department of Juvenile Justice long-term facilities have a mental health diagnosis severe enough to require ongoing treatment.

WHY WE NEED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Untreated behavioral health illness in children and adolescents can lead to:



Drug and alcohol abuse



Violent or self destructive behavior



Low educational attainment



Much lower rates of employment in adulthood

WHAT WE NEED:

- 1.** All children and adolescents have access to behavioral health services.
- 2.** Schools are equipped to meet the need early and effectively.
- 3.** Georgia has the workforce to help children and adolescents with behavioral health needs.

WHAT NEXT:

We need to fully implement Georgia's Comprehensive three-year System of Care State Plan for child and adolescent health and support the work of Behavioral Health Innovation Commission to develop policy which can improve children's behavioral health outcomes.