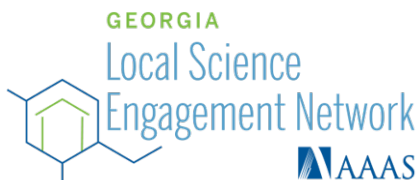




**SCIENCE FOR  
GEORGIA**

Proud to be the:



# 2021 Georgia State of Science Survey

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## Science for Georgia

Science for Georgia is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to bridging the gap between scientists and the public through training, outreach opportunities, and direct contact with the public, policymakers, and the press. Science for Georgia highlights how science can impact people's lives and advocates for the responsible use of science in public policy.

# Executive Summary

The 2021 Georgia State of Science Survey was created to gain an accurate understanding of the needs and priorities of the science and technology communities. This survey was conducted between late 2020-early 2021 and advertised to members of the Georgia Science and Technology (S&T) community. There is no formal definition of this community, and respondents are self-identified via employment or study in science, technology, engineering, math, or healthcare.

79 respondents from 29 Georgia counties indicated that overall, they were dissatisfied with how expert advice and evidence is used in forming Georgia policy, as well as with the level of cooperation between policymakers and the scientific community. One fifth said Georgia has done well in voting (note: this survey was conducted before the passage of GA voting legislation in early 2021) and employment. Three fourths said Georgia could use improvement in healthcare access and science and one half noted that Georgia could do better in the environment, voting, civil rights, and criminal justice. The most pressing issue was K-12 STEM curriculum, infrastructure and resources for research parks, university/business partnerships, and tech transfers, and R&D funding.

Over 50% of respondents had considered moving out of Georgia due to a lack of science tradition and culture, discrimination, and discomfort with Georgia science policy. Positive changes including social acceptance of minority groups and demonstrated changes in Georgia social policy would entice them to stay. Respondents believed that Georgia's public university system, growth opportunities, and parks and green spaces were relative strengths of the state.

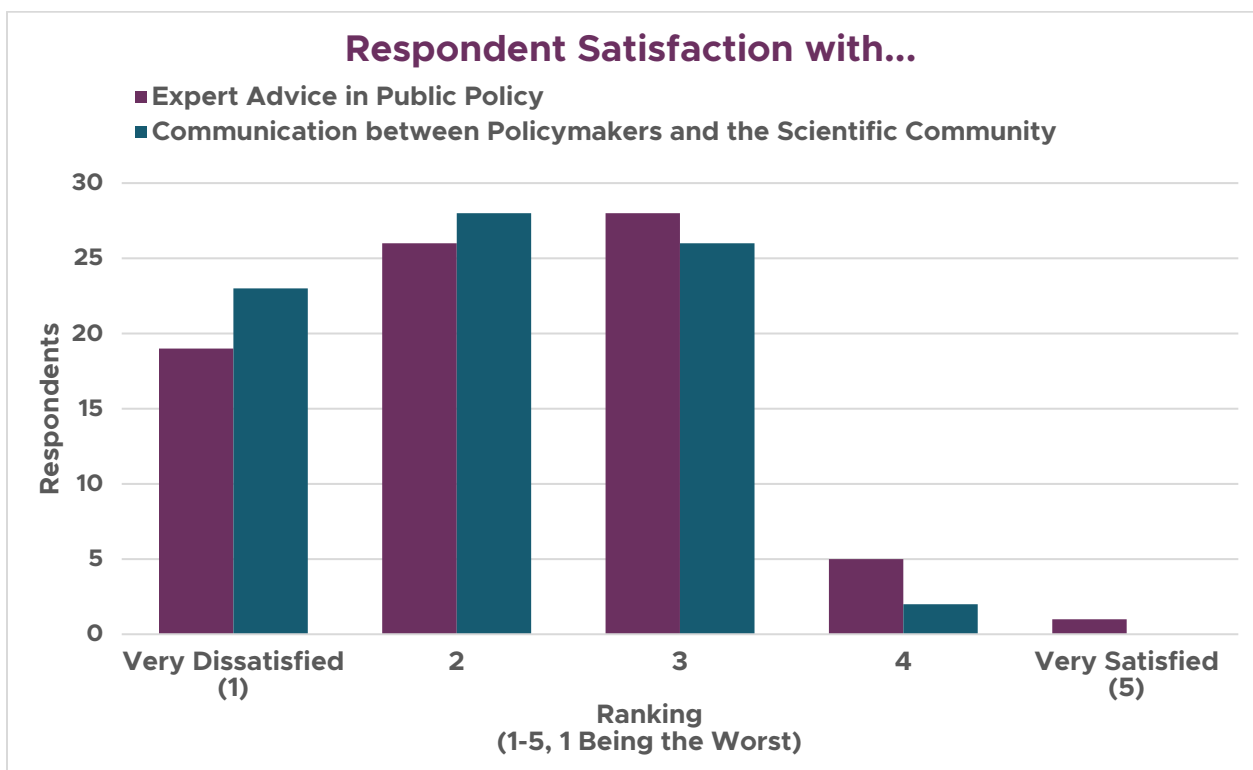
Taken together, this survey indicates the desire for greater cooperation between scientists and policy makers. Respondents want to see improvements in K-12 education and healthcare access, but, more importantly, they want to make Georgia comfortable for all Georgians so that everyone can access growth opportunities.

The respondents included 79 members of the Georgia S&T community. The demographics of the respondents reflected the racial breakdown of STEM fields, but did not reflect the gender breakdown, skewing heavily female.

# The Survey Results

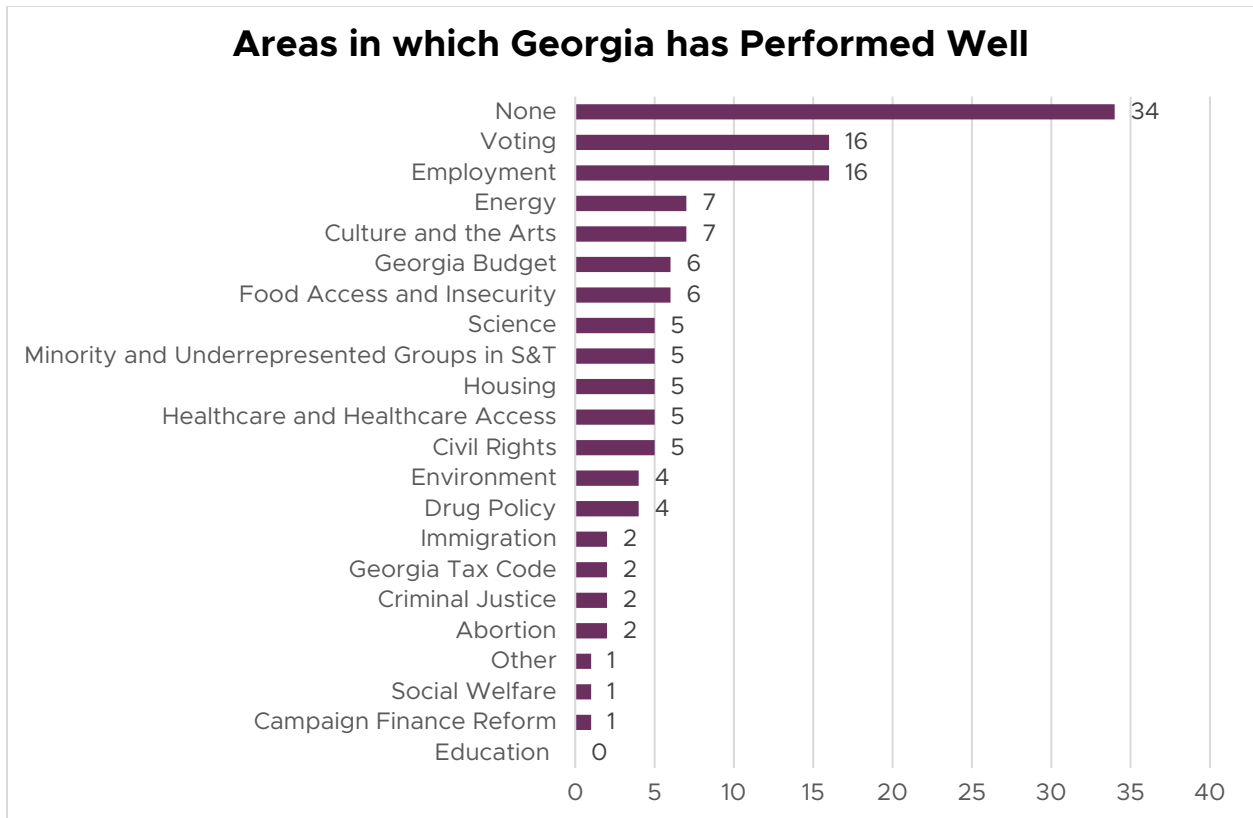
Below is listed the survey results. De-identified survey information can be made available upon request.

