

Policy & 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 are 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 policymakers with the objective research and guidance needed to make informed decisions about health policy and programs and how they impact communities. GHPC's policy analysis includes identifying and characterizing policy options; evaluating policies in terms of potential health, equity, 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, and national surveys; and key stakeholder and focus group interviews with those impacted can inform policy analysis.

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 and more equitable 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

Topic Areas

- School physical education and nutrition
- Georgia Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program enrollment, coverage, and reimbursement
- Maternal health and equity policy
- Mental health parity and access
- Care coordination and care transitions
- Client-requested topics

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.

Project Examples

Understanding Health-Promoting Housing for Older Adults

GHPC is undertaking an environmental scan to better understand evidence-informed policy and practice that enhances health-promoting housing opportunities for older adults living in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-supported housing. By collecting, synthesizing, and contextualizing evidence on what works to support successful aging in place through a systems lens, researchers will identify opportunities for stronger alignment between health and housing perspectives at the federal level.



Building Health Policy Understanding

Since its inception, GHPC has been supporting state leaders and informing decision-making by providing tools and objective information and creating the right environment for important conversations. GHPC works with policymakers to grow health-related knowledge by providing in-depth data and research on health policy-related topics, including assessing the impact of existing and proposed policies based on the best data available. GHPC also partners with policymakers to build their skills in using tools intended to offer a more comprehensive and collaborative approach for synthesizing information, to engage in productive, solution-seeking conversations with their colleagues and constituents, and to think differently about complex challenges by understanding how interdependent systems and factors outside of health care impact the well-being of Georgians. GHPC offers state legislators and staff and agency and executive leadership on-call expertise (e.g., customized policy briefs), learning events, and the Legislative Health Policy Certificate and Advanced Policy Institute programs.



Increasing the Interagency Directors Team's Capacity

As part of its backbone support for the Interagency Directors Team, a multiagency leadership collaborative formed to strengthen Georgia's child and adolescent behavioral health system of care, the Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health at GHPC provides comprehensive strategic research and policy and economic analysis. Recent data and policy analysis efforts have focused on financial mapping of where state agencies spend money on children's behavioral health, how funds can be blended and braided to more effectively allocate resources for children's behavioral health, an assessment of the implementation of national Cultural and Linguistic Appropriate Services standards in the state, and a cross-walk of the Mental Health Parity Act (HB 1013) with the System of Care State Plan.



Supporting Georgia Medicaid

GHPC supports the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) in conducting analyses for development and implementation of policy changes, program improvements, and business solutions for Georgia Medicaid and the state's Children's Health Insurance Program, PeachCare for Kids®. The center's Medicaid Policy and Business Team has conducted claims-based research, Medicaid policy reviews, state and federal policy scans, compliance assessments, and stakeholder interviews. The team also supports implementation of DCH's long-term strategy by working on special projects for the agency, including identifying policy solutions for Georgia Medicaid's biggest challenges, such as premium design, prior authorization criteria, coordination of care for children with complex health needs, quality incentives for care management organizations, and sustaining evidence-based maternal and child health programs.

