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**Constructing a Human Development
Index for Georgia's Counties**

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Constructing a Human Development Index for Georgia's Counties

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to construct a Human Development Index (HDI) for each of Georgia's 159 counties. The index includes education, employment, and housing variables. Data are from the 2000 Census collected by the State of Georgia Office of Planning and Budget. Patterned after the work done at the United Nations Development Programme, the HDI focuses on variables important for community development activities. The index can be used for a variety of purposes in examining levels of development throughout Georgia.

Constructing a Human Development Index for Georgia's Counties

When measuring the impact of community development activities baseline data is required. Further, to understand how communities prosper it is necessary to look at the difference in development across a state or region. As part of a recent program on social capital in Georgia, the purpose of this paper is to construct a Human Development Index (HDI) for each of Georgia's 159 counties. Patterned after work done at the United National Development Programme, and modified by Estrada and Allen (2004), the HDI will focus on variables important to community development activities, including educational opportunity, economic opportunity (employment) and access to housing. Census data from 2000 in Georgia were used to construct the county-level HDIs.

HDI

In 1990, the United National Development Programme compiled its first Human Development Report (UNDP, 2001) that proposed a new way to view human development that went beyond simply Gross Domestic Product. The UNDP report focused on three dimensions, longevity (life expectancy), knowledge (educational attainment), and decent living standards (income). An index of these measurements was created and nations were ranked with values from zero to one with higher values representing higher levels of development. Following the UNDP work, others have constructed HDIs at the sub-national level including Agostini and Richardson (1997), Hanham, Berhanu, and Leveridge (2000), Corrie (1994), and Estrada and Allen (2004).

The goal of this paper is to contribute a measurement tool to be used in community development activities. In their study of the impact of rural empowerment zones in Texas,

Estrada and Allen proposed a method to modify the UNDP index to better focus on the community development goals of education, employment, and housing. While the UNDP index includes data on life expectancy, such county-level information is not available. Instead, the index developed here included a housing variable. Rather than using income levels alone as a proxy for standards of living, an employment index, including median income, poverty data and unemployment rates was used. Like the UNDP effort, educational variables were included in this study.

Data

Based on 2000 Census data compiled by the State of Georgia, Office of Planning and Budget, three variables were used for each of the component parts of the HDI. For the education variable, the three components include data on the percent of the population 25 years and over with a high school degree (including equivalencies) (ED1), the percent of the population over 25 with a Bachelor's degree or higher (ED2), and the percent of the total population enrolled in elementary through high school (ED3).

Included in the employment index was median household income (for 1999) (EM1), the percent of families living below the poverty level (1999) (EM2), and the unemployment rate for those over 16 (EM3). This combination of income, poverty, and employment produces an indices for economic opportunity. Finally, the housing variables included total number of housing units (H1), the number of owner-occupied housing units (H2), and median value of owner-occupied housing units (H3). Table 1 shows the values of each of the nine variables for Georgia's 159 counties as well as the minimum and maximum values for each variable.

Constructing the Georgia HDI

To calculate the HDI, county levels values for each of the three components were identified. These values were then indexed against the fixed minimum and maximum values for each variable in the state. Using these values, each index is expressed as:

$$(1) \text{ Index} = (X_i - \text{min } X) / (\text{max } X - \text{min } X)$$

where X_i = County I's value

Min X = The lowest observed value among all counties for the specific variable, and

Max X = The highest observed value among all counties for the specific variable.

The Georgia HDI was computed by averaging the three components as follows:

Education

$$(2) \text{ ED1 Index} = (\text{ED1}_i - \text{min ED1}) / (\text{max ED1} - \text{min ED1})$$

$$(3) \text{ ED2 Index} = (\text{ED2}_i - \text{min ED2}) / (\text{max ED2} - \text{min ED2})$$

$$(4) \text{ ED3 Index} = (\text{ED3}_i - \text{min ED3}) / (\text{max ED3} - \text{min ED3})$$

$$(5) \text{ Education Index} = (\text{ED1} + \text{ED2} + \text{ED3}) / 3$$

Employment

$$(6) \text{ EM1 Index} = (\text{EM1}_i - \text{min EM1}) / (\text{max EM1} - \text{min EM1})$$

$$(7) \text{ EM2 Index} = (\text{EM2}_i - \text{min EM2}) / (\text{max EM2} - \text{min EM2})$$

$$(8) \text{ EM3 Index} = (\text{EM3}_i - \text{min EM3}) / (\text{max EM3} - \text{min EM3})$$

$$(9) \text{ Employment Index} = (\text{EM1} + \text{EM2} + \text{EM3}) / 3$$

Housing

$$(10) \text{ H1 Index} = (\text{H1}_i - \text{min H1}) / (\text{max H1} - \text{min H1})$$

$$(11) \text{ H2 Index} = (\text{H2}_i - \text{min H2}) / (\text{max H2} - \text{min H2})$$

$$(12) \text{ H3 Index} = (H3_i - \min H3) / (\max H3 - \min H3)$$

$$(13) \text{ Housing Index} = (H1 + H2 + H3) / 3$$

Finally, the HDI is given as:

$$(14) \text{ Education Index} + \text{Employment Index} + \text{Housing Index} / 3$$

(5) (9) (13)

Each of the three components were given equal weight.

The Georgia HDI, as with the UNDP effort, is designed to measure the relative attainments of counties beyond simply ranking by per capita income.

Table 2 shows the results of constructing an HDI for each county including the three component indexes. The same results alphabetized by county, as well as the rankings by education, employment and housing can be seen at www.griffin.uga.edu/grf/dept/agecon/soccap.

Results

The range of county-level HDI's for Georgia was from a high of .76 (Fulton County) to a low of .23 in Chattooga county, with a mean of .32 (Table 3). For the 69 counties included in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (Figure 1) the range was from .24 to .76 with a mean of .36. For the 90 non-MSA counties, the mean was .29 with a range of .23 to .39. The U.S. Census has also created a new measure, the Micropolitan Statistical Area. A micropolis is an area that includes a core area containing a substantial nucleus together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. It is made up of one area with at least 10,000 people but less than 50,000 (when it becomes a Metropolitan Statistical Area). For the 30 counties in Georgia in a Micropolitan Statistical Area (Figure 2) the mean HDI was .31 with a

range from .23 to .61. Figure 2 also shows that eight of the 30 Micropolitan counties had HDI's above the .32 statewide mean.

Of Georgia's 159 counties, the HDI for 56 was above the statewide mean (.32) (Figure 3, blue counties). Figure 4 shows the distribution of county HDI's. Seven counties had HDI's above .47 (blue), or two standard deviations from the mean, 11 counties (purple) were between .40 and .46, or between one and two standard deviations, 38 counties (yellow) were between .32 and .45, or one standard deviation from the mean. For those counties below the mean, 24 (light red) were between the mean and the median (.299), 75 (red) were between the mean and one standard deviation (.244 to .298) and four (green) were two standard deviations for the mean .23 to .241. The distribution of counties is skewed only slightly to the high end from a normal distribution (seven counties above 2STD and 4 below).

To check the HDI rankings in this study, the results were compared to a study completed in 2003 conducted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia entitled *It's a Matter of Wealth: Dismantling Persistent Poverty in the Southeastern United States*. In it, Georgia was divided into three parts (Figure 5): the 37 counties (blue) to the north of Atlanta that are in the federal Appalachian Regional Commission and were not subject to the study, 31 counties defined as "prosperous" (white) and 91 counties (red) were characterized as in persistent poverty. Of the 31 prosperous counties, 29 are in metropolitan areas. The red counties of Figure 5 are made up of 1.8 million people or 22% of the state population. Poverty was defined in the study as a single person living alone with income less than \$8,667 in 1999 or a family of four with income less than \$17,029. Counties were then ranked and characterized as having a high

percentage of residents living in poverty if they were in the top two quartiles. Persistent poverty counties were those that were in the top two quartiles in 2000 and during 1980 and/or 1990.

