

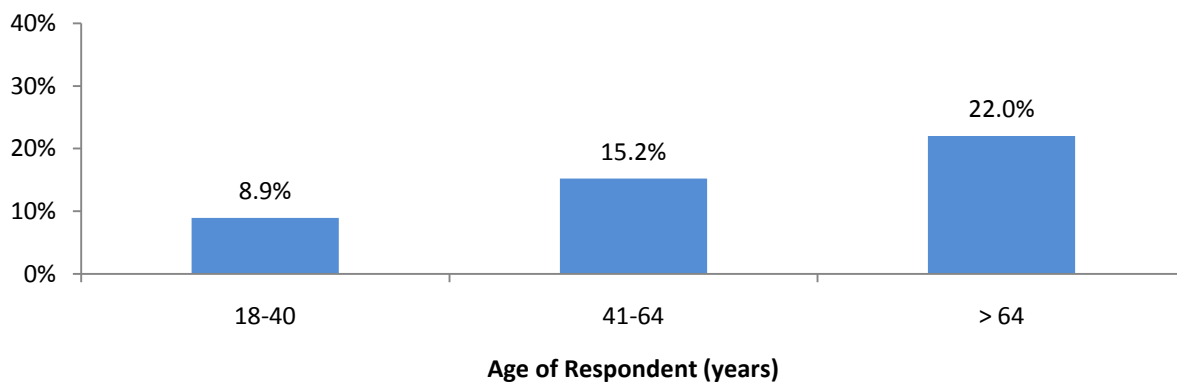
Pap Tests among Women Residing in Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity Counties: A Summary of Findings from The Rural Health Information Survey

The Rural Health Information Survey was conducted by the California Center for Rural Policy in the fall of 2006. The purpose of the survey was to assess health disparities, access and utilization of healthcare, and other determinants of health among residents in rural Northern California with the goal of providing useful information for planning and policy development. For more details about the sampling please visit our website.

Following are graphs showing the percent of women respondents who reported receiving a pap test within the 5 years prior to the survey. The analysis was restricted to women respondents from Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity Counties.

Women in the age range of 18-40 were the most likely to have received a pap test within the five years prior to the survey. Women above the age of 64 were the least likely to have received a pap. The difference between each age group with respect to having received a pap test was statistically significant (Exhibit 1). By county, a similar pattern was seen (Exhibit 2), but tests of significance were not performed due to smaller numbers. The optimal age to discontinue screening is not clear, but most major medical organizations suggest stopping screening for cervical cancer at 65 to 70 years of age.¹

Exhibit 1
No Pap Test in past 5 years by Age of Respondent
(n = 1,292)



Source: Rural Health Information Survey, 2006, California Center for Rural Policy

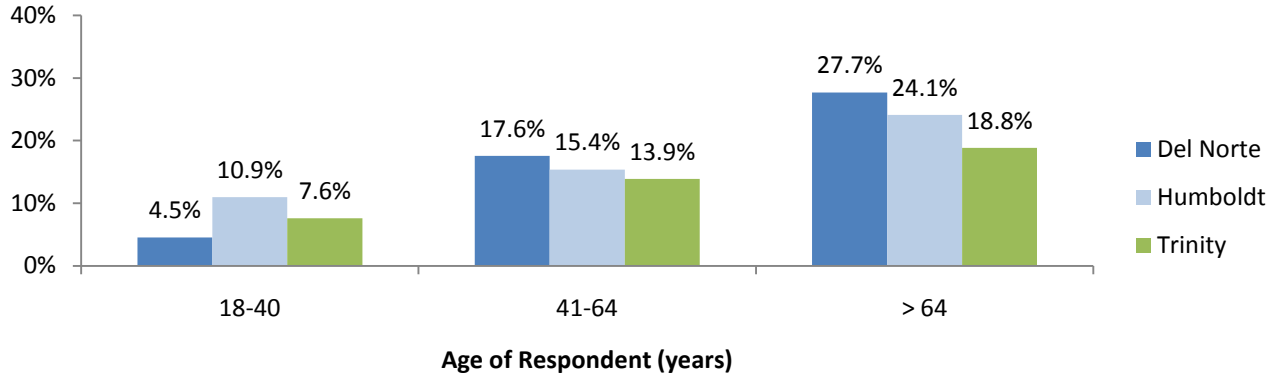
This analysis was for the question, “To the best of your knowledge, when did you last have a Pap Smear?”

