

HEALTHY GEORGIA

Update - January 2023

Our State of Public Health



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
Institute of Public
and Preventive Health





Table of Contents

3	Letter from the director
4	Executive summary
8	Chronic conditions
8	High cholesterol
10	Hypertension
12	Obesity
14	Noncommunicable diseases
14	Arthritis
16	Asthma
18	Cancer
20	Cardiovascular diseases (CVD)
22	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
24	Diabetes
26	Behavioral health
26	Alcohol - heavy drinking
28	Depressive disorder
30	Tobacco - smoking
32	Health insurance coverage
32	Health insurance coverage - adults
34	Health insurance coverage - child
36	Prevention
36	Physical activity
38	Vaccination Covid 19 - adult
39	Vaccination Covid 19 - child
40	Vaccination - flu
42	Child health
42	Asthma
44	Breastfeeding
46	Maltreatment
48	Nutrition
50	Obesity
52	Unmet health care needs
54	Technical appendix



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

J. Aaron Johnson, PhD

Institute of Public and Preventive Health (IPPH)

Dear Public Health Stakeholder,

Thank you for all that you do to positively impact the health of Georgia's residents. Public health is everyone's responsibility, and we appreciate your interest in learning more about the current state of public health in Georgia. We released our inaugural edition of Healthy Georgia: Our State of Public Health in May 2022 to coincide with the 2022 Georgia Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Conference. The current report is the 2023 update and begins a series of annual updates to be released each January to coincide with the start of the Georgia General Assembly. In addition to providing information to public health stakeholders throughout the state, we want to provide our state representatives with concise, up-to-date information on major health topics as they consider legislation that directly affects public health in Georgia.

This report utilizes 2021 data (the most recent available) from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a self-report survey conducted annually by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We have expanded beyond the data available in BRFSS to include other relevant topics using data from the National Survey of Children's Health, the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID Data Tracker website.

The current report highlights differences, both positive and negative, between Georgia, its neighboring states in the Southeastern region, and the United States as a whole. It also highlights disparities within our state based on race/ethnicity, education, income, and place of residence (rural/urban).

Our desire is for this report to become a resource for public health professionals throughout the state. Please reach out to us at IPPH@augusta.edu if you have suggestions for additional topics, ideas for making the report more user friendly, etc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Aaron Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

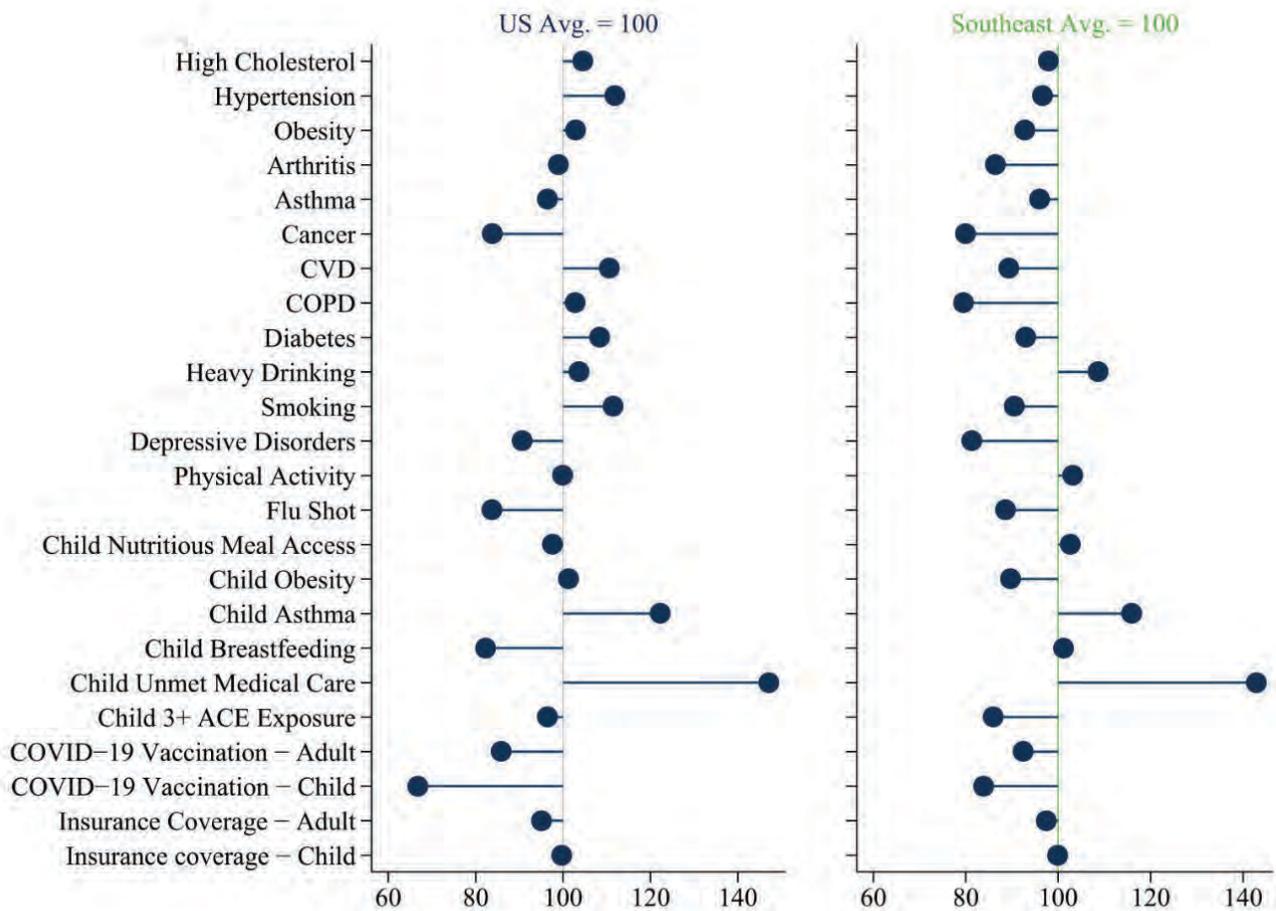
J. Aaron Johnson, PhD
Director, Institute of Public and Preventive Health
Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences
Augusta University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this report, we compared the prevalence rates of several chronic conditions, and behavioral and preventive health measures among Georgians with respective national (U.S.) and regional (Southeast) averages. We used nationally representative data from the 2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the last five waves (2017 to 2021) of the National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) to assess the prevalence rates across the following domains: sex, race/ethnicity, income, and residence (urban/rural). We further reported the prevalence rates by age group and educational attainment. We also assessed health insurance coverage using data from the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and COVID-19 vaccination coverage using data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID Data Tracker website.

The prevalence rates of chronic conditions, noncommunicable diseases, and other health topics, including behavioral health and preventive measures, among Georgians compared to the national and regional averages are presented in Figure 1.

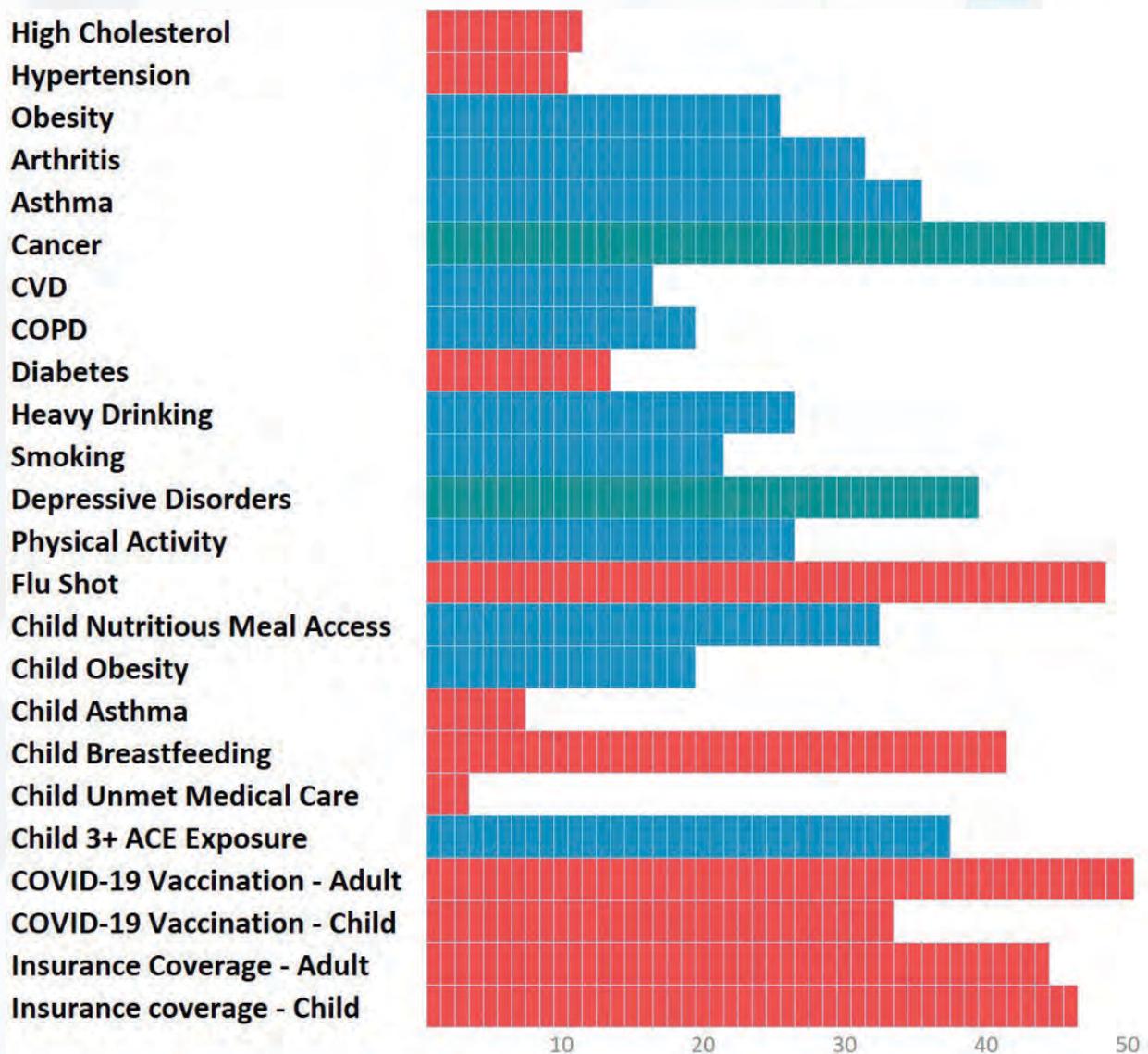
Figure 1. Comparison of prevalence rates in Georgia with national (U.S.) and regional averages



Across chronic conditions, the prevalence of high cholesterol among Georgians is comparable to the national and regional averages. Prevalence of hypertension, however, is significantly higher among Georgian adults than the national average comparable to the regional average. Prevalence of obesity, in contrast, is comparable to the national average, but significantly lower than the regional average. Among noncommunicable diseases, Georgia has a significantly lower prevalence of cancer compared to the national and regional averages. Prevalence of CVD in Georgia, while higher than the national average, is significantly lower than the regional average.

Among behavioral health measures, prevalence of smoking among Georgian adults, though lower than the regional average, is higher than the national average. Georgians report lower prevalence of depressive disorders than the national and regional averages. Among preventive behaviors, the influenza vaccination (flu shot) rate in Georgia is significantly lower than both national and regional averages.

Figure 2. Ranking of Georgia compared with rest of U.S.

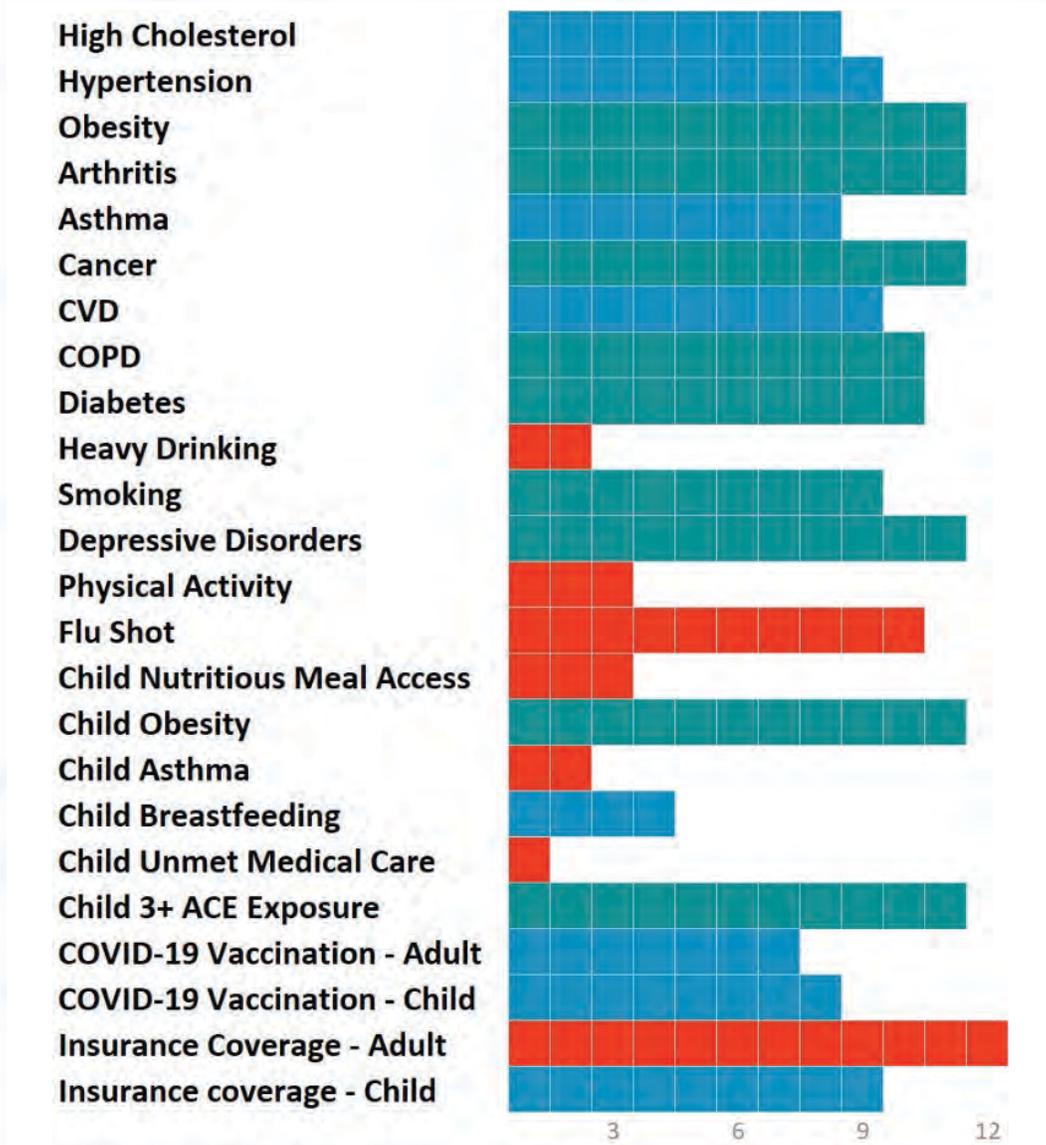


Note: The prevalence rates for Georgia are expressed as percentages of the national and regional averages, respectively.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (continued)

Across child health measures, children in Georgia have a higher prevalence of asthma than the national and regional averages. Breastfeeding among children in Georgia, though comparable to the regional average, is significantly lower than the national average. Prevalence of unmet medical care is significantly higher among children in Georgia compared to the national and regional averages.

Figure 3. Ranking of Georgia compared with other states in Southeastern Region

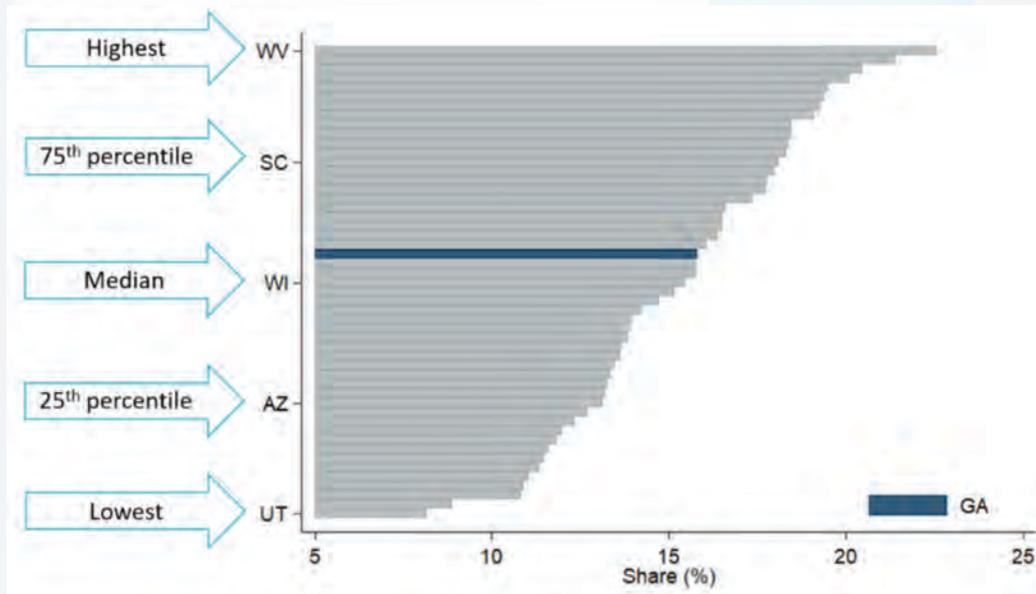


Figures 3 and 4 show the ranking of Georgia amongst other U.S. and Southeastern states, respectively. Compared to both national and regional averages, health insurance coverage among Georgian adults is significantly lower. COVID-19 vaccination rates among Georgians are also lower than the rest of the U.S.

Guide to reading charts:

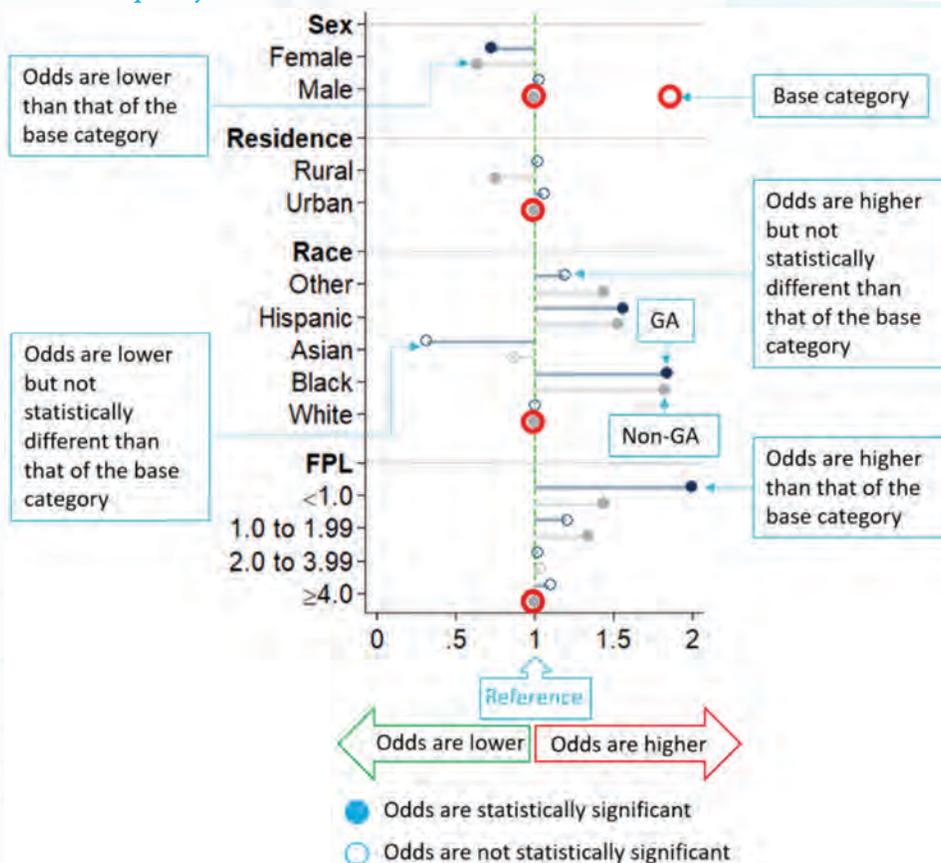
Figures 4 and 5 provide guidance on how to read the distribution and disparity charts in the report. How Georgia ranks among the 50 states and the District of Columbia is shown in a distribution chart as follows:

Figure 4. How to read the distribution chart



The chart presents prevalence rates by state and indicates states with the lowest, highest, median (50th percentile), 25th percentile and 75th percentile of prevalence. Figure 5 presents guidance for reading the charts reporting disparities in prevalence rates as follows:

Figure 5. How to read the disparity chart

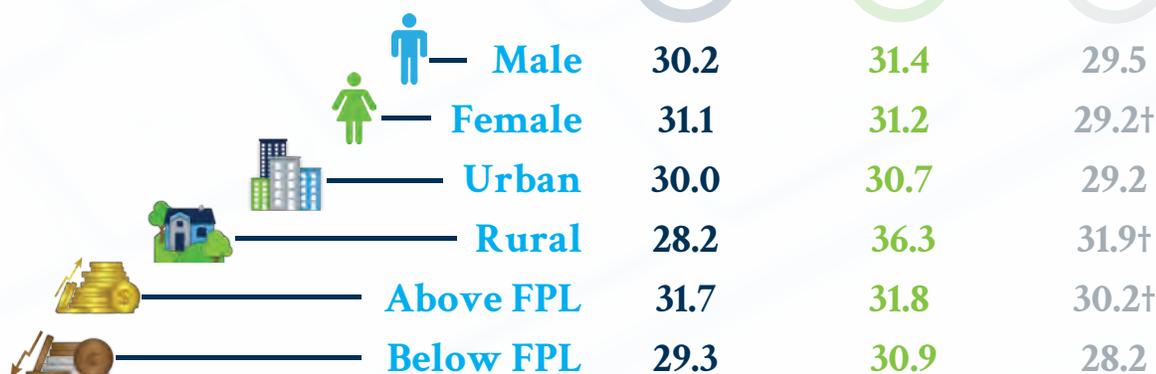


High Cholesterol

Adults ever told to have high blood cholesterol.

Highlights

- Three in every 10 adults in Georgia has high cholesterol
- Georgia ranks 11th among U.S. states in share of adults with high cholesterol
- High cholesterol prevalence among rural Georgians is higher than rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable high cholesterol prevalence compared to similar population in rest of the U.S.

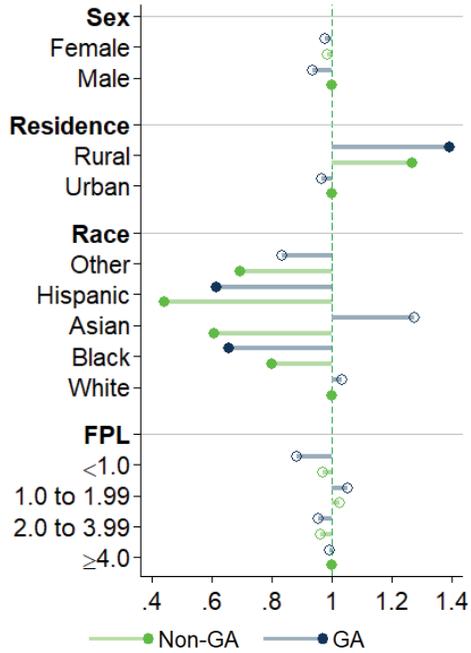


	GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)	
Race/ Ethnicity	White	34.6	34.0	31.7†
	Black	25.1	28.2‡	27.7†
	Asian	39.5	26.5‡	25.7†
	Hispanic	24.0	19.7‡	24.0
	Other	29.9	27.0	25.9
Age	18 to 49	17.1	15.8	15.0†
	50 to 64	42.6	44.4	41.2
	65+	53.4	52.7	50.3†
Education	Less than HS diploma	36.7	35.9	30.3†
	HS graduate	28.9	30.7	27.8
	Some college	29.0	30.2	29.6
	College graduate	31.5	31.3	30.3
Household Income	< 100% FPL	29.3	30.9	28.2
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	33.0	32.5	29.5†
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	30.9	31.0	30.0
	≥ 400% FPL	31.7	31.9	30.9

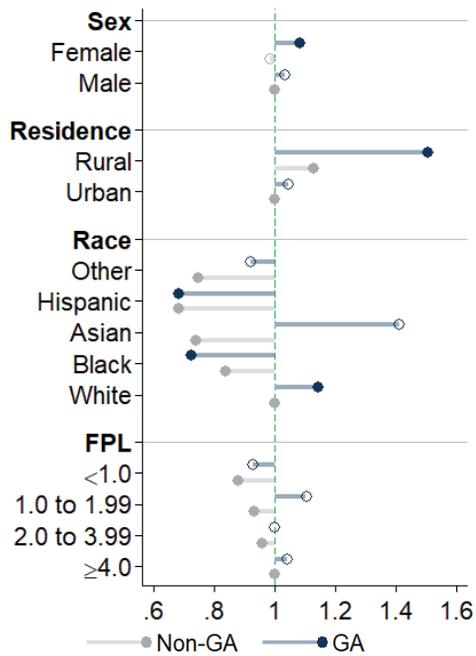
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

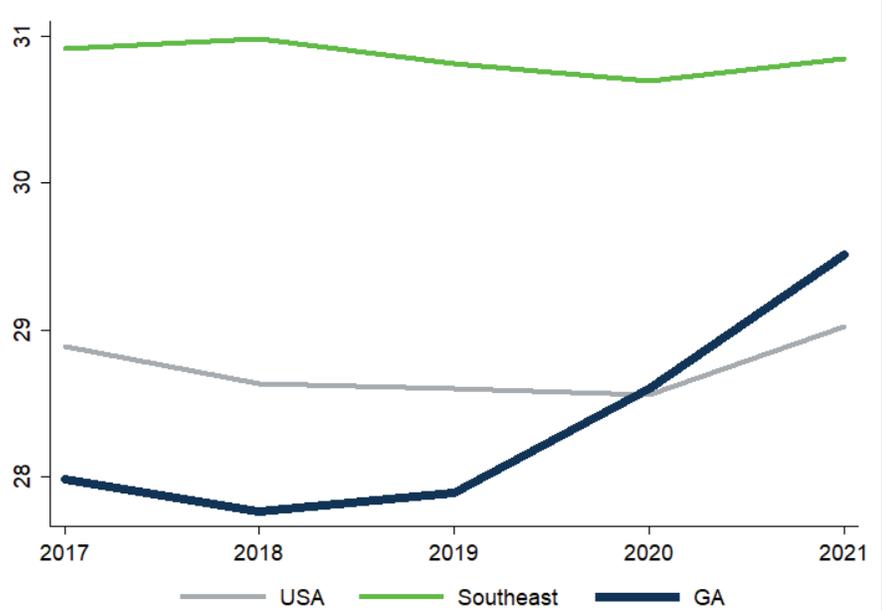
Southeast Disparities



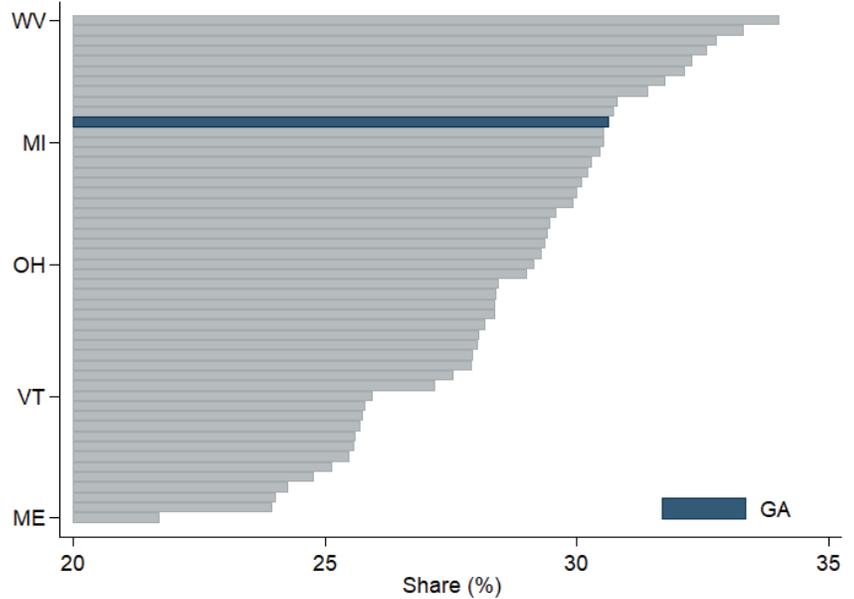
U.S. Disparities



Trend



Distribution by State



Key Findings

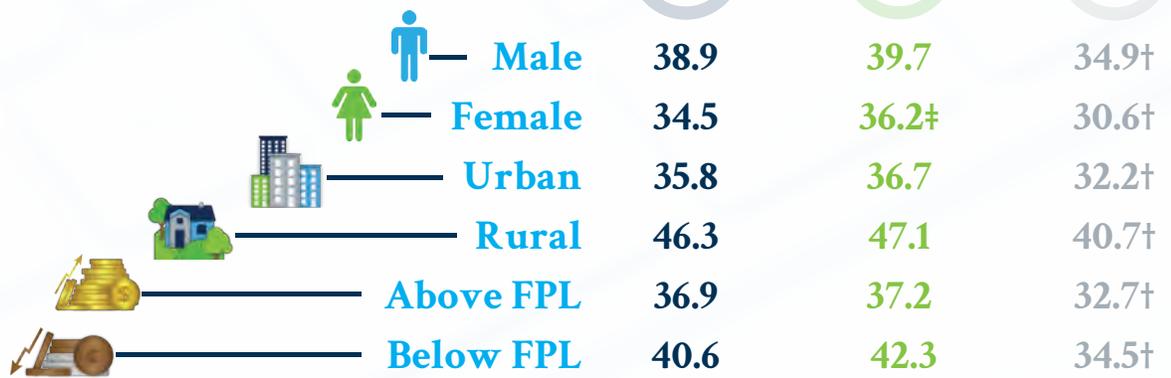
- The prevalence of high cholesterol in female residents of Georgia is significantly higher than females in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgia's Asian residents have a significantly higher prevalence of high cholesterol compared to Asian residents in both the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- In Georgia, adults age 65+ years have a higher prevalence of high cholesterol compared to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S.
- While the prevalence rate among Georgians without a high school diploma is comparable to high cholesterol rates in the Southeastern region, it is higher than the U.S. as a whole.
- Prevalence of high cholesterol in Georgia shows a steady upward trend in recent years.

