

Delayed and foregone care among low-income insured adults: Does the magnitude of perceived problems create barriers to accessing healthcare?

Kathleen Thiede Call

American Public Health Association

October 29, 2012

Presenter Disclosures

Kathleen Thiede Call

- The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:
 - No relationships to disclose

Acknowledgements:

- Coauthors: Pamela Jo Johnson, Jessie Kemmick Pintor, Tetyana Shippee, Tim Beebe
- Contributors
 - The Disparities Team
 - Wilder Research
- Funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services

DHS Barriers Team



Setting the stage

- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), passed in March 2010, expands public program eligibility
- Lack of insurance creates disparities in access to health care
- Providing health insurance may not do enough eliminate access disparities

Definitions

- **Minnesota Health Care Programs**
 - Medicaid/Medical Assistance
 - MinnesotaCare
 - General Assistance Medical Care
- **No copayments for preventive services**

Project goals

- Examine reports of barriers to care and provider discrimination among a diverse insured population
- Examine how the magnitude of barriers reports and frequency of provider discrimination reports hinders access to care

Methods

- Sampled 2008 enrolled population stratified by ethnicity
 - African American, American Indian, Hispanic/Latino, Hmong and Somali enrollees with European American as contrast
 - Adult and child enrollees, parent as proxy
- Mixed mode survey
 - English only for mail version; translated for telephone follow-up in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish
 - 4,626 surveys (RR = 44%); **Adult surveys: 2,194**
- Focus groups & community forum informed recommendations

Indicators of unmet need

1) Forgone needed care

“Was there anytime during the past year when you needed medical care but did not get it?” (yes/no)

2) Delayed needed care

“Was there anytime during the past year that you delayed getting medical care that you felt you needed?” (yes/no)

- Outcomes precede barriers questions in survey

Independent variables

- **Barrier domains:**

- 1) **Coverage**
- 2) **Financial**
- 3) **Access**
- 4) **Family/work**
- 5) **Provider-related**

Interested in magnitude: **big, small or no problem**

- **Provider discrimination**

- Gender, ability to pay, being enrolled in public health care program, race, ethnicity or nationality

Interested in frequency: **always/usually, sometimes, never**

Hypothesis

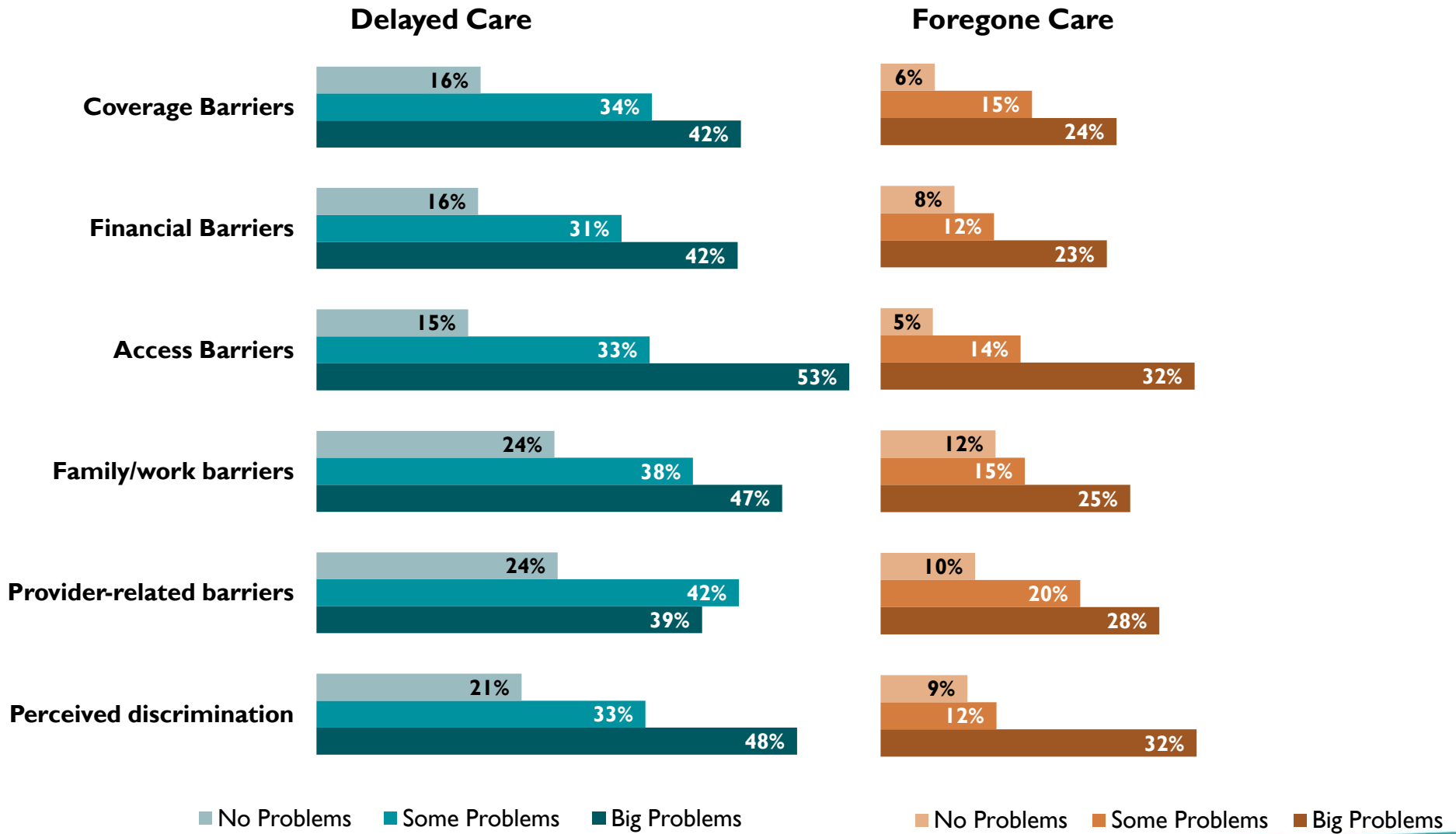
- Those reporting **big problems accessing healthcare** as compared to no problems accessing healthcare will be more likely to report delayed or unmet medical needs within the last year
- Those reporting **frequent discrimination** as compared to no discrimination will be more likely to report delayed or unmet medical needs within the last year

