

Special Report on Health Access Disparities

A Report from the 2023 LHIS



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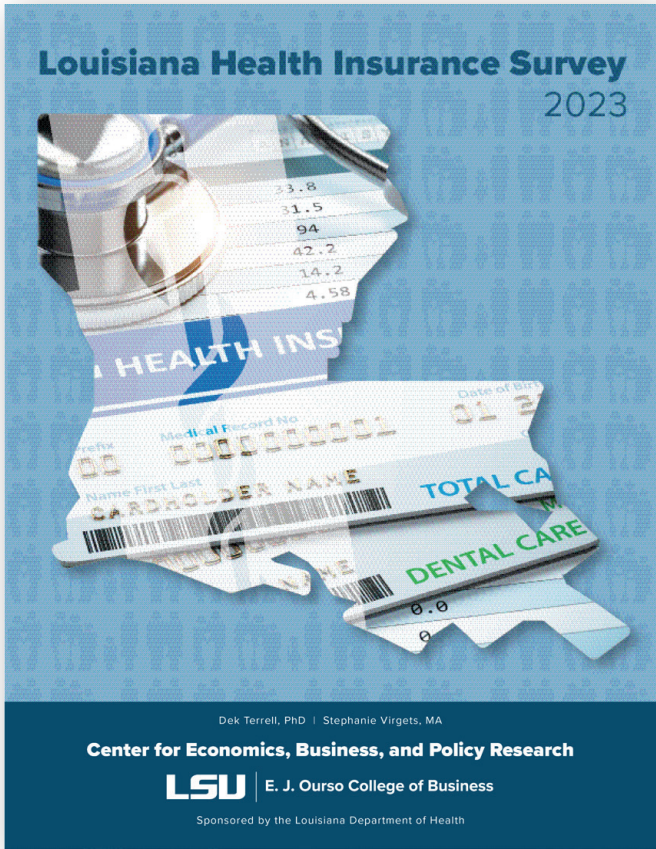
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Introduction

This special report from the 2023 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey analyzes differences in access to healthcare across demographic groups. This report updates the 2019 and 2021 reports on the same topic using the 2023 LHS data. Satisfaction with insurance and providers and access to care are very similar across all three survey years, with consistent results across most demographic groups. The additional year of data provides some insights based on comparisons across years and a more detailed look at the data that were not available in the prior report.

The 2023 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey surveyed 8,972 households comprised of more than 24,000 individuals in Louisiana. They were asked the following two questions about healthcare access: 1) Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always? And 2) Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

Both of these questions were asked of every member of the household, including insured and uninsured individuals. Health care disparities may arise due to differences in access to health insurance coverage across sex, race, health insurance plan, and urban or rural location. Given that uninsured individuals are included in the analysis, changes in health insurance coverage between groups may also affect health care disparities. For expositional purposes, we focus on the proportion of respondents selecting “usually” or “always” to both access questions. The percentage in these categories is depicted in all figures in our text and considered the proportion satisfied. Appendix B provides full results for the interested reader.



Sex

Figures 1 – 4 provide breakouts on health disparities by sex. Figures 1 and 2 display results for the question “Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?” In general, overall satisfaction is roughly ten percent higher for children than adults. For children, there is little difference in satisfaction between males and females. For adults, males are slightly less likely than females to be satisfied with their access to services and providers. Overall adult satisfaction is higher in 2023 than in previous years, while for children it is improved from 2021 and similar to 2019. We return to the explanation of this result after reviewing results on the second question.

Figure 1. Meets Needs Results for Children

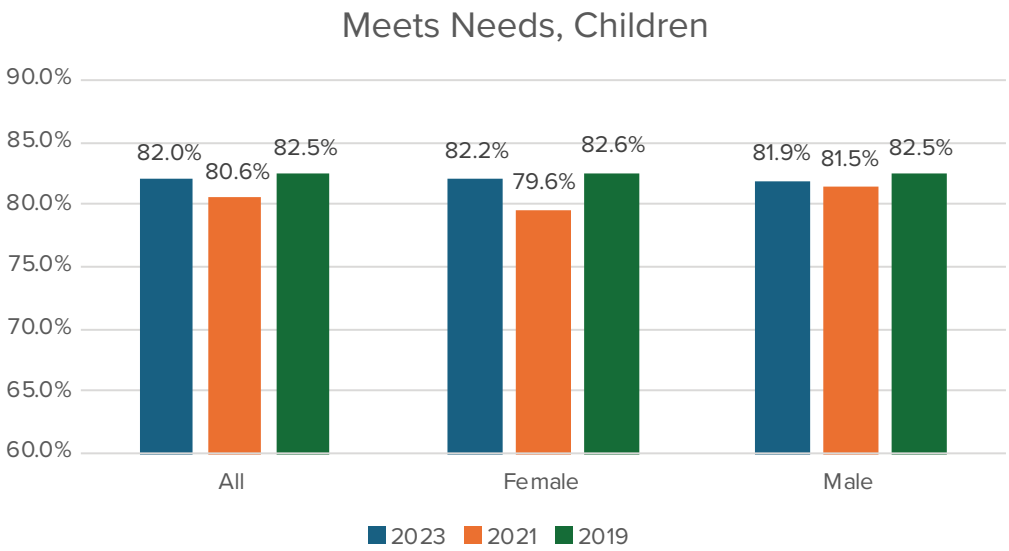
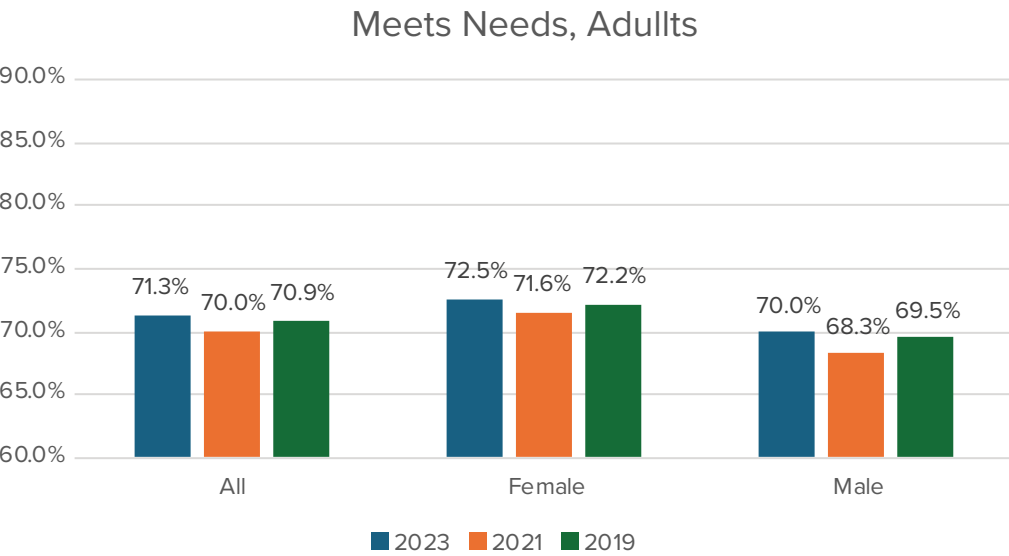


Figure 2. Meets Needs Results for Adults



Figures 3 and 4 ask the question “Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need?” For the second question on access to providers, we see very similar general patterns as those in Figures 1 and 2 on satisfaction with coverage. The self-reported access to providers is better for children than adults and lower for males than for females. We see improvement in access to providers across years for children and adults.