Hypertension

Adults ever told to have high blood pressure.

Highlights

- Nearly two in every five adults in Georgia have hypertension
- Georgia ranks 10th among U.S. states in share of adults with hypertension
- Hypertension prevalence among rural Georgians is higher than that among rural populations in rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have higher hypertension prevalence compared to similar populations in rest of the U.S.

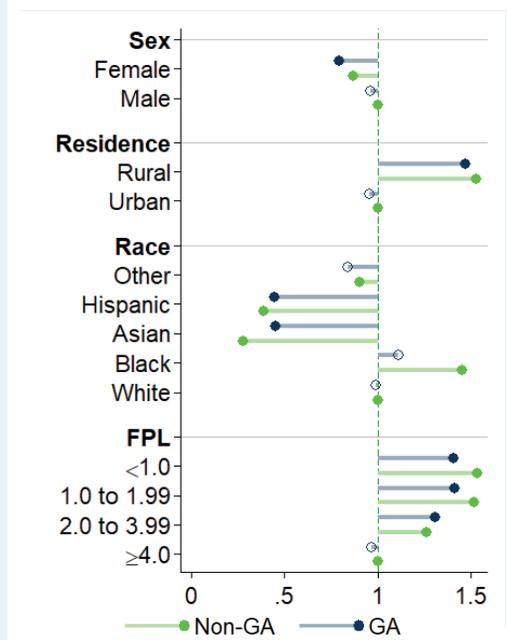


Race/ Ethnicity	White	37.8	38.1	34.5†
	Black	40.6	45.7‡	42.8
	Asian	21.7	15.9	19.4
	Hispanic	21.5	19.7	23.2
	Other	34.0	35.3	33.1
	Age			
	18 to 49	19.5	19.6	16.4†
	50 to 64	49.4	50.7	42.9†
	65+	68.1	66.3‡	60.5†
Education				
	Less than HS diploma	47.5	48.9	37.0†
	HS graduate	37.3	40.5‡	34.7†
	Some college	37.0	37.2	34.0†
	College graduate	30.4	30.9	28.0†
Household Income				
	< 100% FPL	40.6	42.3	34.5†
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	40.7	42.1	35.4†
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	38.8	38.1	34.4†
	≥ 400% FPL	32.0	32.5	29.5†

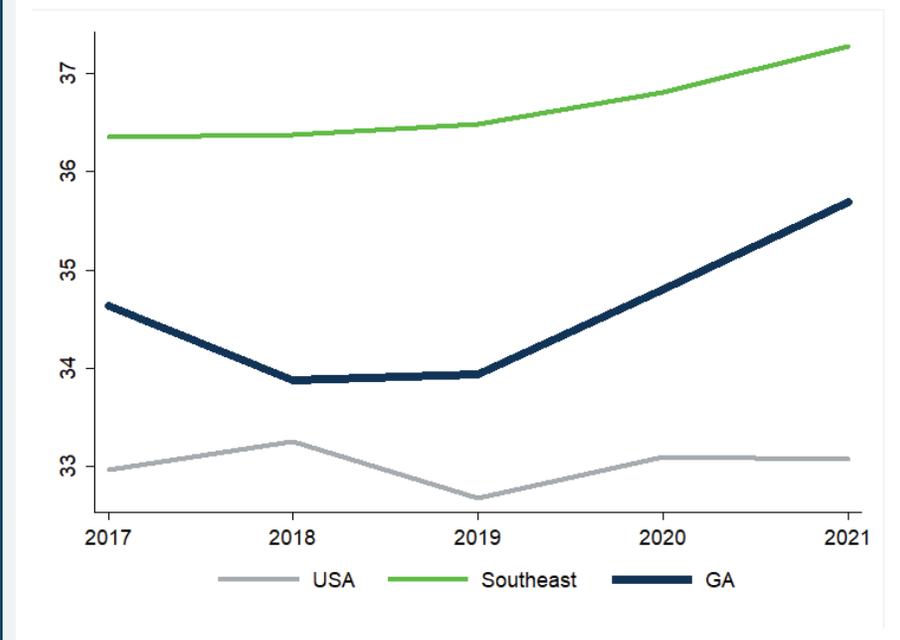
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

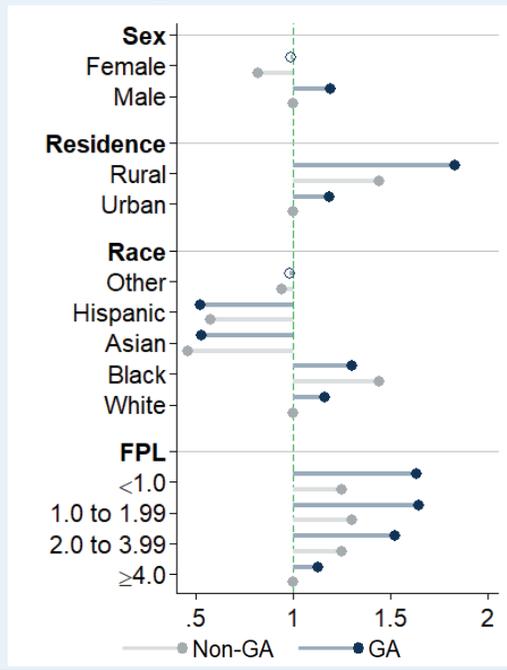
Southeast Disparities



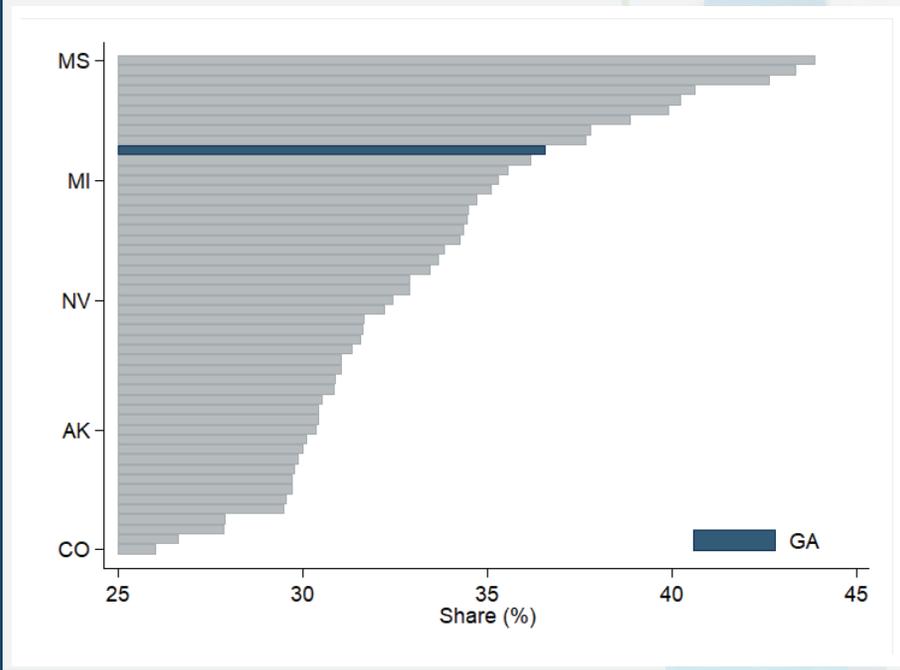
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

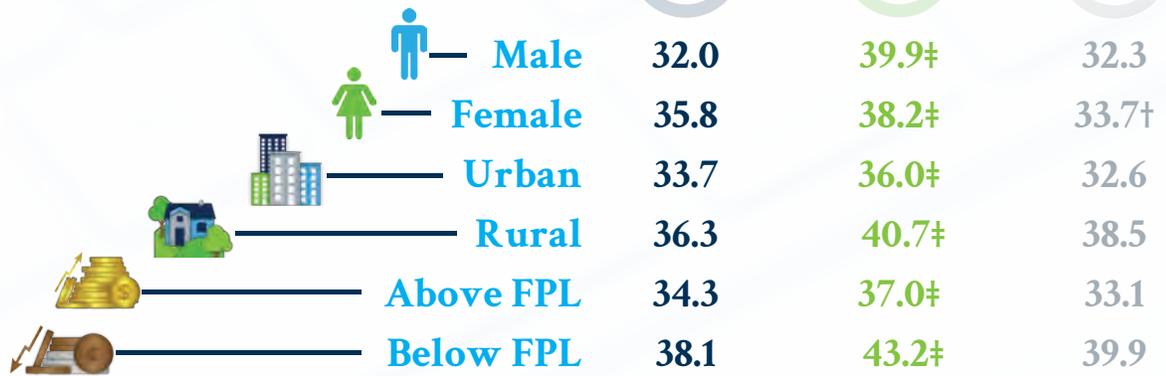
- Age, educational attainment, and household income show significantly different prevalence estimates between Georgia and the rest of U.S., with the state consistently having higher estimates in all sub-categories.
- Georgians residing in rural or urban areas fare worse than their counterparts across the U.S. as evidenced by the statistically different prevalence estimates between the state and rest of the U.S.
- While the likelihood of having hypertension among Black residents in Georgia is comparable to Black residents in the rest of U.S., it is significantly lower compared to Black residents in the Southeastern region.
- The prevalence estimates for hypertension are consistently higher in the Southeastern region over the five-year period. Both Georgia and its neighboring states have been experiencing an upward trend since 2019.

Obesity

Body Mass Index (BMI) ≥ 30.0 kg/m².

Highlights

- One in every three adults in Georgia are considered obese
- Georgia ranks 25th among U.S. states in share of adults with obesity
- Obesity prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable obesity prevalence compared to their counterparts in rest of the U.S.

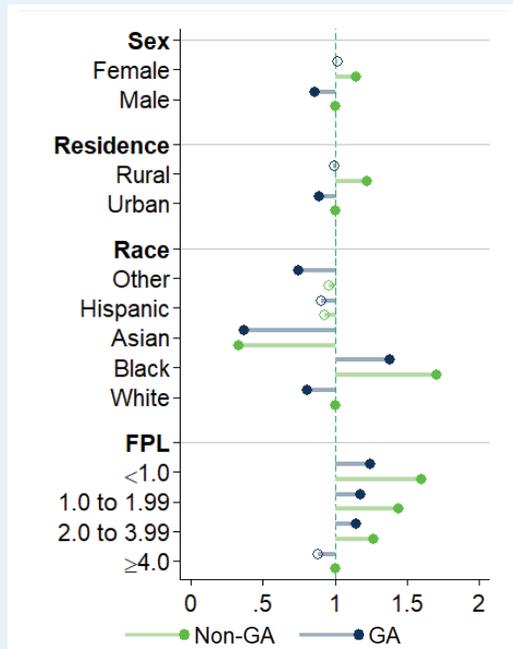


		GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)
Race/ Ethnicity	White	30.4	34.4†	32.0†
	Black	42.7	46.8†	42.9
	Asian	16.5	15.3	11.8
	Hispanic	32.7	33.1	37.1
	Other	28.6	32.9	33.7
Age	18 to 49	32.8	35.5†	31.8
	50 to 64	40.6	43.0	38.5
	65+	28.7	31.9†	29.5
Education	Less than HS diploma	34.7	38.9	37.8
	HS graduate	37.4	38.8	35.5
	Some college	35.3	38.4†	35.6
	College graduate	28.6	31.0†	26.3†
Household Income	< 100% FPL	38.1	43.2†	39.9
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	36.8	41.0†	37.5
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	36.2	38.2	34.6
	≥ 400% FPL	30.5	32.7	29.3

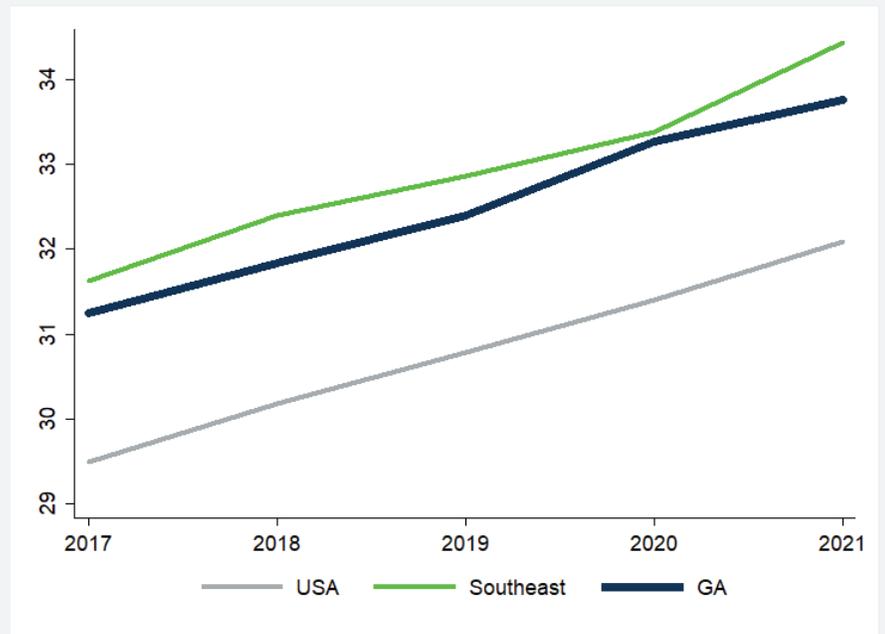
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

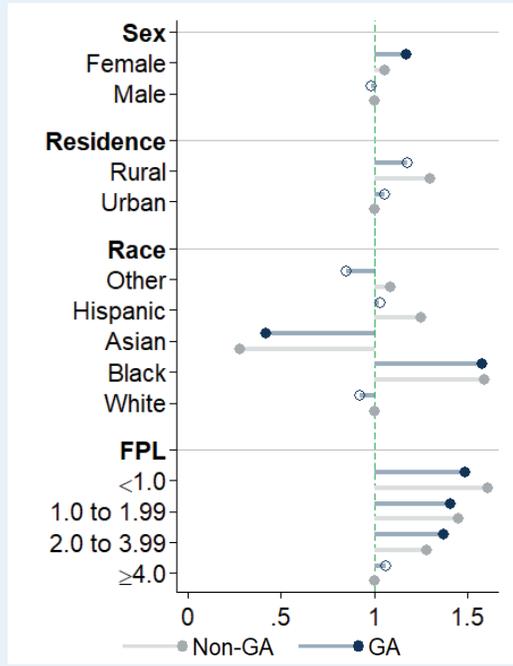
Southeast Disparities



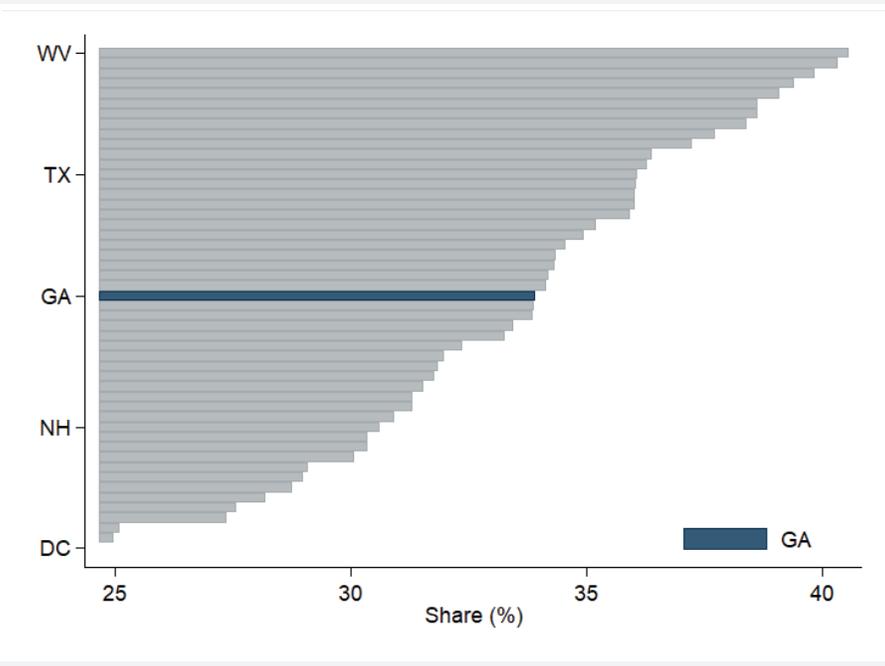
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

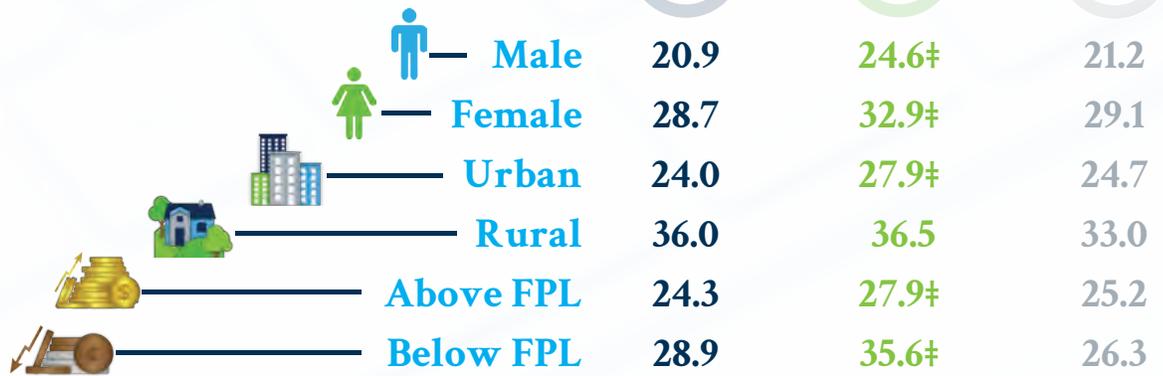
- Obesity prevalence among adults in Georgia is comparable to the U.S. as a whole, but is lower than the Southeastern region.
- While males in Georgia have obesity prevalence comparable to the U.S. as a whole, the females in Georgia have a higher prevalence compared with their counterparts in the rest of the U.S.
- Obesity prevalence among White residents in Georgia is lower than their counterparts in both the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Obesity prevalence among Black residents in Georgia is comparable to the rest of the U.S., but lower than the rest of the Southeastern region.
- Georgians living below 200% of the FPL have a significantly lower obesity prevalence compared to their counterparts in the Southeastern region.

Arthritis

Adults ever told to have some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia.

Highlights

- Nearly one in every four adults in Georgia has arthritis
- Georgia ranks 31st among U.S. states in share of adults with arthritis
- Arthritis prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable arthritis prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.



Race/ Ethnicity	Prevalence (%)		
	GA	SE	USA
White	30.1	32.1†	29.5
Black	21.9	27.0†	26.2†
Asian	9.2	8.0	9.9
Hispanic	9.5	10.4	13.8†
Other	24.1	27.8†	25.4

Age	Prevalence (%)		
	GA	SE	USA
	18 to 49	10.3	12.4†
50 to 64	35.4	40.3†	34.7
65+	52.6	54.5	50.8

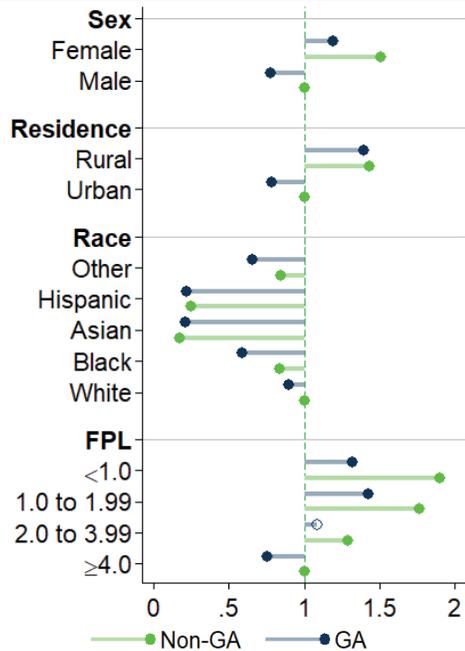
Education	Prevalence (%)			
	GA	SE	USA	
	Less than HS diploma	34.5	40.0†	28.2†
	HS graduate	24.5	29.3†	25.5
Some college	26.7	29.4†	28.0	
College graduate	19.8	22.9†	21.1	

Household Income	Prevalence (%)			
	GA	SE	USA	
	< 100% FPL	28.9	32.0†	26.3
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	30.5	34.6†	28.9
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	25.1	27.9†	26.6
≥ 400% FPL	18.9	22.9†	21.6†	

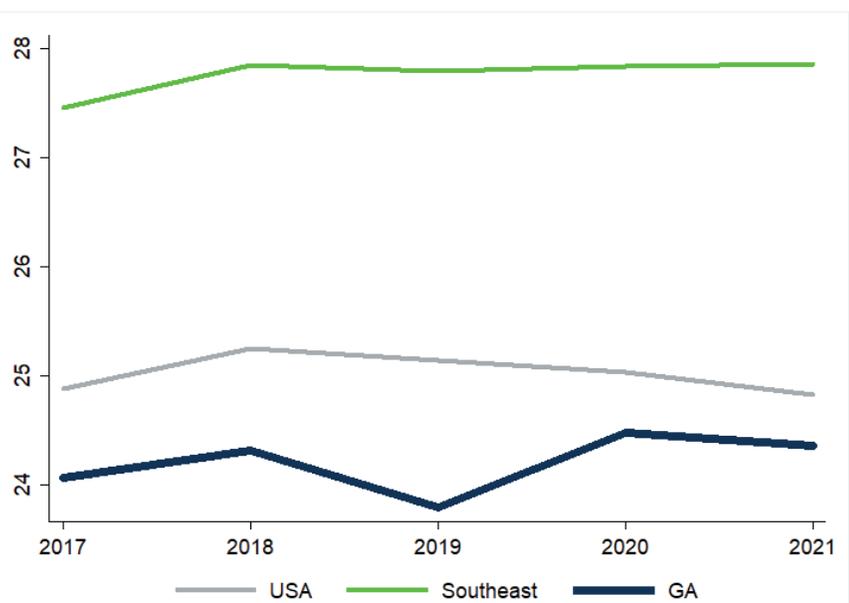
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

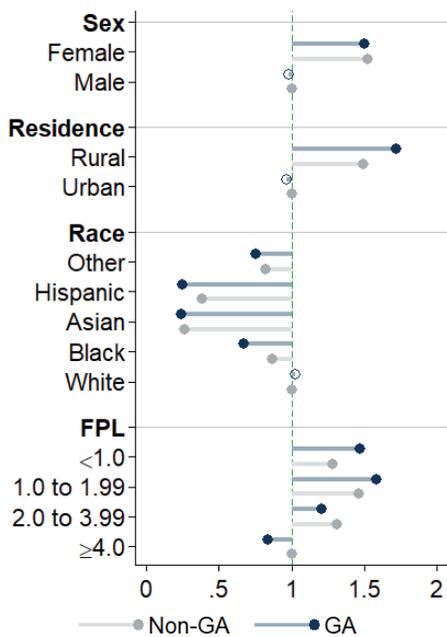
Southeast Disparities



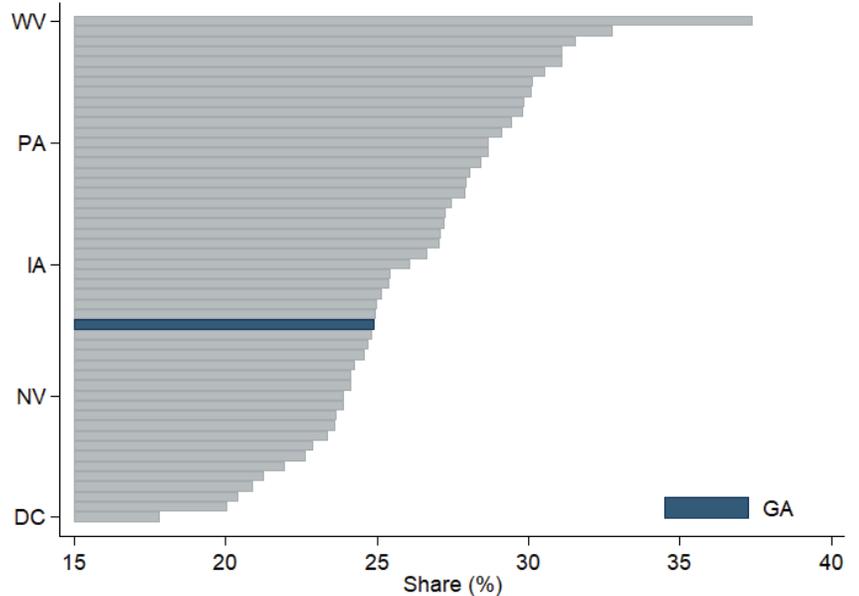
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

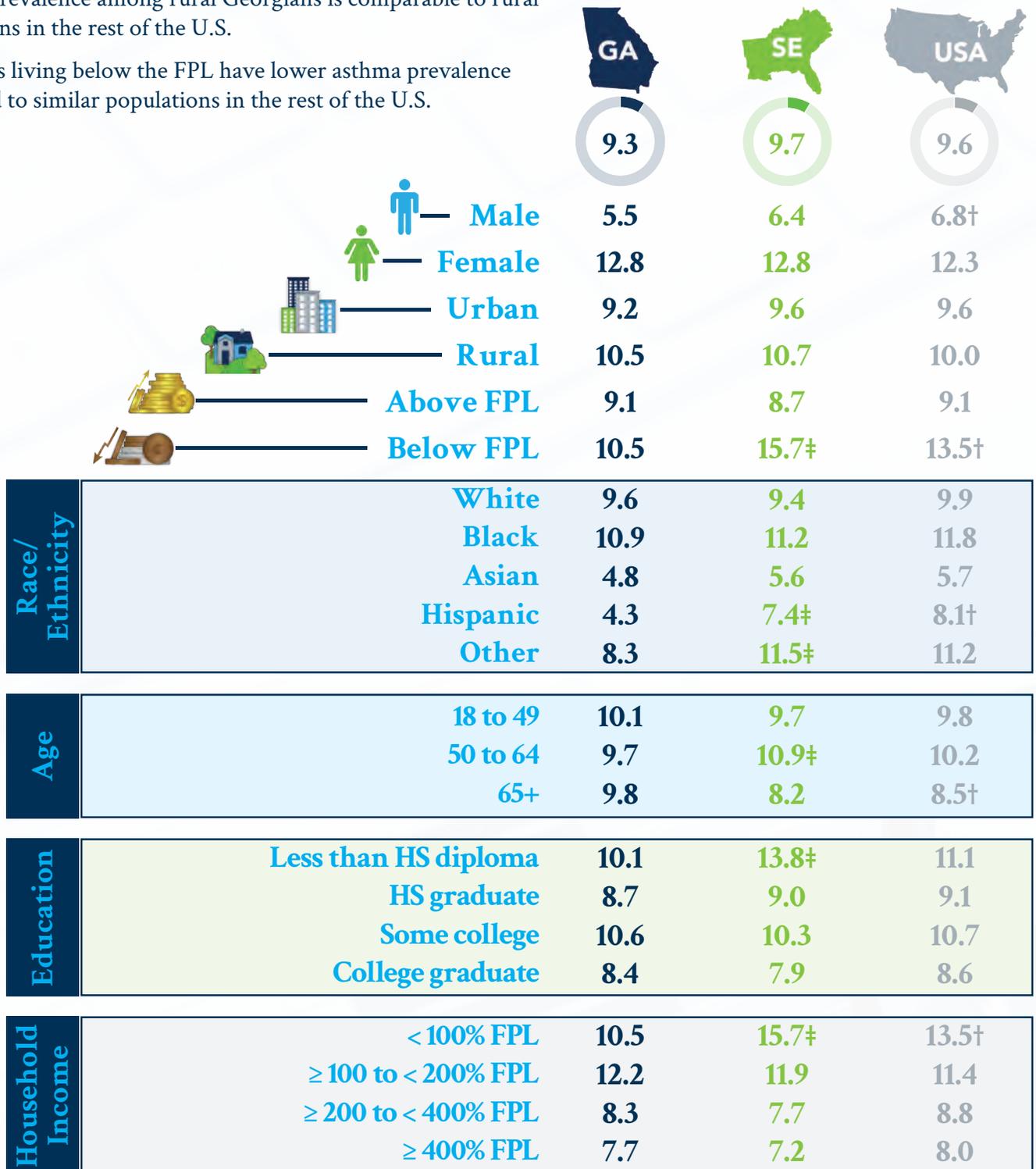
- Arthritis prevalence in Georgia is comparable to the U.S., but significantly lower than the Southeastern region.
- While arthritis prevalence among Georgians under 65 years of age is lower compared to their counterparts in the rest of the Southeastern region, prevalence among adults age 65+ years in Georgia is comparable to their counterparts in the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Black residents in Georgia have lower arthritis prevalence compared to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region.
- Georgians with less than a high school diploma have a higher arthritis prevalence compared to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S., however the rate is lower than the Southeastern region.
- Georgians with household income $\geq 400\%$ FPL have a lower prevalence than their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region.

