State of Community: CARROLL & BEYOND

Thursday, February 21, 2019
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA, CAMPUS CENTER
westga.edu/coss/state-of-community
Community Findings

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West Georgia Area

- Haralson County: 28,722
- Carroll County: 114,898
- Heard County: 11,607
- Troup County: 69,433
West Georgia Area: 2017 Population

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

Legend
Population
Pop: 2017

- 2407 - 3352
- 3353 - 4902
- 4903 - 6907
- 6908 - 9276
- 8279 - 11620

Sources: Ems, USGS, NOAA; Sources: Ems, Daemm, USGS, NPS.
West Georgia Area: 2017 Population

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

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Legend
Population
Pop. 2017
- 2407 - 3352
- 3353 - 4902
- 4903 - 6907
- 6908 - 9278
- 9279 - 11620

Sources: Envi, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: Population Change (2010-2017)

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research

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Legend

Pop Change
pop_change / Pop_2017
-27% - -19%
-18% - -1%
-18% - -1%
-18% - -1%
-18% - -1%
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-18% - -1%
West Georgia Area: 2017 Median Household Income

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

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Legend
Median Income
medinc_house
19864 - 30938
30939 - 40000
40001 - 49469
49470 - 59682
59683 - 70057

Sources: Envi, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: Poverty Density

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

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Sources: ESRI, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: Poverty Deficit

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

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Legend

| Poverty Deficit | 2619 - 3954 | 3955 - 6182 | 6183 - 7054 | 7055 - 8022 | 8023 - 8892 |

Sources: ESRI, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: People over 24 years old without a HS Diploma

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

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Legend
Education
- 6.2% - 9.6%
- 9.7% - 15.7%
- 15.8% - 20%
- 20.1% - 27.5%
- 27.6% - 47.7%

Sources: Envi, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: SNAP or Foodstamps

Legend

Foodstamps

- 1.7% - 7.6%
- 7.7% - 16.7%
- 16.8% - 21%
- 21.1% - 32.3%
- 32.4% - 44.9%

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

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Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: People commuting an hour or more to work
West Georgia Area: People commuting an hour or more to work

Legend

Commuting Over 1 Hr

- 1% - 4%
- 5% - 9%
- 10% - 14%
- 15% - 19%
- 20% - 24%

Sources: Envi, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: People without access to a vehicle

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research.

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Legend
- No Car
  - 0% - 1%
  - 2%
  - 3% - 4%
  - 5% - 7%
  - 8% - 18%

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
West Georgia Area: People without access to a vehicle

Data: 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey. Maps produced by the University of West Georgia Center for Research

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Legend
No Car

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA
State of Community: CARROLL & BEYOND

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Food Insecurity

Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre
Associate Professor of Psychology
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”
― Mahatma Gandhi
Defining Food Security

**Food secure** households had access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.
Food Insecurity

Food insecure households are uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, at some time during the year, enough food to meet the needs of all their members because they had insufficient money or other resources for food. 11.8% (15 million) of households were food insecure at some time during 2017.

Food-insecure households include those with low food security and very low food security.
Very Low Food Security

Households with very low food security are food insecure to the extent that normal eating patterns of some household members were disrupted at times during the year, with self-reported food intake below levels considered adequate.
Food insecurity in the United States

40 million people are below the poverty line ($25,100)

- 15 million households are food insecure
- 6 million household with children
- 3 million with senior citizens
Nearly 1.78 million Georgians are living in poverty

- 16.2 percent of the people living in Georgia are food insecure.

- 1 in 4 Georgia children live in food insecure households, which accounts for 23.2% of Georgia children.
Food Insecurity Carroll County

Total food insecurity rate 14.8%
Childhood Food Insecurity Rate 22.7%
Number of Food Insecure Children 6,320
Food insecure children likely income-eligible for federal nutrition assistance 79%
Food insecure children likely NOT income-eligible for federal nutrition assistance 22%
Poverty in West Georgia

“Residents in west Georgia disproportionately suffer from poverty, food insecurity and chronic disease.”

Denise Taylor, senior vice president and chief community health and brand officer for Tanner Health System.
Food Insecurity West Georgia

19,000 Carroll County residents - 17% of the population
4,000 Haralson County residents – 15% of the population
2,000 Heard County residents – 16% of the county’s population.
12,400 Troup County residents – 18% of the population
Food Desert: **Food deserts** are defined as parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole **foods**, usually found in impoverished areas. This is largely due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers' markets, and healthy **food** providers.
Towards a Solution (Food Deserts)

One of Tanner’s Community Food Project Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP) goals is to develop a new farmers’ market pavilion on the Tanner Medical Center campus, which is centrally located at the intersection of five food desert census tracts in Carroll County.
Education

Community-wide nutrition education programming that targets low-income individuals.

- Healthy food cooking courses.
- Training programs to help local farmers.
Steps to Stop Food Insecurity

Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable.

Reduce Rural Poverty.

Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems.

Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.
It’s already happening!

- Wisconsin
- Detroit
- Seattle
- Baltimore
- Memphis
- South Bronx, New York
- Houston
- Philadelphia
- O’Hare (Yes, the airport!)
- Phoenix
- San Diego
- Mid Ohio
- Washington DC
Resources

- Grace Lee Boggs
- https://www.feedingamerica.org/about-us
Housing

Tiffany Parsons
Lecturer in Sociology
Why is it important to discuss?

