

## County-Wide Trends and Community-Specific Rates

In this section, years of potential life lost (YPLL) is used to compare the causes of premature death among the 13 Community Health Assessment Areas (CHAAs) within DeKalb County. Analysis by CHAA is provided for a five-year period because of the availability of census tract data of the CHAAs, and time-trend data is provided for a nine-year period. Based on five-year average YPLL rates, the eight leading causes of premature death are highlighted in this section (Table 16).

<b>Cause of Premature Death</b>	<b>Five-year YPLL rate*</b>
<b>Cancer</b>	732
<b>Unintentional injuries</b>	698
<b>Heart disease</b>	577
<b>Homicide</b>	461
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	457
<b>Suicide</b>	225
<b>Stroke</b>	148
<b>Infectious diseases</b>	123

\*Per 100,000 population

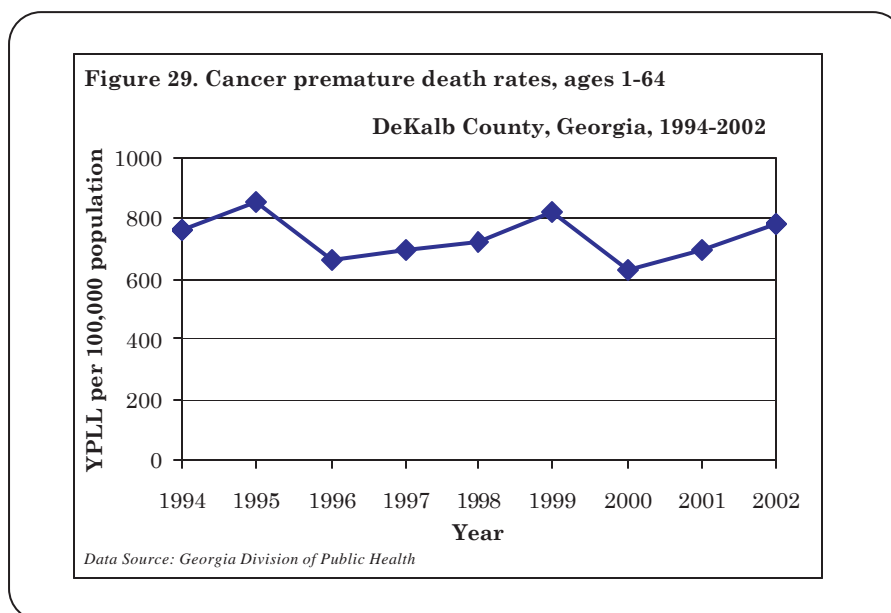
Data Source: Georgia Division of Public Health

Each CHAA has a unique population, with needs that may be different than the populations of other areas. These differences may be a result of geographic, economic, social or cultural factors that influence the health of communities. Comparison of the average 1998 to 2002 YPLL rates (five-year average) for leading causes of premature death (e.g., cancer or stroke) among CHAAs provides a starting point for developing prevention strategies for these communities.

### Cancer

Between 1998 and 2002, cancer was the leading cause of premature death among DeKalb residents. The cancer premature death rate was 732 per 100,000 population. The overall trend for cancer premature death rates did not change significantly from 1994 to 2002 (Figure 29). Lung cancer caused the highest proportion of premature death among males, and breast cancer caused the highest proportion of premature death among females (Table 17).

Cancer premature death rates were highest in the McNair/Cedar Grove CHAA, with a premature death rate of 1,008 per 100,000 population (Figure 30). Chamblee/Cross Keys CHAA has the lowest premature death rate of 549 per 100,000. McNair/Cedar Grove CHAA's premature death rate was approximately 84% higher than the Chamblee/Cross Keys rate.