- ❖ Respondents were asked to rank their satisfaction both with the use of expert advice and evidence in public policy and with communication between policymakers and the science community. A scale of 1 to 5 was used, with 1 being very dissatisfied and 5 being very satisfied. A majority chose a score of 3 or below, indicating they are largely dissatisfied with both.

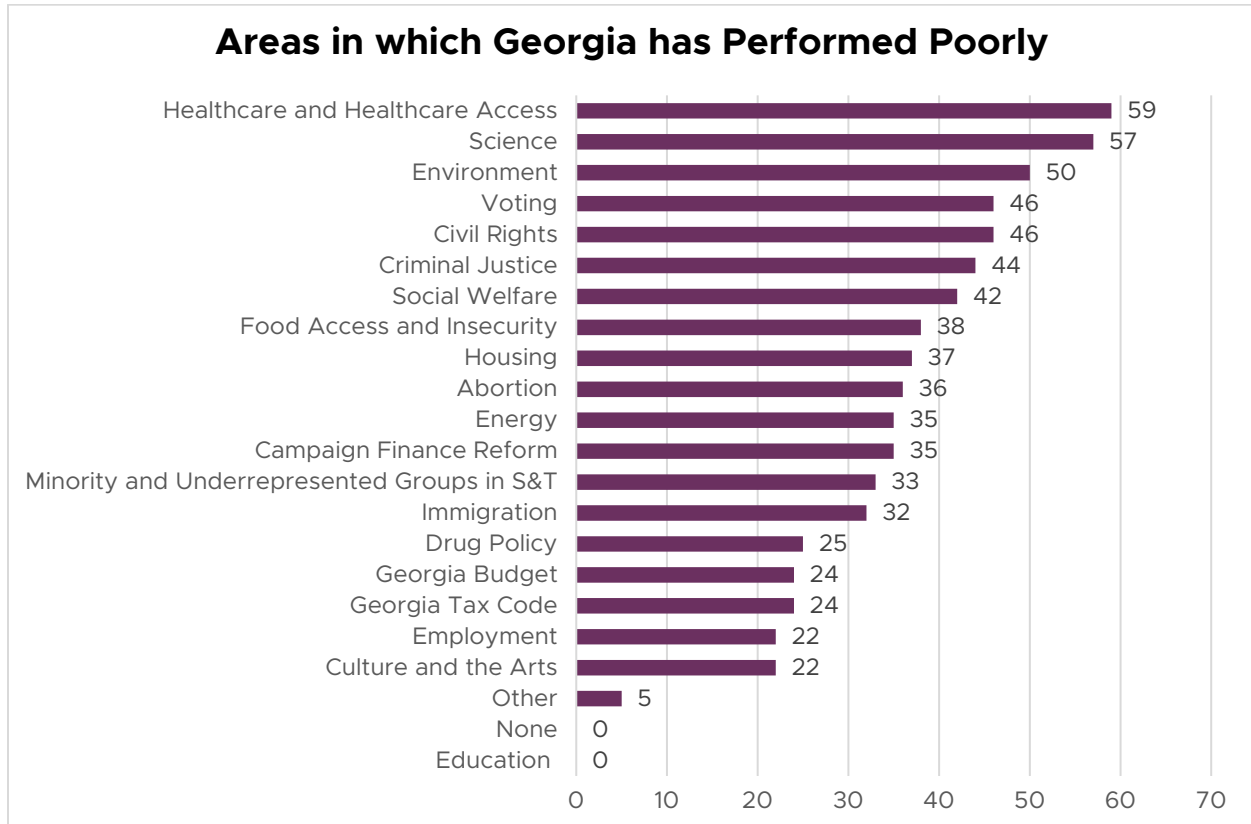


- ❖ When asked in what policy areas Georgia has performed well, the most common answer was None (34), followed by Voting (16), and Employment (16). Respondents were allowed to check all areas that they believe Georgia had performed well in.

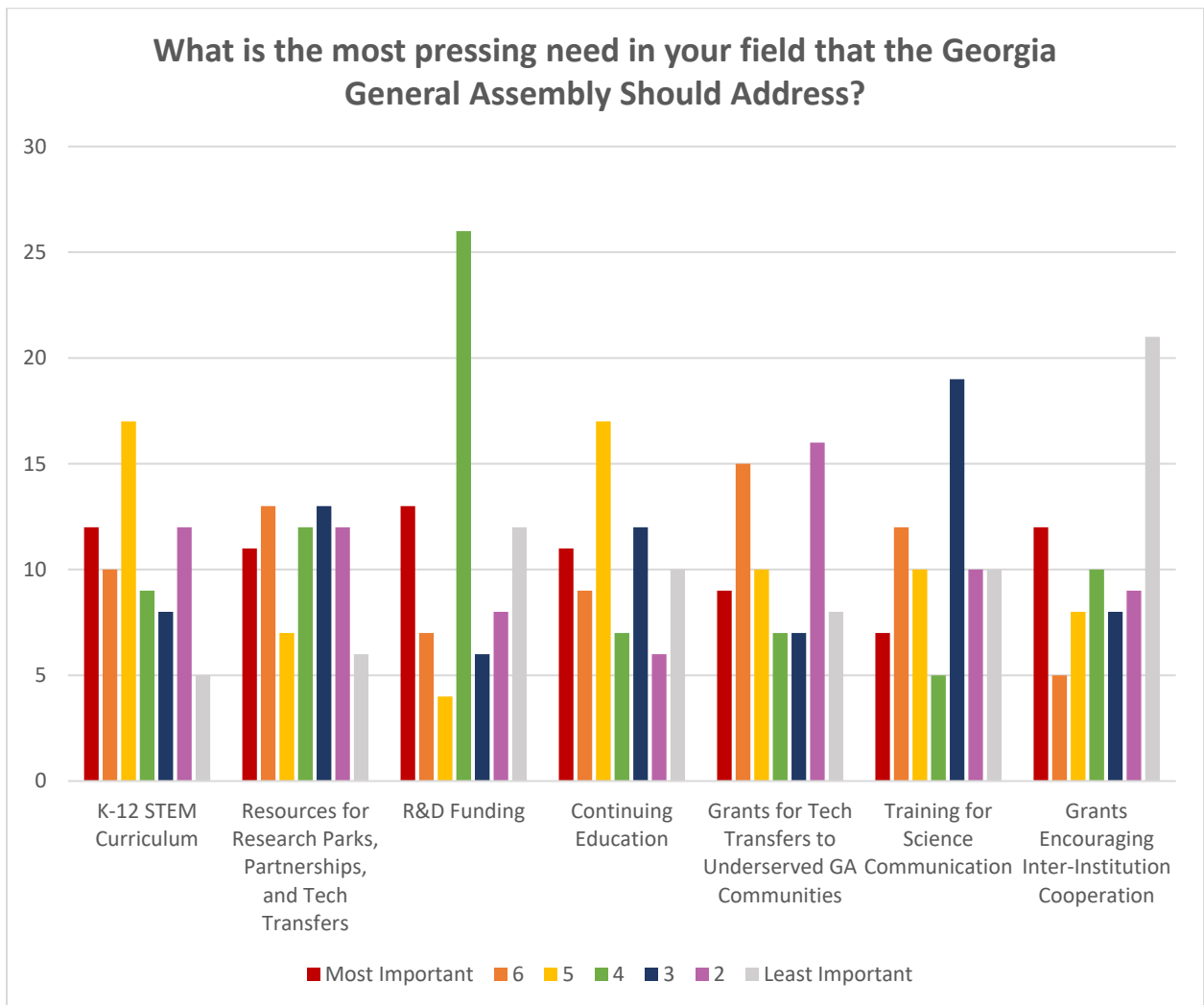
Note: The survey responses are before the passage of Georgia SB202 – The Election Integrity Act of 2021.



