November 2019

Access to Health Care, ER Usage and Insurance Coverage for Adults Aged 18-24 Since Passage of the Affordable Care Act
Source: AAMC Consumer Survey of Health Care Access

Key Findings:
For adults under age 25 with household incomes less than $25,000, the percentage “always able to get care when they needed it” grew from 48% in 2011 to 63% in 2018. All other young adults’ access to health care increased by 13 percentage points.

For adults under age 25 with household incomes less than $25,000, the percentage who always had health insurance grew from 58% in 2011 to 71% in 2018. All other young adults’ increased by 2 percentage points.

Key Finding:
Adults under 25 years decreased reliance on ERs from 3.5% in 2011 to 1.3% in 2018, thus moving away from last-minute ER care to other health care settings.