**Table 17. Leading causes of premature death due to cancer based on YPLL**  
DeKalb County, Georgia, 1994-2002

Males*	Percent	Females**	Percent
Lung cancer	22%	Breast cancer	32%
Colon cancer	10%	Lung cancer	13%
Leukemia	8%	Colon cancer	8%
Ill-defined	8%	Ill-defined	6%
Brain cancer	8%	Brain cancer	6%
Other	44%	Other	35%

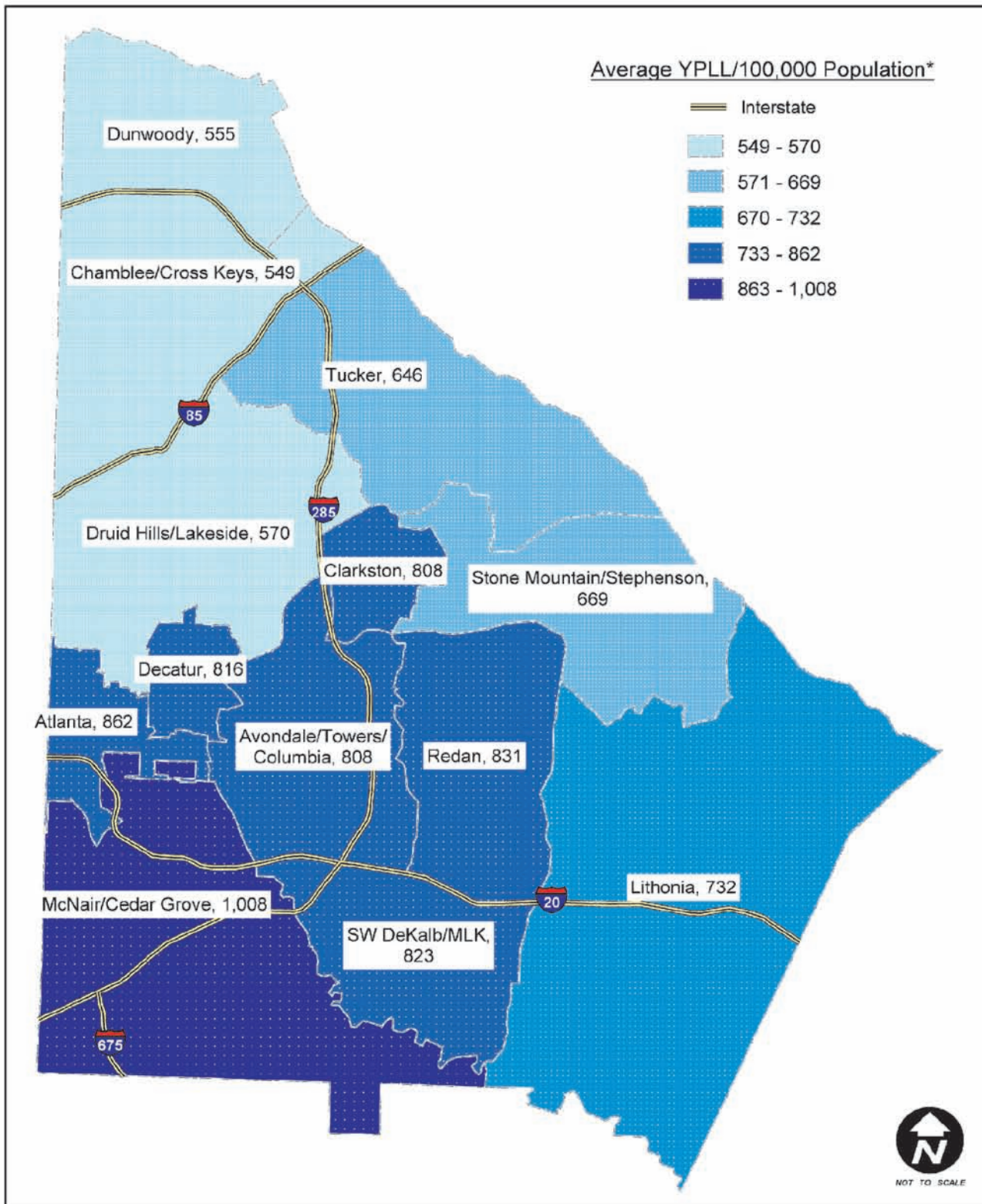
\* Total male YPLL = 19,042; \*\* Total female YPLL = 19,558

Data Source: Georgia Division of Public Health

Figure 30.