This analysis was restricted to women respondents from Del Norte, Humboldt or Trinity counties who answered the question and provided their year of birth. Women who answered “don’t know” or “not applicable” were excluded from the analysis.

Note: Most major U.S. medical organizations recommend a Pap test every 3 years if there is no history of abnormal Pap tests. The time frame of 5 years was chosen in this analysis because the answers to this question were in time intervals that did not allow for 3 years to be isolated.

Exhibit 2

No Pap Test in past 5 years by Age of Respondent (n = 1,292)



Source: Rural Health Information Survey, 2006, California Center for Rural Policy

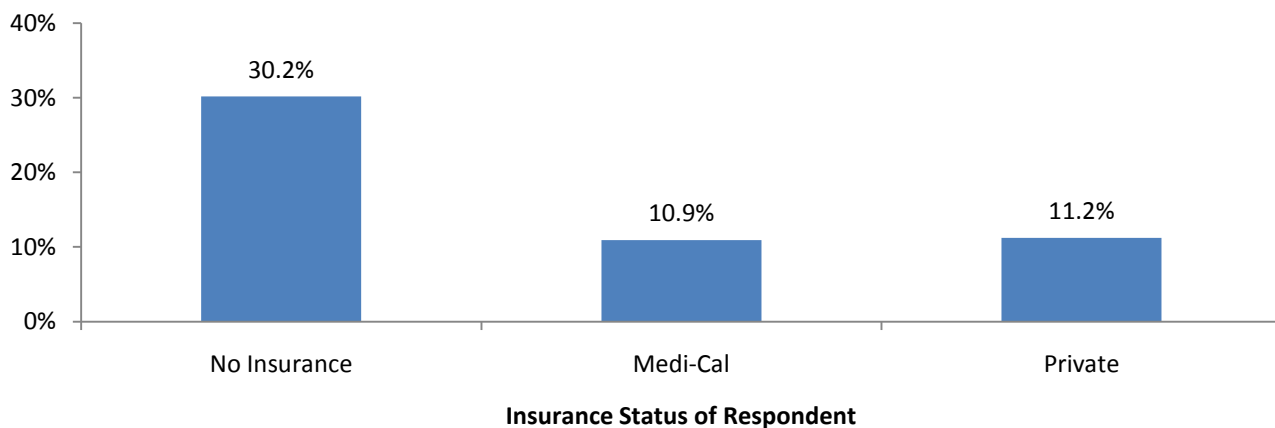
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Further analysis shows that insurance status is associated with whether or not women have received a pap test. Women without insurance were significantly less likely than women with Medi-Cal or private insurance to have received the recommended screening for cervical cancer. The difference between women with Medi-Cal and private insurance was not statistically significant (Exhibit 3). This same pattern was seen when the analysis was stratified by age group (Exhibits 4 & 5).

Exhibit 3

No Pap Test in past 5 years by Insurance Status (age ≥18 yrs) (n = 1,101)



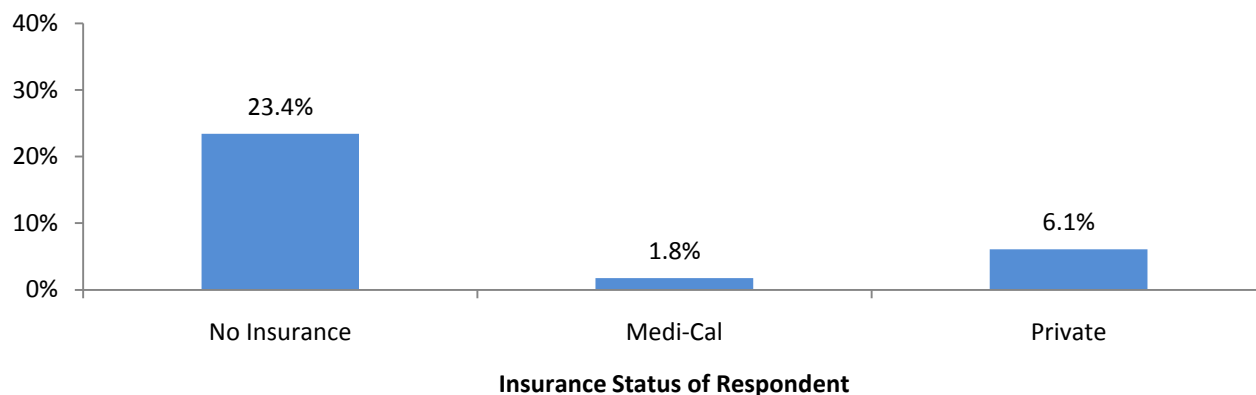
Source: Rural Health Information Survey, 2006, California Center for Rural Policy

This analysis was for the questions, “To the best of your knowledge, when did you last have a Pap Smear?”

