

# WOMEN'S HEALTH

## Regional Perinatal System

### **What is the purpose of the program?**

To provide an appropriate, accessible high-risk perinatal and neonatal health care system in Georgia. *Perinatal* is defined as the period from conception to four weeks postpartum. *Neonatal* is the first 28 days of an infant's life.

### **What does the program do?**

The program provides funding to six designated regional tertiary hospitals to provide high-risk perinatal services including, transportation, prenatal care, delivery, post-partum care, and newborn care. In addition, the program facilitates a regional perinatal planning process bringing together in each region representatives from hospitals, district public health, and community organizations. The planning collaborative is working to develop a seamless community-based perinatal system for all pregnant women and newborns.

### **How many people are helped by the program?**

In FY 2003, the Regional Perinatal Centers provided care for 5,815 high-risk neonates and 12,670 high-risk maternal patients.

### **Why is the program important?**

Research indicates that ensuring that high-risk pregnant women and newborns receive risk-appropriate care can reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. The Regional Perinatal Centers provide a system of high-risk maternal and infant care.

### **Who is eligible?**

All women and infants who are high risk are accepted for services at the six regional tertiary hospitals without regard to income. Women and infants who meet program medical criteria (high-risk) and whose incomes are below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible for funding.

### **Where are services located?**

Services are provided statewide through the six designated tertiary care hospitals located in Atlanta, Macon, Augusta, Columbus, Albany, and Savannah.

### **Outcome measures**

Increase the percentage of very low birthweight infants delivered at facilities for high-risk deliveries and neonates.

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<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/perinatal/>

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