### Cancer Mortality, DeKalb County, GA (1998-2002)

Average years of potential life lost (YPLL) due to cancer per 100,000 population ages 1-64 yrs\*  
 Displayed by community health assessment area (CHAA)



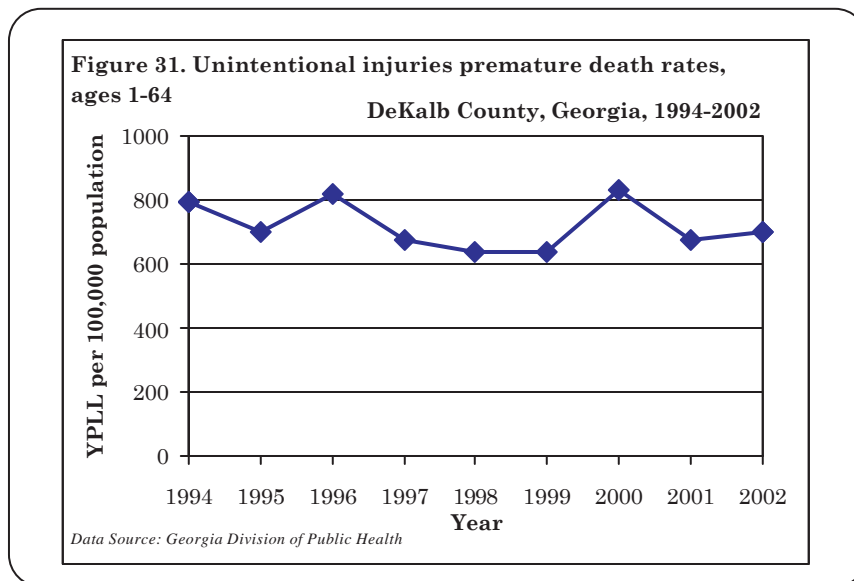
\*Average YPLL/100,000 population = Average YPLL from 1998-2002 divided by the CHAA population in 2000 census

Produced by: Division of Health Assessment & Promotion, DeKalb County Board of Health (3/2004)  
 Data Source: Office of Health Information & Policy, Georgia Division of Public Health (1/2004)

### Unintentional injuries

Injuries were the second leading cause of premature death in DeKalb County, with a premature death rate of 698 per 100,000 population from 1998 to 2002. The unintentional injuries premature death rate decreased 11% from 793 in 1994 to 704 in 2002 (Figure 31). Between 1994 and 2002, the leading cause of premature death due to unintentional injuries for both males and females was motor vehicle crashes, accounting for 64% of the years of potential life lost (Table 18). From 1994 to 2002, a total of 821 DeKalb residents were killed in motor vehicle crashes.

Premature death due to unintentional injuries was highest in the McNair/Cedar Grove and Chamblee/Cross Keys CHAAs, with an average premature death rate of 861 and 833 per 100,000 population, respectively (Figure 32). The Decatur CHAA had the lowest premature death due to unintentional injuries with a rate of 423 per 100,000 population.



