

# The Fiscal Impact

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	---Demographics---		Nursing Facilities		Personal Care -----Homes-----		-----CCSP-----		-----SOURCE-----	
	Age 65+ Population	%	Age 65+ Capacity (Beds)	%	Age 65+ Capacity (Beds)	%	Age 65+ Recipients	%	Age 65+ Recipients	%
Urban	565,344	68	22,537	60	17,146	74	4,783	52	1,388	56
Rural	260,658	32	15,094	40	6,007	26	4,481	48	1,074	44
Total	826,001	100	37,631	100	23,153	100	9,264	100	2,462	100

**Sources:** Demographics estimated using U.S. Census Bureau 7/1/2003 County Population Estimates and age 65+ percentages based on 2000 Census Data. Nursing Facility Data as of January 19, 2005 provided by Georgia Nursing Home Association (GNHA), Licensed Personal Care Home Data as of January 14, 2005 provided by Vickie Flynn, Office of Regulatory Services, Georgia Department of Human Resources. SOURCE and CCSP data based on, Medicaid Claims Data CY 2003. Estimated Age 65+ capacity (beds) as 90 percent of total beds based on demographics from a Georgia State University Long-Term Care Partnership Study, September 2003.

## 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.

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