



Recovery or Bust: Georgia's Poor Left Behind

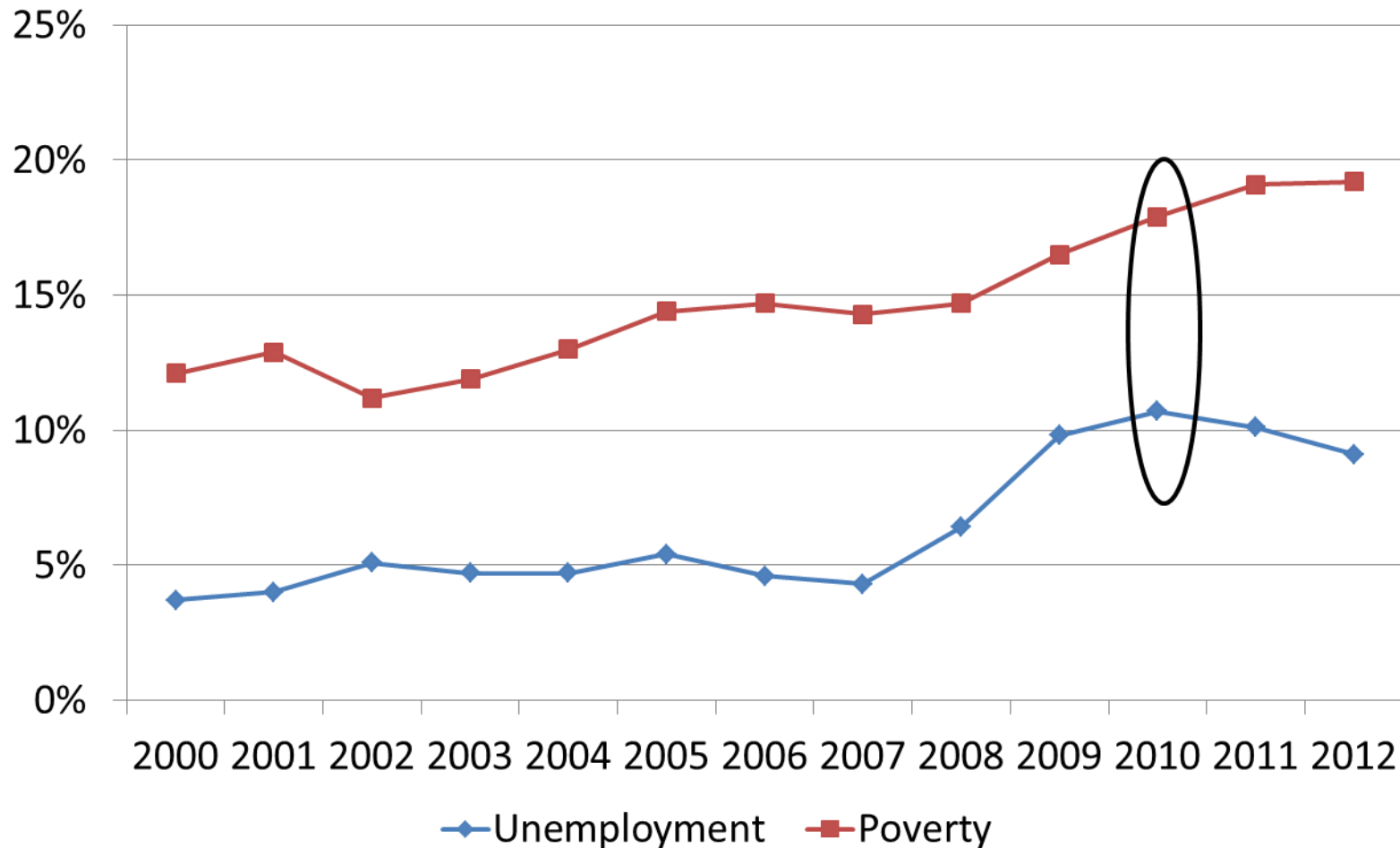
Melissa Johnson

March 4, 2014

50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty in 2014



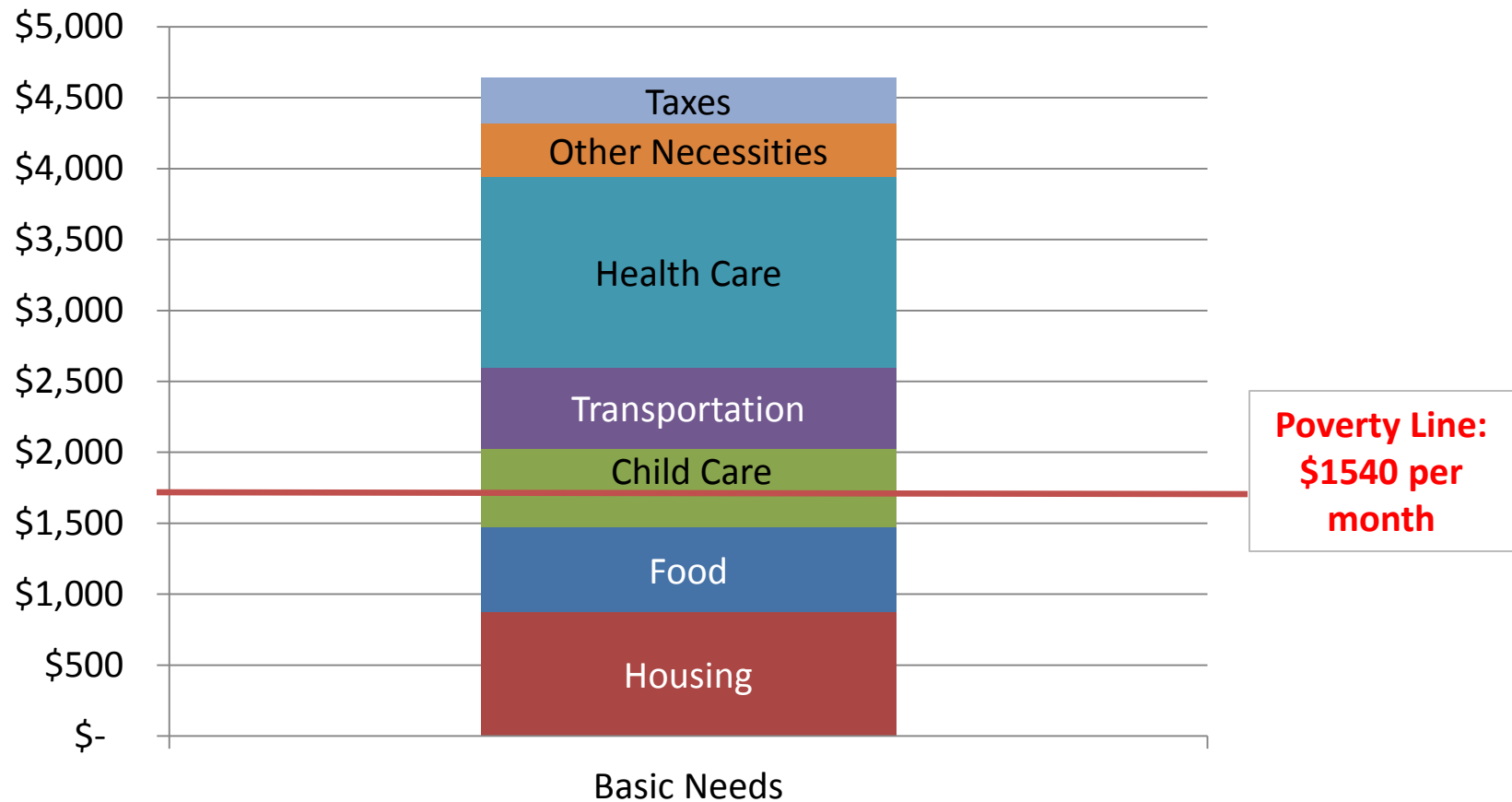
Why are Georgia's Poor Increasing in Number?



Agenda

- Who Georgia's Poor Are and Where they Live
- Challenges Georgia's Poor Face

Big Gap Between Poverty and Meeting Basic Needs



*Based on monthly expenses for a family of three in Atlanta.

