

National Study of Treatment and Addiction Recovery Residences Report GEORGIA

The National Study of Treatment and Addiction Recovery Residences (NSTARR) constitutes the largest and most diverse study of recovery housing in the U.S. to date. NSTARR compiled data from publicly available sources (e.g., Oxford House, National Alliance for Recovery Residences, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration websites) and lists maintained by entities tracking recovery housing. Residences for which locating information was available were geocoded and linked with U.S. Census data on urbanicity, alcohol- and drug-involved mortality, and COVID vulnerability. Data collection began in January 2020 and is ongoing until June 2023. The NSTARR database currently contains information on 10,358 residences operated by 3,628 providers in all 50 states. For a detailed description of methods and national findings, please see Mericle et al., 2022.

KEY FINDINGS

The NSTARR team identified 82 recovery residences (0.79 houses per 100,000 population) in Georgia (see Table 1). Compared to other states (which include DC), Georgia ranked 48 in terms of recovery housing availability per capita. However, only 49% of residences in Georgia could be geocoded for these analyses. Berrien County, an adjacent rural county, had the most recovery residences per 100,000 population, and 137 counties had no identified recovery residences, representing a mix of rural-urban classifications; 158 (all but one county) had fewer than 5 recovery residences (see Figure 1).

We used geographic information systems to identify hot and cold spots in Georgia. A hot spot is a cluster of high values (county with a high number of residences surrounded by other counties with high numbers of residences) and a cold spot is a cluster of low values (county with low counts surrounded by counties also with low counts). Our analyses found hot spots but no cold spots within the state (see Figure 2).

The age-adjusted alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate (per 100,000 population) was 11.90 in Georgia for the years 2009–2019. Georgia ranked 49 on alcohol- and drug-involved mortality out of the 50 states and DC. Among the counties ranked, Towns County had the highest alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate and Oconee County had the lowest alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate. Of the five counties that had the highest mortality rates in Georgia (i.e., Towns, Franklin, Rabun, Haralson, and Stephens), four of them also ranked in the bottom half recovery housing availability per capita, suggesting more recovery resources may be needed (see Table 1 and Figure 3).

COVID vulnerability was summarized using the county-level data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID Vulnerability Index (CCVI). The CCVI is a composite measure of seven social determinants of health, encompassing modified themes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index in combination with COVID risk factors to identify communities in need of additional support during the COVID pandemic. Ninety-two counties were classified as having very high vulnerability, and 78 counties were located in areas ranked in the bottom half of recovery housing availability per capita, again suggesting that more recovery resources may be needed (see Table 1 and Figure 4).

