

Health Status, Behavioral Health Risks, and Access to Health Care Among Rhode Island Adults in 2008



Rhode Island Department of Health, August 2009
Center for Health Data and Analysis

Introduction

This report presents data for Rhode Island adults on health status, risky health behaviors, and health care access, and their association with health insurance coverage. Data are from Rhode Island's 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

About the BRFSS: The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors the prevalence of health risks that contribute to the leading causes of disease and death among adults 18 and older in the United States. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

Rhode Island's BRFSS: From January - December 2008, the Rhode Island BRFSS conducted random-digit dialed telephone interviews with 4,786 non-institutionalized RI adults. A professional firm implemented the survey under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Reading statistics: This report presents bar graphs showing percentages and 95% confidence intervals (CI). Since percentages from survey data are estimates, the 95% CI indicates the range of values within which the "true" value lies 95% of the time. When two groups have 95% CI that overlap, it indicates that the "true" values are likely to be similar in both groups. If the 95% CI do not overlap, it indicates that there is a statistically significant difference between the two groups.

Acknowledgements: The RI BRFSS is funded in part by the CDC Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Cooperative Agreement 5U58DP122791.

Further information: Go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/chic/statistics/brfss.php>, <http://www.health.ri.gov/webquery/index.html>, <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>, or contact the Center for Health Data and Analysis, RI Department of Health (401-222-2550).

Report prepared by: Y Jiang PhD and JE Hesser PhD, Center for Health Data and Analysis.

Highlights

- ❖ Overall, 13% rated their general health as "fair" or "poor"; 17% are current smokers, and 41% have not had their blood sugar tested in the past 3 years. (Fig 1)
- ❖ Men are more likely than women not to have a regular health care provider (16% vs 8%), nor to have had a routine checkup in the past year (25% vs 18%). Women are at higher risk than men for any alcohol consumption in the past 30 days (43% vs 31%), and women are more likely than men to not ever have been screened for colorectal cancer (33% vs 28%). (Fig 2)

Adults ages 18 to 64 without health insurance are at higher risk than the insured for each of the 14 indicators examined (Fig 3).

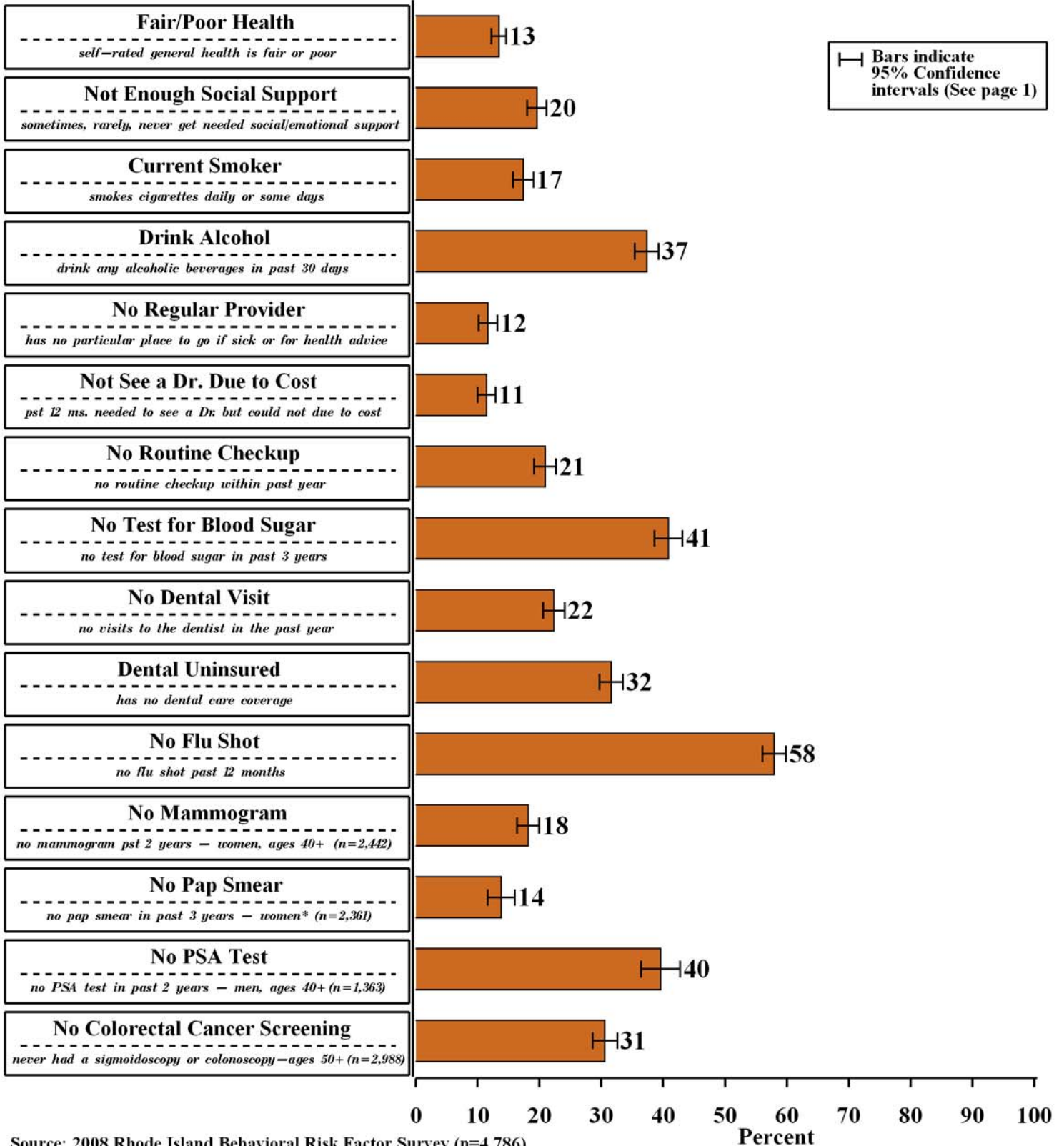
- ❖ Uninsured adults ages 18 – 64 have higher rates for smoking (30% vs 18%), and for alcohol consumption in the past month (51% vs 33%).
- ❖ They have poorer access to health care: 49% (vs 10%) have no regular health care provider; 54% said they couldn't see a doctor when needed in the past year due to costs, and 96% (vs 18%) have no dental insurance.
- ❖ Uninsured adults have less access to preventive health services – 55% (vs 18%) had not visited a dentist in the past year; 70% (vs 34%) has never been scopically screened for colorectal cancer. 46% (vs 16%) of uninsured women 40 – 64 did not have a mammogram in the past two years; and 22% of uninsured women (vs 9%) did not have a pap test in the past three years.

