



## **Knox County Health Department 2004 Health Assessment Mail Survey Results**

Selected items from Main Health Questionnaire

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### **Methods**

The Knox County Health Department conducted a Health Assessment survey by mail during February-June 2004. Drawing from a stratified random sample of Knox County addresses, a total of 694 surveys were completed and the response rate was 35%. Respondents received a pen and a tea bag as remuneration. The main questionnaire addressed a wide variety of topics related to health status and access to care. The tables presented here display respondent characteristics and the results of selected questions on health insurance and physical, mental, and dental health care access. Results of supplemental surveys on the health of women, men, and children are not included here, but may be obtained from the Knox County Health Department.

### **Respondent characteristics**

Table 1: Age (n=664)

Age category (years)	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
19 or younger	1	0.2%
20 to 34 years	126	19.0%
35-54 years	223	33.6%
55-64 years	60	9.0%
65 or more years	254	38.3%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

Table 2: Sex (n=664)

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Male	203	30.6%
Female	461	69.4%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 3: 2003 Household income** (income from all sources before taxes) (n=614)

Income category	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Less than \$10,000	50	8.1%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	166	27.0%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	201	32.7%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	162	26.4%
\$100,000 or more	35	5.7%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 4: Employment status** (n=641)

Income category	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Employed for wages or self-employed	306	47.7%
Out of work	19	3.0%
Homemaker, student, or retired	316	49.3%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 5: Parent status** (n=666)

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Parent of child under age 18	229	34.4%
Not a parent of child under age 18.	437	65.6%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

### **Health insurance status**

**Table 6: "Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plan such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?"** (n=656)

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Yes (have insurance)	598	91.2%
No (uninsured)	58	8.8%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 7: Health insurance status by age, sex, household income, employment status, and parent status**

	Currently Insured		Currently <i>Uninsured</i>	
	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
<b>Sex</b>				
Male (n=201)	180	90%	21	11%
Female (n=455)	418	92%	37	8%
<b>Age</b>				
19 to 30 years (n=68)	54	79%	14	21%
31 to 64 years (n=334)	297	89%	37	11%
<b>Age and sex</b>				
Males 19 to 30 years (n=12)	9	75%	3	25%
Males 31 to 64 years (n=102)	90	88%	12	12%
Females 19 to 30 years (n=56)	45	80%	11	20%
Females 31 to 64 years (n=232)	207	89%	25	11%
<b>Household income* (2003)</b>				
Less than \$10,000 (n=17)	14	82%	3	18%
\$10,000 to \$24,999 (n=57)	41	72%	16	28%
\$25,000 to \$49,999 (n=135)	120	89%	15	11%
\$50,000 or more (n=179)	168	94%	11	6%
<b>Employment status*</b>				
Employed for wages or self-employed (n=277)	248	90%	29	10%
Not employed (n=111)	95	86%	16	14%

\*Excludes those over 65 years old and those receiving Medicare.

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 8: "About how long has it been since you had health care coverage?" (among adults without insurance, ages 19-64, n=47)**

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Within the past 6 months	3	6.4%
Within the past 7-12 months	7	14.9%
Within the past 1-2 years	6	12.8%
Three or more years ago or never had coverage	31	66.0%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 9: "What kind of health insurance do you have?" (n=848)**

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Private insurance	420	49.5%
Medicaid or Healthy Start	51	6.0%
Medicare	238	28.1%
VA/ CHAMPUS/ Military	19	2.2%
Other	62	7.3%
Do not have health insurance	58	6.8%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

### **Health care access and emergency room use**

**Table 10: "About how long has it been since you last visited a doctor or other health care provider for a routine check-up?"**

	All (n=633)		Currently Insured (n=579)		Currently <i>Uninsured</i> (n=52)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Within the past year	403	63.7%	387	66.8%	15	28.8%
Within the past 1-2 years	97	15.3%	83	14.3%	14	26.9%
Within past 3 years or more	133	21.0%	109	18.8%	23	44.2%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 11: “What was the main reason you have not visited a doctor or other health care professional in the past year for a routine check-up?”**

