



Rockdale County

Planning for the Future of the Rockdale County Justice System

Understanding the External Landscape: External Trends

December 9, 2022



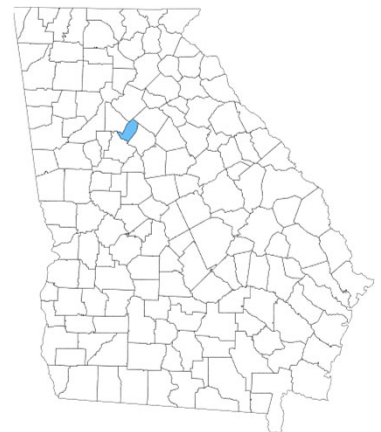
303.888.7939; Bwagen@praxisconsulting.org; www.praxisconsulting.org

Prepared by:
Dr. Brenda J. Wagenknecht-Ivey
CEO, PRAXIS Consulting, Inc.
Denver, CO

1

Table of Contents

1. Pandemic (slide 3)
2. Social/Demographic (slide 5)
3. Economic (slide 16)
4. Technological (slide 25)
5. Policy/Political (slide 28)
6. Justice System (slide 31)



2

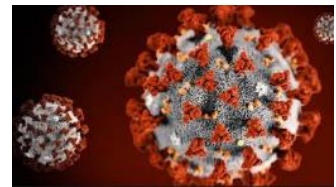
1. Pandemic Trends

3

3

Pandemic Trends

1. Agility: Leaders discovered they were/are able to respond quickly to changing conditions. Change did/can happen overnight. The ability to adapt and respond quickly are essential for the future.
2. Service Delivery: Service delivery / business models were transformed; service delivery is continuing to be reimagined and reinvented.
3. Well-Being/Growing Mental Health Crisis: Recognizing and addressing isolation, burnout, stress/anxiety, languishing; growing emphasis on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion/Belonging (DEI/B)
4. Fatigue: around everything - COVID, initiatives, divisiveness, contentiousness, etc.
5. Increased Collaboration – Among teams, partners, and the community.
6. Economic Impact: Rising cost of rent, housing, gas, food, etc.; inflation.
7. Others?:



Sources: PRAXIS Consulting, Inc./Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey. Environmental Scanning.

4

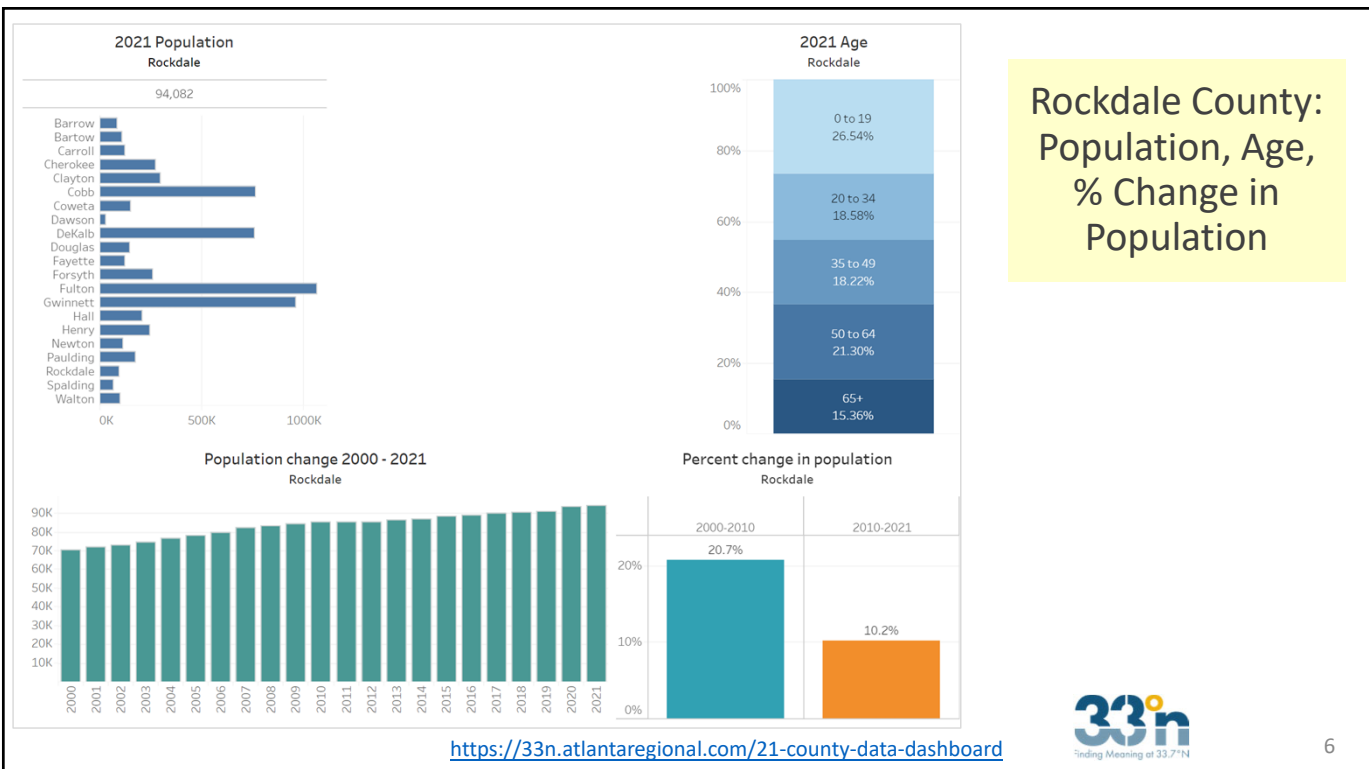
2. Social / Demographic Trends



<https://33n.atlantaregional.com/21-county-data-dashboard>
Source: Atlanta Regional Commission