**Table 18. Leading causes of premature death due to unintentional injuries based on YPLL**  
DeKalb County, Georgia, 1994-2002

Males*	Percent	Females**	Percent
Motor vehicle	64%	Motor vehicle	64%
Poisoning	12%	Poisoning	12%
Other accidents	7%	Other accidents	11%
Drowning	6%	Fire	4%
Falls	5%	Drowning	3%
Other	6%	Other	6%

\* Total male YPLL = 28,370; \*\* Total female YPLL = 9,311

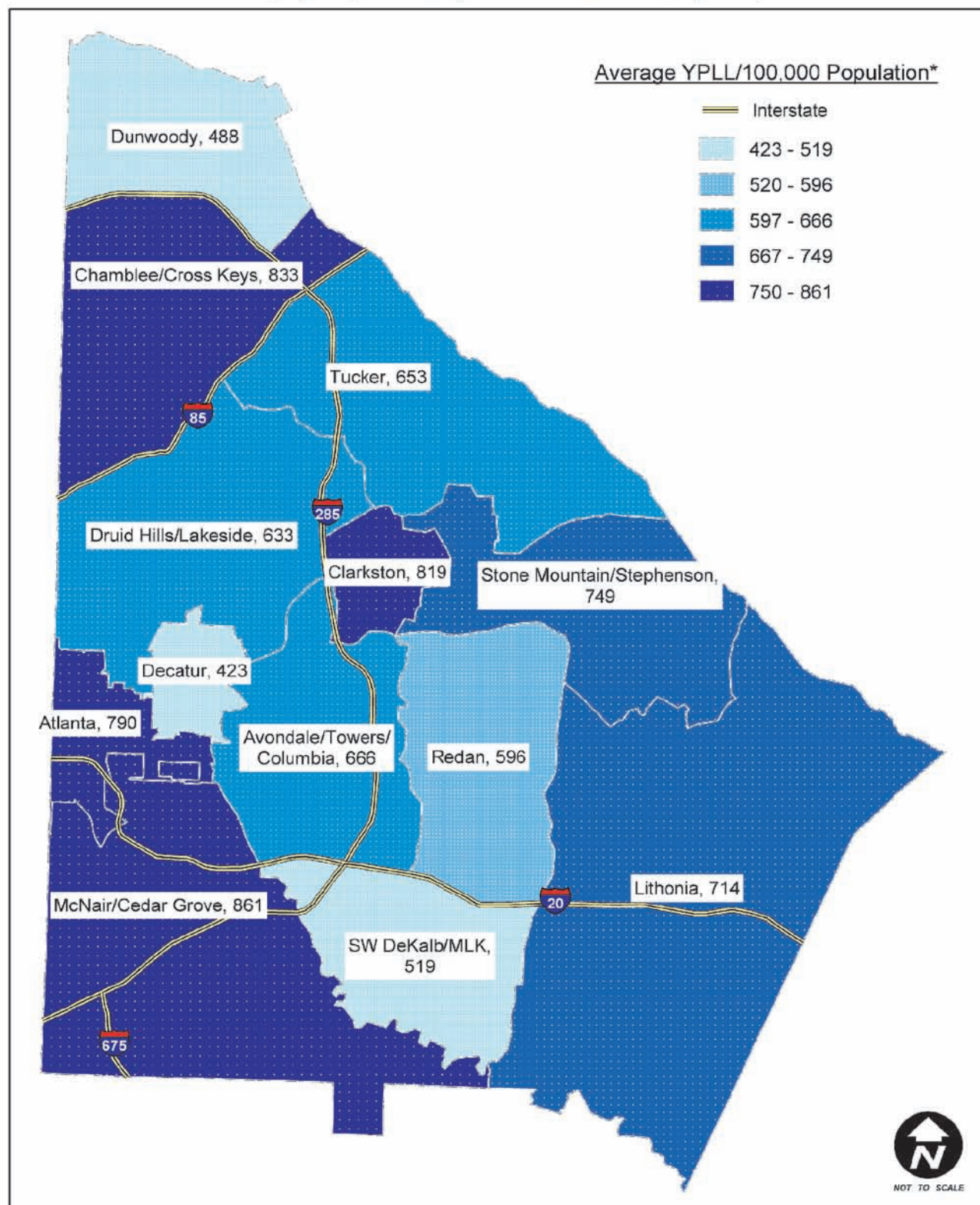
Data Source: Georgia Division of Public Health



Figure 32.