This analysis was restricted to women respondents from Del Norte, Humboldt or Trinity counties who answered the question and reported their insurance status as “None”, “Medi-Cal” or “Private”. Women who answered “don’t know” or “not applicable” were excluded from the analysis.

Exhibit 4

No Pap Test in past 5 years by Insurance Status (age 18-40 yrs) (*n* = 219)



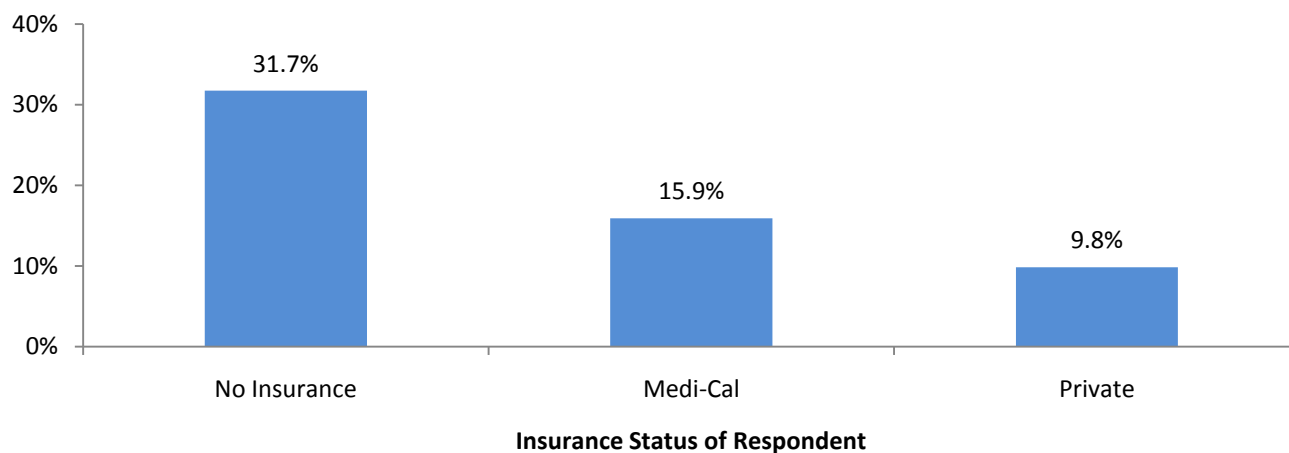
Source: Rural Health Information Survey, 2006, California Center for Rural Policy

This analysis was for the questions, “To the best of your knowledge, when did you last have a Pap Smear?”

This analysis was restricted to women respondents aged 18 to 40 years from Del Norte, Humboldt or Trinity counties who answered the question and reported their insurance status as “None”, “Medi-Cal” or “Private”. Women who answered “don’t know” or “not applicable” were excluded from the analysis.

Exhibit 5

No Pap Test in past 5 years by Insurance Status (age 41-64 yrs) (*n* = 713)



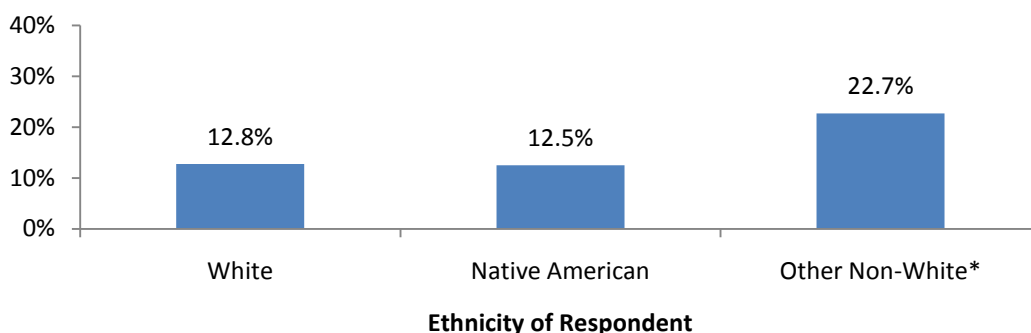
Source: Rural Health Information Survey, 2006, California Center for Rural Policy

This analysis was for the questions, “To the best of your knowledge, when did you last have a Pap Smear?”