Implications

Lack of health insurance limits access to preventive and health care services and places individuals at increased risk for developing serious and ultimately costly health conditions. Expansion of health care coverage to all individuals should be a priority public health objective.

Figure 1

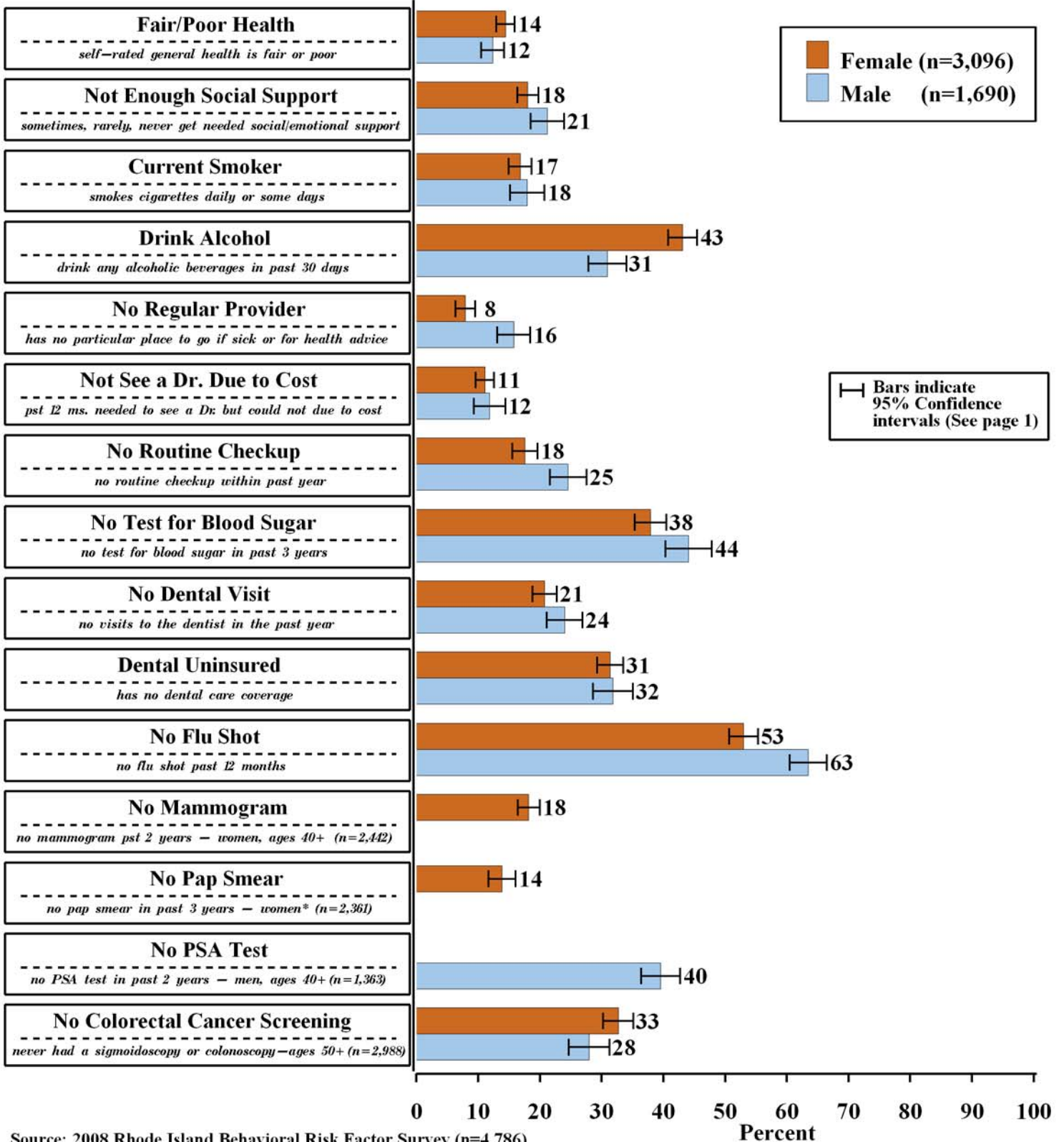
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults (Ages 18 and older) -- 2008



