

Access and Quality of Health Care



Ability to access health care is affected by insurance coverage, cost, language and cultural barriers, availability of providers, and transportation. People who are not able to access health care are at increased risk for serious medical problems, premature mortality and poor health outcomes. Inability to access health care often results in receiving medical treatment later in the course of illness and in more costly settings, which increases the financial burden on the health care system.

Key facts about Access and Quality of Health Care

High unemployment rates mean high numbers of uninsured and increased demand for safety net health services. Medical Assistance recipients have low rates of annual preventive dental care. Elderly and disabled residents often do not access the services that are available to help them stay in their homes. There are limited low-cost services for medical, dental, and mental health available in the county or within a reasonable distance for residents.

Community Health Profiles

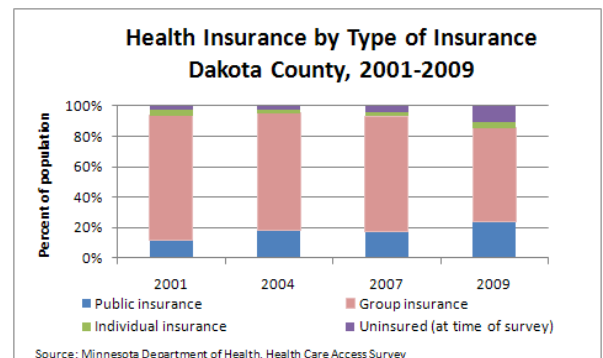
Dakota
COUNTY

Dakota County health system

- There are three hospitals in Dakota County (Fairview Ridges, Regina Medical Center, Northfield Hospital), with a total of 244 beds. In 2010, there were 15,557 acute inpatient admissions and 61,238 emergency room registrations.
- There are 43 primary care clinics in Dakota County. In 2008, there were an estimated 277 practicing primary care physicians.
- In 2008, an estimated 262 dentists were in practice in Dakota County.

Health insurance coverage

- In 2010, an estimated 6.7 percent of Dakota County residents were uninsured, below the state (9.1 percent). The largest percent of persons uninsured is 7.9 percent of 18-64 year olds.
- Enrollee cost for private insurance premiums increased by 228 percent in Minnesota from 2000 to 2009.
- It is difficult to measure the number of state and county residents who are underinsured, but given the increase in high-deductible plans, use of Health Savings Accounts, and limited benefit plans, it is likely that an increasing percentage of people are underinsured.



Minnesota Health Care Programs

- In 2010, more than 40,000 Dakota County residents were enrolled on a monthly basis in the state's three publicly-funded health care programs (Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, and General Assistance Medical Care).
- Fifty-nine percent of those enrolled in Medical Assistance in 2009 were children.
- In 2010, the payments through Minnesota Health Care Programs for care for Dakota County residents totaled \$436.3 million.

Access to medical care

- Fifteen percent of adults in the U.S. ages 18-64 did not get medical care in the previous 12 months due to cost (2009).
- In 2008-2009, 19.5 percent of U.S. adults ages 18-64 did not have a usual source of medical care.
- Dakota County hospitals provided nearly 12 million in uncompensated care in 2010, a 108 percent increase from 2001.

Long term care

- Licensed facilities in the county include 19 supervised living facilities with a total of 182 beds; 75 housing facilities with services, including 44 that provide assisted living; and 9 nursing homes with 955 beds.
- In 2010, nursing home costs for 973 Dakota County fee-for-service Medical Assistance recipients totaled more than \$28 million.

Emergency Medical Services

- The four primary ambulance providers received more than 23,000 EMS calls in 2010.
- In 2010, the Dakota Communications Center handled about 65,000 911 calls and dispatched approximately 305,000 police, fire, and EMS units to emergency events.

Dental care

- Dakota County fee-for-service Medical Assistance enrollees who had a preventive dental visit in 2010 include 33 percent of children ages 3-20, 41 percent of adults ages 21-64, and 23 percent of adults ages 65+.
- Many dentists in the county have waiting lists for new Medical Assistance patients.

Quality of care and patient safety

- From 2006-2010, there were 15 adverse events in Dakota County hospitals. No deaths resulted, but six events caused serious disability.
- In 2008-2009, 68-71 percent of patients gave Dakota County hospitals a high overall satisfaction rating - similar to the state.
- From 2008-2010, there were 13 substantiated complaints posted against 11 Dakota County long-term care facilities and home health providers.



About this Community Health Profile

For more information about the Dakota County community health assessment, contact: Melanie Countryman, Epidemiologist (melanie.countryman@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-554-6131)

For more information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- Minnesota Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us
- Minnesota Community Measurement www.mncm.org
- Minnesota Health Information www.minnesotahealthinfo.org
- Kaiser Family Foundation www.kff.org



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DCPHD-HR-2590 January 13, 2012