- ❖ When asked in what policy areas Georgia has performed poorly, the most common answer was Healthcare and Healthcare Access (59), followed by Science (57), and Environment (50). Again, respondents were allowed to select as many areas as they wished.

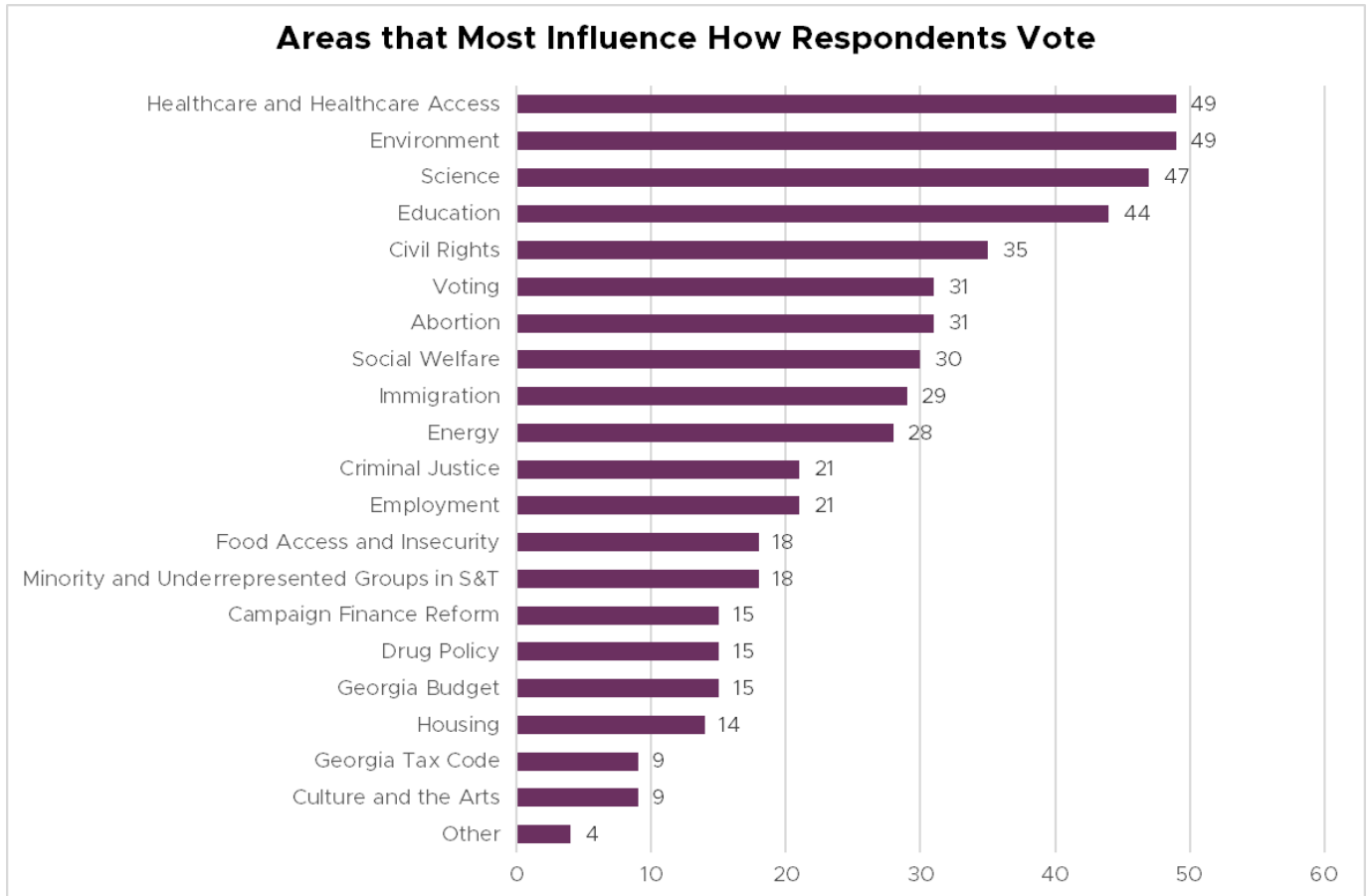


- ❖ When asked to rank order the most pressing needs in their field for the General Assembly to address, with 7 being the most-important and 1 being the least-important.
  - K-12 received 12 ‘most important’ and 36 of the 4 to 6 range.
  - Infrastructure and Resources for Research Parks, University/Business Partnerships, and Tech Transfers received 11 ‘most important’ and 32 of the 4 to 6 range.
  - R&D Funding received 13 ‘most important’ votes and 37 of the 4 to 6 range.
  - Grants Encouraging Inter-Institution Cooperation received 12 of the ‘most important’, 23 of the 4-6 range, and 21 of the ‘least important’ votes. This need was either very important or not important at all to our respondents.

