

Briefing Paper for the Media

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's media could use CHAS to inform coverage related to health care coverage, access and use.

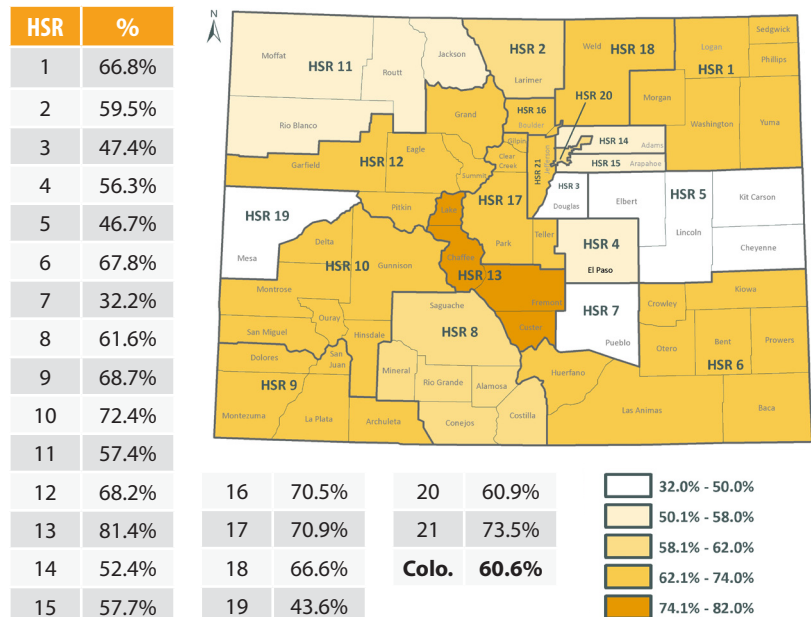
Key Findings

Longest Stretches Without Health Insurance

High-Level Findings

- **Nearly 422,000** of the uninsured Coloradans have been without health insurance for at least three years. Statewide, this accounts for about 61 percent of all uninsured residents.
- In Lake, Chaffee, Fremont and Custer counties – Health Statistics Region (HSR) 13 – **81 percent** of uninsured residents have gone for at least three years without health insurance.
- The **lowest rate of these long-time uninsured** is found in Pueblo County – HSR 7 – at 32 percent. (Pueblo County ranks second in the percentage of residents covered by Medicare, Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), most likely accounting for this finding.)

Percentage of Uninsured Who Have Been Uninsured for Three or More Years



Poor Mental Health

Most Residents Reporting Eight or More Days of Poor Mental Health

Pueblo County (HSR 7)	21.4%
Gilpin, Clear Creek, Park and Teller counties (HSR 17)	15.6%
Mesa County (HSR 19)	14.5%

High-Level Findings

- The **lowest percentage of residents** reporting poor mental health is in the northeast counties of Sedgwick, Phillips, Logan, Morgan, Washington and Yuma – HSR 1.
- The **highest number of residents** reporting poor mental health is in Denver County – HSR 20 – with 65,529.

In Colorado
10.6%
Report eight or more days of poor mental health*

Opinions about the Health Care System

System Isn't Meeting Needs of Family

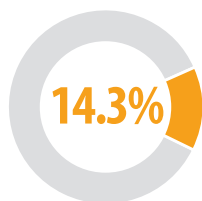
Lake, Chaffee, Fremont and Custer counties (HSR 13)	28.1%
Kiowa, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Huerfano, Las Animas, Baca counties (HSR 6)	25.2%
Adams County (HSR 14)	25.1%

High-Level Findings

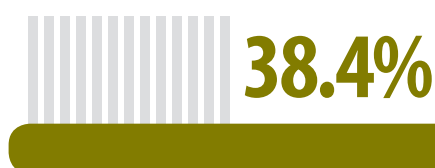
- Residents least dissatisfied with the system are in Douglas County (HSR 3), where **14.2 percent** don't think the system meets the needs of their family.
- **Living in rural, more isolated areas**, appears to influence feelings about the system.

* Asked of respondents 5 years and older. Poor mental health is defined as reporting eight or more days of poor mental health in the past 30 days.

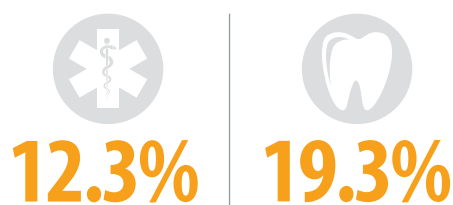
Top 2013 Takeaways



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.



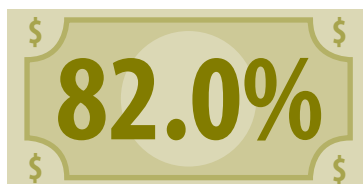
The high cost of health care continues to deter Coloradans from receiving needed treatment. Citing cost, **12.3 percent** did not seek needed doctor's care and **19.3 percent** did not seek needed dental care.



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
- **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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- **Phone:** 720.382.7086

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.