

2005 Georgia Medicaid Survey

The Survey Research Center of the University of Georgia conducted the 2005 Georgia Medicaid Survey with a grant from Healthcare Georgia Foundation. Data were generated from a telephone interview of a RDD (Random Digit Dial) probability sample of 800 Georgia residents 18 years old or older who reported being registered to vote conducted between December 2 and 15, 2005. The purpose of the study was to assess perceptions of Georgia residents about opinions and attitudes toward possible Medicaid waiver changes being contemplated by the state of Georgia. Estimates based on a sample of this size are subject to a sampling margin or error of +/- 3.5% at the 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probably difference in results between interviewing a sample of the population of adult Georgians versus interviewing the entire population of adults in Georgia. Sample surveys are subject to other sources of error such as non-response error and error associated with the wording of questionnaire items. The cooperation rate for the study was 48.3%. The questionnaire and survey results can be found at www.src.uga.edu/surveys/HGF_2005-1/index.htm

All manuscripts utilizing data made available through the University of Georgia Survey Research Center should acknowledge that fact as well as identify the original collector of the data. The Survey Research Center urges all users of this data to use some adaptation of the following notice, with the parentheses indicating items to be filled in approximately or deleted by the individual user:

The data (and tabulations) utilized in this document were made available (in part) by the Survey Research Center of the University of Georgia. Neither the Survey Research Center nor the University bear any responsibility for the analyses and interpretations presented here.

Table 1
Health Care Coverage

Covered by Health Insurance:

Covered by Medical Insurance	705	88.2
Personally Responsible (No Insurance)	94	11.8
TOTAL	799	100.0

Main Reason Without Health Coverage:

Lost Job/Changed Employers	28	29.8
Spouse/Parent Lost Job/Changed Employers	0	0.0
Became Divorced/Separated	1	1.1
Spouse/Parent Died	1	1.1
Became Ineligible Because of Age/Left School	2	2.1
Employer Didn't Offer/Stopped Offering	4	4.2
Cut Back to Part-time/Became Temporary	0	0.0
Benefits From Employer Ran Out	0	0.0
Couldn't Afford to Pay Premiums	38	40.4
Insurance Company Refused Coverage	1	1.1
Lost Medicaid/Medicare Assistance Eligibility	0	0.0
Other	15	16.0
Don't Know	4	4.2
TOTAL	94	100.0

Type Health Insurance:

Group Policy – Employer Provided	456	65.2
Group Policy – Bought on Own	25	3.6
Individual Policy – Bought on Own	48	6.9
Medicare	95	13.6
Medicaid	28	4.0
Student Policy/School Provided	0	0.0
Something Else/Combination	47	6.7
TOTAL	699	100.0

Deductible Required:

Yes	484	70.1
No	206	29.9
TOTAL	690	100.0

Amount of Deductible:

\$1 - \$100	51	18.8
\$101 - \$250	70	25.8
\$251 - \$500	89	32.8
\$501 - \$1,000	27	10.0
\$1,001 or higher	34	12.5
TOTAL	271	99.9

Mean Deductible = 638.30

Table 1 (continued)

Health Care Coverage

	n	%
<i>Health Insurance Require Co-Pay:</i>		
Requires Co-Pay	532	78.0
Covers 100%	150	22.0
TOTAL	682	100.0
Percentage of Medical Costs Covered by Health Insurance:		
0% – 25%	21	6.0
26% - 50%	4	1.1
51% - 75%	23	6.5
76% - 100%	304	86.4
TOTAL	352	100.0
Mean Percentage Covered – 77.68		

Table 2

Medicaid Items

	n	%
<i>Personal Responsibility to get Own Health Care Without Expecting Govt. to Help:</i>		
1. Strongly Agree	130	16.8
2. .	30	3.9
3. .	58	7.5
4. .	29	3.8
5. .	171	22.1
6. .	19	2.4
7. .	36	4.7
8. .	66	8.5
9. .	29	3.8
10. Strongly Disagree	205	26.5
TOTAL	773	100.0

Mean = 5.87

Government Has a Responsibility to Step in to Cover People Who Cannot Afford Health Care Coverage/Insurance Through Their Employers:

1. Strongly Agree	302	39.1
2. .	81	10.5
3. .	74	9.6
4. .	27	3.5
5. .	119	15.4
6. .	21	2.7
7. .	40	5.2
8. .	35	4.5
9. .	15	1.9
10. Strongly Disagree	59	7.6
TOTAL	773	100.0

Mean = 3.62

Many states are thinking about cutting back their Medicaid program in order to help balance their state budget. In Georgia, would you strongly support, support, oppose, or strongly oppose cutting the Medicaid Program to balance the budget?