DEMOGRAPHICS

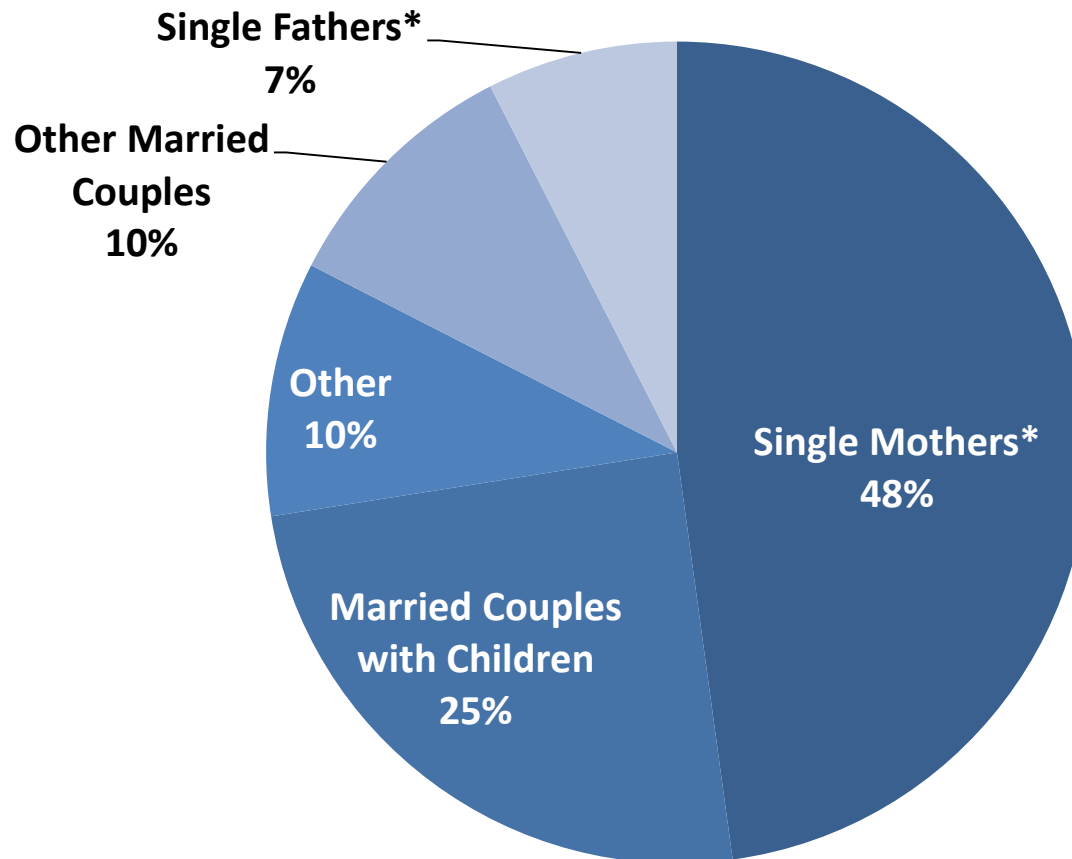
Nearly One Out of Five Georgians Lives in Poverty

- Georgia is the sixth poorest state, at a rate of 19.2%
 - Metro Atlanta Poverty Rate: 16.6%
- Georgia is the sixth worst state for child poverty, at a rate of 27.2%
 - Metro Atlanta Child Poverty Rate: 23.7%



Single Moms Most Common Type of Family in Poverty

Data for Metro Atlanta

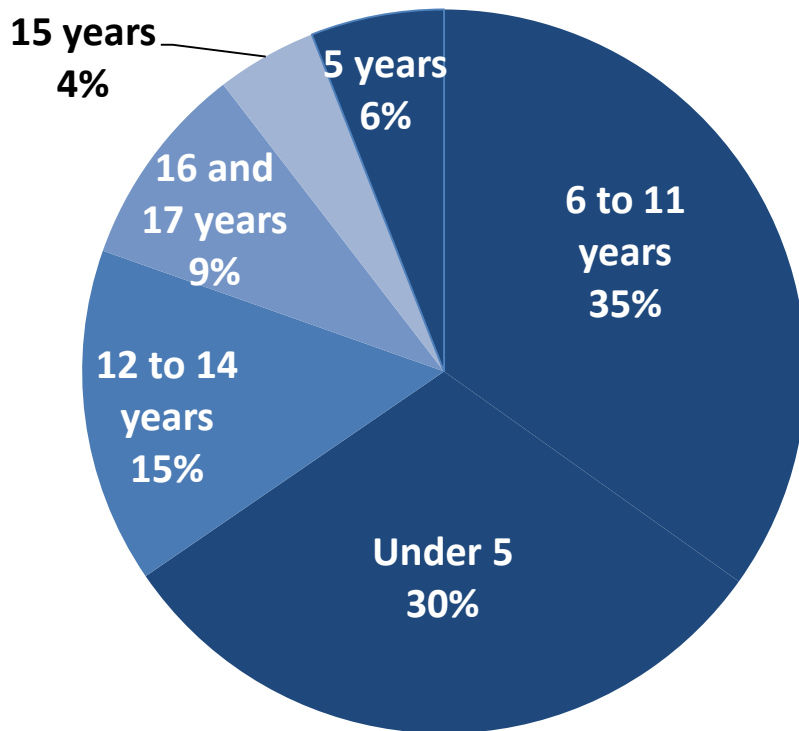


*Single fathers and mothers used to represent male and female heads of household raising related children under 18.

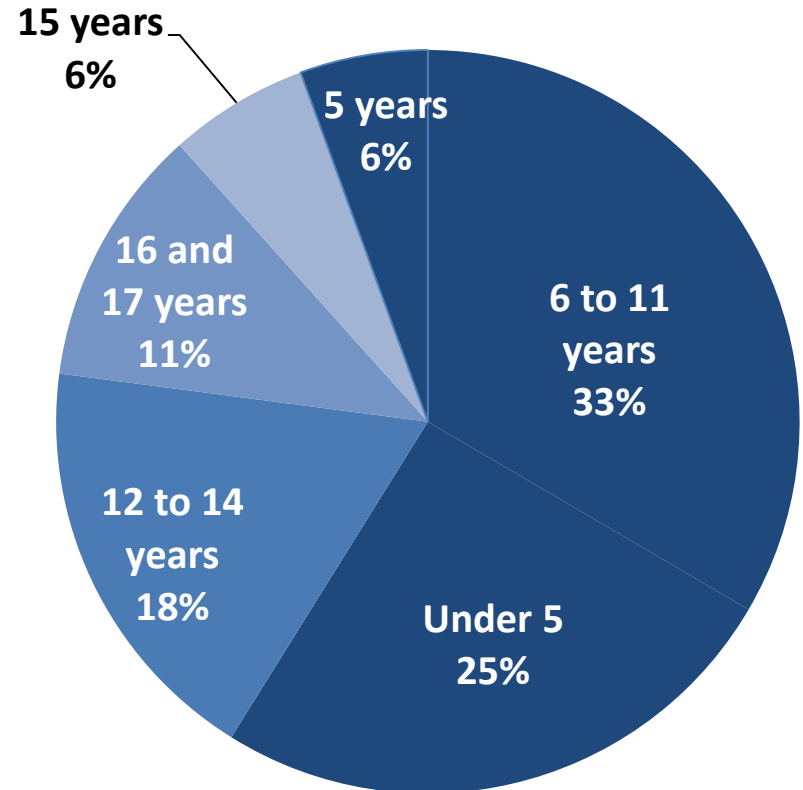
Children in Poverty More Likely to Be Under 12

Data for Metro Atlanta

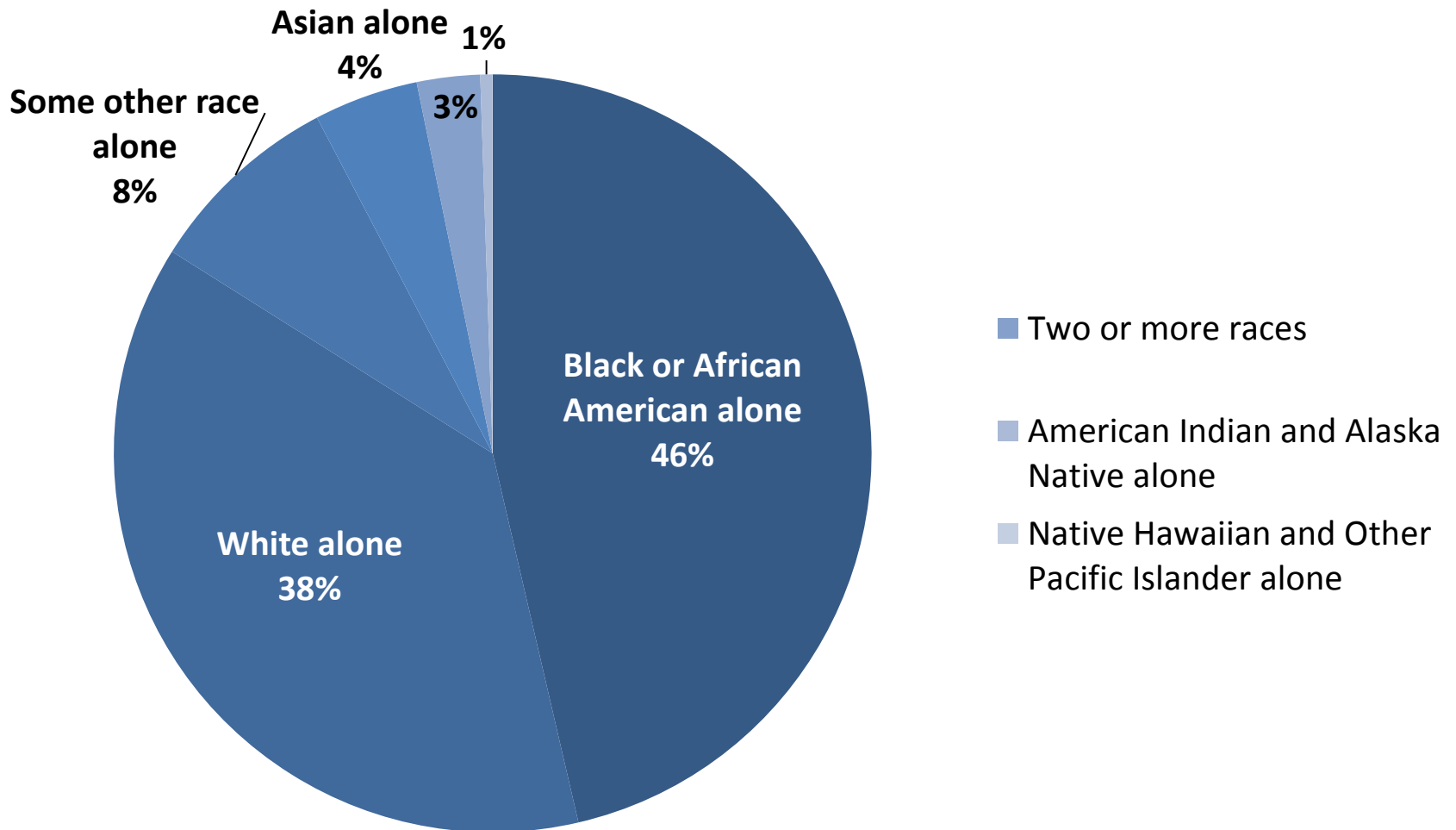
71% of Children in Poverty Are Under 12...