Asthma

Adults who have asthma at the time of the survey.

Highlights

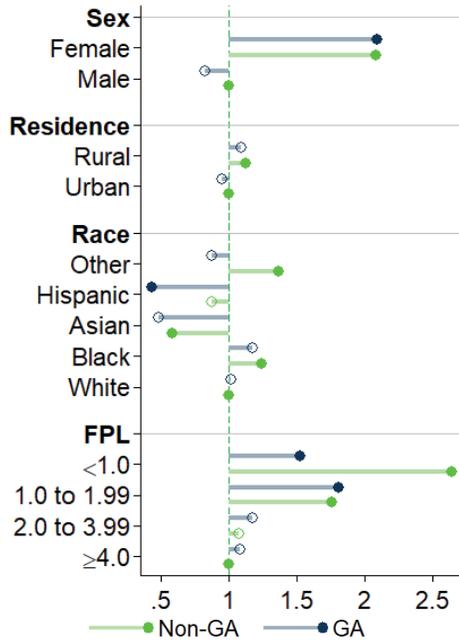
- Nearly one in every 10 adults in Georgia has asthma
- Georgia ranks 35th among U.S. states in share of adults with asthma
- Asthma prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have lower asthma prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.



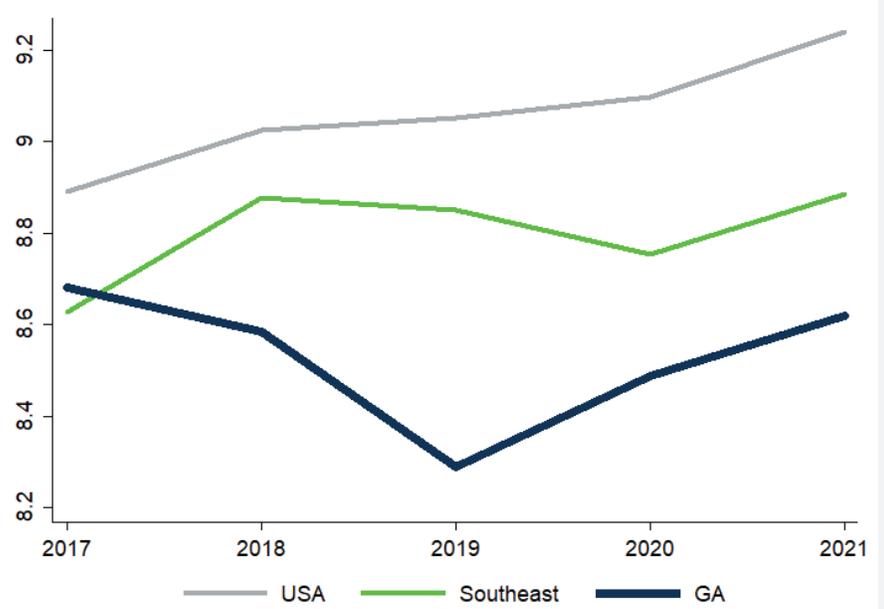
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

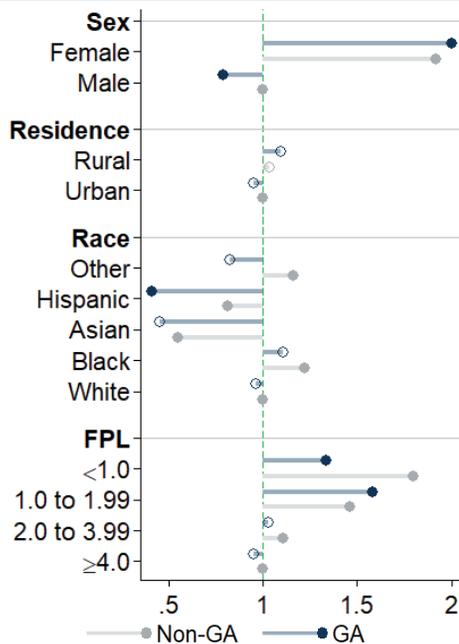
Southeast Disparities



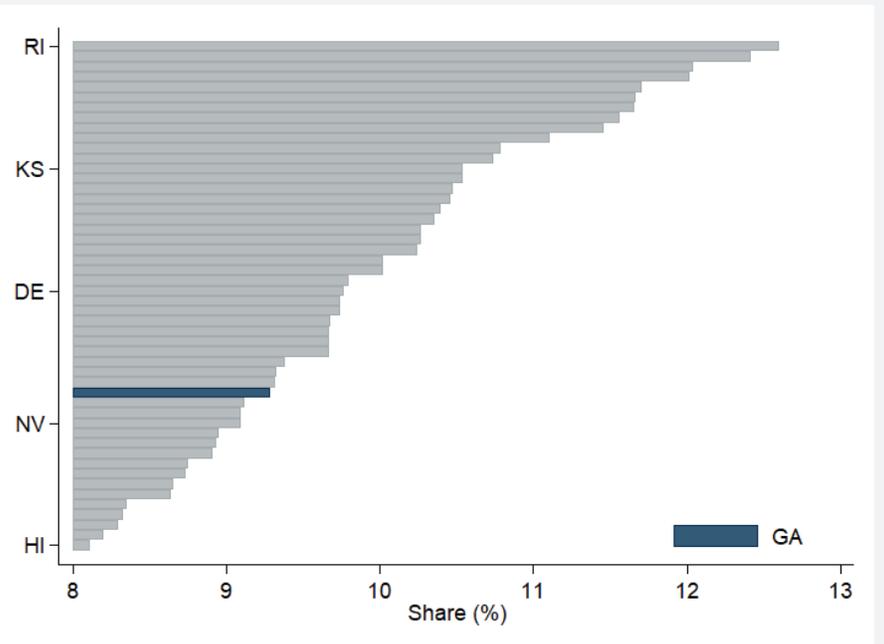
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

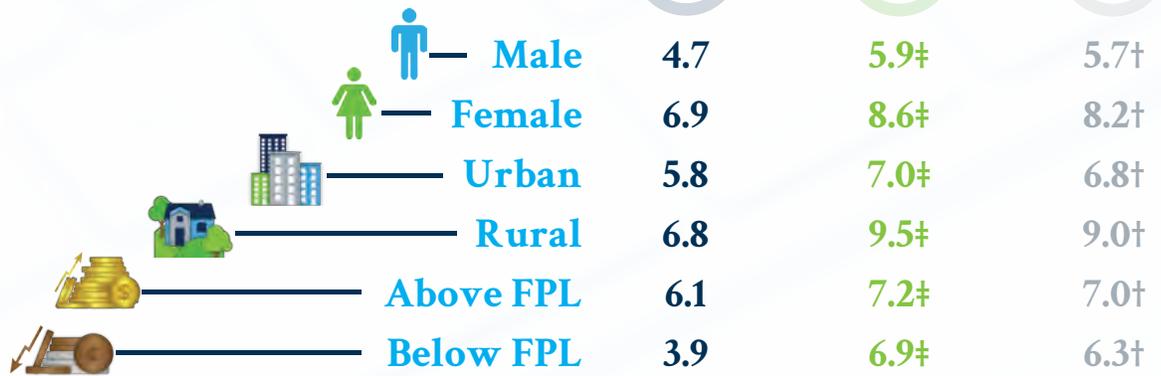
- The prevalence of asthma among males in Georgia is lower compared to males in the rest of the U.S.
- Hispanic residents in Georgia have significantly lower prevalence of asthma compared to the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region.
- While asthma prevalence among Georgians under 65 years of age is comparable to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S., the prevalence among Georgians age 65+ years is lower than their counterparts in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians without a high school diploma have a lower asthma prevalence compared to their counterparts in the rest of the Southeastern region.

Cancer

Adults ever told to have cancer, except skin cancer.

Highlights

- Nearly one in every 17 adults in Georgia has cancer
- Georgia ranks 48th among U.S. states in share of adults with cancer
- Cancer prevalence among rural Georgians is lower than rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have lower cancer prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.

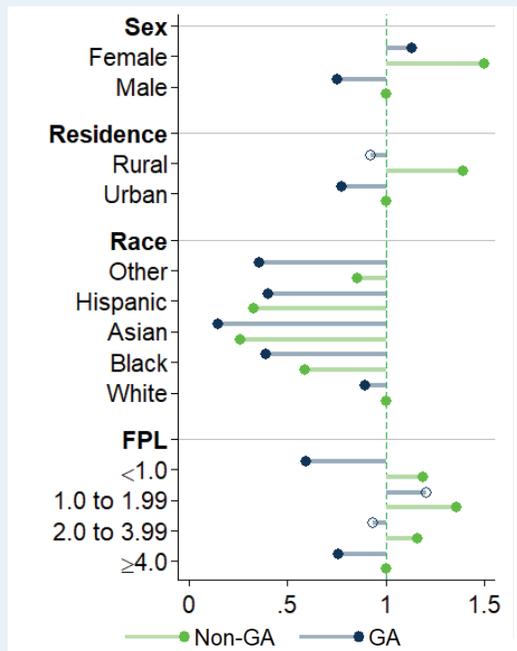


	GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)	
Race/ Ethnicity	White	8.0	8.7†	8.7
	Black	3.6	5.0†	5.4†
	Asian	1.4	2.3	2.5
	Hispanic	3.7	3.2	3.5
	Other	3.4	6.7†	6.4†
Age	18 to 49	1.6	2.3†	2.1†
	50 to 64	5.9	8.4†	8.0†
	65+	17.5	17.9	17.6
Education	Less than HS diploma	7.0	9.5†	6.9
	HS graduate	4.9	6.8†	6.5†
	Some college	6.8	7.5	7.6
	College graduate	5.3	6.7†	6.9†
Household Income	< 100% FPL	3.9	6.9†	6.3†
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	7.7	8.5	7.4
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	6.1	7.2†	7.6†
	≥ 400% FPL	5.0	6.2†	6.2†

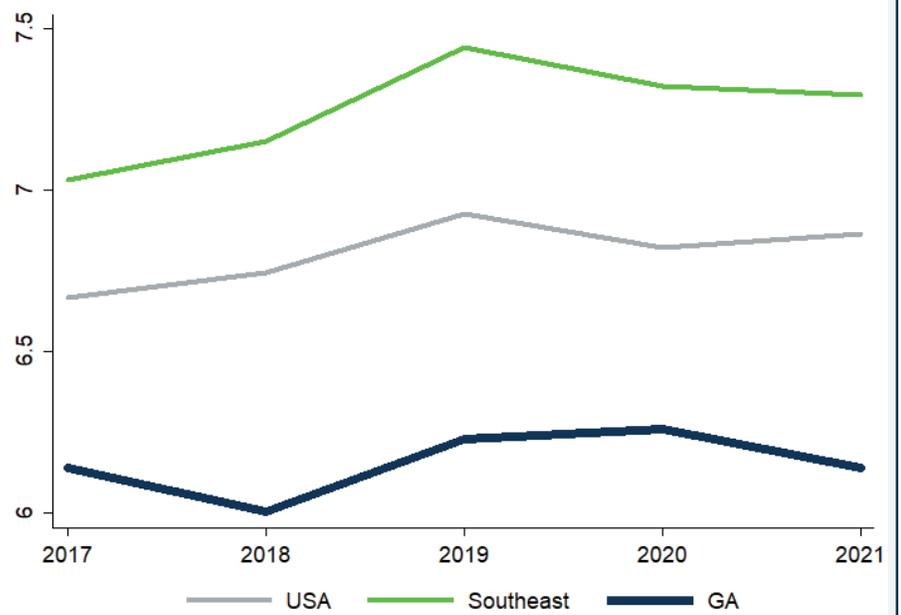
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

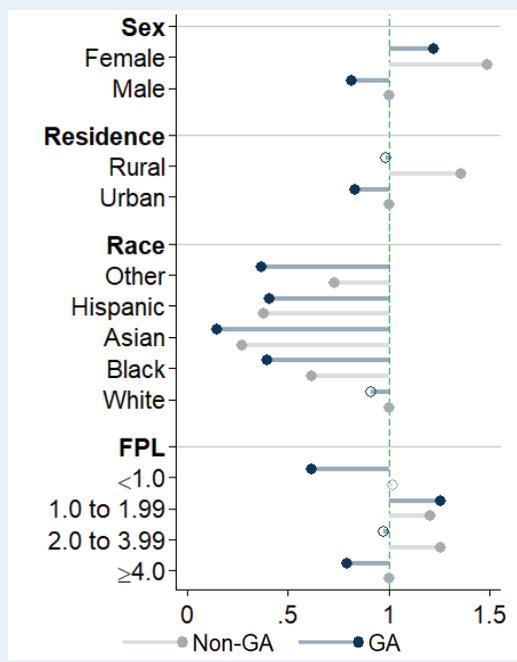
Southeast Disparities



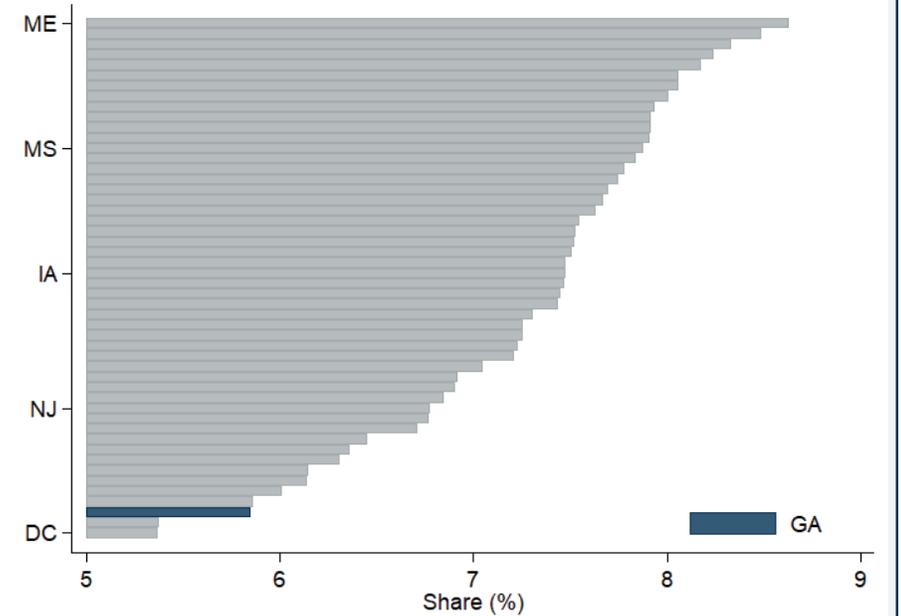
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

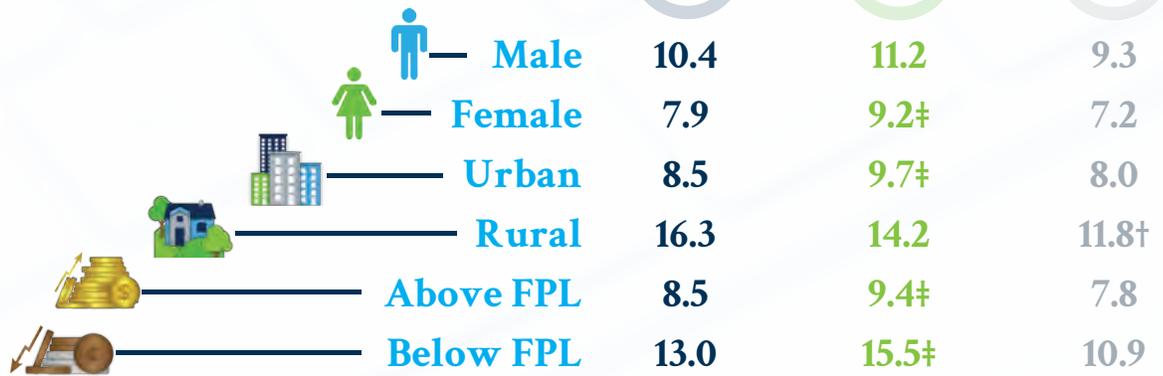
- Georgians have a lower cancer prevalence compared to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region, regardless of sex or urban/rural residence.
- While cancer prevalence among Georgians age 65+ years is comparable to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region, the prevalence among Georgians under 65 years of age is significantly lower compared to their counterparts.

Cardiovascular Diseases

Adults ever told to have coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction, or stroke.

Highlights

- Nearly one in every 10 adults in Georgia has CVD
- Georgia ranks 16th among U.S. states in share of adults with CVD
- CVD prevalence among rural Georgians is higher than among rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable CVD prevalence compared to similar populations in rest of the U.S.

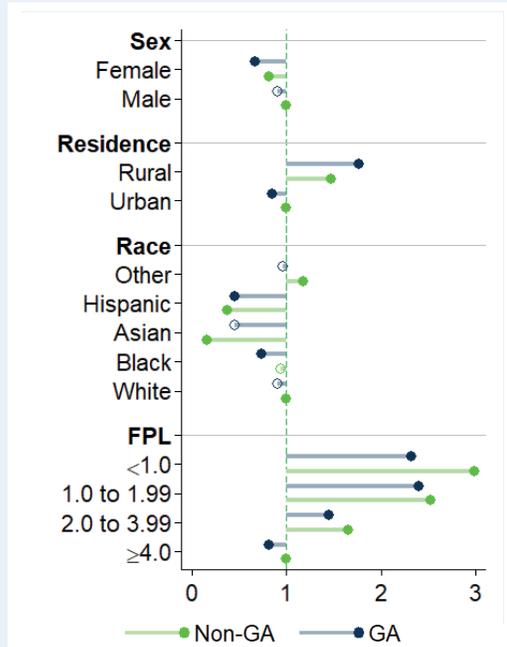


		GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)
Race/ Ethnicity	White	10.1	10.9	9.4
	Black	8.3	9.9†	8.8
	Asian	5.3	2.5	3.2
	Hispanic	5.3	4.6	4.9
	Other	10.6	12.3	9.5
Age	18 to 49	4.1	3.2†	2.3†
	50 to 64	10.9	13.0†	10.1
	65+	20.7	23.2†	20.2
Education	Less than HS diploma	13.0	19.0†	12.8†
	HS graduate	13.4	10.7	9.0
	Some college	8.5	9.8	8.5
	College graduate	5.0	5.9	5.5
Household Income	< 100% FPL	13.0	15.5†	10.9
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	13.4	13.8	11.0†
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	8.5	9.4	8.2
	≥ 400% FPL	5.0	5.9†	5.6

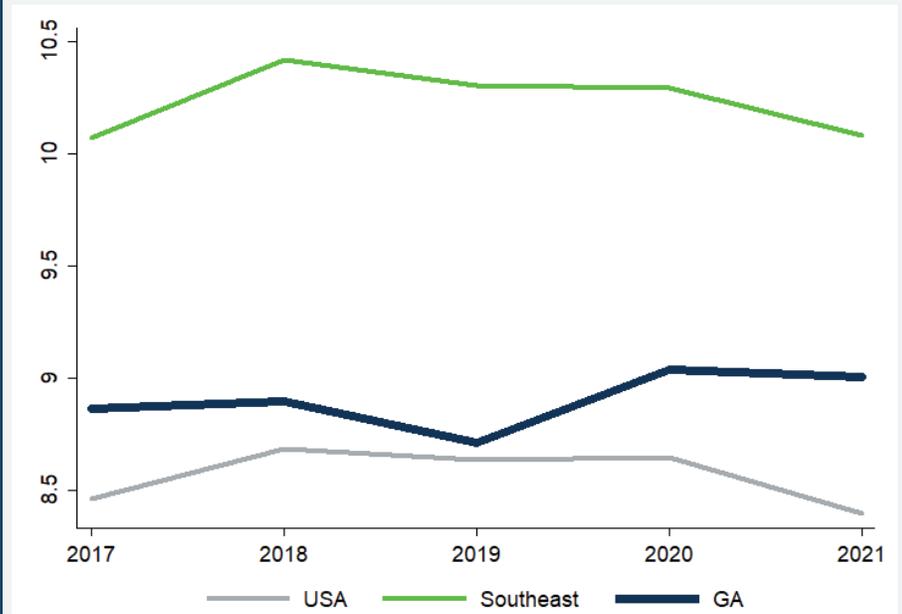
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

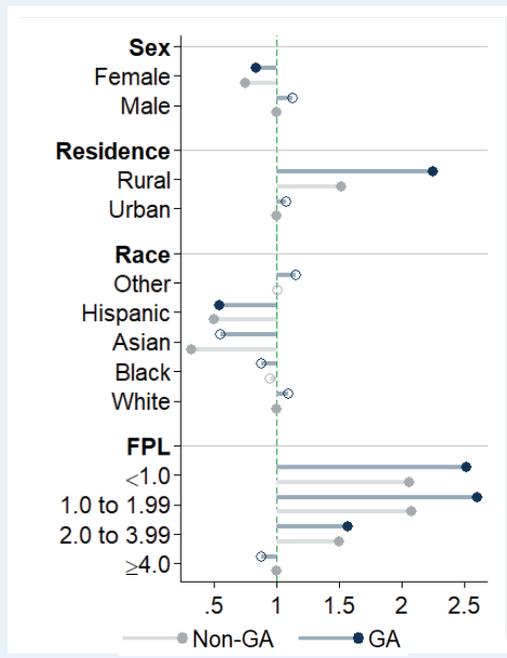
Southeast Disparities



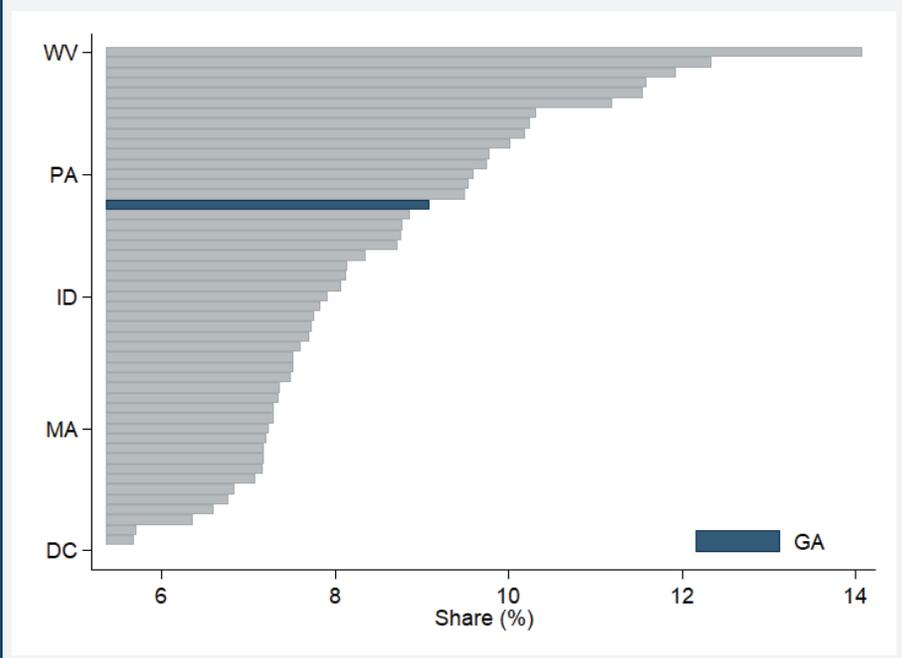
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

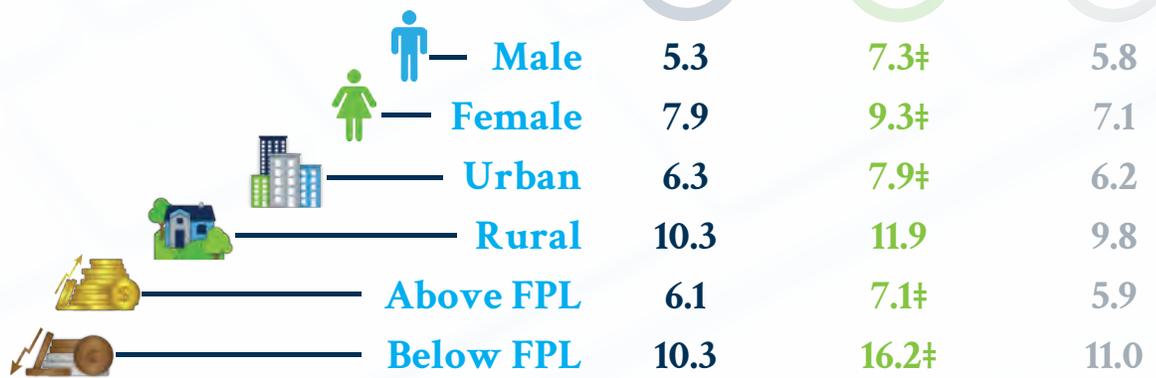
- Overall, the prevalence of CVD among adults in Georgia is higher than the rest of the U.S., but lower than the rest of the Southeastern region.
- While Georgia residents have lower CVD among urban populations compared to the Southeastern region, the rate in the rural population is comparable to neighboring states.
- Georgians with a high school diploma or higher level of education have comparable CVD prevalence in U.S. and Southeastern region. Georgians without a high school diploma, however, have a higher prevalence of CVD compared to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S.

COPD

Adults ever told to have any type of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Highlights

- Nearly one in every 15 adults in Georgia has COPD
- Georgia ranks 19th among U.S. states in share of adults with COPD
- COPD prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable COPD prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.