Of the 56 counties with HDIs above the mean, 27 were the prosperous counties (white) of Figure 6. Only four counties (yellow) counted as prosperous did not have HDIs above the mean. Nineteen persistent poverty counties had HDIs above the mean and 13 of those were adjacent to prosperous counties (light red). Seven of the 10 counties in the Appalachian Regional area (purple) with HDIs above the mean were also adjacent to prosperous counties. The red counties in Figure 6 had HDIs below the mean and were persistent poverty counties in the UGA studies.

It is clear, both looking at Table 2 and the figures, that there is a distinction between economic activity in urban and rural counties. The top 23 counties by HDI ranking are in MSAs with 27 of the top 30 are part of an urban area. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Georgia counties have HDIs below the mean of .32.

Looking at the impact of each component index, the education and housing variables contribute significantly to the ranking, with the employment index appears much less correlated to the overall HDI. Ranked by the education index (Table 4), nine of the top 10 counties are also in the top 10 by HDI. Only Chattahoochee County (24 in HDI, nine in education) was the exception. Chatham County, ranked number 10 by HDI was number 19 in the education index. In the housing index (Table 5), nine of the top 11 by HDI are in the top 11 in housing. Only Clayton County (HDI, 19) and Hall County (HDI 28) are in the top 10 in housing. Columbia County (HDI, 8) is ranked 17 in housing. On the other hand, employment ranking (Table 6), which includes income, unemployment and poverty rates, does not appear as related to HDI ranking. For example, Taliaferro County, ranked 117 in HDI is ninth in employment. The top

county by employment index (Hancock) is 31st by HDI. Only Fulton County, at number eight in employment, is one of the top 10 HDI counties in the employment index.

Conclusion

The results from constructing an HDI for each of Georgia's counties is the starting point for further research on community development strategies. As part of a broader project on economic development, sustainable agriculture, and social capital in Georgia, the data base established in this paper will be useful in future investigations into development strategies.

The use of an HDI broadens the standard income measurements of economics well-being. As seen in this study, issues of education and housing have more of an impact in a county's HDI ranking than do usual measures of income and employment.

The next piece of research that will follow from this paper will be to investigate whether levels of social capital are related to the HDI of Georgia's counties. Do counties with higher HDIs also have higher levels of social capital as measured by participation in community activities?

However the HDI data base is used, it is clear there is a geographic difference in measures of well being in Georgia, whether in this study or in other studies on poverty in the state. Metropolitan areas of the state, while experiencing their own set of problems, certainly outpace most of the state's rural areas in terms of measurements of development. Attention to education and housing variables appears to be the place where development strategies are most needed. An educated population with access to decent housing can be the basis of economic and human development.

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Table 1. County Level Data for Georgia HDI

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemploy- ment rate	# housing unit	# owner- occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Appling	67.3	8.4	83.5	30,266	14.9	4.8	7,854	6,606	63,700
Atkinson	56.3	6.9	88.2	26,470	18.1	5.2	3,171	2,717	46,700
Bacon	67.7	6.6	79.1	26,910	20.2	4.5	4,464	3,833	56,500
Baker	66.0	10.7	82.0	30,338	19.9	8.3	1,740	1,514	62,700
Baldwin	72.6	16.2	61.1	35,159	11.8	6.2	17,173	14,758	79,800
Banks	65.4	8.6	82.6	38,523	9.8	3.0	5,808	5,364	92,400
Barrow	73.3	10.9	81.2	45,019	6.2	4.2	17,304	16,354	103,400
Bartow	71.8	14.1	81.7	43,660	6.6	4.0	28,751	27,176	99,600
Ben Hill	65.8	9.5	78.7	27,100	18.7	6.3	7,623	6,673	60,700
Berrien	66.0	9.4	75.7	30,044	14.6	4.5	7,100	6,261	70,700
Bibb	77.2	21.3	70.7	34,532	15.5	7.5	67,194	59,667	84,400
Bleckley	71.7	12.5	68.7	33,448	11.7	6.0	4,866	4,372	66,500
Brantley	72.5	6.2	83.4	30,361	12.1	4.9	6,490	5,436	60,900
Brooks	67.5	11.3	82.1	26,911	19.1	5.3	7,118	6,155	67,900
Bryan	79.0	19.3	79.6	48,345	10.7	3.1	8,675	8,089	115,600
Bulloch	77.9	25.4	40.6	29,499	11.9	10.2	22,742	20,743	94,300
Burke	64.9	9.5	83.8	27,877	23.8	9.3	8,842	7,934	59,800
Butts	69.8	8.6	81.9	39,879	8.6	3.9	7,380	6,455	86,700

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Calhoun	65.5	11.7	75.5	24,588	23.2	5.6	2,305	1,962	48,200
Camden	83.3	16.0	76.6	41,056	8.4	5.8	16,958	14,705	85,300
Candler	56.9	10.2	81.8	25,022	21.4	7.2	3,893	3,375	62,700
Carroll	71.1	16.5	66.4	38,799	10.0	4.8	34,067	31,568	93,300
Catoosa	76.0	13.8	77.1	39,998	6.4	3.3	21,794	20,425	90,800
Charlton	65.1	6.4	85.9	27,869	17.8	5.2	3,859	3,342	67,300
Chatham	80.2	25.0	68.3	37,752	11.8	6.1	99,683	89,865	95,000
Chattahoochee	88.8	25.0	72.8	37,106	8.9	7.5	3,316	2,932	63,800
Chattooga	60.4	7.7	80.5	30,664	11.3	5.6	10,677	9,577	59,900
Cherokee	84.4	27.0	74.5	60,896	3.5	2.7	51,937	49,495	139,900
Clarke	81.0	39.8	29.5	28,403	14.8	10.2	42,126	39,706	111,300
Clay	64.3	10.1	77.9	21,448	28.1	6.8	1,925	1,347	53,600
Clayton	80.1	16.6	75.2	42,697	8.2	5.5	86,461	82,243	92,700
Clinch	58.9	10.4	82.8	26,755	22.2	4.2	2,837	2,512	54,600
Cobb	88.8	39.8	69.6	58,289	4.4	3.8	237,522	227,487	147,600
Coffee	64.8	10.0	78.3	30,710	15.3	6.4	15,610	13,354	68,800
Colquitt	64.9	11.4	80.4	28,539	16.1	6.3	17,554	15,495	65,400
Columbia	87.9	32.0	76.7	55,682	4.2	3.7	33,321	31,120	118,000
Cook	64.6	8.1	78.4	27,582	16.5	5.3	6,558	5,882	60,900