....Compared to 64% of Children Not in Poverty

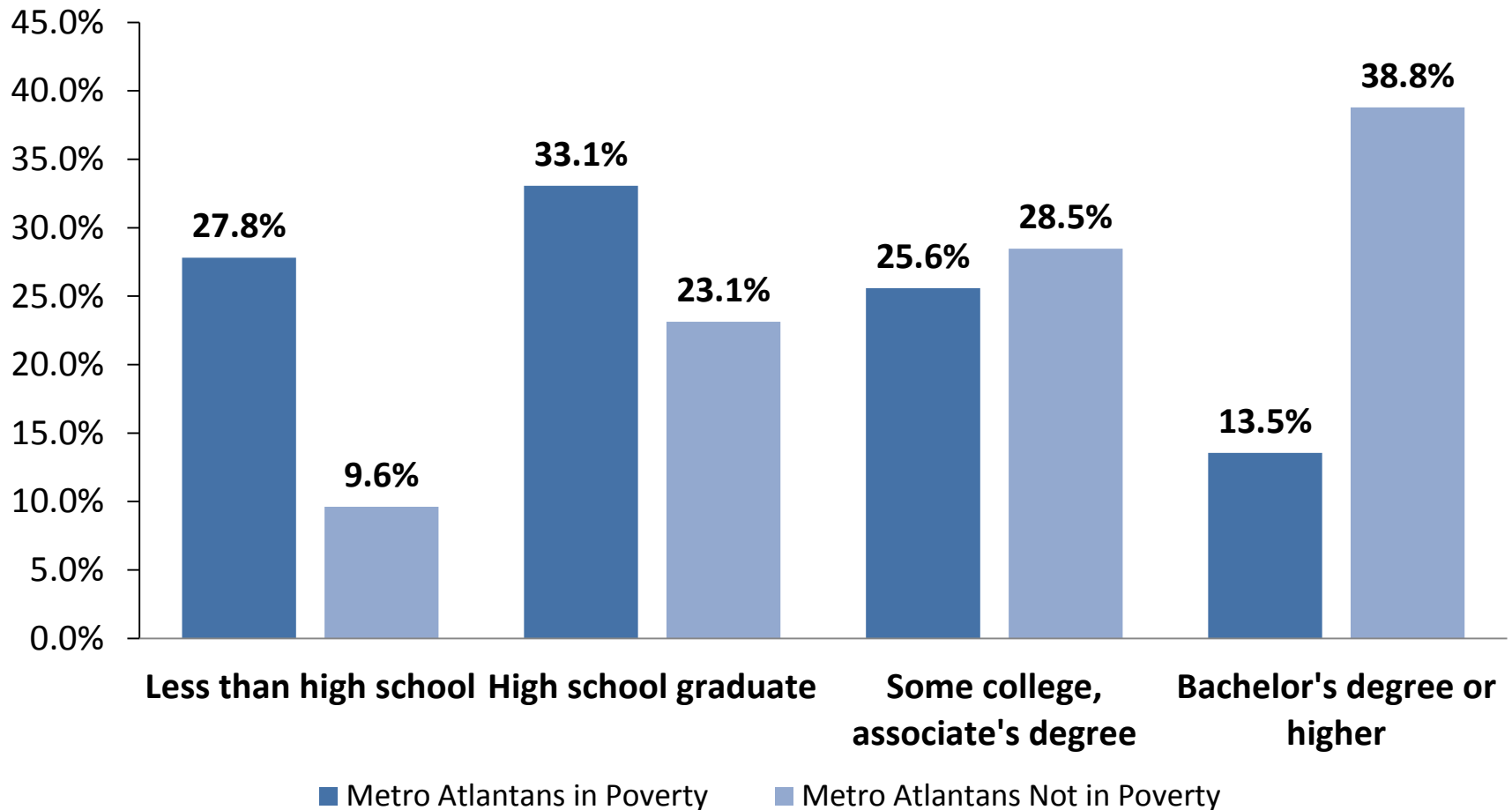


Poverty Touches All Races in Metro Atlanta

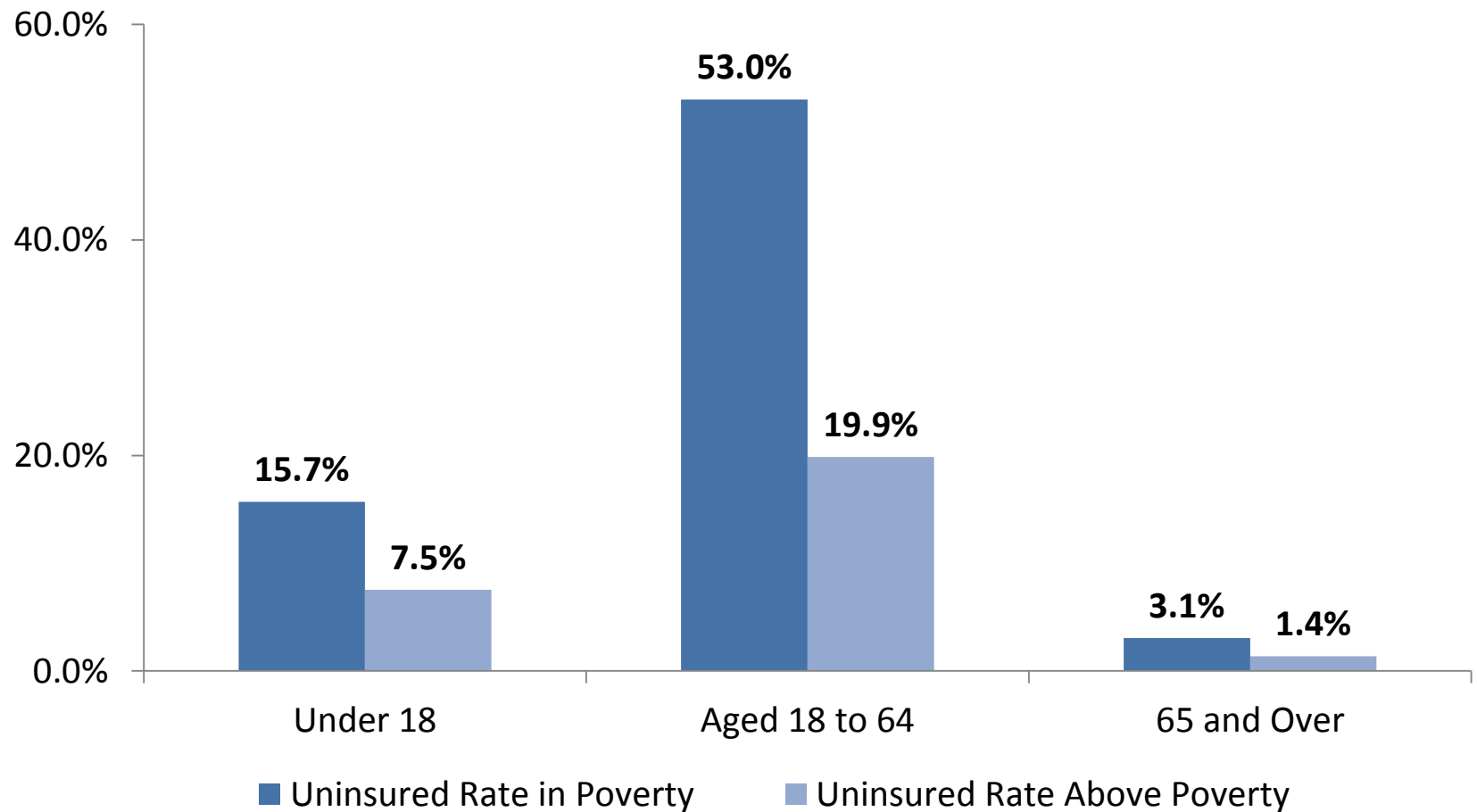


Metro Atlantans in Poverty Less Likely to Achieve Higher Education

(Educational Attainment by Poverty Level for Population Age 25 and Over)



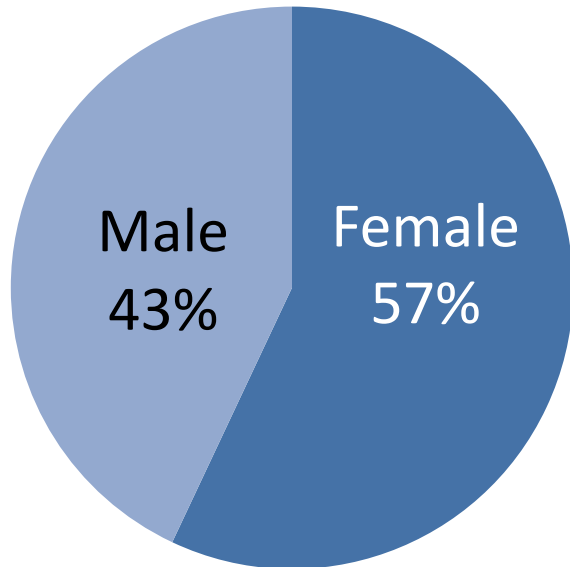
Poor Working Age Metro Atlantans Less Likely to Have Health Coverage