We are experiencing housing distress:
- The U.S. & the west Georgia area
- Affordable housing shortage
Americans and Housing

Home as identity: Individuals’ surroundings help define who they are
- Education, healthcare, civil rights, and economic mobility are all profoundly affected by access to housing.

Insufficient supply:
- 2018: 900,000 new homes; 400,000 short of need

60% of America’s housing spending benefits households earning $100k+
- New Tax reform bill significantly decreases the value of the low-income housing tax credit.
- Predictions: 235,000 FEWER units being built or renovated over the next decade
What is Affordable?

25% of household income for rent/mortgage

30% of household income including utilities, insurance, maintenance
Challenges

28% of Carrolltonians (13.2% county) live at or below the poverty line (12.3% U.S.)
- $12,140 individual
- $25,100 family of 4

$20,638 Carrollton’s per capita income ($48,150 U.S.)

29% have a Bachelor’s degree or higher (27% U.S.)

36% live in owner-occupied housing (64% U.S.)
## Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Median Income Yr/Mo</th>
<th>Affordable Rent</th>
<th>+ Utilities</th>
<th>Avg available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrollton</td>
<td>$37/$3.1</td>
<td>$775</td>
<td>$930</td>
<td>$1081 (&lt; $775)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll Co</td>
<td>$46/$3.8</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$1140</td>
<td>$1143 (&lt; $950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>$50.5/$4.3</td>
<td>$1075</td>
<td>$1290</td>
<td>$1297 (&lt; $1075)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>$56/$4.7</td>
<td>$1175</td>
<td>$1410</td>
<td>$1176</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>$56/$4.7</td>
<td>$1175</td>
<td>$1410</td>
<td>$1405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Wage</td>
<td>$15/$1.25</td>
<td>$312</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What are people doing?

Paying rents beyond what they can afford:
- High stress
- Increased working hours &/or poor performance
- Lack of health care &/or food insecurity
- Reduced moneys for clothing and spending in the community

Doubling Up: multiple families living in a single-family dwelling
- 5 and 6 families in one unit
- Professionals in their 30s and 40s living with roommates

Inadequate Housing:
- Lacking heat
- Lacking water
- Lacking oven/stove

Motels/Extended Stay and “in the barn”
Smart Growth Approach

Ease density restrictions
- Reduce sq. ft. minimums
- Build Up and Onto (apartment, townhome, duplex, in-law, and accessory)
  - Reduces environmental impact
  - Increases economic impact

Affordable housing requirement
- A >$100k unit is matched with a <$100k unit

Build w/ transportation in mind
- Proximity to employment & education
- Proximity to necessities: food, health care...

Rehab existing structures
What is the big deal – why should we attempt to fix this?

Our entire community’s stability, growth, and vitality depend on sufficient housing.
Clothing

Dr. N. Jane McCandless
Professor of Sociology
Founding Dean of the College of Social Sciences
Why is it important to discuss?
Americans and Clothes

In the U.S., clothing is a communicator of information, e.g. one’s social class, attitudes, values, and lifestyle are communicated through clothing.

Clothes have an influence on the wearer’s psychological processes, “enclothed cognition,” e.g., wearing formal business attire increases abstract thinking and wearing athletic clothing makes it more likely that we will actually exercise.
Adults have told us...

In the workplace clothing significantly influences how others perceive us and respond to us.

In the workplace clothing influences other’s perception of our authority, intelligence, and suitability for promotion and raises.
Adolescents have told us...

They allocate more time in determining how they look than any other age group

They obsess over clothing details that do not seem important to adults

Clothing is significantly related to social acceptance (or rejection) among their peer group

Clothing is an important factor in their ability to establish self-identity and self-esteem

Lower social class dress is considered to be inappropriate and unacceptable in their world
Studies have shown...

Forty-three percent of our children nationwide have been bullied because of their clothing. As a result of this bullying, 29% engaged in self-harm, 27% skipped classes, 14% developed eating disorders, and 12% ran away from home.

Absenteeism in public schools has been linked to improper clothing - missing school because one does not own a winter coat or shoes or children not having the required clothing for school functions, e.g. athletic wear.

Studies have shown that not having ‘appropriate clothing’ can have lasting psychological effects, such as not developing a healthy identity and threatening a child’s perception of their own value.
What is the state of affairs locally, regionally, and nationally?
State of Affairs

The issue of lack of clothing is overshadowed by the more urgent needs of hunger and housing.

There are no records kept on either the national or regional levels on how many children and adults lack clothing.

The statistics that are available are few:

- One in five American children are in need of shoes
- One in eight American children are in need of a coat
- Clothing needs in greatest demand for both men and women are undergarments
- Thirty percent of low income women cannot afford diapers for their children
- Officials have estimated that one-half of all children living below the poverty line wear little more than rags
So how do we begin to fix this?
Ways to Cloth Those in Need

Coordinate the efforts of local clothing banks and thrift stores

Seek donations from retailers - as many will actually damage unsold garments to prevent their goods from being worn by the poor

‘Street stores’ – pop-up clothing stores that gives clothing away to those in need
Questions...
Resource Fair

Clemmie House
Community Family Violence Prevention Initiative
Impact West GA
West Georgia Track Club
Willowbrooke at Tanner
College of Social Sciences Graduate Programs
College of Social Sciences Center for Research
Coming Together & Breaking Down Silos

**Food**

Sumiko Stroud, Bremen Food & Clothing Bank, Inc.

**Shelter**

Kathy Parsons, Impact West Georgia

**Clothing**

Eddie Holtz, Bowdon United Christian Ministries