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2 in 10 Kentucky households cite cost as a barrier to medical care

Since 2014 when most of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) were implemented, many more adults have acquired health insurance in Kentucky. However, many Kentucky adults still report cost as a barrier to needed health care.

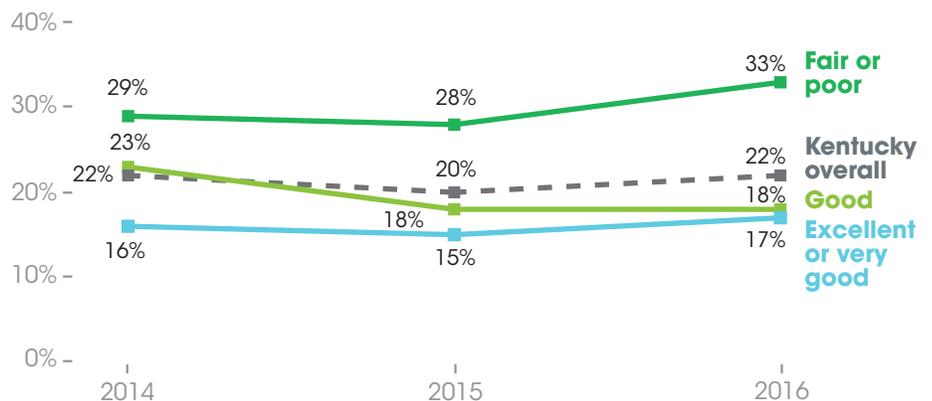
The 2016 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked, "In the past 12 months, was there a time when you or another member of your household needed medical care but did not get it, or delayed getting it, because of the cost?"

Adults in fair or poor health more likely to report delayed care

Overall for 2016, 2 in 10 Kentucky adults (22%) reported that a person in their household delayed or missed getting needed medical care due to the cost, about the same as in 2015 (20%) and 2014 (22%).

More than 3 in 10 adults with fair or poor health (33%) reported delayed or missed care due to cost. That compares with 17% of adults in excellent or very good health.

Percentage of adults reporting that, in the past 12 months, they or someone in their household delayed or did not get needed medical care because of the cost, by self-reported health status*



*KHIP asked, "Would you say that in general your health is . . . excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?"

Lower-income and uninsured adults more likely to delay care

Uninsured Kentucky adults and those who earned 200% or less of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG)¹ were more likely to report going without or delaying needed medical care because of the cost. More than 3 in 10 uninsured adults (34%) reported delaying or going without care, compared with 2 in 10 insured

adults (20%). Nearly 3 in 10 adults earning 200% FPG or less (28%) reported delayed care, compared with fewer than 2 in 10 earning more than 200% FPG (17%).

Delaying care did not differ by education, sex or race. However, adults ages 65 and older (10%) were much less likely than adults ages 18 to 64 (24%) to report delaying or forgoing care. Nearly all adults ages 65 and older (97%) had health insurance; the vast majority had Medicare.

¹ In 2015, 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines was \$48,500 for a family of four.