

The Gap in Health Care Coverage Washington State

Facts (2007-2008):

Almost everyone age 65 and over has Medicare.

About 95% of children under age 18 are covered.

The biggest gap is for adults age 18 to 64: About 16% do not have any insurance (see Chart 1).

Within the state, the gap is deepest in large and small rural towns: 21% and 27% respectively (see Chart 1).

The disparity in small towns and isolated rural areas did not change during 2003-2008 (see Chart 2).

Policy Implications:

- To comply with the national *Healthy People 2010* target of having 100% of the population insured, Washington State needs to reduce the insurance gap from about 16% to zero.
- Efforts to increase insurance coverage should target residents in small rural towns; about one in every four adults lacks coverage.
- Policies strengthening rural coverage could also help rural providers by strengthening their economic base.

Health Insurance Coverage includes private health insurance plans, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicaid. For more information on children age 17 and younger with health care coverage, see [Washington State Local Public Health Indicators](#). Data Source: Washington State Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

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