82

RESIDENCES
TOTAL

48

NATIONAL
AVAILABILITY
RANKING

137

COUNTIES
WITHOUT
RESIDENCES

Table 1. County-level Descriptive Statistics on Recovery Residences

County Name	Population ¹	RUCC Classification ²	Number of Recovery Residences ³	Recovery Residences Per 100,000 Population	Recovery Residences Availability per Capita (Rank) ⁴	Age-Adjusted Alcohol/Drug Mortality ⁵ Rate per 100,000 Population	Mortality Rate (Rank) ⁶	CCVI Quintile ⁷
GEORGIA	10,403,847		82	0.79	48	11.90	49	
Appling	18,440	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	29.10	50	Very high vulnerability
Atkinson	8,239	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	38.00	10	Very high vulnerability
Bacon	11,201	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	20.90	110	Very high vulnerability
Baker	3,132	Urban	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
Baldwin	45,111	Adjacent rural	2	4.43	2	16.60	134	Very high vulnerability
Banks	18,708	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	24.90	79	Moderate
Barrow	78,991	Urban	0	0.00	159	30.00	42	High
Bartow	104,919	Urban	0	0.00	159	35.20	19	Very high vulnerability
Ben Hill	17,033	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	22.90	96	Very high vulnerability
Berrien	19,152	Adjacent rural	1	5.22	1	23.40	91	Very high vulnerability
Bibb	153,200	Urban	1	0.65	16	19.00	123	Very high vulnerability
Bleckley	12,807	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	17.20	132	High
Brantley	18,756	Urban	0	0.00	159	38.60	9	Moderate
Brooks	15,590	Urban	0	0.00	159	18.00	130	Very high vulnerability
Bryan	37,063	Urban	0	0.00	159	24.10	84	Moderate
Bulloch	76,120	Adjacent rural	3	3.94	5	19.10	121	High
Burke	22,520	Urban	0	0.00	159	26.60	65	Very high vulnerability
Butts	24,090	Urban	0	0.00	159	36.50	15	Very high vulnerability
Calhoun	6,365	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Camden	53,231	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	23.70	89	High
Candler	10,812	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	26.30	67	Very high vulnerability
Carroll	117,183	Urban	0	0.00	159	34.20	24	Very high vulnerability
Catoosa	66,700	Urban	0	0.00	159	32.70	27	Moderate
Charlton	13,040	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	23.30	92	High
Chatham	288,496	Urban	1	0.35	21	31.80	34	Very high vulnerability
Chattahoochee	10,560	Urban	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Low
Chattooga	24,812	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	37.90	12	Very high vulnerability
Cherokee	247,515	Urban	1	0.40	20	25.00	77	Moderate
Clarke	126,176	Urban	1	0.79	14	31.10	40	Very high vulnerability
Clay	2,951	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Clayton	283,538	Urban	0	0.00	159	18.80	125	Very high vulnerability

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Clinch	6,686	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Cobb	751,218	Urban	4	0.53	17	24.10	84	High
Coffee	43,021	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	25.80	71	Very high vulnerability
Colquitt	45,486	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	32.20	31	Very high vulnerability
Columbia	150,705	Urban	0	0.00	159	21.50	107	Moderate
Cook	17,177	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	24.00	86	Very high vulnerability
Coweta	143,260	Urban	0	0.00	159	21.30	108	High
Crawford	12,325	Urban	0	0.00	159	26.30	67	Moderate
Crisp	22,713	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	18.40	128	Very high vulnerability
Dade	16,197	Urban	0	0.00	159	29.10	50	High
Dawson	24,536	Urban	0	0.00	159	38.00	10	Moderate
DeKalb	749,323	Urban	5	0.67	15	19.70	116	Very high vulnerability
Decatur	26,682	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	24.00	86	Very high vulnerability
Dodge	20,829	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	31.30	37	Very high vulnerability
Dooly	13,736	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Dougherty	89,703	Urban	3	3.34	9	32.60	28	Very high vulnerability
Douglas	143,316	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.70	97	Very high vulnerability
Early	10,312	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	28.10	55	Very high vulnerability
Echols	3,981	Urban	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Moderate
Effingham	60,477	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.50	99	Moderate
Elbert	19,166	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	37.70	13	Very high vulnerability
Emanuel	22,533	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	25.80	71	Very high vulnerability
Evans	10,687	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Fannin	25,395	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	38.80	8	Moderate
Fayette	112,303	Urban	0	0.00	159	18.90	124	Moderate
Floyd	97,369	Urban	0	0.00	159	29.80	43	Very high vulnerability
Forsyth	228,383	Urban	0	0.00	159	19.40	117	Low
Franklin	22,766	Adjacent rural	1	4.39	3	47.10	2	Very high vulnerability
Fulton	1,036,200	Urban	3	0.29	22	29.30	47	Very high vulnerability
Gilmer	30,414	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	31.40	36	High
Glascock	2,996	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Moderate
Glynn	84,470	Urban	1	1.18	12	30.60	41	Very high vulnerability