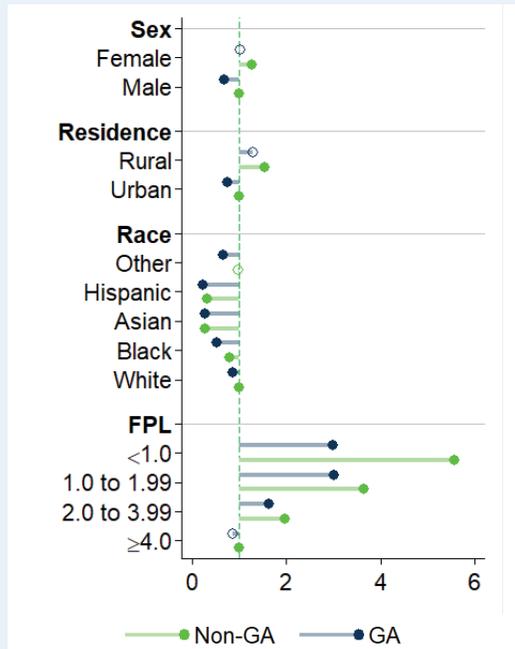


		GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)
Race/ Ethnicity	White	8.3	9.4 [‡]	7.6
	Black	5.2	7.1 [‡]	6.3 [†]
	Asian	2.9	2.8	1.5
	Hispanic	2.4	3.0	3.5
	Other	6.5	8.8 [‡]	7.7
Age	18 to 49	3.4	4.1	3.0
	50 to 64	10.1	11.9 [‡]	8.6 [†]
	65+	11.2	14.4 [‡]	12.4
Education	Less than HS diploma	15.4	18.4 [‡]	11.3 [†]
	HS graduate	7.4	9.2 [‡]	7.5
	Some college	6.0	7.8 [‡]	7.1 [†]
	College graduate	2.7	3.4 [‡]	3.0
Household Income	< 100% FPL	10.3	16.2 [‡]	11.0
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	10.3	11.9	10.0
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	5.8	6.8	6.1
	≥ 400% FPL	3.2	3.6	3.2

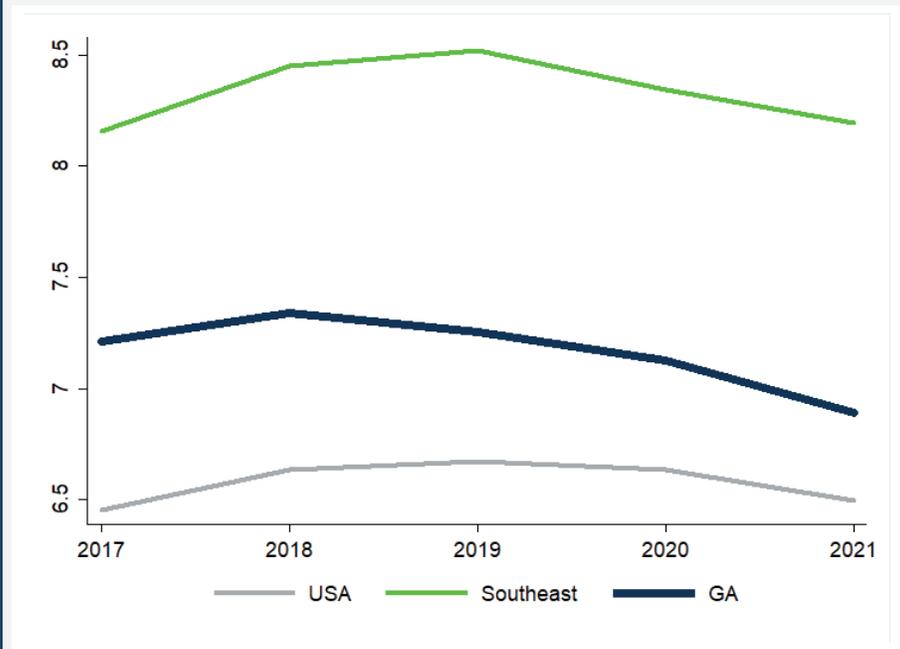
[†] US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

[‡] SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

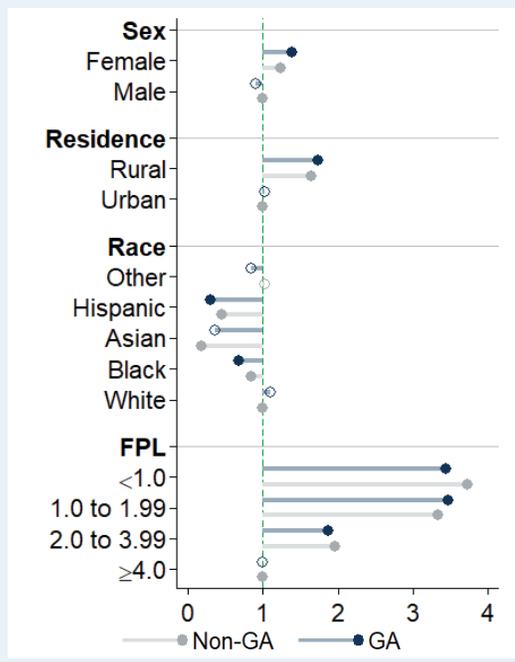
Southeast Disparities



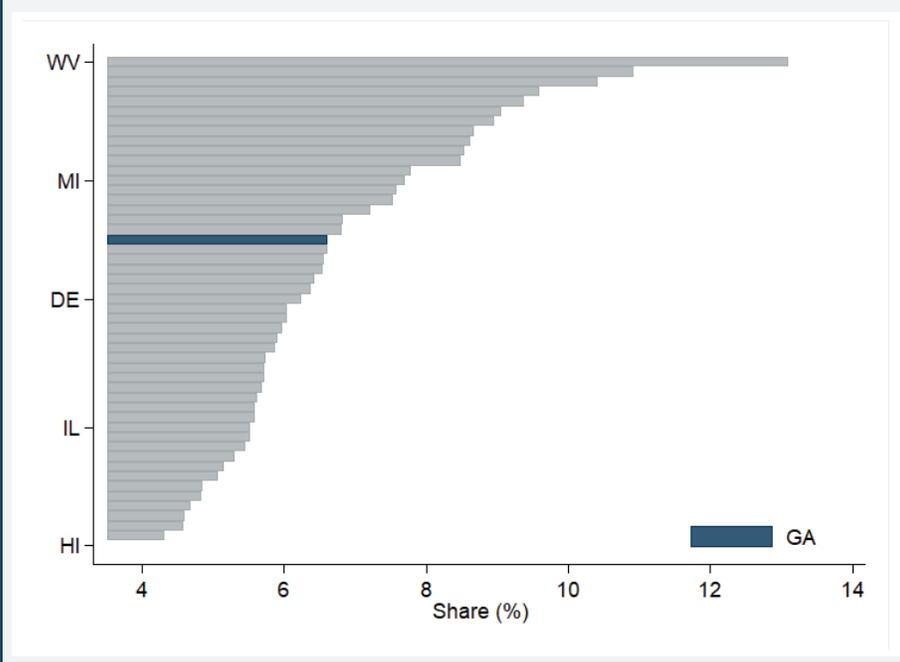
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

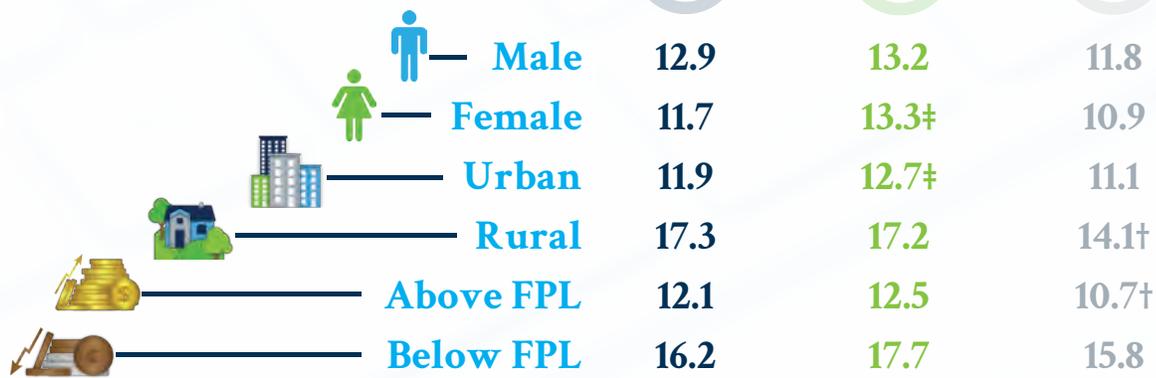
- COPD prevalence among Georgian adults is comparable to the U.S. as a whole but lower than their counterparts in the rest of the Southeastern region.
- Georgians without a high school diploma have lower COPD prevalence than their counterparts in the rest of the Southeastern region. Compared to the U.S., the prevalence in this group is significantly higher.
- The prevalence of COPD in Georgia decreases as level of education and income increase.

Diabetes

Adults ever told to have diabetes.

Highlights

- Around one in every 10 adults in Georgia has diabetes.
- Georgia ranks 13th among U.S. states in share of adults with diabetes
- Diabetes prevalence among rural Georgians is higher than the rural population in rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable diabetes prevalence compared to similar populations in rest of the U.S.



Race/ Ethnicity	White	11.6	12.6‡	10.5†
	Black	15.0	17.2‡	15.5
	Asian	7.6	6.9	9.6
	Hispanic	6.1	8.0	11.8†
	Other	14.9	13.5	11.7

Age	18 to 49	4.9	5.0	4.3
	50 to 64	17.8	19.3	16.3
	65+	25.8	25.6	22.5†

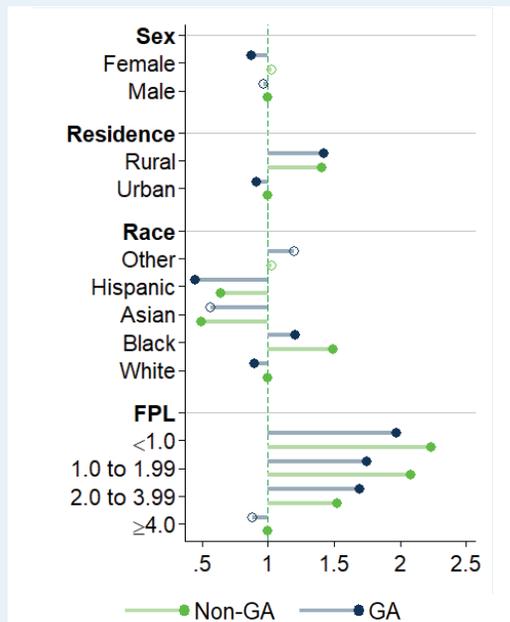
Education	Less than HS diploma	17.0	20.0‡	17.5
	HS graduate	12.5	14.0‡	12.0
	Some college	13.6	13.6	11.8†
	College graduate	8.3	8.7	7.8

Household Income	< 100% FPL	16.2	17.7	15.8
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	14.6	16.6‡	14.6
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	14.2	13.2	11.2†
	≥ 400% FPL	8.0	8.8	8.0

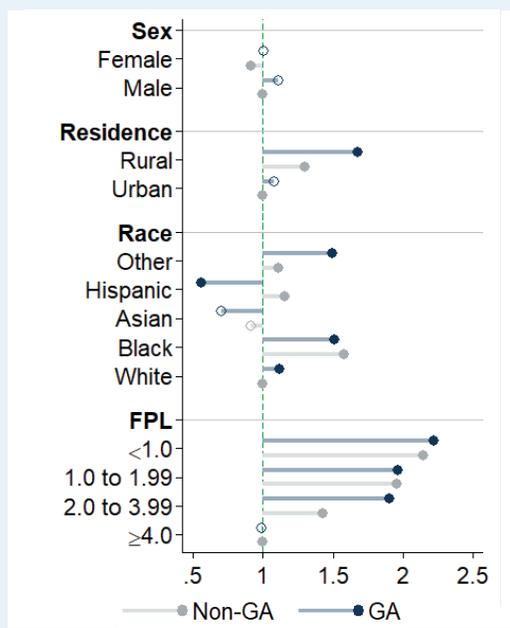
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

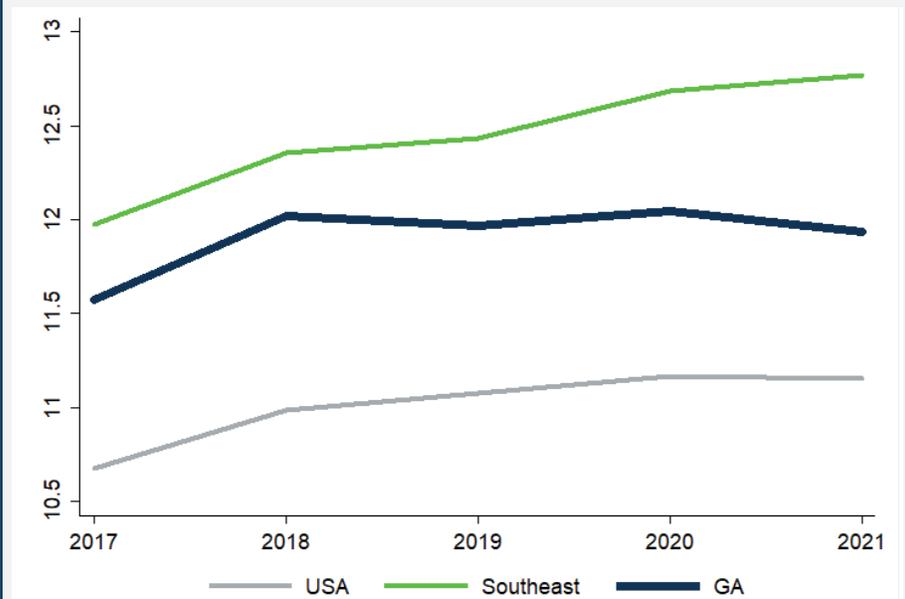
Southeast Disparities



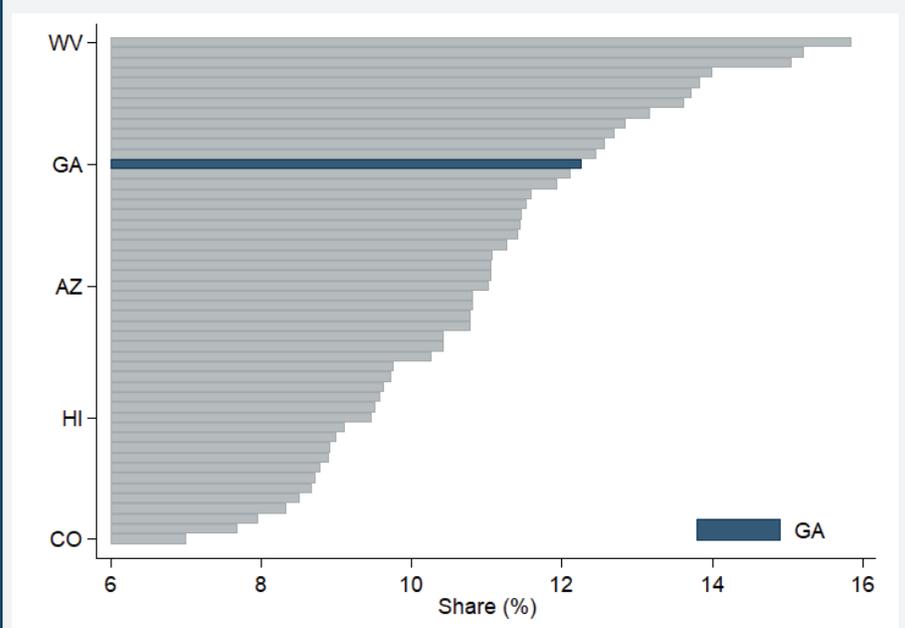
U.S. Disparities



Trend



Distribution by State



Key Findings

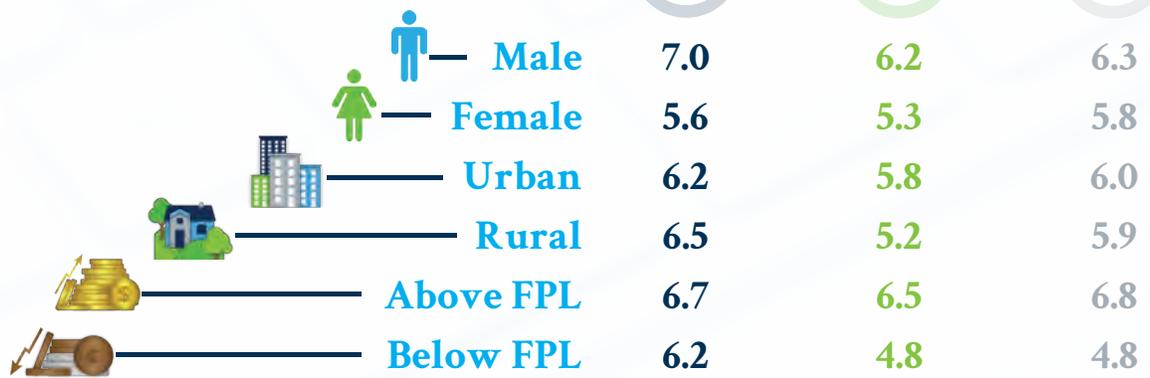
- Prevalence of diabetes among adults in Georgia age 65+ years is significantly higher than that of their counterparts in the rest of the U.S.
- While the prevalence among Black residents in Georgia is comparable to Black residents in the rest of U.S., the prevalence among White residents in Georgia is higher than their counterparts.
- The prevalence rates for both White and Black residents in Georgia, however, are lower than their respective counterparts in the Southeastern region.
- Prevalence of diabetes among Hispanic adults in Georgia is comparable to the Hispanic population in the rest of the Southeastern region, but lower than Hispanic adults in the rest of U.S.
- Georgians with some college education and household incomes between 200 to less than 400% of the FPL are more likely to have diabetes compared to their respective counterparts in the rest of the U.S.

Alcohol – Heavy Drinking

Adults consuming > 14 drinks/week (men) or > 7 drinks/week (women).

Highlights

- Around one in every 16 adults in Georgia are heavy drinkers
- Georgia ranks 26th among U.S. states in share of adults who are heavy drinkers
- Heavy drinking prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable heavy drinking prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.

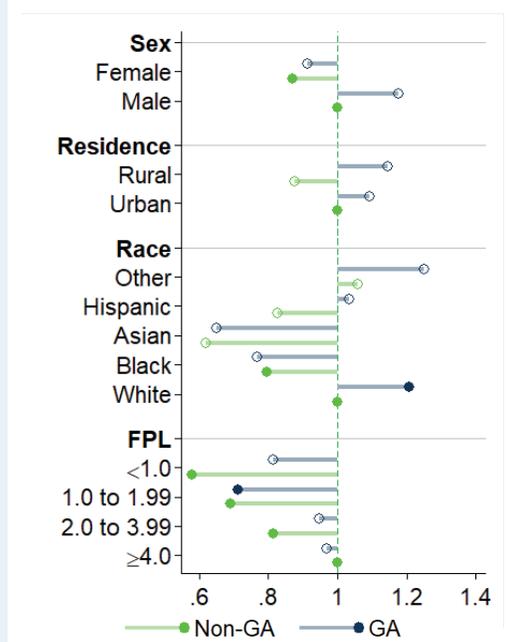


		GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)
Race/ Ethnicity	White	7.1	6.1†	6.8
	Black	4.6	4.8	4.7
	Asian	4.0	3.8	2.7
	Hispanic	6.2	5.2	5.2
	Other	7.4	6.5	6.2
Age	18 to 49	6.8	6.7	6.8
	50 to 64	7.3	6.2	5.9†
	65+	3.6	3.1	4.2
Education	Less than HS diploma	6.3	5.3	5.0
	HS graduate	6.7	5.4†	6.1
	Some college	6.3	6.1	6.5
	College graduate	5.9	6.0	5.9
Household Income	< 100% FPL	6.2	4.8	4.8
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	5.5	5.3	5.4
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	7.1	6.3	6.6
	≥ 400% FPL	7.3	7.5	7.7

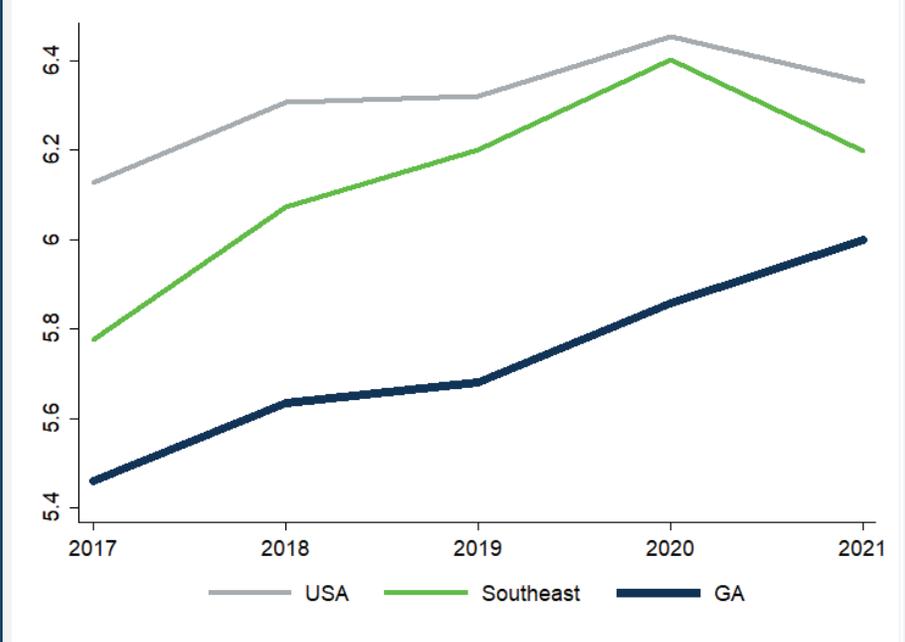
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

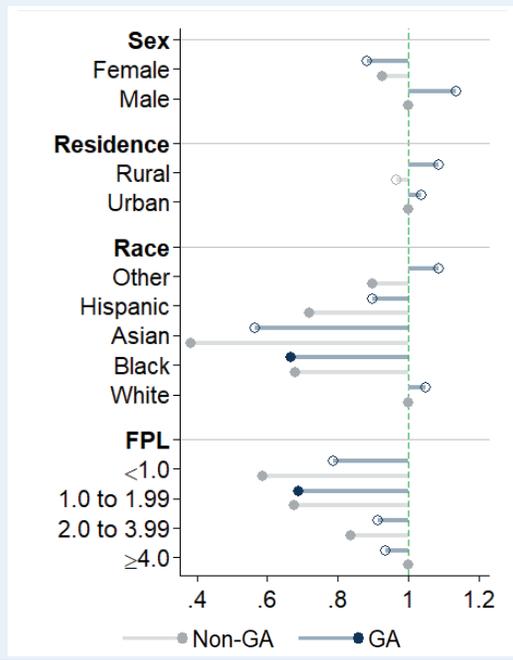
Southeast Disparities



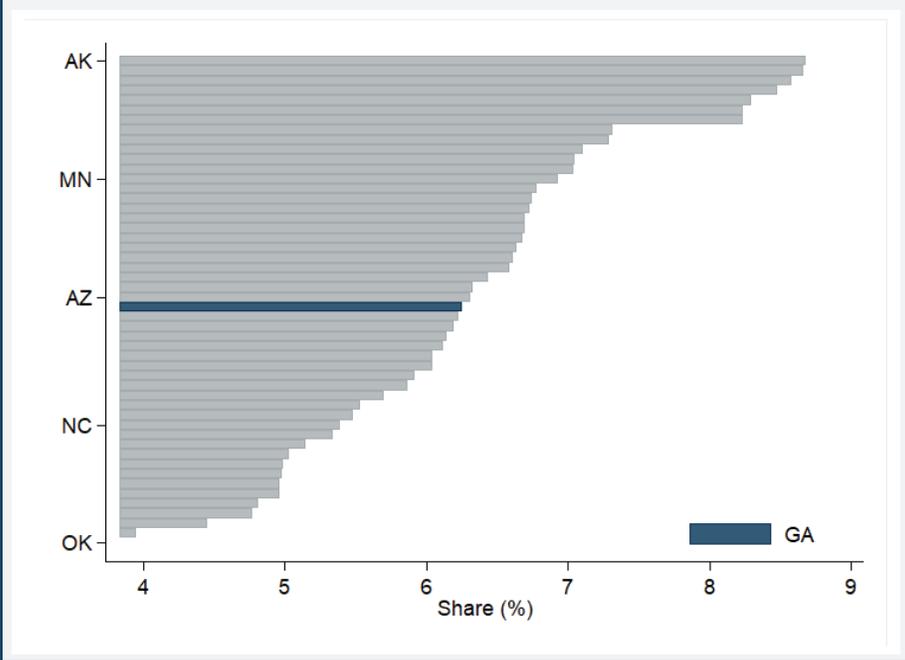
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

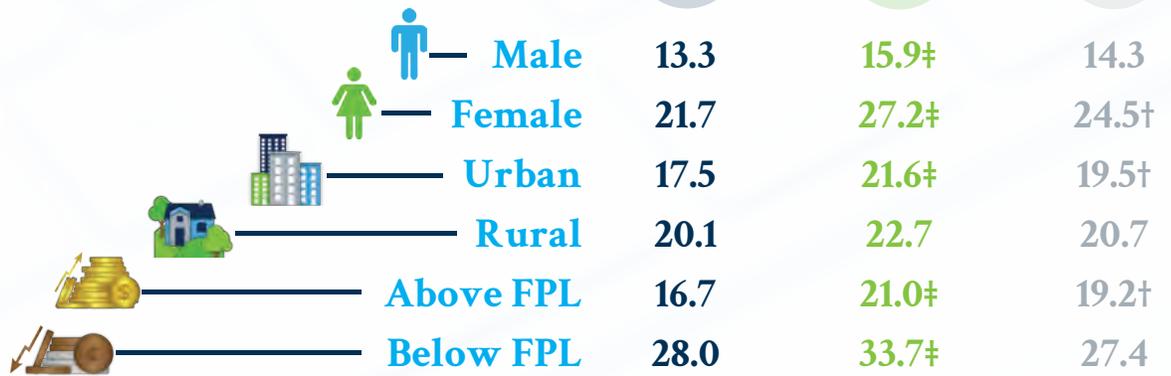
- Rates of heavy drinking among Georgian adults are generally comparable to the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region regardless of sex or urban/rural residence.
- Heavy drinking rates among White residents in Georgia is higher than their counterparts in the Southeastern region, but comparable to those in the U.S. as a whole.
- Heavy drinking rates in Georgia have been on the rise in recent years.

Depressive Disorders

Adults ever told to have a depressive disorder.

Highlights

- Nearly one in every six adults in Georgia has a depressive disorder
- Georgia ranks 39th among U.S. states in share of adults with a depressive disorder
- Depressive disorder prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable depressive disorder prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.

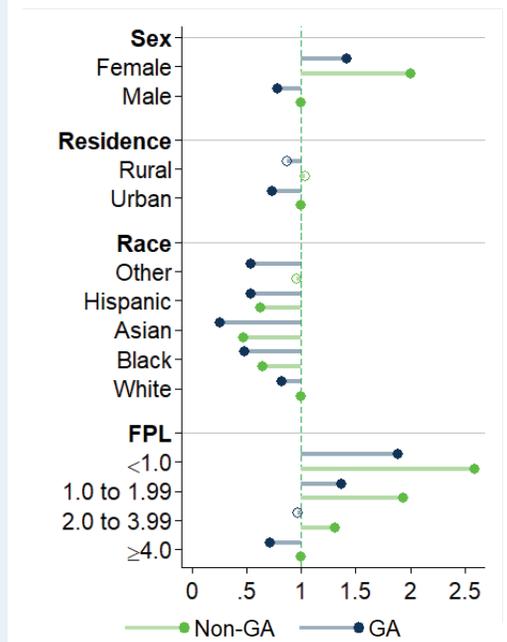


Demographic	Category	GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)
Race/ Ethnicity	White	21.3	24.3†	22.2
	Black	13.5	16.6†	15.6†
	Asian	7.8	12.5†	9.6
	Hispanic	15.0	16.6	15.6
	Other	15.0	21.9†	20.2†
Age	18 to 49	20.2	24.4†	21.8
	50 to 64	17.2	22.1†	19.3†
	65+	11.4	15.3†	14.6†
Education	Less than HS diploma	22.4	25.8	21.1
	HS graduate	17.3	22.0†	19.2
	Some college	19.8	24.1†	22.6†
	College graduate	14.3	17.2†	16.3†
Household Income	< 100% FPL	28.0	33.7†	27.4
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	22.0	27.6†	24.5
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	16.7	20.6†	19.7†
	≥ 400% FPL	12.8	16.4†	15.5†

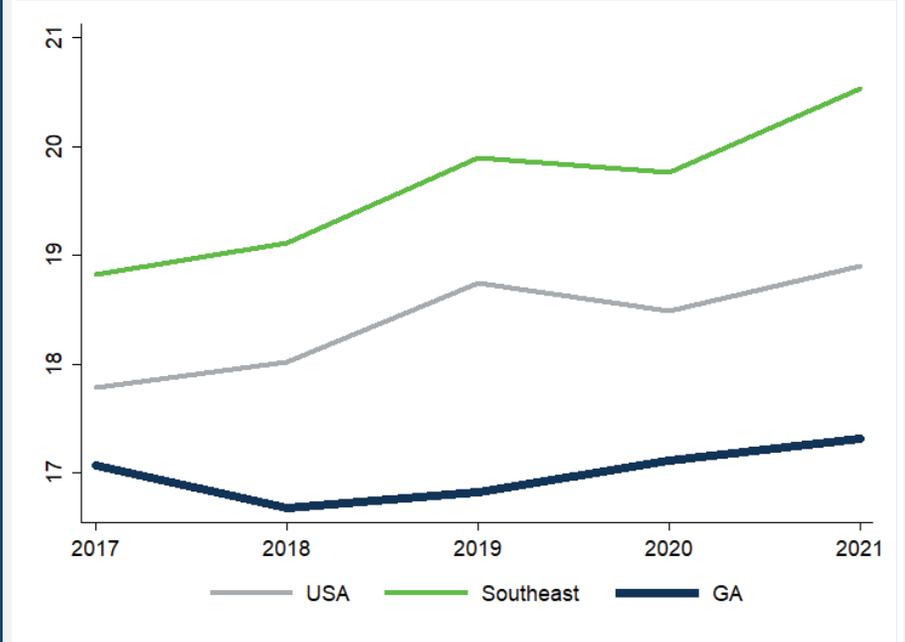
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

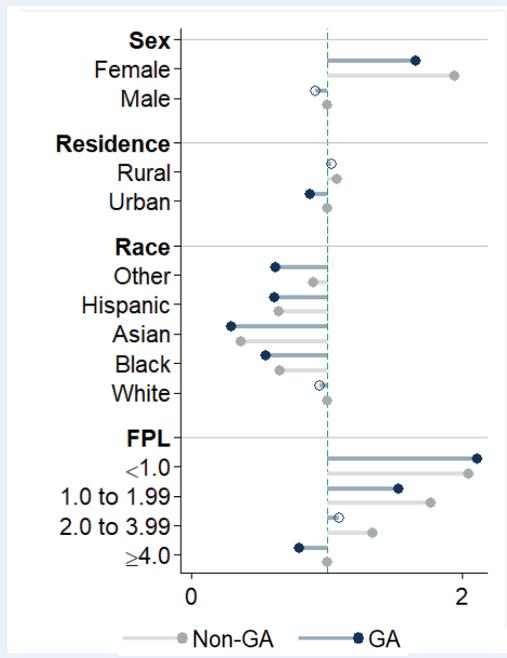
Southeast Disparities



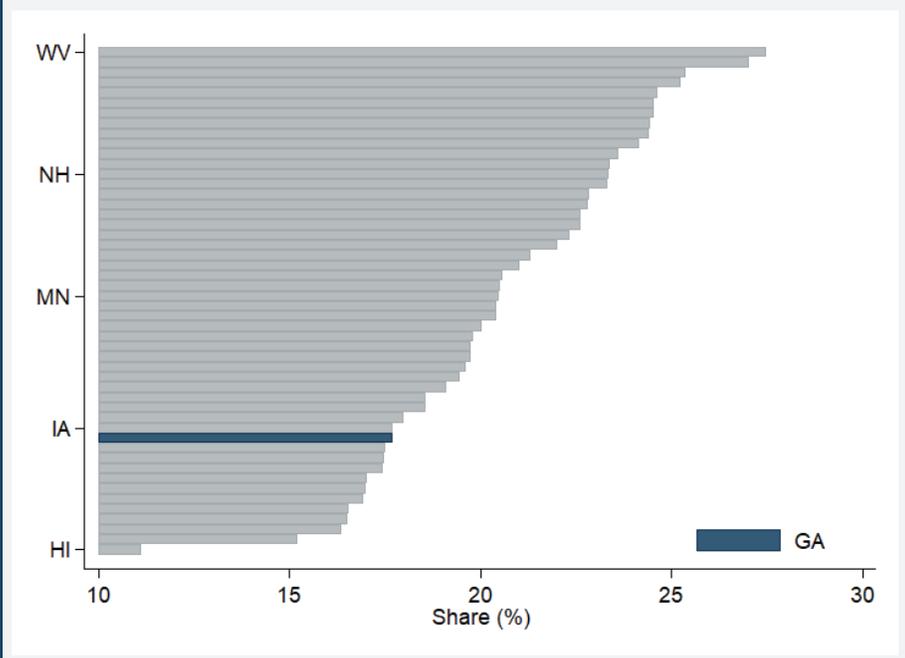
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

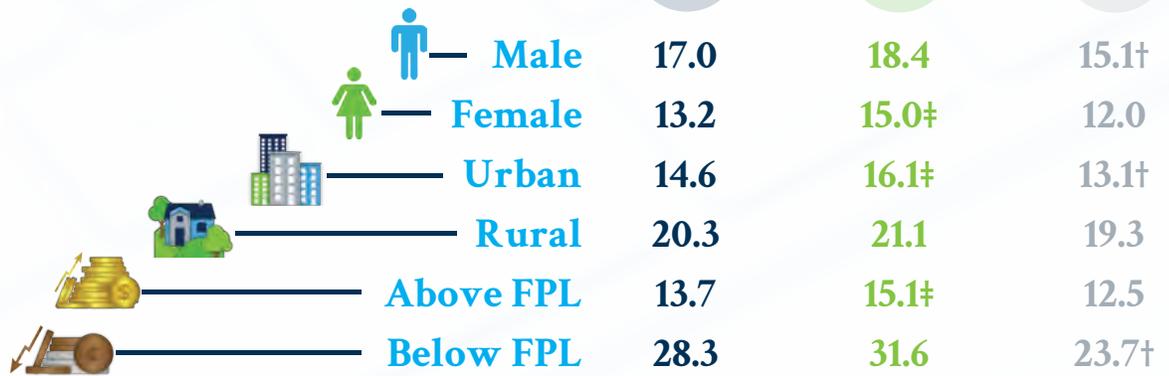
- Overall rates of depressive disorders in Georgia remain lower than both the Southeastern region and the rest of the U.S.
- While the prevalence of a depressive disorder among rural Georgians is comparable to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region, the prevalence among urban Georgians is significantly lower than both.
- Hispanic residents in Georgia have depressive disorder prevalence comparable to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region.
- Depressive disorder prevalence among Georgians living below 200% of the FPL is comparable to the rest of the U.S., but lower than their counterparts in the Southeastern region.

