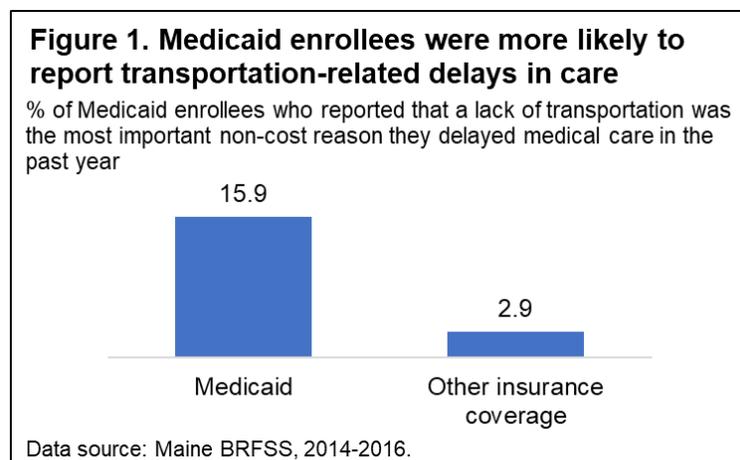


**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Barbara Leonard, Maine Health Access Foundation  
**From:** Erika Ziller, Amanda Burgess, and Nathan Paluso, University of Southern Maine  
**Date:** June 29, 2018  
**Re:** Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, Delaying Care Due to Lack of Access to Transportation

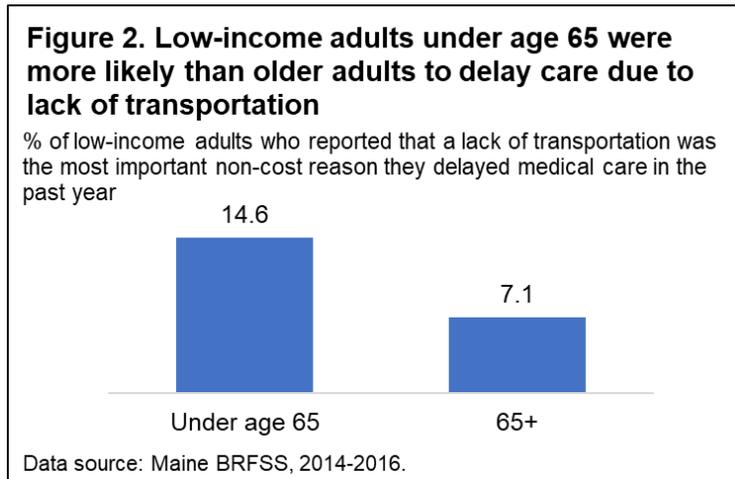
The following analyses were conducted using data from the 2014-2016 Maine Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. The analyses examine responses to a survey question that asked respondents if they had delayed medical care for a non-cost reason in the past 12 months. Over the three survey years examined, 16,771 individuals answered the survey question and 2,475 of those respondents (14.8 percent) indicated that they had delayed care for a non-cost reason. Those respondents selected the most important non-cost reason for delaying their care from the following options:

1. You couldn't get through on the telephone
  2. You couldn't get an appointment soon enough
  3. Once you got there, you had to wait too long to see the doctor
  4. The (clinic/doctor's) office wasn't open when you got there
  5. You didn't have transportation
  6. Other
- As shown in Figure 1, 16 percent of **all Medicaid enrollees** indicated that they had delayed care, citing lack of transportation as the primary reason (compared to 3% of individuals with other forms of insurance,  $p < .0001$ ).

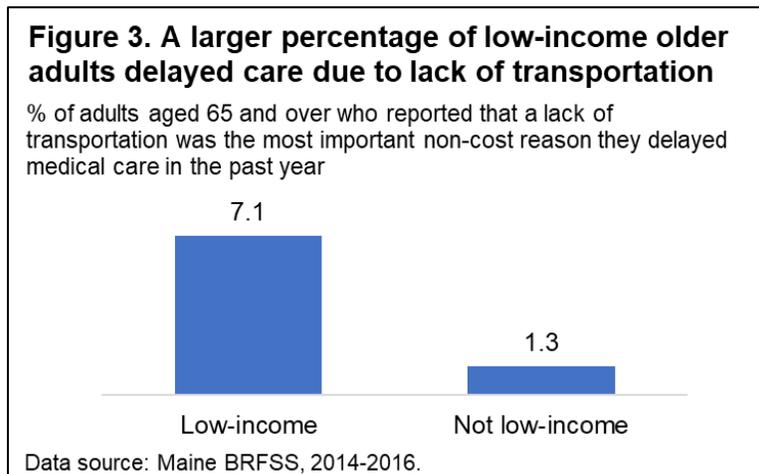


- Among survey respondents who reported delaying care for any non-cost reason, individuals enrolled in Medicaid were more likely than those with other forms of insurance to report that a lack of transportation was the most important reason for delaying care (51 percent of Medicaid enrollees compared with 20 percent of individuals with a different form of insurance coverage).

- Transportation problems were a particular challenge for **low-income Maine residents** (see Figure 2). Non-elderly adults (age 18-64) whose incomes were below \$25,000 were twice as likely to delay care primarily for transportation reasons as those with higher incomes (15 percent versus 7 percent).



- As shown in Figure 3, **older adults age 65 and older with low incomes** (less than \$25,000) were more likely to report that a lack of transportation was the chief non-cost reason for delaying care compared with older adults who were not low income (7.1 percent compared with 1.3 percent, respectively). Among older adults with low incomes, a lack of transportation was the most frequently cited non-cost reason for delaying care.



*Technical Note: Analyses comparing transportation-related delays in care between Medicaid enrollees and individuals without health insurance were not possible due to the small number of uninsured individuals who reported transportation issues being their primary reason for delaying care.*