5

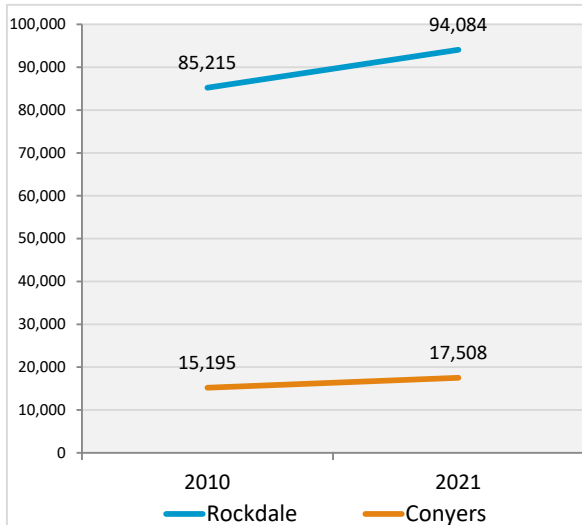
5



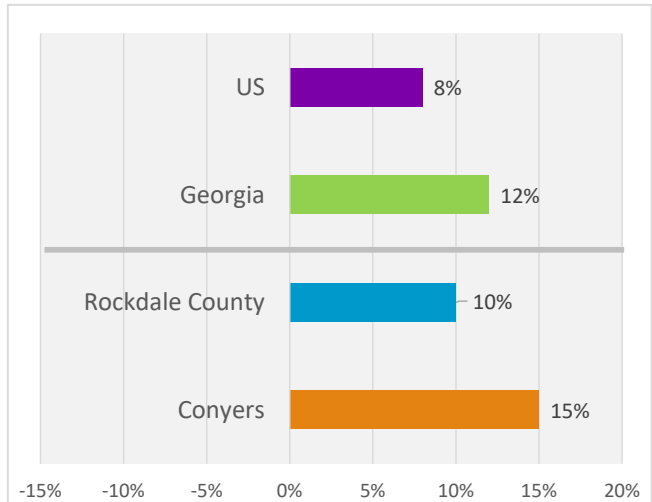
6

6

Population – 2010 & 2021 (in numbers)



Population – Percent Change 2010 – 2021 (in percentages)

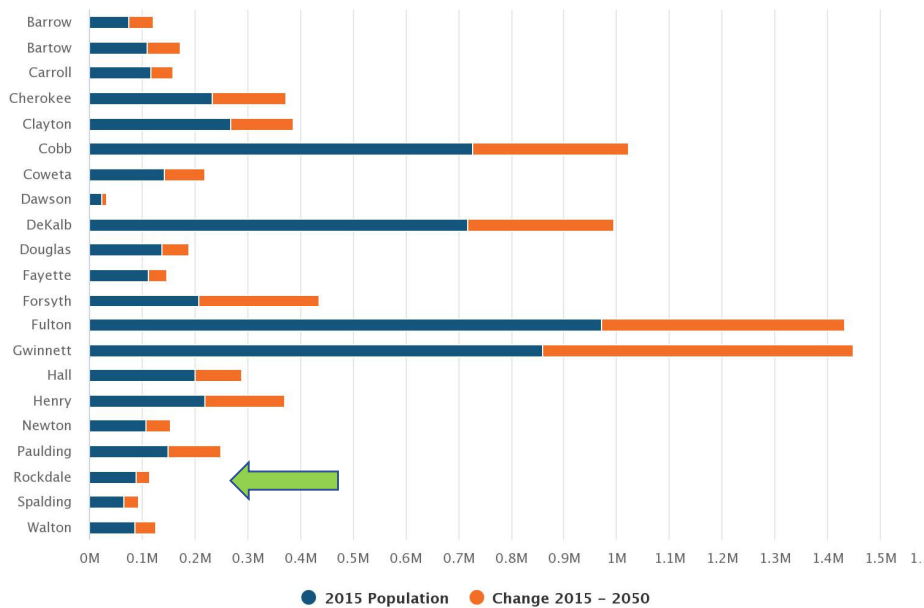


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. Estimates. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221> and <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

7

2050 Population Forecast

Source: Atlanta Regional Commission



Every county will experience growth in total population by 2050, with Gwinnett expected to overtake Fulton by 11,000 residents and become the most populous county in metro Atlanta.