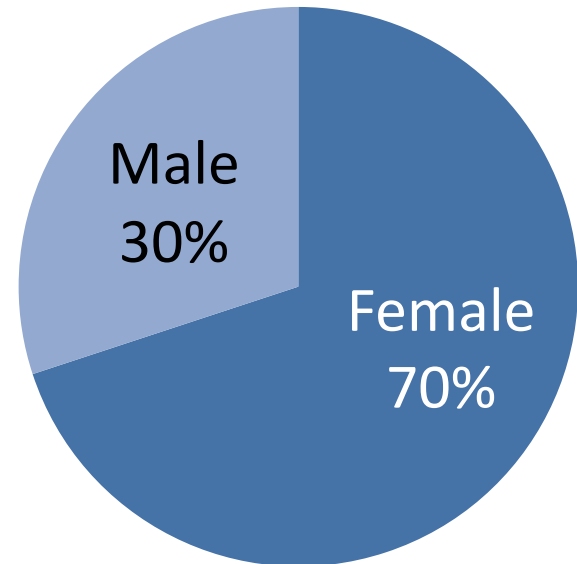
Women Overrepresented Among Poor Seniors

Data for Metro Atlanta

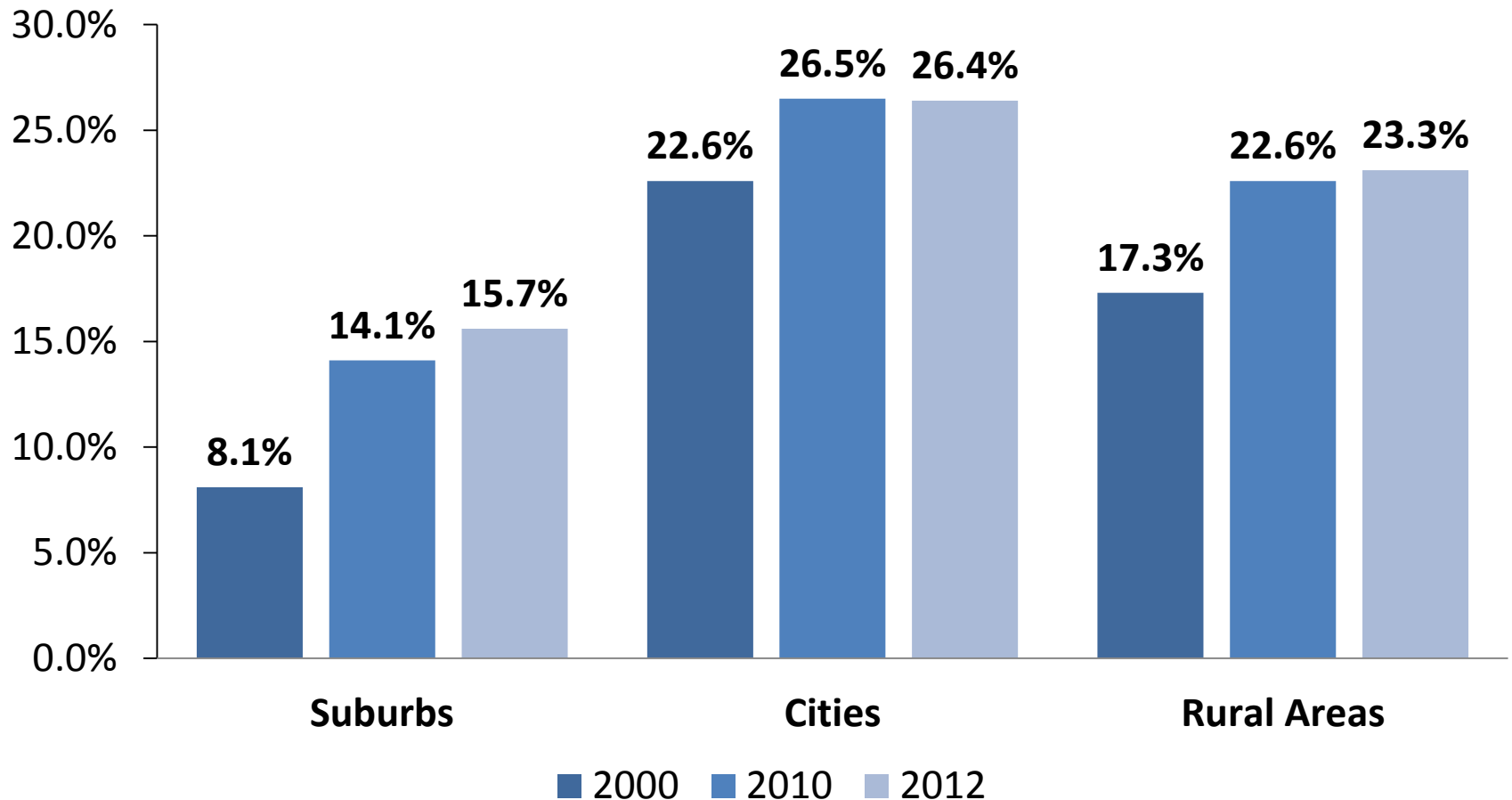
**Women Outnumber Men
Among Seniors**



**....But Women are the
Supermajority Among
Poor Seniors**



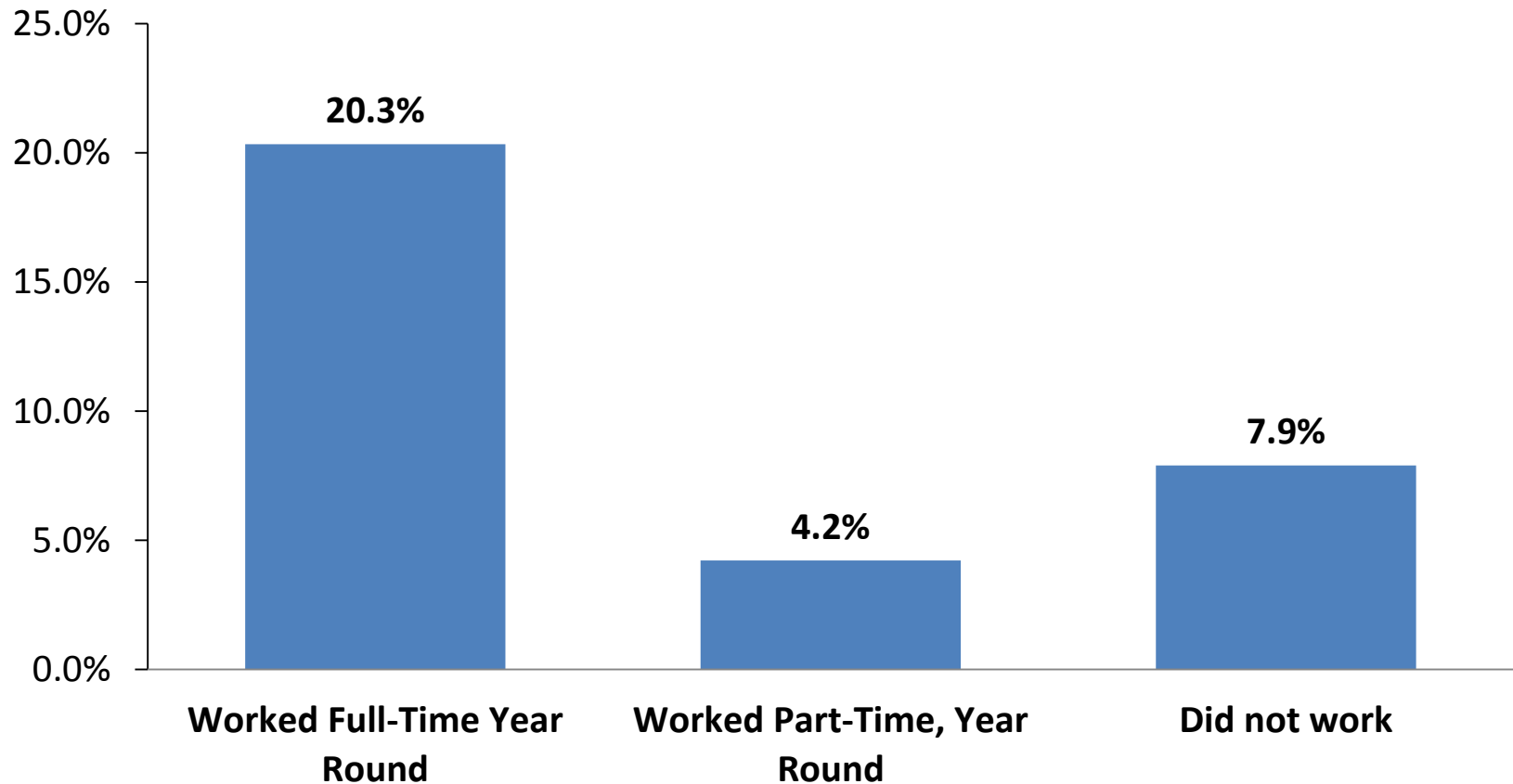
Poverty on the Rise in Georgia, But Faster in the Suburbs



