



The State of Black Women & Reproductive Justice

GEORGIA

Georgia has a population of 10.7 million people, making it the 8th-most populous state in the US.

About thirty-one percent (31%) of the population is Black (compared to 14.4% nationally); 52% of the population is white; 11% is Hispanic; 5% is Asian; and .4% is American Indians and/or Alaska Native.¹

Legislative profile ²

- Governor Brian Kemp (R) opposes reproductive autonomy.
- The Georgia State House opposes reproductive autonomy.
- The Georgia State Senate opposes reproductive autonomy.

Policy profile

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Affordable Health Care ³⁻⁵

- Georgia partially expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), up to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (instead of 138% of the poverty level as called for in the ACA), and with a work requirement for eligibility. 1.9 million Georgians are covered by Medicaid/CHIP; an additional 359,000 uninsured Georgia residents would be fully covered if the state fully expanded Medicaid.
- The uninsured rate for Black people in Georgia is 11.8%; the national average uninsured rate for Black people is 9.7%.
- The state Medicaid program income eligibility limit for pregnancy is 225% of the FPL but the state has not adopted Medicaid expansion.

Abortion Rights ^{6,7}

- Georgia state law enforces a six-week abortion ban. Exceptions between 6 and 20 weeks may be allowed if the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest.
- Georgia requires a pregnant person to get biased counseling information from a provider and then wait 24 hours before getting abortion care. Georgia law requires that a parent or legal guardian be notified about a minor's abortion.
- Public funding of abortion care and through private insurance is limited.
- The state's abortion rate in 2022 was 17.2 procedures for every 1,000 women.

Family Planning Services ^{8,9}

- Georgians of any age can buy over-the-counter emergency contraception (EC) without a prescription.
- Georgia does not require emergency rooms to provide EC or information about EC to rape survivors.
- Georgia has secured a waiver or state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to cover family planning services under Medicaid, based solely on income criteria of 216% FPL.

Sexual Health Education ⁸

- Georgia state law does require public schools to provide sexual health education, but each board of education in each school district establishes the curriculum.
- If they provide sexual health education, the materials must be age-appropriate and stress the benefits of abstaining from sex.

- Students do not need permission of parents or guardians to participate in classes, but parents or guardians can opt their child out.

SYSTEMIC DISPARITIES

Maternal and Infant Mortality ¹⁰⁻¹³

- The maternal mortality rate in Georgia was 32.1 deaths for every 100,000 live births, significantly higher than the national rate of 19 deaths/100,000 births and making Georgia have the ninth highest maternal mortality rate in the US. The rate among Black women was 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, nearly 2.6 times higher than the rate of white women in Georgia.
- There were 141 pregnancy-related deaths in Georgia between 2017 and 2022. The large majority (87%) of those deaths were deemed to be preventable. Black women in rural Georgia have a maternal mortality rate that is double that of their rural white counterparts and 30% higher than among Black women in urban areas.

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GEORGIA'S WAGE GAP



BLACK WOMEN MAKE **63 CENTS**
FOR EVERY \$1.00 A WHITE MAN MAKES,
A WAGE GAP OF **39 CENTS**.

National Women's Law Center. Lifetime Wage Gap Losses by State for Black Women February 2025. Accessed August 26, 2025. <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Lifetime-Losses-State-by-State-Black-Women-2.12.2025.pdf>

*Black individuals
are 2.8 times
more likely than
white individuals
in Georgia to be
incarcerated.*

- The Black infant mortality rate in Georgia is 10.9 deaths for every 1,000 live births; the U.S. rate is 10.4/1,000 live births. For whites, the rate is 4.9/1,000, which is about the same as the national rate.

STDS, Including HIV/AIDS ¹⁴

- Of the total new diagnoses of STD/STIs in 2023 for which race/ethnicity was reported in Georgia:
 - » There were 569 new diagnoses of Syphilis: 58% were among Black women, 36% were among white women, and 3% were among Hispanic women.
 - » There were 45,609 new diagnoses of Chlamydia: 63% were among Black women, 19% were among white women, and 8% were among Hispanic women.
 - » There were 12,172 new diagnoses of Gonorrhea: 72% were among Black women, 18% were among white women, and 4% were among Hispanic women.
- Among women who received an HIV diagnosis in Georgia in 2023 for whom race/ethnicity was known, 72% were Black women, 15% were white women, 9% were Hispanic women, and 2% were multiracial women.
- In 2023, of the AIDS-related deaths among women in Georgia, 78% were Black women, 12% were white women, 3% were Hispanic women, and 9% were multiracial women.

