Health Care Access

Unmet physical/emotional health care needs

Young people face numerous barriers to accessing health care, even when insurance coverage is available. Fear that services will not be kept confidential; lack of transportation or access to a convenient source of care; difficulty navigating the health care system; and lack of culturally, linguistically and youth-friendly providers are commonly cited barriers.

In 2013, 20% of 8th graders and 18% of 11th grade Oregonians reported having an unmet physical health care need in the past year. Among both 8th and 11th graders, more females reported having unmet physical health care needs compared to males.

FIGURE 1

Unmet physical health care needs in the past 12 months among 11th graders, Oregon, 2006–2013

Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

- No survey in 2010
- No survey in 2012
In 2013, 14% of 8th graders and 15% of 11th graders reported having an unmet emotional or mental health care need in the past year. As in unmet physical health care needs, more females reported having an unmet emotional or mental health care need compared to males. Over 1 in 5 11th grade females reported having an unmet emotional or mental health care need in the past year.

**Additional Resources:** Oregon Healthy Teens Survey; Oregon Adolescent and School Health Program

**About the Data:** Data source is the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey (OHT). OHT is a pencil and paper or online survey conducted every two years among Oregon 8th and 11th graders within schools. Data include respondents who answered “yes” to the question(s) “In the past 12 months, did you have any physical/emotional health care needs that were not met?” Physical health care need is defined as “any situation where you thought you should see a doctor, nurse or other health care professional.” Emotional health care need is defined as “any situation where you thought you should see a counselor, social worker or other mental health professional.”

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