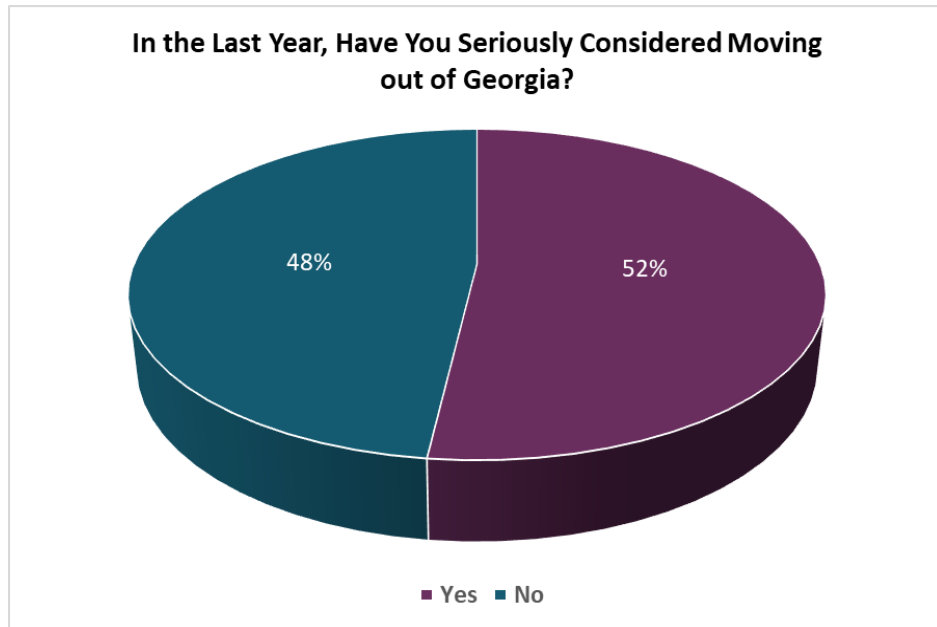




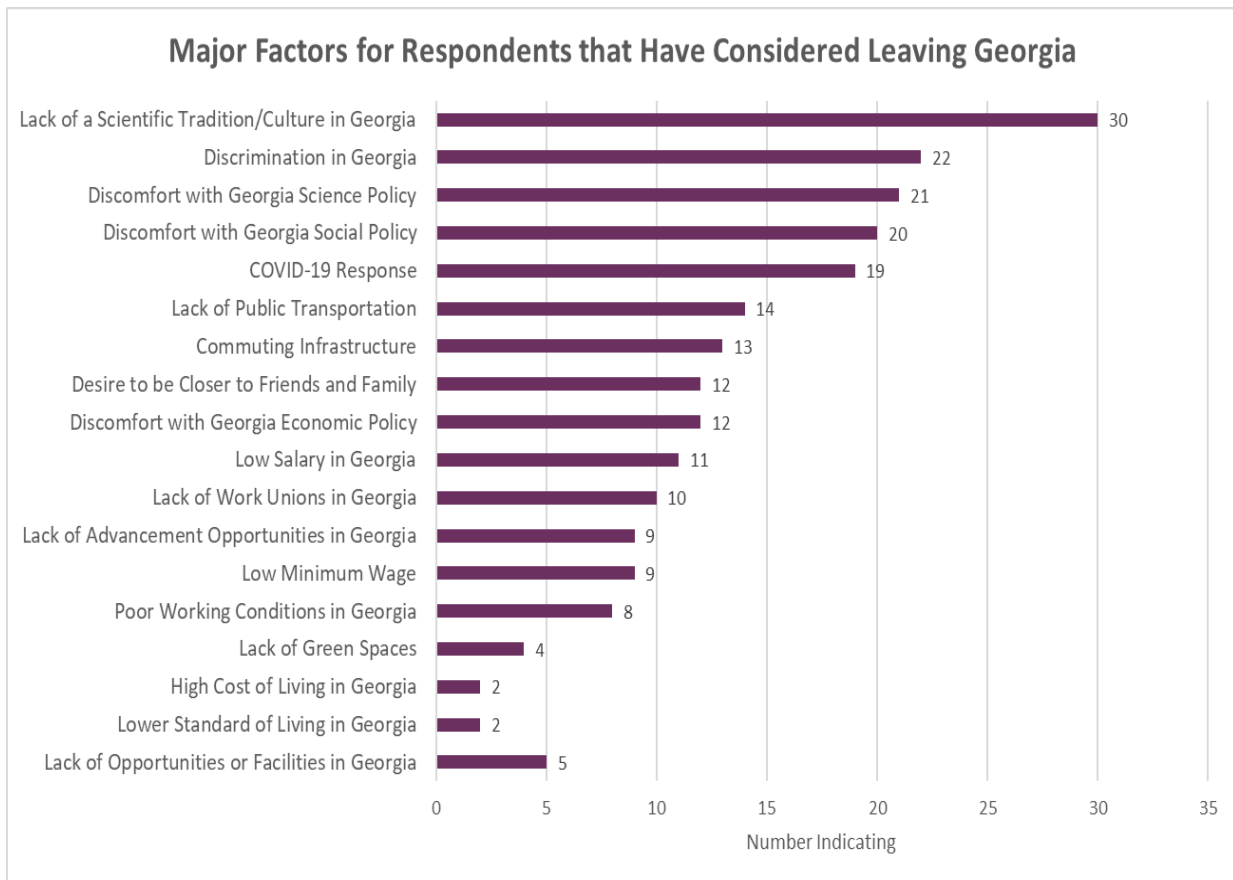
- ❖ The policy area that most influences how respondents vote is a tie between Healthcare and Healthcare Access and the Environment (49), followed by Science (47), and Education (44). Again, respondents were allowed to select as many areas as they wished.



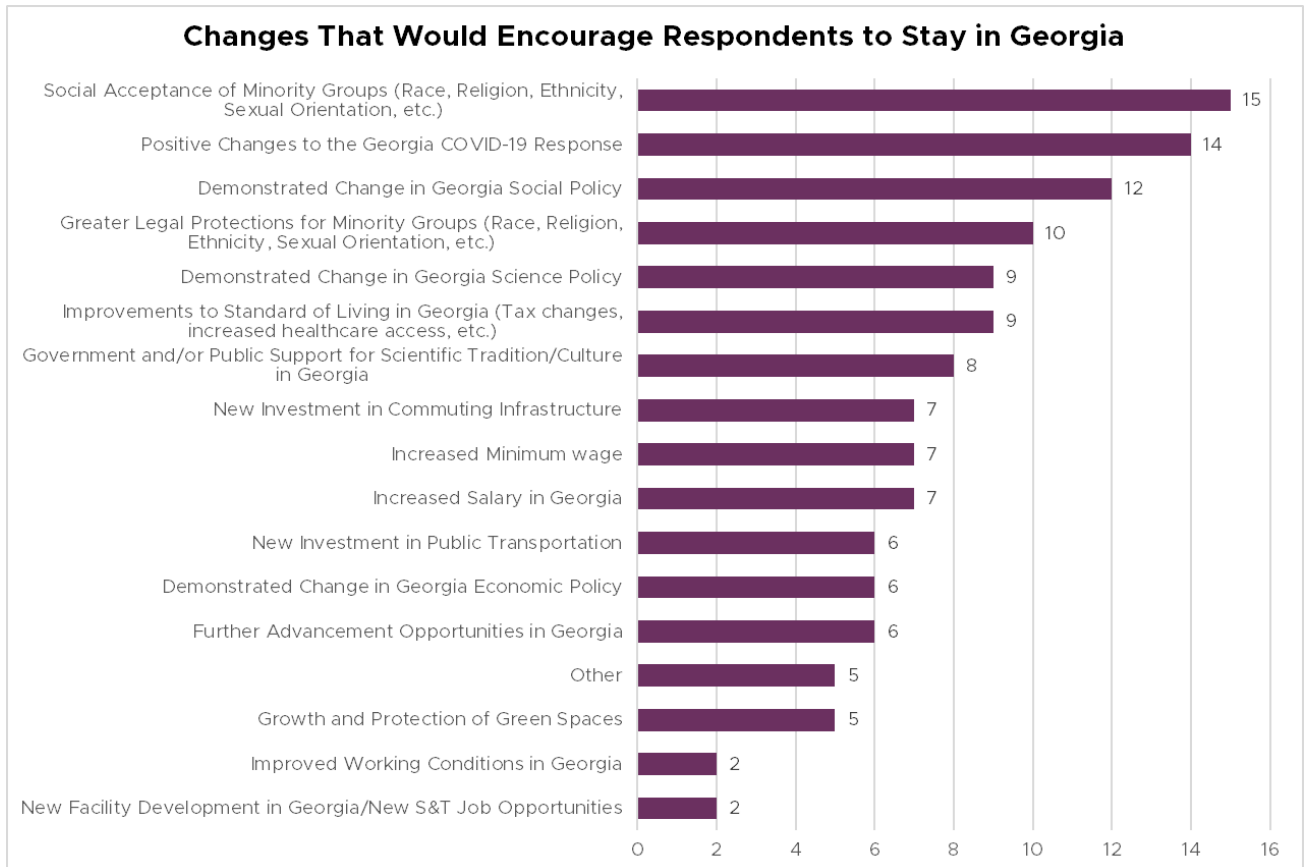
- ❖ In the last year, a majority of respondents seriously considered moving out of Georgia (51.9%).



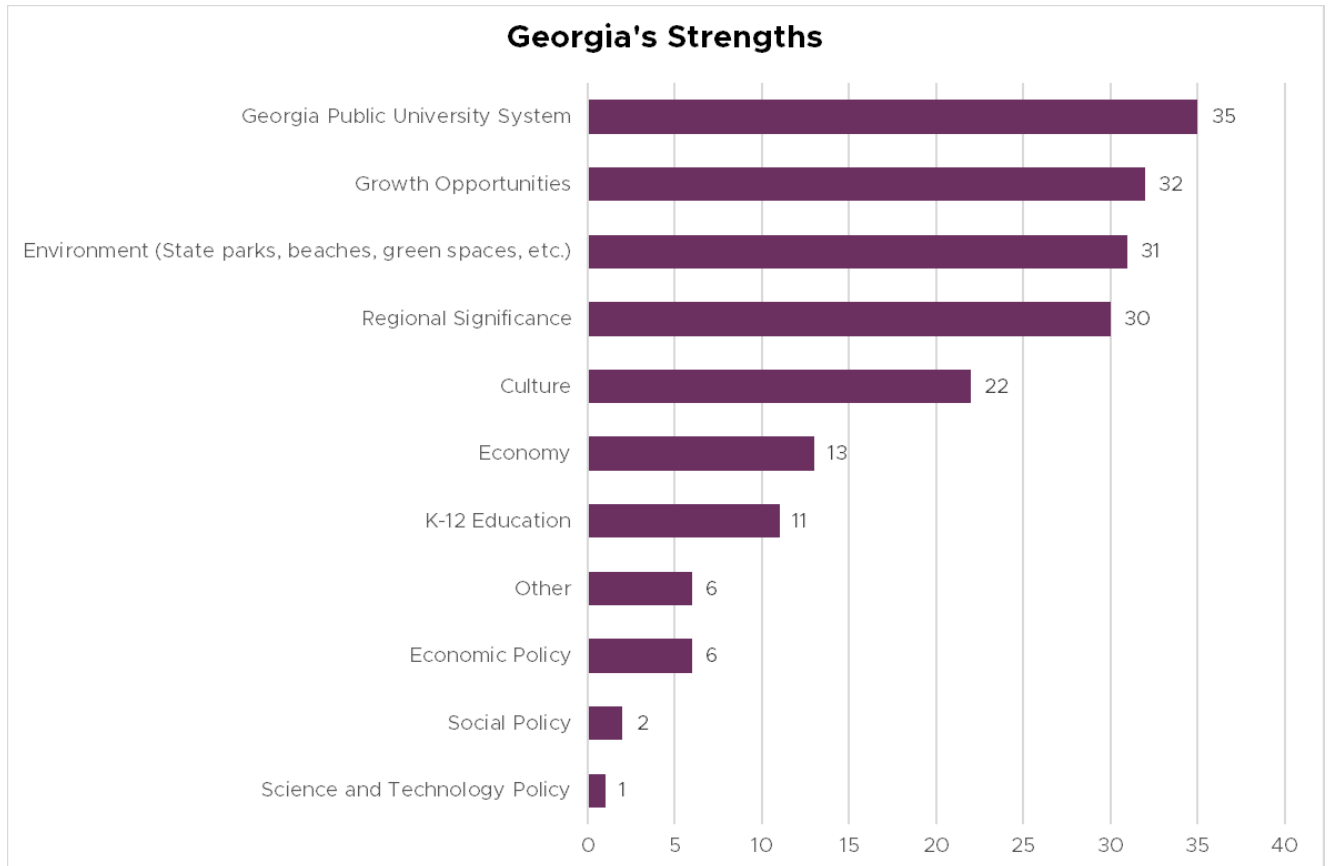
- ❖ Of those that indicated they had considered moving out of Georgia, the most common reasons to leave are Lack of a Scientific Tradition/Culture in Georgia (30) Discrimination in Georgia (22), and Discomfort with Georgia Science Policy (21). Again, respondents were allowed to select as many areas as they wished.



