

The Fiscal Impact

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Year	65+ Georgia Population	Number 65+ Georgia Population with Chronic Conditions	Number 65+ Georgia Population with Chronic Conditions, Limitations on IADLs	Number 65+ Georgia Population with Chronic Conditions, Limitations on ADLs
2000	779,000	545,300	55,621	19,086
2005	852,000	596,400	60,833	20,874
2010	973,302	681,311	69,494	23,846
2015	1,175,000	822,500	83,895	28,788
2020	1,404,317	983,022	100,268	34,406
2025	1,668,000	1,167,600	119,095	39,698

Notes: Projections based on the National Health Interview State Data Files 1994 Disability Supplement. Survey assumes that the percent of Georgians with conditions remains constant over time.

Health Status of Georgia's Elderly

The budgetary implications of Georgia's growing elderly population will be influenced by many things including the pace in the growth of the elderly, the programs available to the elderly and the health status of the elderly. The poorer the health status of Georgia's elderly, the more expensive could be the services needed to support this population. This *Fiscal Impact* summarizes the health status of the elderly in Georgia.

There are many ways to quantify the health status of the elderly, but industry standards make use of the following classifications: chronic conditions (including heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and other conditions that may or may not limit activities), those with limitations on instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) (these include housekeeping, making phone calls, shopping, etc.) and those with limitations on activities of daily living (ADLs) (these include basic needs such as eating, bathing, taking medication, etc.). The health status of an individual is directly related to these conditions, with the chronic conditions being on average the "least worst" to limitations on IADLs being "next worst" and finally to limitations on ADLs being the worst case scenario for health status.

As seen in the table above, most of Georgia's elderly population has at least one chronic condition. By 2025 about 70 percent of elderly Georgian's will have a chronic condition. Those with a chronic condition and some limitation on IADLs are a relatively small portion of Georgia's elderly now and in the future, but they represent a more expensive group to serve on average than those with chronic conditions alone simply due to additional needs. The last group in the table above, those with chronic conditions and limitations on ADLs are the most expensive group to support due to a variety of needs. In Georgia, this group represents about two percent of the elderly population, and between 2005 and 2025 the number of individuals in this category will almost *double* in Georgia. The growth in this frail elderly population will be one of the more expensive fiscal pressures facing the State in the coming years. These issues will be further analyzed in work supported by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

This research was conducted by Glenn Landers of the Georgia Health Policy Center, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies 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 frpaysps.gsu.edu