Gordon	57,202	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	27.80	57	Very high vulnerability
Grady	24,828	Adjacent rural	1	4.03	4	23.20	93	Very high vulnerability
Greene	17,349	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	26.30	67	Very high vulnerability
Gwinnett	915,046	Urban	4	0.44	19	16.50	135	High
Habersham	44,626	Adjacent rural	1	2.24	10	23.00	95	High
Hall	198,667	Urban	0	0.00	159	28.40	54	Very high vulnerability
Hancock	8,515	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Moderate
Haralson	29,227	Urban	0	0.00	159	40.90	4	High
Harris	34,105	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.70	97	Moderate
Hart	25,773	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	23.90	88	Very high vulnerability
Heard	11,736	Urban	0	0.00	159	25.20	75	High
Henry	225,356	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.20	103	Moderate
Houston	153,507	Urban	0	0.00	159	20.10	114	Very high vulnerability
Irwin	9,320	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	31.30	37	Very high vulnerability
Jackson	67,885	Adjacent rural	1	1.47	11	29.80	43	High
Jasper	13,916	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.50	99	High
Jeff Davis	15,036	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	40.10	6	Very high vulnerability
Jefferson	15,618	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	33.00	26	Very high vulnerability
Jenkins	8,793	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	27.60	59	Very high vulnerability
Johnson	9,691	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	16.50	135	Very high vulnerability
Jones	28,579	Urban	0	0.00	159	18.70	126	Moderate
Lamar	18,672	Urban	0	0.00	159	32.10	32	Moderate
Lanier	10,380	Urban	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
Laurens	47,405	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	26.40	66	Very high vulnerability
Lee	29,502	Urban	1	3.39	8	18.30	129	Moderate
Liberty	61,349	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.20	103	Very high vulnerability
Lincoln	7,856	Urban	0	0.00	159	25.00	77	High
Long	18,692	Urban	0	0.00	159	19.10	121	High
Lowndes	115,364	Urban	0	0.00	159	20.80	111	Very high vulnerability
Lumpkin	32,402	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	31.20	39	Moderate
Macon	13,305	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	20.30	113	Very high vulnerability
Madison	29,218	Urban	0	0.00	159	33.50	25	High
Marion	8,432	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.20	103	High
McDuffie	21,455	Urban	0	0.00	159	27.60	59	Very high vulnerability
McIntosh	14,174	Urban	0	0.00	159	35.50	17	High
Meriwether	21,106	Urban	0	0.00	159	24.30	82	Very high vulnerability
Miller	5,787	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	35.20	19	Very high vulnerability

Mitchell	22,244	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	24.80	80	Very high vulnerability
Monroe	27,171	Urban	0	0.00	159	19.90	115	Very high vulnerability
Montgomery	9,058	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
Morgan	18,507	Urban	0	0.00	159	25.90	70	High
Murray	39,724	Urban	0	0.00	159	34.70	23	Very high vulnerability
Muscogee	195,739	Urban	2	1.02	13	32.40	29	Very high vulnerability
Newton	108,079	Urban	0	0.00	159	21.90	106	Very high vulnerability
Oconee	38,132	Urban	0	0.00	159	14.50	138	Low
Oglethorpe	14,931	Urban	0	0.00	159	25.60	74	Moderate
Paulding	159,825	Urban	0	0.00	159	24.20	83	Low
Peach	27,145	Urban	0	0.00	159	31.90	33	Very high vulnerability
Pickens	31,387	Urban	0	0.00	159	31.70	35	Moderate
Pierce	19,250	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	26.80	63	High
Pike	18,327	Urban	0	0.00	159	22.40	102	Low
Polk	41,908	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	29.00	52	Very high vulnerability
Pulaski	11,216	Urban	0	0.00	159	20.80	111	High
Putnam	21,691	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	23.60	90	High
Quitman	2,289	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Rabun	16,645	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	44.40	3	High
Randolph	6,973	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Richmond	201,852	Urban	1	0.50	18	39.60	7	Very high vulnerability
Rockdale	89,717	Urban	0	0.00	159	25.70	73	Very high vulnerability
Schley	5,221	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
Screven	13,989	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	22.50	99	Very high vulnerability
Seminole	8,321	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	35.20	19	Very high vulnerability
Spalding	65,306	Urban	0	0.00	159	29.60	45	Very high vulnerability
Stephens	25,750	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	40.50	5	Very high vulnerability
Stewart	6,293	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Sumter	30,064	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	17.70	131	Very high vulnerability
Talbot	6,321	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	27.80	57	High
Taliaferro	1,611	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
Tattnall	25,382	Adjacent rural	1	3.94	6	17.00	133	Very high vulnerability
Taylor	8,116	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	23.20	93	Very high vulnerability
Telfair	16,035	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	16.40	137	Very high vulnerability
Terrell	8,737	Urban	0	0.00	159	21.10	109	Very high vulnerability
Thomas	44,630	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	19.40	117	Very high vulnerability