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Coweta	81.6	20.6	78.8	52,706	6.1	3.9	33,182	31,442	121,700
Crawford	67.3	6.8	81.0	37,848	12.7	4.6	4,872	4,461	77,800
Crisp	65.9	12.8	81.4	26,547	24.6	7.0	9,559	8,337	74,400
Dade	67.0	10.9	67.5	35,259	7.5	5.4	6,224	5,633	79,200
Dawson	79.5	18.1	82.6	47,486	5.8	3.4	7,163	6,069	142,500
Decatur	69.7	12.1	78.4	28,820	19.2	6.5	11,968	10,380	69,500
DeKalb	85.1	36.3	65.7	49,117	7.8	5.5	26,1231	249,339	135,100
Dodge	66.3	11.6	80.8	27,607	13.8	5.4	8,186	7,062	54,200
Dooly	68.5	9.6	80.7	27,980	18.0	6.4	4,499	3,909	62,300
Dougherty	73.7	17.8	70.4	30,934	19.6	10.1	39,656	35,552	73,900
Douglas	81.1	19.2	75.4	50,108	5.7	3.8	34,825	32,822	102,700
Early	68.4	12.6	79.9	25,629	22.2	8.1	5,338	4,695	58,600
Echols	60.5	8.4	83.2	25,851	22.3	3.7	1,482	1,264	76,000
Effingham	78.9	13.6	79.9	46,505	7.1	4.2	14,169	13,151	106,600
Elbert	67.2	9.8	83.6	28,724	14.6	5.8	9,136	8,004	66,600
Emanuel	61.4	10.1	82.9	24,383	21.8	4.4	9,419	8,045	50,800
Evans	65.7	9.0	87.5	25,447	23.1	8.1	4,381	3,778	69,000
Fannin	70.9	10.4	81.0	30,612	10.2	3.9	11,134	8,369	86,200
Fayette	92.4	36.2	79.1	71,227	2.0	2.6	32,726	31,524	171,500

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Floyd	71.5	15.8	70.8	35,615	10.8	6.7	36,615	34,028	83,500
Forsyth	85.7	34.6	73.9	68,890	3.9	2.1	36,505	34,565	184,600
Franklin	67.0	10.3	73.1	32,134	11.0	4.2	9,303	7,888	84,600
Fulton	84.0	41.4	66.2	47,321	12.4	8.9	348,632	321,242	180,700
Gilmer	66.0	12.9	82.8	35,140	9.3	4.2	11,924	9,071	95,700
Glascocock	66.1	6.5	84.1	29,743	9.4	12.3	1,192	1,004	48,600
Glynn	82.2	23.8	78.4	38,765	11.6	5.6	32,636	27,208	114,500
Gordon	65.9	10.6	80.1	38,831	7.5	3.5	17,145	16,173	83,600
Grady	69.4	10.6	80.3	28,656	16.7	7.4	9,991	8,797	74,900
Greene	70.1	17.6	79.5	33,479	16.0	6.7	6,653	5,477	87,100
Gwinnett	87.3	34.1	73.9	60,537	3.8	3.3	209,682	202,317	142,100
Habersham	70.9	15.8	75.2	36,321	8.8	4.2	14,634	13,259	99,700
Hall	70.5	18.7	78.5	44,908	8.5	3.8	51,046	47,381	120,200
Hancock	62.2	9.8	79.7	22,003	26.1	13.7	4,287	3,237	53,000
Haralson	63.0	9.0	80.3	31,656	11.4	4.1	10,719	9,826	76,500
Harris	79.0	21.1	76.6	47,762	6.5	3.4	10,288	8,822	122,700
Hart	71.1	13.5	81.2	32,833	12.2	5.3	11,111	9,106	89,900
Heard	66.0	7.3	82.5	33,038	10.5	5.7	45,12	4,043	72,900
Henry	84.2	19.5	77.4	57,309	3.7	2.7	43,166	41,373	122,400

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Houston	84.3	19.8	74.2	43,638	8.4	4.9	44,509	40,911	88,900
Irwin	67.7	9.9	84.5	30,257	13.5	6.0	4,149	3,644	58,100
Jackson	68.1	11.7	81.5	40,349	9.9	3.4	16,226	15,057	102,900
Jasper	69.7	11.5	82.6	39,890	10.9	4.7	4,806	4,175	81,000
Jeff Davis	63.3	9.4	80.9	27,310	16.8	5.6	5,581	4,828	61,000
Jefferson	58.5	9.1	84.6	26,120	19.3	11.8	7,221	6,339	56,900
Jenkins	62.0	10.8	82.7	24,025	22.3	10.7	3,907	3,214	49,400
Johnson	62.4	7.8	80.1	23,848	20.9	5.5	3,634	3,130	48,000
Jones	77.9	15.0	81.4	43,301	7.7	4.5	9,272	8,659	91,200
Lamar	71.3	11.3	64.8	37,087	8.1	5.5	6,145	5,712	79,900
Lanier	67.0	8.8	83.5	29,171	15.3	6.2	3,011	2,593	62,200
Laurens	70.3	14.4	80.0	32,010	14.7	5.2	19,687	17,083	73,900
Lee	81.3	17.0	79.2	48,600	6.5	3.4	8,813	8,229	102,900
Liberty	86.8	14.5	76.2	33,477	13.5	8.6	21,977	19,383	79,800
Lincoln	71.0	10.1	84.4	31,952	12.4	6.0	4,514	3,251	82,000
Long	74.3	5.8	79.3	30,640	17.6	8.8	4,232	3,574	71,100
Lowndes	77.7	19.7	61.4	32,132	13.9	5.8	36,551	32,654	87,600
Lumpkin	72.0	17.6	59.0	39,167	9.0	4.0	8,263	7,537	111,800
McDuffie	66.7	11.7	80.5	31,920	14.1	7.7	8,916	7,970	74,600

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
McIntosh	71.2	11.1	86.1	30,102	15.7	5.7	5,735	4,202	81,700
Macon	63.2	10.0	80.7	24,224	22.1	9.1	5,495	4,834	54,200
Madison	70.8	10.9	80.8	36,347	9.2	2.7	10,520	9,800	87,300
Marion	65.4	8.9	83.7	29,145	17.8	3.6	3,130	2,668	70,400
Meriwether	65.8	10.8	82.1	31,870	13.6	7.0	9,211	8,248	66,300
Miller	69.0	11.3	77.8	27,335	16.9	4.0	2,770	2,487	57,600
Mitchell	65.3	9.1	80.7	26,581	22.3	6.2	8,880	8,063	64,500
Monroe	77.7	17.1	75.6	44,195	7.3	3.4	8,425	7,719	103,600
Montgomery	71.4	13.5	63.7	30,240	15.8	3.9	3,492	2,919	68,300
Morgan	74.0	18.7	80.1	40,249	8.9	5.1	6,128	5,558	99,700
Murray	61.1	7.2	85.0	36,996	9.2	4.0	14,320	13,286	85,700
Muscogee	78.9	20.3	72.2	34,798	12.8	7.0	76,182	69,819	84,000
Newton	74.7	14.5	77.6	44,875	7.2	5.2	23,033	21,997	101,300
Oconee	86.7	39.8	77.5	55,211	4.9	3.7	9,528	9,051	151,600
Oglethorpe	72.1	15.6	77.9	35,578	10.0	3.0	5,368	4,849	87,500
Paulding	80.8	15.2	79.7	52,161	4.0	2.6	29,274	28,089	106,100
Peach	73.4	16.8	64.6	34,453	15.2	12.9	9,093	8,436	78,300
Pickens	70.2	15.6	79.9	41,387	6.2	2.3	10,687	8,960	113,100
Pierce	69.8	10.1	79.0	29,895	14.4	4.0	6,719	5,958	64,300