CHALLENGES

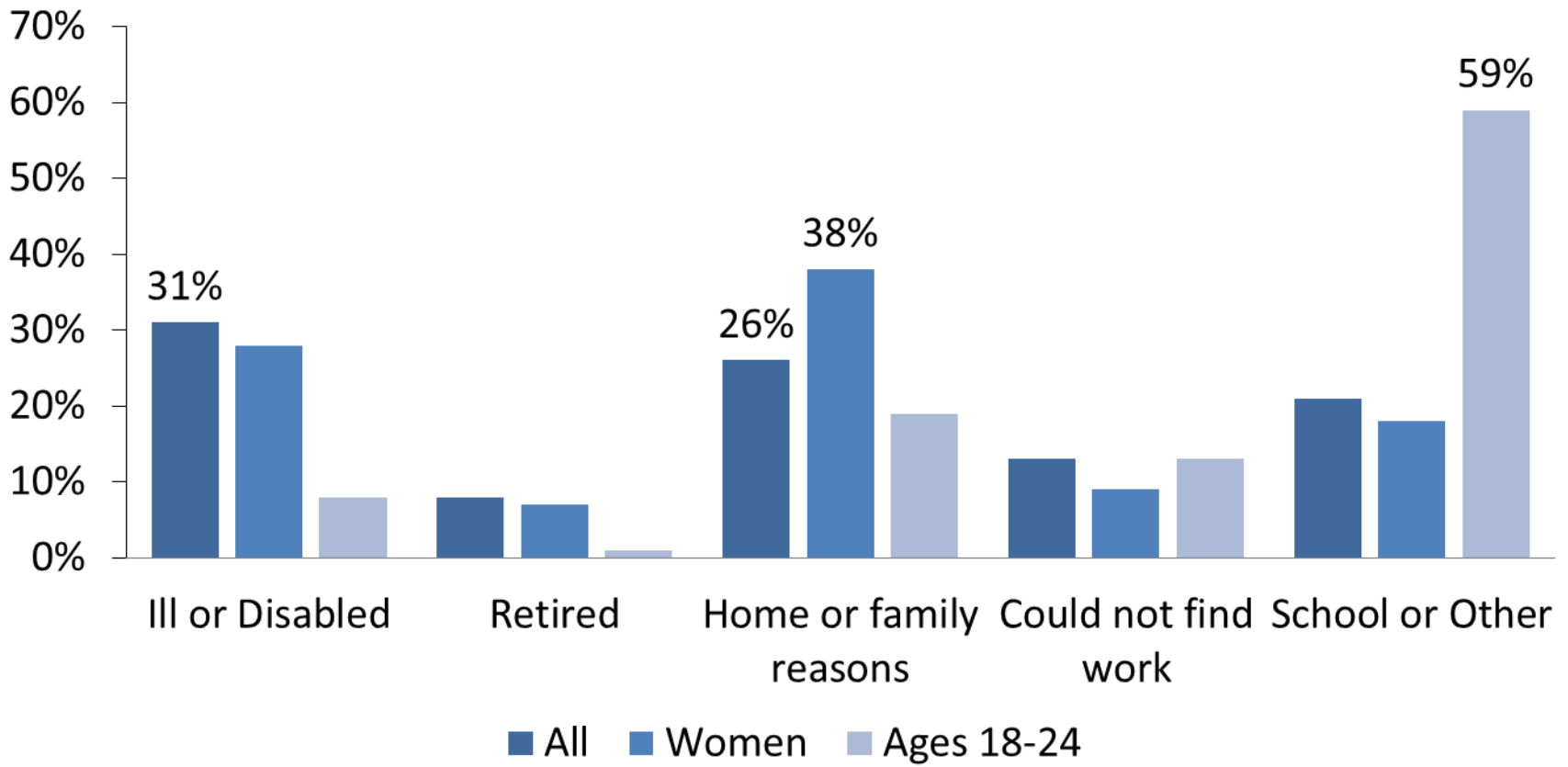
Lower Wages, Increased Part-Time Work, and Elevated Long-Term Unemployment Plague the Poor

(Change in Poor Working Population Age 16 to 64, 2010-2012)

