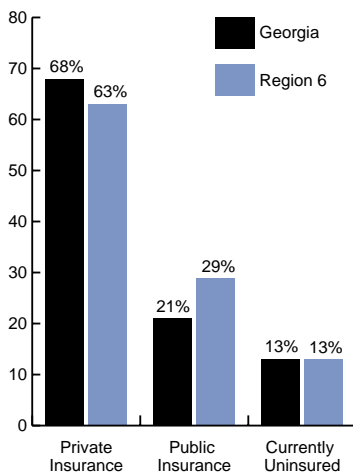


# GEORGIA HEALTHCARE COVERAGE PROJECT

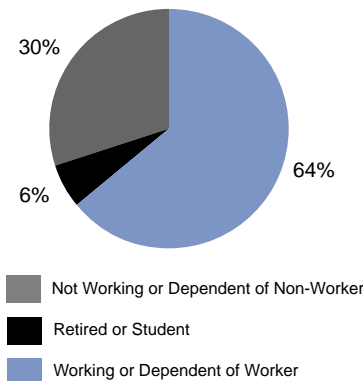
## STATE SERVICE DELIVERY REGION 6

Region 6 lies in the heart of the state and is made up of 11 counties. The Oconee River provides the region's eastern border and the Flint River provides the western border of the Region. The major cities in the region are Macon, Warner Robins, Perry and Milledgeville. The 10 year population growth rate from 1990 to 2000 for the region was 13.10%, bringing the total number of residents to over 475,000. Overall employment decreased in this region by 2.20 % between 1995-2000

**Figure 1.**  
Sources of Insurance Coverage, Region 6  
Compared with the State



**Figure 2.**  
Employment Status of the Uninsured in Region 6



### How many Georgians in Region 6 are uninsured?

More than 55,000 residents in Region 6, or 13% of the population age 64 and younger, do not have any type of health insurance. This is the same as the statewide rate of 13% who are currently without coverage. In the past twelve months, 16% of the Region 6 population was uninsured for one or more months; and 9% of the population, or about 67,000 individuals were uninsured for the entire year.

Overall, a smaller percent of the Region 6 population has private coverage as the rest of the state (63% vs. 68%). However the reverse is true for public coverage. A larger percent is either currently uninsured or enrolled in public coverage than the state as a whole. Twenty-nine percent of the Region 6 population has some kind of public coverage, such as Medicaid, Medicare, or Peachcare, while just 21% of the population of the entire state has public coverage. In the Macon metropolitan area, 15% are uninsured. Sixty-two percent of the Macon metropolitan area has private coverage, which is lower than the rest of the region but still lower than the state average of 68%.

### How does employment affect insurance?

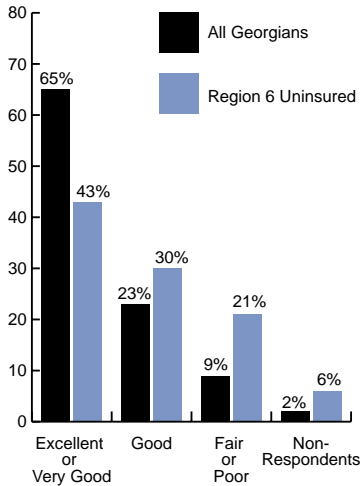
Most uninsured individuals work. Sixty-four percent of the currently uninsured population in Region 6 is employed or self-employed or the dependent of someone who is employed or self-employed—almost 2 out of 3 uninsured persons. Retirees and students make up 6% of the uninsured population and other individuals who are not working or not able to work make up only 30% of the uninsured population. Nine percent of retirees, 11% of workers and 23% of the self-employed are uninsured. Thus, while employment improves access to healthcare coverage, it does not guarantee that coverage.

Insurance coverage is also related to the size of the firm in which an individual works. Twenty-three percent of the individuals working for firms with between 2 and 10 employees and 35% of those working

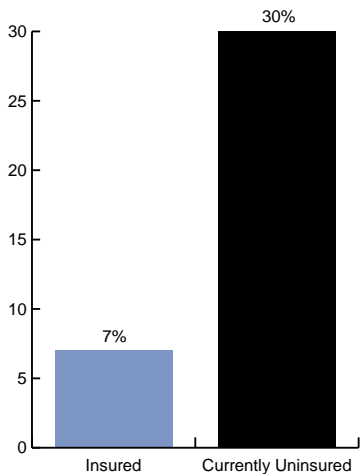


# REGION 6

**Figure 3.**  
**Health Status of Region 6**  
**Uninsured Compared with All Georgians**



**Figure 4.**  
**Percent in Region 6 With No Routine Checkup**  
**Within Previous 2 Years**



in single person firms, or their dependents, were uninsured. Almost 1 out of 3 individuals without coverage are employed by small firms with fewer than 25 employees, or have a primary wage earner working in such a firm.

## Why does coverage matter?

Insurance and health status seem to hand in hand. The uninsured in Region 6 are about twice as likely as all Georgians to report fair or poor health status. They are less likely than other Georgians to report their health status as excellent or very good (43% vs. 65%), and they are much more likely to report fair or poor health status (21% vs. 9%).

The uninsured in Region 6 are less likely to receive preventive care than the insured in the same region. They are 4 times as likely as the insured to have not had a routine checkup in the previous two years (7% vs. 30%). They are also more likely to be sick, more likely to miss 6 or more days from work or school, and about half as likely to have visited a doctor in the previous 6 months (44% vs. 74%).

In general, the uninsured in the Region feel less confident about their ability to obtain healthcare than those with coverage. They are about 14 times more likely to strongly disagree with a statement that they are able to get the healthcare they need. They are also much less likely to have a usual source of care than the insured population (54% vs. 93%).

*It is anticipated that this and other information emanating from the Georgia Healthcare Coverage Project will be used to evaluate legislation and existing laws, assess current and new programs for the uninsured, and monitor progress over time in providing Georgians access to healthcare through health insurance or other financing mechanisms.*

\* Region 6 contains Mental Health District 8, Physical Health District 5-2 and 5-1, Department of Human Resources Services Area 7, and contains on or more persistent poverty counties. The counties in Region 6 are: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs, and Wilkinson.