Figure 3. Providers, Children

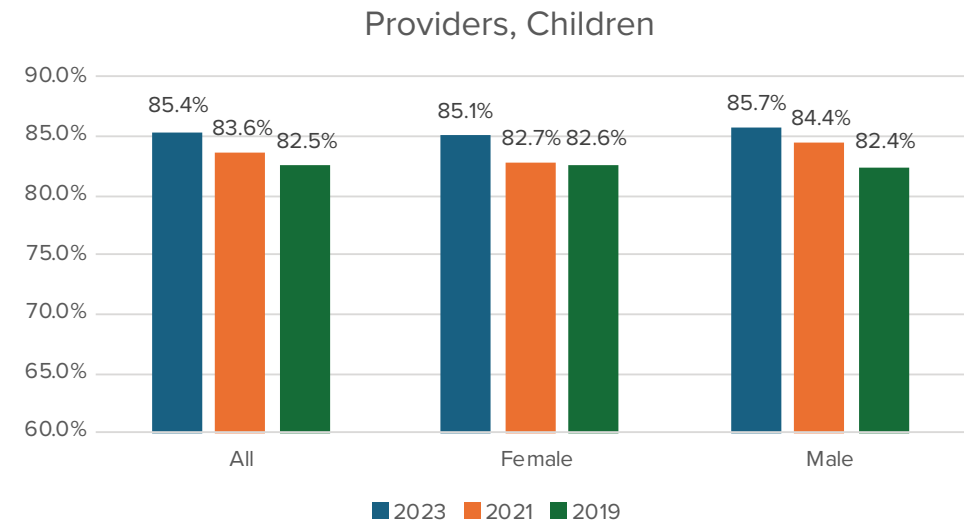
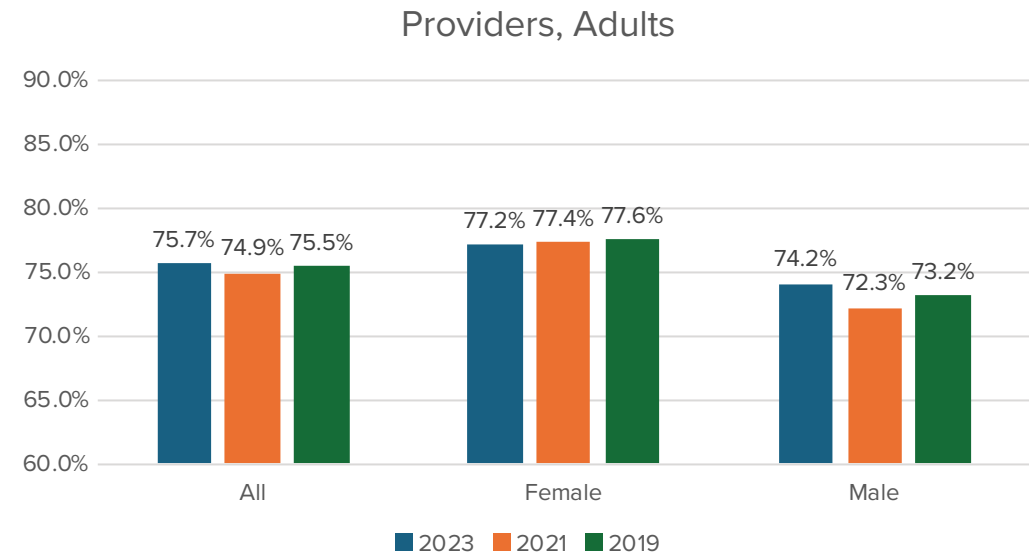


Figure 4. Providers, Adults

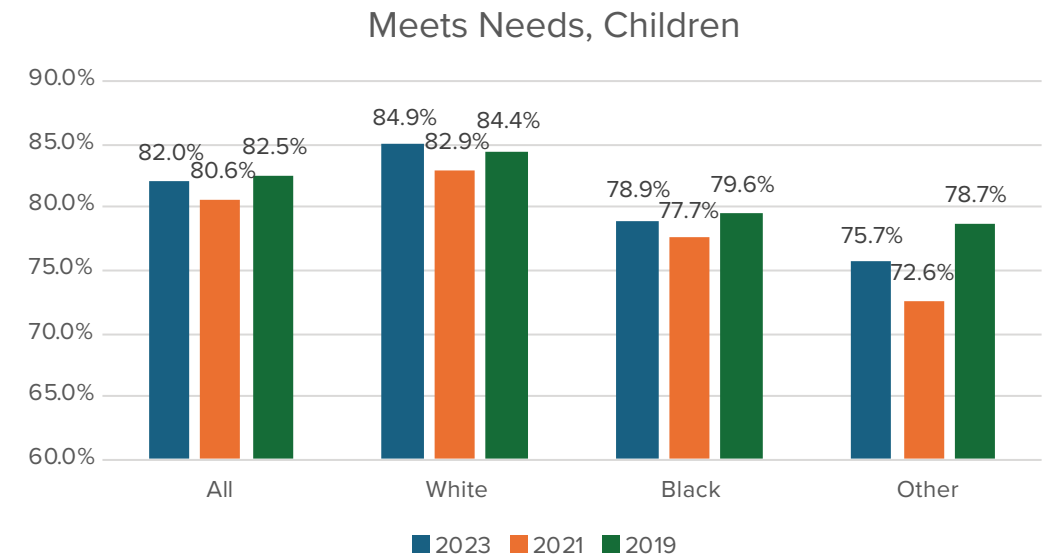


When considering these results, it is important to recall that all computations are based on the full sample, which includes the uninsured. The gap in provider satisfaction between males and females disappears when uninsured individuals are removed from the sample, and the gap in provider access drops to 1%. Males report lower coverage and access satisfaction because they are less likely to have health insurance coverage.

