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## Improving Health at the Community Level

Georgia Health Policy Center

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# GEORGIA HEALTH POLICY CENTER



IMPROVING HEALTH  
AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL



ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL  
OF POLICY STUDIES

The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC), housed within Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, was established in 1995. The GHPC provides evidence-based research, program development, and policy guidance for complex issues facing health and health care today. The center conducts, analyzes, and disseminates qualitative and quantitative findings to connect decision makers with the objective research and guidance needed to make informed decisions about health policy and programs. We work locally, statewide, and nationally to improve health at the community level.



*The GHPC offers a wide range of services, including:*

- Research
- Evaluation
- Technical Assistance
- Meeting Design and Facilitation
- Policy Analysis
- Grants Management
- Health Impact Assessment
- Strategic Planning

We are at work throughout Georgia and in more than 200 communities in all 50 states, helping our nation to improve health.

# OUR WORK

## *Child Health and Well-Being*

The center aims to improve child outcomes and child and family policies in Georgia through applied policy analysis and research. Grants from public and private sources fund programs in the areas of school health, childhood obesity, and child well-being. The GHPC developed the Georgia Center of Excellence in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health to provide assistance for the child and adolescent behavioral health System of Care in the state.

## *Community and Public Health*

The center works to fulfill its mission of improving health status at the community level by gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information in a manner that fosters collaboration and innovation and builds trust and relationships with local, state, and national organizations interested in improving health status. The GHPC works alongside public and private agencies to help local communities improve their understanding of health and health care by facilitating strategic planning and steps for action.

## *Community Health Systems Development*

The GHPC's Community Health Systems Development program focuses on helping communities develop a strategic approach to program implementation, building capacity while utilizing technical and adaptive approaches, and focusing on long-term sustainability. The center provides tailored, technical assistance to communities throughout Georgia and across the nation.



## *Health Care Reform*

The GHPC has formed a work group to understand and translate the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (health care reform). Experts from across Georgia State University have convened to study the law's impact on many stakeholder groups, including state officials, health care providers, community-based organizations, and individuals.

## *Health in All Policies*

"Health in All Policies" is a concept that aims to strengthen the link between health and policies from other sectors such as housing, transportation, education, labor, and land use to create an environment that enables people to lead healthy lives. Health Impact Assessments (HIA) are one of the tools utilized for our Health in All Policies approach. The GHPC facilitates HIA training sessions, coordinates HIA's for communities, makes recommendations based on findings, and provides technical assistance.

## *Long-Term Services and Supports*

As the Baby Boomer generation ages and individuals with disabilities live longer, the need for long-term services and supports grows. The GHPC conducts independent, evidence-based research, technical assistance, and evaluation on topics ranging from early stage Alzheimer's disease programs to the implementation of the Georgia Aging and Disability Resource Connections. The GHPC strives to be in the forefront of efforts targeted at improving the lives of the aging, elderly, and disabled.



## *Private Policy and Grants Management*

The GHPC partners with public and private grantmakers to leverage federal, state, local, and philanthropic resources to understand, prioritize, and structure investments in health issues. The center is the research arm and administrative home for the *Philanthropic Collaborative for a Healthy Georgia*, an informal group of Georgia's foundations seeking to understand and respond to the health-related challenges facing the state.

## *Public and Private Insurance Coverage*

The GHPC helps shape public and private insurance markets through policy and economic analyses. Projects have ranged from evaluations and analyses of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to understanding the impact of the Affordable Care Act. The GHPC also works with foundations to design and evaluate programs that provide health care access to those who are uninsured.

# Focusing on solutions to the most complex issues facing health care today

GEORGIA HEALTH POLICY CENTER  
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