- ❖ Of those that indicated they had considered moving out of Georgia, the most common changes that would encourage them to stay are Social Acceptance of Minority Groups (15), Positive Changes to the Georgia COVID-19 Response (14), and Demonstrated Change in Georgia Social Policy (12). Again, respondents were allowed to select as many areas as they wished.



- ❖ When asked to select Georgia’s strengths, respondents most commonly identified the Georgia Public University System (35), Growth Opportunities (32), and the Environment (31) – state parks, beaches, green spaces, etc. Again, respondents were allowed to select as many areas as they wished.

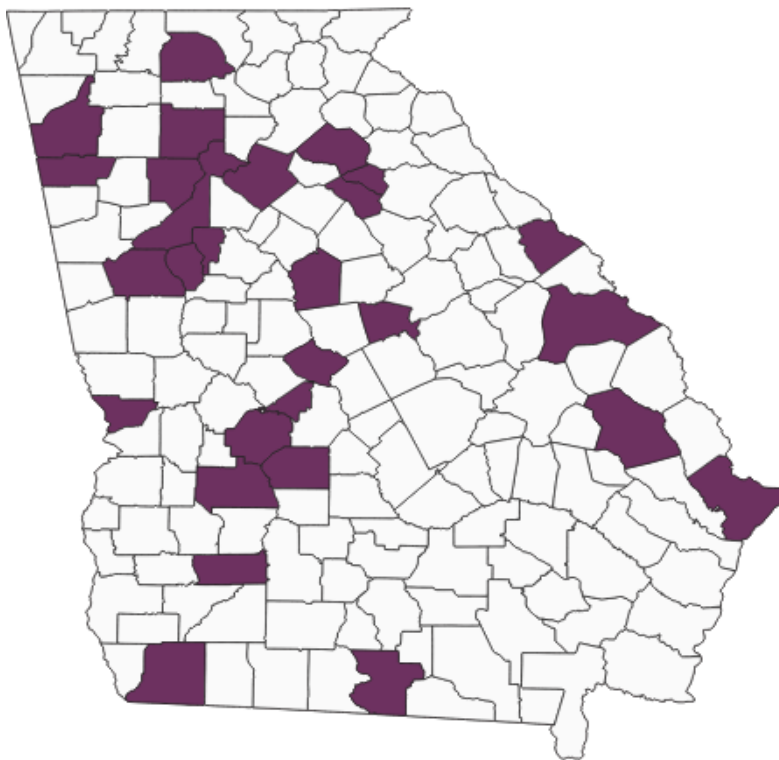


# The Sample

The 2021 Georgia State of Science Survey received 79 responses. This is relatively small compared to the likely size of the science and technology communities in Georgia, but this survey does not attempt any statistical analysis and instead presents only a sampling of opinions.

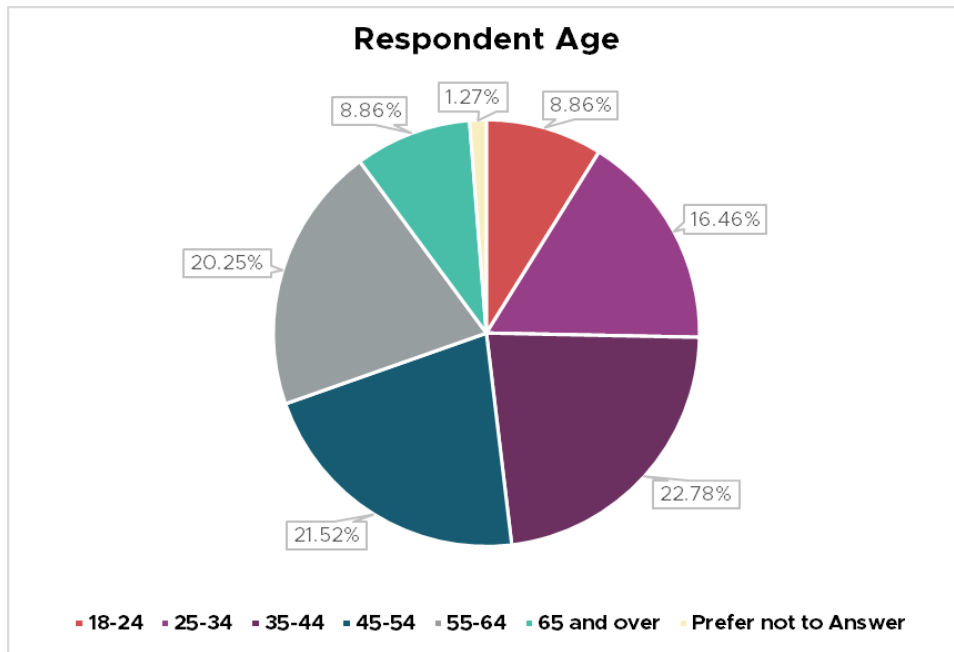
All respondents reside or study in the state of Georgia for most of the year. Membership in the science and technology (S&T) community was self-reported and centered around employment or study in S&T fields such as academia, technology, or healthcare.

Respondents are from 29 Georgia counties. The three highest response counties are DeKalb (25.3%), Cobb (12.7%), and Fulton (8.9%).

