

Alaska Health Status Indicators

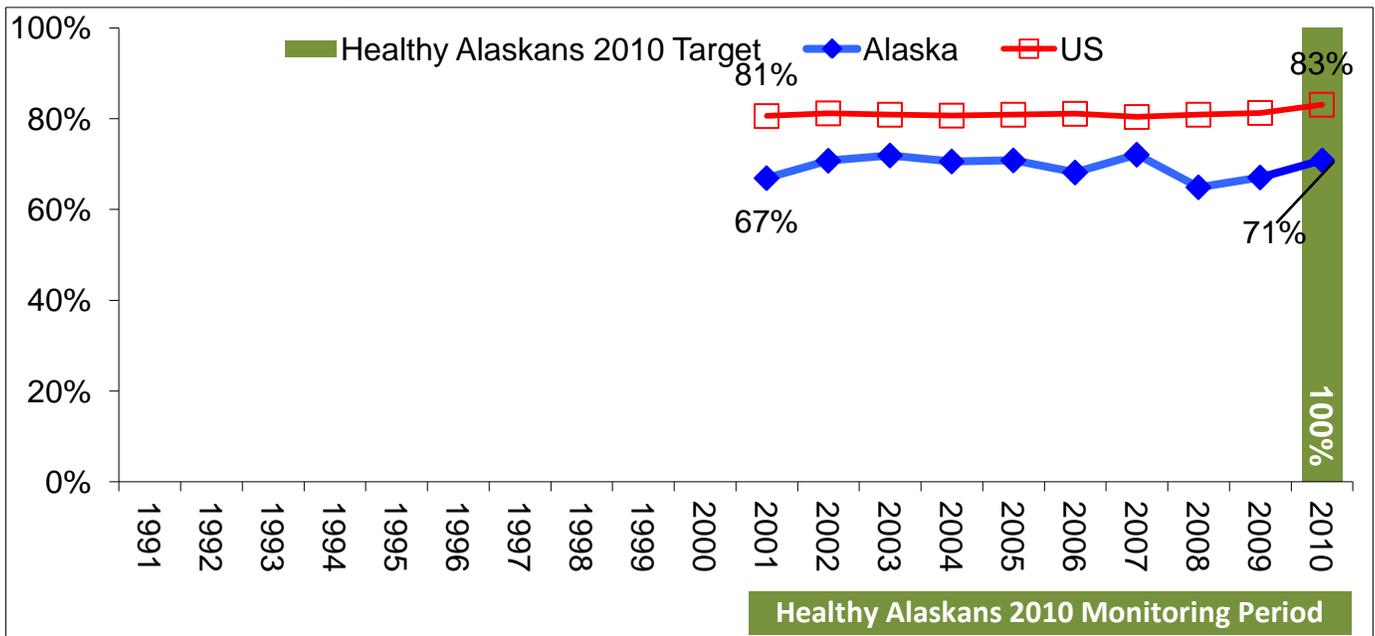
Indicator: Access to Healthcare: Usual Source of Care

Why is this important?

Access to quality healthcare is influenced by having a usual source of care and having health insurance,^{1,2} and having a usual source of care may be the more important of the two.³ There is a well-demonstrated connection between having a strong relationship with a health care provider and improved quality of care.^{4,5,6} One 'Usual Source of Care' indicator is identifying at least one personal healthcare provider.

How are we doing?

Percentage of Adults with a Healthcare Provider: Alaska and the U.S.



This indicator has been measured as of 2001. The percentage of Alaska adults who report having one or more personal healthcare providers has remained relatively stable over the past decade, ranging from 67% to 72% during that time.

❖ How is Alaska Doing Relative to the Healthy Alaskans 2010 Target?

The *Healthy Alaskans 2010* target for the prevalence of having a personal healthcare provider is 100%. The percentage of Alaska adults who have one or more personal healthcare providers remained stable during the *Healthy Alaskans 2010* monitoring period, fluctuating around 70% per year. **The *Healthy Alaskans 2010* target of 100% has not been met.**

❖ How does AK compare with the US?

The prevalence of US adults having a personal healthcare provider has consistently been approximately 10 percentage points above the Alaska rate, and has also remained very stable in the past decade.

❖ How are different populations affected?

A higher percentage of women report having a personal healthcare provider (77%) than do men (60%). Alaska Natives (57%) and adults living in the rural Alaska (49%) or the Fairbanks and vicinity (62%) BRFSS regions are less likely to have a personal healthcare provider than are Whites (70%) and those living in other areas of the state (70%)

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- 71%). Prevalence of having a healthcare provider increases with rising age, education and income levels. (Source: 2008-2010 BRFSS)

What is the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services doing to improve this indicator?

There are many programs in the AK Department of Health and Social Services that help to improve access to care. For example, the AK Primary Care Office in the Alaska Division of Public Health Section of Health Systems Planning and Development works to expand and enhance the primary care healthcare workforce by assisting community health centers and using shortage designation and loan repayment programs to bring qualified providers to the state.

Indicator Definition and Notes

Percentage of adults aged 18 years and older who answer “Yes, only one” or “More than one” to the following question: *Do you have one person you think of as your personal doctor or health care provider?* Note, if answer “No”, prompted with: *Is there more than one, or is there no person who you think of as your personal doctor or health care provider?*

Data Sources

Alaska: Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services; US: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alaska data were obtained from the Standard AK BRFSS from 2001 through 2003, 2005 and 2006, and from the Standard and Supplemental AK BRFSS surveys combined in 2004 and 2008 through 2010. The Supplemental BRFSS survey is conducted using identical methodology as the Standard BRFSS and allows a doubling of the BRFSS sample size for those measures included on both surveys.

References

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Available at: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chronic/>

