

INTERPRETING THE TABLES

This is an explanation about how to interpret the tables that are presented in this report. Each table presents a set of prevalence estimates weighted to represent the proportion of the non-institutionalized adult population age 18 years and older in Montana, unless a different demographic group is specified. Weighting adjusts for different probability of selection by the random dialing procedure and the varied demographic characteristics of the respondents (see Methods, page 05). As a result, for the table below, it is appropriate to state that “among Montana adults, 18 through 64 years of age, 21.3% did not have health care coverage in 2009.” For this table, all adults includes only those less than 65 years of age, because those age 65 years and older are assumed to have Medicare coverage.

The survey questions that the tables are based on appear in the footnote of the table. For the full question and response categories from which the data were derived see the “Questionnaires” link on www.brffss.mt.gov,

Weighted data are used in all calculations of prevalence. The weighted population estimate in the footnote provides the estimated number of adults in Montana who are characterized by a particular risk factor or behavior. The unweighted sample size (UnWt. N.) is the number of respondents who gave a particular response, but this is given only as an indicator of sample size. It is not appropriate to use unweighted numbers to compute prevalence estimates of risk factors and health conditions. Unless stated differently within the table, estimates do not include respondents who refused to answer the question, said “Don’t know/Not Sure” or the response is missing.

These tables also contain 95% confidence intervals (CI) for each estimate. The 95% CI is the range of values within which the true value falls with 95% certainty. The column headings of LL represent the lower limit and UL represent the upper limit of the 95% confidence interval. *The confidence interval associated with the prevalence estimate for adults ages 18 to 64 with no health care coverage ranges from 19.5 to 23.3.* The small width of this confidence interval indicates that the estimate is fairly precise.

Risk factors or health conditions may be more or less common among Montana adults of various demographic groups. In general, where confidence intervals for two subgroups being compared do not overlap, the subgroups can be said to be statistically different. Formal statistical tests, such as chi-square, are needed to evaluate statistically significant differences when confidence intervals overlap. For example from this table, “Females reported not being able to see a doctor due to costs in the prior year more often than males (16.9 % and 10.1%).” This is a statistically significant difference because the confidence intervals do not overlap.

Following CDC guidance, data that are considered unreliable have been suppressed. If the total number of respondents in the sample (found in the footnote for each question) is less than 50, then the data are not reported. Also, if the half-width of the confidence interval is greater than plus or minus 10 percentage points, the estimate has a large degree of statistical error and is considered unreliable. In tables where NSD is presented, it means that there was “not sufficient data” to report, i.e., either too few respondents in the population subgroup that answered the question or too wide a confidence interval to give a reliable estimate.

	No Health Care Coverage (18 to 64) †				Could Not See Dr. Due To Cost (past year) ‡			
	Wt.%	95% CI		UnWt. N	Wt.%	95% CI		UnWt. N
		LL	UL			LL	UL	
All Adults	21.3	19.5	23.3	969	13.5	12.3	14.8	933
Sex:								
Male	21.2	18.7	24.1	438	10.1	8.5	11.9	310
Female	21.4	18.8	24.2	531	16.9	15.2	18.7	623
Age:								
18 - 24	34.4	26.5	43.4	73	15.1	10.0	22.1	33
25 - 34	27.4	22.7	32.7	143	19.0	15.2	23.4	105
35 - 44	19.2	16.3	22.5	192	16.1	13.5	19.1	157
45 - 54	16.5	14.5	18.9	293	16.2	14.1	18.4	282
55 - 64	13.9	12.1	15.9	268	12.7	10.9	14.6	244
65+	Not Applicable				3.6	2.8	4.5	109
Education:								
<High School	41.8	33.1	50.9	93	28.0	21.4	35.8	101
High School	30.3	26.3	34.7	410	14.0	11.9	16.4	326
Some College	20.9	18.0	24.3	287	14.4	12.3	16.9	275
College Degree	8.7	7.1	10.7	179	8.9	7.5	10.5	229
Income:								
<\$15,000	46.9	39.9	54.0	206	23.0	19.0	27.6	191
\$15,000 - \$24,999	43.2	37.3	49.3	288	23.4	19.7	27.6	270
\$25,000 - \$49,999	21.5	18.5	24.8	271	15.3	13.1	17.8	256
\$50,000 - \$74,999	8.1	5.9	11.1	67	9.2	7.0	12.0	93
\$75,000 +	5.4	3.4	8.3	48	4.1	2.8	6.1	51
Race/Ethnicity:								
White, non-Hispanic	19.3	17.5	21.2	763	12.8	11.6	14.1	765
AI/AN*	43.0	35.6	50.6	138	17.1	13.0	22.1	91
Other or Hispanic**	NSD ^Δ			61	21.4	14.9	29.7	69
Disability:								
Disability	22.5	19.1	26.2	238	21.8	19.3	24.6	404
No Disability	20.8	18.6	23.1	714	11.1	9.8	12.5	514
Region:								
1- Eastern MT	16.1	12.9	19.8	106	9.7	7.5	12.4	93
2- N Central MT	18.8	15.6	22.5	186	12.3	10.2	14.9	167
3- S Central MT	23.0	18.9	27.7	146	11.5	9.3	14.1	121
4- Southwest MT	18.1	15.0	21.7	219	13.9	11.5	16.8	240
5- Northwest MT	23.8	20.4	27.6	301	16.0	13.6	18.7	304
MMSA-Billings	21.8	16.4	28.4	65	11.9	9.2	15.3	72
MMSA-Bozeman	19.4	13.9	26.5	63	13.4	9.3	19.0	62
MMSA-Butte	15.7	11.3	21.5	56	18.7	13.6	25.0	76
MMSA-Kalispell	27.0	21.1	33.9	78	15.6	11.9	20.2	77

† Do you have any kind of health care coverage (analysis limited to ages 18-64)?

Total Sample Size: 5,081, Weighted Prevalence Estimate: 127,600.

‡ Did you need to see a doctor in the past year, but could not because of the cost?

Total Sample Size: 7,603, Weighted Prevalence Estimate: 101,500.

* American Indian or Alaska Native only.

** All other non-White (including multiracial) or Hispanic.

Δ Not Sufficient Data to report a reliable estimate.