Tobacco – Smoking

Adults who currently smoke.

Highlights

- Around one in every seven adults in Georgia are current smokers
- Georgia ranks 20th among U.S. states in share of adults who smoke
- Smoking prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have higher smoking prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.

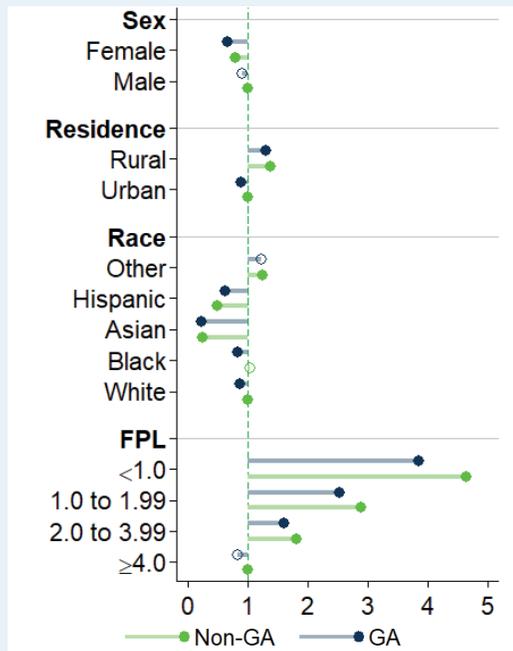


		GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)
Race/ Ethnicity	White	15.3	17.1‡	14.2
	Black	14.9	17.3‡	15.7
	Asian	4.5	4.7	5.9
	Hispanic	11.6	9.9	10.6
	Other	20.6	20.7	18.2
Age	18 to 49	16.2	17.8‡	14.1†
	50 to 64	17.7	19.5‡	16.3
	65+	8.6	10.7‡	9.0
Education	Less than HS diploma	30.9	32.6	24.2†
	HS graduate	16.8	20.3‡	17.9
	Some college	16.2	16.3	13.8†
	College graduate	5.4	6.0	5.1
Household Income	< 100% FPL	28.3	31.6	23.7†
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	20.7	22.5	19.6
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	14.2	15.4	13.6
	≥ 400% FPL	7.8	9.1	7.5

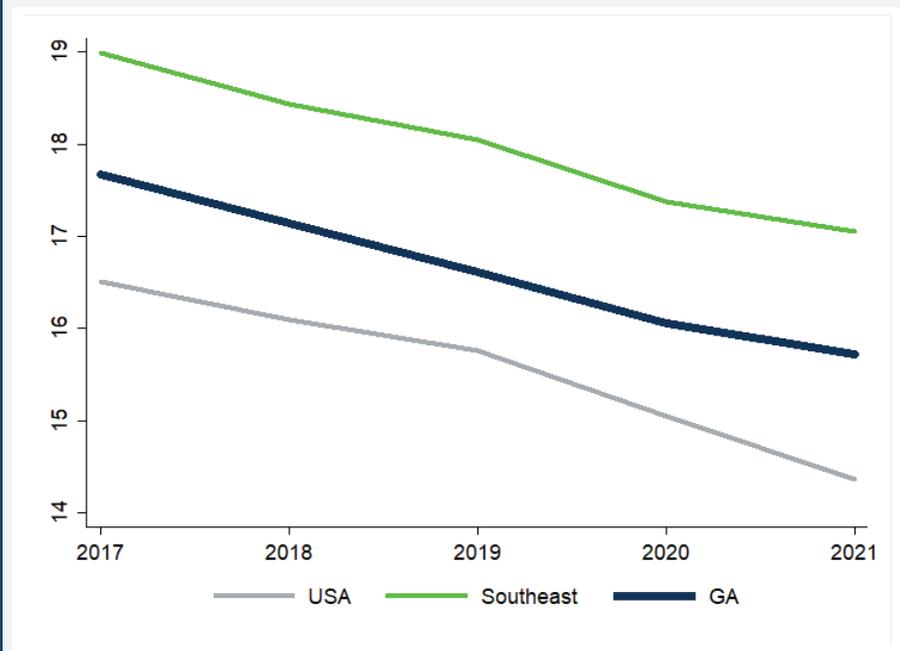
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

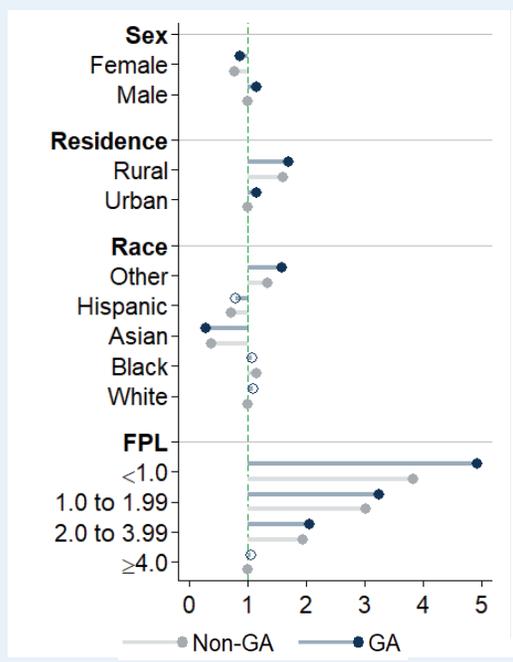
Southeast Disparities



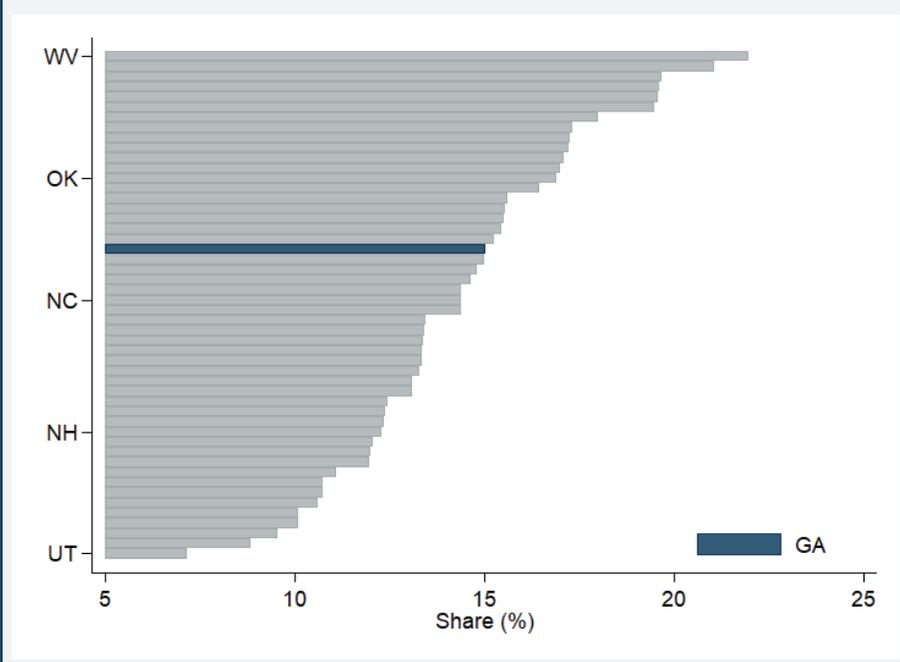
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

- Current smoking rates are higher among Georgian adults compared to the rest of the U.S., but lower compared to rest of the Southeastern region.
- Smoking rates among males in Georgia are comparable to the Southeastern region, but higher than the rest of the U.S.
- In contrast, smoking rates among females in Georgia are comparable to the rest of the U.S., but lower than the Southeastern region.
- Smoking rates are slightly higher in urban Georgia when compared to urban areas in the U.S., but lower than urban areas in the rest of the Southeastern region.
- Smoking rates are lower in Black and White residents in Georgia compared to their counterparts in the Southeastern region. Smoking rates in Georgia do not differ across racial/ethnic groups with their respective counterparts in the rest of the U.S.

Health Insurance Coverage - Adult

Adults 18 years and older who have health insurance coverage.

Highlights

- Nearly nine in every 10 adults in Georgia have health insurance coverage
- Georgia ranks 49th among U.S. states in share of adults with health insurance coverage
- Georgia ranks 12th in the Southeastern region in share of adults with health insurance coverage
- Georgian adults living below the FPL have a lower share of insurance coverage compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.



	GA	SE	USA
Male	82.1	85.7†	88.4
Female	87.1	90.1†	91.8
Above FPL	87.7	90.1†	91.6
Below FPL	68.3	77.6†	81.3

Race/ Ethnicity		GA	SE	USA
	White	89	91.4†	93.7
Black	83.1	85.5†	87.7	
Asian	90.2	90.7	93.6	
Hispanic	61.7	73.6†	77.9	
Other	82.9	85.5†	88.6	

Age		GA	SE	USA
	18 to 49	78.9	82.7†	86.1†
	50 to 64	86.5	88.8†	90.9†
65+	99.2	99.2	99.2	

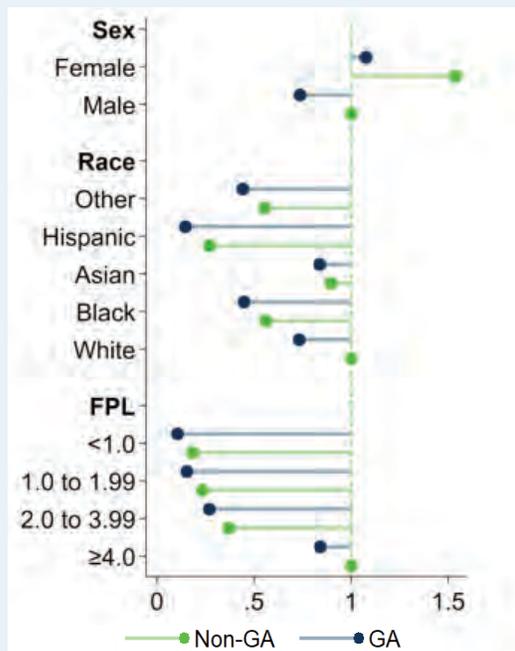
Education		GA	SE	USA
	Less than HS diploma	69.1	75.2†	77.2
	HS graduate	78.3	83.8†	86.7
	Some college	86.4	89.6†	91.3
College graduate	94.4	95.1†	96.1	

Household Income		GA	SE	USA
	< 100% FPL	68.3	77.6†	81.3
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	75.8	81.9†	83.4
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	84.6	87.8†	88.9
	≥ 400% FPL	94.5	95.2†	96.0

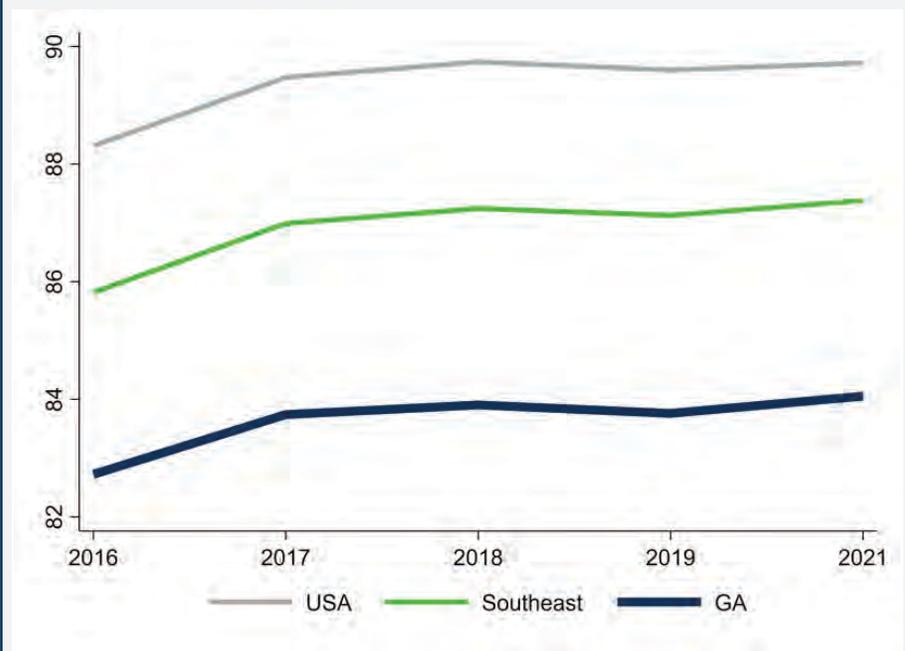
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

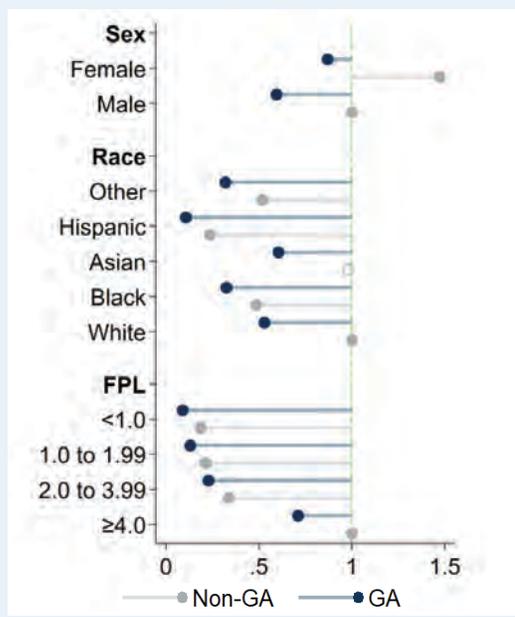
Southeast Disparities



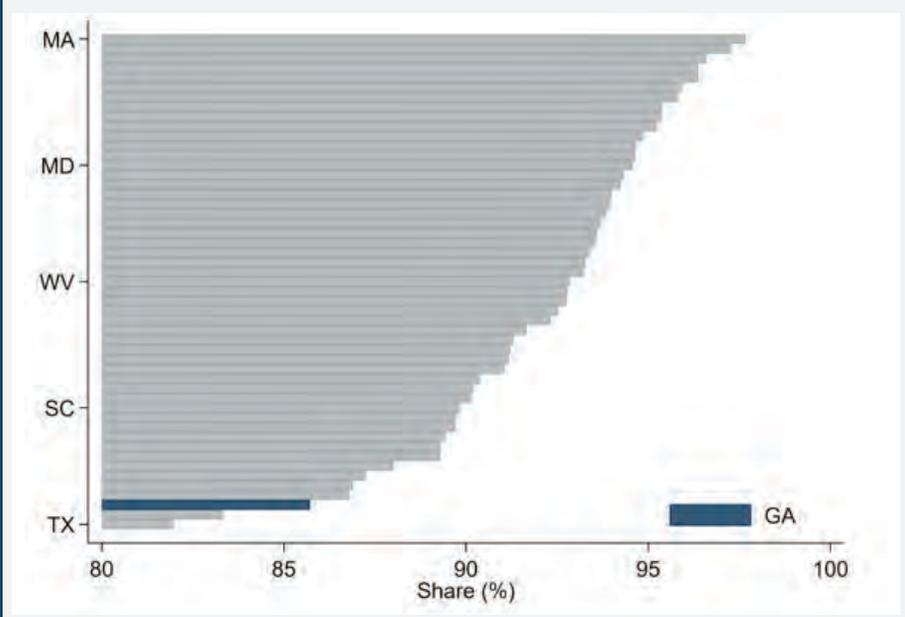
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

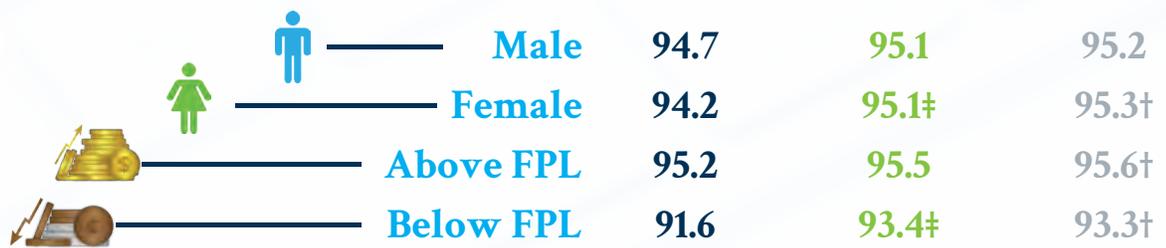
- Georgian adults have significantly lower health insurance coverage compared to the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Females in Georgia have better health insurance coverage than male residents. However, the state rates for both sexes are lower than the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Insurance coverage rates for all income groups are significantly lower than the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region, however, the coverage gap is wider for those below FPL.
- Except for Asian adults, insurance coverage for all other racial/ethnic groups in Georgia is significantly lower than the rest of the Southeastern region. Hispanic adults have the lowest insurance coverage.
- Insurance coverage increases as individuals grow older, obtain higher education, or gain more income. However, Georgia's rates across age (except for adults 65+ years), education, and income groups are significantly lower than the rest of the Southeastern region.

Health Insurance Coverage - Child

Children aged 0 to 17 years who have health insurance coverage.

Highlights

- Nineteen in every 20 children in Georgia have health insurance coverage
- Georgia ranks 33rd among U.S. states in share of children with health insurance coverage
- Georgia ranks 9th in the Southeastern region in share of children with health insurance coverage
- Children in Georgia living below the FPL have a lower share of insurance coverage compared to children in the rest of the U.S.

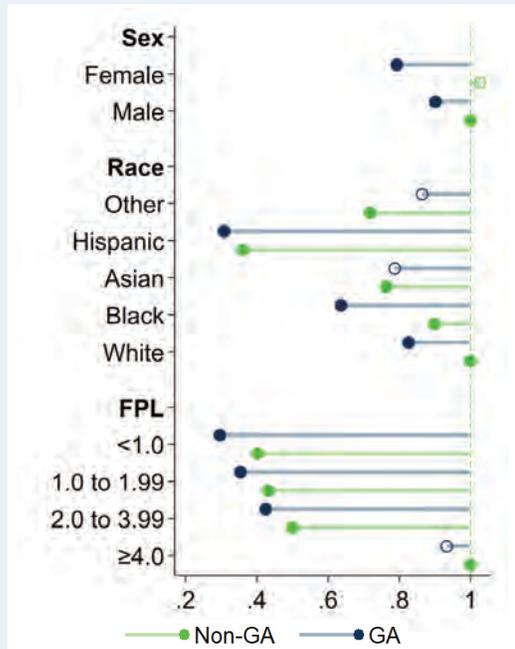


		GA	SE	USA
Race/ Ethnicity	White	95.7	96.2‡	96.2†
	Black	95.1	96.1‡	96.2†
	Asian	95.3	95.5	97.0†
	Hispanic	89.0	90.5‡	92.2†
	Other	95.6	94.9	96.0
Age	0 to 5	95.3	95.9	95.9
	6 to 9	94.4	95.3‡	95.4†
	10 to 12	94.2	94.7	95.1
	14 to 13	93.9	94.3	94.5
Parent's Education	Less than HS diploma	89.3	88.5	87.7
	HS graduate	90.6	93.3‡	93.6†
	Some college	95.6	95.8	95.9
	College graduate	96.8	97.1	97.4†
Household Income	< 100% FPL	91.6	93.4‡	93.3†
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	92.7	93.7‡	93.3
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	94.6	94.8	94.8
	≥ 400% FPL	97.3	97.4	97.6

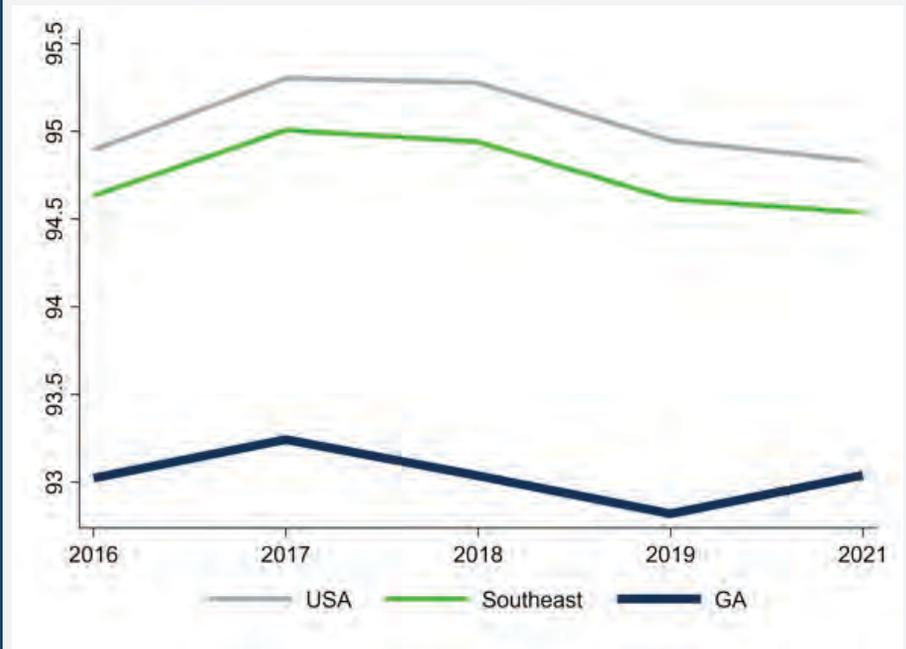
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

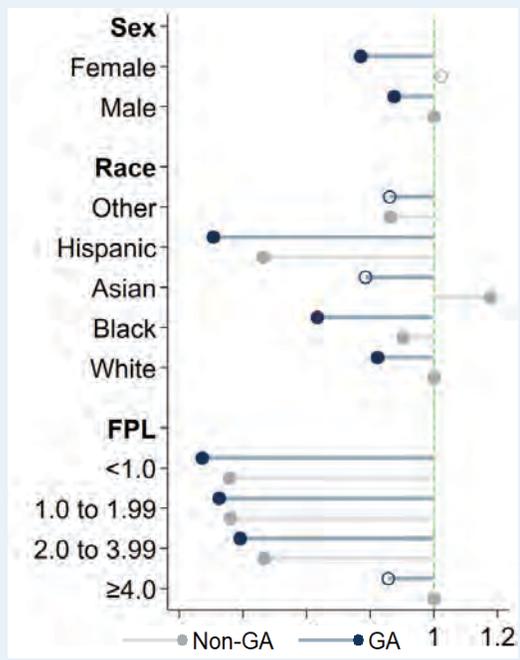
Southeast Disparities



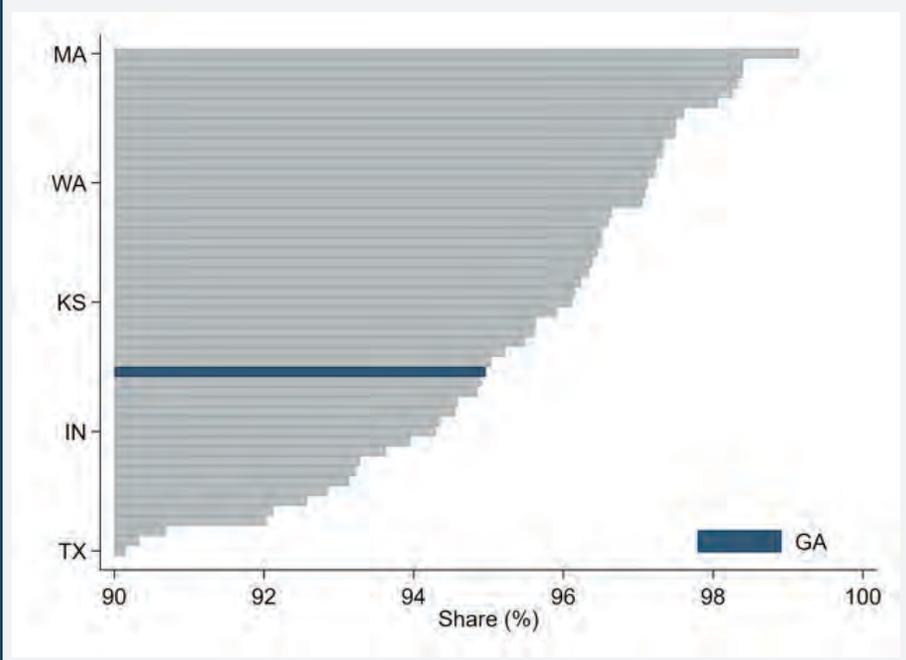
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

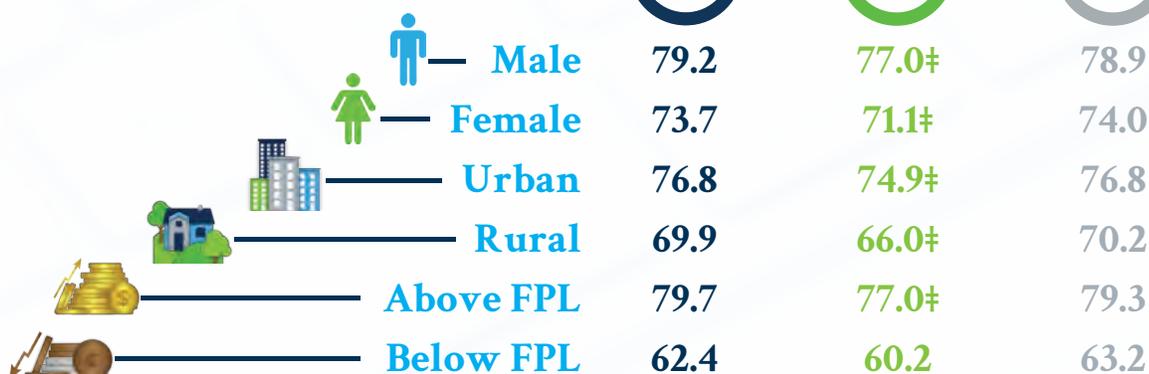
- Children in Georgia age 6 to 9 years old have lower coverage when compared with their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Children in Georgia whose parents have a high school diploma or college degree have lower health insurance enrollment rates than the rest of the U.S.
- Children's health insurance enrollments are lower in Georgia than the rest of the Southeastern region when household income falls below 200% FPL.
- In Georgia, health insurance enrollments among White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic children are lower when compared with children from the same racial/ethnic groups in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.

Physical Activity

Adults who participated in physical activities/exercises in past 30 days.

Highlights

- Three in every four adults in Georgia are physically active
- Georgia ranks 26th among U.S. states in share of adults who are physically active
- Physical activity prevalence among rural Georgians is comparable to rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have comparable physical activity prevalence compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.

