



Stats & Facts on Health Care in Georgia

There is a preponderance of evidence in the health policy literature documenting the important role that health insurance plays in obtaining necessary care.

- More than 1.6 million Georgians are uninsured (Source: Georgia Health Policy Center).
- Nearly 1 in 4 Georgians of working age are without health insurance (Source: United States Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey).
- 34% of Georgians under age 65 lack health insurance (Source: Families USA).
- The majority of nonelderly uninsured Georgians are in working families: four-fifths of the uninsured are in families with at least one worker, and nearly 70 percent are in families with at least one full-time worker (Source: Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured).

Health care costs have been outpacing overall inflation and wage growth, placing significant strain on family budgets, employers, and government.

- In 2007, more than 1.1 million Georgians didn't see a doctor due to the cost (Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey).
- Between 2000 and 2009, family health insurance premiums in Georgia grew 6.4 times faster than median earnings (Source: Families USA).
- Communities in which local residents face high medical cost burdens are more likely to be in rural areas and in the South. In Augusta, GA, for example, 39.7 percent of the population had a high medical cost burden in 2003, and in Atlanta, GA, 33.3 percent faced such a burden (Source: Commonwealth Fund).

Structural features of the health care delivery system such as the availability of primary care providers and trauma centers also impact access to care.

- Millions of Georgians are at least two hours away from timely trauma care (Source: Georgia Statewide Trauma Action Team).
- Georgia ranks 9th in population, yet 39th in physician supply (Source: Georgia Board for Physician Workforce).
- More than 1.4 million Georgians live in a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (Source: Health Resources and Services Administration).



- Georgia ranks 48th in the percent of children who received needed mental health care in 2007, with only 51 percent receiving these services (Source: Commonwealth Fund).

The receipt of timely and appropriate screenings, preventive services, and treatments can result in earlier diagnoses, coordinated care, better health outcomes, and overall savings.

- In a recent state-by-state analysis of overall quality, Georgia ranked 50th, with an infant mortality rate considerably higher than the national average (8.15 per 1,000 live births) and obesity and diabetes incidence rates above the national average (Source: New America Foundation).
- On a separate nationwide state scorecard, Georgia ranked 47th in the percentage of hospitalized patients who received recommended care for heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia, and 41st in the percentage of surgical patients who received appropriate care to prevent complications (Source: Commonwealth Fund).