



Issue 4.2

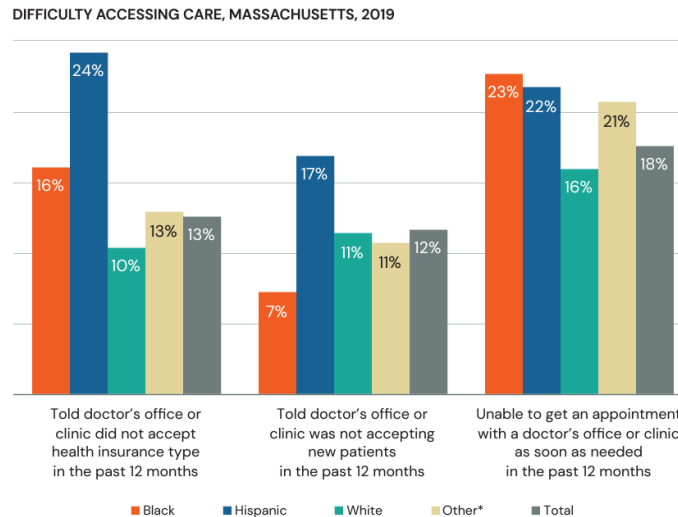
HEALTH & HEALTHCARE INEQUITIES AND DISPARITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Access to Healthcare Coverage – Part Two

In this issue, we continue our look at information about the lack of access to healthcare amongst Black and Hispanic residents of Massachusetts.

THE BIG PICTURE: *Access differs by race*

- Black and Hispanic people struggle with getting to see a doctor more frequently than White people.
- Hispanic people are nearly twice as likely as White people to lack a usual source of care.
- Hispanic people report higher levels of unmet healthcare needs because of cost compared to all other Massachusetts residents.
- Black people report a greater unmet need for dental care than White people, while Black and Hispanic people report a greater unmet need for vision care.

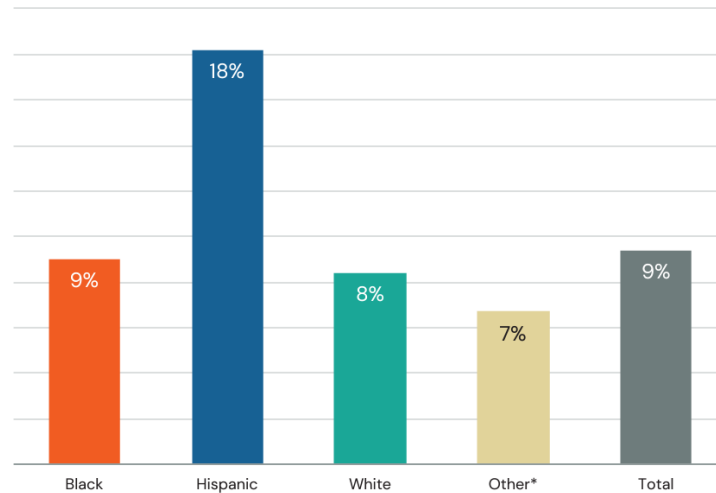


WHY IT MATTERS: *Unmet needs lead to worse health*

- Nationally, 26% of Hispanic adults do not have a usual source of care.
- Having a usual source of care makes it more likely patients will get appropriate care and experience lower rates of premature death.

- Hispanic people may lack a usual source of care due to higher uninsured rates relative to the total population and a lack of providers who speak their language. Nationally in 2019, Hispanic people made up approximately 19% of the population but only 9% of physicians.

REPORTED "DID NOT HAVE A USUAL SOURCE OF CARE" BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, MASSACHUSETTS 2019



The Details:

- Increased difficulty in accessing medical appointments among Black and Hispanic people may be related to higher rates of enrollment in public coverage (e.g., Medicaid) and higher uninsured rates.
- National data shows that providers are less likely to accept new patients with Medicaid than to accept those with private insurance: 91% of pediatricians and general/family practice physicians will accept new patients with private insurance, but only 78% of pediatricians and 68% of general/family practice physicians will accept new patients with Medicaid. One of the leading reasons for this is that payment rates are generally lower in Medicaid.

Source:

https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/g/files/cspkws2101/files/2022-03/Health_Equity_Primer_Revised%20Final.pdf