Strongly Support	35	4.8
Support	95	13.2
Oppose	287	39.8
Strongly Oppose	304	42.2
TOTAL	721	100.9

Mean = 3.19

Table 2 (continued)

Medicaid Items

	n	%
It is risky to make major changes to Medicaid because it is a lifeline for vulnerable people who have no other way to get basic health care coverage.		
Strongly Agree	254	34.0
Agree	358	48.0
Disagree	106	14.2
Strongly Disagree	28	3.8
TOTAL	746	100.0
Mean = 1.88		
Medicaid costs are spiraling out of control, so we need to place limits on spending on the program.		
Strongly Agree	107	15.5
Agree	325	47.1
Disagree	206	29.9
Strongly Disagree	52	7.5
TOTAL	690	100.0
Mean = 2.29		
If we give states more flexibility with Medicaid, Georgia can do a better job of tailoring the program to meet the needs of the state's residents.		
Strongly Agree	129	18.9
Agree	448	65.6
Disagree	88	12.9
Strongly Disagree	18	2.6
TOTAL	683	100.0
Mean = 1.99		
Cutting Medicaid costs will reduce access to affordable, quality health care for low income Georgians.		
Strongly Agree	116	16.9
Agree	370	54.0
Disagree	180	26.3
Strongly Disagree	19	2.8
TOTAL	685	100.0
Mean = 2.15		

Table 2 (continued)

Medicaid Items

	n	%
In general, do you feel Georgia should ask Medicaid recipients to share more of the costs of their general health insurance by increasing their premiums?		
Yes	270	38.7
No	428	61.3
TOTAL	698	100.0
Do you feel Georgia should ask Medicaid recipients to share more of the costs of their health insurance by increasing their co-pay amounts?		
Yes	317	46.8
No	361	53.2
TOTAL	678	100.0
The Medicaid Program allows states to relax or change existing federal laws or regulations by seeking a waiver. Are you aware that the State of Georgia is planning to request a waiver that would change the way the state finances and provides health services under the Medicaid Program?		
Yes	79	10.0
No	712	90.0
TOTAL	791	100.0

Table 3

Demographic Characteristics
of Sample

	n	% Sample	% 2000 Census
Age:			
18 – 24	35	4.5	13.9
25 – 44	274	35.1	44.1
45 – 54	313	41.1	28.9
65 +	158	20.3	13.1
TOTAL	780	100.0	100.0
Mean Age: 50.2			
Ethnicity:			
White	566	73.4	65.1
Black (African-American)	179	23.2	28.7
Asian	9	1.2	2.2
Hispanic	6	0.8	----
Multi-racial	11	1.4	3.8
TOTAL	771	100.0	99.8
Gender:			
Male	254	31.8	49.2
Female	544	68.2	50.8
TOTAL	798	100.0	100.0
Marital Status:			
Married	487	62.0	
Divorced	69	8.8	
Separated	6	0.8	
Widowed	78	9.9	
Single	146	18.6	
TOTAL	786	100.0	

Table 3

Demographic Characteristics
of Sample

	n	% Sample	% 2000 Census
Education:			
< HS Grad	57	7.3	22.3
HS Grad/GED	175	22.3	29.5
Some College/Tech School	266	34.0	24.7
College Grad or Higher	285	36.4	23.4
TOTAL	783	100.0	99.9
Income:			
< \$15,000	53	9.7	16.8
\$15,000 - \$34,999	118	21.6	26.5
\$35,000 - \$49,999	63	11.5	16.0
\$50,000 - \$74,999	114	20.8	19.6
\$75,000 or more	199	36.4	21.1
TOTAL	547	100.0	100.0

Table 4

Personal Responsibility to Get Own Health Care Without Expecting Govt. to Help,
by Demographic Variables

