

FACT SHEET: CHILDLESS ADULTS IN WISCONSIN

Low-income childless adults are the most chronically uninsured people in Wisconsin. They are individuals and married couples between the ages of 19 and 64 who are not pregnant, disabled, or qualified for any other Medicaid, Medicare or SCHIP program. They have income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Childless adults may have children, but either their minor children are not currently living with them or those children living with them are 19 years of age or older. While more than half of them work, many do not have access to employer-subsidized insurance. With the expansion of BadgerCare Plus, an estimated 81,000 uninsured childless adults will have access to affordable health insurance beginning January 1, 2009.

The most recent Wisconsin Family Health Survey estimates that there were 66,000 uninsured childless adults in Wisconsin¹ with incomes that did not exceed 200% FPL. In addition, there are approximately 15,000 childless adults enrolled in Milwaukee's GAMP.

The characteristics of Wisconsin's 66,000 low-income uninsured childless adults are as follows:

Geography

City of Milwaukee	13,000	20%
Southeast (excluding Milwaukee)	9,000	13%
South	9,000	14%
West	11,000	17%
Northeast	14,000	21%
North	10,000	15%
Total	66,000	100%

Note: These are Department of Health Services regions. See counties included in each region at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aboutdhs/regions.htm>

Age

19-34	23,000	34%
35-44	14,000	21%
45-54	16,000	24%
55-64	13,000	20%
Total	66,000	100%

Employment status

Full-Time	26,000	40%
Part-time	11,000	17%
Self-employed	4,000	5%
Not employed	25,000	38%
Total	66,000	100%

Other characteristics

57% are men

74% are not married

38% diagnosed with one or more of 15 chronic health conditions²

55% have not had a health check up in the past two years³

17% treated in the ER in the past year

Fact sheet prepared in the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, September 2008.

¹ 2005-2007 Wisconsin Family Health Survey, Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services. Special tabulation prepared September 10, 2008.

² The "15 chronic conditions" are arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, stroke, allergies (other than food allergies), asthma, lung or breathing problem, chronic back problem or condition, depression, osteoporosis, digestive tract disorder, high blood pressure, heart attack and congestive heart failure. Not all 15 conditions were included in each year of the survey.

³ Adults who reported having a general physical examination or check-up during the 12 months prior to the survey interview are reported as having had a check-up in the past year.