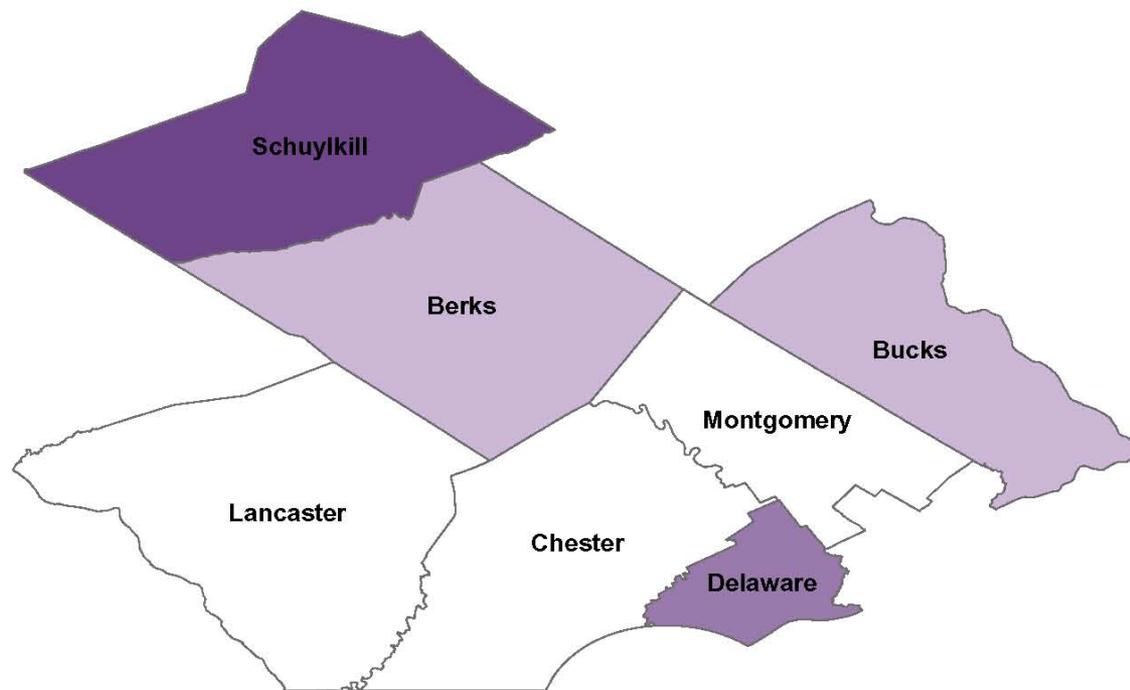
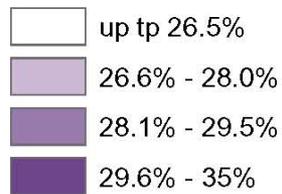


# Adults Ever Diagnosed with High Blood Pressure, 2008

## Legend

### SEPA

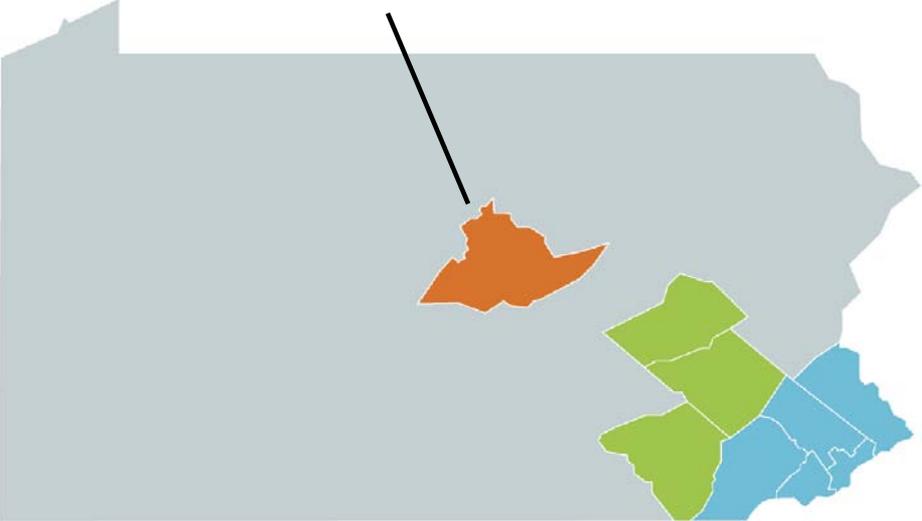
### HighBP



Data from Public Health Management Corporation's 2008 Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey and 2008 Berks-Lancaster-Schuylkill Household Health Survey