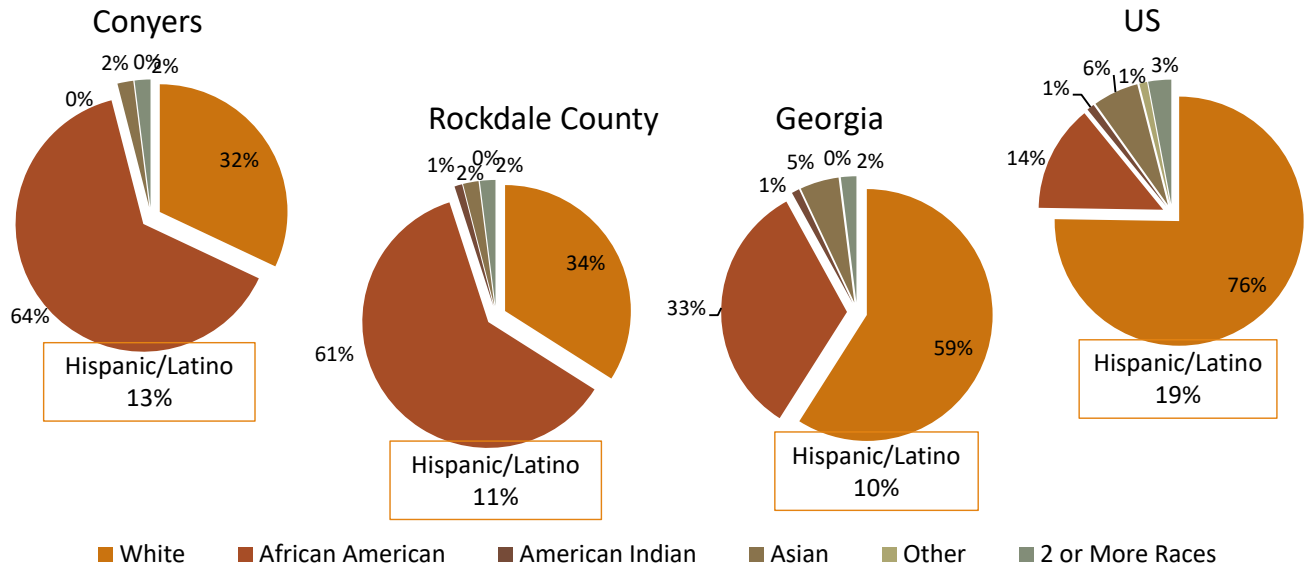
*ARC's 2050 forecasts were developed using several growth scenarios for each county: a "higher regional growth" scenario, a "slower regional growth" scenario, and a "preferred" scenario that serves as the official forecast number.

Powered by Highcharts Cloud

<https://atlantaregional.org/atlanta-region/population-employment-forecasts/>

8

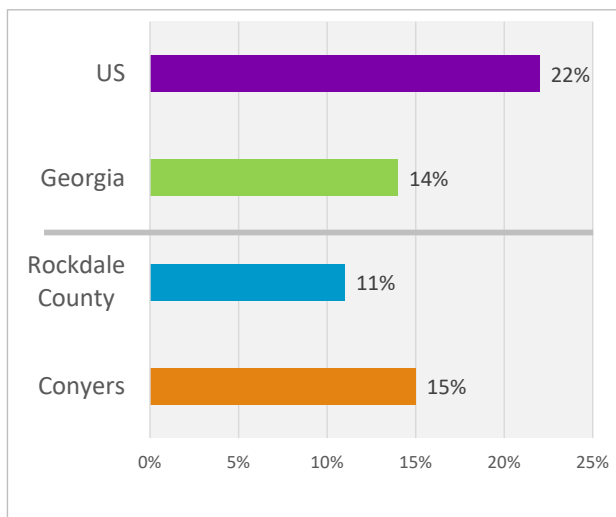
Race and Ethnicity – Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia, and US 2021 (estimates) (in percentages)



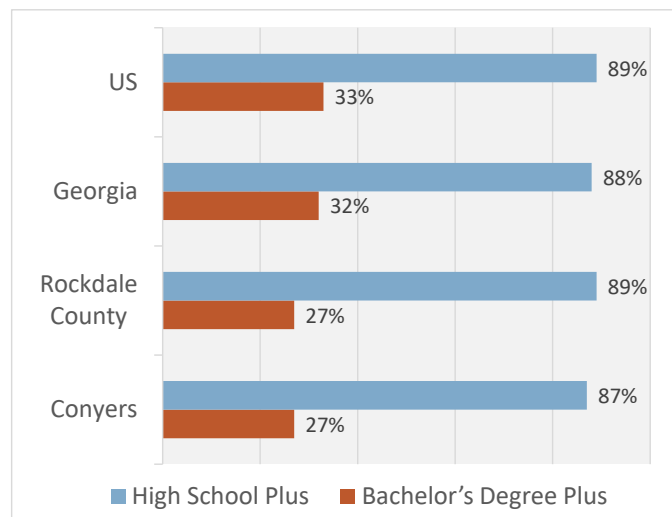
Source: U.S. Census Bureau – 2021 Estimates. www.census.gov/quickfacts/. Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

9

Population that Speaks Languages Other than English in Home - 2020 (percent of population 5 years +)



