

**OCRH Series on Rural-Urban Disparities, WA**

## Closing the Gap in Health Care Coverage Washington State

### Facts:

Almost everyone age 65 and over has health care coverage.

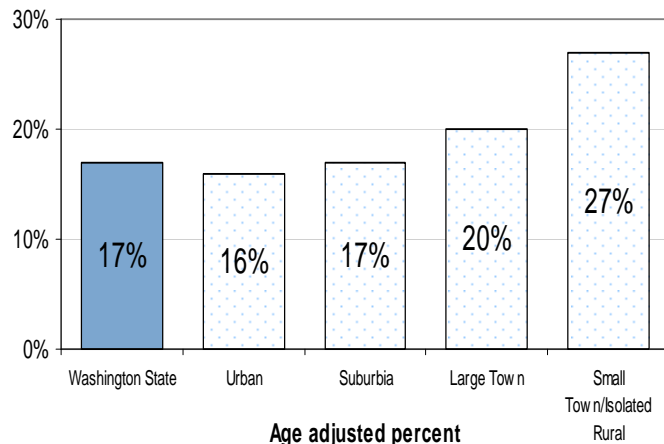
More than 95% of children under age 18 are covered.

The critical coverage gap is for adults age 18 to 64: About 17% do not have any public or private coverage.

For adults age 18 to 64, health care coverage is:

- **Hardest to obtain in small towns and isolated rural areas.** About 27% of adults have no health coverage.
- **More comprehensive in urban and suburban areas.** About 16% in urban and 17% in suburban areas have no coverage.

### Urban vs. Rural Health Care Coverage (Adults age 18 – 64 without insurance, 2004-2006)



### 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 17% to zero for adults age 18 to 64.
- Residents in large and small towns need special attention, since approximately one in every four adults lacks healthcare coverage.

Health Care Coverage includes private health care insurance plans, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare.

Data Sources: CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), years 2004-2006, and Washington State, OFM, State Population Survey (SPS), year 2006.

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