**2009**

# Centre County Household Health Survey



**1,251 respondents**

**In partnership with  
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

## NOTES

1 Adult population data were obtained using the American Community Survey (ACS) data for the year 2009. ACS data were obtained using the following methodology: ACS-001.

2 Birth/Death Statistics (BDS) data were obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

3 Birth/Death Statistics (BDS) data were obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

## ABOUT PHMC'S COMMUNITY HEALTH DATA BASE & THE CENTRE COUNTY HOUSEHOLD

Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) is a nonprofit, public health institute committed to improving community health, education, and direct services. The Community Health Data Base (CHDB) has been an integral planning resource for health and social service agencies. The goal of the CHDB is to enhance the capacity of local health leaders to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities. The CHDB achieves this goal by disseminating

due to job change or job loss. Although unemployment is a major factor in lack of health insurance, the majority of those without health insurance in Centre County are employed either full time (58.2%) or part time (22.8%).

### Access to Prescription and Dental Coverage

The majority of adults (18+) in Centre County report having both prescription drug coverage and dental coverage. However, a sizable proportion does not have access to these forms of health coverage. Nearly one in five (18.3%) have no prescription drug coverage, representing about 17,100 adults in Centre County. Slightly more than four in ten (41.9%) have no dental coverage, representing 41,900 individuals.

## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IN CENTRE COUNTY

### Regular Source of Care

One in ten (10.9% or approximately 10,900) Centre County adults has no regular source of health care. Uninsured adults are less likely to have a regular source of care compared to insured adults; nearly one-third (32.5%) of uninsured Centre County adults ages 18-64 has no regular source of health care.

Of those Centre County adults with a regular source of care, most (69.1%) go to a private doctor's office for regular care. Uninsured adults are more likely to receive medical care in clinics, health centers, emergency rooms and other places than are insured adults. Nearly four in ten uninsured Centre County adults (38.0%) go to a community clinic or health center for regular care, compared to two in ten insured Centre County adults (19.0%).

Students in Centre County are less likely to have a regular source of care than non-students. About one in six Centre County students (16.8%) do not have a regular place they go when they are sick or need advice about their health, compared to one in four non-students (24.0%).

### Access to Specialty Care in Centre County

Nearly one in five (17.5%) Centre County adults find it somewhat or very difficult to get an appointment with a medical specialist, such as a cardiologist or dermatologist. Uninsured adults have greater difficulty seeing medical specialists as just a few of the barriers to timely care faced by Centre County residents. The uninsured, adult students, and Centre County residents living below the Federal Poverty Line are at greater risk of the effects of urgent health care needs and delayed care.

Adult students (18+) in Centre County have a particularly high rate; nearly a quarter of Centre County students (23.3%) find it to get an appointment with a specialist.

### Access to Emergency Care in Centre County

Three in ten Centre County adults (30.8%) have visited an emergency room at least once during the past year. Uninsured adults are slightly more likely to have made an emergency room visit than insured adults (30.7%). Among uninsured adults 18-64 who visited an emergency room in the previous year, two-thirds reported that they had gone to the ER instead of a regular doctor due to their lack of insurance. About one in twelve insured County adults (8.3%) and one in seven uninsured adults (12.1%) reported that they had gone to the ER instead of a regular doctor due to their lack of insurance.

### Cost Barriers to Health Care

Many Centre County residents experience financial barriers to the health care they need. For example, 14% of adults did not seek care in the previous year due to cost, representing one in five adults. Women were more likely than men to report they did not seek care due to the cost (16.2% and 10.9%, respectively). Uninsured were more likely to report an unmet need for care than those with health insurance (84.0% and 11.7%, respectively).

