

## RWJF Report Estimates the Impact on States Health Care Costs

A new report out today from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation (RWJF) examines the impact on insurance coverage and government, employer, and family spending in all 50 states if health care reform fails. The report looks at best-case, intermediate-case, and worst-case scenarios.

It finds that "if federal reform efforts fail, over the next decade in every state, the number of uninsured will increase, employer-sponsored coverage will continue to erode, spending on public programs will balloon and individual and family out-of-pocket costs could increase by more than 35 percent."

Under even the best case scenario, their analysis predicts a tremendous economic strain on individuals and businesses in all 50 states and the District of Columbia if reform is not enacted.

And in the worst case scenario the results would be absolutely devastating:

- In 29 states, the number of people without insurance would increase by more than 30 percent.
  - The number of uninsured could grow by at least 10 percent in every state. All told, the number of uninsured Americans would reach 65.7 million.
- Individual and family spending would increase significantly—from \$326.4 billion in 2009 to \$548.4 billion in 2019.
  - Individual and family out-of-pocket costs would increase by more than 35 percent in every state.
- Businesses would see their premiums continue to increase – more than doubling in 27 states.
  - Even under the best case scenario, employers in nearly every state would see premium costs increase by more than 60 percent.
- Every state would see employer-sponsored coverage continue to erode, and half would see the number of people with employer sponsored coverage fall by more than 10 percent.

The report is available at: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/49148.pdf>.

If you have any questions on these or other topics, please contact Shuan Tomlinson at 800-338-2746 ext. 4547 or by email at [stomlinson@acponline.org](mailto:stomlinson@acponline.org).

To access recent and past state health policy reports go to the State Health Policy section on the Chapter Leadership Network (CLN) website or click on:  
[http://www.acponline.org/cln/health\\_policy.htm](http://www.acponline.org/cln/health_policy.htm).

October 1, 2009