

Health Care Access Among Mississippi Adults in 2020

The Mississippi Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is conducted annually to monitor the prevalence of behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among adults in our state. The 2020 Mississippi BRFSS was completed by 6,479 Mississippians aged 18 years or older.

About Health Care Access

- Lack of affordable health care services can have a negative impact on health care utilization.¹
- Results of the 2020 National Health Interview Survey showed that, due to cost, in the preceding 12 months, 6.7% of adults in the United States did not get medical care they needed, 4.3% did not get mental health care they needed, and 8.3% did not take their medication(s) as prescribed.²
- The 2020 BRFSS's national estimate was higher, with 9.7% of respondents reporting not seeing a doctor in the last 12 months due to cost.³

Health Care Access in Mississippi in 2020

- Approximately 1 in 7 adults (**13.9%**) reported not being able to see a doctor when they needed to because of cost during the past 12 months.⁴
- The percentage of not being able to see a doctor because of cost was **higher among female respondents** (15.3%) compared to male respondents (12.4%); however, the difference was not significant.⁴ (Figure 1)
- The percentage of not being able to see a doctor was **highest** among the **Other Race** group (17.8%*) compared to the Black (16.0%) and White (12.3%) race groups, although the difference was not statistically significant.⁴ (Figure 2)
- The percentage of not being able to see a doctor was significantly **higher** among **Black** respondents compared to White respondents.⁴ (Figure 2)
- The percentage of not being able to see a doctor was significantly **higher** among **Black female** (16.9%) and **White female** (14.3%) respondents compared to White male respondents (10.1%).⁴ (Figure 3)

Definitions

- Health Care Access Question: Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?⁴
- In this report, "**Other Race**" refers to adults who reported their race/ethnicity as anything other than White or Black Non-Hispanic or any race and Hispanic.
- The difference between two estimates is considered **statistically significant** (also stated as "significantly higher/lower" or "significant" in this fact sheet) if the 95% confidence intervals do not overlap.

Figure 1. Percent of Respondents Who Could Not See A Doctor Due to Cost by Gender, MS, 2020



Figure 2. Percent of Respondents Who Could Not See A Doctor Due to Cost by Race, MS, 2020

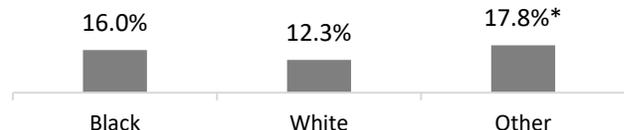
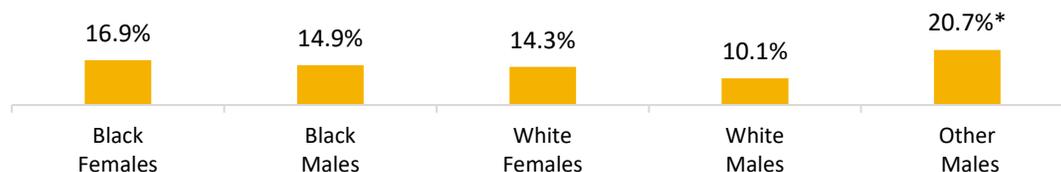


Figure 3. Percent of Respondents Who Could Not See A Doctor Due to Cost by Race & Gender, MS, 2020



Note: Data for the "Other Females" race/gender group are suppressed due to low response.

Note: In the 2020 MS BRFSS, the numbers of responses for individual races and ethnicities contained in the "Other Races" demographic group were too low to allow for meaningful estimates. To request additional race/ethnicity data, please [submit a data request using MSDH's online form](#).

*This estimate is based on a cell size of less than 50. Use caution when interpreting and comparing this estimate.

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Health Care Access in Mississippi in 2020 (continued)

- The percentage of not being able to see a doctor due to cost was significantly **higher** among adults **aged 25 to 34 years** (21.0%) compared to adults in the 45 to 54 years age group and older age groups.⁴ (Figure 4)
- The percentage of not being able to see a doctor due to cost was significantly **lower** among adults who have **graduated college** (7.7%) compared to respondents with lower educational attainment.⁴ (Figure 5)
- The percentage of not being able to see a doctor due to cost was significantly **higher** among adults with an annual household **income of less than \$15,000** (27.0%) compared to respondents with an annual household income of \$25,000 to \$34,999 and higher.⁴ (Figure 6)

Figure 4. Percent of Respondents Who Could Not See A Doctor Due to Cost by Age, MS, 2020

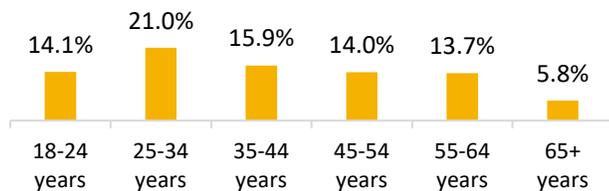


Figure 5. Percent of Respondents Who Could Not See A Doctor Due to Cost by Education, MS, 2020

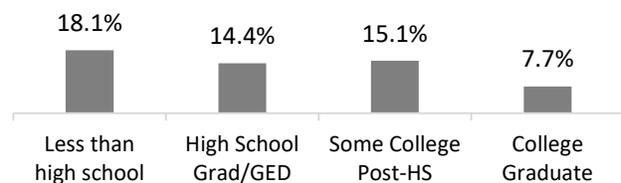


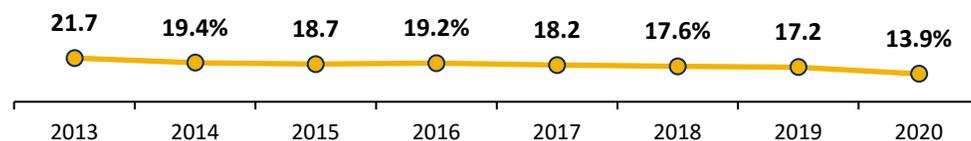
Figure 6. Percent of Respondents Who Could Not See A Doctor Due to Cost by Annual Household Income, MS, 2020



Health Care Access Trends in Mississippi

- The percentage of adults who reported not being able to see a doctor due to cost in the past 12 months significantly **decreased** from **21.7%** in 2013 to **13.9%** in 2020.⁴ (Figure 7)

Figure 7. 2013-2020 Trend of Not Being Able to See A Doctor in the Past 12 Months Due to Cost Among Adults in Mississippi



References

- 1) National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Health and Medicine Division; Board on Health Care Services; Committee on Health Care Utilization and Adults with Disabilities. *Factors That Affect Health-Care Utilization. Health-Care Utilization as a Proxy in Disability Determination*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2018. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK500097/>. Accessed June 13, 2022.
- 2) Adjaye-Gbewonyo, D., & Boersma, P. Early release of selected estimates based on data from the 2020 National Health Interview Survey. National Center for Health Statistics. August 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/EarlyRelease202108-508.pdf>. Accessed July 14, 2022.
- 3) Adults who report not seeing a doctor in the past 12 months because of cost by sex. Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/could-not-see-doctor-because-of-cost-by-sex>. Accessed July 14, 2022.
- 4) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2022, May 4). *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System*. <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>. Accessed June 13, 2022.

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