The out-of-pocket cost of prescription medication is a high barrier to health care for Centre County residents (Figure 3). About 15% of a report that they had not filled a prescription in the previous year due to the cost. Centre County adults without health insurance are more likely to report this: four in ten uninsured adults had not filled a prescription due to the cost (40.5%), compared to 14.2% of insured adults 18-64.

## CONCLUSION

Many adults in Centre County face significant challenges accessing health care.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH DATA BASE

An Information Service of Public Health Management Corporation

## UNDERSTANDING ACCESS AND BARRIERS TO HEALTH CARE In Centre County

In 2009, Public Health Management Corporation, through its Community Health Data Base (CHDB), conducted the Centre County Household Health Survey to examine the health status and needs of adults in Centre County, Pennsylvania. The survey was conducted in the summer of 2009 among 1,251 households, and included questions regarding health status, utilization of health screenings, health behaviors and access to health care. This Data Brief examines findings of the survey, focusing on critical issues related to access to health care among adults 18 years of age and older residing in the county.

The Centre County Household Health Survey was modeled after CHDB's Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. CHDB's Household Health Survey is one of the largest and most comprehensive local health surveys in the country. Due to the large sample size and local focus of the 2009 Centre County Household Health Survey, the data can be used in a variety of ways, including assessing health status among Centre County communities or demographic groups, for program development and marketing, and for establishing baseline indicators to monitor future progress.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Approximately 60 million Americans have no public or private health insurance. More than eight out of ten uninsured Americans are in working families<sup>1</sup>. An extensive body of research has shown that health insurance is integral to health and wellbeing, and that not having health insurance can have a negative impact on health. Many adults in Centre County face challenges receiving health care. This Data Brief examines major access to care indicators including insurance status, prescription and dental coverage, utilization of a regular source of health care, and access to emergency and specialty care.

demographic factors. Including Centre County has a large uninsured population.

## UNITY

Residents have some form of health insurance, but more than one in ten adults ages 18-64 do not have any public or private health insurance across the county. Nearly half of the uninsured (47.8%) have been without

health insurance for more than one year. Similar to national and state-level data, uninsured adults 18-64 years of age are ten times more likely to be uninsured than older adults 65 and older.

Uninsured adults are more likely to be uninsured than men

and less likely to have any public or private health insurance.

Uninsured adults are more likely to lack health insurance, nearly twice as likely as insured adults (23.0% vs. 11.5%) to not have any form of health insurance.

Uninsured adults are more likely to lack health insurance, nearly twice as likely as insured adults (23.0% vs. 11.5%) to not have any form of health insurance.

Uninsured adults are more likely to lack health insurance, nearly twice as likely as insured adults (23.0% vs. 11.5%) to not have any form of health insurance.

FIGURE 1 Source of Insurance for Centre County Adults Ages 18-64, 2009

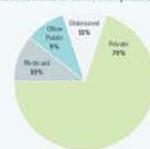


FIGURE 2 Uninsured Adults Ages 18-64 in Centre County by Age, Gender and Poverty Status, 2009

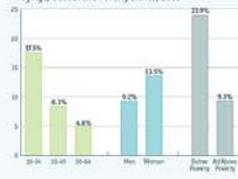
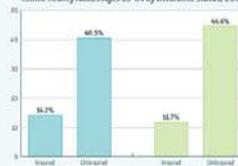


FIGURE 3 Cost Barriers to Health Care and Prescription Drugs for Centre County Adults Ages 18-64 by Insurance Status, 2009



Source: PHMC's Community Health Data Base, Centre County Household Health Survey, 2009.

34.7% of uninsured Centre County residents indicated they could not afford health insurance. This is followed by 15.7% uninsured



# How CHDB's Partners **Access the Data**



- **“Raw” Data:** Household Health Survey data files on CD-Rom -- in SPSS or DBF formats
- **Website resources:** Dynamic online tools for quick access to customized data runs:
  - Online Data Analysis Tool
  - Online Report Card Tool
- **CHDB associate:** Available by phone or email for technical assistance

