Health Care Access

Unmet physical/emotional health care needs among adolescents

Adolescents 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 2015, 19% 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 than males reported having unmet physical health care needs (Figure 1).

![Figure 1](image)

**FIGURE 1**

Unmet physical health care needs in the past 12 months among 11th graders by year and sex, Oregon

In 2015, 17% of 8th graders and 19% of 11th graders reported having an unmet emotional or mental health care need in the past year. Similar to unmet physical health care needs, more females than males reported having an unmet emotional or
mental health care need (Figure 2). In 2015, one in four 8th and 11th grade females reported having an unmet emotional or mental health care need in the past year.

![Figure 2](image)

*There was no survey in 2010, 2012 or 2014.

Source: Oregon Healthy Teens Survey

**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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