Race

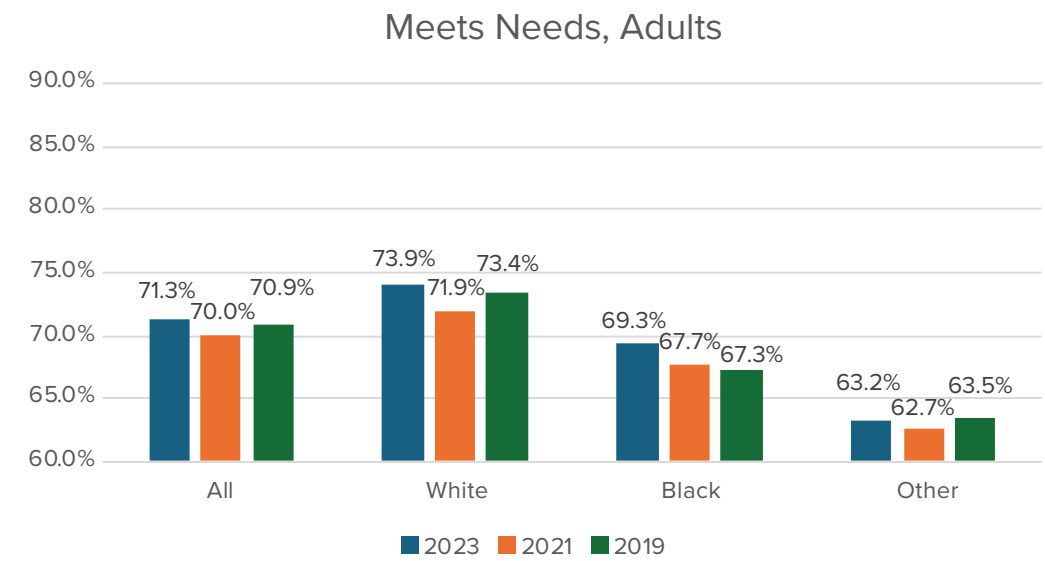
The second demographic breakout of health disparities is for race, presented in Figures 5 – 8. Other races include respondents reporting Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American/Eskimo and those choosing other or not to report the race for this question.¹ Figures 5 and 6 focus on the question “Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?”

Figure 5. Meets Needs Results for Children



In general, white respondents report greater satisfaction with coverage for both children and adults than other races.

Figure 6. Meets Needs Results for Adults



¹ Our treatment of Hispanic as race rather than ethnicity in the 2019 LHIS and 2021 LHIS follows an older convention and is chosen to allow comparisons across LHIS results dating back to 2003. The 2023 LHIS adopts the new convention of including two questions, one on race and a second on ethnicity.

Figures 7 and 8 focus on the question “Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need?” and show very similar results. White respondents report better access to providers for both children and adults. We conducted similar analysis for race to see if gaps can be attributed to those lacking coverage. Results indicate that differences in both satisfaction with coverage and are essentially unaffected when the sample is restricted to those with insurance coverage. This finding indicates that some other factor is leading to health disparities in satisfaction with insurance coverage and access. For example, providers may be located closer to white respondents than other groups on average, or transportation may limit access.

Figure 7. Providers Results for Children

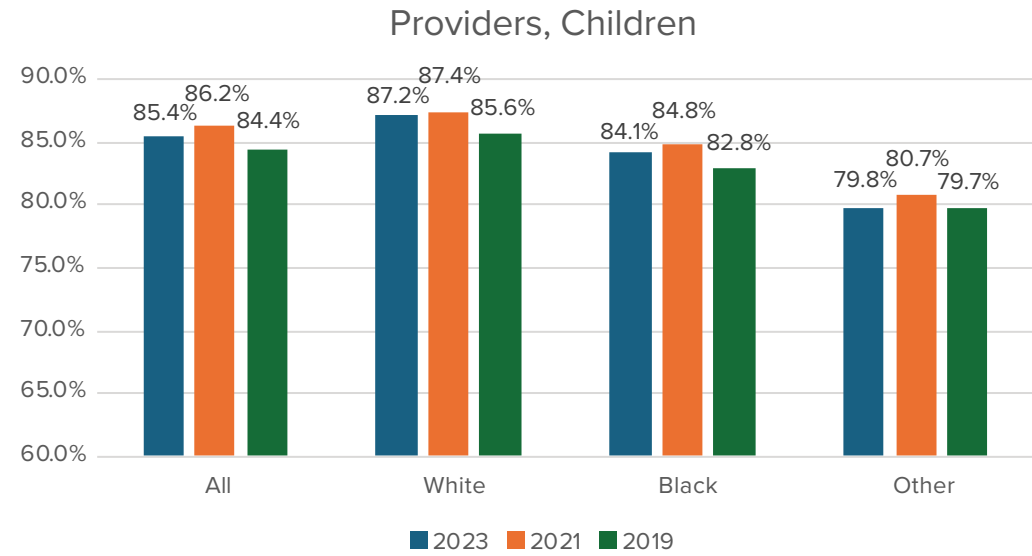
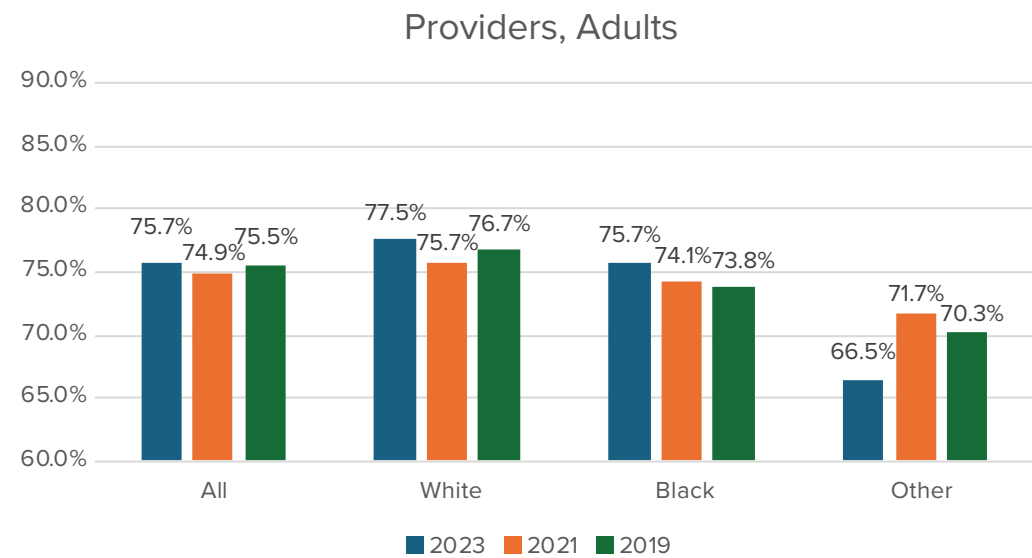


Figure 8. Providers Results for Adults



Ethnicity

A new question for the 2023 LHS is the question of ethnicity. Respondents are asked if they have Latino or Hispanic origin, or no Latino or Hispanic origin. The following figures show results for the question of “Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?” For these figures, the scale of the bar chart ranges from 0 to 90% instead of the 60 to 90% in other figures, to include the Hispanic group within the parameters. Satisfaction from Hispanic families is much lower than other groups for both children and adults. Hispanic individuals are more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanics for both children and adults, and this explains some of the difference in satisfaction. There may also be language barriers or other barriers to access not related to insurance status.

