



Dramatic Increase in the Uninsured Rate in Every State

Number of Uninsured Americans Increased Almost 13 Percent Since 2007

The number of Americans without health insurance is growing at an unprecedented rate. The most recent measured data from the U.S. Census Bureau showed that there were 46 million Americans without health insurance in 2007. But new research released by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine stated that in January 2009 there were an almost 52 million uninsured in the United States.¹

The table shows the percentage increase in the uninsured in every state since 2007—the last time the government made an official estimate through the census. Clicking on a state will show the current number and percentage of people without health insurance.

This increase is a 13-percent jump since 2007—the largest two-year leap since the last effort at national health reform in 1994. What’s more, these numbers are undoubtedly worse today due to deteriorated economic conditions and rising national and state unemployment rates since January.²

It’s important to point out that the national average increase obscures the unprecedented increase that some states have seen over the last two years, including a 22-percent increase in North Carolina, and Indiana, and a 21-percent increase in Nevada. Approximately 890,000 more people are uninsured in California, 551,000 more people are uninsured in Texas, and 506,000 more people are uninsured in Florida than in 2007.

These findings are supported by anecdotal evidence as well. Recently, Wellpoint, a major health insurer, reported experiencing the largest quarterly drop in enrollment in their history.³ And the Kaiser Family Foundation reports that states are seeing a significant jump in those who are seeking Medicaid because they have lost insurance.⁴

These findings illustrate the urgency of fixing America’s broken health care system to provide continuous, affordable coverage for all.

Endnotes

- 1 Mark Holmes, Thomas C. Ricketts, and Jennifer King. "Updating Uninsured Estimates for Current Economic Conditions: State Specific Estimates," Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research and North Carolina Institute of Medicine (March 2009).
- 2 Heather Boushey and Nayla Kazzi, "Increased Job Losses in Nearly Every State," (Washington: Center for American Progress, April 20, 2009), available at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/march_unemployment.html.
- 3 *The Wall Street Journal*, "Health Plans Lose Members to Layoffs," April 23, 2009.
- 4 Diane Rowland, "Health Care and Medicaid—Weathering the Recession," *New England Journal Of Medicine*, March 26, 2009, available at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/360/13/1273>.

Dramatic increase in the uninsured rate in every state since 2007

	% Growth in uninsured 2007–2009	Total uninsured 2009	% Uninsured 2009
USA	13%	52,000,000	19%
Alabama	19%	720,000	18%
Alaska	8%	140,000	20%
Arizona	14%	1,300,000	22%
Arkansas	6%	500,000	20%
California	13%	7,700,000	23%
Colorado	14%	880,000	19%
Connecticut	12%	420,000	14%
Delaware	17%	110,000	14%
District of Columbia	15%	90,000	16%
Florida	15%	3,920,000	25%
Georgia	18%	1,880,000	21%
Hawaii	18%	140,000	12%
Idaho	19%	280,000	20%
Illinois	12%	1,960,000	17%
Indiana	22%	960,000	17%
Iowa	10%	310,000	12%
Kansas	12%	350,000	14%
Kentucky	15%	670,000	18%
Louisiana	7%	840,000	22%
Maine	16%	170,000	14%
Maryland	11%	810,000	16%
Massachusetts	*	*	*
Michigan	20%	1,370,000	15%
Minnesota	20%	550,000	11%
Mississippi	10%	550,000	21%
Missouri	16%	770,000	15%
Montana	12%	180,000	21%
Nebraska	10%	210,000	13%
Nevada	21%	570,000	23%
New Hampshire	12%	150,000	13%
New Jersey	11%	1,330,000	17%
New Mexico	10%	470,000	26%
New York	10%	3,090,000	18%
North Carolina	22%	1,750,000	21%
North Dakota	8%	70,000	13%
Ohio	14%	1,500,000	15%
Oklahoma	6%	720,000	22%
Oregon	18%	660,000	19%
Pennsylvania	17%	1,440,000	13%
Rhode Island	22%	130,000	13%
South Carolina	17%	760,000	19%
South Dakota	9%	100,000	14%
Tennessee	17%	900,000	16%
Texas	10%	6,240,000	28%
Utah	14%	410,000	16%
Vermont	16%	80,000	14%
Virginia	16%	1,150,000	16%
Washington	18%	990,000	17%
West Virginia	5%	290,000	19%
Wisconsin	15%	620,000	12%
Wyoming	10%	90,000	18%

Source: North Carolina Institute of Medicine

Note: All percentages are percentage of nonelderly (under 65).

* Massachusetts is not included in the table as the University of North Carolina study did not take recent dramatic changes to the Massachusetts health system into account.