

Results of the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey on Health Coverage

On September 22, the U.S. Census Bureau released the latest American Community Survey (ACS). The survey provides a statistical portrait of the characteristics of the nation's population. This is the first time the ACS included questions about health insurance coverage leading to statistical estimates about coverage status.

According to the new data:

- The uninsured rate varies widely by state, ranging from a low of 4.1 percent in Massachusetts to a high of 24.1 percent (one in four) in Texas.
- The uninsured rate was less than 10 percent in eight states (Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin), the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- Five states had uninsured rates of 20 percent or more: Alaska, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas.
- By region, the uninsured rate tended to be higher than the national average in the West and South and below the U.S. average in the Northeast and Midwest.
- Demographic groups most likely to lack health insurance coverage in 2008 include young adults age 18-34, unemployed workers, American Indian and Hispanics, and noncitizens.
- Seniors (65 and older) and children tend to be least likely to be uninsured.

The ACS Survey is available at

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/acs08paper/2008ACS_healthins.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.

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