

# UNMET MEDICAL NEED: 2007



## Access to Care Indicators for Thurston County

**INDICATOR:** Percentage of adults under age 65 unable to see a doctor because of cost (at some point during the past year).

Approximately 13.1% of Thurston County adults under age 65 did not see a doctor when they needed to because of cost (at some point during the past year). This equates to an estimated 20,160 county adults between the ages of 18-64 with an unmet medical need. Approximately 13.7% of Washington State adults under age 65 did not see a doctor when they needed to because of cost. (BRFSS 2007)

### DATA FOR THURSTON COUNTY ADULTS: UNMET MEDICAL NEED IN 2007

% UM = Unmet medical need because of cost

^ Estimates for county adults age 18-64 (under age 65)

BY GENDER <sup>^</sup>	% UM IN 2007
Female	16.0%
Male	10.2%

BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME <sup>^</sup>	% UM IN 2007
Under \$34,999 ( <i>poverty and low income</i> )	29.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.1%
\$50,000 and up	4.7%

BY AGE	% UM IN 2007
18 to 34	16.7%
35 to 49	14.7%
50 to 64	6.7%
65 and up	3.2%
18 and up ( <i>all adults</i> )	11.6%

BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT <sup>^</sup>	% UM IN 2007
High School/GED or Less	22.6%
Some College/Technical School	12.4%
College Graduate	7.0%

BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS <sup>^</sup>	% UM IN 2007
Employed	10.1%
Not Employed	19.9%

BY MILITARY SERVICE <sup>^</sup>	% UM IN 2007
Veteran	6.7%
Not a Veteran	14.2%

BY INSURANCE COVERAGE <sup>^</sup>	% UM IN 2007
Have Health Insurance	8.5%
Uninsured	40.0%

#### DATA NOTES:

- The survey question used to identify having an unmet medical need is "Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?"
- Employed = Being employed for pay which includes wages, salary and self-employment.
- Household Income = Annual household income from all sources.
- Veteran = Serving in the Armed Forces on active duty at any time (e.g. in Army, Air Force, National Guard, reserve unit).

#### DATA SOURCE:

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Prepared by the Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department.
- Survey data is collected from a random sample of adults, age 18 and up, who live at a private residence within the geographic boundaries of Thurston County (or Washington State for statewide figures). The data reflects the behaviors and experiences of the majority of adult residents, however, individuals living in institutions (e.g. dorms, group homes, assisted living, corrections facilities) or who do not have a landline telephone in their home (e.g. only use a cell phone or have no phone) are not surveyed.
- BRFSS is conducted throughout the calendar year. The survey is available in English and Spanish.