This analysis was restricted to women respondents aged 41 to 64 years from Del Norte, Humboldt or Trinity counties who answered the question and reported their insurance status as “None”, “Medi-Cal” or “Private”. Women who answered “don’t know” or “not applicable” were excluded from the analysis.

By ethnicity, there was not a significant difference between white and Native American women aged 18-64 who received a pap in the past 5 years. Other non-white women respondents (includes African American, Latino/a, Asian, Multi-racial and other) were significantly less likely than the white and Native American women respondents to have had a pap in the past 5 years (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6
No Pap Test in past 5 years by Ethnicity
(age 18-64 yrs) (n = 1,030)



Source: Rural Health Information Survey, 2006, California Center for Rural Policy

*Respondents were able to classify their ethnicity as White, African American, Latino/a, Asian, Native American, Multi-racial, or Other. Due to a small number of respondents in several of the categories, comparisons were made between White, Native American, and Other Non-White respondents (includes African American, Latino/a, Asian, Multi-racial and other).

This analysis was for the questions, “To the best of your knowledge, when did you last have a Pap Smear?”

This analysis was restricted to women respondents aged 18 to 64 years from Del Norte, Humboldt or Trinity counties who answered the question. Women who answered “don’t know” or “not applicable” were excluded from the analysis.

Thirty two different communities were sampled in Del Norte (4), Humboldt (17) and Trinity (11) counties. Exhibit 7 shows each sampled community with the number and percentage of women respondents who reported having a pap within the 5 years prior to the survey. The communities with the highest percentage of women not receiving a pap are listed at the top. The communities highlighted in grey had less than 20 women answer the question and thus have unreliable estimates.

Exhibit 7. Pap Test in the past 5 years within each sampled community

Town	Zip Code	Pap within the past 5 years		Total Number of Women that Answered the Question
		No (%)	Yes (%)	
Klamath	95548	25.0%	75.0%	44
Hayfork	96041	22.3%	77.7%	103
Orleans	95556	21.9%	78.1%	32
Orick	95555	20.0%	80.0%	20
Crescent City	95531	19.4%	80.6%	124
Lewiston	96052	19.5%	80.5%	41
Whitethorn	95589	19.1%	80.9%	47
Hoopa	95546	17.9%	82.1%	56
Fortuna	95540	16.9%	83.1%	59
Fort Dick	95538	15.4%	84.6%	26
Willow Creek	95573	14.0%	86.0%	100
Douglas City	96024	12.2%	87.8%	49
Cutten	95534	11.4%	88.6%	44
Junction City	96048	11.1%	88.9%	36
Weaverville	96093	10.3%	89.7%	203
Trinity Center	96091	9.1%	90.9%	22
McKinleyville	95519	7.8%	92.2%	77
Gasquet	95543	6.8%	93.2%	44
Alderpoint	95511	25.0%	75.0%	16
Burnt Ranch	95527	6.7%	93.3%	15
Carlotta	95528	22.2%	77.8%	18
Honeydew	95545		100.0%	10
Korbel	95550	40.0%	60.0%	5
Mad River	95552	20.0%	80.0%	15
Phillipsville	95559	25.0%	75.0%	16
Samoa	95564	16.7%	83.3%	12
Redcrest	95569		100.0%	8
Weott	95571	17.6%	82.4%	17
Big Bar	96010	11.1%	88.9%	9
Hyampom	96046	33.3%	66.7%	6
Bridgeville - Ruth Store	955261	50.0%	50.0%	4
Bridgeville	955262		100.0%	11
Total		15.4%	84.6%	1289

One of the questions asked on the survey was, "Within the past 12 months, were you able to get the healthcare (including mental healthcare) you needed? If No, please explain why."

The most common reason respondents were unable to get needed health care was due to lack of insurance or other insurance problems. A few respondents mentioned women's health issues:

"No. No women's health specialists in Southern Humboldt who accept insurance." Humboldt County

"No. Refused annual mammogram because local hospital no longer accepts my insurance." Humboldt County

"No. Couldn't afford an eye exam, skin exam, pap smear, mammogram." Trinity County

"No. No gynecologist in area." Humboldt County

Limitations

This study provides information about the respondents of the survey and does not necessarily describe the population in general. However, this is the largest study ever conducted in this rural region of California.

References

1. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. <<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/USpstfix.htm>>.

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