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Pike	75.3	14.0	80.3	44,370	6.9	3.4	5,068	4,755	103,000
Polk	63.3	8.0	78.8	32,328	11.2	6.0	15,059	14,012	73,900
Pulaski	73.4	12.9	76.5	31,895	12.3	5.5	3,944	3,407	75,400
Putnam	75.5	14.4	79.1	36,956	10.5	3.8	10,319	7,402	102,300
Quitman	57.8	6.1	87.8	25,875	16.1	5.8	1,773	1,047	51,300
Rabun	75.4	17.6	82.8	33,899	8.1	4.9	10,210	6,279	112,400
Randolph	62.4	9.5	73.8	22,004	22.0	7.9	3,402	2,909	48,600
Richmond	78.0	18.7	72.7	33,086	16.2	9.2	82,312	73,920	76,800
Rockdale	82.4	23.4	77.9	53,599	5.7	4.2	25,082	24,052	118,000
Schley	70.0	13.7	80.2	32,035	15.8	5.7	1,612	1,435	57,400
Screven	66.9	10.2	78.6	29,312	15.5	9.4	6,853	5,797	64,600
Seminole	67.9	8.6	76.3	27,094	15.8	7.0	4,742	3,573	58,600
Spalding	67.8	12.5	80.7	36,221	12.4	6.2	23,001	21,519	86,600
Stephens	71.1	14.1	69.0	29,466	11.3	4.2	11,652	9,951	80,900
Stewart	63.2	9.3	78.3	24,789	17.2	10.1	2,354	2,007	44,000
Sumter	69.9	19.3	70.0	30,904	17.6	6.8	13,700	12,025	66,900
Talbot	64.8	7.9	82.1	26,611	19.9	8.7	2,871	2,538	57,700
Taliaferro	56.2	8.4	81.9	23,750	22.3	9.8	1,085	870	40,300
Tattnall	66.3	7.9	81.4	28,664	18.6	6.8	8,578	7,057	67,300

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Taylor	63.6	8.5	82.1	25,148	20.2	8.0	3,978	3,281	56,300
Telfair	63.6	8.3	80.9	26,097	17.3	6.5	5,083	4,140	47,600
Terrell	64.5	10.7	81.1	26,969	22.7	8.5	4,460	4,002	59,300
Thomas	73.5	16.8	77.9	31,115	13.6	6.5	18,285	16,309	76,900
Tift	67.9	15.6	71.4	32,616	15.5	6.8	15,411	13,919	82,600
Toombs	67.3	12.7	81.2	26,811	17.8	5.7	11,371	9,877	66,400
Towns	75.1	17.4	62.0	31,950	8.8	3.8	6,282	3,998	127,500
Treutlen	61.8	8.5	82.9	24,644	20.8	9.4	2,865	2,531	56,600
Troup	73.0	18.0	78.4	35,469	12.2	5.2	23,824	21,920	83,700
Turner	67.7	10.5	80.8	25,676	20.5	8.0	3,916	3,435	57,600
Twiggs	63.2	5.4	84.6	31,608	15.5	8.3	4,291	3,832	61,800
Union	74.2	12.5	78.5	31,893	9.3	3.2	10,001	7,159	111,100
Upson	66.7	11.5	78.4	31,201	11.2	7.0	11,616	10,722	66,100
Walker	66.8	10.2	81.0	32,406	10.0	4.3	25,577	23,605	71,200
Walton	73.5	13.0	80.1	46,479	8.0	3.4	22,500	21,307	113,300
Ware	70.3	11.4	80.7	28,360	15.9	6.4	15,831	13,475	56,700
Warren	57.1	8.0	80.8	27,366	24.1	9.4	2,767	2,435	48,700
Washington	68.3	10.5	80.6	29,910	18.7	9.5	8,327	7,435	66,900
Wayne	70.1	11.6	82.5	32,766	13.4	5.0	10,827	9,324	71,200

County	% with High School degree	% with Bachelor's degree or higher	% Population in K-12	Median household income	% families below poverty level	Unemployment rate	# housing unit	# owner-occupied	Median value
	----- % -----	----- % -----	----- % -----	--- \$ ---	--- % ---				--- \$ ---
Webster	61.3	9.1	85.4	27,992	17.2	7.5	1,115	911	49,300
Wheeler	67.9	7.1	78.8	24,053	21.6	5.0	2,447	2,011	49,800
White	76.0	15.4	72.9	36,084	8.4	2.8	9,454	7,731	114,000
Whitfield	63.0	12.8	82.8	39,377	8.6	3.6	30,722	29,385	91,800
Wilcox	68.2	7.0	81.9	27,483	16.8	4.9	3,320	2,785	51,400
Wilkes	65.0	12.0	80.3	27,644	13.0	4.4	5,022	4,314	65,100
Wilkinson	70.4	9.6	77.0	32,723	14.6	6.7	4,449	3,827	61,500
Worth	68.3	8.6	81.2	32,384	14.7	7.2	9,086	8,106	68,000
MINIMUM	56.2	5.4	29.5	21,448	2.0	2.1	1,085	870	40,300
MAXIMUM	92.4	41.4	88.2	71,227	28.1	13.7	348,632	321,242	184,600

Table 2. Ranking of Counties by HDI

County	Index	HDI Ranking	Education	Employment	Housing
Fulton	0.763397	1	0.7977229	0.5014772	0.990991
Cobb	0.6276764	2	0.8464142	0.326199	0.7104159
DeKalb	0.6139536	3	0.7577903	0.3570542	0.7270163
Gwinnett	0.5894283	4	0.8042422	0.3192215	0.6448212
Fayette	0.5377304	5	0.9001767	0.3477011	0.3653135
Forsyth	0.5128172	6	0.7941389	0.3419498	0.402363
Oconee	0.484917	7	0.8719381	0.3091	0.2737129
Columbia	0.4504718	8	0.8062227	0.303314	0.2418786
Cherokee	0.4483995	9	0.7152051	0.3005527	0.3294408
Chatham	0.4285339	10	0.6228053	0.3492781	0.3135182
Richmond	0.4235778	11	0.5692	0.4633079	0.2382255
Glynn	0.4185566	12	0.6874642	0.3391393	0.2290664
Clarke	0.4111548	13	0.5468795	0.442805	0.2437799
Rockdale	0.4107587	14	0.6827628	0.3228906	0.2266226
Coweta	0.4062024	15	0.6545811	0.3133987	0.2506274
Bibb	0.4054009	16	0.5745504	0.4152001	0.2264522
Henry	0.4038758	17	0.660387	0.2790875	0.2721528
Muscogee	0.4007683	18	0.5894628	0.3681308	0.2447113
Clayton	0.3966851	19	0.583289	0.3191727	0.2875936
Dougherty	0.3923627	20	0.508211	0.5181823	0.1506948
Liberty	0.391988	21	0.6312174	0.414202	0.1305447
Houston	0.384092	22	0.6459141	0.3107868	0.1955751
Dawson	0.3804135	23	0.6336746	0.2602449	0.247321
Chattahoochee	0.378088	24	0.7275487	0.3481451	0.0585702
Peach	0.3775328	25	0.4632535	0.5660121	0.1033327
Bryan	0.3772786	26	0.6231459	0.3199562	0.1887338
Douglas	0.3718252	27	0.6177069	0.2880197	0.209749
Hall	0.3676379	28	0.533075	0.288959	0.2808796
Harris	0.3670848	29	0.6227768	0.2710331	0.2074445
Camden	0.3560257	30	0.6151494	0.3193591	0.1335687
Hancock	0.3535886	31	0.3810547	0.6448403	0.0348708

