

Health Care Coverage Among Adults with Diabetes in Florida, 2002



Bureau of Epidemiology
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Diabetes is an ongoing and life-long disease that can be self-managed with the assistance of a health care provider. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) has developed the Standards of Medical Care for Patients with Diabetes, which guides health care providers and patients through the complex process of managing diabetes¹. To stay healthy, a person with diabetes needs access to supplies like blood glucose test strips and insulin. This access is often covered by one's health insurance, making health care coverage an important asset for people with diabetes. To insure the best care possible, the ADA recommends that people with diabetes visit their health care provider every three to four months.

Data from the 2002 Florida County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey were used for this analysis and are based on a sample size of 34,551 respondents, of whom 3,582 reported being told by their doctors that they have diabetes, which is the definition of "diabetes" used for this report. The focus of this report is health care coverage² among adults with diagnosed diabetes³ in Florida.

The prevalence of not having health care coverage among adults with diagnosed diabetes (13.0 percent) is significantly lower than that among adults without diagnosed diabetes (19.2 percent). (See Table 1.)

Lack of health care coverage among adults with diagnosed diabetes:

Significant differences in the prevalence of no health care coverage among adults with diagnosed diabetes were found by age group, race/ethnic group, marital status, and income.

A greater proportion of adults with diabetes between the ages 18 and 44 years (28.4 percent) and adults 45 to 64 years of age (19.9 percent) have no healthcare coverage compared to adults ages 65 years and older (2.3 percent). (See Figure 1.)

Among racial/ethnic groups, Hispanics⁴ (47.9 percent) and non-Hispanic Blacks (24.5 percent) with diabetes are more likely to lack coverage than non-Hispanic Whites (7.1 percent). Specifically, non-Hispanic White men are significantly less likely to lack coverage (6.3 percent) than Hispanic men (63.2 percent). Non-Hispanic White women are significantly less likely not to have coverage (7.8 percent) than non-Hispanic Black women (26.7 percent). (See Figure 2.)

Adults with diabetes who have never married are significantly more likely to lack health care coverage (25.5 percent) than adults who are divorced, widowed, or separated (9.5 percent).

Among adults with diabetes who have an annual household income of more than \$50,000, the prevalence of lacking health care coverage (1.4 percent) is significantly less than among adults who have annual household incomes of \$25,000 to \$50,000 (14.8 percent) or less than \$25,000 (17.0 percent). Finally, the prevalence of lacking health care coverage among adults with diabetes does not differ significantly by education.

Figure 1: Prevalence of No Health Care Coverage Among Adults with Diabetes, FL, 2002

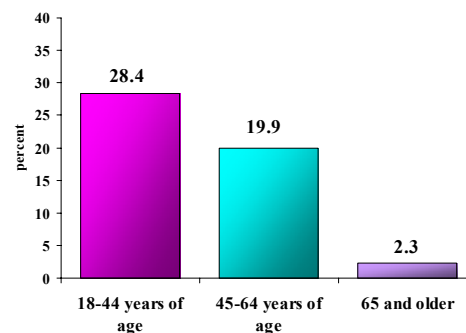
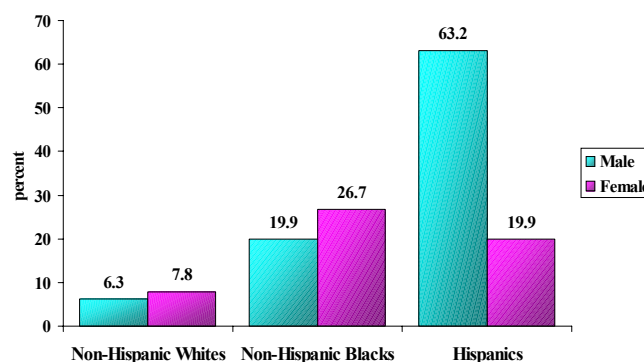


Figure 2: Prevalence of No Health Care Coverage Among Adults with Diabetes, FL, 2002



Conclusion: Lacking having health care coverage is more prevalent among adults without diabetes than among those with diabetes. Among people with diabetes, Hispanic men, non-Hispanic Black women, young and middle-aged adults, the never-married, and those with annual incomes less than \$50,000 are less likely to have health care coverage than are Hispanic women, non-Hispanic Black men, adults aged 65-years and older, and those with annual incomes exceeding \$50,000.

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The BRFSS survey is a telephone survey of civilian, non-institutionalized adults (age 18 and older) with telephones, designed to monitor trends in risk behaviors related to preventable chronic diseases and conditions. Respondents are asked about health status, including diabetes and blood pressure; health behaviors, such as nutrition, physical activity, tobacco, and alcohol use; use of screening services, such as mammography; and access to health insurance and health care.

The BRFSS data are weighted. Because the BRFSS is a random survey, the results from the county survey are slightly different from the results of the state survey. For more information on the Florida BRFSS, please visit our website at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/brfss/index.htm. For the strengths and limitations of the BRFSS, please visit The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/brfss/.

¹To access the Diabetes Standards of Care, visit <http://www0.sw.org/dnet/manage/adastand2.htm>.

²Health care coverage is measured by the following question, "Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?"

³Diabetes is assessed by the following question, "Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have diabetes?"

⁴Estimates based on Hispanics with diabetes and no health care coverage are derived from sample size of 33.

*Confidence intervals for Table 1 are constructed utilizing the SAS 9.1 version.

Table 1: Prevalence of not having health care coverage among adults without and with diabetes, Florida, 2002

	Adults without Diabetes			Adults with Diabetes		
	%	95% CI*		%	95% CI*	
All	19.2	18.1	20.3	13.0	9.9	16.2
Sex						
Male	19.5	17.8	21.3	13.9	8.6	19.1
Female	18.9	17.5	20.3	12.2	8.7	15.7
Age group						
18-44	26.8	24.9	28.7	28.4	16.8	40.1
45-64	17.8	16.1	19.6	19.9	14.1	25.7
65+	3.1	2.1	4.2	2.3	1.0	3.7
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	14.1	13.2	15.0	7.1	5.3	8.8
Black, non-Hispanic	27.8	22.9	32.7	24.5	14.0	35.0
Hispanic	39.2	33.2	45.3	47.9	24.1	71.7
Marital status						
Never Married	31.2	27.4	35.0	25.5	13.5	37.6
Married/cohabitating	15.1	13.8	16.5	11.8	8.0	15.6
Divorced/ widowed/ separated	20.2	18.2	22.2	9.5	6.2	12.7
Education						
Less than high school	33.0	28.1	37.8	23.6	12.3	34.9
High School, GED	25.6	23.3	27.8	12.0	8.0	16.1
More than high school	13.5	12.3	14.7	10.0	6.2	13.8
Annual household income						
Less than \$25,000	33.3	30.4	36.2	17.0	11.3	22.7
\$25,000—\$50,000	19.3	17.2	21.4	14.8	8.1	21.6
More than \$50,000	6.0	4.9	7.2	1.4	0.2	2.5

**For more information about the BRFSS survey,
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