

# Health Care Access / Utilization

**Summary / Recommendations:** In 2006, Louisiana residents were most likely to report having no health coverage if they were in one or more of the following groups: age group 18-34, Blacks, lower education and household income levels, and unemployed. Residents in these groups were also more likely to report not having anyone they thought of as a personal health care provider and more likely to report not being able to see a doctor when they need to because of the cost. In addition, males were much less likely to report having one health care provider than were females. Providing health care coverage for all Louisiana residents should remain a top priority.

## Health care coverage among adults and limited health care access among adults overall and by select categories Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Louisiana 2006

| Characteristics+  | No Personal Health Care Provider++ |             |                    | No Health Care Access Due to Cost^ |             |                    | No Health Care Coverage~ |             |                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|                   | Sample Size*                       | %           | 95% CI             | Sample Size*                       | %           | 95% CI             | Sample Size*             | %           | 95% CI             |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1252</b>                        | <b>23.2</b> | <b>(21.7-24.6)</b> | <b>1186</b>                        | <b>17.7</b> | <b>(16.5-18.9)</b> | <b>1271</b>              | <b>26.5</b> | <b>(24.9-28.2)</b> |
| <b>Age</b>        |                                    |             |                    |                                    |             |                    |                          |             |                    |
| 18-34             | 383                                | 34.7        | (31.3-38.1)        | 296                                | 21.4        | (18.7-24.2)        | 393                      | 33.3        | (30.0-36.7)        |
| 35-54             | 549                                | 22.6        | (20.6-24.6)        | 546                                | 19.1        | (17.3-20.8)        | 624                      | 23.2        | (21.3-25.1)        |
| 55-64             | 320                                | 11.3        | (9.9-12.6)         | 344                                | 11.8        | (10.5-13.2)        | 254                      | 19.4        | (16.9-21.9)        |
| <b>Gender</b>     |                                    |             |                    |                                    |             |                    |                          |             |                    |
| Male              | 577                                | 30.0        | (27.5-32.6)        | 307                                | 14.2        | (12.3-16.1)        | 410                      | 26.1        | (23.4-28.8)        |
| Female            | 675                                | 16.9        | (15.5-18.3)        | 879                                | 20.9        | (19.4-22.4)        | 861                      | 26.9        | (25.1-28.8)        |
| <b>Race</b>       |                                    |             |                    |                                    |             |                    |                          |             |                    |
| White             | 730                                | 18.6        | (17.1-20.2)        | 678                                | 13.6        | (12.4-14.9)        | 677                      | 19.8        | (18.1-21.6)        |
| Black             | 378                                | 29.4        | (26.4-32.5)        | 403                                | 26.8        | (23.9-29.7)        | 454                      | 36.6        | (33.3-40.0)        |
| <b>Education</b>  |                                    |             |                    |                                    |             |                    |                          |             |                    |
| < High school     | 253                                | 38.0        | (33.2-42.9)        | 596                                | 27.0        | (23.0-30.9)        | 294                      | 56.1        | (50.5-61.7)        |
| High school grad  | 439                                | 25.7        | (23.1-28.3)        | 277                                | 22.3        | (20.0-24.5)        | 521                      | 32.1        | (29.3-35.0)        |
| Some college/grad | 558                                | 17.5        | (15.9-19.2)        | 113                                | 12.4        | (11.1-13.7)        | 454                      | 16.4        | (14.6-18.1)        |
| <b>HH Income</b>  |                                    |             |                    |                                    |             |                    |                          |             |                    |
| <\$25,000         | 474                                | 31.6        | (28.6-34.7)        | 241                                | 33.3        | (30.4-36.1)        | 646                      | 51.4        | (47.7-55.1)        |
| \$25,000-\$49,999 | 299                                | 25.0        | (21.8-28.2)        | 466                                | 18.1        | (15.6-20.6)        | 288                      | 26.6        | (23.2-30.0)        |
| \$50,000+         | 260                                | 14.7        | (12.8-16.5)        | 477                                | 5.4         | (4.2-6.5)          | 147                      | 9.0         | (7.3-10.7)         |
| <b>Employment</b> |                                    |             |                    |                                    |             |                    |                          |             |                    |
| Employed          | 633                                | 24.2        | (22.1-26.3)        | 480                                | 14.8        | (13.2-16.3)        | 584                      | 21.5        | (19.5-23.6)        |
| Self-employed     | 265                                | 15.2        | (13.1-17.3)        | 245                                | 12.4        | (10.6-14.1)        | 201                      | 27.5        | (23.5-31.5)        |
| Unemployed        | 265                                | 32.1        | (28.0-36.1)        | 284                                | 27.1        | (23.5-30.7)        | 355                      | 38.9        | (34.7-43.1)        |
| Unable to work    | 82                                 | 18.5        | (14.1-22.8)        | 171                                | 33.0        | (28.2-37.9)        | 121                      | 29.0        | (23.8-34.2)        |

\* Percentages are based on weighted data estimates. Un-weighted sample size (No personal health care provider) = 1252. Un-weighted sample size (No health care due to cost) = 1186. Un-weighted sample size (No health care coverage) = 1271.

+In this analysis, data for each category are included only for persons for whom the data were available; excluded data were either unknown or refused..

++The proportion of adults aged 18-64 who reported that they did not have anyone that they thought of as their personal doctor or health care Provider.

^The proportion of adults aged 18-64 who reported that there was a time in the past 12 months they could not see a doctor when they needed to due to cost.

~The proportion of adults aged 18-64 who reported having no health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans, or Medicaid.

