HEALTHCARE ACCESS SURVEY REPORT

Executive Summary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A total of 579 surveys were collected between August 15 and Oct 7, 2014. A high percentage of respondents (82%) considered themselves to be in good-to-excellent health. However, almost half (45%) of respondents suffered from a chronic health condition. Two-thirds of these respondents reported that their chronic conditions were under control, but a sizeable percentage (20%) indicated their chronic conditions were poorly managed.
- The percentage and number of persons without health insurance was larger than previously estimated in the US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS). Whereas the 2013 one-year ACS estimate was that 15% of the population (about 30,000 persons) lacked health insurance, the current healthcare access survey suggested that a higher percentage of the population (20%) is without health insurance. Extrapolated to the entire county population, it would represent 41,000 persons or 11,000 more than the ACS estimate.
- One hundred and fifteen respondents (20%) had no health insurance. Among age groups with at least 10 respondents, persons aged 25 to 44 were more likely to lack health insurance (23%). A high proportion of Hispanic respondents (27%) also lacked health insurance. The city with the highest proportion of respondents without health insurance was Winters (26%), but about 20% of respondents in West Sacramento, Woodland and other communities excluding Davis also lacked health insurance.
- Respondents were more likely to lack health insurance if they were unemployed (26%) or part-time
 workers (22%) than if they worked full-time (15%). The occupations most likely to lack health insurance
 were workers in construction (31%), restaurant or fast food (30%), other occupations (27%) and
 agriculture (24%).
- Lack of health insurance was also the top reason for avoiding healthcare services or screening (26%). Other major reasons for avoiding healthcare services and screening were being too busy (21%), having to wait too long to see a doctor (21%), and having high out-of-pocket copays (19%).
- Among respondents without health insurance, despite the fact that almost half (48%) were at or below
 the federal poverty level (FPL), only 20% were planning to apply for health insurance through Covered
 California. Most did not know if they were eligible for Medi-Cal or Medicare. Only 18% of the uninsured
 with household incomes below the FPL planned to purchase health insurance through Covered
 California.
- Two-thirds (66%) of respondents had a usual source of medical care, meaning that a sizeable proportion (one-third) did not. The percentage of respondents who lacked a usual source of medical care was significantly higher if they also lacked health insurance (74%).
- A surprising 25% of respondents had used healthcare services at the Emergency Room (ER) in the past 12 months. While many respondents cited legitimate reasons for using the ER (a life-threatening illness or injury, or needing healthcare services outside regular business hours and on weekends), one-third of all reasons for ER visits fell into the following categories: not being able to obtain an urgent-care appointment in a timely manner, finding it more convenient to use the ER than waiting for an appointment, not having a regular doctor, and needing a prescription refilled.
- Wait times to obtain medical appointments were generally acceptable, and 58% of respondents were able to obtain an appointment within seven days of requesting one. However, 25% of respondents reported waiting two weeks or longer to obtain an appointment.
- Travel time to medical appointments was usually less than 30 minutes (for 81% of respondents), despite the rural nature of the Yolo County. For 7% of respondents, travel time to their medical provider exceeded 45 minutes. The median distance travelled to medical providers was 5 miles. In fact 56% of respondents fell into this category. However, 23% of respondents had to travel 15 miles or further to their medical provider.

- Many respondents (48%) lacked dental insurance, which appears to be a barrier to obtaining dental services. Only 28% of respondents without dental insurance saw a dentist in the past 12 months compared to 75% of respondents with dental insurance.
- Almost one in four respondents (24%) felt they needed to see a mental health provider, but only twothirds of those who desired treatment actually received services. The top three barriers to obtaining mental health services were concern about the cost of treatment (47%), not knowing how to locate providers (38%), and fear of others finding out (21%).