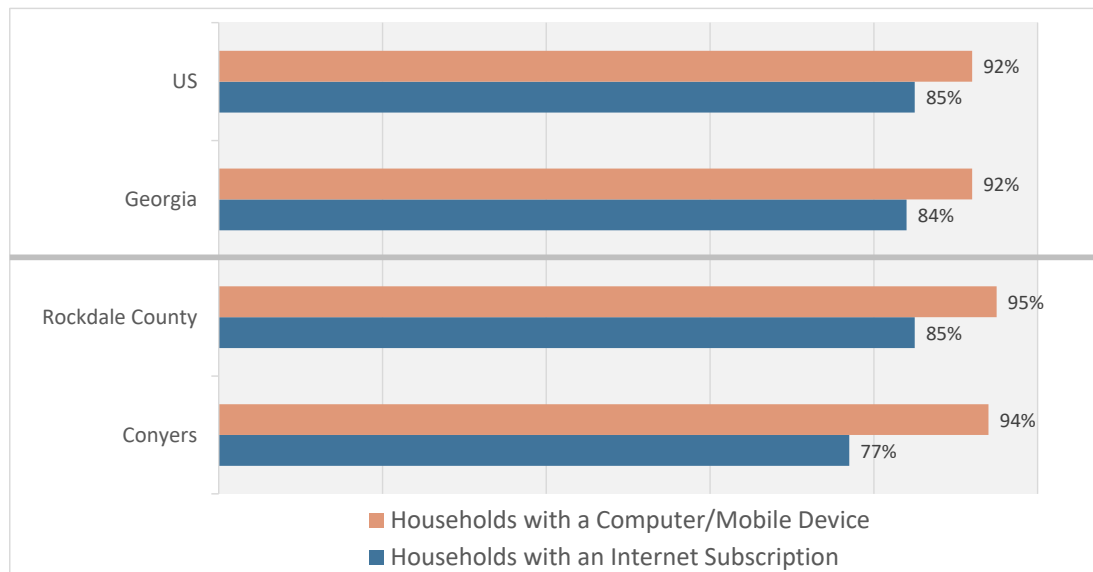
Education Levels – 2020 (estimates) (percent of persons age 25+)



Sources: (1) U.S. Census Bureau. www.census.gov/quickfacts/ <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

10

Households with Computers/Mobile Devices & Internet Subscription 2020 (estimates) (in percentages)

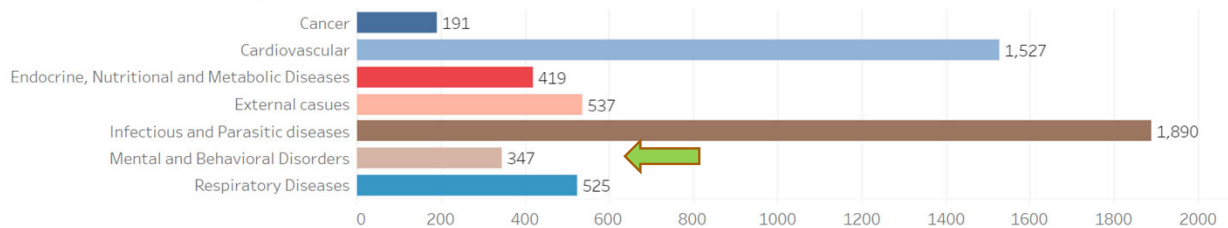


Source: U.S. Census Bureau. www.census.gov/quickfacts

11

Rockdale Hospital discharge rate (per 100,000 people)

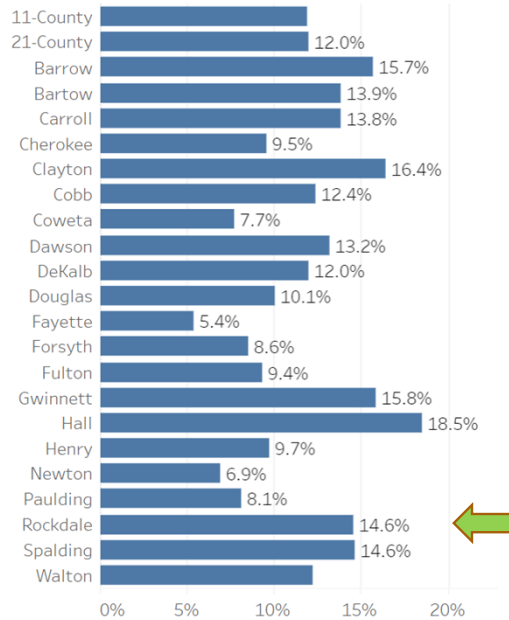
(Multiple visits by a patient are only counted once)



Source: Atlanta Regional Commission; <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/21-county-data-dashboard>