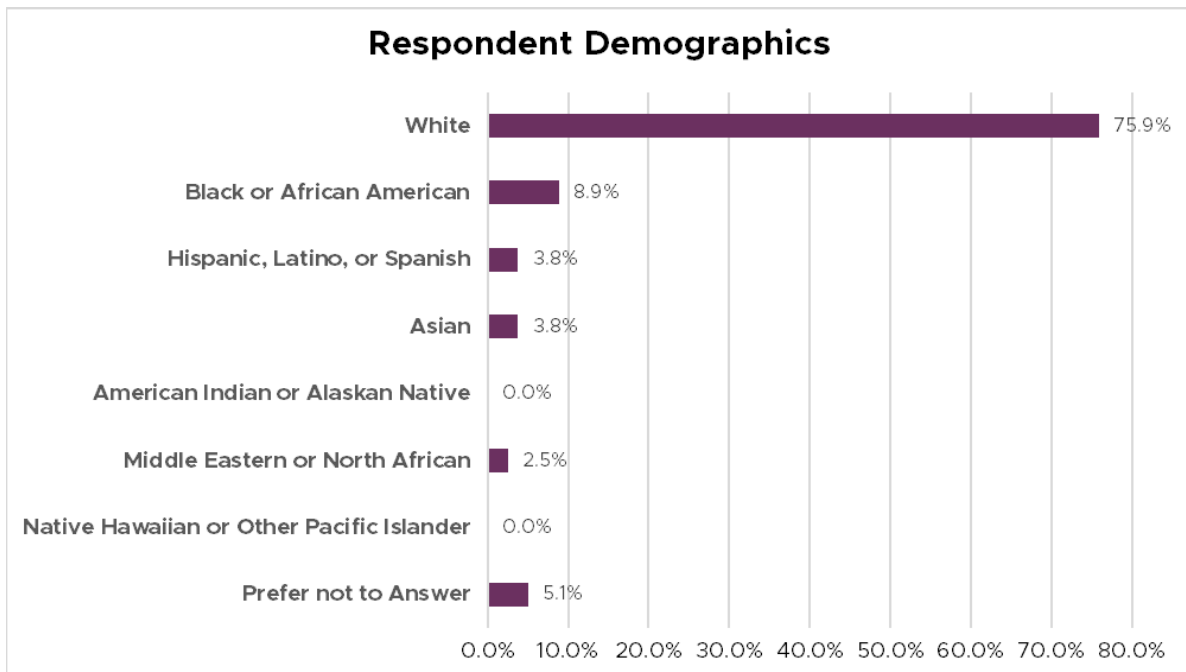


**Georgia Counties with at least One Response**

Respondent age is evenly distributed, with the three largest ranges being 35-44 (22.8%), 45-54 (21.5%), and 55-64 (20.3%).



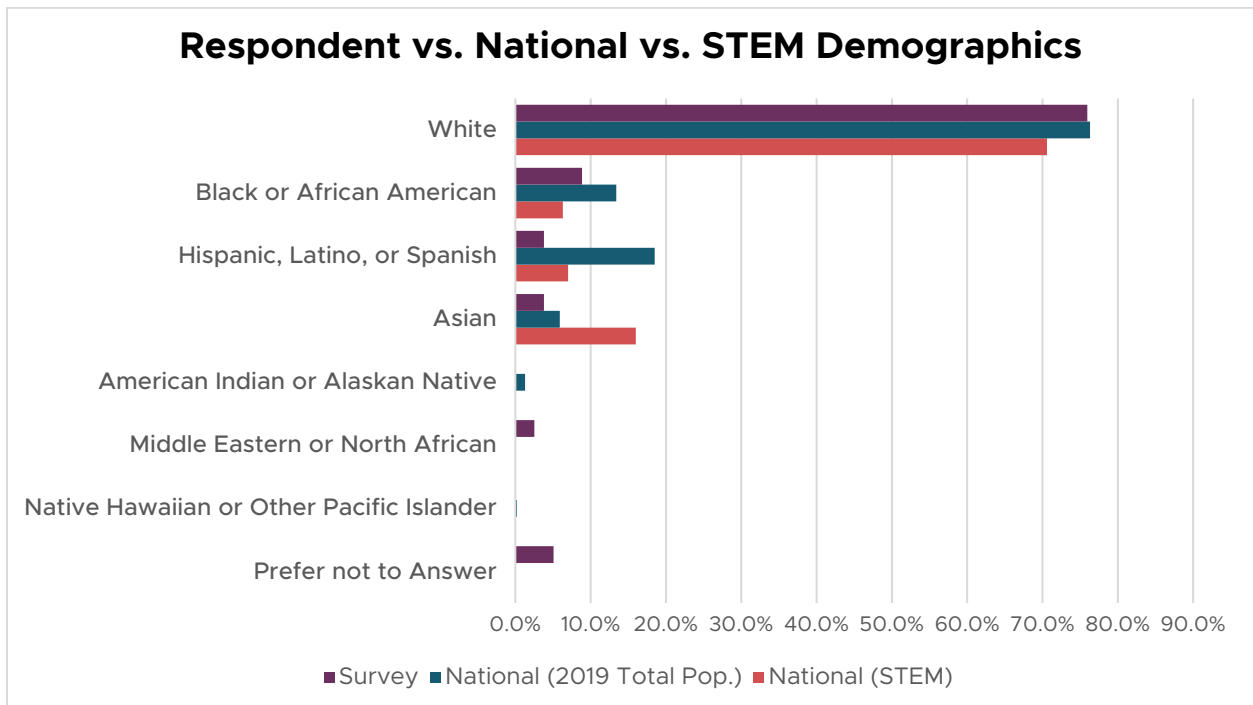
The racial demographics question used Census guidelines on racial categories. Respondents were heavily White (75.9%), with the next two largest categories being Black or African American (8.9%) and Prefer not to Answer (5.1%).



These demographics do not match the racial population distribution, with Black and Latinx being underrepresented in the survey sample.

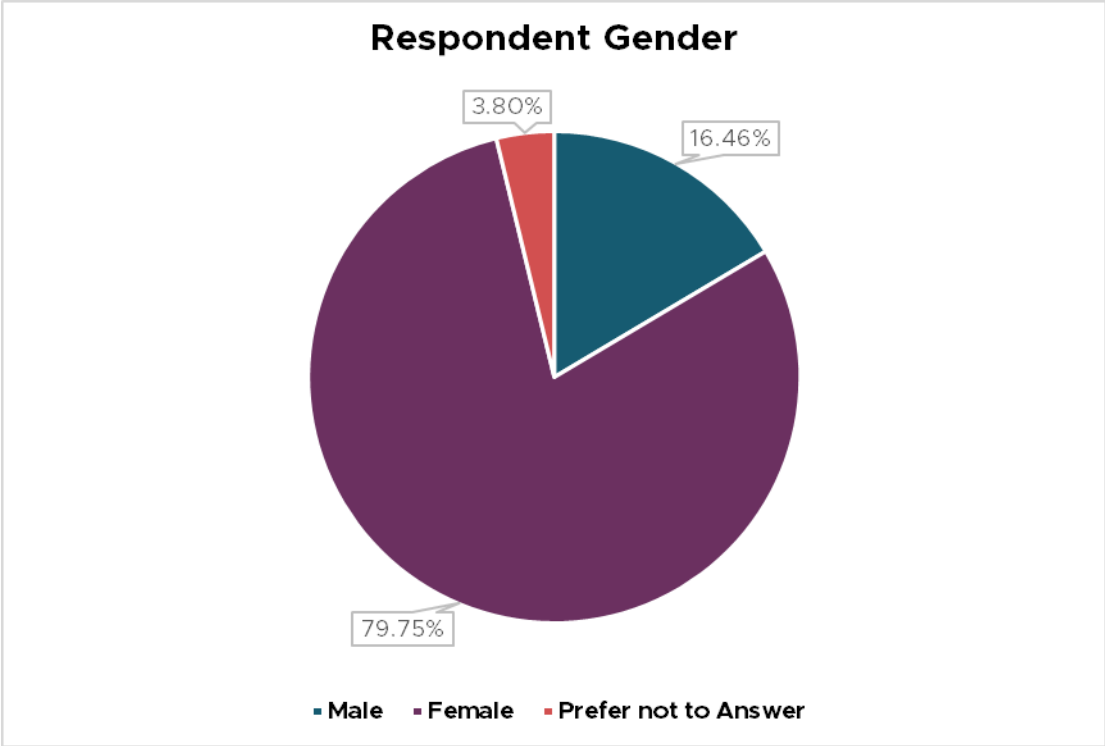
The survey demographics are closer than might be expected when considering the national STEM racial demographics. The below chart shows the US population in orange, the respondent demographics in purple, and the STEM employment in green.

This STEM employment information comes from a US Census Bureau [report](#) by Anthony Martinez and Asiah Gayfield, that outlines the demographics of the STEM workforce using data from the American Community Survey. The report only lists the White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic populations; the other categories' sample observations were considered too low for the report. The 2021 Georgia State of Science Survey includes additional categories beyond the Census report.

