



American Families Face Harsh Reality: 2,000 Children Join the Ranks of Uninsured Each Day

After years of success in providing coverage to more of America’s uninsured children, recent Census Bureau data show that in 2006 the number of uninsured children increased for the second year in a row.¹ Since 2004, it has jumped by more than one million and, now, 9.4 million children under the age of 19 lack coverage.² This fact sheet provides a portrait of the uninsured children in America. State-level data are attached in Table 1.

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2,000 Children Each Day

Last year an additional 710,000 children under age 19 joined the ranks of the uninsured, the second consecutive year of coverage declines among children. If children continue to lose coverage at the rate they lost coverage in 2006, nearly 2,000 children a day will join the ranks of the uninsured.³

Income Level of Uninsured Children

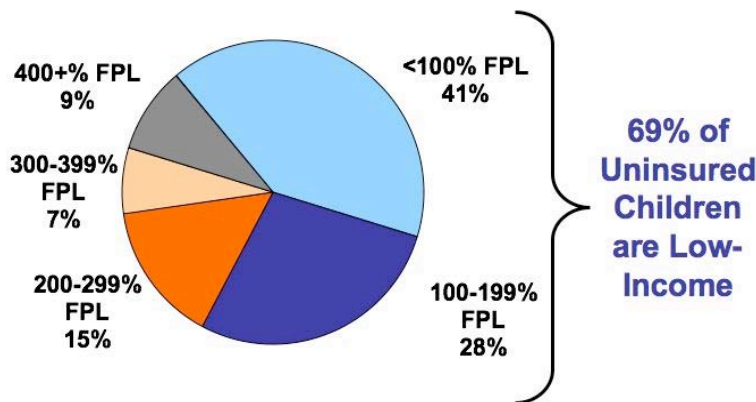
While much of the growth in the number of uninsured children has been among moderate-income families, low-income children are still far more likely to lack coverage (Figure 1). In 2006, 69 percent of all uninsured children were from low-income families—those with income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$41,300 for a family of four in 2007).

Employer-based coverage is still the predominant source of coverage for children, but employment is no guarantee of coverage. Most uninsured children have parents who are employed, but employment-based coverage has been declining steadily for adults as well as children since 2000.⁴

Age of Uninsured Children

Of the 9.4 million uninsured children under age 19 in America, more than half (64 percent) are either pre-school age (2.8 million are under age six) or elementary-school age (3.1 million are ages 6-12). As such, they are of the age when primary and preventive care can be particularly important in addressing medical issues that could affect their development, and their ability to learn and reach full potential.⁵

Figure 1: Over Two-Thirds of Uninsured Children are Low-Income



Regional Distribution of Uninsured Children

Uninsured children reside in every region of the country, but a disproportionate share live in the South.

As shown in Figure 2 (page 2), close to half of all uninsured children (47 percent) reside in southern states, while over one-quarter (27 percent) live in the West. The Midwest and Northeast each account for about 13 percent of uninsured children.

Source: Urban Institute tabulations of the 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

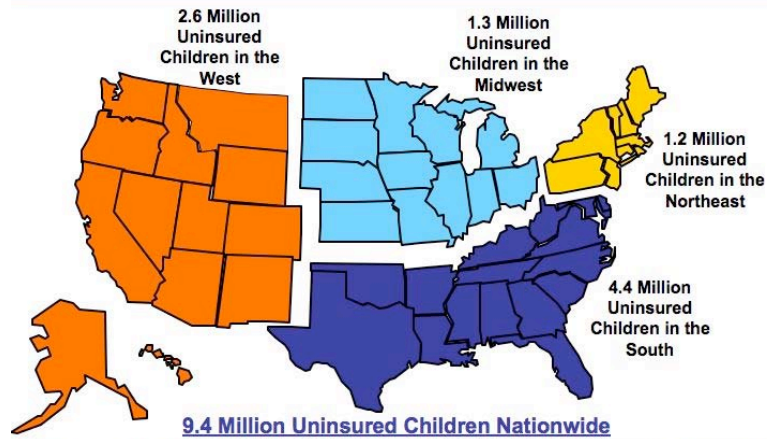
Conclusion

After years of success in reducing the number of uninsured children, 2006 marked the second consecutive year during which the number of uninsured children rose. If last year's trends continue, nearly 2,000 children a day will become uninsured this year.

Many states are poised to cover more children by building on the success of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid.⁶ However, funding for the SCHIP program expired as of October 1, 2007 and Congress and the President have yet to agree on a

reauthorization bill. States' ability to continue to make progress will depend in part on the outcome of this controversy. As these numbers demonstrate, much is at stake for the nation's children.