Source: 2008 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,786)

* Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy

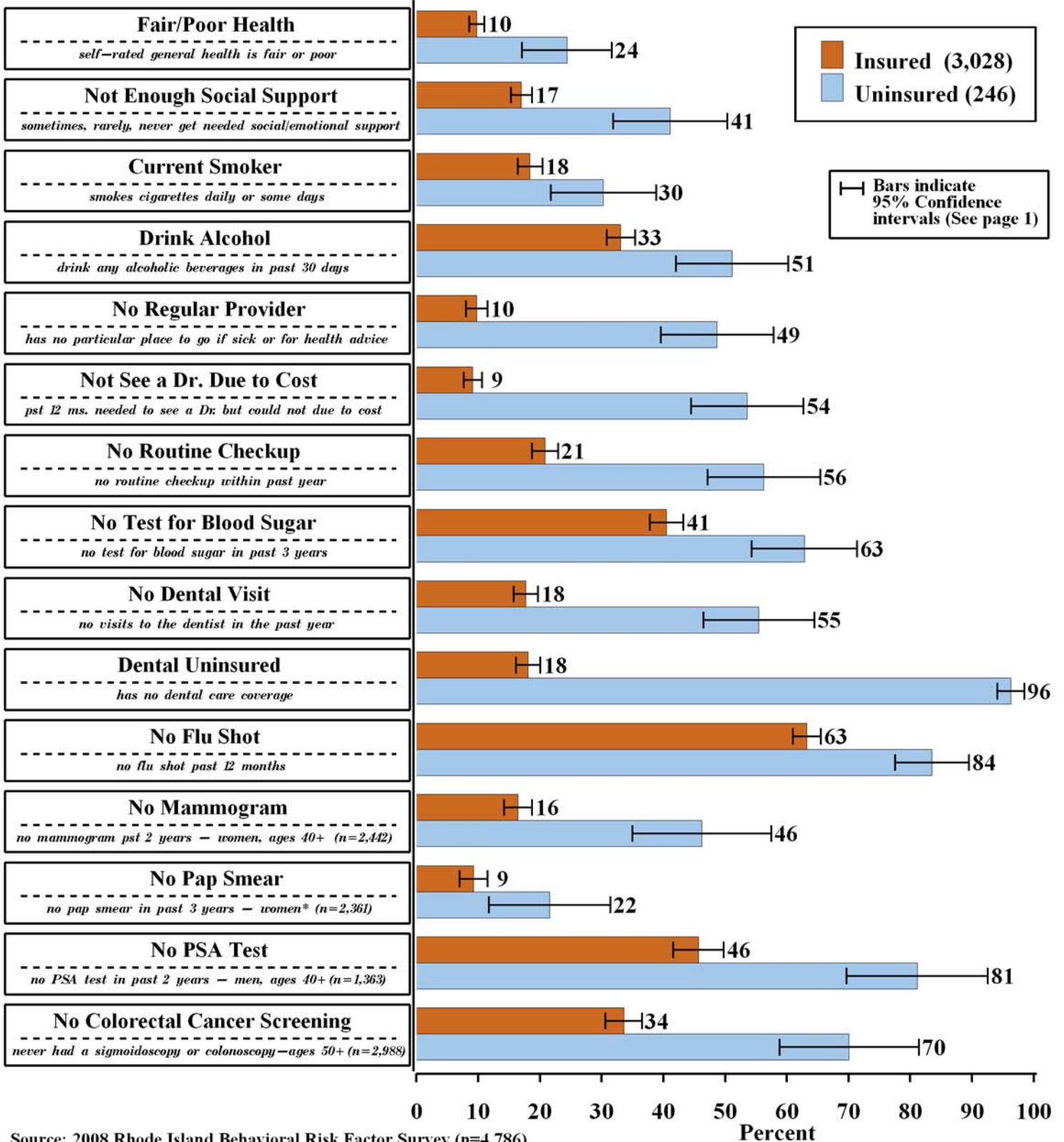
Figure 2
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
 (Ages 18 and older) by sex -- 2008



Source: 2008 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,786)

* Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy

Figure 3
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
 (Ages 18 to 64) by health insurance status -- 2008



Source: 2008 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,786)

* Excludes women who have had a hysterectomy