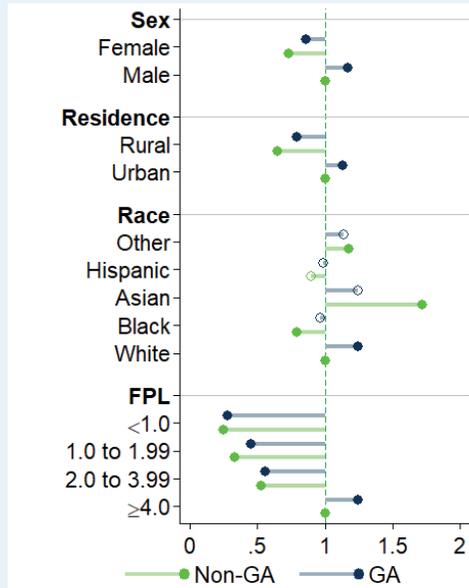


Category	Sub-category	GA (%)	SE (%)	USA (%)
Race/ Ethnicity	White	78.2	74.7†	78.1
	Black	73.5	70.3†	71.3
	Asian	78.2	82.3	82.6
	Hispanic	74.0	72.5	70.9
	Other	76.5	77.0	76.6
Age	18 to 49	82.3	79.4†	80.4†
	50 to 64	70.8	69.8	74.3†
	65+	66.5	65.7	69.0†
Education	Less than HS diploma	57.0	56.3	58.1
	HS graduate	71.0	67.6†	70.7
	Some college	80.1	76.6†	77.6†
	College graduate	86.2	85.9	87.5
Household Income	< 100% FPL	62.4	60.2	63.2
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	72.8	67.0†	63.2†
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	76.7	75.9	77.2
	≥ 400% FPL	88.0	85.9†	87.4

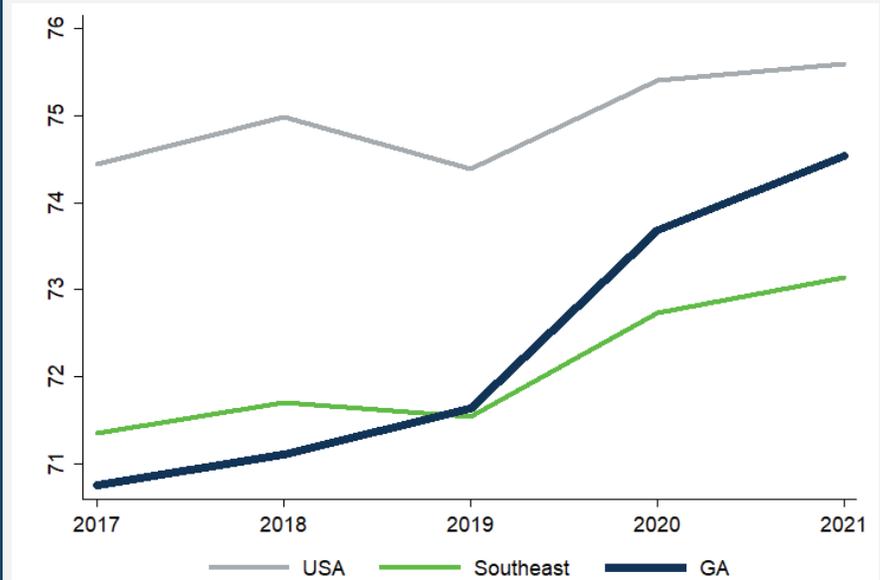
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

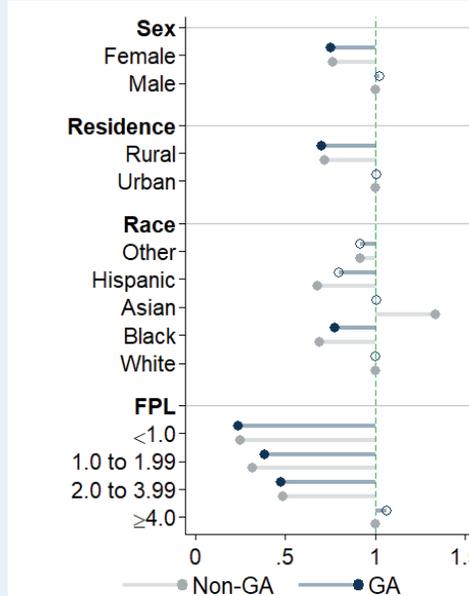
Southeast Disparities



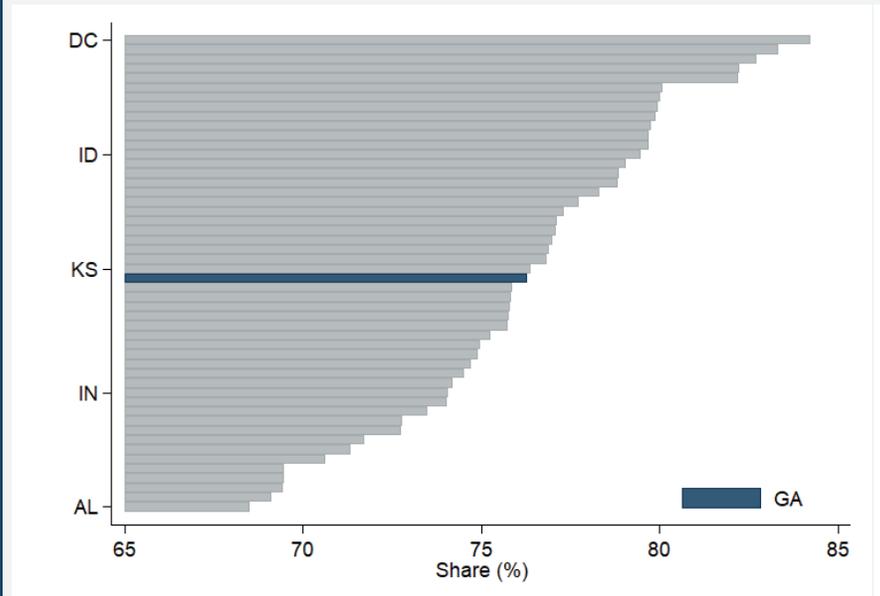
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



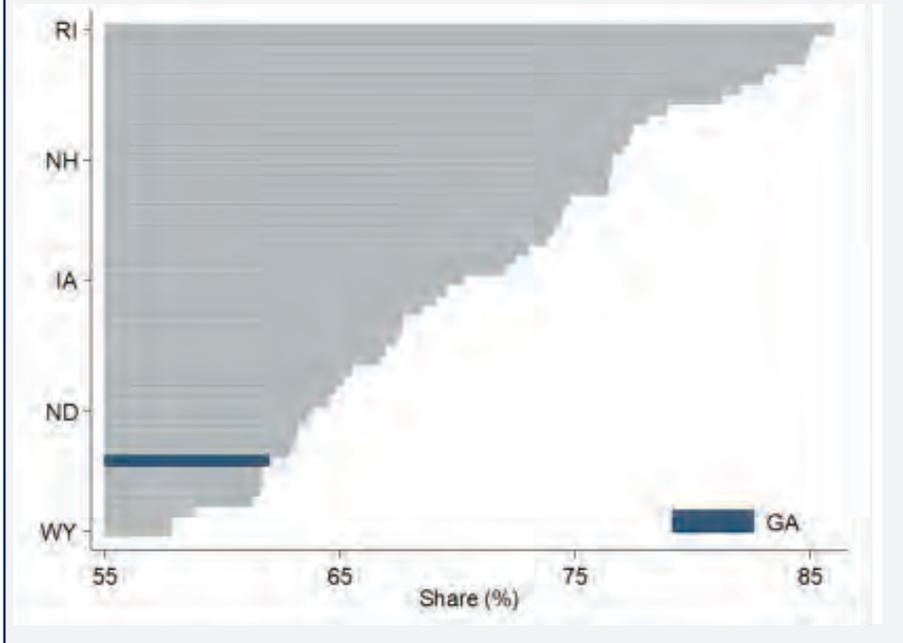
Key Findings

- Physical activity participation among adults has increased over the past five years in Georgia at a relatively higher rate compared to the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Physical activity participation declines with age. Physical activity participation is higher among younger (age 18-49 years) residents in Georgia than the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Among Georgia residents age 50 and older, participation is comparable to the rest of the Southeastern region, but lower than the rest of the U.S.
- Physical activity participation increases as education levels increase. In Georgia, just over half of residents with less than a high school diploma report participating in physical activity within the past 30 days, while 86% of college graduates report participating in physical activity.
- Physical activity participation increases as income increases. While just over 60% of individuals with incomes below the FPL report physical activity within the past 30 days, more than 88% of those at 400% of the FPL report physical activity.

COVID-19 Vaccination – Adults

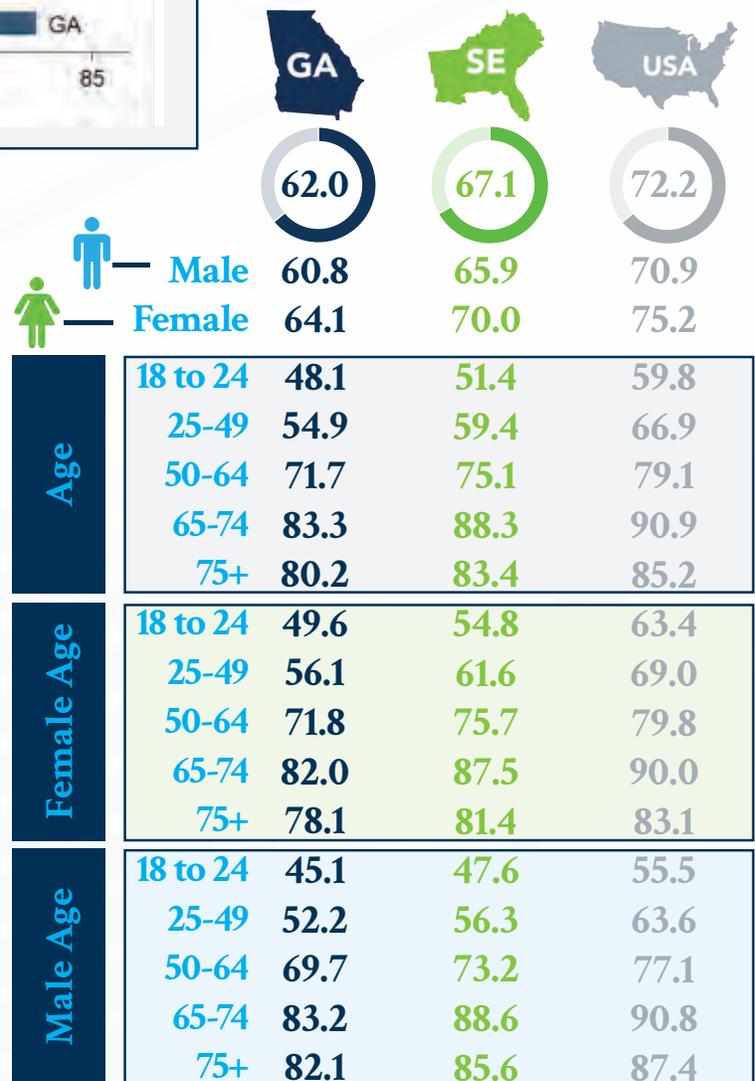
Cumulative vaccination rate among adults 18 years or older.

Distribution by State



Highlights

- Nearly three in every five adults in Georgia received a COVID-19 vaccine
- Georgia ranks 44th among U.S. states in share of adults who received a COVID-19 vaccine
- Georgia ranks 7th in the Southeastern region in share of adults who received a COVID-19 vaccine



Key Findings

- COVID-19 vaccination rates in Georgia are lower than vaccination rates in the Southeastern region and the U.S. as a whole.
- COVID-19 vaccination rates increase with age. COVID-19 vaccination rates in Georgia are lower than the rest of the U.S. across all age groups.

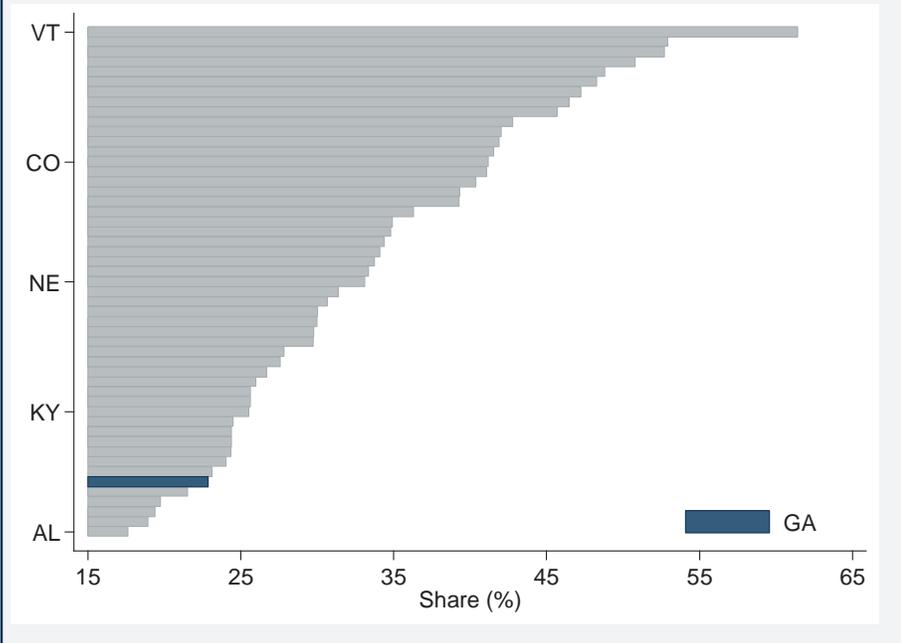
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

COVID-19 Vaccination – Child

Cumulative vaccination rate among children aged 5 to 17 years.

Distribution by State

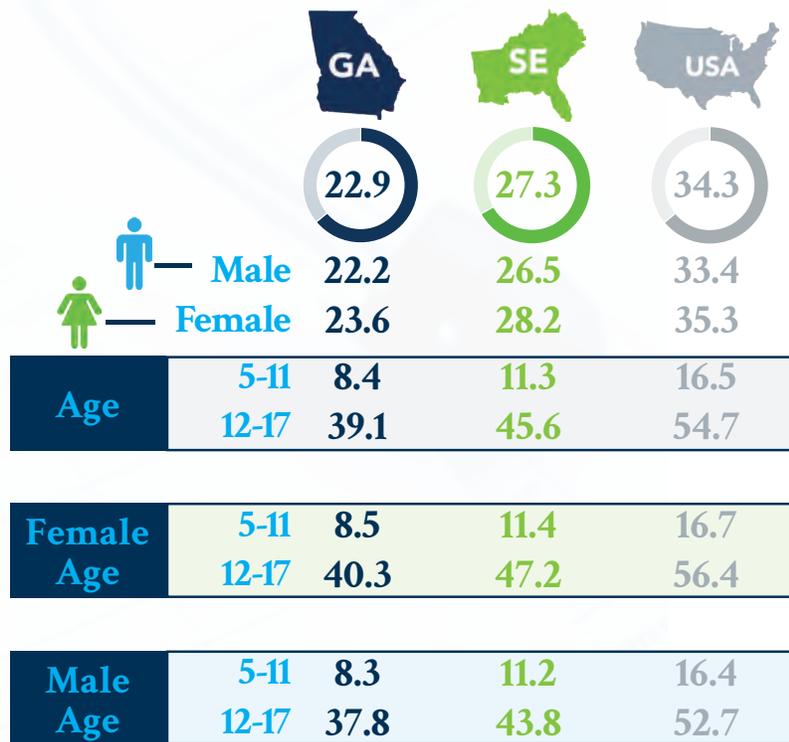


Highlights

- Around one in every five children in Georgia received a COVID-19 vaccine
- Georgia ranks 46th among U.S. states in share of children who received a COVID-19 vaccine
- Georgia ranks 8th in the Southeastern region in share of children who received a COVID-19 vaccine

Key Findings

- For children in Georgia, COVID-19 vaccination rates are lower than the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.

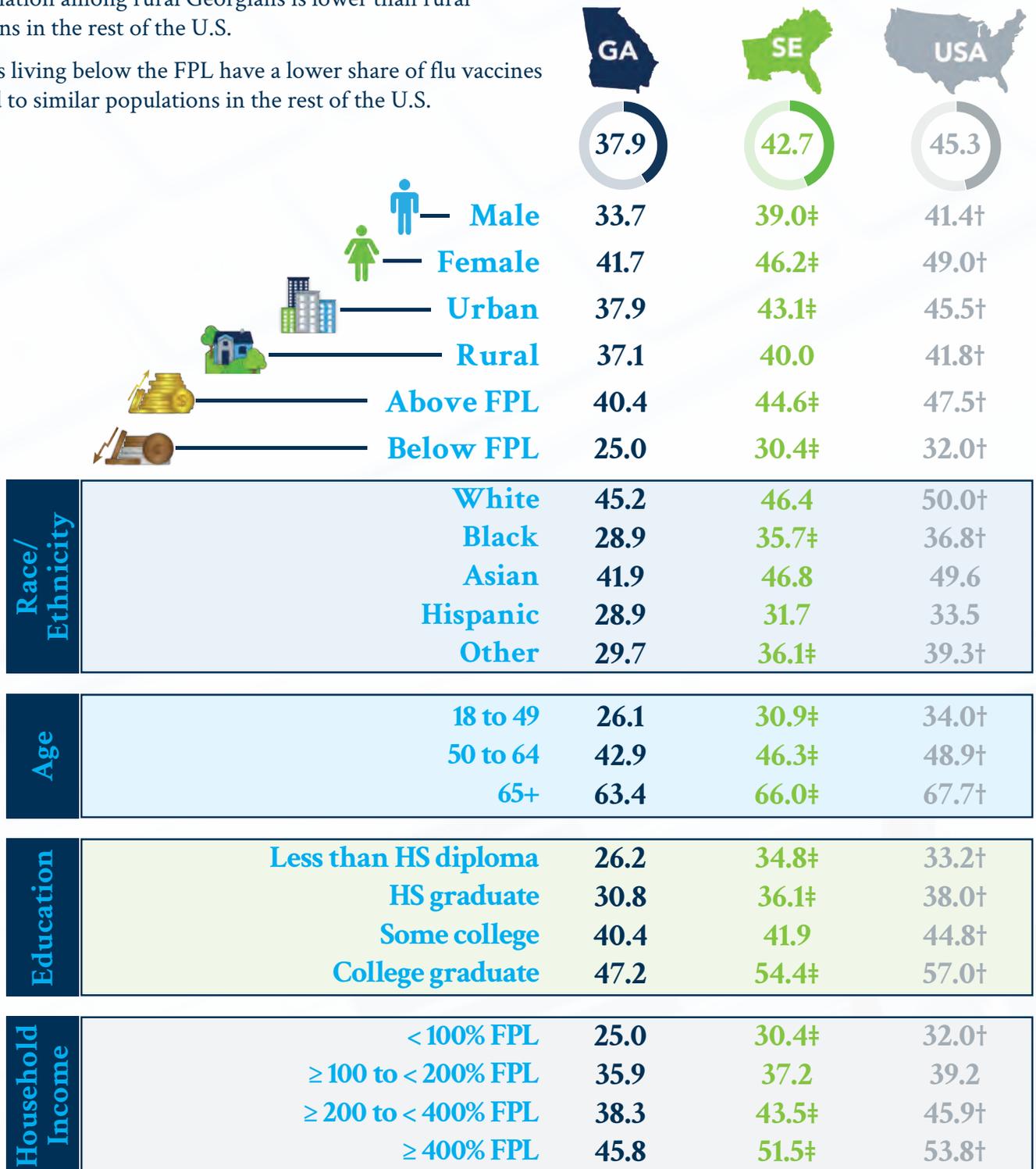


Vaccination – Flu

Adults inoculated with flu vaccine in past 12 months.

Highlights

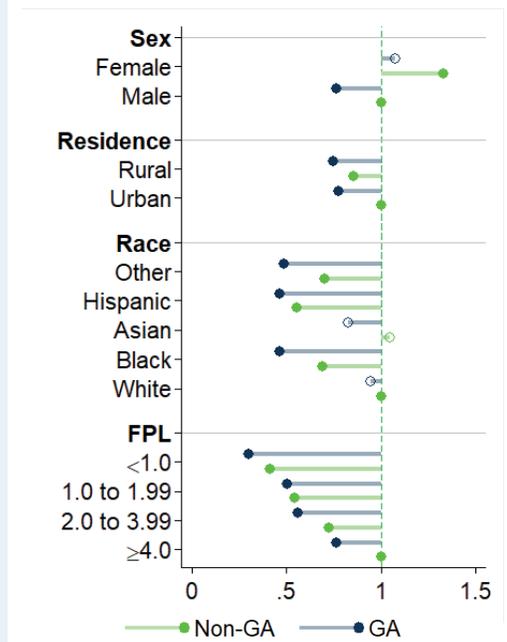
- Around four in every 10 adults in Georgia received a flu vaccine
- Georgia ranks 48th among U.S. states in share of adults receiving a flu vaccine
- Flu vaccination among rural Georgians is lower than rural populations in the rest of the U.S.
- Georgians living below the FPL have a lower share of flu vaccines compared to similar populations in the rest of the U.S.



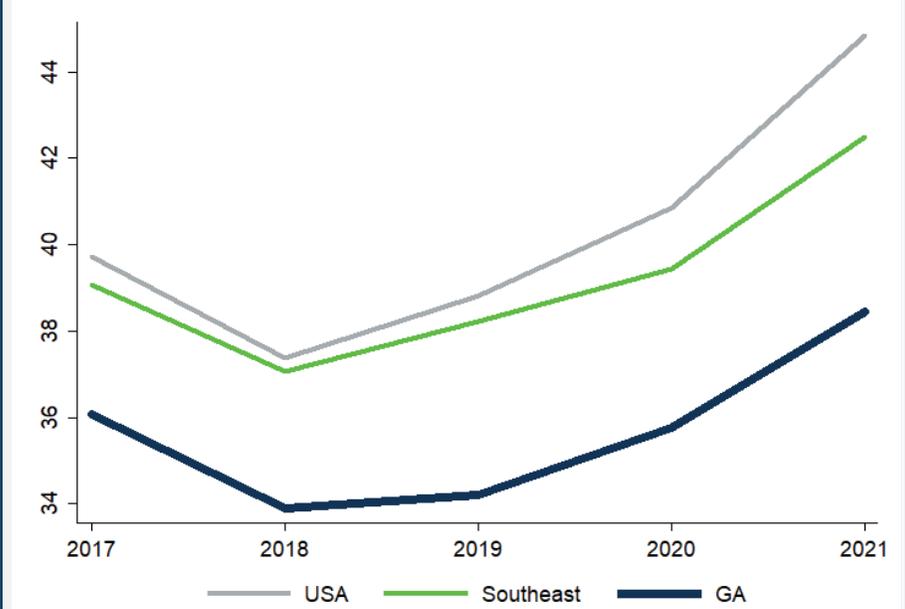
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

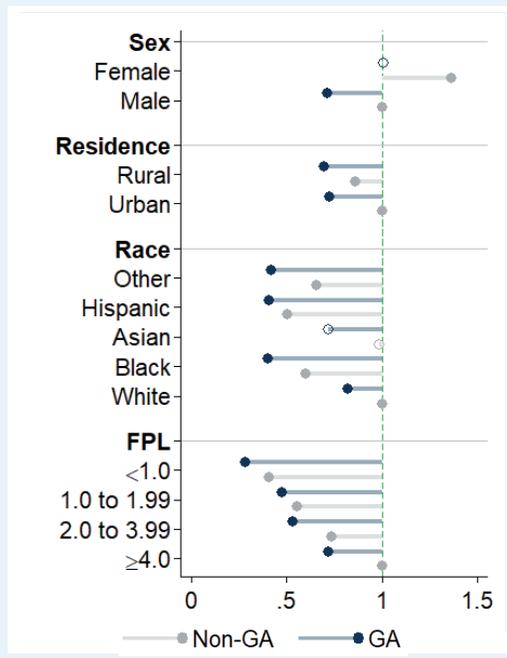
Southeast Disparities



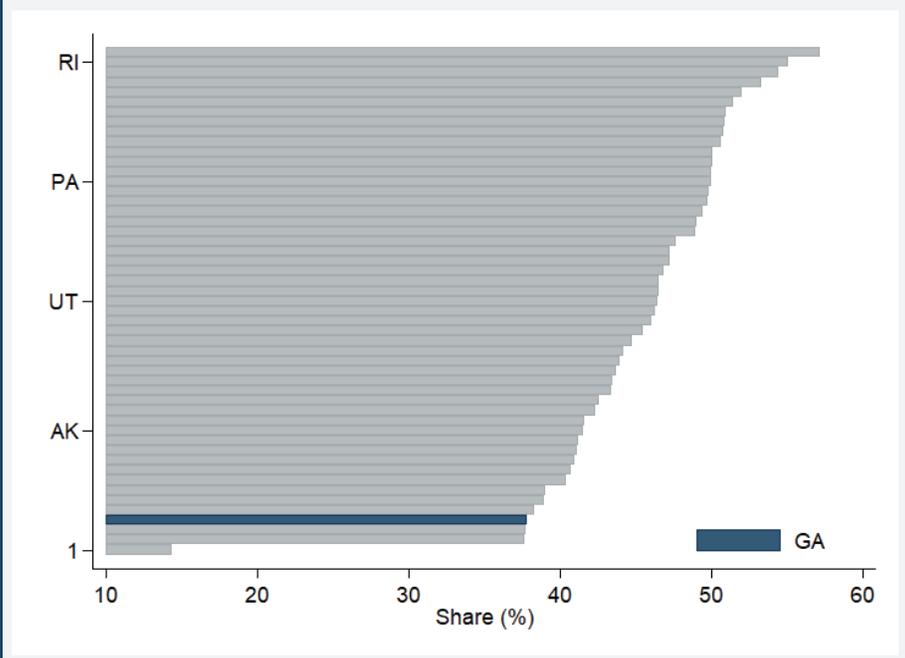
Trend



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

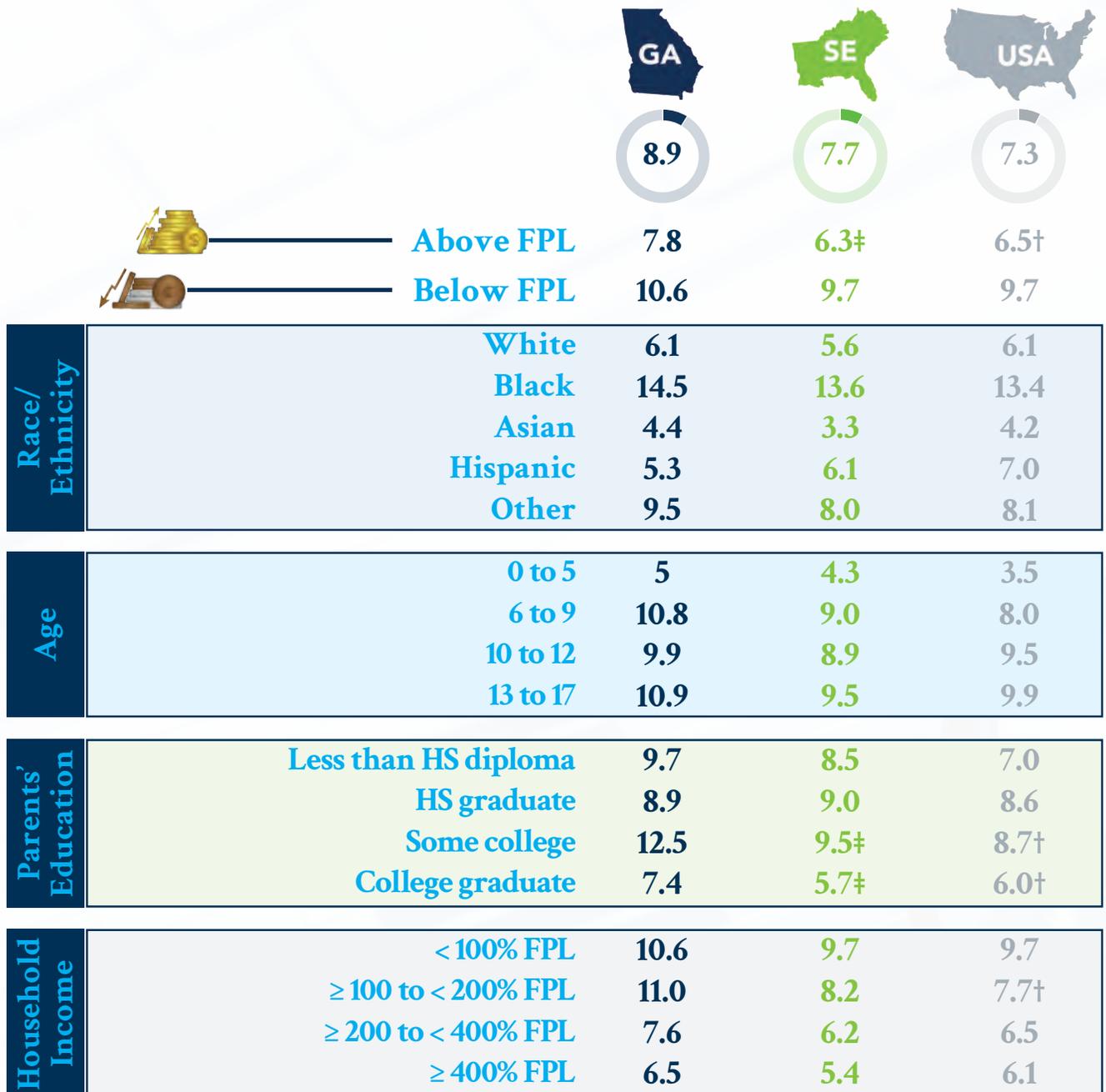
- Flu vaccination rates are higher among adults age 65+ years. This pattern is similar in the Southeastern region and the U.S., though rates in Georgia are lower regardless of age group.
- Flu vaccination rates increase as education levels increase. Similar patterns are true across the country, but Georgia's rates are lower than both the Southeastern region and U.S. as a whole regardless of education level.
- Flu vaccination rates increase as income levels increase. While similar patterns are found across the country, Georgia's rates are lower than both the Southeastern region and U.S. as a whole regardless of income level.

