HEALTH PRIORITIES

Access to Health Care

Definition

Access to care refers to the timely use of personal health services (such as preventive, diagnostic, treatment, and follow-up care) to achieve the best possible health outcomes.¹

KEY INDICATORS:

Health Insurance

Percent of uninsured adults age 18-64

Affordability

Percent of adults who needed to see a doctor in the past year but did not due to cost

Utilization

Percent of adults who have had a routine checkup in the past year

Importance

Access to health services affects a person's health and well-being. Regular and reliable access to health services can:²

- o Prevent disease and disability
- Detect and treat illnesses or other health conditions
- o Increase quality of life
- Reduce the likelihood of premature (early) death
- o Increase life expectancy

COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ISSUES:

Difficulty navigating the healthcare system & health insurance

Shortage of home health care workers for aging population

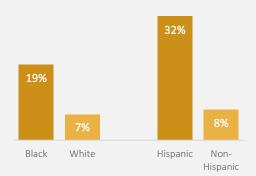
Access to and use of technology as a barrier to telehealth

Health Insurance

The percentage of uninsured adults **increased** for the first time since 2008.

11%

of adults age 18-64 in Kent County do not have health insurance



PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE MORE LIKLEY TO BE UNINSURED

Hispanic and Latino adults are 4 times more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic adults

Black adults are **3 times more likely** to be uninsured than White adults

Affordability & Utilization

9% of adults needed to see a doctor in the past 12 months but did not due to cost

69% of those who could not afford needed care were insured

1 in 5

adults have not had a routine checkup in the past year



WHAT BARRIERS PREVENTED YOU FROM ACCESSING NEEDED HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES?

"Lack of health insurance. I make slightly too much to qualify for Medicaid, but too little to be able to afford a decent health insurance plan. This situation creates constant stress regarding struggling to afford mental health care and fearing that any type of physical health emergency will lead to medical bankruptcy."

"I can't afford to add additional costs to my budget—I can't pay the resulting bills. And I don't have days available to take time

"Unsure which providers take my insurance."

¹ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2018. *Elements of access to health care*.

² Healthy People 2020. Access to health services: Overview & impact.