

Health Access

West Central Public Health Partnership

Region 10: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, & San Miguel

All counties in the six county region identified access to health as a top health priority in 2016.¹ Region 10 residents described access as:

- » affordability of car,
- » health insurance
- » dental health
- » prescription drugs
- » availability of local providers and specialty care
- » affordable, healthy foods
- » access to recreational activities
- » access to behavioral health services
- » transportation to and from care.

All three hospitals in Region 10 also identified access to care as a need in their Community Health Needs Assessments.²

A lack of access to care can lead to:

- » unmet health needs,
- » inability to get necessary preventive services,
- » delays in receiving necessary care,
- » financial hardships, and
- » preventable hospital stays.

Overall, lack of access leads to poor individual and population level health outcomes.

Health Care System

The traditional health care system is often the first point of access for personal health- including the health insurance system, medical providers, and health care facilities. The percent of Region 10 residents without health insurance has dropped dramatically since its peak in 2011.

- » Approximately 8,000 residents (7.9%) remain without health insurance in 2017.

Despite the increasing number of residents with health insurance for Region 10, five of the six counties in Region 10 are [Medically Underserved Areas/Populations](#).³ This designates areas with a lack of access to primary care services.

In 2017, 19.1% of Region 10 residents reported they were unable to get an appointment at the doctor's office or clinic as soon as they thought they needed one.⁴

Even if a resident has the necessary insurance, ability to pay, transportation, and time to seek treatment, there may not be a provider available when needed.

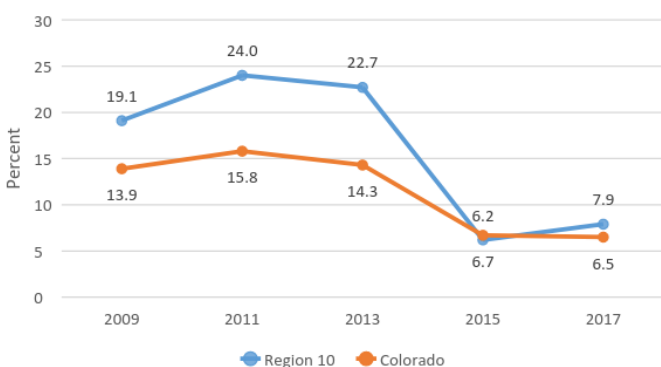
Preventative Services & Public Health

Preventative services are offered through traditional health care system as well as public health departments. These services include:

- » education,
- » immunizations/vaccinations,
- » screenings, and
- » policies to promote health.

Currently, all six counties in Region 10 have a public health department that can help residents access the preventative services offered. However, the capacity of these small agencies to provide quality preventative services to all those in-need is challenging. As part of the Regional Health

Percent Residents Uninsured 2009-2017



Colorado Health Institute, Colorado Health Access Survey (2009-2017)³

<https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/colorado-health-access-survey>

Assessment, the public health directors completed a capacity assessment focused on the department's capacity and capability to provide the [Colorado Core Public Health Services](#) and continue regional collaboration. Based on the assessment the ability to hire new staff and expand existing qualified staff are the biggest barriers to regional collaboration.

Health Equity and Access to Health

The ability to access health is directly linked to the social determinants of health outlined in the [Health Equity Model](#) (see Healthy Equity Handout).⁵ Income, employment, and transportation all influence a person's ability to access health. When economic opportunity, physical environment, and social supports are not equitable for our residents, neither are their health outcomes.

In Region 10, 4.9% of residents making over 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) were uninsured in 2017 compared to 8.3% of residents making 100% or below the FPL.⁶

From the 2017 [Colorado Health Access Survey](#), 8.0% of Region 10 respondents reported that they were unable to find transportation to the doctor's office or the doctor's office was too far away (CO, 5.5%).⁷ Without an adequate public transportation system that is available to everyone, access to care is more difficult for some residents than others.

Residents who do not speak English face an additional barrier to care. Following English, Spanish is most often spoken in the home for Region 10, however a small portion of providers in the whole state of Colorado are fluent in a language other than English and only [3% of physicians in Colorado are Latino](#).^{8,9}

Region 10 Public Health Priorities

- » Healthy Eating and Active Living
- » Healthy Housing
- » Behavioral health
- » Health Equity

For more information:

Health Equity Model

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/CHAPS1_Health-Equity-Model-and-Summary.pdf

Colorado Health Institute

<https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/>

- Community Health Access Survey
- County Health Profiles
- <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/data>

Gunnison Valley Health Community Health Needs Assessment

https://www.gunnisonvalleyhealth.org/documents/Community-Health-Needs-Assessment/GVH_2016CHNA_FinalVersion.pdf

Montrose Memorial Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment

<http://www.montrosehospital.com/about-mmh/community-health-needs-assessment/>

Delta County Memorial Hospital

<http://www.deltahospital.org/getpage.php?name=2016chna>

Center for Health Progress – Health: A white privilege?

<https://centerforhealthprogress.org/blog/publications/health-white-privilege/>

QUESTIONS?

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Health Access Sources

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2. Montrose Memorial Hospital. Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Strategy. pg 10. <http://www.montrosehospital.com/about-mmh/community-health-needs-assessment/>. Accessed June 15, 2017.
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11. Diversity in Workforce. Association of American Medical Colleges. 2014. Section III: Geographic Distribution of the Physician Workforce by Race and Ethnicity. <http://aamcdiversityfactsandfigures.org/section-iii-geographic-distribution-of-physician-workforce/>. Accessed April 24, 2018.