

Nationwide, adolescents have the lowest utilization rate of health care services of any age group. Barriers to care include: cost of care; low family income; stigma; distrust; confidentiality and parental consent; lack of medical insurance; embarrassment about and lack of transportation to reproductive health services; lack of knowledge about where or how to access care; and lack of adolescent-friendly services.³⁶ To reduce the barriers to access to health care, it is critical for services to be available in a wide range of settings including community-based and school-based/linked services.

- Adolescents are less likely to have a medical home than younger children.³⁶
- Recent findings in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health indicate that each year one in five adolescents do not get health care even though they feel that they should. Among the adolescents who have foregone care, 63 percent reported "thinking the problem would go away," 15 percent were unable to pay for it, 14 percent feared what they physician would say or do, 12 percent reported a parent or guardian would not accompany them, 11 percent had concerns about confidentiality and 9 percent had difficulty making an appointment.³⁷
- In 2002, 84 percent of adolescents (15-17) had one or more contacts with a physician or other health care professional compared with 94 percent of children younger than 5 years of age.³⁸

HP 2010 Objectives:

There is no objective related to this issue.