	Agree	Disagree
<i>Gender:*</i>		
Male	61.8	38.2
Female	50.3	49.7
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	62.9	37.1
25 – 44	52.4	47.6
45 – 64	52.5	47.5
65+	57.4	42.6
<i>Ethnicity:*</i>		
White	60.2	39.8
Non-white	40.3	59.7
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	55.4	44.6
Not Married	51.6	48.4
<i>Education:</i>		
HS Grad or Less	50.7	49.3
Come College	54.4	45.6
College Grad or Higher	56.4	43.6
<i>Income:</i>		
< \$20,000	45.1	54.9
\$20,000 - \$34,999	56.3	43.8
\$35,000 - \$49,999	52.5	47.5
\$50,000 +	58.3	41.7

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 5

Government Has Responsibility to Cover People Who Cannot Afford Health Care Coverage,
by Demographic Variables

	Agree	Disagree
<i>Gender:*</i>		
Male	73.1	26.9
Female	80.5	19.5
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	80.0	20.0
25 – 44	81.0	19.0
45 – 64	76.7	23.3
65+	77.2	22.8
<i>Ethnicity:*</i>		
White	74.9	25.1
Non-white	86.6	13.4
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	76.4	23.6
Not Married	81.5	18.5
<i>Education:*</i>		
HS Grad or Less	85.7	14.3
Come College	78.9	21.1
College Grad or Higher	72.5	27.5
<i>Income:*</i>		
< \$20,000	87.0	13.0
\$20,000 - \$34,999	85.3	14.7
\$35,000 - \$49,999	83.3	16.7
\$50,000 +	72.0	28.0

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 6

Support or Oppose Cutting Medicaid To Balance Budget,
by Demographic Variables

	Support	Oppose
<i>Gender:*</i>		
Male	23.1	76.9
Female	15.5	84.5
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	16.7	83.3
25 – 44	18.0	82.0
45 – 64	19.0	81.0
65+	15.8	84.2
<i>Ethnicity:*</i>		
White	21.5	78.5
Non-white	9.7	90.3
<i>Marital Status:*</i>		
Married	20.4	79.6
Not Married	14.1	85.9
<i>Education:*</i>		
HS Grad or Less	13.1	86.9
Come College	17.1	82.9
College Grad or Higher	22.7	77.3
<i>Income:*</i>		
< \$20,000	2.9	97.1
\$20,000 - \$34,999	12.0	88.0
\$35,000 - \$49,999	13.3	86.7
\$50,000 +	25.0	75.0

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 7

Risky To Make Major Changes to Medicaid,
by Demographic Variables

	Agree	Disagree
<i>Gender:*</i>		
Male	78.0	22.0
Female	83.9	16.1
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	85.3	14.7
25 – 44	84.4	15.6
45 – 64	80.8	19.2
65+	82.3	17.7
<i>Ethnicity:</i>		
White	80.3	19.7
Non-white	86.2	13.8
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	81.7	18.3
Not Married	83.6	16.4
<i>Education:</i>		
HS Grad or Less	82.7	17.3
Come College	84.1	15.9
College Grad or Higher	81.6	18.4
<i>Income:</i>		
< \$20,000	88.9	11.1
\$20,000 - \$34,999	84.3	15.7
\$35,000 - \$49,999	88.3	11.7
\$50,000 +	79.8	20.2

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 8

Need To Place Limits On Spending On The Program,
by Demographic Variables

	Agree	Disagree
<i>Gender:</i>		
Male	62.0	38.0
Female	62.7	37.3
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	62.5	37.5
25 – 44	66.1	33.9
45 – 64	56.9	43.1
65+	66.9	33.1
<i>Ethnicity:*</i>		
White	66.6	33.4
Non-white	53.7	46.3
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	63.5	36.5
Not Married	60.2	39.8
<i>Education:</i>		
HS Grad or Less	61.8	38.2
Come College	58.2	41.8
College Grad or Higher	67.2	32.8
<i>Income:</i>		
< \$20,000	48.4	51.6
\$20,000 - \$34,999	52.6	47.4
\$35,000 - \$49,999	61.7	38.3
\$50,000 +	64.2	35.8

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 9

Give States More Flexibility with Medicaid, Can Do Better Job Tailoring Program To Meet Needs,
by Demographic Variables