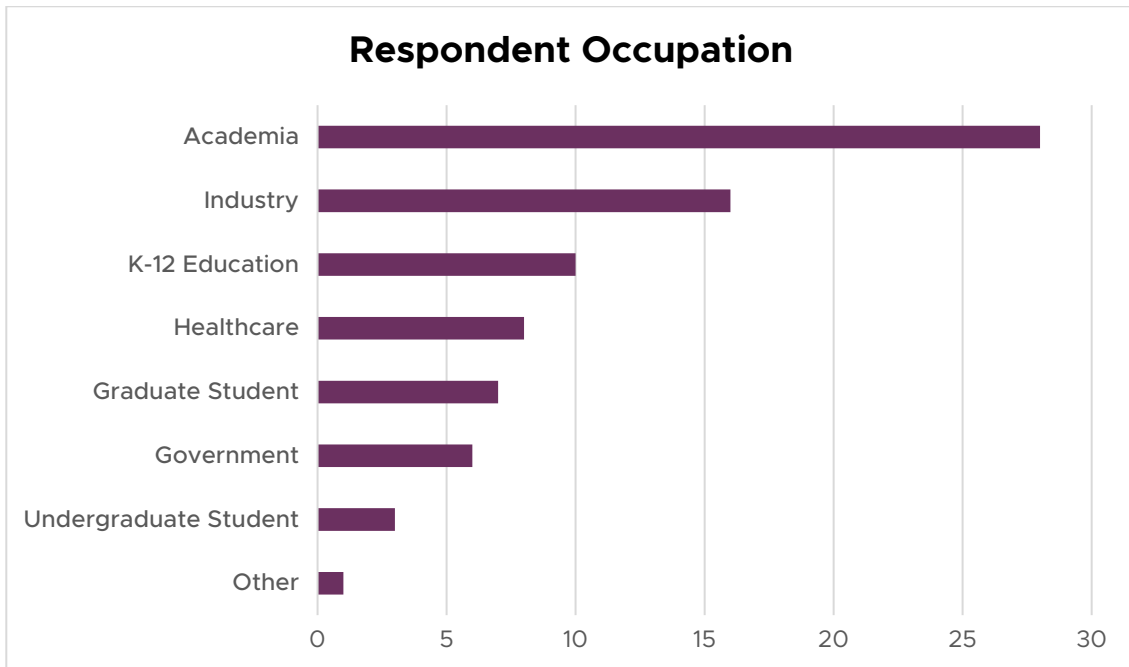




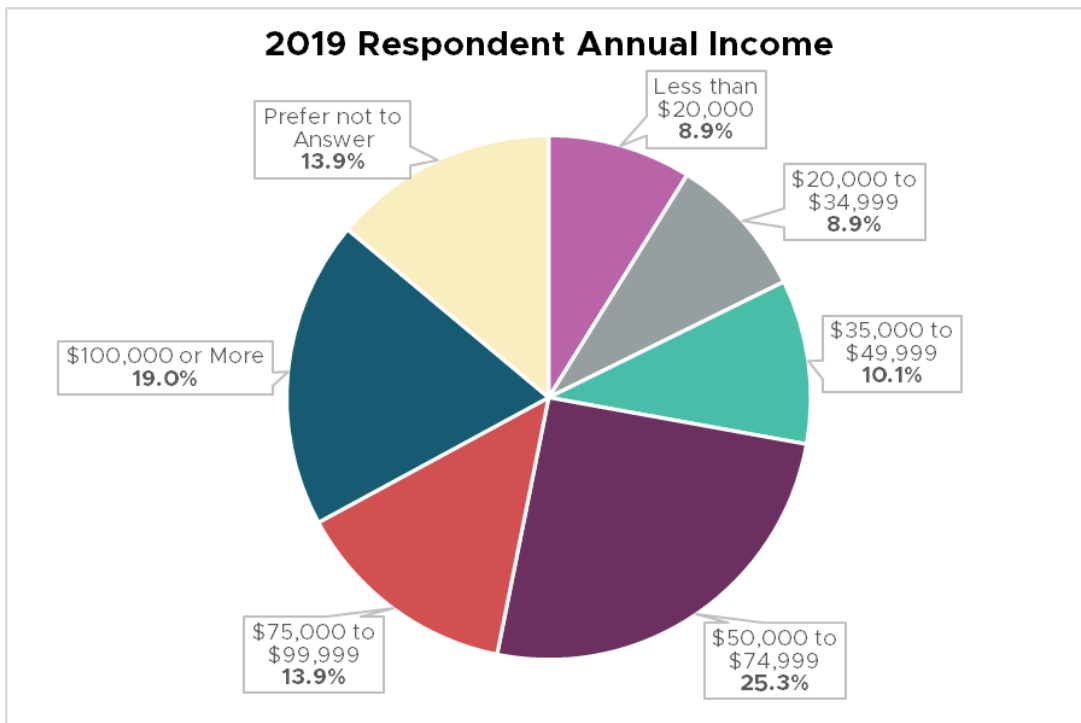
Respondents were largely female (79.6%). The STEM employment report puts female STEM employment at 25.1%. This large difference may be due to the gender distributions of the different industries included in the survey, and their respective proportion of total survey responses.



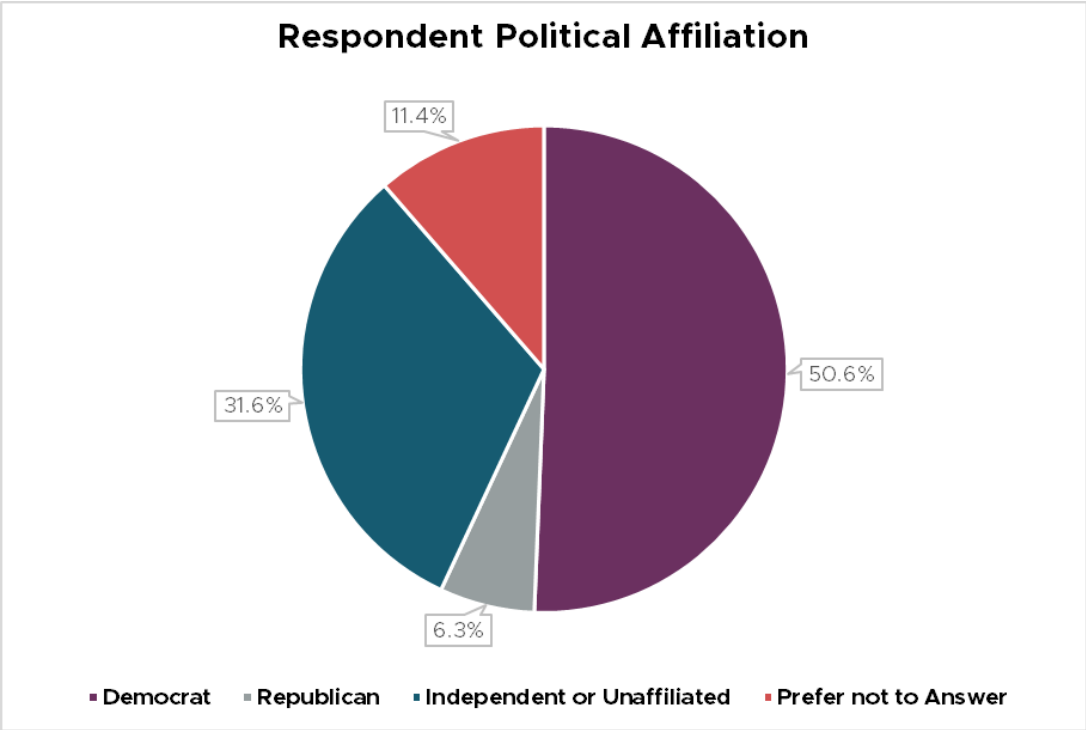
The most common respondent occupation was Academia (35.4%), followed by Industry (17.7%) and K-12 Education (12.7%).



The three highest annual income ranges for 2019 among respondents are \$50,000 to \$74,999 (25.3%), \$100,000 or more (19.0%), and \$75,000 to \$99,999 (13.9%).



The majority of respondents indicate an affiliation with the Democratic Party (50.6%), followed by Independent or Unaffiliated (31.6%), Prefer not to Answer (11.4%), and the Republican Party (6.3%).



# Appendix

The following pages are the exact order and phrasing of the questions asked as well as the provided options.

# 2021 Georgia State of Science Survey

Sci4Ga's mission is to improve communication between scientists and the public; to increase public engagement with science, and to advocate for the responsible use of science in public policy.

The Georgia State of Science Survey will help us meet our mission by understanding the needs and priorities of the Georgia Science and Technology Community. We need to know what you care about so we can ask the greater Georgia Community to care about these things as well. Additionally, providing these metrics to policymakers helps them better serve their communities.