Tift	40,541	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	18.50	127	Very high vulnerability
Toombs	26,972	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	25.10	76	Very high vulnerability
Towns	11,617	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	47.60	1	Moderate
Treutlen	6,795	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Troup	69,919	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	29.60	45	Very high vulnerability
Turner	7,943	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	37.30	14	Very high vulnerability
Twiggs	8,229	Urban	0	0.00	159	26.70	64	High
Union	23,288	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	27.50	61	Moderate
Upson	26,236	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	29.30	47	Very high vulnerability
Walker	69,039	Urban	0	0.00	159	32.40	29	Very high vulnerability
Walton	91,442	Urban	0	0.00	159	28.60	53	High
Ware	35,593	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	28.10	55	Very high vulnerability
Warren	5,297	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	27.30	62	Very high vulnerability
Washington	20,436	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	19.40	117	Very high vulnerability
Wayne	29,788	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	35.50	17	Very high vulnerability
Webster	2,610	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
Wheeler	7,928	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
White	29,489	Adjacent rural	1	3.39	7	35.00	22	Moderate
Whitfield	104,237	Urban	0	0.00	159	24.80	80	Very high vulnerability
Wilcox	8,824	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	19.40	117	Very high vulnerability
Wilkes	9,844	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	35.90	16	Very high vulnerability
Wilkinson	9,010	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	159	Suppressed	-	High
Worth	20,494	Urban	0	0.00	159	29.30	47	High

¹Population data were downloaded from tables in Social Explorer's ACS five-year estimate (2015-2019). American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2015-2019. Social Explorer tables, ACS 2015-2019. Social Explorer.

²The Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC) was used to classify each county as urban, adjacent rural, or non-adjacent rural. Urban counties are counties with codes 1 (Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more), 2 (Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population), and 3 (Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population). Adjacent rural counties are counties with codes 4 (Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area), 6 (Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area), and 8 (Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area). Non-adjacent rural counties are the remaining three codes - 5 (Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area), 7 (Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area), and 9 (Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area). Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC). <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx>

³Recovery residences are from the NSTARR project and are current as of 2020. Forty-two (42) recovery residences in the state were not successfully geocoded due to lack of adequate address information, and thus were not assigned to a county.

