

Health Care Coverage and Accessibility, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2013 Results

The Affordable Care Act mandates that beginning in 2014, all individuals must be covered by health insurance or pay a penalty. *Healthy People 2020*, a national set of health goals, aims to achieve 100% health care coverage by the year 2020.¹ In order to establish a baseline in Montana, in 2013 the Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a telephone survey of Montana residents 18 years of age and older, included a module on health care coverage and health care access. The module will be asked at regular intervals to measure progress in Montana. The 2013 health care module results are presented here.

Health Care Coverage					
Ages 18-64					
		Unwt. N	Wt. %	95% CI	
				LL	UL
Have any health care coverage	Yes	5240	78.5%	77.1%	80.0%
Type of health care coverage	Your employer	2041	41.2%	39.3%	43.0%
	Someone else's employer	886	20.7%	19.1%	22.4%
	Plan that you or someone else purchases	691	12.8%	11.6%	14.1%
	Military, CHAMPUS, or VA	241	5.8%	4.9%	6.7%
	Medicaid or some other form of medical assistance	274	5.5%	4.6%	6.3%
	Indian Health Service	339	3.9%	3.3%	4.4%
	Some other source	230	4.9%	4.1%	5.8%
	Two or more types	345	5.2%	4.5%	6.0%
Have Medicare	Yes	506	8.9%	7.9%	10.0%
Ages 65+					
		Unwt. N	Wt. %	95% CI	
				LL	UL
Have any health care coverage	Yes	3104	97.9%	97.1%	98.6%
Type of health care coverage	Your employer	260	9.7%	8.0%	11.3%
	Someone else's employer	134	5.9%	4.5%	7.2%
	Plan that you or someone else purchases	1209	45.1%	42.3%	47.8%
	Military, CHAMPUS, or VA	259	11.5%	9.7%	12.3%
	Medicaid or some other form of medical assistance	193	6.7%	5.3%	8.1%
	Indian Health Service	90	1.8%	1.1%	2.5%
	Some other source	320	12.1%	10.3%	13.9%
	Two or more types	212	7.3%	5.9%	8.7%
Have Medicare	Yes	2969	95.5%	94.4%	96.6%



All ages					
		Unwt. N	Wt. %	95% CI	
				LL	UL
Any time in past 12 months you did not have health care coverage	Yes	418	6.7%	5.8%	7.5%
Time since you last had health care coverage*	6 months or less	132	13.9%	11.1%	16.7%
	More than 6 months, but less than 1 year	66	6.1%	4.3%	8.0%
	More than 1 year, but not more than 3 years	195	16.7%	14.0%	19.5%
	More than 3 years	618	46.9%	43.2%	50.6%
	Never	202	16.3%	13.6%	19.1%

*Of respondents who do not currently have any health care coverage.

Health Care Access					
		Unwt. N	Wt. %	95% CI	
				LL	UL
Ever delayed getting medical care in the past 12 months	Yes	1872	19.2%	18.1%	20.3%
Top 5 reasons for delaying care	Couldn't get an appointment soon enough	670	36.2%	33.2%	39.3%
	Did not have transportation	349	15.7%	13.4%	18.1%
	Had to wait too long at office to see doctor	269	13.8%	11.6%	15.9%
	Cost*	132	9.8%	7.8%	11.8%
	Other	106	6.1%	4.7%	7.5%
Did not take prescribed medication due to cost in the past 12 months†	Yes	631	8.3%	7.5%	9.1%
Currently have any medical bills being paid off over time	Yes	2122	25.7%	24.5%	27.0%
Satisfaction with health care you receive	Very satisfied	5884	61.6%	60.2%	63.0%
	Somewhat satisfied	2995	33.8%	32.5%	35.2%
	Not at all satisfied	409	4.5%	3.9%	5.1%

* Question specifies other than cost, yet 9.8% respondents still answered as such.
† Of respondents who take prescribed medication.

Background: The Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) has been collecting state-specific, population-based estimates of health-related data since 1984. The purpose of this statewide telephone survey of Montana residents aged 18 and older is to gather information regarding personal health risk behaviors, selected medical conditions, and the prevalence of preventive health care practices among Montana adults. A full set of Montana yearly questionnaires and health indicators can be found on the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) BRFSS database query system website at www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/brfss.

Survey Limitations: The BRFSS relies on self-reported data. This type of survey has certain limitations: many times, respondents have the tendency to underreport some behaviors that may be considered socially unacceptable (e.g., smoking, heavy alcohol use); conversely, respondents may over report behaviors that are desirable (e.g., physical activity, nutrition). Cross-sectional design makes causal conclusions impossible. In addition, the sample sizes used to calculate the estimates in this report vary as respondents who indicated, "don't know," "not sure," or "refused" were excluded from most of the calculation of prevalence estimates. BRFSS data collected through 2008 excludes households without landline telephones.

Acknowledgements: The Montana BRFSS gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the Montana residents who took the time to respond to the telephone interviews conducted for this system. The Montana BRFSS was supported by CDC Cooperative Agreement #SO11-110103CONT13 and the PPHF Supplemental Grant # SO11-11010201PPHF12 between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Alternative formats of this document will be provided upon request. Please contact Emily Ehrlich at 406-444-2973 or eehrlich@mt.gov. The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the official views of the CDC.

References: ¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **Healthy People 2020**. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Available online at: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/>.