Health care services can be expensive and most people can afford service only through having health care coverage (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 1998). Lack of healthcare coverage has been associated with deferred or delayed medical treatment, no preventative or primary care, and generally poor physical health status (CDC, 1998). According to *Healthy People 2010*, a strong predictor of quality health care is having health care coverage (2000).

Over 44 million people living in the United States are uninsured, and of those people, about 33% of persons under the age of 65 are uninsured (*Healthy People 2010*, 2000). The *Healthy People 2010* health objective 1-1 is to increase the amount of people with health care coverage to 100% (*Healthy People 2010*, 2000).

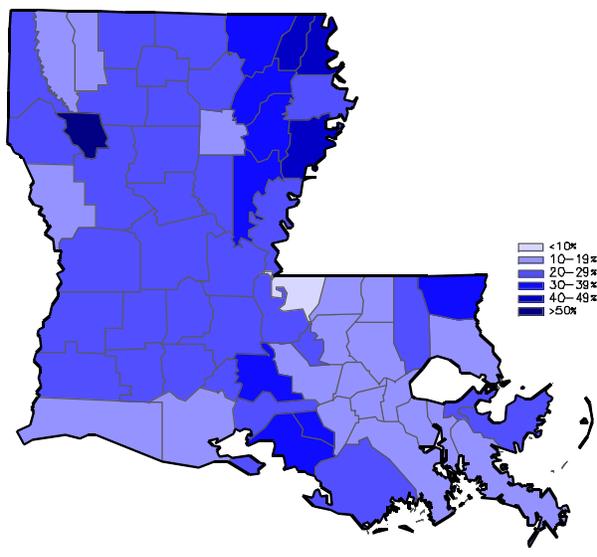
In 2006, 26.5% [95% CI: 24.9-28.2] of Louisiana residents between the ages of 18-64 reported having no health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, government plans, or Medicare. This proportion is much higher than the national rate of 14.5% reporting no health care coverage. Louisiana residents between the ages of 18-34 had a significantly higher prevalence of being uninsured, 33.3% [95% CI: 30.0-36.7], compared to those 35 and older. Black Louisiana residents were much more likely than White residents to report no health care coverage: 36.6% [95% CI: 33.3-40.0], compared to 19.8% [95% CI: 33.3-40.0] among Whites. As the education and income levels increased, the proportion of uninsured Louisiana residents decreased. In addition, 38.9% [95% CI: 34.7-43.1] of unemployed Louisiana residents had no health care coverage, which was significantly higher than the proportion in any other employment category.

Another way to measure access to quality health care is to ask whether there is one person the respondent considers to be a personal health care provider. The proportion of Louisiana residents that reported that they did not have anyone that they thought of as their personal doctor or health care provider in 2006 was 23.2% [95% CI: 21.7-24.6]. Of those between the ages of 18-34, 34.7% [95% CI: 31.3-38.1] reported not having a single health care provider, which was significantly higher than all other ages. Black Louisiana residents were more likely to report not having a single health care provider than were White residents: 29.4% [95% CI: 26.4-32.2] compared to 18.6% [95% CI: 17.1-20.2]. As education and income level increased, the absence of a personal health care provider increased. In addition, a higher proportion of unemployed Louisiana residents 32.1% [95% CI: 28.0-36.1] than residents in all other employment status groups.

In 2006, 17.7% [95% CI: 16.5-18.9] of Louisiana residents reported that there had been a time in the past 12 months when they could not see a doctor when they needed to because the cost was prohibitive. This situation was most frequently reported by those with household income below \$25,000, those who were unemployed, and those who were unable to work.

Over the last ten years, the proportion of Louisiana residents without health care coverage has remained steadily higher than the US proportion: both have increased slightly over the decade.

### Percentage of Louisiana Residents without Health Care 2004-2006 by Parish\*\*and Region+



| Parish     | N   | %    | 95% CI        |
|------------|-----|------|---------------|
| Red River* | 46  | 51.8 | [32.2 - 71.3] |
| Tensas*    | 41  | 43.5 | [15.4 - 71.5] |
| E Carroll* | 34  | 42.7 | [15.1 - 70.4] |
| W Carroll  | 69  | 41.4 | [25.9 - 56.9] |
| Richland   | 109 | 37.8 | [24.5 - 51]   |
| Franklin   | 137 | 37.1 | [24.5 - 48]   |
| Catahoula  | 83  | 34   | [19 - 49]     |
| Washington | 249 | 33.3 | [24.3 - 42.4] |
| St Mary    | 274 | 32.6 | [24.5 - 40.5] |
| Iberville  | 117 | 32.3 | [21.4 - 43.3] |

\* Denotes categories less than 50 respondents.

Inferences based on categories with less than 50 respondents should be used with caution.

\*\*The 2004, 2005, and 2006 BRFSS data files were combined to increase the sample size by parish.

| Region | N    | %    | 95% CI        |
|--------|------|------|---------------|
| 1      | 1016 | 20.9 | [17.7 - 24]   |
| 2      | 1001 | 18.6 | [15.5 - 21.7] |
| 3      | 975  | 23.2 | [20 - 26.5]   |
| 4      | 1001 | 23   | [19.4 - 26.7] |
| 5      | 971  | 26.3 | [22.9 - 29.8] |
| 6      | 1003 | 27.5 | [23.9 - 31]   |
| 7      | 1014 | 23   | [19.8 - 26.1] |
| 8      | 1014 | 28.5 | [24.8 - 32.1] |
| 9      | 1034 | 21.8 | [18.8 - 24.7] |

+Respondents without health care by region (LA 2004 BRFSS)