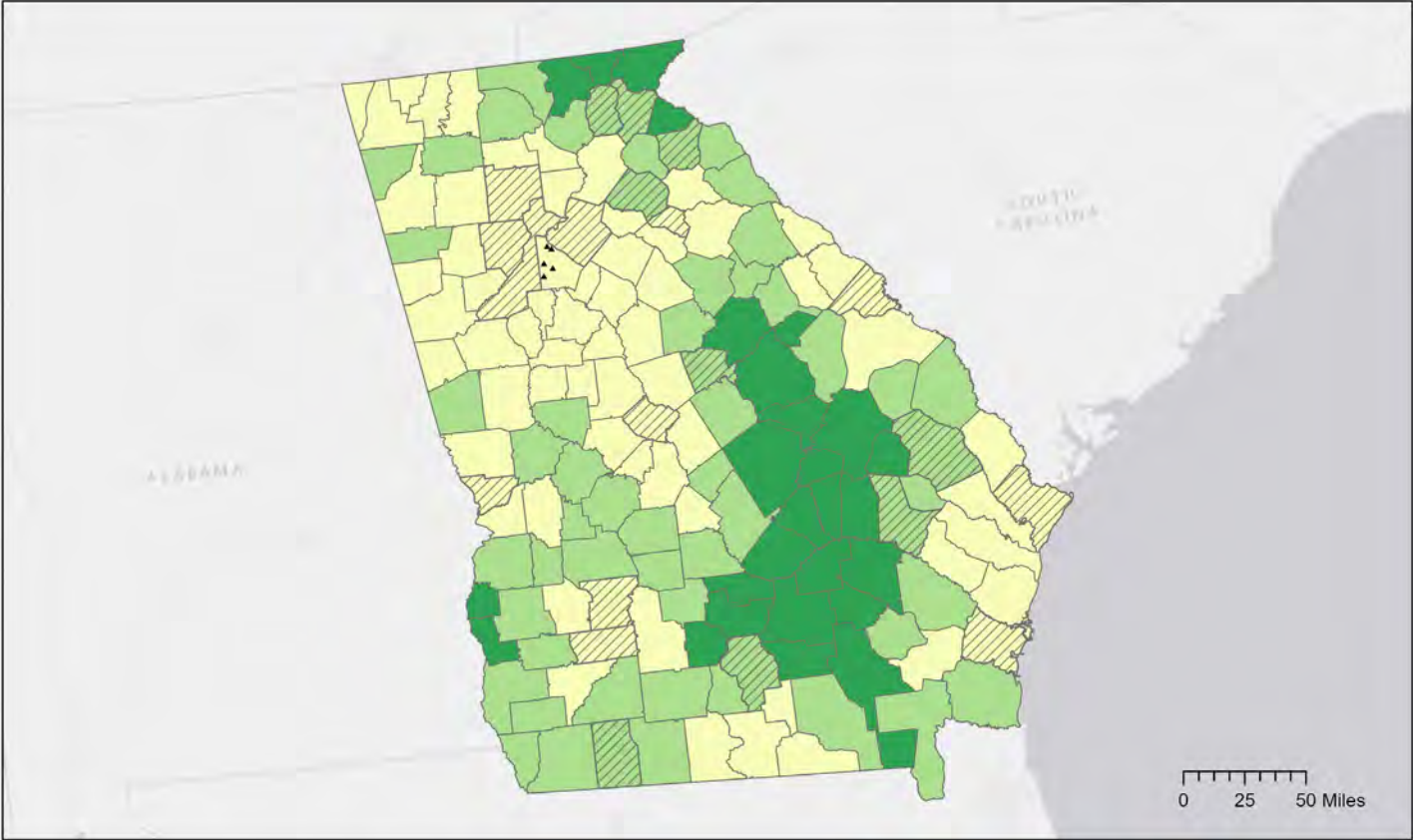
⁴Recovery residences availability per capita is ranked in order of decreasing recovery residence density per 100,000 population per county, with 1 (highest number of residences per 100,000) to 159 (lowest number of residences per 100,000 population). Counties without recovery residences were all assigned a tied rank of 159.

⁵Alcohol- and drug-involved mortality included all deaths as underlying causes of death and selected ICD-10 codes mentioning or attributed to alcohol or drugs as contributing cause of death. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020. CDC Wonder (Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta, GA. Available at: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>. For more information on coding multiple causes of death, see: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, About Multiple Cause of Death, 1999-2019. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>. accessed on August 9 2021.

⁶Mortality rate is ranked in order of decreasing alcohol- and drug-involved mortality from 1 (highest mortality per 100,000 population) to 138 (lowest mortality per 100,000 population).

⁷COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) scores range in value from 0 – 1, with 0 being least vulnerable and 1 being the most vulnerable. Each county is ranked relative to all counties across the country, based on seven themes/domains. Each county was grouped into quintiles: very high (score of 0.8-1), high (0.6-0.8), moderate (0.4-0.6), low (0.2-0.4), and very low (0-0.2). For more information on how the CCVI I is calculated, see: COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) methodology. Retrieved from [https://covid-static-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/US-CCVI/COVID-19+Community+Vulnerability+Index+\(CCVI\)+Methodology.pdf](https://covid-static-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/US-CCVI/COVID-19+Community+Vulnerability+Index+(CCVI)+Methodology.pdf)