County	Index	HDI Ranking	Education	Employment	Housing
Lee	0.3523587	32	0.6207568	0.2766446	0.1596748
Paulding	0.3517509	33	0.6023254	0.245573	0.2073545
Effingham	0.3476327	34	0.5711509	0.2932672	0.1784799
Greene	0.344891	35	0.5248852	0.3915462	0.1182418
Bulloch	0.3424429	36	0.4480334	0.413107	0.1661884
Newton	0.3413523	37	0.5277494	0.3123651	0.1839423
Morgan	0.3405145	38	0.5743891	0.300226	0.1469286
Lowndes	0.3392405	39	0.5115287	0.3298443	0.1763485
Rabun	0.3383662	40	0.5924275	0.2417404	0.1809308
Burke	0.3382063	41	0.426421	0.5283632	0.0598346
Crisp	0.3369353	42	0.452556	0.4635823	0.0946676
Walton	0.3363464	43	0.5170073	0.2815989	0.2104332
Washington	0.3355428	44	0.4488163	0.4825897	0.0752225
Troup	0.3354159	45	0.5490459	0.313237	0.1439648
Jones	0.3350183	46	0.5834236	0.2880959	0.1335354
Thomas	0.3320412	47	0.5396996	0.3393177	0.1171063
Evans	0.3304404	48	0.4501686	0.4686685	0.0724839
Monroe	0.3286148	49	0.5680906	0.2573646	0.1603891
Long	0.3278195	50	0.4531642	0.4533145	0.0769798
Floyd	0.3265042	51	0.4717061	0.3394381	0.1683685
Early	0.3246438	52	0.4652065	0.458393	0.0503319
Bartow	0.324532	53	0.5206245	0.2620835	0.1908879
Sumter	0.3225334	54	0.4848377	0.3976111	0.0851514
Putnam	0.3209446	55	0.5427079	0.2612531	0.1588728
Spalding	0.3207728	56	0.4632986	0.3495625	0.1494572
Baker	0.3189268	57	0.4374395	0.4662986	0.0530423
Jenkins	0.3184388	58	0.4055081	0.523642	0.0261664
Terrell	0.3180494	59	0.4185167	0.4852459	0.0503857
McIntosh	0.3174114	60	0.4249016	0.2964326	0.0733632
Barrow	0.3170724	61	0.5019677	0.2718223	0.1774273
Pike	0.3167014	62	0.5439769	0.2534279	0.1526994
Jefferson	0.3164051	63	0.3683283	0.5309657	0.0499214

County	Index	HDI Ranking	Education	Employment	Housing
Tift	0.3157992	64	0.4401122	0.3822551	0.1250301
Decatur	0.3157613	65	0.4640296	0.3954696	0.0877847
Grady	0.314396	66	0.4581676	0.388305	0.0967156
Hart	0.3123348	67	0.5057839	0.2984592	0.1327613
Laurens	0.3114219	68	0.4999365	0.3220031	0.1123262
Carroll	0.3104887	69	0.4495185	0.2959442	0.1860032
McDuffie	0.3081114	70	0.476676	0.208963	0.1269105
Turner	0.3079657	71	0.4444272	0.4341228	0.045347
Screven	0.3078083	72	0.42179	0.4348433	0.0667915
Macon	0.3048998	73	0.4446266	0.3855767	0.0941311
Lincoln	0.3029584	74	0.4915531	0.315229	0.1020932
White	0.3022116	75	0.5213639	0.1998584	0.1854125
Catoosa	0.3007184	76	0.5303992	0.2148926	0.1568633
Jackson	0.3006339	77	0.4631965	0.2648164	0.1738889
Habersham	0.30035	78	0.4911671	0.2467838	0.1630992
Talbot	0.29917	79	0.4010318	0.4528359	0.0436425
Treutlen	0.2986226	80	0.3835059	0.4712735	0.0410884
Worth	0.2985997	81	0.4346309	0.3819787	0.0791896
Jasper	0.2984064	82	0.4823241	0.3118705	0.1010246
Clay	0.2977879	83	0.392948	0.4683908	0.032025
Mitchell	0.2970355	84	0.4087969	0.4114473	0.0708623
Ware	0.2962153	85	0.4761337	0.3473701	0.0651419
Pickens	0.2960858	86	0.5095589	0.1929038	0.1857948
Baldwin	0.2954565	87	0.4304564	0.3347882	0.121125
Towns	0.29513	88	0.4696985	0.2060202	0.2096712
Toombs	0.2946873	89	0.4633857	0.3411483	0.0795278
Union	0.2943878	90	0.5097376	0.1947828	0.178643
Schley	0.2943365	91	0.4918283	0.3505868	0.0405943
Tattnall	0.2940819	92	0.4108689	0.3953828	0.0759939
Wayne	0.2935332	93	0.4863654	0.3047155	0.0895187
Pulaski	0.2934609	94	0.4947176	0.2992024	0.0864628
Brooks	0.2931143	95	0.4573751	0.3469265	0.0750411

County	Index	HDI Ranking	Education	Employment	Housing
Warren	0.292655	96	0.3236731	0.5316464	0.0226455
Glascocock	0.2913229	97	0.4113965	0.4431573	0.0194151
Dooly	0.2905981	98	0.4428925	0.3716455	0.0572564
Meriwether	0.2904544	99	0.4370917	0.3587412	0.0755302
Lumpkin	0.2892014	100	0.4259694	0.2626486	0.1789863
Taylor	0.2881789	101	0.3955376	0.4267557	0.0422433
Wilkinson	0.287752	102	0.4393771	0.3686038	0.0552751
Colquitt	0.2873164	103	0.4247064	0.3482495	0.0889932
Whitfield	0.2861044	104	0.4338026	0.247452	0.1770587
Oglethorpe	0.2852095	105	0.5156971	0.2226514	0.1172799
Gilmer	0.2848389	106	0.4623528	0.2452612	0.1469026
Twiggs	0.2839259	107	0.3773471	0.4186088	0.0558218
Coffee	0.2823654	108	0.3988976	0.3554435	0.0927551
Elbert	0.2803675	109	0.4492417	0.3159634	0.0758974
Ben Hill	0.2789997	110	0.4057475	0.3718192	0.0594324
Stewart	0.2783376	111	0.3776831	0.4463824	0.0109471
Upton	0.2781362	112	0.4308497	0.3236101	0.079949
Lanier	0.2770643	113	0.4375729	0.3393909	0.054229
Butts	0.2769616	114	0.452418	0.2594342	0.1190326
Irwin	0.2749176	115	0.4598824	0.3179274	0.046943
Candler	0.2743911	116	0.3478805	0.4182492	0.0570436
Taliaferro	0.2737581	117	0.325336	0.4959384	0
Crawford	0.2733085	118	0.4076204	0.3183117	0.0939935
Calhoun	0.2726979	119	0.4051839	0.3923545	0.0205553
Fannin	0.2717955	120	0.4741029	0.2178141	0.1234695
Bleckley	0.271722	121	0.4310671	0.3163066	0.0677921
Charlton	0.2709839	122	0.4114839	0.3338652	0.0676026
Webster	0.2708777	123	0.3986539	0.3931179	0.0208615
Madison	0.2708499	124	0.5123076	0.3363658	0.1035607
Seminole	0.2688574	125	0.4031225	0.3548569	0.0485928
Appling	0.2681769	126	0.4366317	0.3013848	0.0665143
Randolph	0.2653164	127	0.3466148	0.4258176	0.0235168

County	Index	HDI Ranking	Education	Employment	Housing
Marion	0.2648991	128	0.3977932	0.4764432	0.040463
Walker	0.2639297	129	0.4344978	0.2387672	0.1185242
Echols	0.2634302	130	0.372313	0.3347199	0.0832578
Brantley	0.2634103	131	0.4635756	0.2691346	0.0575207
Stephens	0.2627465	132	0.4420607	0.2328094	0.1133693
Pierce	0.2618343	133	0.449839	0.2695263	0.0661375
Banks	0.2617506	134	0.4158774	0.2398176	0.1295568
Gordon	0.2610085	135	0.4248035	0.2268737	0.1313484
Bacon	0.2601293	136	0.3986624	0.3379798	0.0437457
Heard	0.2601022	137	0.4087974	0.2896148	0.0818943
Jeff Davis	0.2597954	138	0.3942942	0.3288448	0.0562473
Wheeler	0.259655	139	0.4034301	0.3510964	0.0244385
Polk	0.2588399	140	0.3694062	0.3024211	0.1046923
Lamar	0.2586076	141	0.3941263	0.2803295	0.101367
Miller	0.2581144	142	0.4467693	0.2843124	0.0432615
Dodge	0.2579518	143	0.441721	0.2867723	0.0453621
Emanuel	0.2576567	144	0.3946375	0.3386191	0.0397135
Montgomery	0.2550448	145	0.409171	0.2868429	0.0691205
Clinch	0.2547043	146	0.3738271	0.353864	0.0364218
Telfair	0.2546471	147	0.3868714	0.35297	0.0240998
Wilcox	0.2541786	148	0.4228703	0.3098883	0.0297771
Berrien	0.2528919	149	0.3896274	0.2874461	0.0816022
Murray	0.2526999	150	0.3769482	0.2506652	0.1304861
Franklin	0.252255	151	0.3924045	0.2468436	0.1175169
Cook	0.2520984	152	0.3800312	0.3182141	0.05805
Johnson	0.248128	153	0.3666492	0.3551515	0.0225832
Wilkes	0.2477765	154	0.4306149	0.2480673	0.0646474
Haralson	0.2441597	155	0.3844209	0.2458778	0.1021804
Dade	0.241152	156	0.3661599	0.2575523	0.0997436
Atkinson	0.231726	157	0.348143	0.3283285	0.0187064
Quitman	0.2315244	158	0.3522763	0.3160428	0.026254
Chattooga	0.2313917	159	0.3495785	0.2810614	0.063535