12

2021 Population without health insurance

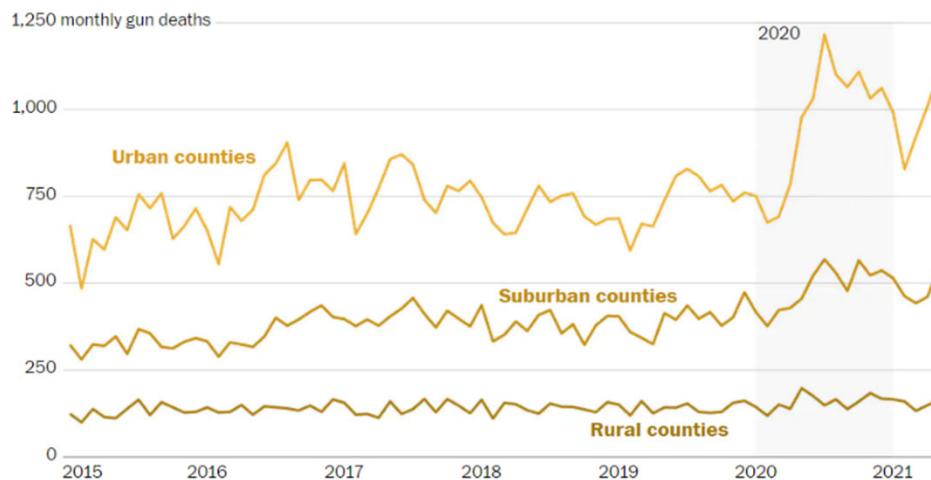


Source: Atlanta Regional Commission; <https://33n.atlantaregional.com/21-county-data-dashboard>

13

Gun Violence is on the Rise

Areas across the country saw an increase in gun deaths in 2020. High-population **urban areas** were the most affected, but residents in **suburban** and **rural** areas also experienced more gun violence.



<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/06/14/2021-gun-violence/>

14

Additional Social Trends

1. Lack of affordable housing / increase in numbers of people experiencing homelessness
2. Millennials – are the largest cohort in general population and workplace; Generation Z entered the workforce in 2019
3. Changing work and lifestyle choices (e.g., working virtually; “gig” economy – non-traditional jobs; thriving and wellbeing)
4. Combatting/addressing social issues: substance use (opioid, alcohol), overdoses, bullying, mental health, suicide, gun violence
5. Social media increasingly used to connect, communicate, do business
6. Demands/expectations for racial & social justice in society and diversity, equity, and inclusion/belonging (DEI/B) in organizations
7. Growing interest in “micro-learning” – learning in small segments, immediate application, and on demand
8. Others?



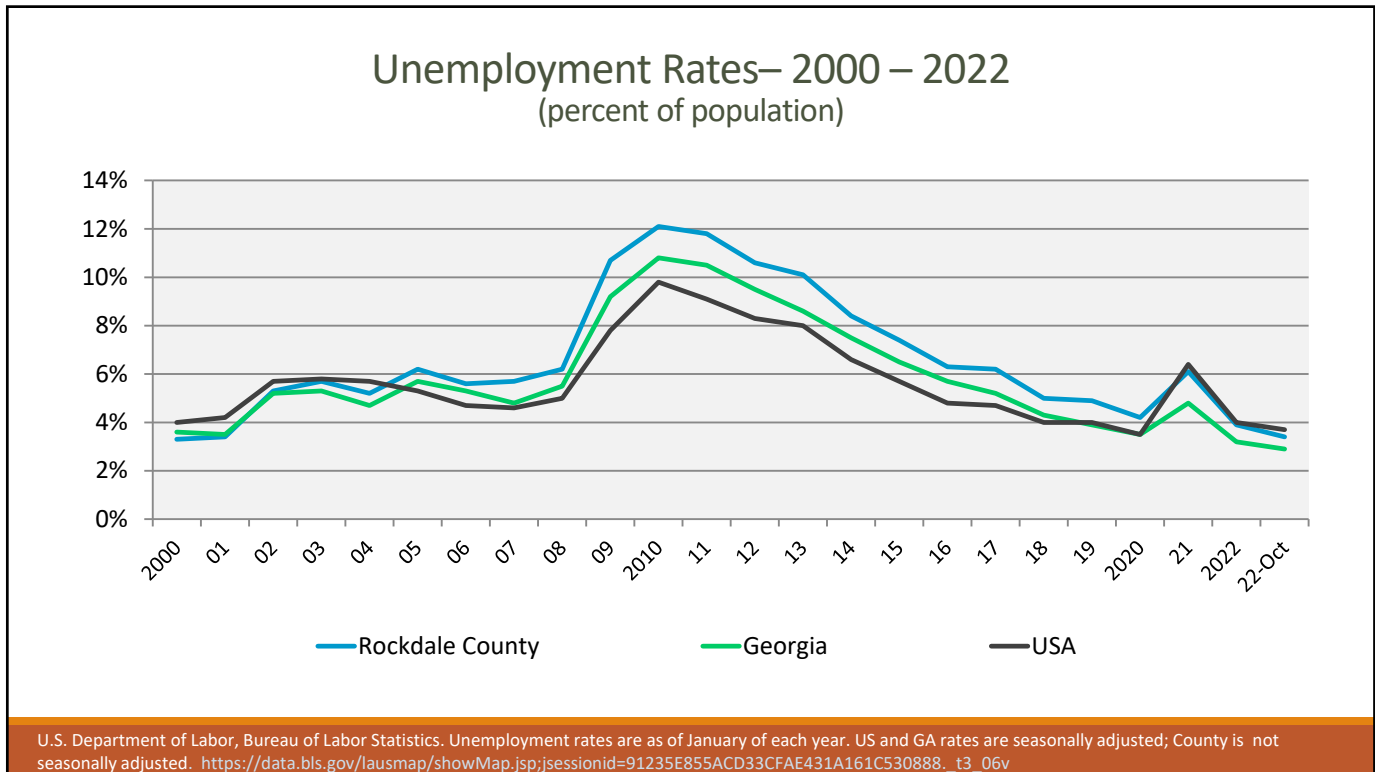
Sources: PRAXIS Consulting, Inc./Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey. Environmental Scanning.