Characteristics of adult MHCP enrollees by reports of past year delayed and foregone care: 2008

| | Past Year Delayed Care | | Past Year Foregone Care | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Enrollee race/ethnicity | | | | |
| American Indian | 6% | 9% | 7% | 9% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 5% | 3% | 5% | 3% |
| Hmong | 3% | 2% | 3% | 2% |
| Somali | 3% | 2% | 3% | 4% |
| Other foreign-born | 8% | 3% | 7% | 7% |
| US-born Black | 10% | 10% | 9% | 15% |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 64% | 72% | 67% | 60% |
| Enrollee age group | | | | |
| 18-29 years | 30% | 32% | 31% | 28% |
| 30-44 years | 24% | 28% | 25% | 27% |
| 45-64 years | 32% | 35% | 32% | 42% |
| 65 + years | 14% | 5% | 13% | 2% |
| Educational status | | | | |
| Non-high school graduate | 27% | 16% | 24% | 20% |
| High school graduate | 73% | 84% | 76% | 80% |
| Enrollee health status | | | | |
| Excellent | 11% | 6% | 10% | 5% |
| Very good | 29% | 28% | 30% | 20% |
| Good | 38% | 32% | 37% | 31% |
| Fair | 17% | 22% | 18% | 20% |
| Poor | 5% | 13% | 5% | 23% |

Red bolded indicates significant differences $P < 0.05$

Weighted distribution of the level of perceived barriers to health care by past year delayed and foregone care, adult MHCP enrollees: 2008



Odds of delayed or foregone care in the past year by level of perceived barriers to care: 2008

| | Delayed care | | | Foregone care | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | AOR | 95% CI | <i>p</i> | AOR | 95% CI | <i>p</i> |
| Coverage barriers | | | | | | |
| No problems | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| Some problems | 2.64 | 1.65, 4.22 | 0.000 | 3.28 | 1.69, 6.39 | 0.000 |
| Big problems | 3.56 | 2.22, 5.69 | 0.000 | 4.81 | 2.52, 9.18 | 0.000 |
| Financial barriers | | | | | | |
| No problems | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| Some problems | 2.21 | 1.36, 3.58 | 0.001 | 1.64 | 0.86, 3.14 | 0.133 |
| Big problems | 3.79 | 2.39, 6.00 | 0.000 | 3.53 | 1.97, 6.33 | 0.000 |
| Access barriers | | | | | | |
| No problems | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| Some problems | 2.62 | 1.71, 4.03 | 0.000 | 2.87 | 1.55, 5.33 | 0.001 |
| Big problems | 6.22 | 3.81, 10.15 | 0.000 | 7.13 | 3.88, 13.10 | 0.000 |
| Family/work barriers | | | | | | |
| No problems | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| Some problems | 2.05 | 1.33, 3.14 | 0.001 | 1.34 | 0.77, 2.34 | 0.297 |
| Big problems | 3.00 | 1.70, 5.30 | 0.000 | 2.58 | 1.31, 5.07 | 0.006 |
| Provider-related barriers | | | | | | |
| No problems | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| Some problems | 2.30 | 1.51, 3.51 | 0.000 | 2.25 | 1.35, 3.75 | 0.002 |
| Big problems | 1.95 | 1.17, 3.25 | 0.011 | 3.45 | 1.95, 6.12 | 0.000 |
| Perceived discrimination | | | | | | |
| No discrimination | 1.0 | | | 1.0 | | |
| Some discrimination | 1.70 | 1.13, 2.56 | 0.012 | 1.24 | 0.71, 2.15 | 0.450 |
| Frequent discrimination | 3.31 | 2.08, 5.25 | 0.000 | 4.40 | 2.56, 7.56 | 0.000 |

Red bolded indicates statistical significance

Summary and implications

- The magnitude of barriers and frequency of discrimination impact reports of unmet need for services
- Enrollment in health insurance does not guarantee access to health care
- Results foreshadow challenges on the ACA horizon



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