Figure 9. Meets Needs Results for Children

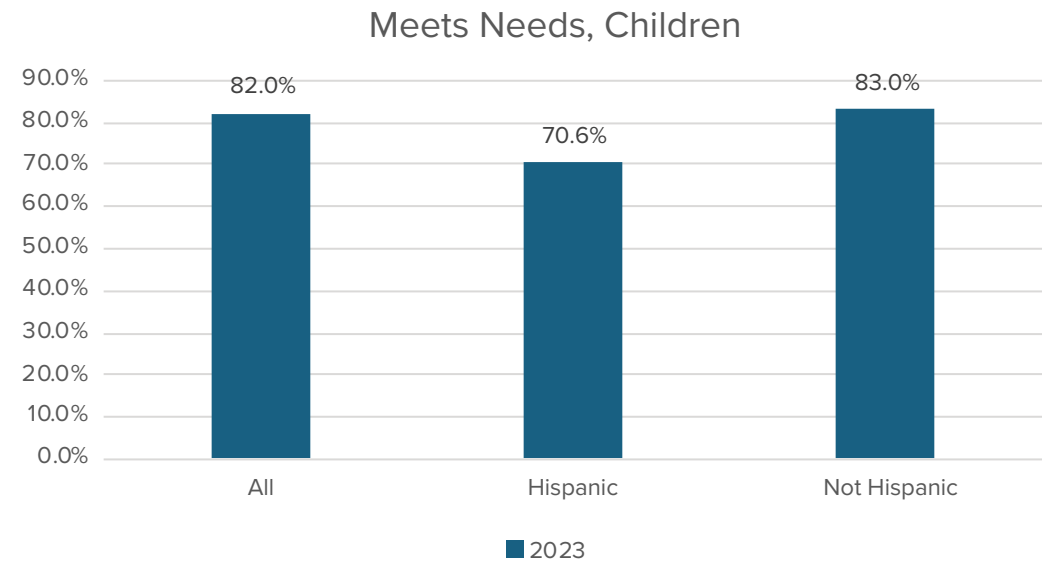
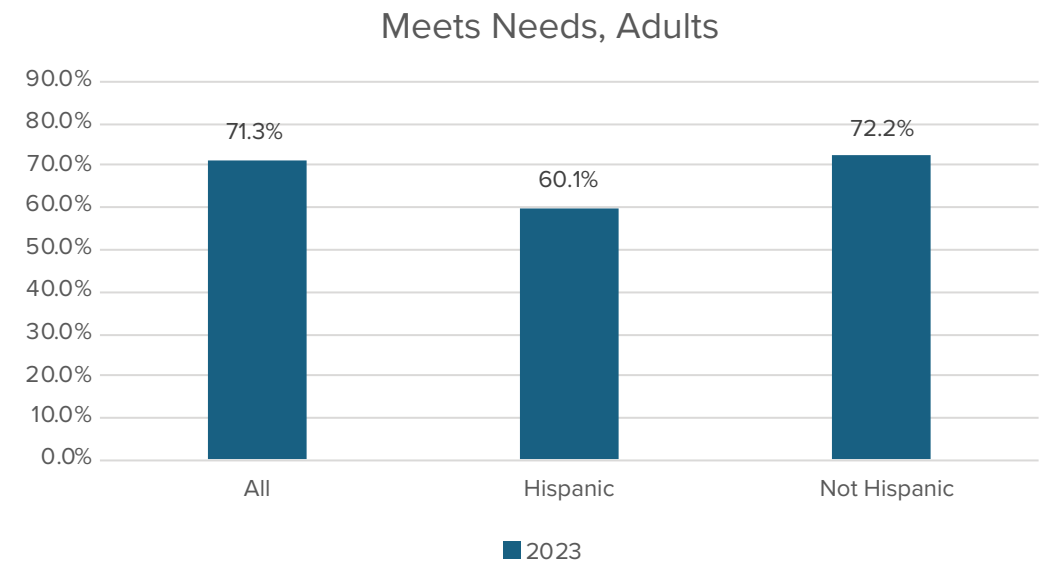


Figure 10. Meets Needs Results for Adults



Figures 11 and 12 show results for “Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need?” Similar results are seen for provider satisfaction, with Hispanic respondents about 10% less likely to be satisfied than other groups.

Figure 11. Providers Results for Children

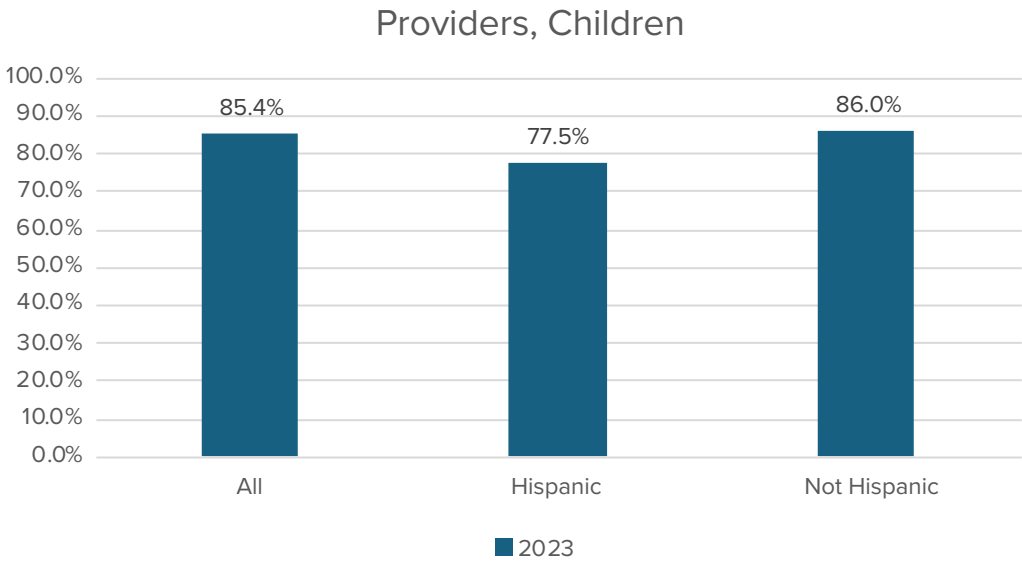
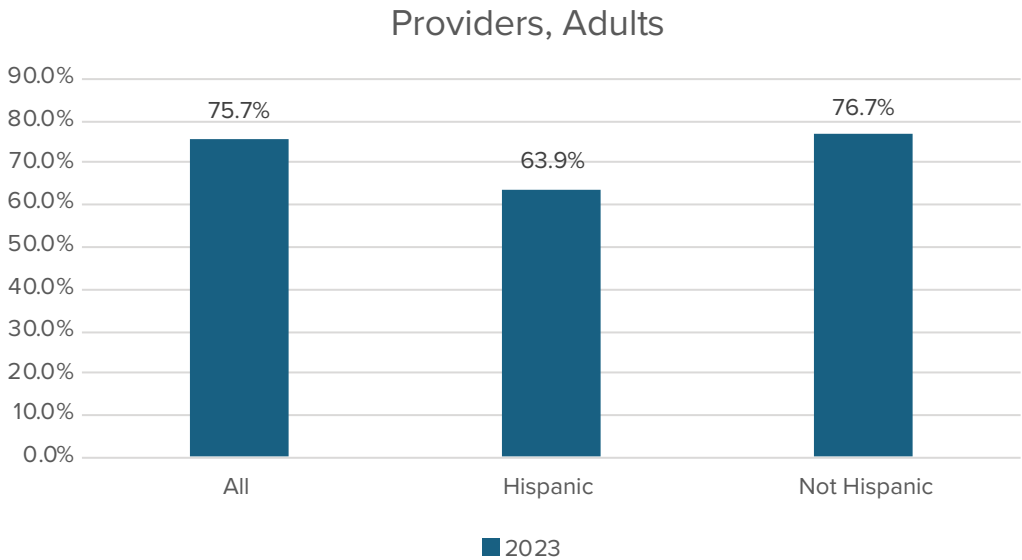


