

Promoting Public Health

Providing Opportunities for Seattleites to Live Healthier Lives

→ THE ISSUE

Medical and mental health costs are rising for everyone in the U.S. While the Affordable Care Act has helped the uninsured rate in King County drop by more than half, the 2008-2012 Census data shows that people of color, particularly Hispanic/Latino populations, remain without insurance to cover health-related expenses. Working with Seattle-King County Public Health, HSD is working to ensure that the City's most vulnerable residents, including those who are victims of domestic violence, homeless, and those with alcohol and drug use disorders, receive access to care.

↓ **54%**

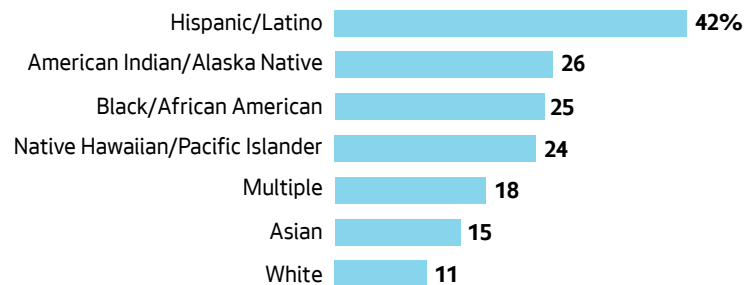
drop in the uninsured rate in King County from 2013 since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act

Affordable Care Act Impact:

Since the passage of the ACA in 2014, King County residents have seen benefits:

- The number of uninsured working-age adults has dropped by 54 percent since 2013, to just 7.7 percent, the lowest level ever recorded
- The uninsured rate for children has also reached an historic low of 1.6 percent
- The uninsured rate for African Americans dropped by nearly two-thirds, from 27 percent to 10 percent

Adults in King County who do not have health insurance (by Race/ethnicity, 2008-2012 data)



14%

percentage of adults living in Seattle who go **without healthcare treatment** due to costs

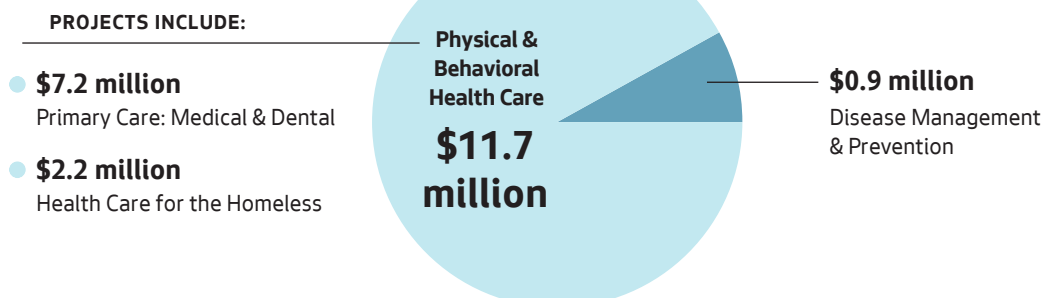


44%

preventable hospitalizations in King County attributed to those **75 and older**

→ INVESTMENT TOTAL: \$12.6 million

Investment breakdown:



ON THE WEB



→ IMPACT

Community Health Services

Seattle-King County Public Health is a combined City of Seattle and King County department that serves to protect and improve the health and well-being of all people in the city and county, as measured by increasing the number of healthy years that people live and eliminating health disparities. Through HSD, the City invests in enhanced public health services by funding community health safety-net clinics, health care services for people living homeless, access to treatment for those with a mental health and/or substance use disorder, and disease prevention, particularly the spread of HIV and other bloodborne pathogens.

177,865

primary care medical visits provided to low-income individuals

103,743

dental visits provided to low-income individuals

Mobile Medical Van

Launched in 2016, the Mobile Medical Van program provides basic medical care and social services to homeless individuals and families living in Seattle and South King County. They reach out to homeless people, assist them in applying for public medical insurance such as Medicaid, help them to find an ongoing primary care clinic, and link them to other community health services. The van is owned and staffed by Seattle-King County Public Health.



583

individuals received medical care through the Mobile Medical Van

Opioid Task Force

Due to the growing crisis of heroin and prescription opiate addiction in our community, a City-County task force was convened in March to make recommendations about prevention, treatment, health services, and overdose prevention. They made a total of seven recommendations: Raise awareness of adverse effects of opiate use; Promote safe storage and disposal of medication; Leverage and augment existing screening practices; Create access to buprenorphine; Develop treatment on demand; Expand distribution of naloxone; Establish at least two community health engagement locations.

436

individuals received care from a mental health or chemical dependency specialist through the Mobile Medical Van

Impact Story



Grigory is a husband, a father, and a Hepatitis C carrier. Political events in his native country brought his family to the United States. They had to leave everything behind, including a business and friends. Grigory has a new baby and a son with special needs. Both children are enrolled in Washington Apple Health, while he and his wife have enrolled in a qualified health plan with help from an International Community Health Services community outreach worker. Her knowledge and ability to speak Grigory's native language have been a lifesaver. For the first time since he immigrated, Grigory has health insurance, which is essential in managing his health condition. He and his family now have security as they work to build a new life in a new country.