

Briefing Paper for Legislators

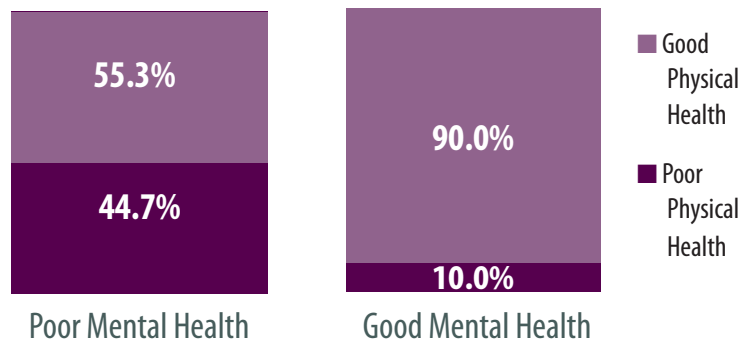
Data from the 2013 Colorado Health Access Survey are useful for varied groups and communities, providing a detailed picture of Colorado's health landscape and serving as a tool to help measure health reform efforts. This paper focuses on ways that Colorado legislators can use CHAS data to inform policies.

Key Findings

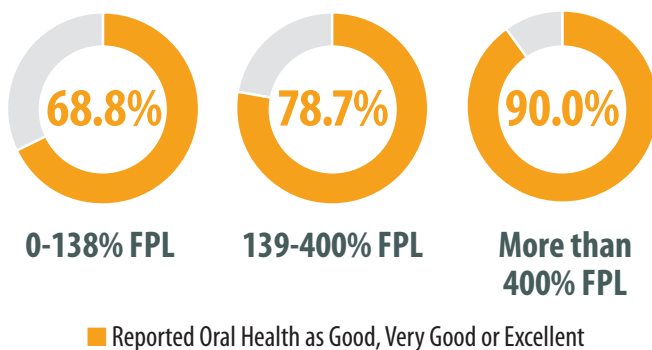
Mental and Physical Health Are Closely Related

- Coloradans who report good mental health are much more likely to report good, very good, or excellent general health.
- This emphasizes the importance of treating physical and mental health together through integrated care, something the legislature has identified as a goal in the past several years.

Relationship Between Mental Health and Physical Health

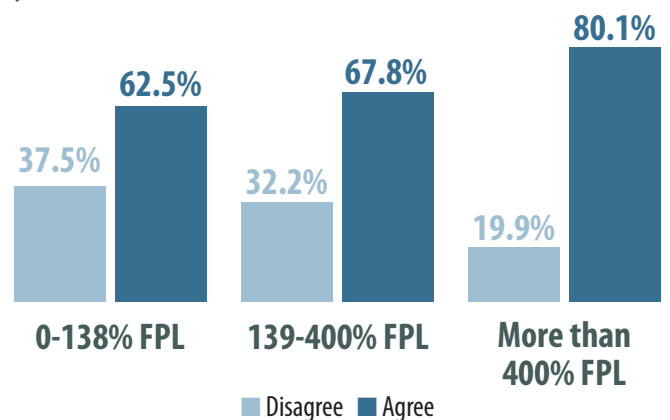


Oral Health and Income (Adults 19-64)



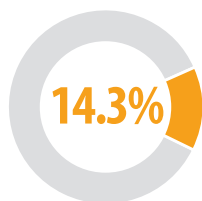
- Low-income Coloradans are more likely to report poor oral health than those with higher incomes.
- Legislation passed in 2013 established a dental benefit for adults enrolled in Colorado Medicaid. New coverage may improve access to needed oral health care and impact oral health status for low-income adults in Colorado, which the CHAS can measure.

Views on the Effectiveness of the Health Care System and Income

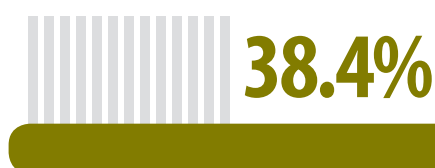


- Generally, no matter what their income, Coloradans agree that the health care system meets the needs of their families. High-income Coloradans are the most likely to have a positive view.
- The CHAS will monitor whether views of the health care system improve among low-income Coloradans as they gain access to more affordable coverage through the Medicaid expansion and subsidies available to buy insurance through Connect for Health Colorado, Colorado's individual and small group health insurance marketplace.

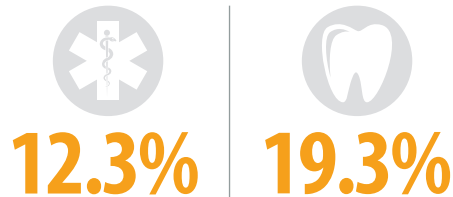
Top 2013 Takeaways



14.3 percent of Coloradans – about 741,000 people or one of seven residents – do not have health insurance. The uninsured rate was 15.8 percent in 2011 and 13.5 percent in 2009.



38.4 percent of Coloradans do not have dental insurance, compared to 39.9 percent in 2011 and 37.0 percent in 2009.



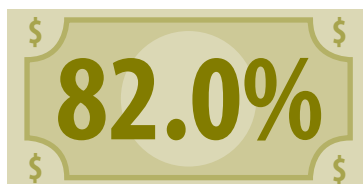
The high cost of health care continues to deter Coloradans from receiving needed treatment. Citing cost, **12.3 percent** did not seek needed doctor's care and **19.3 percent** did not seek needed dental care.



Nearly half (46.7 percent) of Colorado's uninsured say they have gone without health insurance for more than five years. **One of 10** said they have never had health insurance.



Of the 8 percent who said they needed mental health services but didn't get them, **three of four** said one reason was because they were uninsured.



The high cost of health insurance has ranked as the top reason for being uninsured in all three CHAS surveys. The percentage dropped to **82.0 percent** in 2013 from 88.4 percent in 2009.

A Demographic Snapshot

Age

The group between 19 and 26 has the highest uninsured rate – 27.1 percent. In 2011, the group between 27 and 34 had the highest percentage of uninsured at 29.2 percent.

Race/Ethnicity

Hispanic Coloradans are disproportionately uninsured. While about 26 percent of the population is Hispanic, they make up 38.6 percent of the uninsured population.

Income

Coloradans with annual incomes between 101 percent and 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) have the highest uninsurance rate at 23.0 percent, followed by those below the poverty level at 22.0 percent.

Employment

About one of three Coloradans working at a small employer are uninsured, three times the uninsured rate among workers at a large employer.

CHAS: The Basics

Who: 10,224 randomly selected households with one person at least 18 years old

What: Twenty-minute telephone survey on health insurance, access to health care and use of health care

When: Between April 15 and July 27, 2013

Where: Statewide, divided equally among 21 Health Statistics Regions

Why: To gather information that can inform policy-making and help measure health reform

Data on the Web: ColoradoHealthInstitute.org

- **New this year:** Data from all three surveys is available online. Click on the Data tab at ColoradoHealthInstitute.org.
- **Format:** Excel spreadsheets.
- **Categories:** Health Insurance; Oral Health; Mental Health; Affordability; Access to Care; Use of Health Care; Views on the Health Care System; Regional.
- **Cross-Tabs:** About 200

Example: Poor mental health days by gender, income, age, type of insurance, health status, education, employment, ethnicity, emergency department use and usual source of care.

- **More data:** All 20 graphics or maps from the 2013 overview are online and available to use in presentations or reports.
- **Updates:** Watch for more to be posted throughout the next two years.

Contact Us

Rebecca Crepin, senior data analyst at the Colorado Health Institute, is on standby to help with your special data requests.

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