Figure 12. Providers Results for Adults



Insurance Plan

Figures 13 and 14 provide results for different types of health insurance plans. For children, satisfaction with insurance coverage was generally similar across insurance type with the exception of lower satisfaction among those with private insurance. Among adults with health insurance plans, those with employer insurance were generally more satisfied than those with Medicaid, who were more satisfied with private insurance. Not surprisingly, those with no insurance reported quite low satisfaction for both children and adults. Figures 9 and 10 display results for “Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?” For these tables, the scale of the bar chart ranges from 0 to 90% instead of the 60 to 90% in other figures, to include the no insurance group within the parameters.

Figure 13. Meets Needs Results for Children

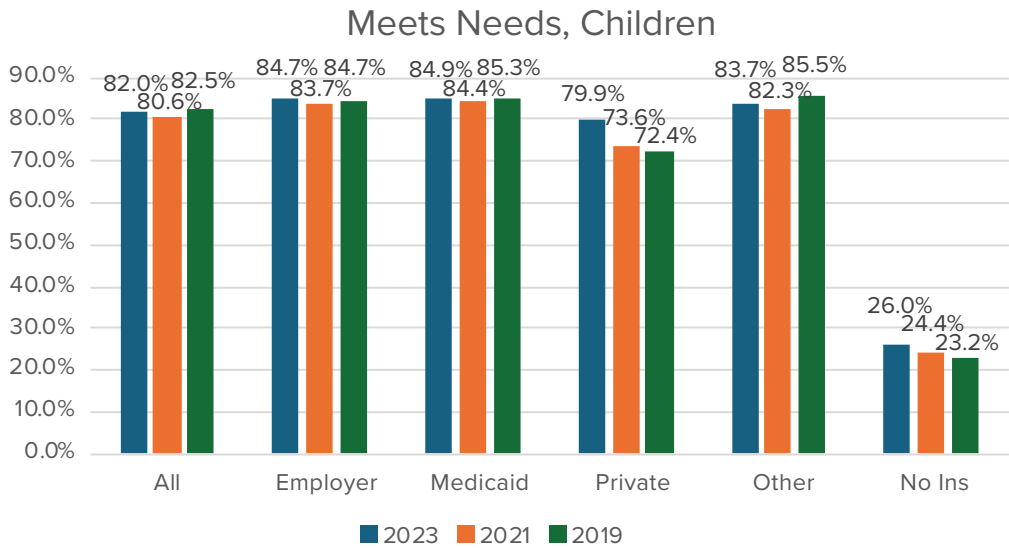
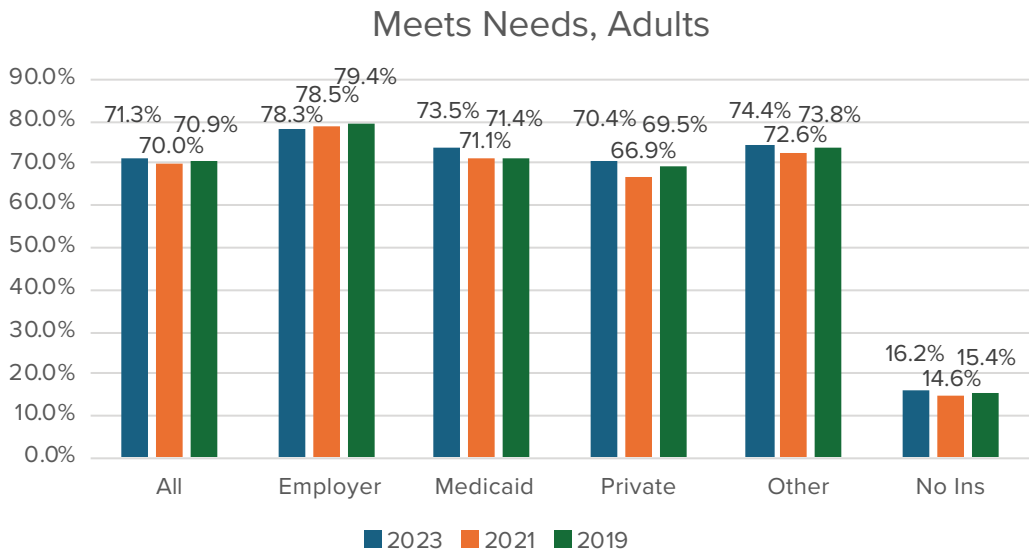


Figure 14. Meets Needs Results for Adults



Figures 15 and 16 display results for “Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need?” In terms of access to providers, results were similar. An exception is that those with “other” insurance types (Military, Medicare, former employer coverage or coverage by someone not in the household) reported less access to providers. As expected, access to providers was clearly a problem for the uninsured.