## Unintentional Injury Mortality, DeKalb County, GA (1998-2002)

Average years of potential life lost (YPLL) due to unintentional injury per 100,000 population ages 1-64 yrs\*  
 Displayed by community health assessment area (CHAA)



\*Average YPLL/100,000 population = Average YPLL from 1998-2002 divided by the CHAA population in 2000 census

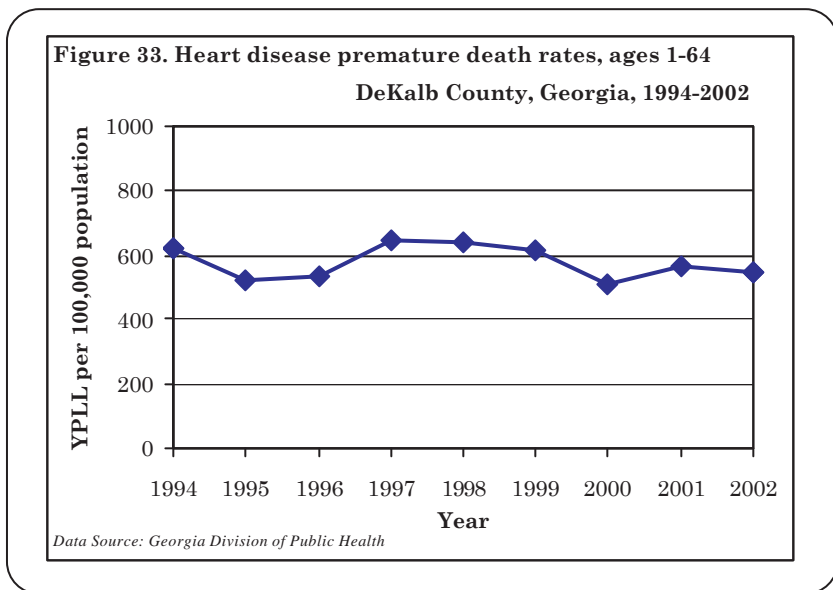
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 Data Source: Office of Health Information & Policy, Georgia Division of Public Health (1/2004)

### Heart disease

From 1998 to 2002, the third leading cause of premature death in DeKalb County was heart disease, with a premature death rate of 577 per 100,000 population. Overall, there was a 12% decline in the premature death rate due to heart disease from 1994 to 2002 (Figure 33). The premature death rate was 626 per 100,000 population in 1994 and 548 in 2002.

The majority of premature death due to heart disease was categorized as ischemic heart disease, which excludes heart attacks (Table 19). Ischemic heart disease accounted for 33% and 18% of years of potential life lost for males and females, respectively.

Heart disease premature deaths were highest in Atlanta and the McNair/Cedar Grove CHAAs, with premature death rates of 967 and 947 per 100,000 population, respectively (Figure 34). The Druid Hills/Lakeside CHAA had the lowest heart disease premature death rate of 293 per 100,000.



**Table 19. Leading causes of premature death due to heart disease based on YPLL**  
DeKalb County, Georgia, 1994-2002

Males*	Percent	Females**	Percent
Ischemic excluding heart attack	33%	Ischemic excluding heart attack	18%
Cardiomyopathy	14%	Hypertensive	16%
Heart attack	13%	Cardiomyopathy	13%
Ill-defined	12%	Pulmonary	11%
Hypertensive	10%	Ill-defined	11%
Other	18%	Other	31%

