Georgia’s Healthcare Inventory for the Elderly

The fiscal pressures of an elderly population include changes in the demand for and financing of certain types of services. With Georgia’s growing elderly population, the demand for healthcare related services will increase substantially over the next several decades. Is Georgia well poised to handle this increased demand? The answer to this question depends on the level and quality of current services, as well as Georgia’s ability to finance expansion in services. This Fiscal Impact presents a summary of the current status of elder-care facilities and programs to provide a baseline for analyses of future pressures on healthcare facilities and programs for the elderly in Georgia.

The elder care inventory summarized in this Fiscal Impact includes: Nursing facilities, Personal Care Homes, and Medicaid Waiver Programs (Community Care Services Program (CCSP) and Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment (SOURCE)). The table above provides a snapshot regarding the current availability of these facilities and services in Georgia, but they can not tell the history of development of these elder-care facilities and programs. For example, one important policy issue regarding this inventory is that innovations to Georgia’s elder-care services inventory have largely developed in urban areas. This has had the effect of leaving the rural areas with the traditional, more expensive options for care including nursing homes. The Personal Care Homes, a more recent innovation that are hailed as a preferred alternative to nursing home care, are less available in the rural areas of the State.

It is difficult to say whether or not Georgia has an adequate inventory of healthcare services and facilities for its elderly population. Although we cannot predict the state’s future urban/rural distribution of seniors, we do know that Georgia currently has a higher percentage of rural seniors than other states (e.g. Massachusetts has a rural elderly population of 5% compared to Georgia’s 32%). As the system shifts from institutional to home and community-based services, the state needs to be sure to adequately develop those services in rural as well as urban areas. These issues will be further analyzed in work supported by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

This research was conducted by Clare S. Richie of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute with financial support from Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

The Fiscal Research Center mission is to promote the development of sound public policy and public understanding of issues concerning state and local governments. For more information contact David L. Sjoquist, Director and Sally Wallace, Associate Director at 404-651-2782 or visit our website at frp.aysps.gsu.edu.
Georgia's Healthcare Inventory for the Elderly

**Publisher(s):** Fiscal Research Center of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies  
**Date Published:** 2005-03-17  
**Rights:** Copyright 2005 Fiscal Research Center of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies  
**Subject(s):** Aging