Figure 15. Provider Results for Children

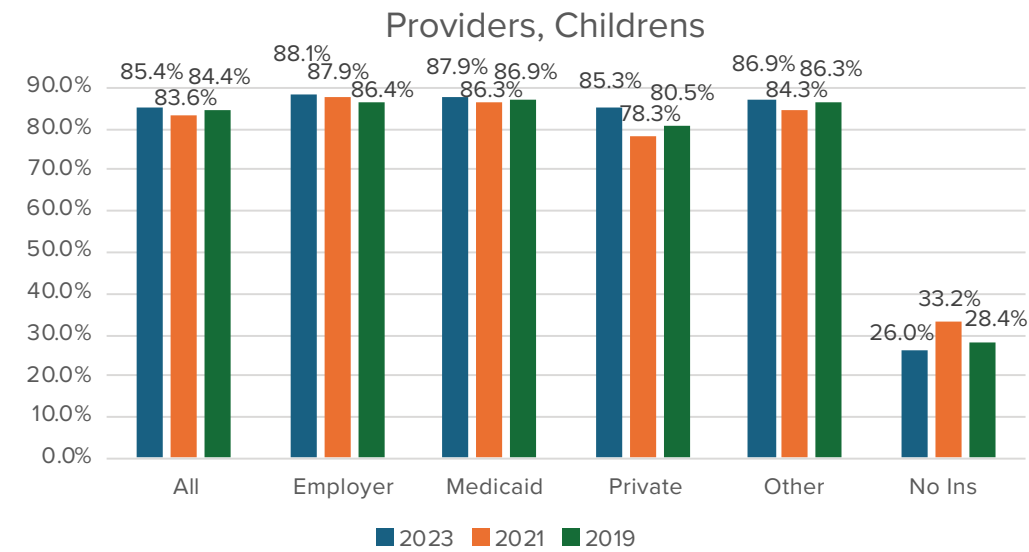
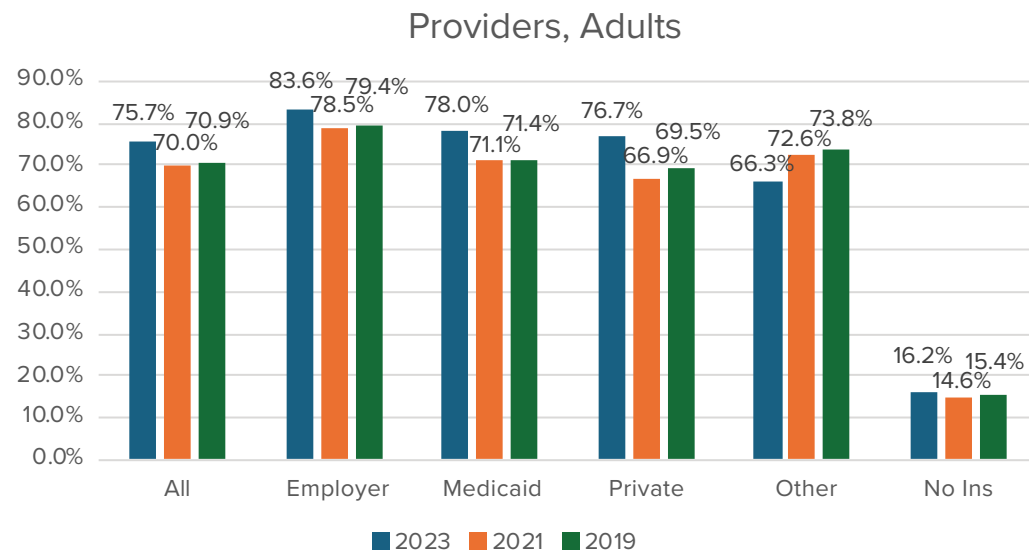


Figure 16. Provider Results for Adults



Urban or Rural Location

Finally, Figures 17 – 20 break out rural and urban parishes in Louisiana. Results from both urban and rural communities were very similar overall. Figures 13 and 14 focus on “Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?” There is little difference in satisfaction between rural and urban populations.

Figure 17. Meets Needs Results for Children

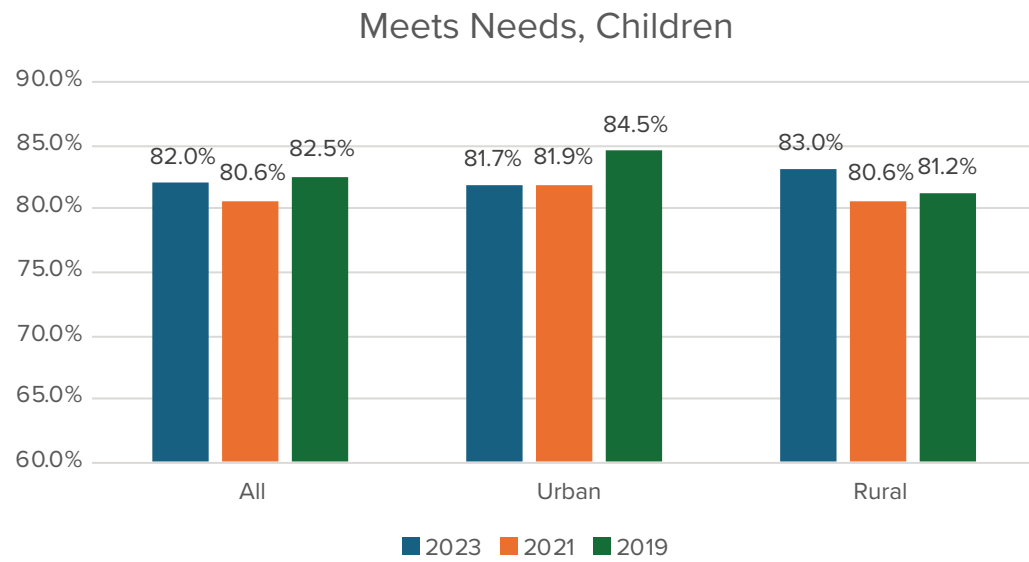
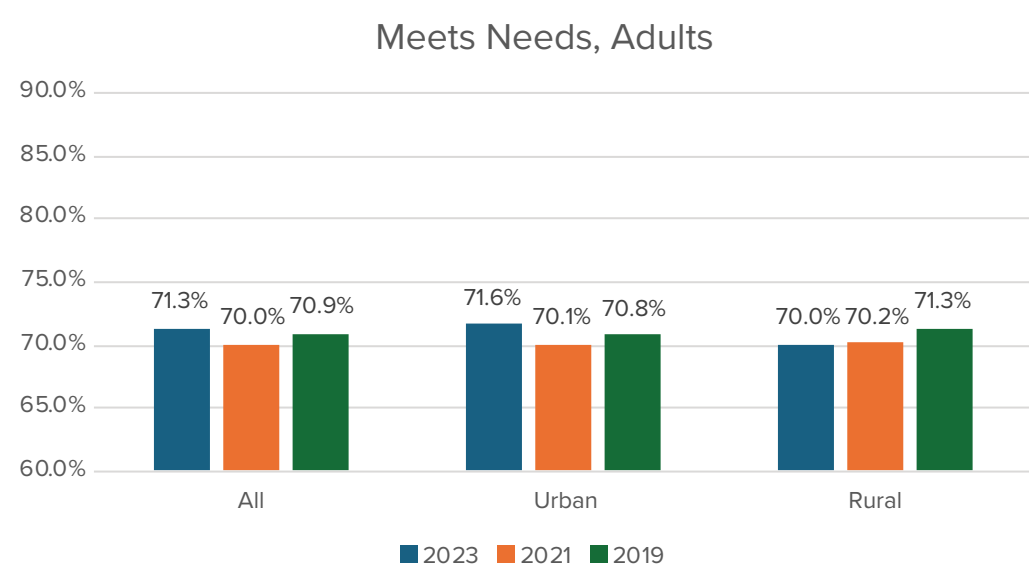


Figure 18. Meets Needs Results for Adults



Finally, Figures 19 and 20 show “Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need?” for urban and rural communities.

