

Diabetes Partners in Action Coalition • Michigan Fact Sheet • 2008

DIABETES IN THE UNINSURED

Having no health care coverage¹ and its consequences has been a problem faced by increasing numbers of Americans in recent decades.² For Michigan between the years 1998-2007, the proportion of adults ages 18-64 without health care coverage grew by more than half (14.4%/9.3%); and among those adults who had ever been told they have diabetes³ the percent grew by over two and half fold during the same period (11.4%/4.4%) (Table 1).⁴ Data from intervening years shows a steady trend for this increase with the possibility that the increase has stabilized in recent years; this stabilization also appears to parallel National figures (Figure 1).⁵

While lack of health care coverage is a major concern for all adults, it tends to pose more immediate and substantial consequences to the health of people suffering from diabetes for whom receiving appropriate diabetes care is critical for controlling the onset of life threatening complications caused by this disease. However, adults who lack health care coverage are both less likely to access health care services and more likely to delay getting care when needed;^{6,7} they are also more likely to smoke and be physically inactive.⁷

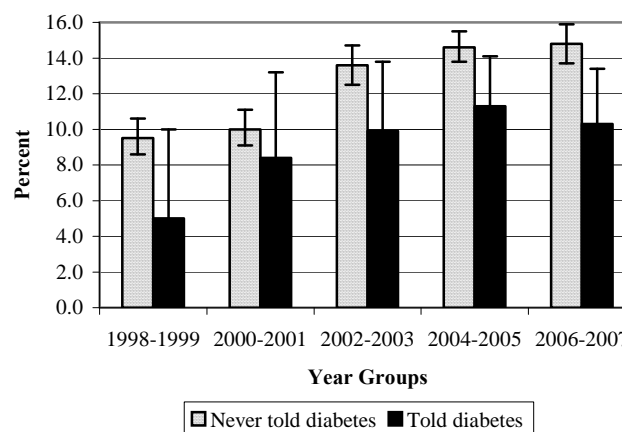
While health care insurance reform is necessary for good care of diabetes, such reform will be insufficient unless it is coupled with state level programs and policies⁸ provided by Michigan's Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, the Diabetes Partners in Action Coalition, and the Diabetes Outreach Networks that target improvement of the reasons why vulnerable populations with access to care often do not receive optimal care.

Increased lack of health care coverage heightens the need to focus public health efforts on diabetes prevention and control, making public health services even more important for promoting the well being of Michigan adults with diabetes.

Table 1. Percent health care coverage by diabetes status in Michigan adult residents ages 18-64, 1998 and 2007 MI BRFSS

Health Care Coverage	1998			2007		
	Never told diabetes (%)	Told diabetes (%)	Total (%)	Never told diabetes (%)	Told diabetes (%)	Total (%)
No	9.5	4.4	9.3	14.6	11.4	14.4
Yes	90.5	95.6	90.7	85.4	88.6	85.6

Figure 1. Barchart showing trend for no health care coverage by diabetes status and by year group for Michigan adult residents ages 18-64, 1998-2007 MI BRFSS



Notes and Sources

¹ Health care coverage is defined as including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or governmental plans, such as Medicare.

² Wilper AP, Woolhandler S, Lasser KE, McCormick, D, Bor, DH, Himmelstein, D.U. A national study of chronic disease prevalence and access to care in uninsured U.S. adults. *Ann Intern Med.* 2008 Aug 5;149(3):170-6.

³ Diabetes status is defined as ever having been told by a doctor that they have diabetes; this excludes women who had diabetes only during pregnancy and adults who were diagnosed with pre-diabetes.

⁴ 1998-2007 Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS).

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau Report: Health Insurance Coverage: 2007. <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin07.html>

⁶ Health Risk Behaviors in the State of Michigan. 2006 BRFS. 20th Annual Report.

⁷ Surveillance for Certain Health Behaviors Among States and Selected Local Areas — BRFSS, 2004. *MMWR* 55 (SS-07): 7/14/2006.

⁸ Chin, M.H. Improving Care and Outcomes of Uninsured Persons with Chronic Disease...Now. *Ann Intern Med.* Aug 2008; 149: 206 - 208.

For more information: MullardA@michigan.gov, (517)335-9080
Division of Genomics, Perinatal Health, and Chronic Disease
Epidemiology, MI Department of Community Health, Sept 2008