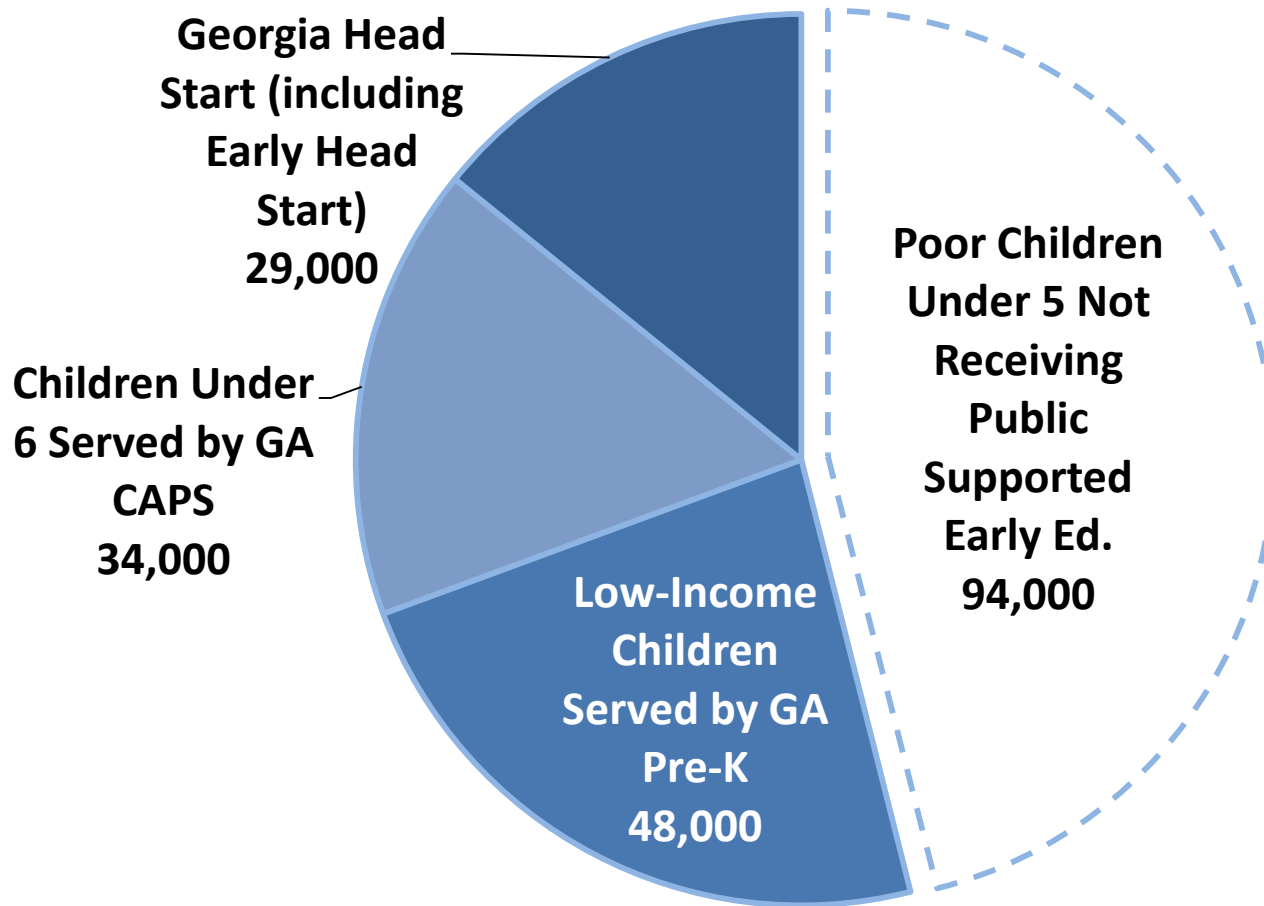


Poor Nonworking Georgians Deal With Barriers to Work

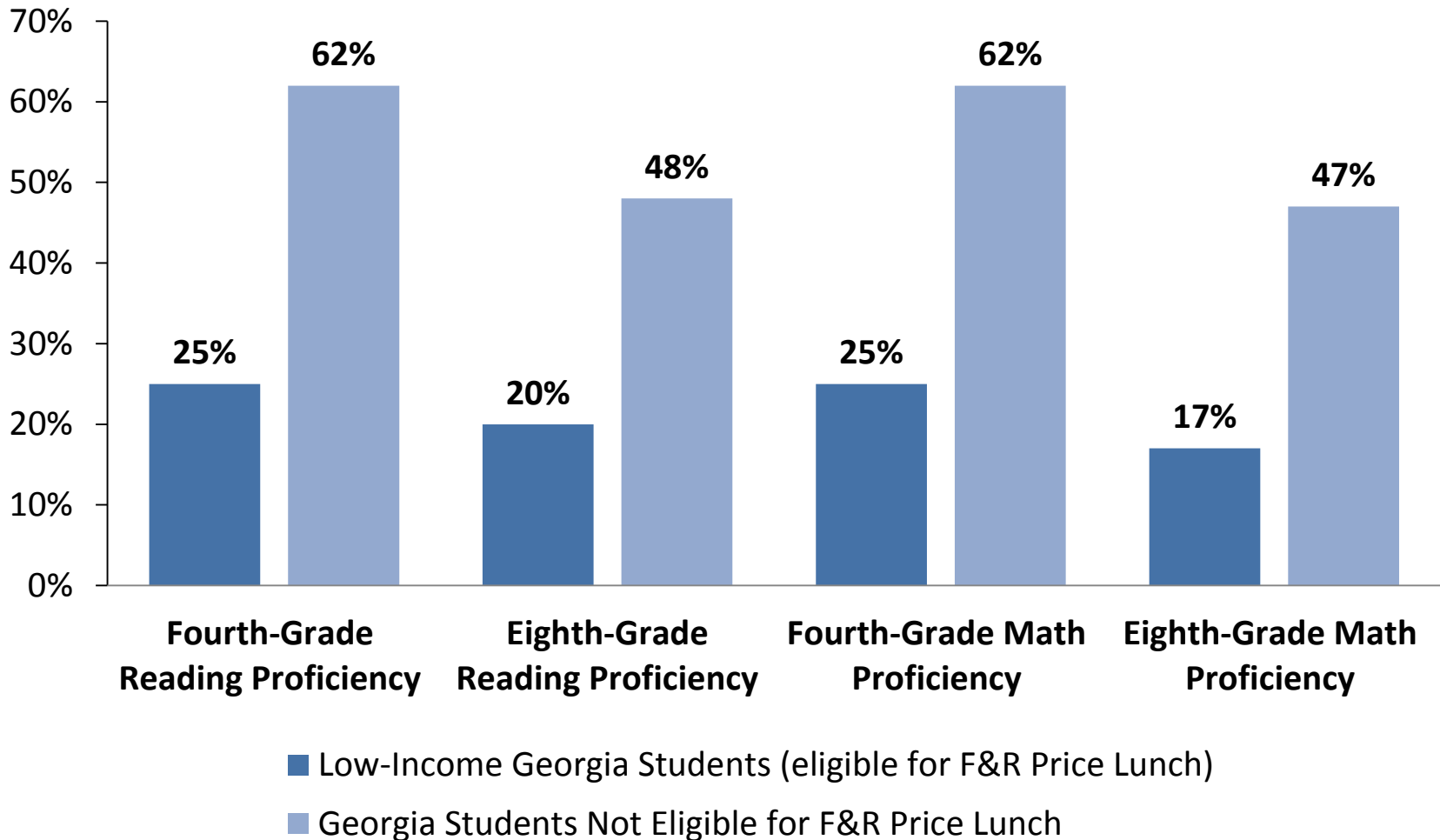
National Census Data, Ages 18 to 64



More Than 94,000 Poor Georgia Children Not Served by Child Care and Early Education Programs

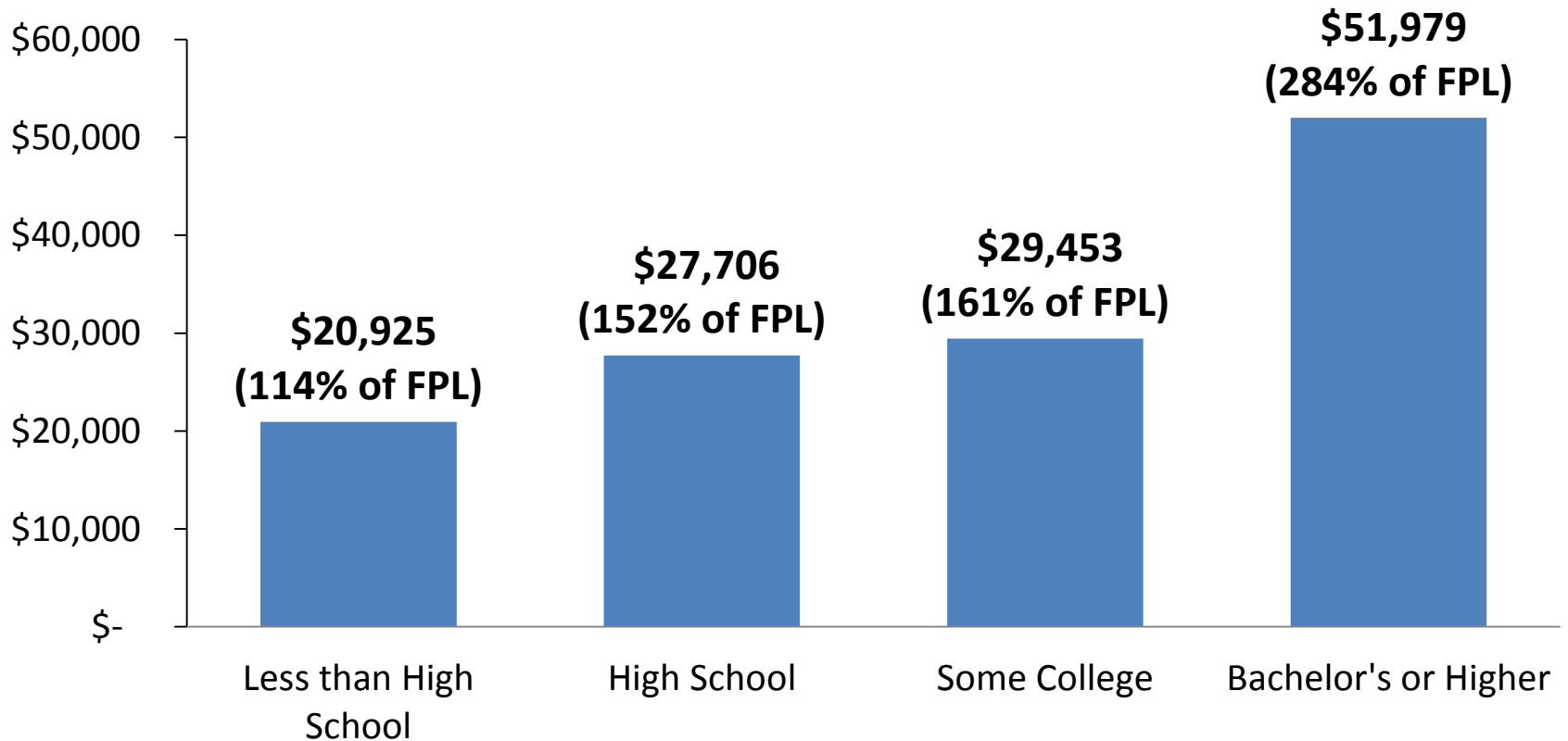


Low-Income Students Achieve Reading and Math Proficiency at Lower Levels



Lower Educational Attainment Keeps Georgians Closer to Poverty Line

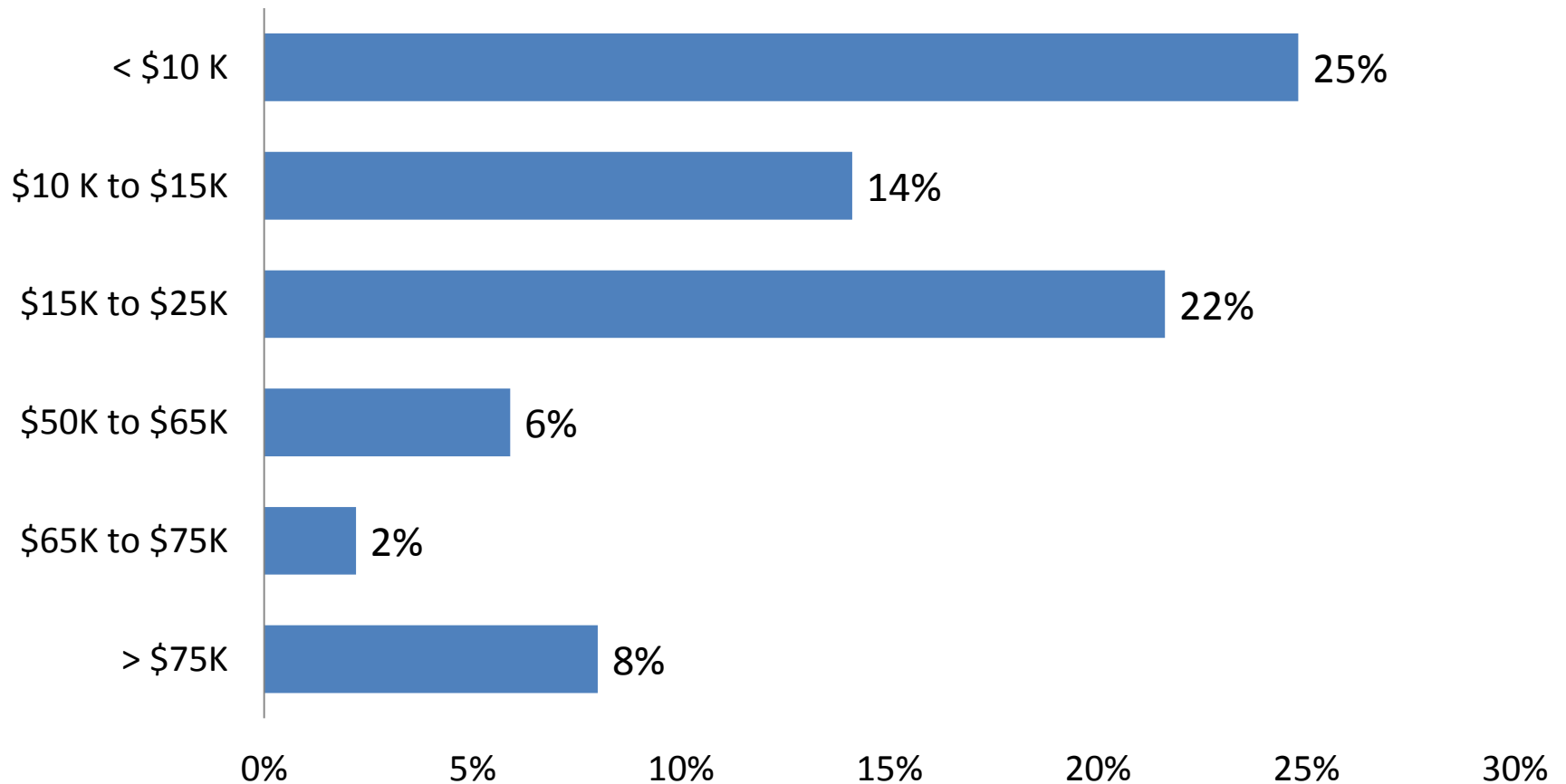
Median Salary by Educational Attainment
(Poverty Line for a Family of Three)