Figure 19. Provider Results for Children

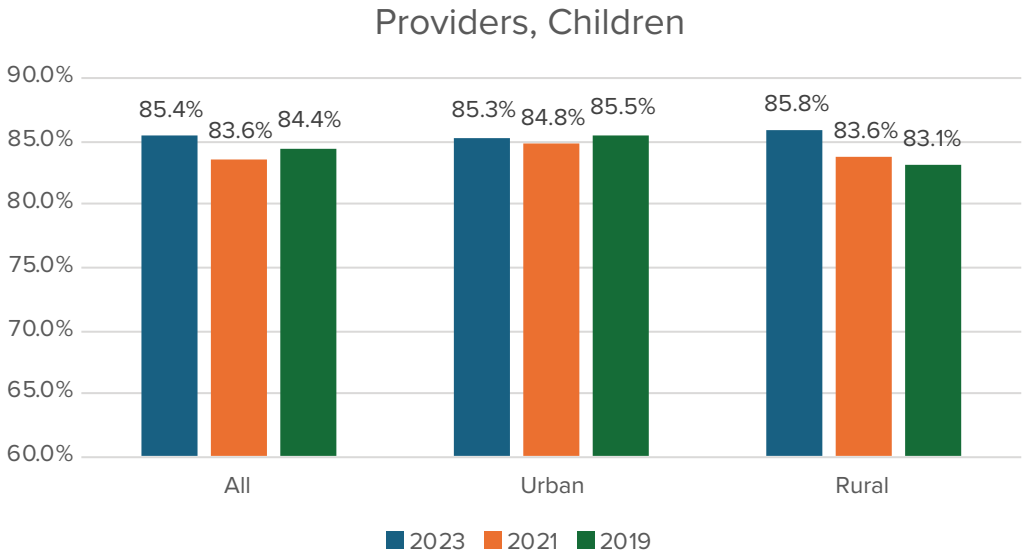
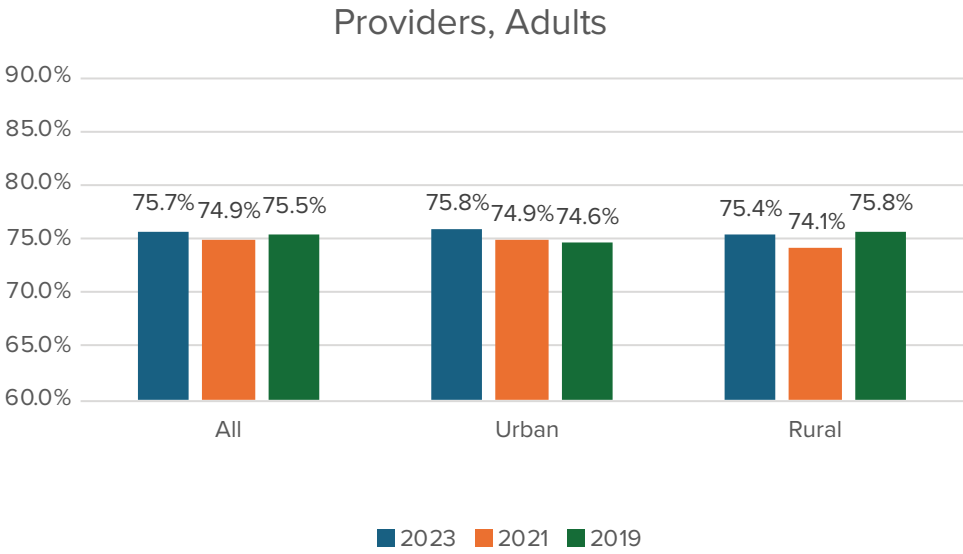


Figure 20. Provider Results for Adults



Conclusion

This report from the 2023 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey is designed to assess population health disparities in the state. Results from the two questions on satisfaction with insurance plan and providers and their ability to meet the needs of individuals show that there are some differences across different demographic groups.

In general, the patterns of disparities in both satisfaction and access across demographic groups are consistent with our prior study in 2019. Results show greater satisfaction with coverage and access to care for children than adults. In terms of disparities, the largest disparities exist in ethnicity, followed by race and gender.

Regarding ethnicity, both children and adult Hispanic individuals report lower satisfaction with health insurance coverage and access to providers than non-Hispanics. Some of this difference is attributable to lower health insurance coverage rates, but even when the sample is restricted to those with insurance, Hispanic satisfaction rates are lower than non-Hispanic. This may be due to language barriers or other reasons.

Regarding gender, adult males report lower satisfaction with coverage and access to providers than females. This result is attributable to lower health insurance coverage rates among adult males and disappears when the sample is restricted to those with insurance.

With regard to race, white respondents report greater satisfaction with health insurance coverage and access to providers both for children and adults. A closer examination of the data reveals that this disparity cannot be explained by lack of access to health insurance coverage.

Results later in the report show high levels of satisfaction and very good access to providers for those with Medicaid coverage and relatively small differences across insurance plan type.

This suggests coverage type is not the explanation to the disparities in satisfaction and access across ethnicity or race. Furthermore, the small disparity between respondents in rural and urban areas seem to rule out that explanation.

Overall, the majority of adults and children who have insurance coverage report that their health insurance meets their needs and allows them to see providers usually or all of the time.

Appendix A

Louisiana Health Insurance Survey | 2023

Relevant Questions

The respondent was asked the following questions regarding each household member. Earlier in the survey, the respondent was allowed to provide either a first name or household ID number (if they preferred not to provide a name). XX in these questions was replaced by the household member’s first name or the unique household member chosen by the respondent in these questions.

For respondent, show: The next questions are about your health insurance or health care plans. Does your health insurance offer benefits or cover services that meet your needs?

Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

For everyone else, show: The next questions are about XX’s health insurance or health care plans. Does XX’s health insurance offer benefits or cover services that meet their needs?

Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

- 1. Never
- 2. Sometimes
- 3. Usually
- 4. Always
- 8. DON’T KNOW
- 9. REFUSED

Q: OPH2

For respondent, show: Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

For everyone else, show: Does XX’s health insurance allow them to see the health care providers [he/she] needs? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

- 1. Never
- 2. Sometimes
- 3. Usually
- 4. Always
- 8. DON’T KNOW
- 9. REFUSED

Appendix B

This appendix has the crosstabs for sex, race, ethnicity, insurance plans, and urban/rural.

Sex

1) Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?

Children, Meets Needs

	All	Females	Males
Never	6.8%	6.1%	7.4%
Sometimes	11.1%	11.7%	10.6%
Usually	32.1%	32.5%	31.8%
Always	49.9%	49.7%	50.1%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

Adults, Meets Needs

	All	Female	Male
Never	10.2%	8.6%	11.9%
Sometimes	18.3%	18.6%	18.0%
Usually	37.0%	38.0%	35.9%
Always	34.3%	34.5%	34.0%
Did not answer	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%

2) Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

Children, Providers

	All	Females	Males
Never	4.7%	4.2%	5.2%
Sometimes	9.8%	10.6%	9.1%
Usually	31.5%	31.1%	31.8%
Always	53.9%	54.0%	53.9%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

Adults, Providers

	All	Female	Male
Never	8.8%	7.3%	10.5%
Sometimes	15.3%	15.4%	15.2%
Usually	35.3%	35.5%	35.0%
Always	40.5%	41.7%	39.2%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Race

1) Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?

Children, Meets Needs

	All	White	Black	Other
Never	6.8%	5.0%	8.8%	10.7%
Sometimes	11.1%	10.0%	12.2%	13.6%
Usually	32.1%	35.3%	25.7%	33.8%
Always	49.9%	49.7%	53.2%	41.9%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

Adults, Meets Needs

	All	White	Black	Other
Never	10.2%	9.6%	9.8%	14.5%
Sometimes	18.3%	16.3%	20.6%	22.1%
Usually	37.0%	39.9%	32.1%	35.8%
Always	34.3%	34.0%	37.3%	27.4%
Did not answer	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%

2) Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

Children, Providers

	All	White	Black	Other
Never	4.7%	3.4%	6.2%	7.4%
Sometimes	9.8%	9.3%	9.7%	12.8%
Usually	31.5%	33.7%	26.1%	34.7%
Always	53.9%	53.5%	57.9%	45.1%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%

Adults, Providers

	All	White	Black	Other
Never	8.8%	8.6%	8.2%	12.1%
Sometimes	15.3%	13.8%	15.9%	21.3%
Usually	35.3%	37.3%	31.9%	34.3%
Always	40.5%	40.3%	43.8%	32.2%

Ethnicity

1) Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?

Children, Meets Needs

	All	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Never	6.8%	11.6%	6.4%
Sometimes	11.1%	17.9%	10.6%
Usually	32.1%	27.9%	32.5%
Always	49.9%	42.7%	50.5%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

Adults, Meets Needs

	All	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Never	10.2%	15.2%	9.8%
Sometimes	18.3%	24.7%	17.8%
Usually	37.0%	33.7%	37.3%
Always	34.3%	26.4%	34.9%
Did not answer	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%

2) Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

Children, Providers

	All	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Never	4.7%	6.5%	4.6%
Sometimes	9.8%	16.0%	9.3%
Usually	31.5%	29.2%	31.7%
Always	53.9%	48.3%	54.4%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

Adults, Providers

	All	Hispanic	Not Hispanic
Never	8.8%	12.8%	8.5%
Sometimes	15.3%	23.3%	14.7%
Usually	35.3%	32.0%	35.5%
Always	40.5%	31.9%	41.2%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%

Insurance Plan

1) Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?

Children, Meets Needs

	All	Employer	Medicaid	Private	Other	No Insurance
Never	6.8%	4.4%	4.7%	6.7%	5.1%	58.7%
Sometimes	11.1%	10.8%	10.4%	13.3%	11.2%	13.9%
Usually	32.1%	36.5%	29.8%	32.6%	30.0%	12.8%
Always	49.9%	48.2%	55.1%	47.3%	53.7%	13.2%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%

Adults, Meets Needs

	All	Employer	Medicaid	Private	Other	No Insurance
Never	10.2%	4.2%	6.0%	7.1%	6.0%	69.2%
Sometimes	18.3%	17.4%	20.4%	22.4%	19.6%	13.5%
Usually	37.0%	40.9%	36.6%	34.4%	38.6%	8.9%
Always	34.3%	37.4%	36.9%	36.0%	35.8%	7.2%
Did not answer	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%

2) Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

Children, Providers

	All	Employer	Medicaid	Private	Other	No Insurance
Never	4.7%	2.8%	2.8%	3.7%	3.1%	58.7%
Sometimes	9.8%	9.1%	9.2%	11.0%	10.0%	13.9%
Usually	31.5%	34.8%	29.3%	32.8%	30.1%	12.8%
Always	53.9%	53.3%	58.6%	52.5%	56.8%	13.2%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%

Adults, Providers

	All	Employer	Medicaid	Private	Other	No Insurance
Never	8.8%	2.9%	4.3%	4.1%	17.0%	69.2%
Sometimes	15.3%	13.4%	17.7%	19.2%	16.5%	13.5%
Usually	35.3%	38.8%	35.7%	36.0%	31.1%	8.9%
Always	40.5%	44.8%	42.3%	40.7%	35.2%	7.2%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1.2%

Urban/Rural

1) Does your health insurance offer benefits to cover services that meet your needs?

Children, Meets Needs

	All	Urban	Rural
Never	6.8%	7.2%	5.5%
Sometimes	11.1%	11.0%	11.3%
Usually	32.1%	32.3%	31.7%
Always	49.9%	49.5%	51.4%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Adults, Meets Needs

	All	Urban	Rural
Never	10.2%	10.0%	11.2%
Sometimes	18.3%	18.2%	18.8%
Usually	37.0%	37.5%	34.9%
Always	34.3%	34.1%	35.1%
Did not answer	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%

2) Does your health insurance allow you to see the health care providers you need? Would you say never, sometimes, usually, always?

Children, Providers

	All	Urban	Rural
Never	4.7%	4.8%	4.3%
Sometimes	9.8%	9.8%	9.9%
Usually	31.5%	31.7%	30.7%
Always	53.9%	53.6%	55.1%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

Adults, Providers

	All	Urban	Rural
Never	8.8%	8.8%	9.0%
Sometimes	15.3%	15.2%	15.6%
Usually	35.3%	35.9%	32.6%
Always	40.5%	39.9%	42.8%
Did not answer	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%