The information collected herein will be used to develop a report describing the needs and priorities of the Georgia S&T Community.

De-identified survey information will be made publicly available to ensure complete transparency.

Any personally identifiable information will be stored securely in an encrypted format and will not be used for purposes beyond the reporting described above. Please contact us at [info@sci4ga.org](mailto:info@sci4ga.org) if you have any questions.

\* Required

1. As a scientist or supporter of science, please rate your satisfaction with the role of expert advice and evidence in the formation of Georgia policy during the 2019-2020 legislative year. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Dissatisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Satisfied

2. Please rate your satisfaction with the level of cooperation between policymakers and the scientific community in Georgia. \*

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Very Dissatisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very Satisfied

3. Please select the policy areas where you believe Georgia has performed well. \*

Check all that apply.

- Abortion
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Culture and the Arts
- Drug Policy
- Education
- Environment
- Energy
- Food Access and Insecurity
- Georgia Budget
- Georgia Tax Code
- Healthcare and Healthcare Access
- Housing
- Immigration
- Employment
- Minority and Underrepresented Groups in S&T
- Science
- Social Welfare
- Voting
- None

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please select the policy areas where you believe Georgia has performed poorly. \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Abortion
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Culture and the Arts
- Drug Policy
- Education
- Environment
- Energy
- Food Access and Insecurity
- Georgia Budget
- Georgia Tax Code
- Healthcare and Healthcare Access
- Housing
- Immigration
- Employment
- Minority and Underrepresented Groups in S&T
- Science
- Social Welfare
- Voting

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_





6. What policy area(s) most influence how you vote? \*

Your response does not have to be limited to your area of expertise.

*Check all that apply.*

- Abortion
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Culture and the Arts
- Drug Policy
- Education
- Environment
- Energy
- Food Access and Insecurity
- Georgia Budget
- Georgia Tax Code
- Healthcare and Healthcare Access
- Housing
- Immigration
- Employment
- Minority and Underrepresented Groups in S&T
- Science
- Social Welfare
- Voting

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

7. In the last year, have you seriously considered moving out of the state of Georgia? For example, in the last year have you spent an hour or more looking for job opportunities, housing, etc. in other states? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

8. If Yes, what were/are the main factors in your consideration? (select all that apply)

*Check all that apply.*

- Low Salary in Georgia
- Low minimum wage
- Lack of Opportunities or Facilities in Georgia
- Lower Standard of Living in Georgia
- Lack of a Scientific Tradition/Culture in Georgia
- Lack of Advancement Opportunities in Georgia
- Poor Working Conditions in Georgia
- Discomfort with Georgia Social Policy
- Discomfort with Georgia Economic Policy
- Discomfort with Georgia Science Policy
- Discrimination in Georgia
- COVID-19 Response
- Lack of Public Transportation
- Commuting Infrastructure
- Lack of Green Spaces
- Desire to be Closer to Friends and Family
- High Cost of Living in Georgia
- Lack of Work Unions in Georgia

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

9. If Yes, what changes in Georgia would encourage you to stay? (Select up to 3)

*Check all that apply.*

- Increased Salary in Georgia
  - Increased Minimum wage
  - New Facility Development in Georgia/New S&T Job Opportunities
  - Improvements to Standard of Living in Georgia (Tax changes, increased healthcare access, etc.)
  - Government and/or Public Support for Scientific Tradition/Culture in Georgia
  - Further Advancement Opportunities in Georgia
  - Improved Working Conditions in Georgia
  - Demonstrated Change in Georgia Social Policy
  - Demonstrated Change in Georgia Economic Policy
  - Demonstrated Change in Georgia Science Policy
  - Greater Legal Protections for Minority Groups (Race, Religion, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, etc.)
  - Social Acceptance of Minority Groups (Race, Religion, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, etc.)
  - Positive Changes to the Georgia COVID-19 Response
  - New Investment in Public Transportation
  - New Investment in Commuting Infrastructure
  - Growth and Protection of Green Spaces
- Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

10. What do you feel are Georgia's strengths? \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Environment (State parks, beaches, green spaces, etc.)
  - Economy
  - K-12 Education
  - Georgia Public University System
  - Culture
  - Regional Significance
  - Growth Opportunities
  - Social Policy
  - Economic Policy
  - Science and Technology Policy
- Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

11. Are you involved in science or technology advocacy (Voter registration drives, Information Tables, Petitions, Marches, Canvassing, Letter Campaigns, etc.)? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

12. If not, what materials would make you more confident in participating in advocacy efforts (both organized and within your peer group)?

*Check all that apply.*

Conversation Sheet

Infographics on Major Issues

Educational Opportunities on Major Georgia Issues

Networking Opportunities

Advocacy Training

Science & Technology Town Hall Opportunities with Legislators

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are you interested in learning more about advocacy programs in Georgia? \*

*Check all that apply.*

Yes

No

Demographic  
Information

This information helps to ensure that our survey results are representative of the Georgia population and helps to guide our advocacy efforts. You are not required to share sensitive information. If you're uncomfortable sharing, please leave select "Prefer not to Answer."

14. What is your area of occupation? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Industry
- Academia
- Undergraduate Student
- Graduate Student
- K-12 Education
- Government
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. If applicable, what is your scientific discipline?

\_\_\_\_\_

16. County (If an out-of-state student, please put the county you reside in during the school year) \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Appling
- Atkinson
- Bacon
- Baker
- Baldwin
- Banks
- Barrow
- Bartow
- Ben Hill
- Berrien
- Bibb
- Bleckley
- Brantley
- Brooks
- Bryan
- Bulloch
- Burke
- Butts
- Calhoun
- Camden
- Candler
- Carroll County
- Catoosa
- Charlton
- Chatham
- Chattahoochee
- Chattooga
- Cherokee

- Clarke
- Clay
- Clayton
- Clinch
- Cobb
- Coffee
- Colquitt
- Columbia
- Cook
- Coweta
- Crawford
- Crisp
- Dade
- Dawson
- Decatur
- DeKalb
- Dodge
- Dooly
- Dougherty
- Douglas
- Early
- Echols
- Effingham
- Elbert
- Emanuel
- Evans
- Fannin
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Forsyth
- Franklin
- Fulton

- Gilmer
- Glascock
- Glynn
- Gordon
- Grady
- Greene
- Gwinnett
- Habersham
- Hall
- Hancock
- Haralson
- Harris
- Hart
- Heard
- Henry
- Houston
- Irwin
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Jeff Davis
- Jefferson
- Jenkins
- Johnson
- Jones
- Lamar
- Lanier
- Laurens
- Lee
- Liberty
- Lincoln
- Long
- Lowndes



- Lumpkin
- Macon
- Madison
- Marion
- McDuffie
- McIntosh
- Meriwether
- Miller
- Mithcell
- Monroe
- Montgomery
- Morgan
- Murray
- Muscogee
- Newton
- Oconee
- Oglethorpe
- Paulding
- Peach
- Pickens
- Pierce
- Pike
- Polk
- Pulaski
- Putnam
- Quitman
- Rabun
- Randolph
- Richmond
- Rockdale
- Schley
- Screven

- Seminole
- Spalding
- Stephens
- Stewart
- Sumter
- Talbot
- Taliaferro
- Tattnall
- Taylor
- Telfair
- Terrell
- Thomas
- Tift
- Toombs
- Towns
- Truetlen
- Troup
- Turner
- Twiggs
- Union
- Upson
- Walker
- Walton
- Ware
- Warren
- Washington
- Wayne
- Webster
- Wheeler
- White
- Whitfield
- Wilcox

- Wilkes
- Wilkinson
- Worth

17. Age Range \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 and Over
- Prefer not to Answer

18. Race \*

Categories are the same as used on the US 2020 Census

*Check all that apply.*

- White
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish
- Black or African American
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Prefer not to Answer

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

19. Gender Identity \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to Answer
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. What was your annual income in 2019? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 or More
- Prefer not to Answer

21. Political Affiliation \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- None
- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Unaffiliated
- Prefer not to Answer

22. Do you or have you ever had an ADA qualifying disability? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

Prefer not to Answer

23. If you would like to be contacted by Science for Georgia for networking, educational, or advocacy opportunities, please put your email below.

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24. If you would like to be considered for the prize drawing, please provide your email. Emails provided here will not be used for any purpose other than the prize give-away.

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