15

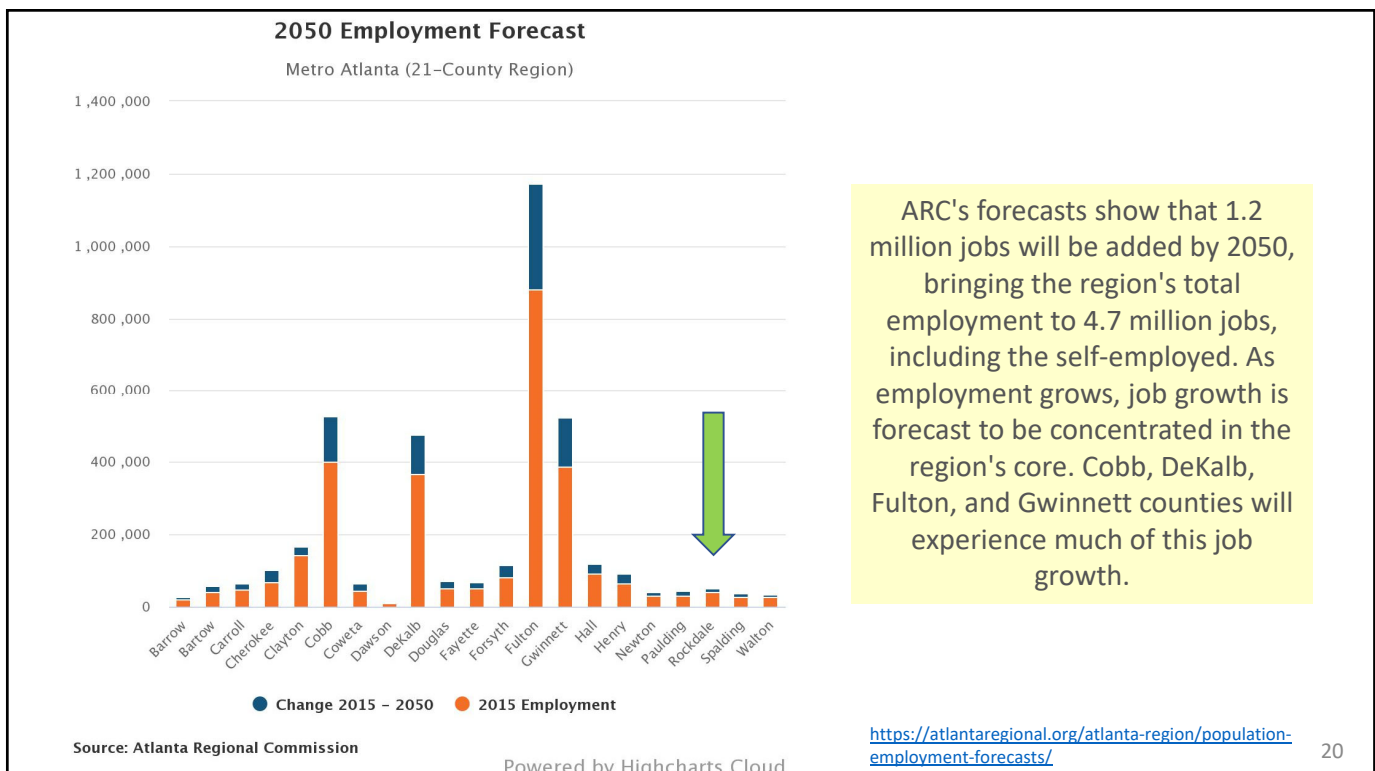
3. Economic Trends

16

16

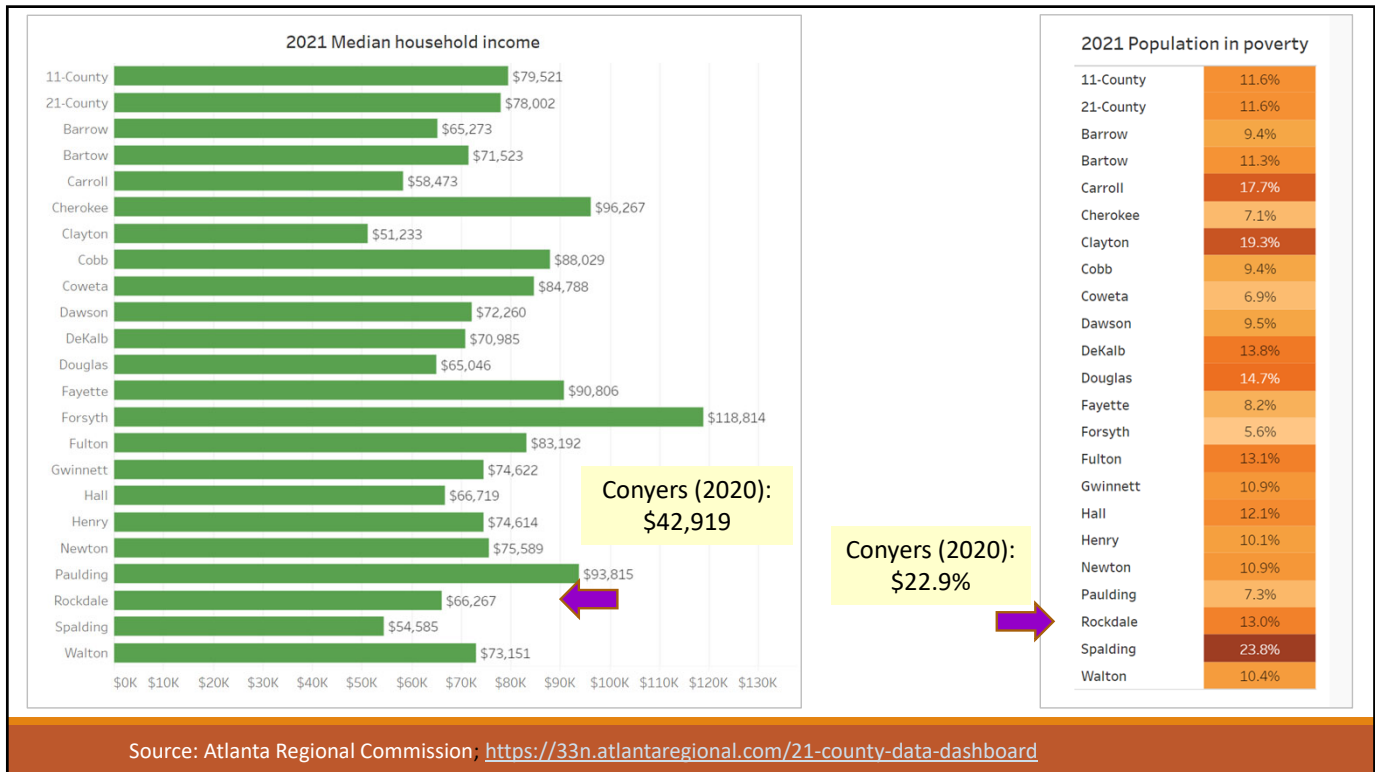


19

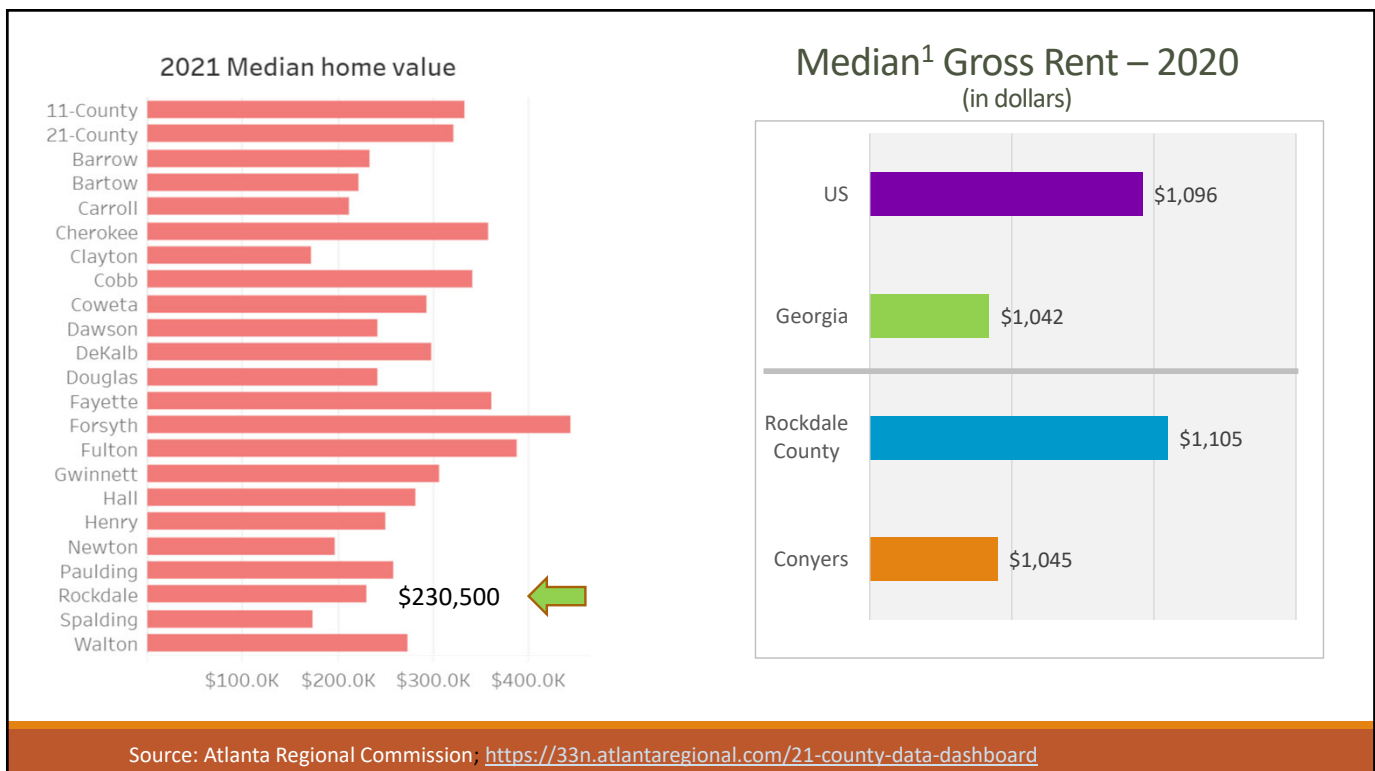


20

20

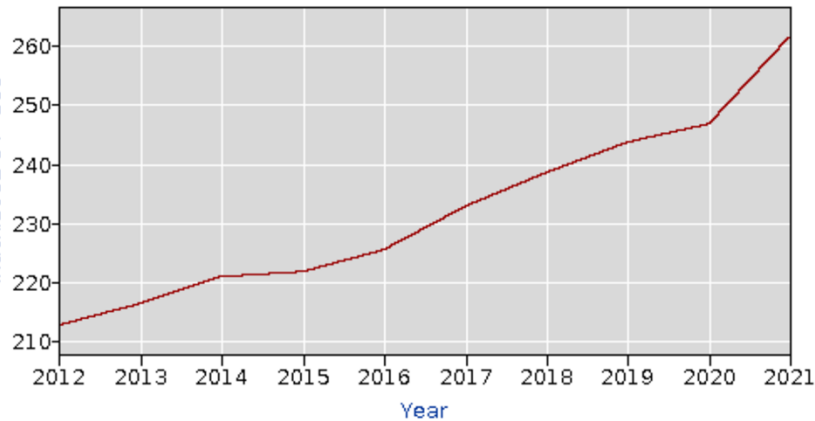


21



22

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U): Atlanta Metro Area 2012 - 2021



The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U – all urban consumers) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/regional-resources.htm>

23

23

Additional Economic Trends

1. Increasing numbers of working poor; movement from urban center to suburbs
2. Widening opportunity gap, which is a function of socioeconomic status, access to affordable housing and quality education, etc.
3. Looming eviction crisis; increasing homelessness
4. Rising inflation / cost of living (food, gas, rent, etc.)
5. Increasing urban development and displacement of residents
6. Economic uncertainty – inflation? Recession?
7. Others?



Sources: PRAXIS Consulting, Inc./Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey. Environmental Scanning.

24

4. Technological

25

25

Technological and Scientific Trends (p. 1)

1. Gadgets Galore! - Continuing wireless revolution and rapidly developing telecommunications/information technology.
2. Always Connected - Increasing inability or unwillingness to unplug, tune out, or turn off (burnout).
3. Growing digital divide – gap between those who have access to Internet, have equipment/devices, and know how to use them vs. those who don't.
