

Health Insurance - 2009

Health insurance refers to any private or government insurance, including public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. The big increase in the number of uninsured Americans last year shows the importance of passing health care reform. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that when it is fully implemented, the reform legislation signed by President Obama will extend coverage to an additional 32 million Americans who would otherwise have been uninsured.

Health Insurance Stats at a Glance

	2009	2008	1999
Number of uninsured	50.7 million	46.3 million	38.8 million
Percent without insurance	16.7%	15.4%	14.0%
Percent with employer sponsored insurance	55.8%	58.5%	63.9%
Number of uninsured children	7.5 million	7.3 million	9 million
Percent of children without insurance	10.0%	9.9%	12.5%

- Not only did the number of uninsured Americans increase last year, the number *with* health insurance coverage actually fell for the first time on record.
- Declining coverage is being driven by the erosion of employer-sponsored health insurance. The number of Americans with coverage through an employer fell by 6.6 million last year, to 169.7 million. (In contrast, the number of Americans with Medicaid coverage increased.)
- 29.3 million American workers (20.2%) have no health insurance. That includes 14.6 million who worked full time, year round.
- Low-income households are most likely to be uninsured.
 - 26.6% of households with annual income under \$25,000 have no health insurance.
 - 21.4% of households with annual income between \$25,000 and \$49,000 have no health insurance.
 - In contrast, just 9.1% of households with incomes of more than \$75,000 have no health insurance.
- Percentage uninsured by race/ethnicity
 - African-American: 21.0%
 - Asian: 17.2%
 - Hispanic: 32.4%
 - White (non-Hispanic): 12.0%

The Census Bureau's report can be found at:
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.pdf>

Next release: 2010 figures will be available in late summer/early fall 2011.

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September 16, 2010