Lack of Public Transportation also a Barrier to Work for the Poor

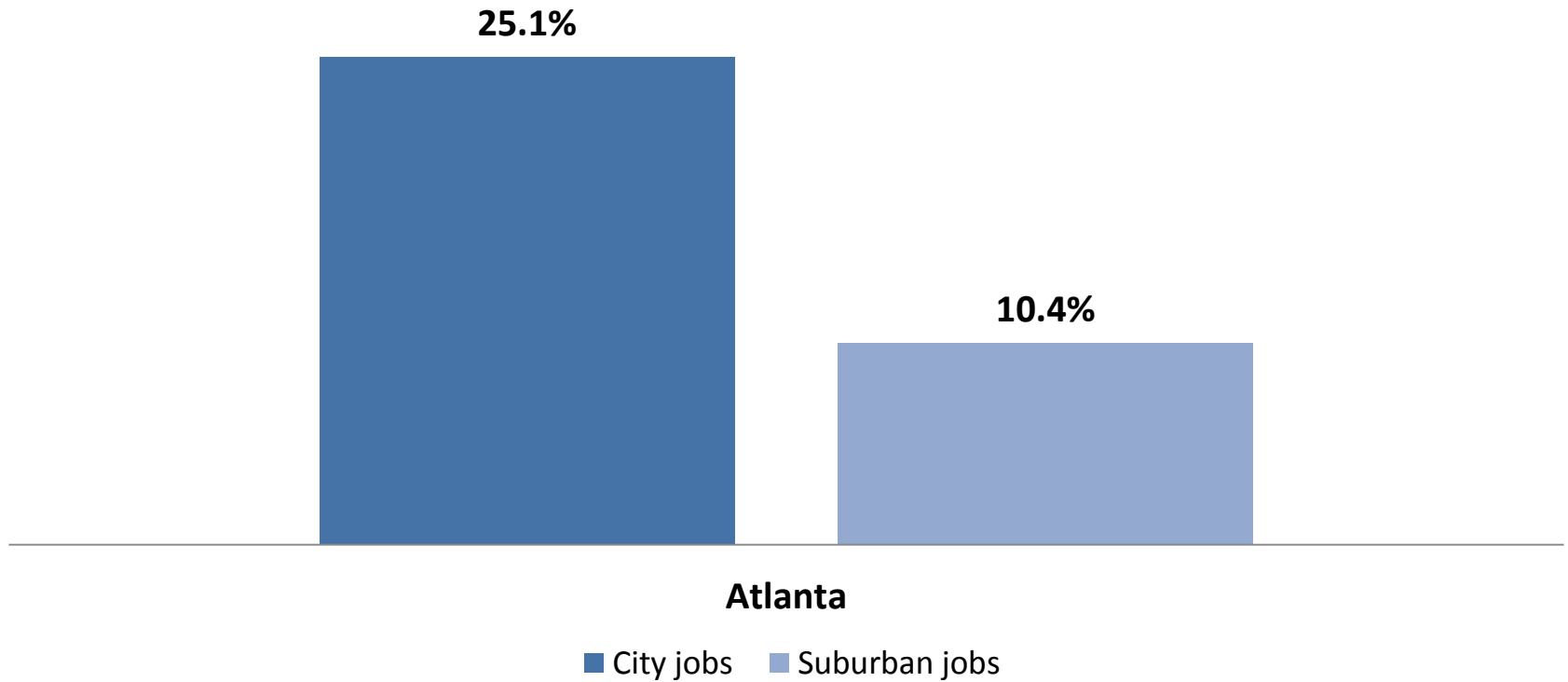
Low-Income Georgians More Dependent on Public Transportation

Share of People Using Public Transit for Work Commute by Income Level



Limited Public Transportation Options Makes Jobs Less Accessible

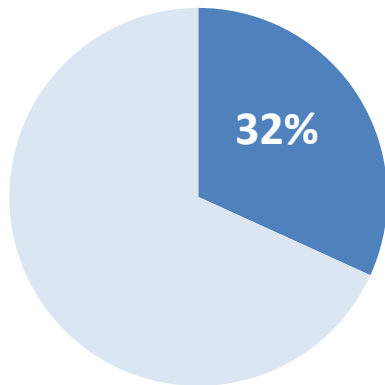
Accessibility of Jobs Via Mass Transit
(in 90 minutes or less)



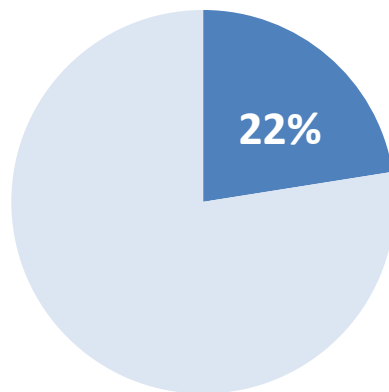
Many Low-Income City Residents Stressed by Rental Costs

(Share of Renters Earning Less than \$20,000 and Spending 30% or More of Income on Housing)