Figure 1. Distribution of Residences by Rural-Urban Classification



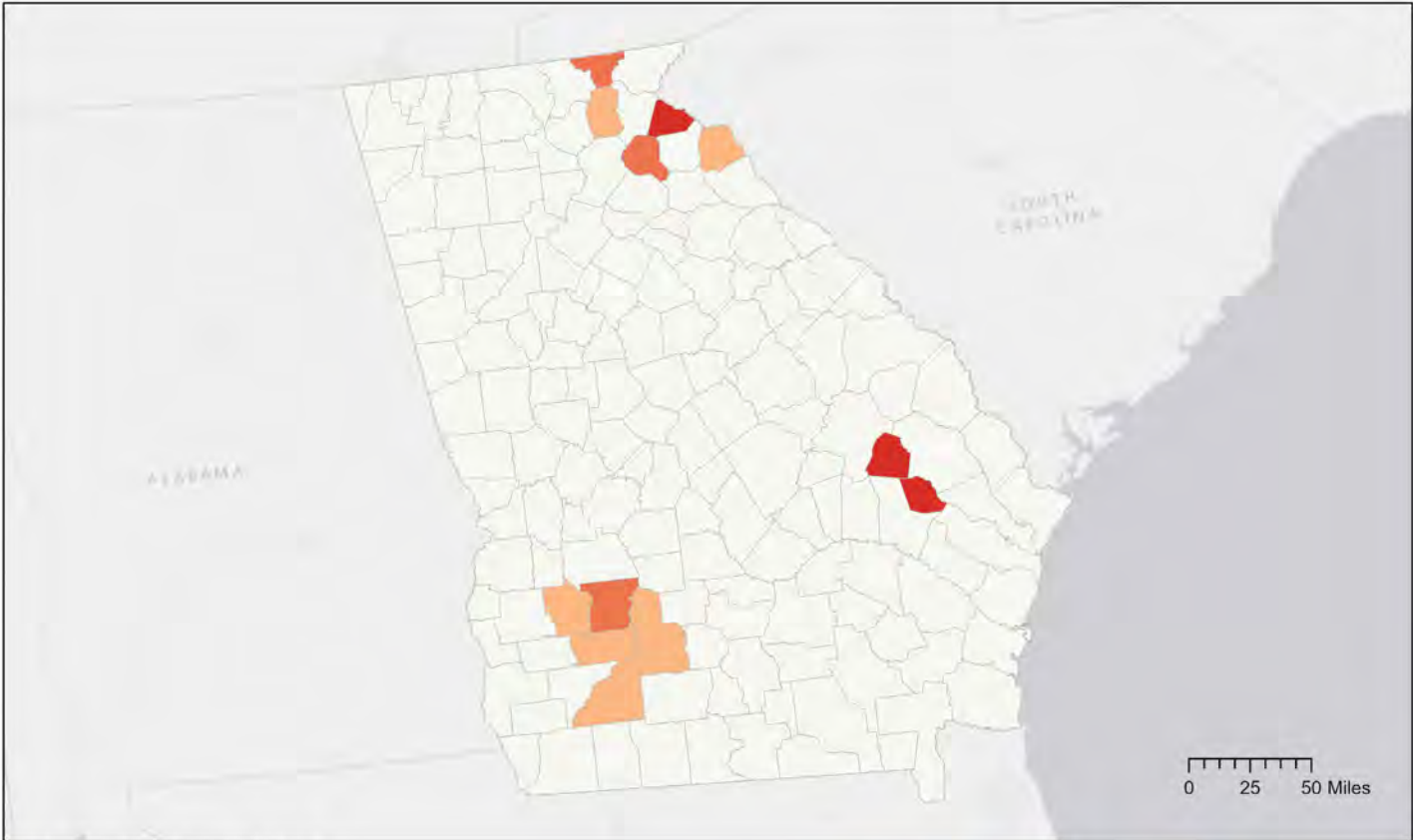
- ▲ Recovery residences
- Rural-Urban Classification Code (RUCC)
 - Urban
 - Adjacent rural
 - Non-adjacent rural
 - Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Recovery residence locations: 2020
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 2. Hot/Cold Spot Analysis of Recovery Residence Locations



Hot Spot Analysis (Getis-Ord GI*)