	All (n=220)		Currently Insured (n=185)		Currently <i>Uninsured</i> (n=34)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No reason to go (no health problems)	137	62.3%	125	67.6%	12	35.3%
Have not thought of it	14	6.4%	14	7.6%	0	0.0%
Other priorities	13	5.9%	11	5.9%	2	5.9%
No insurance	21	9.5%	4	2.2%	17	50.0%
My insurance doesn't cover doctor's office visits	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
No regular doctor	10	4.5%	10	5.4%	0	0.0%
Professional said check-up not needed	6	2.7%	6	3.2%	0	0.0%
No convenient appointment available	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Cannot get to the office/clinic (too far away, no transportation)	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Child/adult care problem	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fear	2	0.9%	2	1.1%	0	0.0%
Other	14	6.4%	10	5.4%	3	8.8%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 12: “Did you visit an emergency room or urgent care center as a patient in the past 12 months?”**

	All (n=653)		Currently Insured (n=593)		Currently <i>Uninsured</i> (n=56)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	160	24.5%	146	24.6%	13	23.2%
No	493	75.5%	447	75.4%	43	76.8%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 13: “If you recently visited an emergency room or urgent care center, what was the reason?”**

	All (n=150)		Currently Insured (n=138)		Currently <i>Uninsured</i> (n=12)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Accident	54	36.0%	52	37.7%	2	16.7%
Sudden illness	44	29.3%	41	29.7%	3	25.0%
Symptoms or illness lasting longer than 24 hours	51	34.0%	44	31.9%	7	58.3%
Do not have a family physician or primary care physician	1	0.7%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 14: “Was there a time during the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor, physician’s assistant, or nurse practitioner, but could not because of the cost?”**

	All (n=645)		Currently Insured (n=586)		Currently <i>Uninsured</i> (n=56)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	59	9.1%	32	5.5%	26	46.4%
No	586	90.9%	554	94.5%	30	53.6%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

### **Mental health and dental care access**

**Table 15: “Have you felt the need for mental health services (such as counseling, therapy, or psychiatry), but were unable to obtain them?”**

	All (n=631)		Currently Insured (n=575)		Currently <i>Uninsured</i> (n=54)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	41	6.5%	29	5.0%	12	22.2%
No	590	93.5%	546	95.0%	42	77.8%

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 16: "About how long has it been since you last visited a dentist or other dental health professional for a routine check-up?"**

	All (n=631)		Currently Insured* (n=573)		Currently <i>Uninsured*</i> (n=55)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Within the past 6 months	306	48.5%	295	51.5%	9	16.4%
Within the past 7-12 months	64	10.1%	63	11.0%	1	1.8%
Within the past 1-2 years	95	15.1%	74	12.9%	20	36.4%
Within past 3 years or more	166	26.3%	141	24.6%	25	45.5%

\*Refers to medical insurance.

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 17: "What is the main reason you have not visited a dentist or other dental health professional in the last year for a routine check-up?"**

	All (n=262)		Currently Insured* (n=217)		Currently <i>Uninsured*</i> (n=43)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No reason to go	86	32.8%	76	35.0%	10	23.3%
Have not thought of it	12	4.6%	12	5.5%	0	0.0%
Other priorities	22	8.4%	20	9.2%	2	4.7%
Can't afford care, I have no insurance	46	17.6%	18	8.3%	27	62.8%
My insurance doesn't cover dental care	32	12.2%	31	14.3%	0	0.0%
No regular provider	7	2.7%	7	3.2%	0	0.0%
Professional said check-up not needed	3	1.1%	2	0.9%	1	2.3%
No convenient appointment available	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Cannot get to the office/clinic (too far away, no transportation)	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Child/adult care problem	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fear	11	4.2%	10	4.6%	1	2.3%
Other	41	15.6%	39	18.0%	2	4.7%

\*Refers to medical insurance.

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 22: "Was there a time during the last 12 months when you needed to see a dentist, but could not because of the cost?"**

	All (n=650)		Currently Insured* (n=592)		Currently <i>Uninsured*</i> (n=55)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	94	14.5%	71	12.0%	22	40.0%
No	556	85.5%	521	88.0%	33	60.0%

\*Refers to medical insurance.

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department

**Table 23: "Do you have insurance for dental care?"**

	All (n=652)		Currently Insured* (n=592)		Currently <i>Uninsured*</i> (n=56)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	311	47.7%	305	51.5%	6	10.7%
No	341	52.3%	287	48.5%	50	89.3%

\*Refers to medical insurance.

Source: 2004 Health Assessment Survey, Knox County Health Department