Figure 2: Most Uninsured Children Live in the South or West



Source: CCF analysis of March 2007 CPS using regions as defined by the U.S. Census; numbers do not sum due to rounding.

Endnotes

- 1 C. DeNavas-Walt, *et al.*, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006," U.S. Census Bureau (August 2007).
- 2 J. Holahan & A. Cook, "What Happened to the Insurance Coverage of Children and Adults in 2006?," Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (September 2007).
- 3 *Ibid*; The increase of 710,000 more uninsured children in 2006 translates into 1,945 more uninsured children per day.
- 4 P. Fronstin, "Sources of Health Insurance Characteristics of the Uninsured: Analysis of the March 2007 Current Population Survey," Employee Benefit Research Institute (October 2007).
- 5 For example, see Institute of Medicine, *America's Children: Health Insurance and Access to Care* (Washington, DC: National Academy Press: 1998); and M. Regalado & N. Halfon, "Primary Care Services Promoting Optimal Child Development From Birth to Age 3 Years: Review of the Literature," *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, 155: 1311-1322 (2001).
- 6 Center for Children and Families, "Children's Health Coverage: States Moving Forward, Update," (July 20, 2007), available at ccf.georgetown.edu.



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Table 1: Estimates of All and Low-Income Uninsured Children, by State, 2005-2006

	Number of Uninsured Children	Rate of Uninsured Children	Number of Low-Income Uninsured Children	Rate of Low-Income Uninsured Children
United States (2006)	9,442,071	12.1%	6,497,458	19.6%
Alabama	72,886	6.3%	60,046	11.1%
Alaska	18,108	9.4%	9,531	13.5%
Arizona	300,952	17.4%	229,492	25.5%
Arkansas	78,845	11.0%	59,115	15.0%
California	1,380,838	13.6%	1,003,878	21.6%
Colorado	175,501	14.0%	126,901	27.9%
Connecticut	61,500	7.1%	40,782	16.0%
Delaware	25,666	12.0%	16,879	20.0%
District of Columbia	9,221	7.8%	6,735	9.6%
Florida	816,979	19.1%	582,567	31.3%
Georgia	313,465	12.4%	234,118	20.8%
Hawaii	19,636	6.2%	12,862	11.3%
Idaho	51,685	12.3%	32,628	17.7%
Illinois	339,351	10.0%	225,257	17.6%
Indiana	152,887	9.1%	83,799	12.5%
Iowa	43,783	5.9%	23,969	8.8%
Kansas	51,044	7.0%	34,456	11.7%
Kentucky	90,496	8.6%	65,766	13.5%
Louisiana	145,259	12.9%	100,287	18.3%
Maine	21,719	7.1%	13,976	11.5%
Maryland	131,086	9.0%	94,290	19.2%
Massachusetts	91,085	5.7%	54,796	11.1%
Michigan	138,963	5.3%	85,563	8.3%
Minnesota	96,013	7.3%	63,194	16.5%
Mississippi	127,822	15.6%	111,074	23.6%
Missouri	127,484	8.7%	94,836	14.8%
Montana	32,412	14.2%	23,893	23.7%
Nebraska	36,873	8.0%	24,467	15.1%
Nevada	115,766	17.0%	80,839	27.3%
New Hampshire	21,255	6.7%	10,042	13.5%
New Jersey	274,946	12.2%	166,159	24.6%
New Mexico	103,464	19.1%	77,407	27.8%
New York	404,931	8.4%	264,511	12.8%
North Carolina	305,690	13.2%	210,188	19.7%
North Dakota	14,948	9.6%	10,642	18.1%
Ohio	206,268	7.1%	128,382	11.1%
Oklahoma	113,735	12.2%	80,568	17.1%
Oregon	115,118	12.5%	81,169	19.8%
Pennsylvania	217,171	7.3%	168,141	14.2%
Rhode Island	15,569	6.0%	8,153	9.0%
South Carolina	115,115	10.7%	74,707	14.3%
South Dakota	18,509	9.1%	12,184	15.4%
Tennessee	121,456	8.0%	89,855	12.5%
Texas	1,405,819	20.5%	1,050,912	30.3%
Utah	114,230	13.9%	71,321	22.3%
Vermont	9,822	6.9%	3,537	8.8%
Virginia	185,020	9.6%	129,920	18.5%
Washington	128,975	8.0%	69,134	12.1%
West Virginia	34,451	8.3%	18,964	9.4%
Wisconsin	82,293	6.0%	58,324	11.7%
Wyoming	12,537	9.8%	6,687	14.8%

Source: Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on the Census Bureau's 2006 and 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey. Note: State-level estimates rely on two years of data to promote reliability of the estimates.