

EXHIBIT 43. Access to and Experience of Care among Non-Institutionalized Individuals Age 0–18 by Primary Source of Health Coverage, 2021, MEPS Data

Characteristics	Primary coverage source at time of most recent interview ¹			
	Total	Private ²	Medicaid or CHIP ³	Uninsured ⁴
Total (percent distribution across coverage sources)⁵	100.0%	56.2%	36.7%	5.1%
Access to Care				
Has usual place for medical care	86.1	88.3	86.3	63.8*
Travel time to usual source of care				
Less than 15 minutes	63.4	63.2	63.4	62.2
15–30 minutes	28.6	29.2	27.8	30.9
31–60 minutes	7.2	6.8	7.8	†
More than an hour	0.9	†	†	†
Difficulty reaching usual medical provider by phone during business hours				
Very difficult	2.9	2.4	3.6	†
Somewhat difficult	12.0	9.5*	14.6	†
Not too difficult	27.7	30.0*	24.6	22.5
Not at all difficult	57.5	58.0	57.2	50.9
Difficulty reaching usual medical provider after hours for urgent medical needs				
Very difficult	16.6*	11.6*	22.4	37.0
Somewhat difficult	18.2	18.6	18.7	†
Not too difficult	29.8*	33.8*	23.5	29.2
Not at all difficult	35.3	36.1	35.5	25.8
Usual medical provider has night or weekend availability	47.6	51.1*	44.0	36.2
Usual medical provider speaks preferred language or provides translator, among those with limited English abilities in family	88.8	100.0	83.7	100.0
Usual medical provider asks person to help decide between choice of treatments				
Never	5.5*	3.2*	9.0	†
Sometimes	10.6	9.0*	12.5	†
Usually	16.5	18.0	14.4	11.4
Always	67.3	69.8*	64.1	69.0
Usual medical provider presents and explains all options	97.7	98.2	96.7	99.4*

EXHIBIT 43. (continued)

Notes: MEPS is the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. Access to care variables are fielded for only a subset of MEPS respondents (to be eligible to receive the access to care section questions, individuals had to be current, non-institutionalized members of the responding unit in round two for panel members in relative year one and round four for panel members in relative year two). Percentage calculations for each item in the exhibit exclude individuals with missing and unknown values. Standard errors are available in the Excel version of this exhibit at <https://www.macpac.gov/publication/exhibit-43-access-to-and-experience-of-care-among-non-institutionalized-individuals-age-0-18-by-primary-source-of-health-coverage-meps-data/>. Due to differences in methodology (such as the wording of questions, length of recall periods, and prompts or probes used to elicit responses), estimates obtained from different survey data sources will vary. For example, the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is known to produce higher estimates of service use than the MEPS. For purposes of comparing groups of individuals, the NHIS provides the most recent information available. For other purposes, such as measuring levels of use relative to a particular benchmark or goal, it may be appropriate to consult estimates from MEPS or another source.

* Difference from Medicaid or CHIP is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

† Estimate is unreliable because it has a relative standard error greater than or equal to 30 percent.

¹ Total includes all non-institutionalized individuals age 0–18, regardless of coverage source. In this exhibit, the following hierarchy was used to assign individuals with multiple coverage sources to a primary source: Medicare, private, Medicaid or CHIP, other, or uninsured. Not separately shown are the estimates for those covered by any type of military health plan or other federal government-sponsored programs. Coverage source is defined as of the time of the most recent survey interview. Because an individual may have multiple coverage sources or changes over time, responses to survey questions may reflect characteristics or experiences associated with a coverage source other than the one assigned in this exhibit.

² Private health insurance coverage excludes plans that paid for only one type of service, such as accidents or dental care.

³ Medicaid or CHIP also includes persons covered by other state-sponsored health plans.

⁴ Individuals were defined as uninsured if they did not have any private health insurance, Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, state- or other government-sponsored health plan, or military plan. Individuals were also defined as uninsured if they had only Indian Health Service coverage or had only a private plan that paid for one type of service, such as accidents or dental care.

⁵ Because a hierarchy was used in this exhibit to assign individuals with multiple coverage sources to a primary source (see note 1), the Medicaid or CHIP percentages shown in this row exclude individuals who also have Medicare (which is rare for children) or private coverage. Components do not sum to 100 percent because not all coverage sources are shown.

Source: MACPAC, 2023, analysis of MEPS data.