Child Health - Asthma

Children who currently have asthma (as told by health care providers).

Highlights

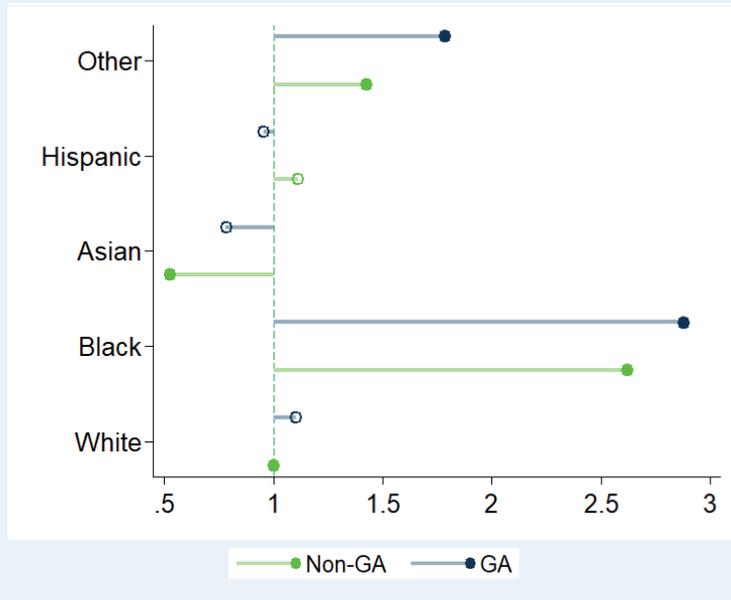
- Around one in every eleven children in Georgia has asthma
- Georgia ranks 7th among U.S. states in share of children with asthma
- Children in Georgia living below the FPL have comparable asthma prevalence compared to children in the rest of the U.S.



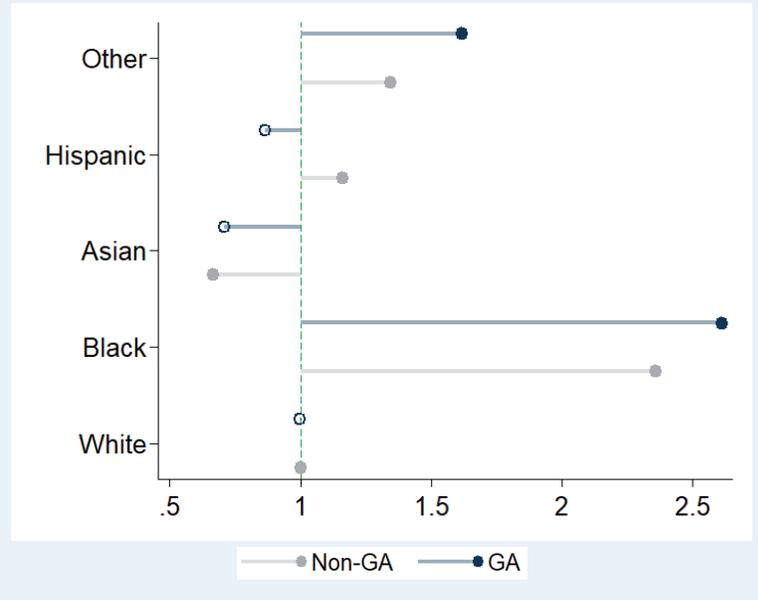
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

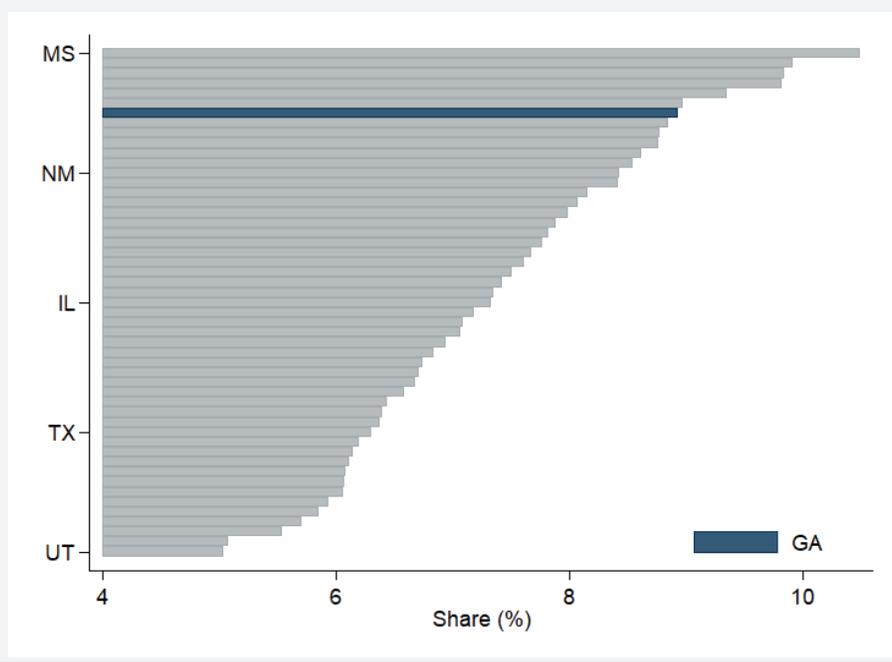
Southeast Disparities



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

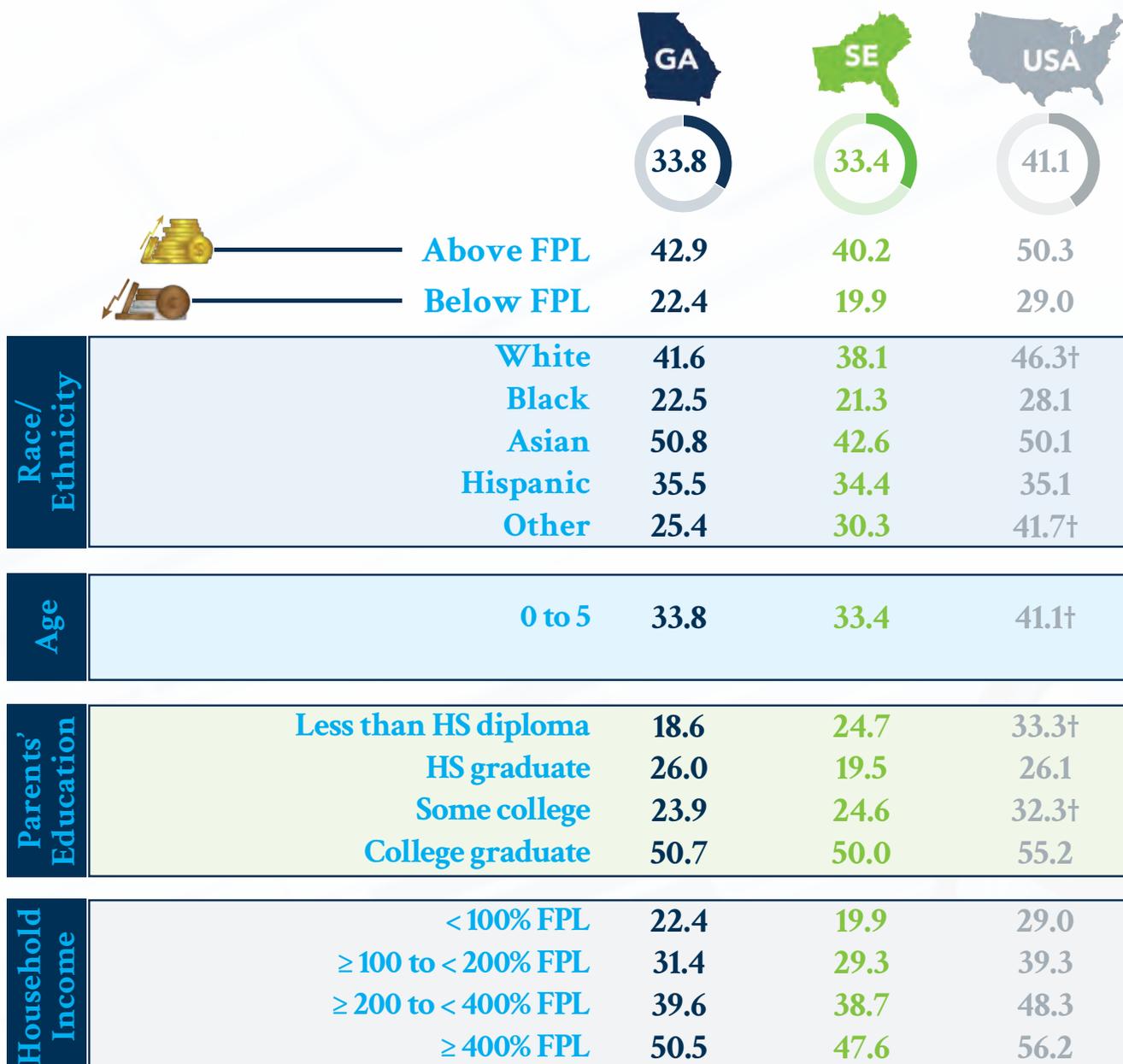
- Prevalence of asthma among children in Georgia is higher than the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Among children whose parents have at least some college education, rates of asthma are significantly higher in Georgia compared to rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Rates of asthma are significantly higher in Black children than in White children in Georgia. This pattern is similar in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.

Child Health - Breastfeeding

Proportion of children aged 0-5 years who were breastfed for at least 6 months.

Highlights

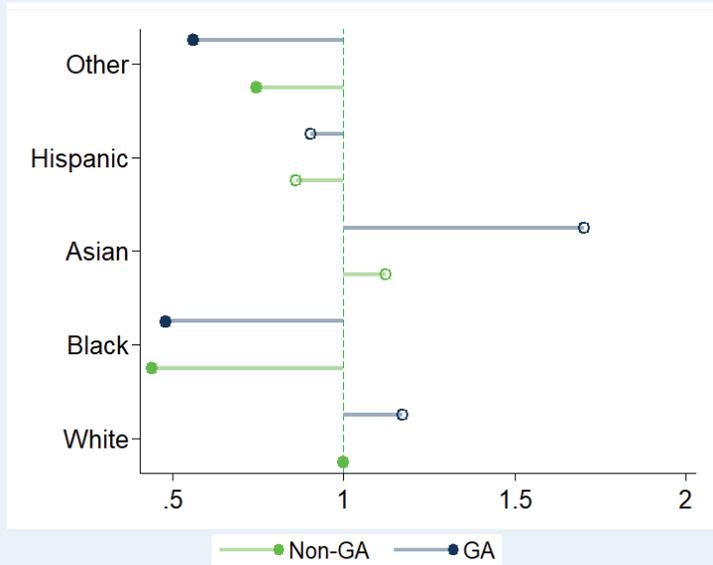
- Around one in every three children in Georgia are breastfed
- Georgia ranks 41st among U.S. states in share of children who are breastfed
- Children in Georgia living below the FPL have comparable prevalence of being breastfed to children in the rest of the U.S.



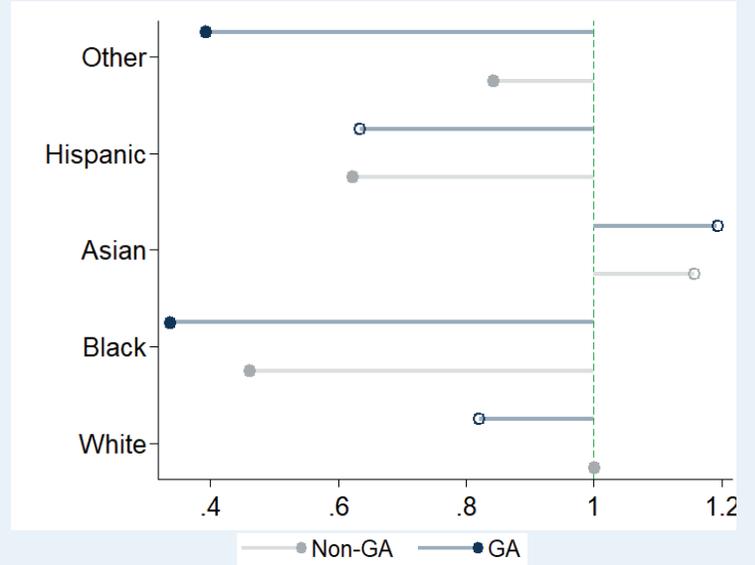
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

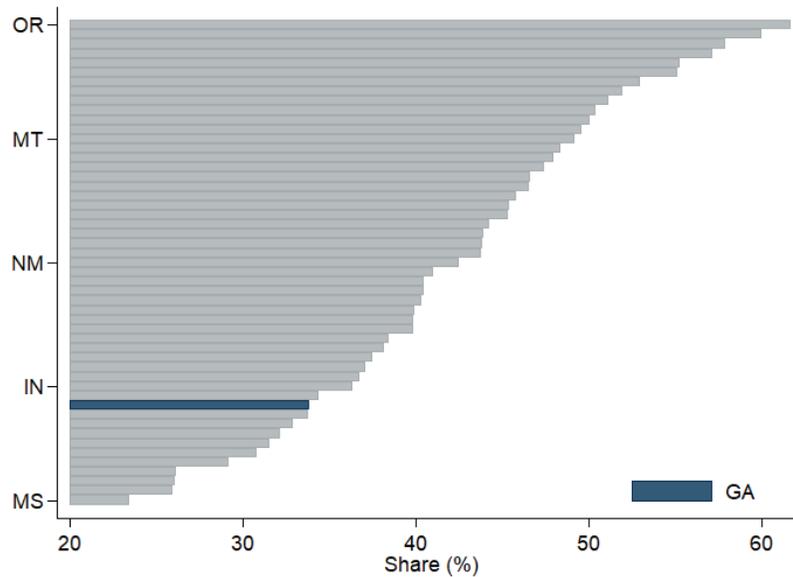
Southeast Disparities



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

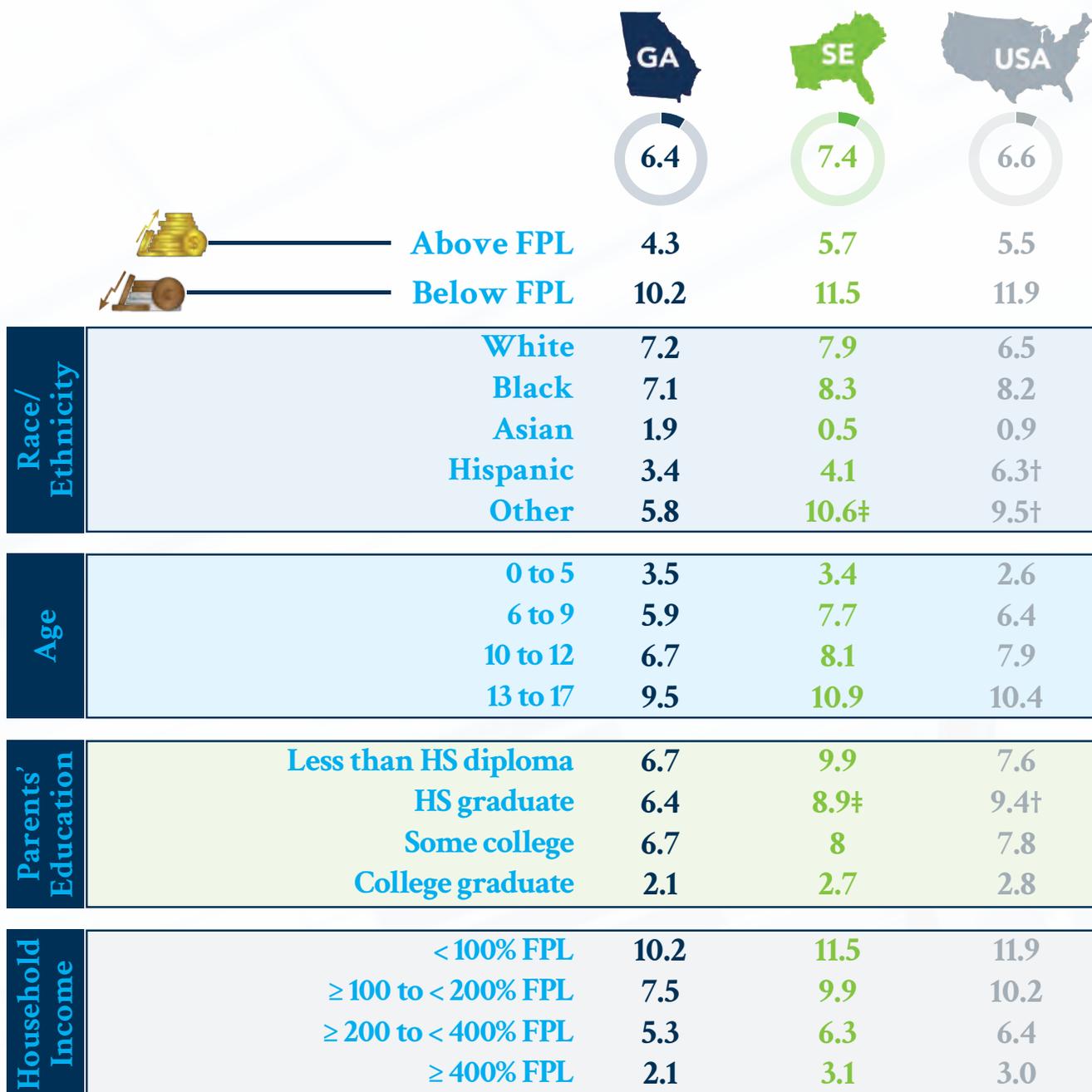
- Significantly fewer Georgia infants are breastfed to 6 months when compared to the rest of the U.S. The Georgia average is, however, comparable to the Southeastern region.
- On average, White infants in Georgia are breastfed at significantly lower rates than their U.S. counterparts.
- Black infants in Georgia are breastfed at much lower rates than White, Asian, and Hispanic infants in Georgia. The lower rates among Black infants in Georgia, however, are comparable to the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- While breastfeeding rates for college graduate parents in Georgia are comparable to the rest of the U.S., the rates are significantly lower among parents in Georgia without a high school diploma compared to the rest of the U.S.
- Lower income individuals in Georgia have lower rates of breastfeeding, similar to their counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.

Child Health - Maltreatment

Children aged 5 to 17 years who experience 3 or more ACEs.

Highlights

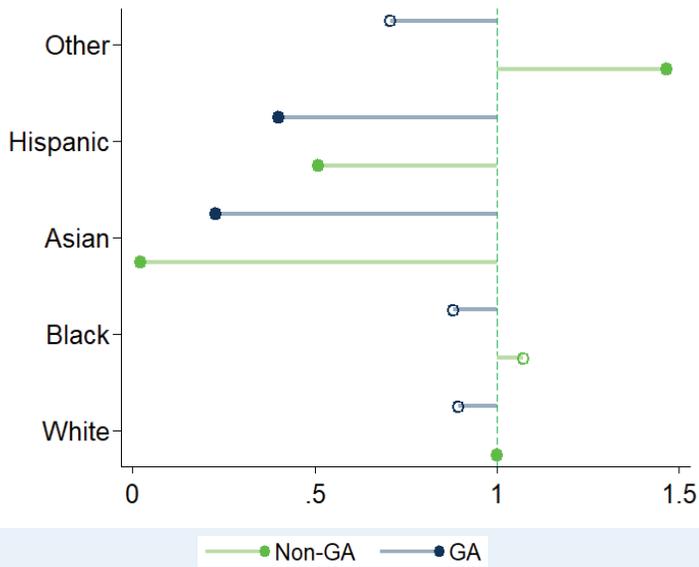
- Around one in every 16 children in Georgia experience 3+ ACEs
- Georgia ranks 37th among U.S. states in share of children who experience 3+ ACEs
- Children in Georgia living below the FPL have comparable prevalence of 3+ ACEs exposure compared to children in the rest of the U.S.



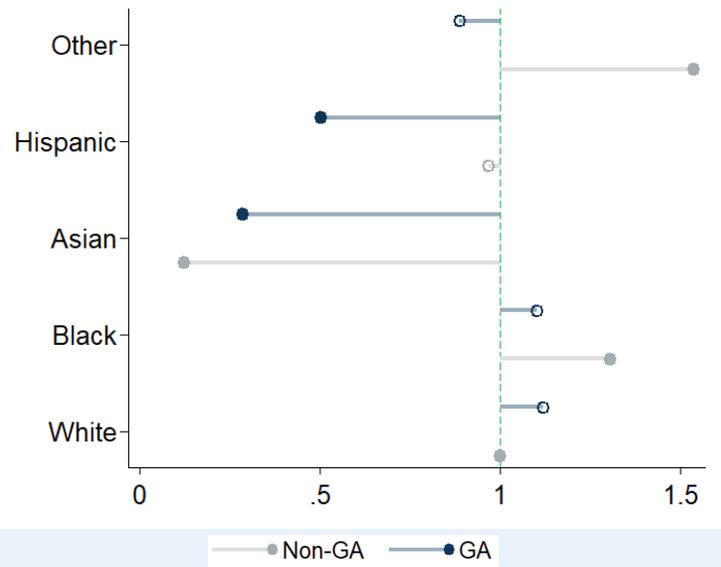
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

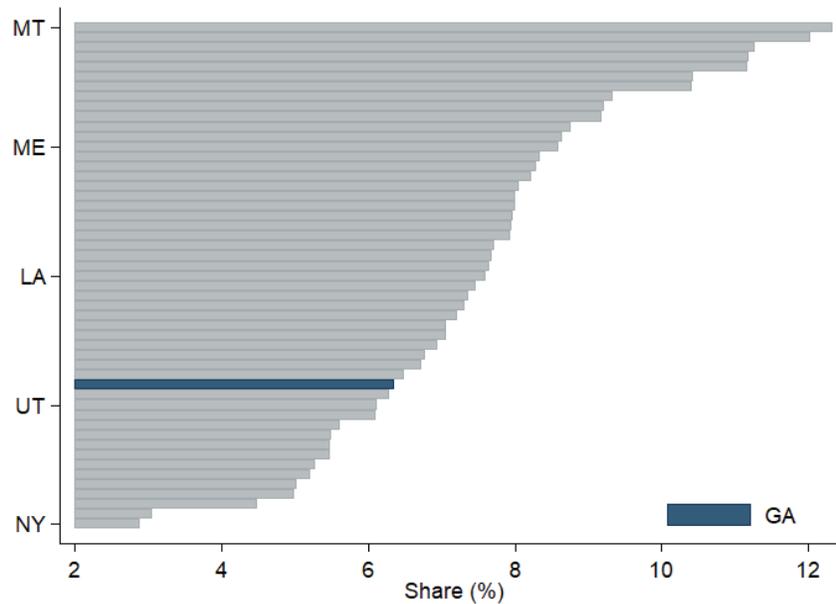
Southeast Disparities



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

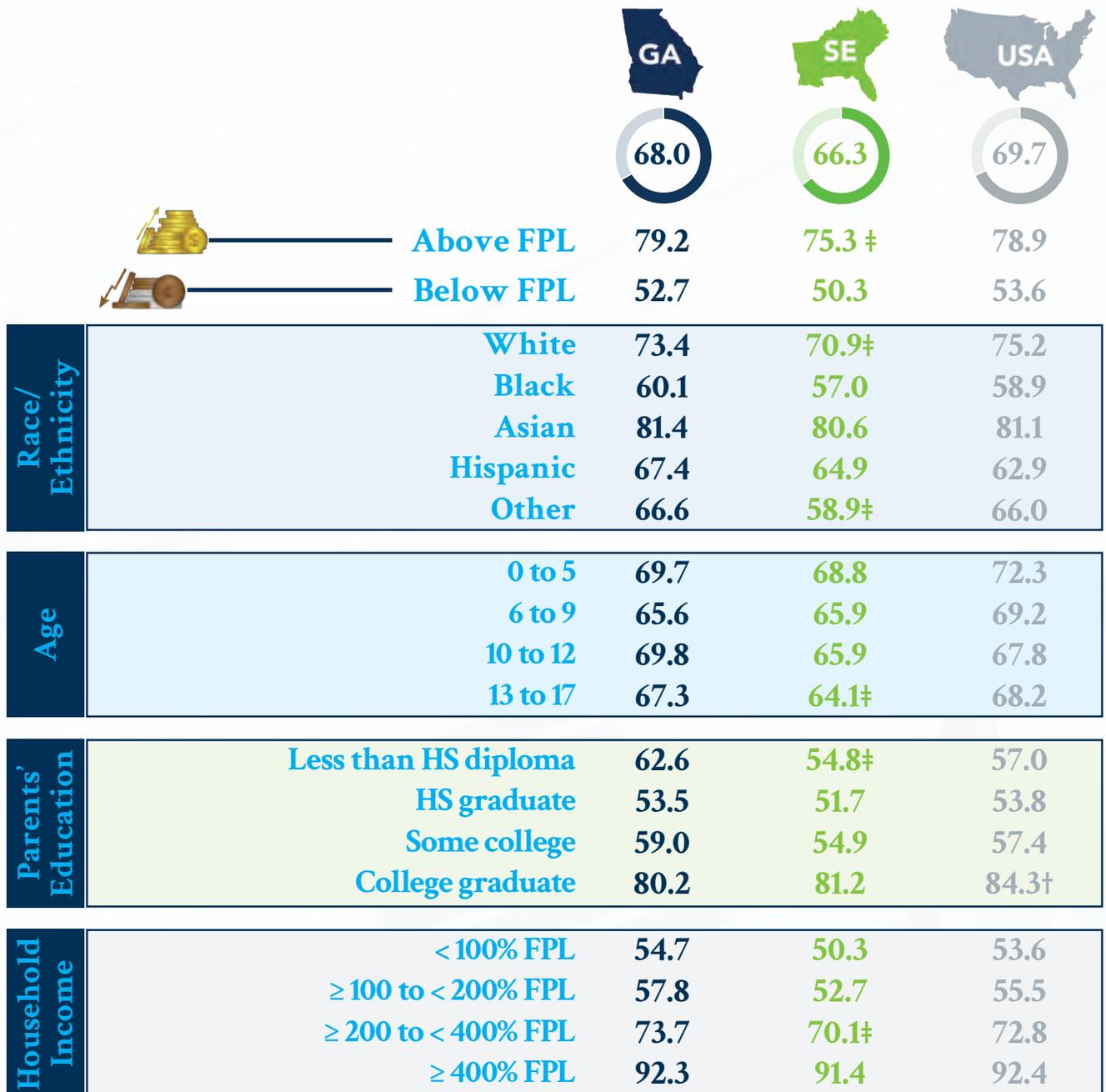
- The rate of experiencing 3+ ACEs among children in Georgia is comparable to the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- The rate of experiencing 3+ ACEs is greater among children in households with income less than 200% FPL across Georgia, the Southeastern region and the U.S.
- The rate of experiencing 3+ ACEs among Hispanic children in Georgia is lower than their counterparts in the rest of the U.S.
- Asian children in Georgia are less likely to experience 3+ ACEs compared to White and Black children in Georgia. This pattern is similar in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.

Child Health - Nutrition

Children who have always accessed nutritious meals in past 12 months.

Highlights

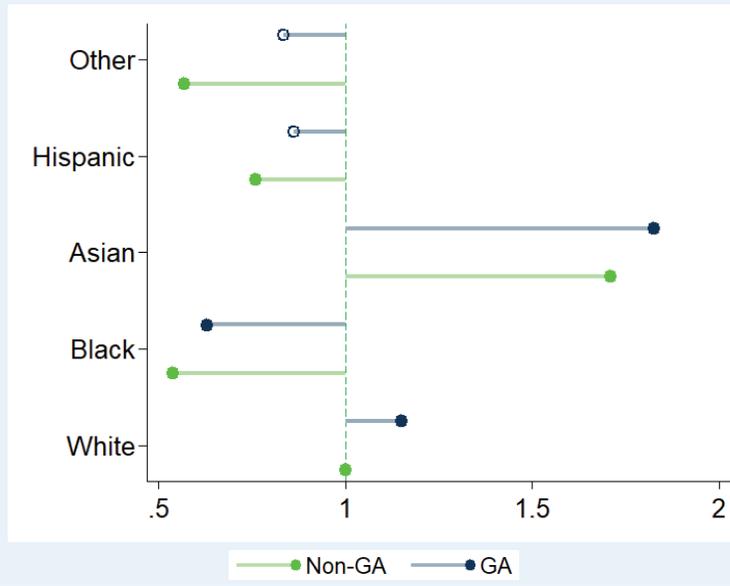
- Around two in every three children in Georgia have access to nutritious meals
- Georgia ranks 31st among U.S. states in share of children with access to nutritious meals
- Children in Georgia living below the FPL have comparable access to nutritious meals compared to children in the rest of the U.S.



