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# Policy and Economic Analysis at the Georgia Health Policy Center

Policy development and economic analysis have been core competencies of the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) since its inception. GHPC believes policy and economic analysis is integrally tied to its research and evaluation activities, as part of a continuous cycle to inform decision makers and, ultimately, improve health outcomes and well-being.

The center conducts, analyzes, and disseminates qualitative and quantitative findings to connect policy makers with the objective research and guidance needed to make informed decisions about health policy and programs. GHPC's policy analyses include identifying and characterizing policy options, evaluating policies in terms of potential health and economic impact, conducting regulatory compliance reviews, and assessing the effect of policies after implementation.

## GHPC's Approach to Policy and Economic Analysis

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Evidence Gathering      | Literature reviews; scans of the legislative environment; local, statewide, or national surveys; and key stakeholder and focus group interviews can inform analysis and policy.  |
| Data-Informed Analysis  | In addition to comprehensive policy assessments of a single topic, comparative analysis or modeling can enable objective assessment of multiple options and the expected impact of each, given other system-wide factors.  |
| Translation of Evidence | By fostering the right environment and informing discussions with evidence-based information and objective analysis, policymakers are enabled to approach complex health policy issues from a knowledgeable, systems-informed perspective.   |
| Reporting of Findings   | Dissemination of policy findings through reports, briefs, toolkits, journal articles, and presentations can inform the development and revision of financing strategies, benefit design, and service delivery to ultimately produce better health outcomes, while balancing fiscal constraints and programmatic needs. |

## Types of Analysis

- Cost analysis
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Comparative analysis of state health policy
- Legal analysis and compliance review
- Policy impact analysis

## Our Standards

GHPC holds itself to rigorous standards, making it a trusted third party capable of producing impartial and well-informed policy analysis. A commitment to quality, integrity, and respect ensures that analysis is tailored to the partner's needs, yet methodically produced to support complex health policy decision-making in a timely manner.

## Topic Areas

- School physical education and nutrition
- Existing and planned health care markets
- Georgia Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment, coverage, and reimbursement
- School-based mental health
- Care coordination/care transition
- Client-requested topics

## Project Examples

### Georgia's Interagency Directors Team

Georgia's Interagency Directors Team (IDT) is a multi-agency, public-private collaborative that works to promote better child and adolescent behavioral health in the state. Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities established IDT to create an integrated approach to policy and practice within the child and adolescent System of Care. IDT consists of more than 20 representatives from state agencies and non-governmental organizations that serve children with behavioral health needs.

As part of providing backbone support to IDT, GHPC provides comprehensive strategic research to support IDT's yearly strategic System of Care goals. GHPC has provided IDT with data compilation and policy analysis in the areas of



juvenile justice reform; services and supports for emerging adults; and appropriate service provision for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder among young children.

### GHPC's Medicaid Policy and Business Team

For more than two decades GHPC has been a trusted source for identifying and providing evidence-based information. The center's qualitative and quantitative data compilation and analysis helps to inform DCH's planning processes and decision-making on eligibility systems, premium design, coverage decisions, payment models, prior authorization criteria, and coordination of care initiatives.

In 2014, GHPC created the Medicaid Policy and Business team to support the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) in conducting policy analyses and evaluations of its Medicaid programs. GHPC's Medicaid Policy and Business team provides policy expertise and guidance to develop and implement policy changes, program improvements, and business solutions for Georgia Medicaid and the state's Children's Health Insurance Program, PeachCare for Kids®.

