State policies that promote the economic security of our nation’s families can help offset larger economic and social conditions that make it difficult for families to get by and get ahead. This four-part profile provides data on Georgia’s low-income children and families and highlights state policy choices regarding families’ work attachment and advancement, income adequacy, and asset development.

In Georgia, there are 1,259,217 families, with 2,410,753 children. Among these children, 47 percent live in families that are low-income, defined as income below twice the federal poverty level (nationally, 45 percent of children live in low-income families). Young children are particularly likely to live in low-income families.

Low wages and a lack of higher education contribute to families having insufficient incomes. Nationally, 48 percent of low-income children have at least one parent who works full-time, year-round; in Georgia, the figure is 49 percent.

Parents without a college education often struggle to earn enough to support a family, but only 27 percent of adults in Georgia have a bachelor’s degree. A substantial portion of children in Georgia whose parents only have a high school diploma—70 percent—are low income.

Children of foreign-born parents are also more likely to be low income than children of native-born parents.

Percent of children who are low-income by parental education, 2011

- No high school degree: 87% (Georgia), 86% (U.S.)
- Only a high school degree: 70% (Georgia), 66% (U.S.)
- Beyond a high school degree: 33% (Georgia), 31% (U.S.)

Percent of children who are low-income by parents’ nativity, 2011

- Children w/native-born parents: 45% (Georgia), 41% (U.S.)
- Children w/immigrant parents: 64% (Georgia), 63% (U.S.)
WORK ATTACHMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

State Choices to Promote Child Care Affordability and Access

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Subsidies

- Earnings limit for a single-parent family of 3: $26,560/year
- Co-payment as percent of income for family of 3 at 150% FPL, 1 child in care: 9%
- Providers prohibited from charging additional fees: No
- Provider payment rates at least 75th percentile of market rate: No

State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

- Refundable credit available: No
- Benefit structure: Credit of 30% of federal credit
- Max benefit for family with 2 qualifying children: $630/year

Low-income children who have parents working full- or part-time, 2011

Health insurance status by age, 2007

Employer-based health insurance coverage, 2000 and 2006

1. Georgia State Family Economic Security Profile
State Choices to Promote Access to Benefits for the Under- and Unemployed

Unemployment Insurance

State counts most recent earnings when determining eligibility\(^{17}\) Yes

Eligible if seeking part-time work\(^{18}\) No

State has general provision recognizing "good cause" for quitting work\(^{19}\) No

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Earnings limit for a single-parent family of 3\(^{20}\) $6,168/year

Official unemployment rate, 2007\(^{21}\)

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<th>Georgia</th>
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<td>Rate</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
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Part-time workers who want full-time work, 2003\(^{22}\)

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<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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Income Adequacy

State Choices to Increase and Supplement Wages

Minimum Wage Standards

Indexed to inflation\(^{23}\) Not applicable

State Earned Income Tax Credit

Refundable credit available\(^{24}\) No state credit

Percent of federal EITC\(^{24}\) No state credit

State Choices to Reduce Tax Burdens

Income Tax Liability

Income tax threshold for single-parent family of 3\(^{25}\) $12,700/year

Income tax threshold for two-parent family of 4\(^{25}\) $15,900/year

Income tax burden for single-parent family of 3 at 100% FPL\(^{25}\) $117/year

Income tax burden for two-parent family of 4 at 100% FPL\(^{25}\) $184/year

National Center for Children in Poverty

Georgia State Family Economic Security Profile
Median annual household income for family of four, 2006

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<td>$70,354</td>
<td>$66,711</td>
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Workers covered by a union, 1987 and 2007

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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>U.S.</td>
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State Choices to Promote Access to Paid Leave
Family and Medical Leave

State provisions for paid leave\textsuperscript{28} None

State Choices to Promote Adequate Benefits for the Under- and Unemployed

Unemployment Insurance

Minimum weekly benefit (no dependents)\textsuperscript{29} $42/week

Additional dependent allowance provided\textsuperscript{29} No

Weekly benefit amount is indexed to average weekly wage\textsuperscript{30} No

Potential duration of benefits\textsuperscript{31} 9 - 26 weeks

Food Stamps

Legal immigrants eligible for state-funded benefits when barred from federal\textsuperscript{33} No

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Annual maximum benefit for family of 3\textsuperscript{20} $3,360/year

Treatment of child support income\textsuperscript{34} State passes through and disregards some or all support for purposes of fill-the-gap budgeting.

Households facing hardships, 2006\textsuperscript{32}

- Households that are "food insecure" in Georgia: 13%
- Households that are "food insecure" in U.S.: 11%
- Renting households that are "housing insecure" in Georgia: 50%
- Renting households that are "housing insecure" in U.S.: 50%
ASSET DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

State Policy Choices to Promote Asset Development

Individual Development Accounts

State-supported IDA program in operation

No

State Choices to Promote Asset Protection

Public Health Insurance for Parents

Assets disregarded for eligibility determination

No ($1,000)

Public Health Insurance for Children

Assets disregarded for Medicaid eligibility

Yes

Assets disregarded for SCHIP (separate program) eligibility

Yes

Food Stamps

Treatment of vehicles in asset test

Aligned to TANF-funded non-cash assistance rules

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Assets disregarded for eligibility determination

No

Treatment of vehicles in asset test

Counts equity value in excess of $4,650

30% U.S. 30% Georgia

Children who are "asset poor," 2004

Homeownership rate, 2007

68% U.S. 68% Georgia
DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

Data were compiled from 50-state sources. Some state policy decisions may have changed since these data were collected.

