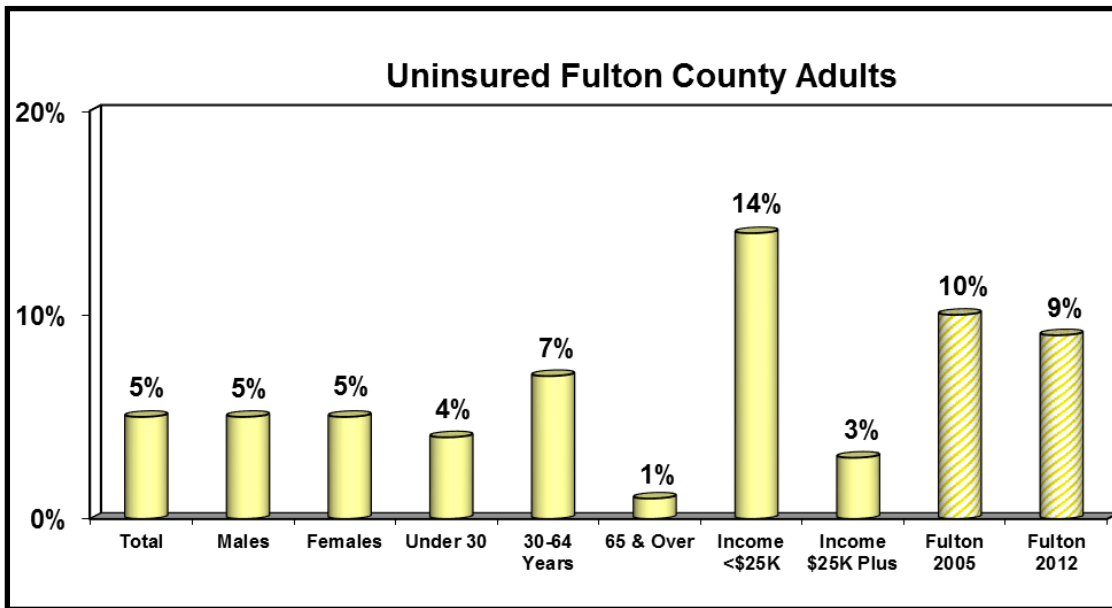


ACCESS TO CARE



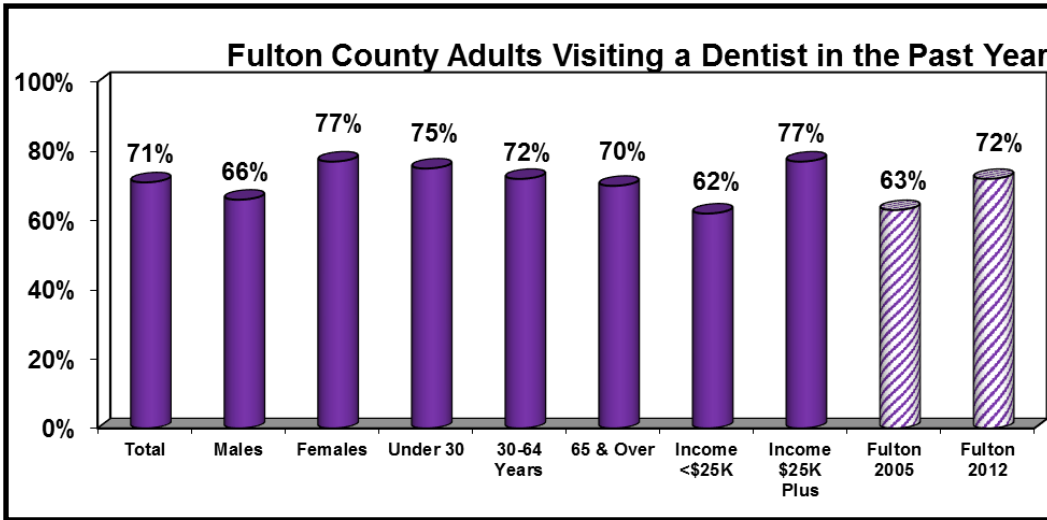
In December 2016, a community health status report was compiled. The report shared information gathered in a survey in which Fulton County residents were asked to confidentially share information

about their personal health as well as any difficulties they face in seeking healthcare. This past year, community leaders reviewed the information collected and began looking at barriers people face when trying to seek needed care. Five percent of adults are without health insurance. Four percent were under the age of 30 while seven percent were between 30 and 64 years of age. Those without insurance had an income level under \$25,000. The reasons people were without insurance is that they had lost their job or changed employers, they could not afford to pay the premiums, or their employer did not offer coverage. Some report it was difficult to navigate the Marketplace insurance site and that the insurance premiums were too high. Fortunately, due to the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), only two percent of children are reported to be uninsured.

Things that prevent adults from seeing a doctor if they are sick include cost (29%), doctor did not take their insurance (15%), it's difficult to get an appointment (9%), and they could not get time off from work (6%). Transportation is cited as an issue in a few cases. Additionally, people with insurance report that high insurance deductibles (29%) and HSA deductible requirements (13%) prevent them from seeking care.

Nearly one third of adults did not get their prescriptions from their doctor filled in the past year due to cost. If uninsured, this number increased to fifty percent. When it comes to oral health, thirty-five percent of adults have not seen a dentist in the past year because they do not have dental insurance. The main reason for not going to the dentist is cost (39%).

ACCESS TO CARE



One's income is a reason many residents do not seek health or dental care. Sometimes a person's language or culture prevents them from gaining access to care. These circumstances result in poor health outcomes for these residents. If one does

not access preventive care, health problems are diagnosed in later stages and are more challenging to control. This creates health inequities. The Partners for Health Coalition is looking at these concerns and working to address these concerns.

The Free Clinic of Fulton County is one way that volunteer doctors, nurses and interpreters work to assist lower income individuals to have access to preventive health services. The clinic has been providing free medical care to uninsured adults of Fulton County, ages 18 to 64 years, since 2007. To see if you are eligible to be seen in the clinic, call the Health Department to schedule an appointment.



The Bryan Community Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FOHC), is available to serve adults and children of any age. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale based on income, which is very helpful to people without insurance. The FOHC accepts Medicaid and other private insurances as well. The only requirement is that you make the FOHC your medical home. The facility also has a pharmacy and dental clinic to assure comprehensive care.



Lastly, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Project (BCCP) is another way to help lower income, uninsured women to have preventive health screenings. More information on this program is featured elsewhere in this annual report.

Visit our website: www.fultoncountyhealthdept.com