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# Differences in Women's Preventative Health Services by Payer Type in the U.S.

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## ABSTRACT

**Background/Significance.** Differences in obtaining preventative health services by payer type (i.e., commercial insurance, Medicaid, Marketplace, or uninsured individuals) have yet to be examined. **Objectives/Purpose.** To examine the prevalence of obtaining preventative health services including pap tests, breast exams, and annual well-woman visits, and examined differences by payer type. **Methods.** A national, cross-sectional survey was administered to women (N = 2,280) ages 18-44 in the U.S. that assessed if they had received a pap test, breast exam, or annual well-woman visit within the past two years. **Results.** 64.7% of uninsured women did not receive a pap test, followed by women on Medicaid (48.1%), commercial insurance (41.2%), and the Marketplace (35.2%); differences were statistically significant,  $\chi^2$  (3, N = 2,278) = 56.06,  $p < .001$ . 77.3% of uninsured women did not receive a breast exam within the past two years, followed by women on Medicaid (70.2%), commercially insured women (57.0%), and women on the Marketplace (55.0%); differences were statistically significant,  $\chi^2$  (3, N = 2,280) = 52.0,  $p < .001$ . 63.2% of uninsured women had not had a well-woman exam, followed by women on Medicaid (48.1%), commercial insurance (38.5%), and the Marketplace (31.8%); differences were statistically significant,  $\chi^2$  (3, N = 2,280) = 65.4,  $p < .001$ . **Conclusions.** Uninsured women and those on Medicaid received the fewest preventative health services. Women on the Marketplace received the most preventative services. **Discussion/Conclusions.** Many women do not receive preventative health services, even insured women. Results support the creation and expansion of programs to provide preventative health services, particularly for uninsured women and those on Medicaid.



## INTRODUCTION

Although receipt of preventative health care services such as pap tests, breast exams, and well-woman exams are associated with positive health outcomes among reproductive-aged women, there is currently little research that examines how receipt of these services may vary by payer type. As such, the present study aimed to examine receipt of a number of key preventative health care services, including pap tests, breast exams, and well-woman exams by payer type (i.e., Marketplace, Medicaid, commercial, and uninsured women).



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## METHOD

Reproductive-aged women ages 18-44 residing in the United States were given a cross-sectional survey that assessed if they had received a pap test, breast exam, or annual well-woman visit within the past two years



## RESULTS

### Pap Tests

•Differences in receipt of pap tests were statistically significant by payer type,  $\chi^2$  (3, N = 2,278) = 56.06,  $p < .001$ .

### Breast Exams

•Differences were statistically significant by payer type,  $\chi^2$  (3, N = 2,280) = 52.0,  $p < .001$ .

### Well-Woman Exams

•Differences were statistically significant by payer type,  $\chi^2$  (3, N = 2,280) = 65.4,  $p < .001$ .

Payer Type	Marketplace	Medicaid	Commercial	Uninsured
Health Care Services	Not Received (%)	Not Received (%)	Not Received (%)	Not Received (%)
Pap Test	35.2	48.1	41.2	64.7
Breast Exam	55.0	70.2	57.0	77.3
Well-Woman Exam	31.8	48.1	38.5	63.2



## DISCUSSION

### Overall

•Regardless of payer type, a number of women do not receive preventative health services, such as pap tests, well-woman exams, and breast exams.

### Pap Tests

• Receipt of pap tests varied significantly by payer type. Women without insurance and those enrolled in Medicaid had the highest rates of not receiving a pap test in the last two years. However, over 40% of women with commercial insurance and over 35% of women with Marketplace coverage did not receive a pap test in the last two years.

### Breast Exams

• Receipt of breast exams varied significantly by payer type. Across payer types, over half of women had not received a breast exam in the past two years. Women without insurance and those enrolled in Medicaid had the highest rates of not receiving a breast exam in the last two years.

### Annual Well-Woman Exams

• Receipt of annual well-woman exam varied significantly by payer type. Over 60% of uninsured women had not received an annual well-woman exam over the past two years, the highest across payer types. However, a substantial portion of women with commercial insurance, Medicaid, and the Marketplace did also not receive an annual well-woman exam in the past two years.



## CONCLUSION

- Many reproductive-aged women do not receive key preventative health services, even women with insurance
- Across all preventative health care services (i.e., pap test, breast exam, well-woman exam), uninsured women received fewer services than women with commercial insurance, Medicaid, or those on the Marketplace
- Despite policies that cover preventative services for women, a number of women enrolled in Medicaid do not receive preventative health care services
- Results support the creation and expansion of programs to provide preventative health services, particularly for uninsured women and those enrolled in Medicaid.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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