

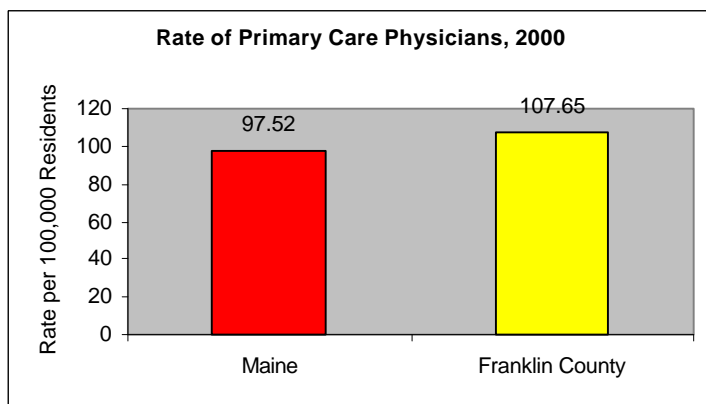
## ACCESS TO CARE

Franklin County has seen an increase in the rate of primary care physicians during the past twenty years, and the specialty which has experienced the greatest growth is general/family practice. However, areas of Greater Franklin County, such as Jay/Livermore Falls and the northern part of the county, have been designated by the Department of Human Services as “health professional shortage areas” in primary care, dental and mental health. There is also a serious shortage of dentists: 1 dentist for every 3,274 residents, about half as many dentists per capita as we find in the nation at large. There is also a serious shortage of funding and services for the growing aging population, such as in-home care and assisted living. There are long waiting lists of up to two years for the four facilities for assisted living in Greater Franklin County. Other health access problems include health insurance and ambulance services. Fifteen percent of adults in Franklin County are uninsured, and access to ambulance services in more rural parts of the County has been problematic due to lower reimbursements from Medicare. However Franklin Community Health Network has established innovative and nationally-acclaimed programs, such as Contract for Care and the Franklin Health Access Project. Efforts are also being made to assist people in the northern part of Franklin County with obtaining prescription drugs since there is only one pharmacy in the area.

❖ Sources: Maine Health 2001/2002: A Health Planning Resource, Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health; Maine BRFSS Community Health Profile 2000; SeniorsPlus Center in Wilton

Graph 12

### Primary Care Physicians



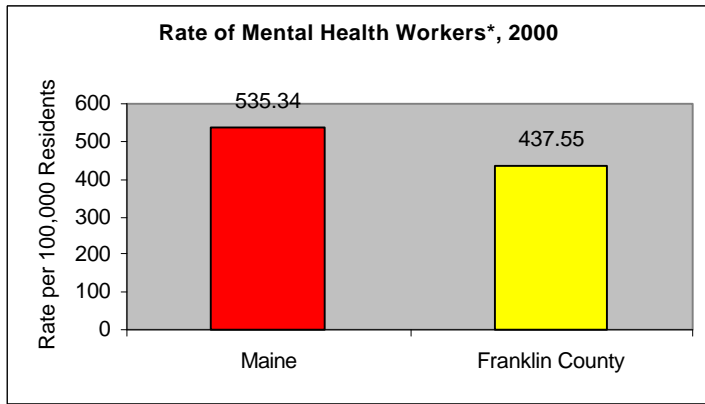
- The rate of primary care physicians has increased in Maine and in Franklin County during the past 20 years.
- There are still primary care “health professional shortage areas” in Jay/Livermore Falls and northern Franklin County.

❖ Source: Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Office of Health Data and Program Management

# ACCESS TO CARE

Graph 13

## Mental Health Workers



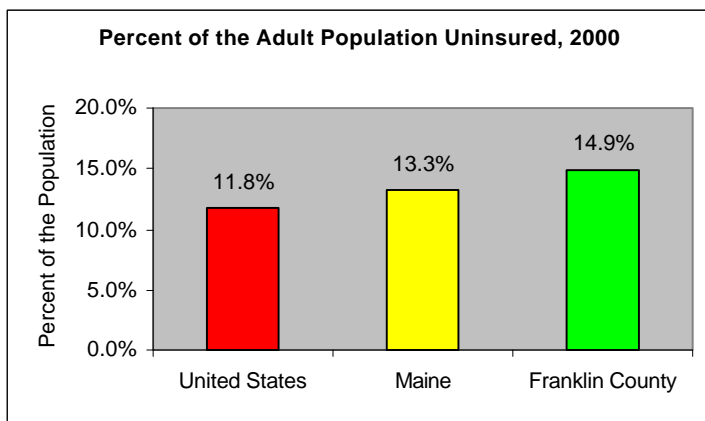
- Franklin County is below the state rate for mental health workers per 100,000 residents.
- The rate of licensed psychologists in Franklin County is well below the state rate.

