

Hospital Markets in Georgia *at a glance*

A snapshot of hospital market structure, concentration, and ownership across the state — and how they've changed since 2000. This analysis reflects data available through May 2026.

In Georgia, the share of hospitals owned by a multi-hospital system rose to 70%.

WHAT THIS ANALYSIS COVERS

This analysis focuses on the state's 128 general short-term acute care (GSAC) hospitals — the facilities where most privately insured, Medicare, and Medicaid patients receive inpatient care, and where market concentration most directly affects the prices employers and workers pay. Each hospital's market is defined via a 30-minute travel radius around that facility. Within it, we measure concentration using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) — a standard antitrust metric calculated as the sum of the squared market shares of the owners in a market. HHI ranges from 0 (many small hospitals, low concentration) to 10,000 (a monopoly market, which has a single owner). Our hospital-centric HHI is a consistent analytical proxy for market concentration, not a legally defined antitrust market.

☒ GSAC Hospitals (128)
 ☐ VA / Military
 ☐ Psychiatric / Behavioral
 ☐ Rehabilitation
 ☐ Children's Specialty

Market Concentration

Georgia's hospital markets grew more concentrated from 2000 to 2026, with average hospital market HHI rising from 4,774 to 5,898, an increase of more than 1,000 points. In 2000, 14 hospitals operated in “low” or “moderately” concentrated markets, but by 2026, every hospital had an HHI above 1,800, the threshold the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice (DOJ) consider “highly concentrated.” The number of monopoly hospitals rose from 17 to 30. Between 2000 and 2026, 26 hospitals closed and 8 opened, leading to a net loss of 18 hospitals. During the same period, 62 transactions reshaped ownership. Nineteen of those transactions (31%) qualified as “Red Zone” mergers. A Red Zone merger raises at least one merging hospital's market HHI by over 100 points to above 1,800, which DOJ and FTC guidelines presume is likely to raise prices.

2000 | 146 hospitals overall



2026 | 128 hospitals overall



CONCENTRATION SCALE (IN HHI)

☒ Low (<1,000 HHI)
 ☒ Moderate (1,000 to <1,800)
 ☒ High (1,800 to <5,000)
 ☒ Higher (5,000 to <10,000)
 ☒ Monopoly (10,000 HHI)

Explore the data yourself

Our tool has three components. **The Market Explorer** tracks how hospital market concentration has evolved from 2000 to May 2026, drawing on ownership data from the AHA's Annual Survey, validated against state health department filings, SEC disclosures, and public reporting. **The Closures Explorer** tracks hospital closures and openings nationwide, each year since 2000. **The Forecast Lab** uses that same data to model how a proposed merger, closure, or opening would reshape a hospital market as it stood in 2026 — it models the scenarios you specify and does not identify potential mergers.

Note on the data: The tool uses a first-of-its-kind database that we built from scratch. We have done our best to gather and validate the data; however, if you notice an error (e.g., a hospital's name, a merger year) or if you have questions about our methodology, please notify us at HealthCareAffordabilityLab@yale.edu.

Health Care
Affordability Lab
at Yale

Explore Market Concentration at
Markets.HealthCareAffordabilityLab.org



QR code to GA Hospitals

Hospital Markets in Georgia

October 2026

Key Stats

SYSTEM OWNERSHIP

47% → 70%

69/146 → 89/128 part of system

AVG HHI INCREASE

+1,124

4,774 → 5,898

RED ZONE TRANSACTIONS

19 of 62

31% in Red Zone

HOSPITALS LOST (NET)

-18

26 closed, 8 opened

From Majority-Independent to Majority-System

In 2000, a majority of Georgia's hospitals were independent (53%). By 2026, the majority of hospitals, 70%, were owned by a multi-hospital system, a 23 percentage point rise. The largest system in Georgia is Piedmont Healthcare (19 hospitals), followed by Wellstar Health System (9) and Emory Healthcare (8).

2000 | 146 hospitals overall

69 in 25 systems 77 independents

47%

53%

2026 | 128 hospitals overall

89 in 22 systems 39 independents

70%

30%

Georgia's Largest Systems

Twenty-two systems own 89 of Georgia's 128 hospitals.

SYSTEM	HOSPITALS IN STATE	AVERAGE MARKET HHI	HOSPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION ABOVE 1,800 HHI
Piedmont Healthcare	19	5,485	19 of 19
Wellstar Health System	9	6,360	9 of 9

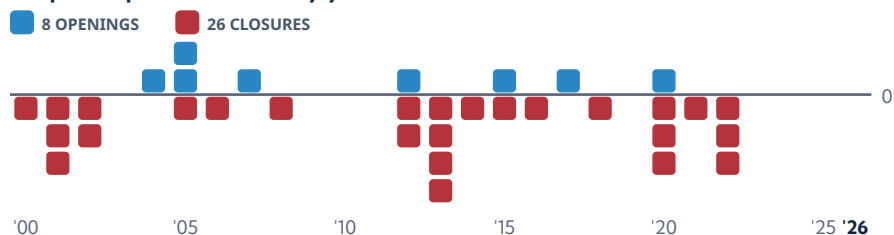
Average market HHI reflects the mean HHI across each system's hospitals within the state. HHI is calculated within a 30-minute travel radius of each facility. National hospital data typically lags by one to two years for new openings and recent ownership changes, so figures for 2024–2026 are preliminary and may not yet reflect all recent activity.

An Active Merger Landscape

Georgia had one of the most active merger landscapes in the country — 62 transactions since 2000 — as systems acquired independent hospitals across the state. Of those, 19, or 31%, qualified as Red Zone mergers.

The combination of acquisitions and 26 closures caused the share of system ownership in Georgia to rise from 47% in 2000 to 70% in 2026.

Hospitals opened & closed by year



Transactions by year