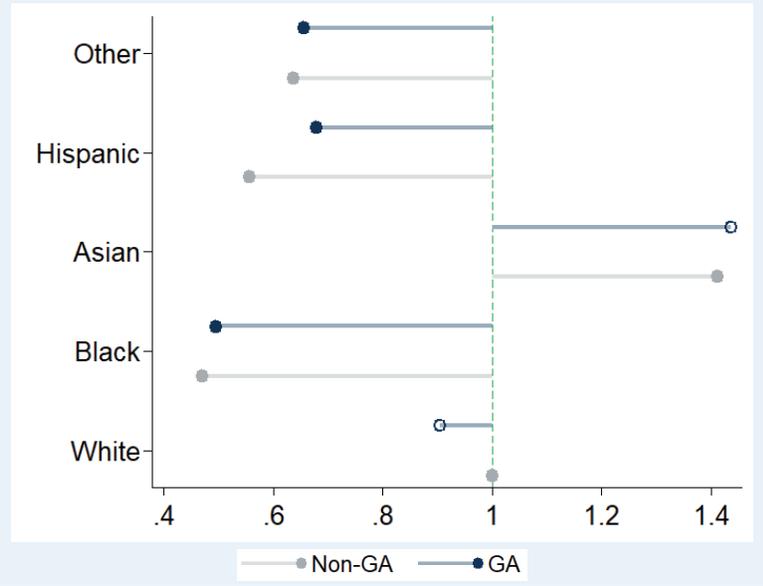
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

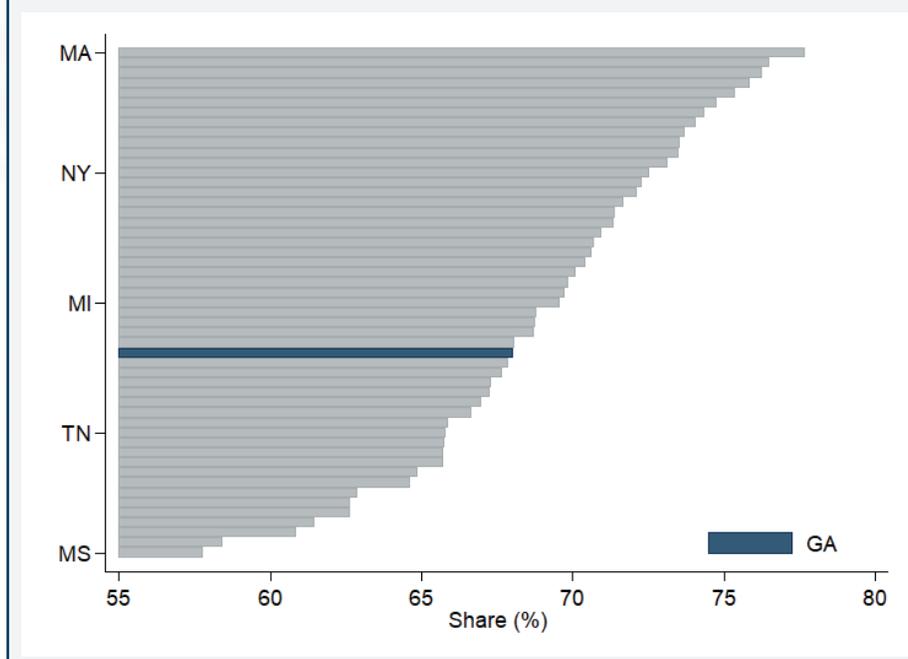
Southeast Disparities



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

- Rates of access to nutritious meals in Georgia are comparable to the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Likelihood of accessing nutritious meals among Black, Asian, and Hispanic children in Georgia is comparable to their respective counterparts in the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region.
- White children in Georgia, however, have a higher likelihood of accessing nutritious meals compared to their counterparts in the rest of the Southeastern region.
- Access to nutritious meals among children in Georgia whose parents have less than a college degree is comparable to the rest of the U.S. as a whole.
- Access to nutritious meals among children in Georgia whose parents have at least a college degree is lower than the U.S. as a whole.

Child Health - Obesity

BMI ≥ 95th percentile for children, aged 10 to 17 years.

Highlights

- Around one in every six children in Georgia is considered obese
- Georgia ranks 19th among U.S. states in share of children with obesity
- Children in Georgia living below the FPL have comparable obesity prevalence compared to children in the rest of the U.S.

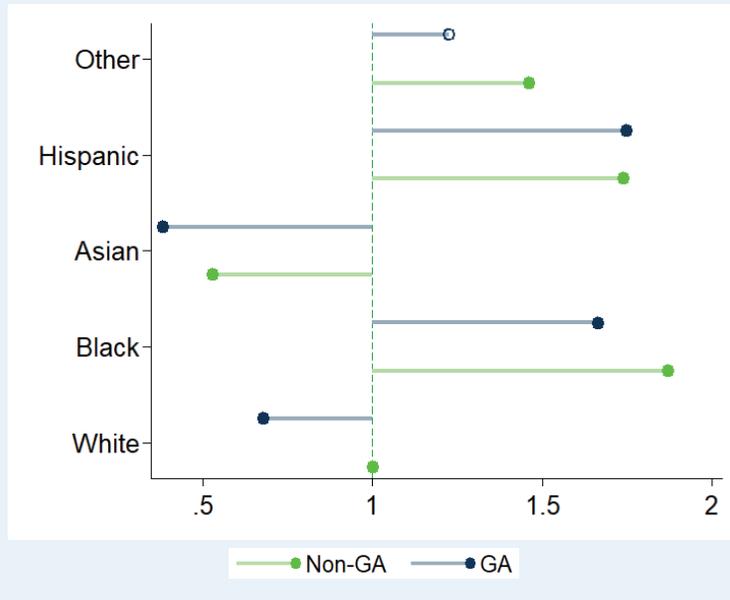


		GA	SE	USA
Race/ Ethnicity	White	10.6	14.3 [‡]	12.3
	Black	22.4	24.1	22.9
	Asian	6.2	8.0	7.7
	Hispanic	23.3	23.2	21.0
	Other	17.5	19.9	17.9
Age	0 to 5	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6 to 9	N/A	N/A	N/A
	10 to 12	19.1	20.7	17.8
	13 to 17	14.5	16.7	15.1
Parents' Education	Less than HS diploma	22.3	24.3	23.3
	HS graduate	20.5	23.8	21.9
	Some college	22.2	22.0	18.4
	College graduate	10.5	11.3	9.8
Household Income	< 100% FPL	17.6	19.1	16.8
	≥ 100 to < 200% FPL	11.6	17.1	13.8
	≥ 200 to < 400% FPL	10.5	12.9	10.6
	≥ 400% FPL	6.8	7.6	6.3

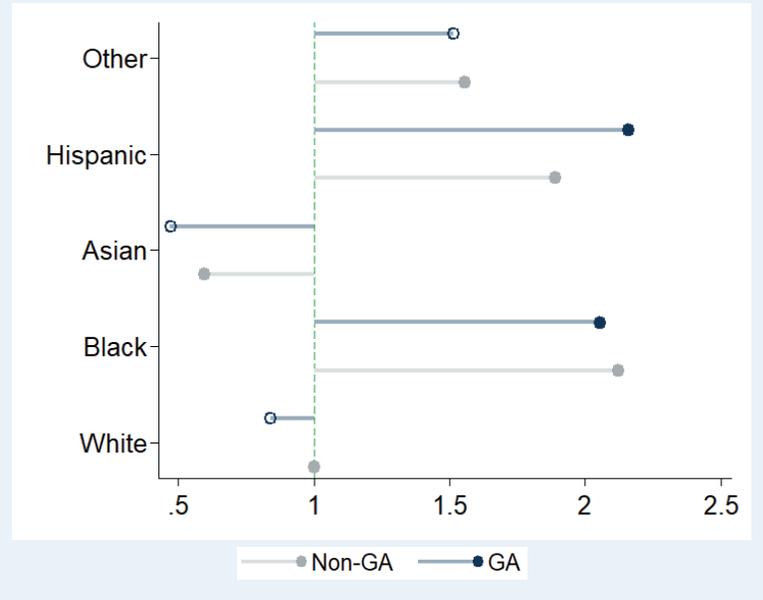
[†] US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

[‡] SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

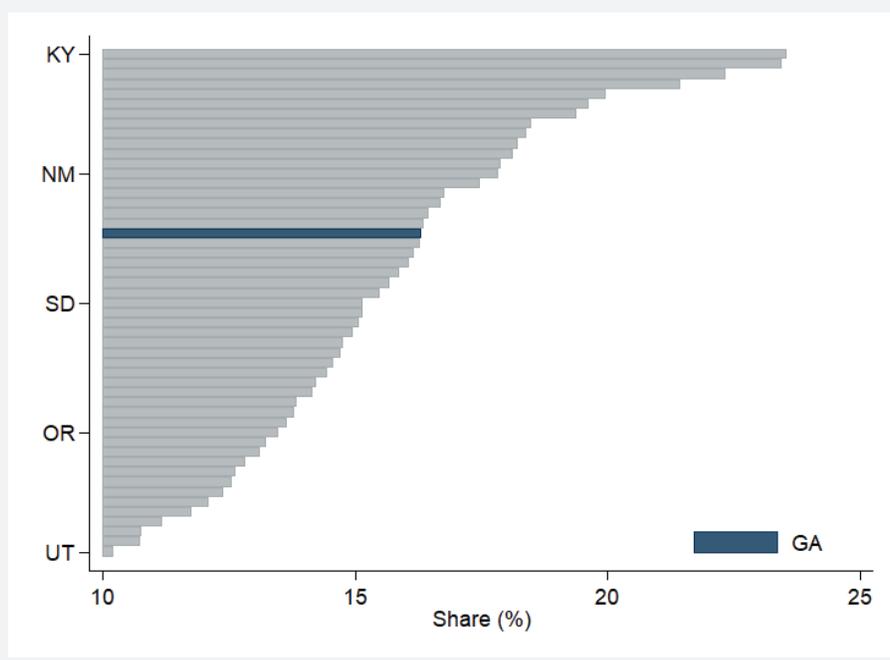
Southeast Disparities



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

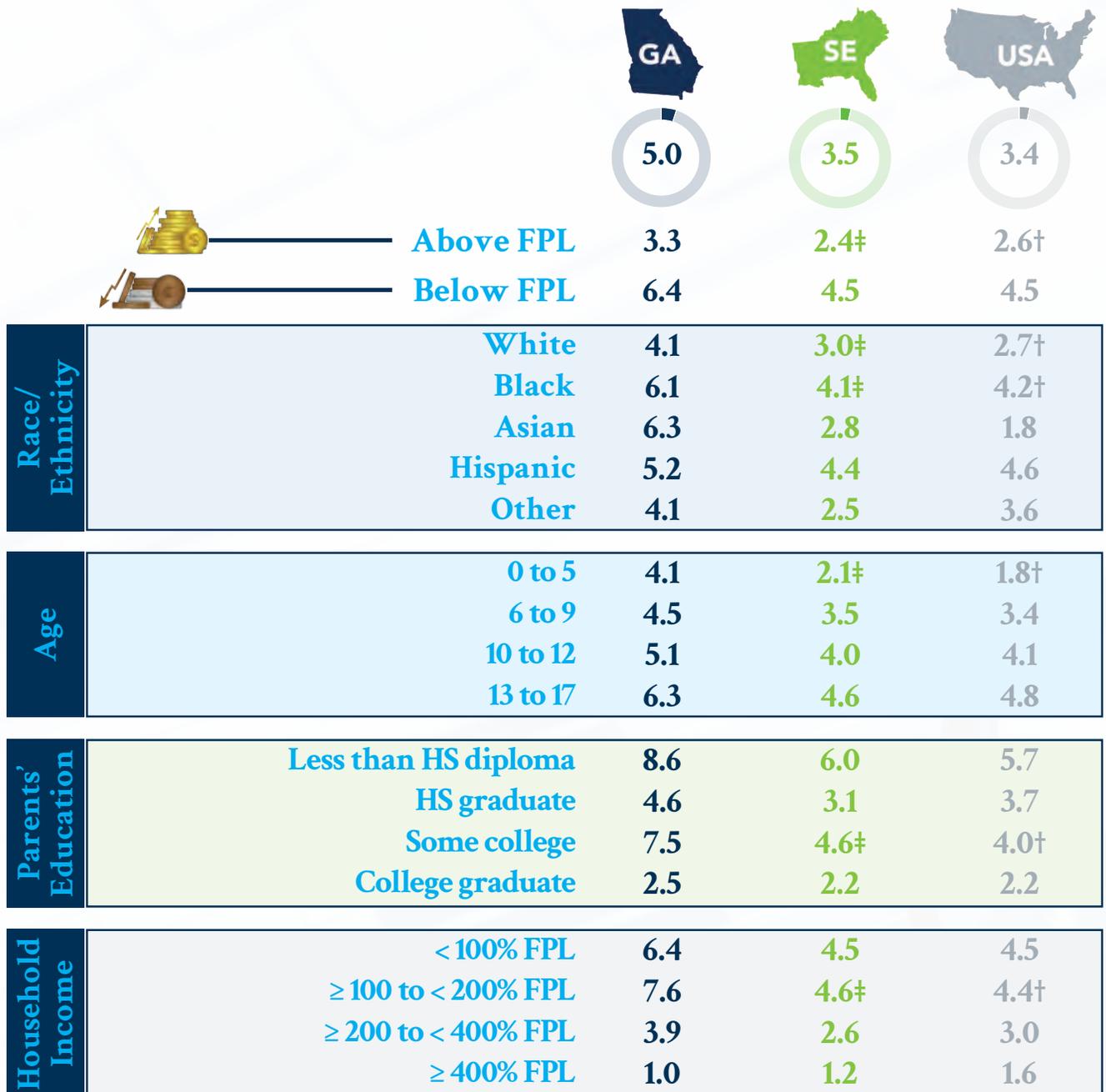
- Childhood obesity prevalence in Georgia is comparable to the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- There are significant racial/ethnic disparities in obesity rates, with the highest rates among Hispanic and Black children compared to White children. These patterns are similar in Georgia and in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- Obesity among children is higher in households with lower income levels as well as lower parental educational attainment.

Child Health - Unmet Health Care Needs

Children aged 0 to 17 years who did not receive needed health care during the past 12 months.

Highlights

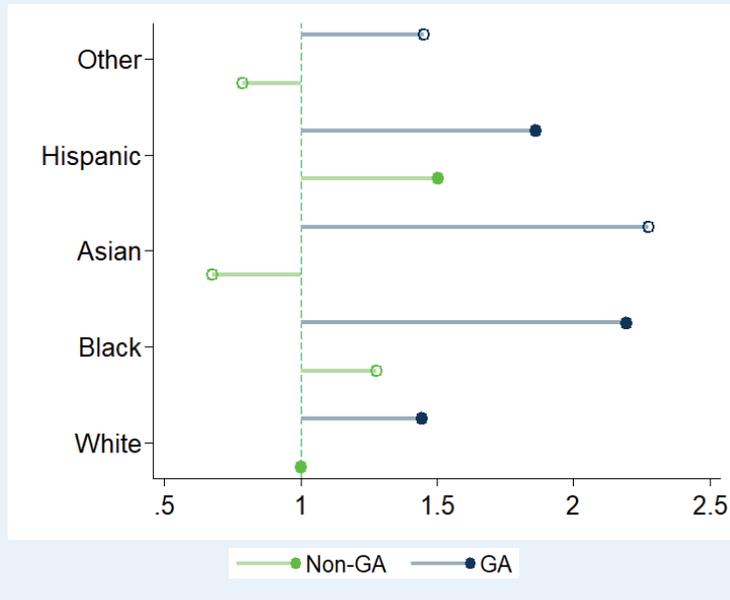
- One in every 20 children in Georgia has unmet health care needs
- Georgia ranks 3rd among U.S. states in share of children with unmet health care needs
- Children in Georgia living below the FPL have higher prevalence of unmet health care needs compared to children in the rest of the U.S.



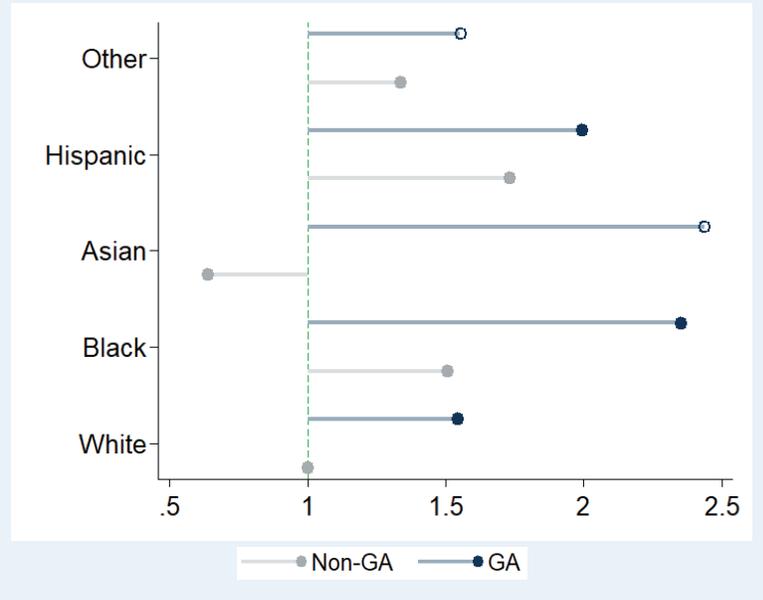
† US prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

‡ SE prevalence is statistically different from GA prevalence

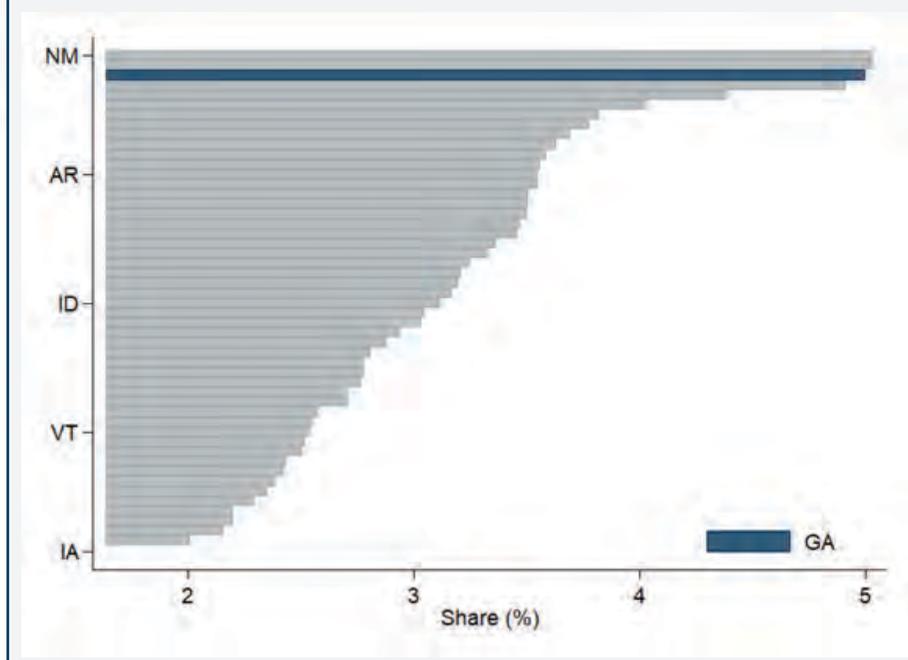
Southeast Disparities



U.S. Disparities



Distribution by State



Key Findings

- Children in Georgia have a significantly higher rate of unmet health care needs compared to the rest of the U.S. and the Southeastern region.
- While the rates of unmet needs among children age 6+ years in Georgia are comparable to the respective rates in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region, the rates among children aged 0 to 5 years are significantly higher.
- Children living at 100-200% FPL are more likely to have unmet health care needs than children in similar households in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.
- White and Black children living in Georgia are 1.5-2 times more likely to have unmet health care needs when compared to White and Black children living in the rest of the U.S. and Southeastern region.

Technical Appendix

Data

We analyzed the 2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to report findings for chronic conditions, noncommunicable diseases, behavioral health, and preventive health. Of note, the BRFSS 2021 provides data on all U.S. states and the District of Columbia, except Florida. We analyzed data from the National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) to report findings on pediatric health. We pooled data from the 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 waves of the NSCH.. For health insurance coverage, we abstracted data from the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data. Lastly, we obtained COVID-19 vaccination data from the COVID Data Tracker website of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Sample size

Our sample size for respective topics are as follows:

	Topic	GA	Southeast	USA	Data Source
1	High Cholesterol	8,111	69,010	428,549	BRFSS 2021
2	Hypertension	8,137	69,227	429,753	
3	Obesity	7,076	62,508	385,204	
4	Arthritis	8,144	69,088	428,812	
5	Asthma	8,155	69,250	429,914	
6	Cancer	8,157	69,287	430,297	
7	CVD	8,177	69,446	431,282	
8	COPD	8,147	69,180	429,564	
9	Diabetes	8,167	69,357	430,680	
10	Heavy Drinking	7,250	63,503	397,033	
11	Smoking	7,444	65,184	406,873	
12	Depressive Disorders	8,123	69,111	429,148	
13	Physical Activity	8,169	69,364	430,714	
14	Flu Shot	7,341	64,265	401,835	
15	Child Nutritious Meal Access	3,739	38,979	171,243	NSCH 2017-2021
16	Child Obesity	1,906	19,227	82,869	
17	Child Asthma	3,819	39,580	173,584	
18	Child Breastfeeding	1,033	11,256	49,118	
19	Child Unmet Medical Care	3,828	39,865	174,595	
20	Child 3+ ACE Exposure	3,847	40,020	175,231	CDC
21	COVID-19 Vaccination - Adult	-	-	-	
22	COVID-19 Vaccination - Child	-	-	-	ACS 2021
23	Insurance Coverage - Adult	77,859	674,421	2,624,206	
24	Insurance coverage - Child	19,245	153,681	628,393	

Sociodemographic domains

Race/ethnicity: White, Black, and Asian refer to self-identified non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, and non-Hispanic Asian respondents respectively. The “other” category includes American Indian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, multiracial and other.

Residence: The BRFSS reports whether the respondent resides in an urban or rural county. Urban refers to large central, large fringe, medium, or small metropolitan, or micropolitan counties. Rural refers to noncore counties. Rural/urban determination was not available in the NSCH and ACS 1-Year data.

Household income: BRFSS reports household income in 11 categories as follows: i) < \$10,000; ii) \$10,000 to < \$15,000; iii) \$15,000 to < \$20,000; iv) \$20,000 to < \$25,000; v) \$25,000 to < \$35,000; vi) \$35,000 to < \$50,000; vii) \$50,000 to < \$75,000; viii) \$75,000 to < \$100,000; ix) \$100,000 to < \$150,000; x) \$150,000 to < \$200,000; and xi) \$200,000 or more. The percentage of income in relation to the federal poverty level (FPL) was determined as follows: Suppose a respondent's household income was reported as \$20,000 to \$24,999. The midpoint of this category, \$22,500, was considered as the imputed income level¹. The family size was determined by adding the number of children and number of adults in the household. For a family size of four (for example, two children and two adults), the federal poverty level threshold in 2021 was \$26,500 (except for Alaska and Hawaii). The income to poverty level ratio for this household would be $(\$22,500/\$26,500) \times 100\%$ or 84.91%. Of note, midpoint for the top income category, i.e., income \geq \$200,000, was assumed to be \$225,000.

Measures

Topic	Definition
High Cholesterol	Ever told to have high blood cholesterol.
Hypertension	Ever told to have high blood pressure.
Obesity	Obesity is defined as Body Mass Index (BMI) \geq 30.00 kg/m ² .
Arthritis	Ever told to have some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia.
Asthma	Have asthma at the time of the survey.
Cancer	Ever told to have any types of cancer other than skin cancer.
CVD	Ever told to have coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction, or stroke.
COPD	Ever told to have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis.
Diabetes	Ever told to have diabetes.
Heavy Drinking	Having more than 14 drinks per week for adult men, and more than 7 drinks per week for adult women.
Tobacco Smoking	Smoked at least 100 cigarettes in entire life and smoke cigarettes every day or some days.
Depressive disorders	Ever told to have a depressive disorder including depression, major depression, dysthymia, or minor depression.
Physical Activity	Participated in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise during the past 30 days.
Flu Vaccination	Flu vaccine sprayed in nose or flu shot injected into arm during past 12 months.
Child Health – Access to Nutritious Meals	Always afford to eat good nutritious meals in past 12 months. “Do not have access to nutritious meals” comprises the following responses: i) always afford enough to eat but not always the kinds of food the should be eaten; ii) sometimes could not afford enough to eat; and iii) often could not afford enough to eat.
Child Health – Obesity	Body mass index (BMI) \geq 95th percentile for children aged 10 to 17 years.
Child Health – Asthma	Currently have asthma (told by doctor or other health care provider).
Child Health – Breastfeeding	Children aged 0-5 years who were breastfed for at least 6 months.
Child Health – Unmet Health Care	Proportion of children aged 0-17 years who did not receive needed health care (medical, dental, vision, and mental health services) during the past 12 months.
Child Health – 3+ ACEs Exposure	Children aged 0-17 years who experienced three or more Adverse Childhood Experiences, including: i) parent or guardian divorced; ii) parent or guardian died; iii) parent or guardian served time in jail or prison; iv) parents or adults slap, hit, kick, punch one another in the home; v) victim of violence or witnessed violence; vi) lived with anyone who was mentally ill, suicidal, or severely depressed; and vii) lived with anyone who had a problem with alcohol or drugs.
Health Insurance Coverage – Adult	Adults 18 years and older who had health insurance coverage from public or private sources.
Health Insurance Coverage – Child	Children aged 0 to 17 years who had health insurance coverage from public or private sources.
COVID-19 Vaccination – Adult	Cumulative vaccination rate among adults 18 years or older from January 01 to December 31, 2021.
COVID-19 Vaccination – Child	Cumulative vaccination rate among children aged 5 to 17 years from January 01 to December 31, 2021.

¹Hest R. Four Methods for Calculating Income as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). State Health Access Data Assistance Center. 2019 May.

Technical Appendix (cont.)

Prevalence estimation

Prevalence rates were estimated using complex survey weights of the BRFSS, NSCH, and ACS. The differences across Georgia and the rest of the U.S. or the rest of the Southeastern region were assessed using survey-weight adjusted Wald tests. Level of significance was set at the 10% level. The Southeastern region consists of the following 12 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Prevalence trend

Three-year moving average estimates were used to produce trend graph for their respective conditions. For example, the data point for 2017 in the trend graph is the average of prevalence rates in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Similarly, the data point for 2021 in the trend graph is the average of prevalence rates in 2019, 2020, and 2021. For hypertension and high cholesterol, for which data are available every other year, the prevalence rate for the missing year was imputed by taking the average of the preceding and succeeding years. For example, the prevalence rate of 2018 was imputed by averaging the prevalence rates of 2017 and 2019. Prevalence trends were reported for topics for which data were obtained from the BRFSS and the ACS surveys. Prevalence trends were not presented for child health measures, for which data were pooled from 2017 to 2021 waves to acquire state level representation.

Disparities in prevalence

Disparities in prevalence rates were assessed across four domains: sex, residence, race/ethnicity, and income. For each domain, disparities were assessed separately at the national and regional level. Disparity is defined as differential odds in favor of certain conditions for a sociodemographic category compared to the odds of the respective base/reference category. Odds ratios were obtained by estimating logistic regression models. Standard errors were obtained using complex survey weights of the respective surveys, and 95% confidence intervals were used to determine statistical significance of the estimated odds ratios. The reference category and other categories for each domain are as follows:

Domain	Reference category	Other categories
Sex	non-GA male	i) GA male, ii) non-GA female, iii) GA female
Residence	non-GA urban	i) GA urban, ii) non-GA rural, iii) GA rural
Race/Ethnicity	non-GA White	i) GA White, ii) non-GA Black, iii) GA Black, iv) non-GA Asian, v) GA Asian, vi) non-GA Hispanic, vii) GA Hispanic, viii) non-GA other, ix) GA other
Income	non-GA household income \geq 400% FPL	i) GA household income \geq 400% FPL, ii) non-GA household income \geq 200% to $<$ 400% FPL, iii) GA household income \geq 200% to $<$ 400% FPL, iv) non-GA household income \geq 100% to $<$ 200% FPL, v) GA household income \geq 100% to $<$ 200% FPL, vi) non-GA household income $<$ 100% FPL, vii) GA household income $<$ 100% FPL

Limitations

The conditions were self-reported in the BRFSS and NSCH. The U.S. and Southeastern region averages for the topics using BRFSS data excluded observations from Florida due to data unavailability. The 2021 wave of the surveys were conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and hence, the estimates could differ from that in a pre-pandemic year.





Recommended citation: Institute of Public and Preventive Health. (2023). *Healthy Georgia: Our State of Public Health* (Update, January 2023). Augusta, GA, USA: IPPH, Augusta University.

HEALTHY GEORGIA

Our State of Public Health

Visit anytime:
www.healthygareport.org



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
Institute of Public
and Preventive Health

1120 15th Street, CJ2300
Augusta, GA 30912

706-721-1104
ipph@augusta.edu
augusta.edu/institutes/ipph

 @AUGIPPH

 @AUG_IPPH

©2023 Augusta University