Reproductive Cancers ¹⁵

- In Georgia, the age-adjusted rate of new breast cancer cases is 135.5 cancers for every 100,000 women. The rate for Black women is 137 for every 100,000 women; for white women, the rate is 136.7, and the rate for Hispanic women is 113.8.
- The breast cancer mortality rate for Black women in Georgia is 26.1 deaths for every 100,000 women, compared to 20.2 per 100,000 for white women and 11.3 for Hispanic women.

- The age-adjusted cervical cancer rate is 7.9 cases for every 100,000 women in Georgia. The rate for Black women is 8.2 per 100,000 women, compared to 10.2 for Hispanic women and 7.8 for white women.
- The cervical cancer mortality rate for Black women is 3.1 deaths for every 100,000 women, compared to 2.4 per 100,000 for white women.

Economic Justice ^{16,17}

- In Georgia, Black women make 63 cents for every dollar that a white man makes, creating a wage gap of 39 cents.
- The lifetime wage gap for Black women in Georgia is \$1,056,120; a Black woman has to work until age 83 to make what a white man does by age 60.
- In Georgia, 34% of women-headed households live in poverty. Among Black women, 18.3% live in poverty, compared to 13.9% of all women aged 18 and older, and 10.5% white women in the state.

LGBTQIA+ Liberation ¹⁸

- Georgia bans best practice medication and surgical care for transgender youth.
- There are not state laws in place that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity with respect to employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit and lending policies.
- State law does not protect LGBTQIA+ parents with respect to adoption or foster care; state family leave laws do not include LGBTQIA+-inclusive definitions of "spouse" or "partner," or "children/parents."
- Georgia explicitly defines "sex" throughout state law to exclude transgender people.

Criminal Justice ¹⁹⁻²²

- Black individuals in Georgia comprise 59% of the prison population, compared to just 31% of the overall state population.
- Black individuals are 2.8 times more likely than white individuals in Georgia to be incarcerated.

- Georgia denies the right to vote to more than 129,000 Black citizens due to imprisonment for a felony conviction.
- Georgia has anti-shackling legislation that protects pregnant inmates.

Violence Against Women ²³⁻²⁶

- More than half (54.2%) of women in Georgia and 40.4% of men have experienced some form of domestic violence in their lifetimes.
- Black women were 5 times as likely to die by gun homicide than white females in Georgia.
- In 2022, there were at least 203 domestic violence-related homicides in Georgia; 70% were by firearm.
- Georgia does not have ERPO (Extreme Risk Protection Order) laws.
- Since 2015, 19 women have been killed by police in Georgia; 6 of those were Black women.

Environmental Justice ^{27,28}

- Black women in Georgia have about the same rate of asthma (13.8%) as the general state average (14.1%).
- Many of the reproductive cancers noted above have direct links to environmental pollution, and it is well-documented that racial and ethnic minorities and low-income groups often live in neighborhoods near hazardous waste and are disproportionately burdened with environmental pollution.

Endnotes

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There are not state laws in place that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity with respect to employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit and lending policies.

We are a national partnership focused on lifting up the voices of Black women leaders at the national, regional, and state level in our ongoing policy fight to secure Reproductive Justice for all women and girls.



IN OUR OWN VOICE:
NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AGENDA
202.545.7660 • www.blackrj.org

Strategic Partners



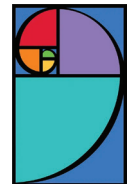
New Voices for
Reproductive Justice



SPARK RJ Now!



SisterReach



SisterLove



Black Women for
Wellness



Black Women's
Health Imperative



Wisdom Institute



The Afiya Center



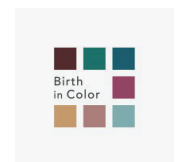
New Jersey Black
Women Physicians
Association



Oshun Family Center



Women With A Vision



Birth in Color RVA

Because the Reproductive Justice framework encompasses bodily integrity and autonomy, our use of the term “women” includes cis, femmes, trans, agender, gender non-binary, and gender non-confirming individuals.