Table 3. Range and Means of Georgia's HDIs

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
All counties	.23	.76	.32
MSA counties	.24	.76	.36
Non-MSA counties	.23	.39	.29
Micropolitan counties	.23	.61	.31

Table 4. Ranking of Counties by Education Index - Top 10

County	HDI	HDI Index	Education
Fayette	0.5377304	5	0.9001767
Oconee	0.484917	7	0.8719381
Cobb	0.6276764	2	0.8464142
Columbia	0.4504718	8	0.8062227
Gwinnett	0.5894283	4	0.8042422
Fulton	0.763397	1	0.7977229
Forsyth	0.5128172	6	0.7941389
DeKalb	0.6139536	3	0.7577903
Chattahoochee	0.378088	24	0.7275487
Cherokee	0.4483995	9	0.7152051

Table 5. Ranking of Counties by Housing Index - Top 11

County	Index	HDI Rank	Housing
Fulton	0.763397	1	0.990991
DeKalb	0.6139536	3	0.7270163
Cobb	0.6276764	2	0.7104159
Gwinnett	0.5894283	4	0.6448212
Forsyth	0.5128172	6	0.402363
Fayette	0.5377304	5	0.3653135
Cherokee	0.4483995	9	0.3294408
Chatham	0.4285339	10	0.3135182
Clayton	0.3966851	19	0.2875936
Hall	0.3676379	28	0.2808796
Oconee	0.484917	7	0.2737129

Table 6. Ranking of Counties by Employment Index - Top 10

County	Index	HDI Rank	Employment
Hancock	0.3535886	31	0.6448403
Peach	0.3775328	25	0.5660121
Warren	0.292655	96	0.5316464
Jefferson	0.3164051	63	0.5309657
Burke	0.3382063	41	0.5283632
Jenkins	0.3184388	58	0.523642
Dougherty	0.3923627	20	0.5181823
Fulton	0.763397	1	0.5014772
Taliaferro	0.2737581	117	0.4959384
Terrell	0.3180494	59	0.4852459

Figure 1. Counties Located in Georgia's Metropolitan Statistical Areas – 2000 Census.

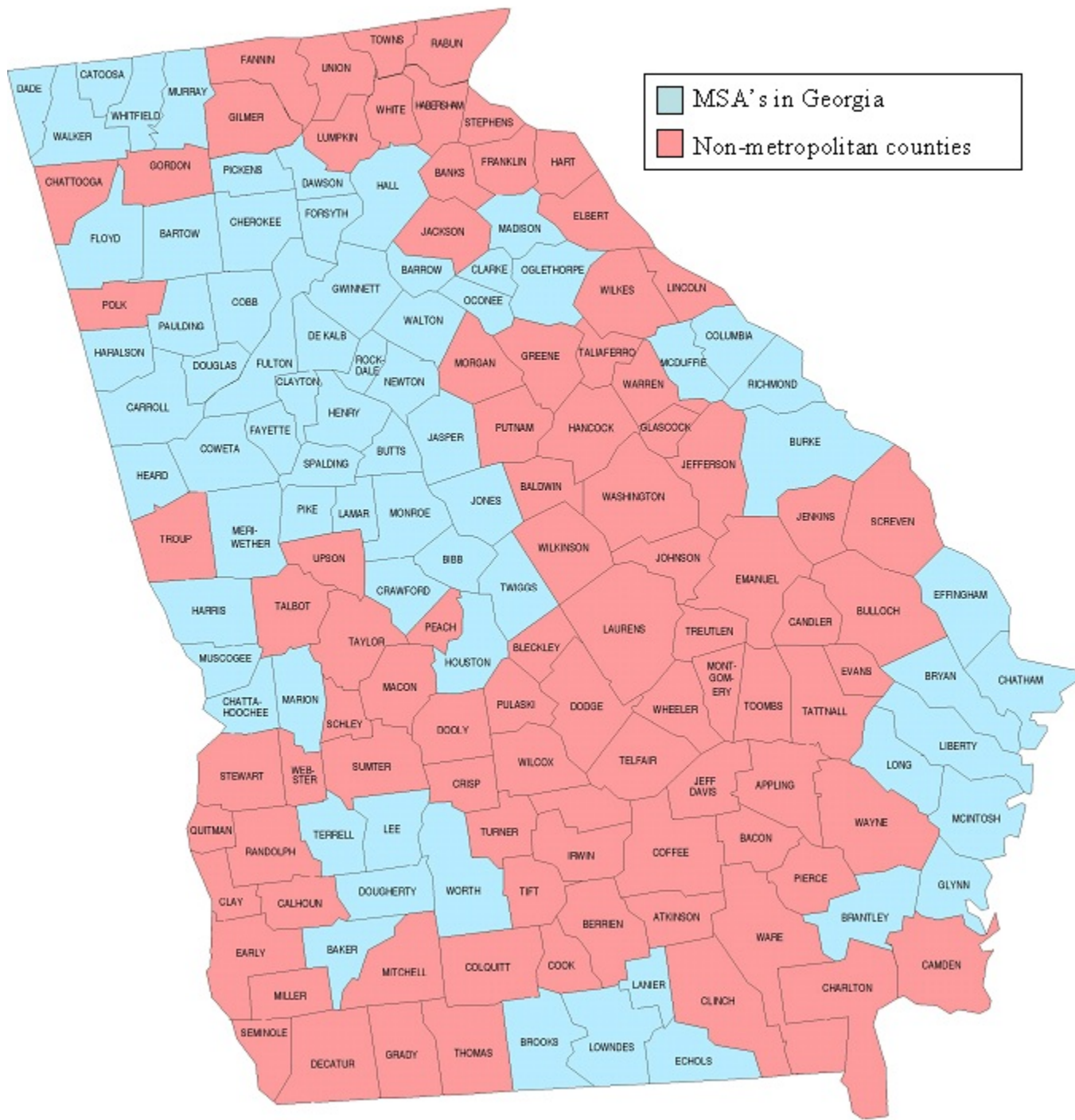


Figure 2. Counties Located in Georgia's Micropolitan Statistical Areas – 2000 Census.