	Agree	Disagree
<i>Gender:</i>		
Male	81.9	18.1
Female	85.7	14.3
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	84.4	15.6
25 – 44	87.7	12.3
45 – 64	83.3	16.7
65+	80.5	19.5
<i>Ethnicity:</i>		
White	84.2	15.8
Non-white	85.7	14.3
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	85.9	14.1
Not Married	83.1	16.9
<i>Education:</i>		
HS Grad or Less	86.9	13.1
Come College	81.9	18.1
College Grad or Higher	85.4	14.6
<i>Income:</i>		
< \$20,000	83.1	16.9
\$20,000 - \$34,999	86.0	14.0
\$35,000 - \$49,999	86.0	14.0
\$50,000 +	83.8	16.2

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 10

Cutting Medicaid Costs Will Reduce Access For Low Income Georgians,
by Demographic Variables

	Agree	Disagree
<i>Gender:</i>		
Male	67.0	33.0
Female	73.0	27.0
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	80.6	19.4
25 – 44	68.1	31.9
45 – 64	71.3	28.7
65+	71.3	28.7
<i>Ethnicity:</i>		
White	72.2	27.8
Non-white	69.0	31.0
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	71.4	28.6
Not Married	70.5	29.5
<i>Education:</i>		
HS Grad or Less	72.3	27.7
Come College	70.3	29.7
College Grad or Higher	70.8	29.2
<i>Income:</i>		
< \$20,000	70.6	29.4
\$20,000 - \$34,999	63.2	36.8
\$35,000 - \$49,999	70.4	29.6
\$50,000 +	72.5	27.5

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 11

Share More Costs of General Health Insurance By Increasing Premiums,
by Demographic Variables

	Yes	No
<i>Gender:</i>		
Male	42.8	57.2
Female	36.4	63.6
<i>Age:</i>		
18 – 24	33.3	66.7
25 – 44	34.7	65.3
45 – 64	38.7	61.3
65+	45.2	54.8
<i>Ethnicity:*</i>		
White	43.5	56.5
Non-white	27.1	72.9
<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	37.4	62.6
Not Married	39.3	60.7
<i>Education:</i>		
HS Grad or Less	33.8	66.2
Come College	36.3	63.7
College Grad or Higher	44.3	55.7
<i>Income:</i>		
< \$20,000	33.8	66.2
\$20,000 - \$34,999	37.3	62.7
\$35,000 - \$49,999	35.1	64.9
\$50,000 +	40.9	59.1

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 12

Share More Costs Health Insurance By Increasing Co-pay Amounts,
by Demographic Variables

	Yes	No
Gender:		
Male	47.8	52.2
Female	46.0	54.0
Age:		
18 – 24	34.5	65.5
25 – 44	49.8	50.2
45 – 64	45.6	54.4
65+	46.7	53.3
Ethnicity:*		
White	52.0	48.0
Non-white	36.4	63.6
Marital Status:		
Married	48.8	51.2
Not Married	42.5	57.5
Education:*		
HS Grad or Less	39.2	60.8
Come College	44.0	56.0
College Grad or Higher	55.8	44.2
Income:		
< \$20,000	34.9	65.1
\$20,000 - \$34,999	49.4	50.6
\$35,000 - \$49,999	42.9	57.1
\$50,000 +	53.0	47.0

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.

Table 13

Aware State of Georgia is Planning to Request Waiver,
by Demographic Variables

	Yes	No
<i>Gender:</i>		
Male	9.9	90.1
Female	10.1	89.9
 <i>Age:*</i>		
18 – 24	2.9	97.1
25 – 44	6.6	93.4
45 – 64	11.9	88.1
65+	14.0	86.0
 <i>Ethnicity:</i>		
White	9.8	90.2
Non-white	10.8	89.2
 <i>Marital Status:</i>		
Married	8.9	91.1
Not Married	11.8	88.2
 <i>Education:</i>		
HS Grad or Less	12.1	87.9
Come College	6.8	93.2
College Grad or Higher	11.3	88.7
 <i>Income:</i>		
< \$20,000	14.7	85.3
\$20,000 - \$34,999	9.4	90.6
\$35,000 - \$49,999	8.1	91.9
\$50,000 +	9.9	90.1

* $p \leq .05$

An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant relationship between the questionnaire item and survey responses by demographic group at the 95% confidence interval or less.