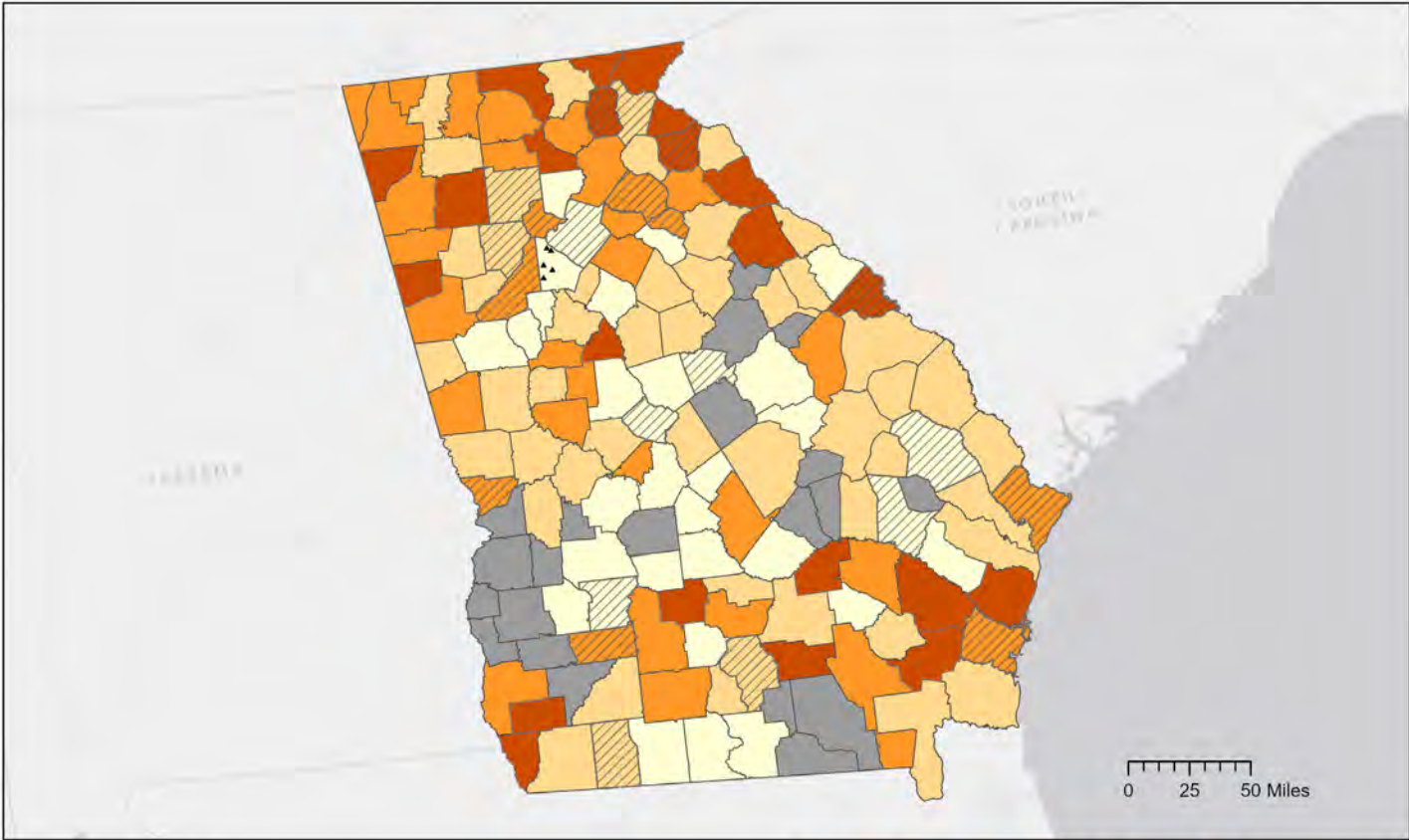
- Cold Spot with 99% Confidence
- Cold Spot with 95% Confidence
- Cold Spot with 90% Confidence
- Not Significant
- Hot Spot with 90% Confidence
- Hot Spot with 95% Confidence
- Hot Spot with 99% Confidence



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Recovery residence locations: 2020
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 3. Distribution of Residences by Age-adjusted Alcohol- and/or Drug-involved Mortality