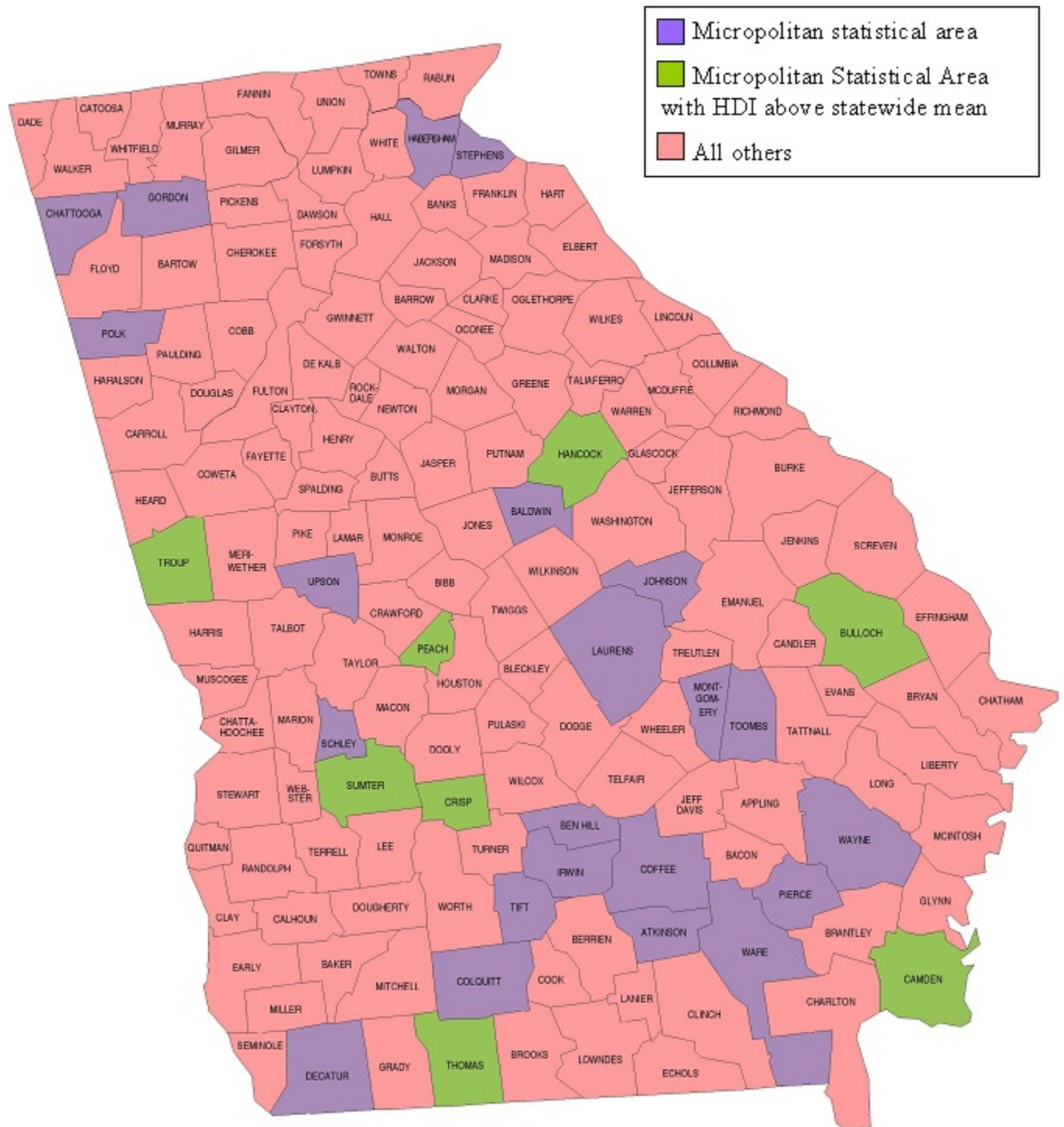


Figure 3. Georgia Counties Above and Below the State HDI Mean.

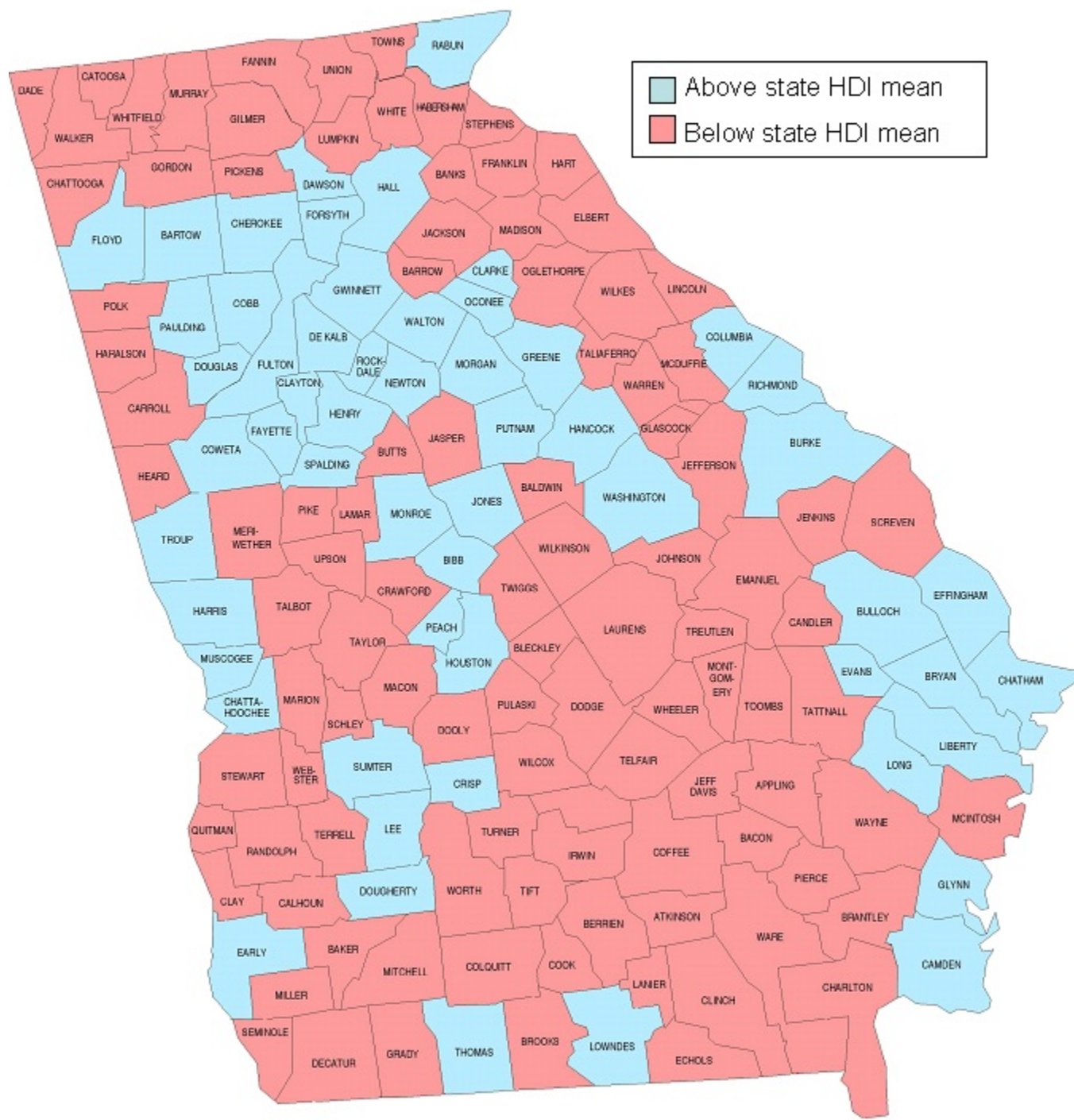


Figure 4. Georgia Counties by HDI Categories.