1. National data were calculated from the 2011 American Community Survey, representing information from 2011. State data were calculated from the 2009-2011 American Community Survey, representing information from the years 2009 to 2011.
3. If the state calculates co-payments based on the cost of care, figure reflects the co-payment for a 4-year-old in licensed, nonaccredited center care at the maximum state payment rate.
5. States were asked to report state reimbursement rates and the 75th percentile of market rates for their state’s most populous city, country, or region. Data reflect basic provider payment rates (higher rates may be available for particular types of care). Rates are considered below the 75th percentile if they are based on an out-dated market rate survey (more than 2 years old).
7. The benefit cannot exceed the claimant’s tax liability.
8. Figure reflects limit under Medicaid plan with highest income eligibility limit for parents, taking into account the value of earnings disregards (which may be time-limited in some cases).
9. Figure reflects limit under Medicaid plan with highest income eligibility limit for parents, taking into account the value of earnings disregards (which may be time-limited in some cases).
14. For more information see Appendix B in Rebecca Smith, Rick McHugh, Andrew Stettner, and Nancy Segal, Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Child Care Assistance Policies 2005: States Fail to Make up Lost Ground, Families Continue to Lack Critical Supports, National Women’s Law Center, September 2005.
15. Figures reflect the percent of children (under age 18) and adults (ages 18-64) who did not have health insurance coverage at any point during the year.
16. Figures reflect the percent of children under age 18 and the percent of adults under 65 who were covered by employer-based health insurance during at least part of the year.
17. In most states, the base period consists of the first 4 of the 5 most recently completed quarters. Some states allow claimants to use an alternative base period that includes more recent earnings.
19. A general ‘good cause’ provision extends eligibility to persons who leave their jobs for ‘personal emergencies’ or ‘compelling circumstances’, which should include—among others—child care conflicts, illness, domestic violence, and spousal relocation. Eligibility determinations, however, may vary in practice. States may also specifically recognize certain reasons as “good cause”; for more information see Appendix B in Rebecca Smith, Rick McHugh, Andrew Stettner, and Nancy Segal, Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Child Care Assistance Policies 2005: States Fail to Make up Lost Ground, Families Continue to Lack Critical Supports, National Women’s Law Center, September 2005.
20. States have the option of using federal State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funds to provide prenatal care to women regardless of immigration status. They can also extend prenatal care to immigrant women using state funds.
21. Limit includes SCHIP-funded Medicaid expansions, where applicable.
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Rebecca Smith, Rick McHugh, Andrew Stettner, and Nancy Segal, Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Confronting the Failure of State Unemployment Insurance Systems to Serve Women and Working Families, National Employment Law Project, July 2003.


22. Figure reflects the percent of part-time workers who are available to work full-time, but usually work less than 35 hours per week due to slack work or unfavorable business conditions, inability to find full-time work, or seasonal declines in demand. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 2003, "Estimates for States, Table 16: Employed and Unemployed Persons by Full- and Part-Time Status, Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity," http://www.bls.gov (accessed March 14, 2008).


25. Calculations include income tax credits that are available to all low-income families in the state, such as state earned income tax credits.


31. Potential duration is the maximum number of weeks of benefits that a claimant is eligible for under the regular state program. In most states, it is determined based on the amount and distribution of the recipient’s earnings in the base period; eight states have a uniform potential duration for all claimants.


32. Food Insecurity: Figure reflects the percent of households forced to reduce food intake, disrupt normal eating patterns, or go hungry because they lack the money or resources to obtain adequate food.


Housing Insecurity: Figure reflects the percent of families living in rental units who pay 30 percent or more of their income on housing. U.S. Census Bureau, "American Community Survey Custom Tables, 2006: Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months," http://factfinder.census.gov (accessed March 14, 2008).


34. A child support pass-through is the amount of collected child support that the state gives to families on whose behalf the child support was collected. A child support disregard is the amount of child support that the family can keep without lowering their TANF benefits.


35. Community-based IDA programs are operating in all states but often without state support. Also, in some states without state-supported IDA programs, IDA legislation was passed but never implemented due to lack of state funding, or IDA legislation expired, and no new state support was allocated.


36. Rule applies to SCHIP-funded Medicaid expansions, where applicable.


37. Households in which all members receive TANF cash assistance or SSI benefits do not have to meet gross income or asset eligibility criteria. Most states also waive these criteria for recipients of certain other benefits; some states waive these criteria for nearly all applicants.


38. This rule is applied if the vehicle is used to look for work or to travel to work or education; otherwise, equity value in excess of $1,500 is counted. The equity value equals the fair market value minus the amount still owed on the vehicle.

39. Figure reflects the percent of children in households that have insufficient net worth to subsist at the federal poverty level for three months in the absence of income.
40. Figure reflects the percent of households who are homeowners. 