4. E-everything from anywhere and anytime – Expectation for 24x7 access and services.
5. Artificial intelligence, big data, data analytics = predictive analytics for Judicial Branch, courts, justice system, behavioral health, etc.



Sources: PRAXIS Consulting, Inc./Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey. NCSC Trends Publications.

26

Technological and Scientific Trends (p. 2)

6. Automating work – more and more work will be automated, even the jobs of senior management and knowledge workers.
7. Data sharing – continued need for/progress in networking and sharing of appropriate data/information (information exchange standards).
8. Increasing risk to digital infrastructure (threats of cyber attack, identity theft, etc.).
9. Continued scientific breakthroughs in nanotechnology, human genetics, and finding cures and treatments for diseases, etc.



Sources: PRAXIS Consulting, Inc./Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey. NCSC Trends Publications.

27

5. Policy / Political Trends

28

28

6. Justice System Trends

31

31

National Justice System Trends (p. 1)

1. System Reform: Access to Justice Initiatives; Fines & Bail/Pre-Trial Services; Regulatory Reform; Legal Representation; Legal Education; Jury Practices; etc.
2. Embracing technological innovation/transforming service delivery models
3. Racial/Social Equity & Justice and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives
4. Increasing focus on: procedural fairness; implicit bias, secondary trauma, etc.
5. Increasing number of litigants with mental health and/or addiction problems; increasing number of treatment/therapeutic courts
6. Pre-COVID – significant decline in some case type filings, decline in jury trials
7. Amid/Post-COVID – anticipated deluge of filings; case backlogs
8. Increase in alternative/innovative methods for resolving disputes (e.g., restorative justice, online dispute resolution, treatment models)

Sources: PRAXIS Consulting, Inc./Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey. NCSC Trends Publications.

32

National Justice System Trends (p. 2)

9. Increasing use of evidence-based practices (e.g., risk/needs assessments) to inform judicial and supervision decisions = achieve more effective case outcomes.
10. Declining court/county infrastructures (e.g., facilities, equipment, security).
11. Increasing need to develop the next generation of court and county leaders; succession planning.
12. High turnover rates; difficulty recruiting/hiring employees; lack of ready-now successors
13. The rise in physical threats and violence against judges/public officials.
14. Increasing collaboration among justice system partners & community engagement to address system-wide issues (e.g., new initiatives: deflection, diversion, behavioral health, etc.)
15. More distance/online education, training, micro-learning; growing need to re-skill and up-skill judges/workforce

Sources: PRAXIS Consulting, Inc./Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivey. NCSC Trends Publications.