

Measuring the Progress of Health Reform

With the Colorado Health Access Survey

Prepared for The Colorado Trust by the Colorado Health Institute

A Tool to Track Health Reform Outcomes

State and federal health reform, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA), will bring significant change to Colorado's health care landscape over the next few years. It is important to understand which policies work and which ones don't. How will we know if we are closer to our shared goal of improving Colorado's health?

The Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS) can answer these questions. Conducted every other year, the CHAS is a household survey that tells us how many Coloradans have health insurance, how many can get medical care when they need it and how people are using the health care system.

A program of The Colorado Trust, administered by the Colorado Health Institute, the CHAS is a source of objective information about these topics. It provides a common understanding of the progress and challenges in health care reform, leading to a richer and more productive discussion about solutions.

Colorado Health Access Survey data can answer questions such as:

- ✓ How many Coloradans are uninsured or underinsured?
- ✓ How many people are participating in Medicaid?
- ✓ How many Coloradans are buying health insurance through the new state exchange?
- ✓ Where are Coloradans getting their health care?
- ✓ How many people can't get health care when they need it?

See the chart on the back for more information about how the survey measures progress on specific health reform goals.

Data are available from the 2008-2009 baseline survey as well as the 2011 survey. Data from the 2013 survey will be available in November 2013. Both state-level and regional data are available.

Getting CHAS Data

There are two ways to get Colorado Health Access Survey data:

- ✓ Visit the CHAS website, www.COHealthAccessSurvey.org, to download publications on a variety of relevant policy topics, such as emergency department use, how Medicaid enrollees use health care or how many Coloradans are uninsured by region.
- ✓ Request a custom data analysis to answer a specific question or to get information about your region. This service is provided free upon request. Contact the Colorado Health Institute at 303-831-4200 or go to www.COHealthAccessSurvey.org and click on "Contact Us."

Measuring Health Reform

Goal of Health Reform	How Can the CHAS be Used to Measure This?
Increase the number of Coloradans with health insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the number of uninsured Coloradans Identifies the number of Coloradans who are currently insured but lacked coverage at some point in the last year Identifies the number of Coloradans participating in Medicaid Identifies the number of underinsured Coloradans. Underinsurance means that the individual was insured but also experienced high out-of-pocket medical expenses.
Improve continuity of coverage and care for those moving between public and private insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates how many Coloradans are moving between types of insurance Measures how often people drop their private health insurance coverage to obtain public coverage (“crowd-out”) – available in 2013
Improve the affordability of health insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports how much uninsured individuals say they would be willing to spend on health insurance.
Improve access to health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports how many Coloradans say they did not see a health care provider due to cost Reports how many Coloradans experienced barriers to getting primary care and mental health services – available in 2013

Unless otherwise noted, these questions were included in the 2008/09 and 2011 surveys and will be measured in 2013 and in future surveys.

About the Survey

The Colorado Health Access Survey asks Coloradans about their health care coverage, access and utilization in Colorado. The baseline survey was completed in 2008-2009, and it is now administered every other year via a random-sample telephone survey of more than 10,000 households. It provides detailed information that is representative of all Coloradans.

A program of The Colorado Trust in partnership with the Colorado Health Institute, the CHAS provides information to help policymakers, as well as health care, business and community leaders, more fully understand health care challenges and advance shared solutions to improve health coverage and care for Coloradans.



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