Transportation is health

Each year 3.6 million Americans miss or delay health care because they do not have a way to get to there. Georgians need safe and reliable ways to get to their health care appointments. Without it, people miss health visits, go without their medicine, or find unsafe or costly ways to get to their visits. This can lead to poor health.

Some people have fewer options for getting around than others. In Georgia, people of color are 3 times less likely to own a car than white people. Those who live in rural Georgia often have to make long trips to their health care visits. Since there is little or no public transit in rural Georgia, this can be a big problem.

### Percent of Georgian households without a vehicle by race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed/other</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People of color</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Equity Atlas

Based on data analysis by Georgians for a Healthy Future. Data available upon request.

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Non-Emergency Medical Transportation in Georgia

Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) is a service provided by Medicaid. It gives free rides to health visits for people with Medicaid who do not have their own way to get there. For these rides, NEMT uses van services and ride share options, like Uber and Lyft. They also use pre-loaded public transit cards and other modes based on the needs of the person. NEMT is very helpful for people with disabilities, seniors, and those who live in rural places.

NEMT helps people get to check-ups and other health exams before they are sick. This means fewer emergency room visits and better health results.\(^1\)

Georgians use NEMT to get to health appointments\(^2\)

- Each year Georgians with Medicaid receive almost 4 million NEMT rides
- 396,000 Georgians used NEMT to get to a health visit in 2018
- NEMT makes up less than 1% of the total national budget for Medicaid.\(^3\)

- Georgians who use NEMT often need year-long help to get to their health visits. In 2018, Medicaid supplied more than 9 trips per rider during the year.

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3. Ibid, 1
When NEMT Falls Short

Sometimes NEMT falls short of its promise to provide safe, quality, timely services. NEMT has picked up people late going to or coming from a doctor’s visit. In the worst cases, they are never picked up at all. People who use wheelchairs have been picked up by vans that do not have room for or the right gear for their chair. Some parents who need to take one child to see the doctor can’t take their sibling.

The *Georgians in the Driver’s Seat* project hopes to remove transportation as a barrier to health care for Georgians. The first goal is to improve NEMT for Georgians with Medicaid. Help us ensure that safe, reliable, quality transportation is available to all. Here’s how you can help!

- Go to [healthyfuturega.org/transport](http://healthyfuturega.org/transport) to fill out a survey about your experience with NEMT services.

- Join the *Georgians in the Driver’s Seat* coalition. Contact Alyssa Green at [agreen@healthyfuturega.org](mailto:agreen@healthyfuturega.org) to learn more!

- Share your health transportation story with us! Do you have to drive more than 30 miles to see a doctor? Have you missed an appointment because of unreliable transportation? Tell us about it at [healthyfuturega.org/share-your-story](http://healthyfuturega.org/share-your-story).
If you need transportation

If you have Medicaid, you may be able to use non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). In order to get free rides to your health appointments, you must have no other way to get to your health visits. You can use NEMT to get to and from any service covered by Medicaid.

If you live in the North or Atlanta regions on this map, you can arrange rides with:

**SOUTHEASTRANS**
- Atlanta region: 404-209-4000
- North region: 678-510-4555
- southeastrans.com/members/

If you live in the Central, East, or Southwest regions of this map, you can arrange rides with:

**LOGISTICARE**
- Central: 888-224-7981
- East: 888-224-7988
- Southwest: 888-224-7985
- member.logisticare.com

Some cities and counties operate transit services to and from medical care and other social services. Check with your city or county officials to see which services are available to you.