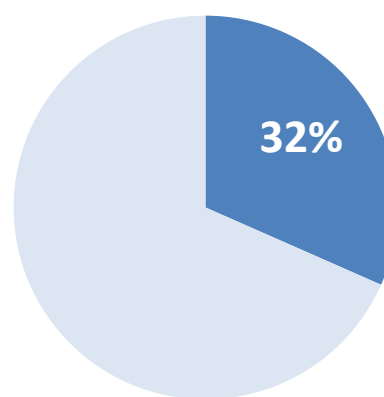
Augusta



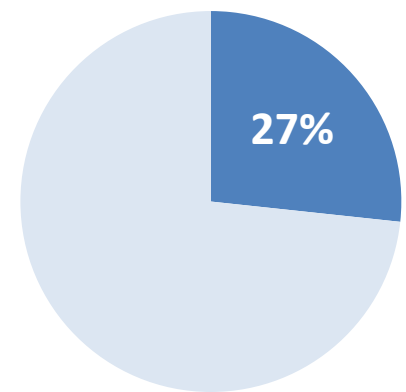
Columbus



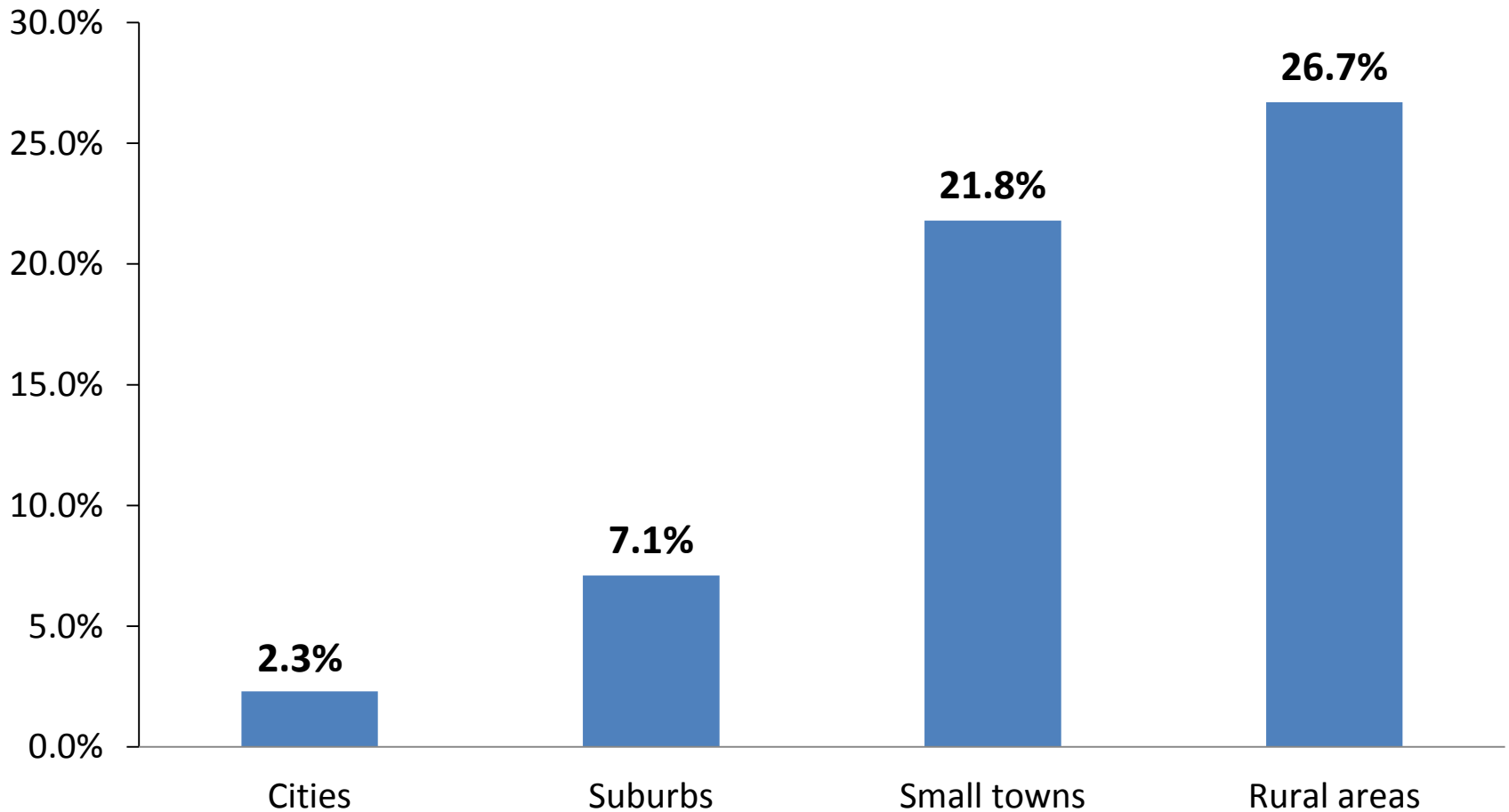
Savannah



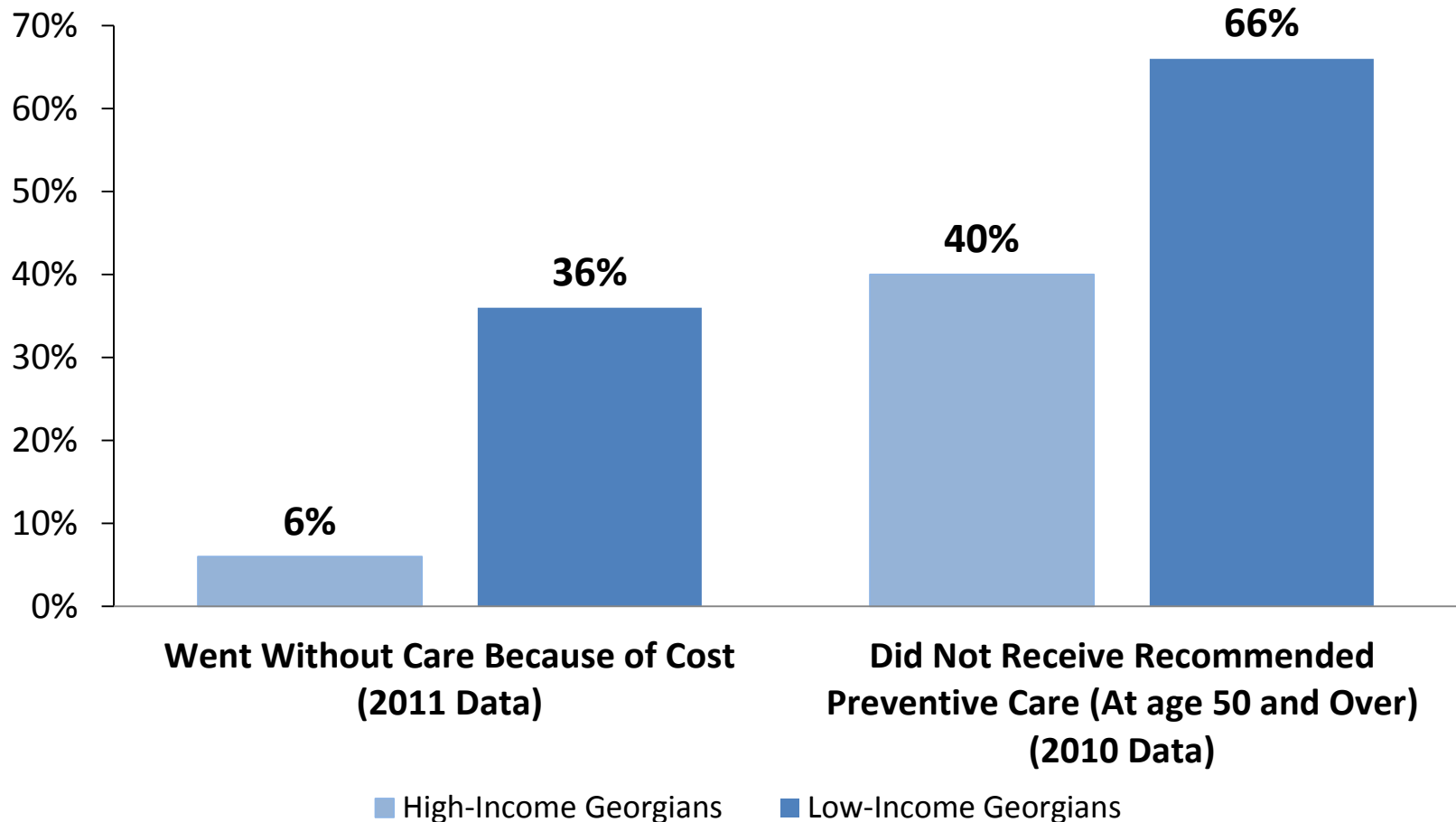
Atlanta



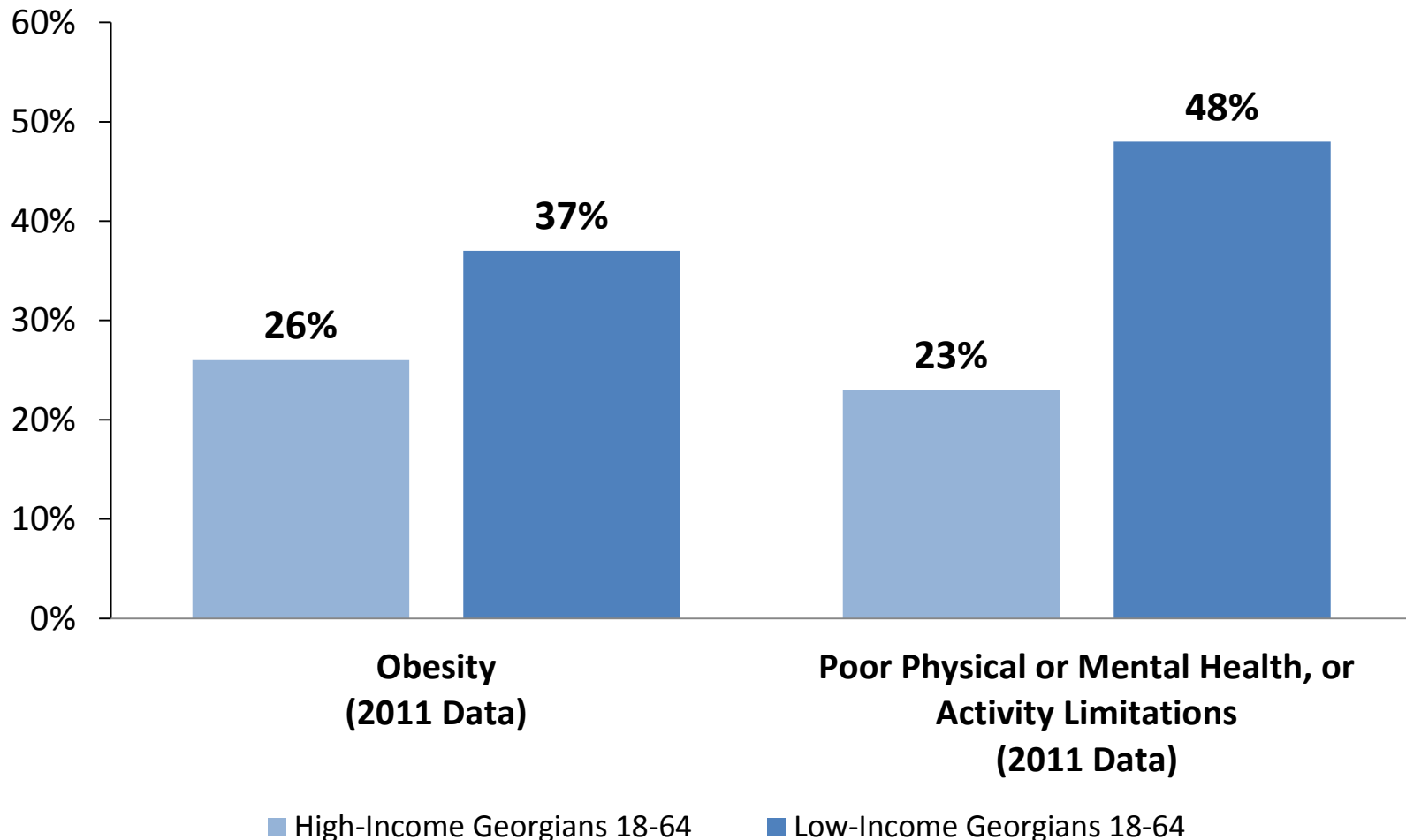
Mobile Homes Much More Prevalent in Rural Areas and Small Towns



Low-Income Georgians More Likely to Go Without Health Care



Low-Income Georgians More Likely to Have Negative Health Outcomes



Conclusion: Opportunity in the Face of Challenge



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