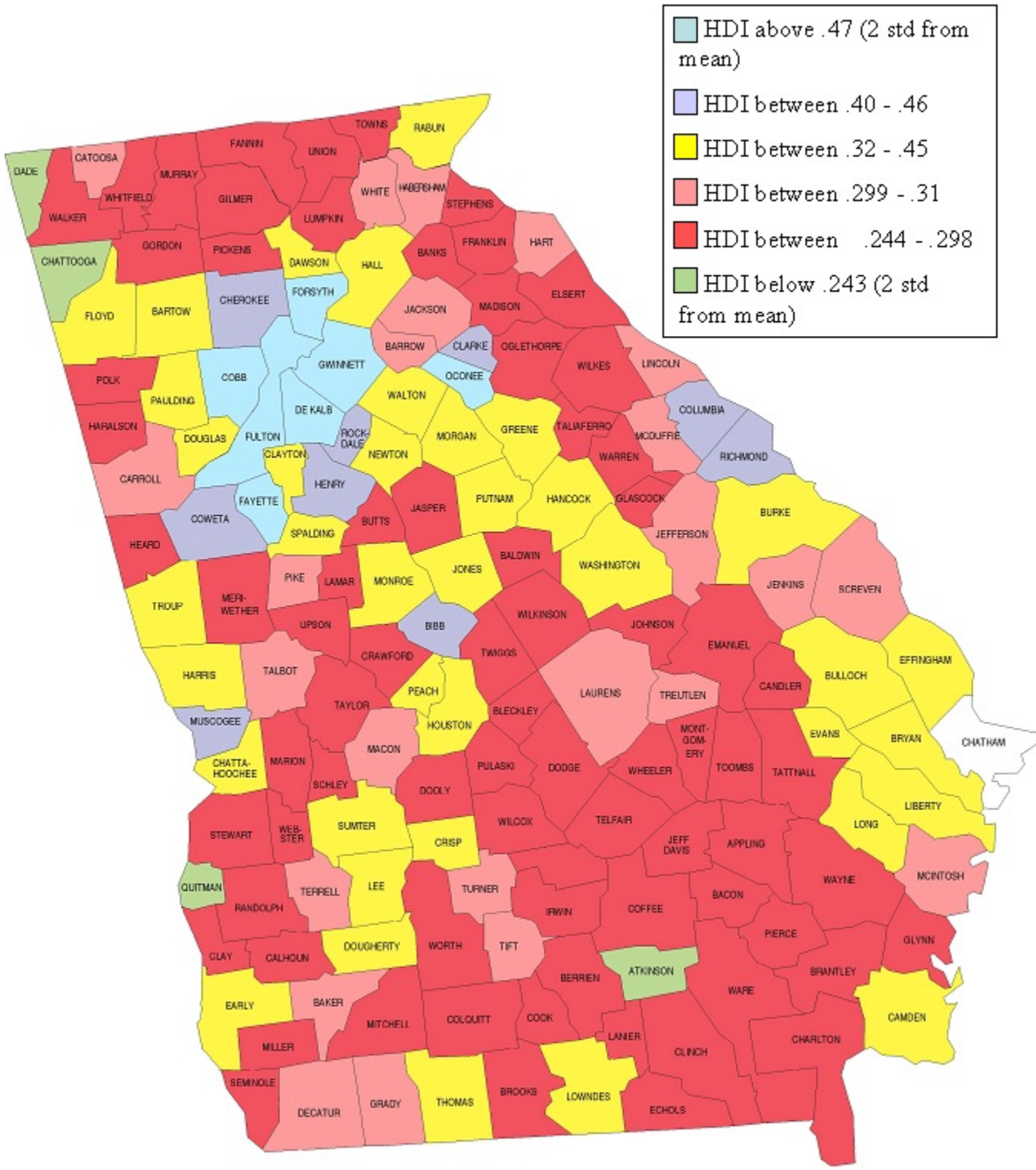


Figure 5. Georgia Counties by Prosperous, Appalachian, and Persistent Poverty, *Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.*

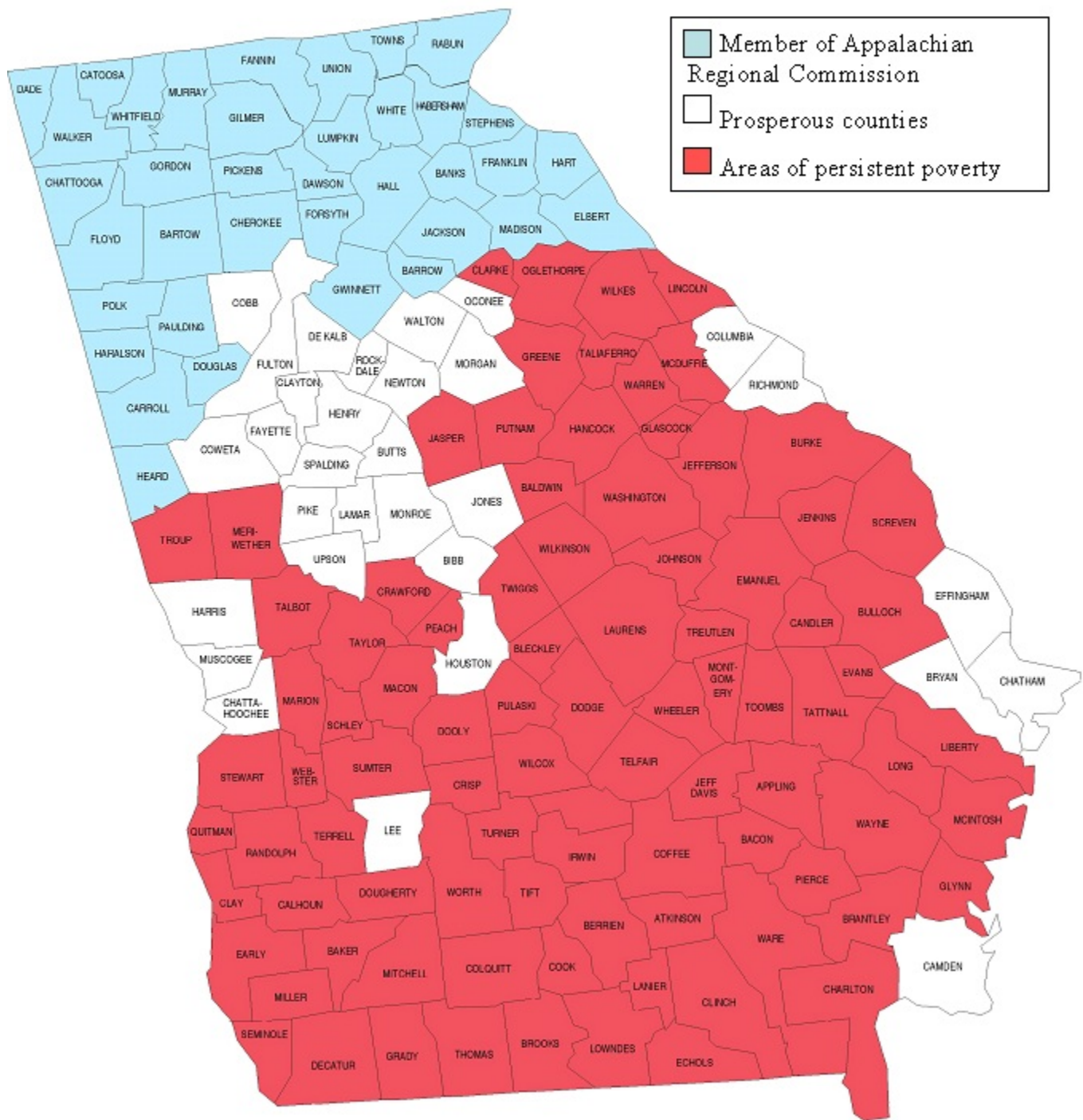


Figure 6. HDI Categories by Prosperous, Appalachian, and Persistent Poverty Counties.

