

# THE UNINSURED: NO DENTAL INSURANCE



*Access to Care Indicators for Thurston County*

**INDICATOR: Percentage of adults with no dental insurance coverage of any kind.**

Approximately 28% of Thurston County adults have no dental insurance. This equates to an estimated 54,430 county adults with no dental care coverage of any kind. Approximately 34% of Washington State adults have no dental insurance coverage (*BRFSS 2010*). Being uninsured makes it difficult to get dental care, which means oral health issues that could have been detected earlier are not and treatment gets delayed causing further problems.

## NO DENTAL INSURANCE IN 2010: DATA FOR THURSTON COUNTY ADULTS

NDI = No Dental Insurance

^ Estimates for county adults age 18 and up

BY GENDER <sup>^</sup>	NDI IN 2010
Female	25%
Male	31%

BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME <sup>^</sup>	NDI IN 2010
Under \$34,999 ( <i>poverty and low income</i> )	51%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	17%
\$50,000 and up	14%

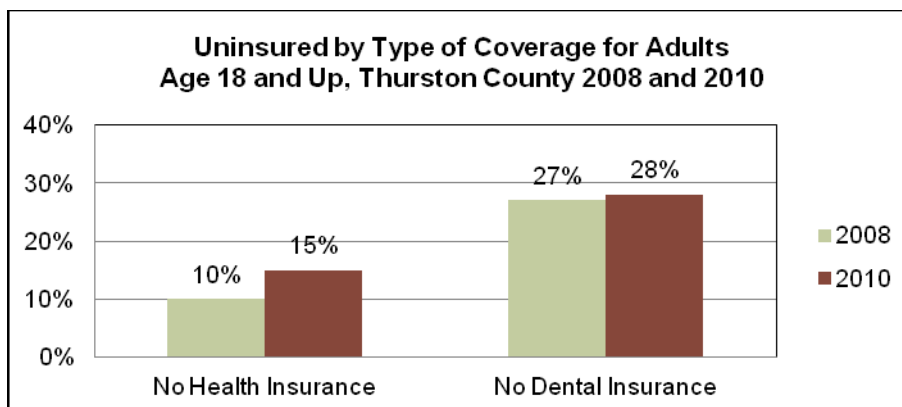
BY AGE	NDI IN 2010
18 to 34	48%
35 to 49	7%
50 to 64	17%
65 and up	40%
18 and up ( <i>all adults</i> )	28%

BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS <sup>^</sup>	NDI IN 2010
Employed	19%
Not Employed	39%

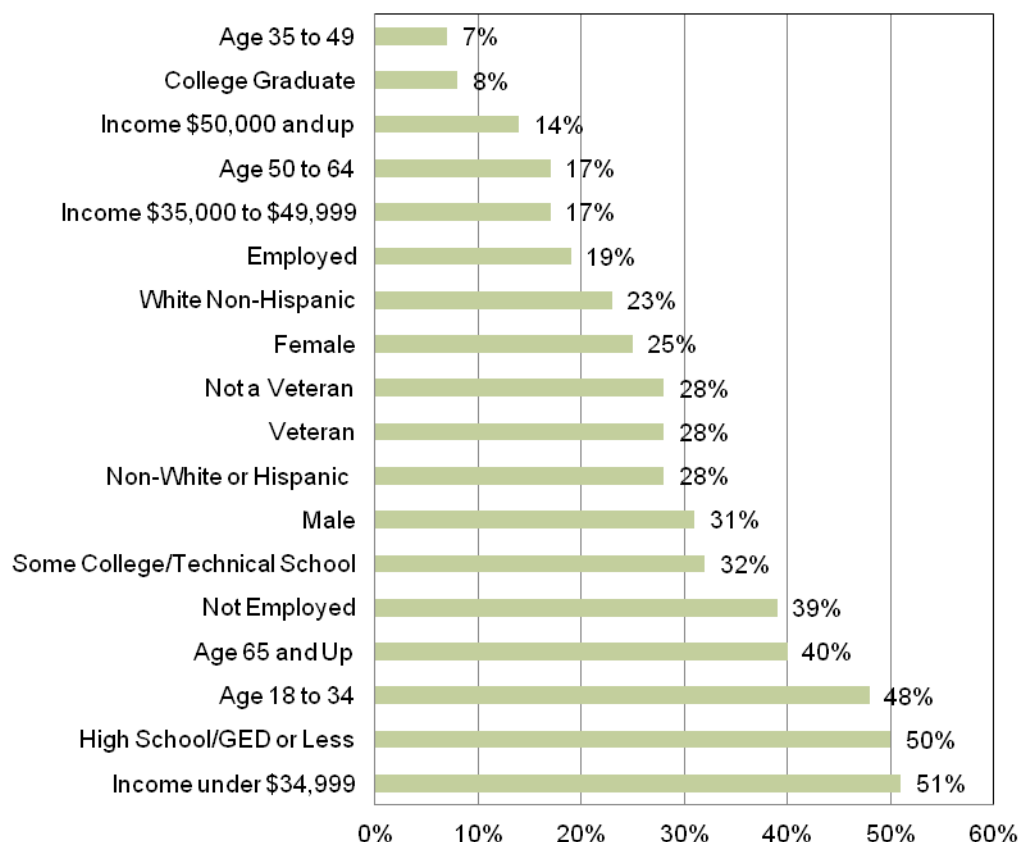
BY RACE/ETHNICITY <sup>^</sup>	NDI IN 2010
Non-White or Hispanic	28%
White Non-Hispanic	23%

BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT <sup>^</sup>	NDI IN 2010
High School/GED or Less	50%
Some College/Technical School	32%
College Graduate	8%

BY MILITARY SERVICE <sup>^</sup>	NDI IN 2010
Veteran	28%
Not a Veteran	28%



### Differences in Having No Dental Insurance of Any Kind for Adults age 18 and Up, Thurston County 2010



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

- In 2010 county adults were less likely to have dental insurance if they: had lower annual income, a high school education or less, were younger adults, seniors or not employed.

#### DATA NOTES:

- The survey question used to determine health insurance coverage is "Do you have any kind of insurance coverage that pays for some or all of your routine dental care, including dental insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicaid?"
- Non-White = African-American/Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander and multiracial. Hispanic = of Central or South American, Puerto Rican, Cuban or another Hispanic origin or descent. Hispanic is not defined as a race.
- Income = Annual household income from all sources.
- Employed = Being employed for pay which includes wages, salary and self-employment. Not employed includes retired and disabled.
- Veteran = Serving in the Armed Forces on active duty at any time (e.g. Army, Air Force, National Guard).

#### DATA SOURCE:

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Prepared by the Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department.
- Survey data is collected via telephone (landline and cell phone) 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). Data reflects the behaviors and experiences of the majority of adults, however, individuals living in institutions (e.g. dorms, group homes, assisted living, correctional facilities) are not surveyed.
- BRFSS is conducted throughout the calendar year. The survey is completed in English and Spanish.