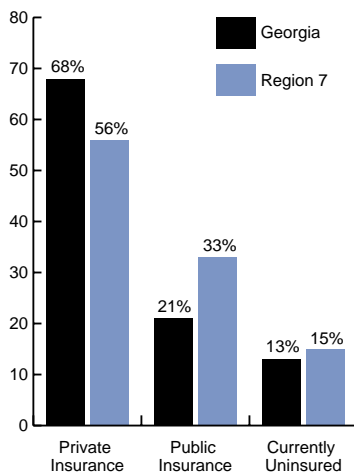


# GEORGIA HEALTHCARE COVERAGE PROJECT

## STATE SERVICE DELIVERY REGION 7

Region 7 has 14 counties and surrounds Augusta midway up the border with South Carolina. Its major cities include Thomson, Augusta, Washington, Sandersville, and Waynesboro. The population in the region increased 10.9% from 1990 to 2000, while employment remained flat between 1995 and 2000. About 460,000 people live in Region 7.

**Figure 1.**  
Sources of Insurance Coverage, Region 7  
Compared with the State

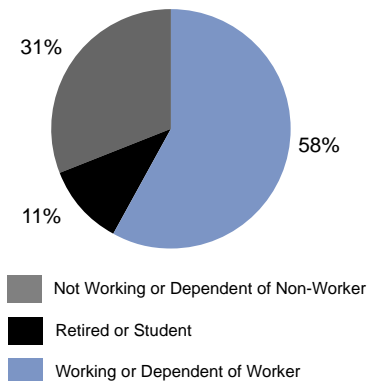


### How many Georgians in Region 7 are uninsured?

Almost 59,000 residents in Region 7, or about 15% of the population age 64 and younger, do not have any type of health insurance. This is higher than the statewide rate of 13% who are currently without coverage. In the past twelve months, 18% of the Region 7 population was uninsured for one or more months; and 11% of the population, or about 44,000 individuals, had no insurance for the entire year.

Overall, a smaller percent of the Region 7 population has private coverage than the state as a whole, and a larger percent is either currently uninsured or enrolled in public coverage. The 15% uninsured rate is slightly higher than the 13% statewide. Thirty-three percent of the Region 7 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. Region 7 has a 12% lower level of private group or individual coverage than the state average (56% vs. 68%). The Augusta metropolitan area has a slightly lower level of uninsured than the region and the rest of the state (12%). However, in the Augusta area, only 60% of the population has private health coverage.

**Figure 2.**  
Employment Status of the Uninsured in Region 7



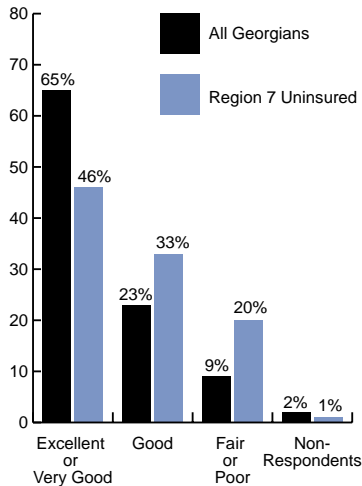
### How does employment affect insurance?

Most uninsured individuals work or are the dependents of someone who works. Fifty-eight percent of the currently uninsured population in Region 7 is employed, an unpaid worker, or self-employed—almost 1 out of 2 uninsured persons. The balance is either not currently working or the dependent of someone not currently working. Retirees and students make up 11% of the uninsured population, and other individuals who are not working or not able to work account for 31% of the uninsured population. Fifteen percent of retirees, 10% of workers, and 28% of the self-employed are uninsured. Thus, while employment improves access to healthcare coverage, it does not guarantee that coverage.

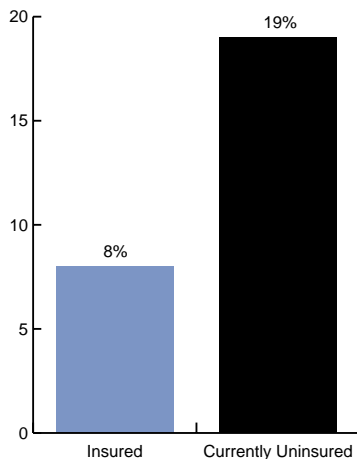


# REGION 7

**Figure 3.**  
**Health Status of Region 7**  
**Uninsured Compared with All Georgians**



**Figure 4.**  
**Percent in Region 7 With No Routine Checkup**  
**Within Previous 2 Years**



Insurance coverage is also related to the size of the firm in which an individual works. Twenty-four percent of the individuals working for firms with between 2 and 10 employees and 28% of employees in single person firms, or their dependents, are uninsured. Almost one in four individuals without coverage is 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 go hand in hand. The uninsured in Region 7 are less likely than other Georgians to report their health status as excellent or very good (46% vs. 65%) and much more likely to report fair or poor health status (20% vs. 9%).

The uninsured in Region 7 are less likely to receive preventive care than the insured in the same region. They are twice as likely to have not received a routine checkup in the last 2 to 5 years (19% vs. 8%). They are also more likely to be sick than those with coverage, significantly more likely to receive their healthcare in an emergency room (28% vs. 39%), and visited a doctor about 1.2 times less often in the previous 6 months (58% vs. 71%).

In general, the uninsured in the region feel less confident about their ability to obtain healthcare than those with coverage. They are eleven times more likely to strongly disagree with a statement that they are able to get the healthcare they need. They are also less likely to have a usual source of care than the insured population (71% vs. 88%).

*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 7 contains Mental Health Districts 8 and 12, Physical Health Districts 5, 5-2 and 5-1, and Department of Human Resources Services Area 8, and contains one or more persistent poverty counties. Specific counties are: Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, and Wilkes.