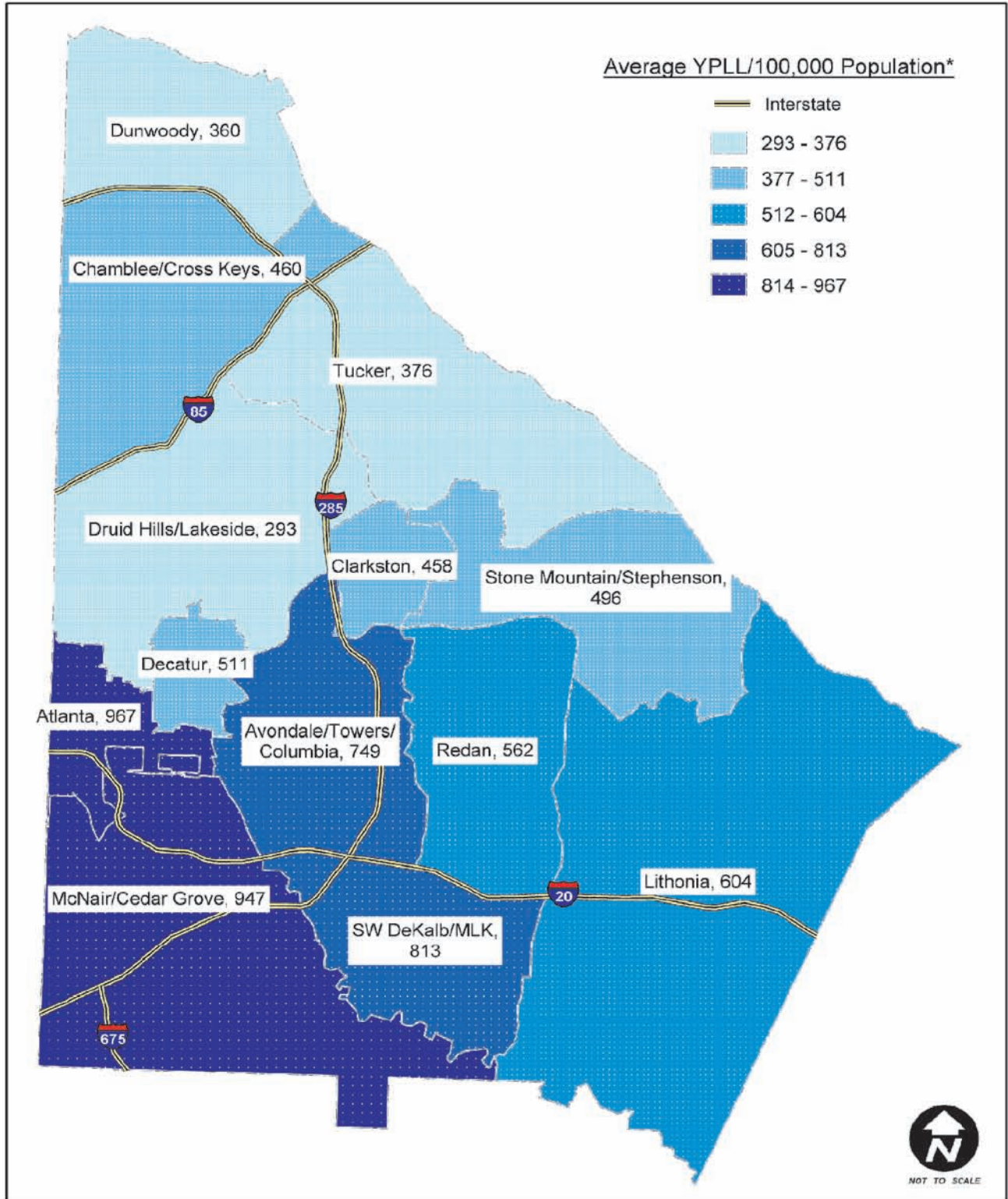
\* Total male YPLL = 20,023; \*\* Total female YPLL = 10,346  
Data Source: Georgia Division of Public Health



Figure 34.

## Heart Disease Mortality, DeKalb County, GA (1998-2002)

Average years of potential life lost (YPLL) due to heart disease per 100,000 population ages 1-64 yrs\*  
 Displayed by community health assessment area (CHAA)



\*Average YPLL/100,000 population = Average YPLL from 1998-2002 divided by the CHAA population in 2000 census

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 Data Source: Office of Health Information & Policy, Georgia Division of Public Health (1/2004)