**Indicator Definition:** Percentage of adults who did not receive or delayed receiving needed medical services due to cost.

**Indicator Overview:**
- Unmet needs is an indicator commonly used to portray problems in access to healthcare services including lack of health insurance and limited availability of providers.
- Unmet needs is also associated with greater emergency room use and disadvantaged individuals delay care for conditions that are associated with longer hospital stays and poorer health outcomes.

**Trends:** The percentage of Michigan adults who reported not going to a doctor when they needed to in the past 12 months due to cost has increased significantly over the past eight years. The increase corresponds with a significant percentage of adults reporting no healthcare coverage. As healthcare reform is implemented and more adults have access to insurance, a drop in these numbers may be expected.

**Health Disparities:** Black females have consistently reported higher prevalence rates of cost related healthcare access barriers when compared to White males and females. Recently, the prevalence of cost-prevented care among Black males has increased to similar levels of that of Black females. White males and females report similar prevalence rates of cost-related healthcare access barriers, though in 2010 the number of White males who reported no access dropped, while the number of White females reporting the same continued to rise.

**Links to Other Sources of Information:**
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, CDC: [http://www.cdc.gov/brfss](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss)

**Links to Related Public Health Programs:**
MDCH: Help finding Health Care: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943_52115---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943_52115---,00.html)