\* Mental health workers include: Psychologists, Counselors, Licensed Social Workers, and Alcohol and Drug Counselors

❖ Source: Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Office of Health Data and Program Management

Graph 14

## Population Uninsured



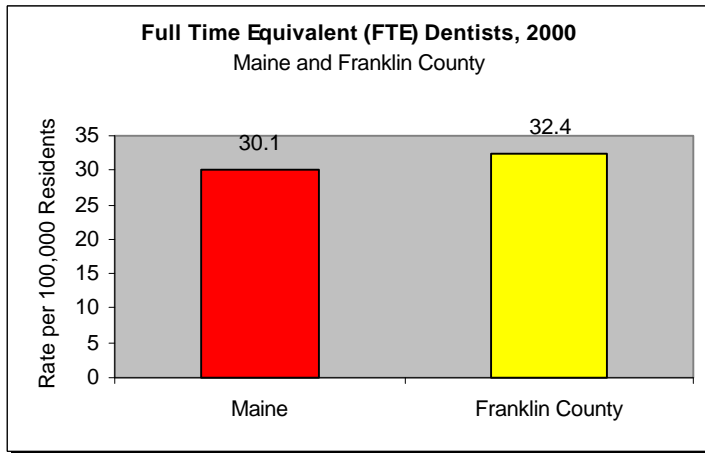
- The percentage of adults in Franklin County who lack health insurance is significantly higher than the state and national percentages.

❖ Source: Maine BRFSS, Community Health Profile 2000

# ACCESS TO CARE

Graph 15

## Active Dentists

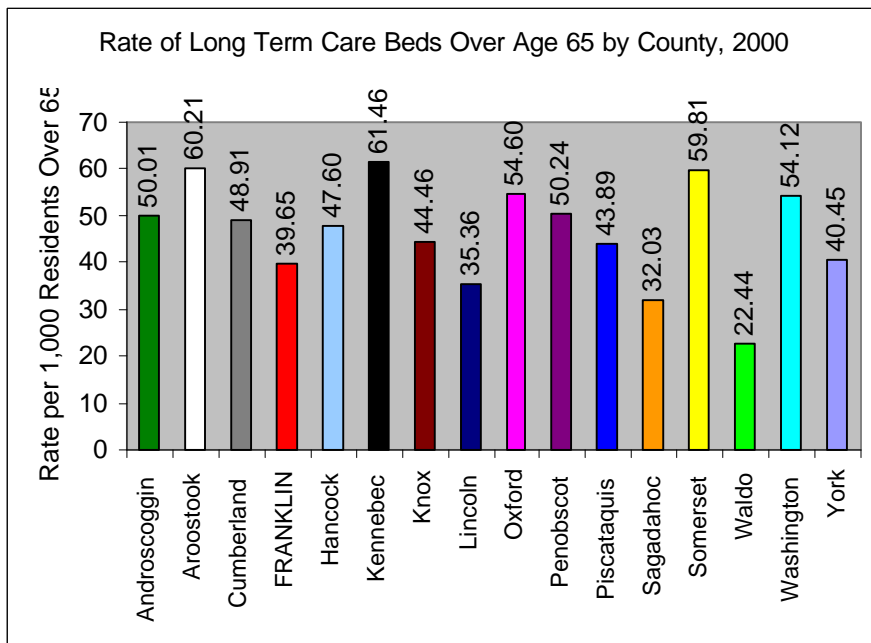


- The rate of FTE or active dentists in Franklin County is similar to the state rate.
- The ratio of dentist per population in Franklin County is only 1 dentist for every 3274 residents and the average age of dentists is 51.5 years.

❖ Source: Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Office of Health Data and Program Management

Graph 16

## Long Term Care Beds



- Franklin County has the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of long term care beds per 1,000 population over age 65, 39.65 beds.
- Franklin County also has the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest bed to population ratio for nursing care in the state.

❖ Source: Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Office of Health Data and Program Management

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**Table 5 Prices of Prescription Drugs in the U.S. and Canada**

<b>Drug Names</b>	<b>United States Price (\$US)</b>	<b>Canadian Price (\$US)</b>
<b>Lipitor</b>	<b>\$108</b>	<b>\$57</b>
<b>Zocor</b>	<b>\$130</b>	<b>\$62</b>
<b>Prilosec</b>	<b>\$135</b>	<b>\$58</b>
<b>Paxil</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$49</b>
<b>Clarinet</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Celebrex</b>	<b>\$86</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Zyprexa</b>	<b>\$305</b>	<b>\$169</b>

❖ Source: National Legislative Association on Prescription Drug Prices, 2003; Maine Council of Senior Citizens.

- The demand for more affordable medications in Canada is high, and the Maine Council of Senior Citizens sponsors two bus trips a year to Canada. Riders pay a nominal fee for the ride and one night stay, and are seen by a Calais border doctor licensed to write prescriptions in both countries. Riders then proceed over a bridge into Canada where they fill their prescriptions.
- There are also many reports of Franklin County residents traveling to Canada for not only medications but also dental care, which is more affordable.