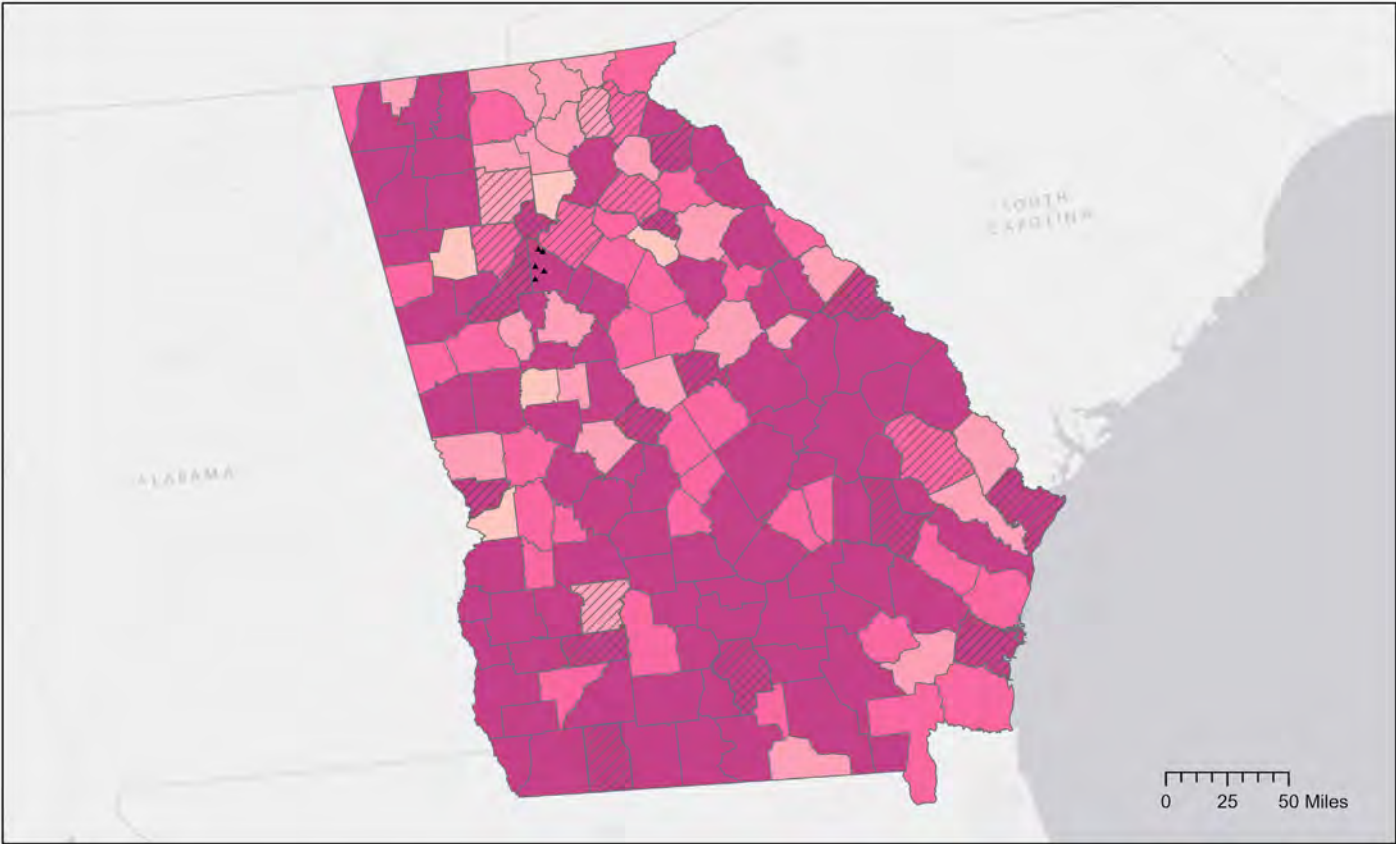
- ▲ Recovery residences
- Age-adjusted alcohol and drug mortality rate per 100,000 population
- 9 - 18
- 19 - 28
- 29 - 52
- 53 - 79
- Suppressed/Unreliable
- Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, GARMIN, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Recovery residence locations: 2020
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 4. Distribution of Residences by COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index



- ▲ Recovery Residences
- COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI)
- Very low vulnerability
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very high vulnerability
- Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS
 Recovery residence locations: 2020
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)





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