

Health Insurance Coverage Status of Children Ages 0 to 17: 2004 to 2006

The Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), a joint project between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau, provides annual estimates of the number of people with and without health insurance by selected characteristics, including age. The Census Bureau recommends using 3-year averages to compare estimates across states and 2-year averages to evaluate change in state estimates over time.

North Dakota's 2004-06, 3-year average of uninsured children was 9.4 percent, with a 90-percent confidence interval ranging from 3.5 percent to 15.3 percent (Table 1). Nationally, the 2004-06, 3-year average uninsured rate for children was 11.0 percent. The 90-percent confidence interval for the nation ranged from 10.9 percent to 11.1 percent.

Comparing states using 3-year average uninsured rates for 2004-06 shows that Texas had the highest proportion of uninsured children in the nation (20.3 percent), while Hawaii and Michigan had the lowest (5.2 percent each) (Table 1). However, when the 90-percent confidence intervals are taken into account, there is little statistical difference among states. For example, to be 90-percent confident in these estimates, the average for Texas could be as low as 18.4 percent or as high as 22.2 percent. Given this range, nine other states have averages with confidence intervals overlapping that of Texas.

When examining the 2-year averages between 2004-05 and 2005-06 to evaluate change in state estimates over time, three states had change that was statistically different from zero; Florida, Louisiana, and New York showed an increase in the proportion of uninsured youth (Table 1). Because the confidence intervals for the difference between these two time periods for every other state include zero, one cannot say with 90-percent confidence that there was any change between the 2004-05 and 2005-06 averages.

For small population areas such as North Dakota, confidence intervals are relatively large due to the CPS survey sample size. However, CPS statistics are one tool among many to be used in the process of estimating the number of children at risk throughout the nation. For information on the methodology, source, and accuracy of these data, visit the following websites at www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin06.html and www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html.

Figure 2. Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17 Without Health Insurance by State: 3-Year Average 2004-2006

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 to 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html

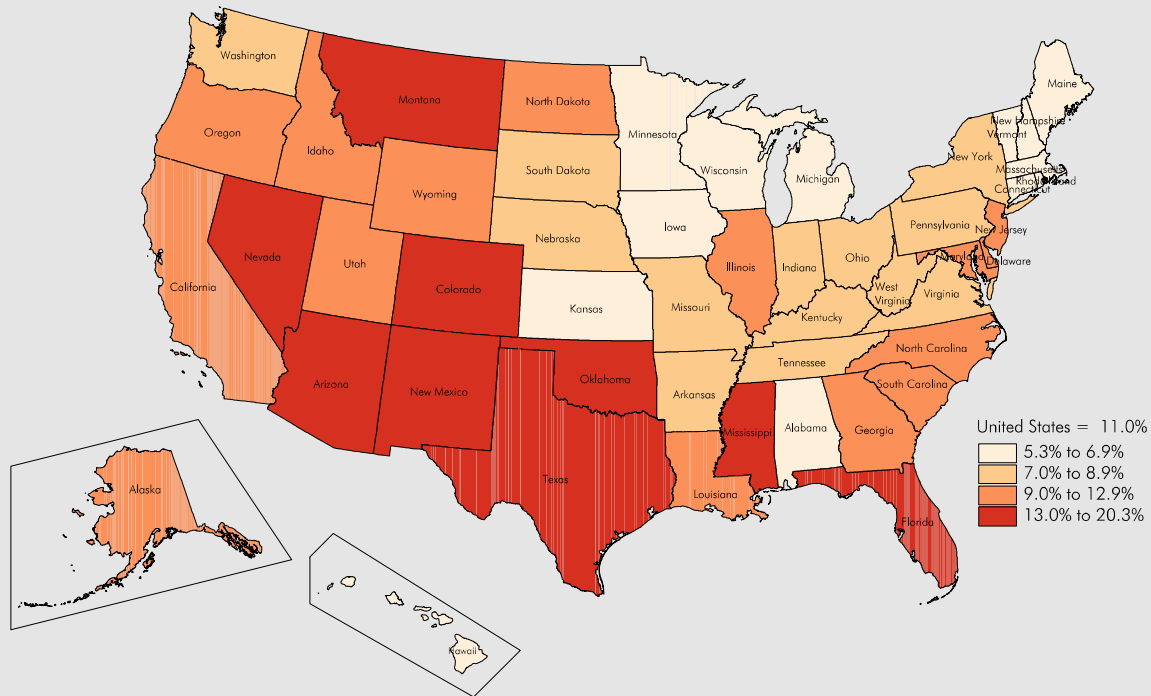


Table 1. Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17 Without Health Insurance by State Using 2- and 3-Year Averages: 2004 to 2006

Notes: ¹Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. *Statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level. Since the confidence interval for these estimates does not include zero, we can conclude with 90-percent confidence that the 2005-06 average is different from the 2004-05 average. For methodology, source, and accuracy of these data, visit www.census.gov/apspd/techdoc/cps/cps-main.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005 to 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html

State	3-year average: 2004-2006		2-year average				Change in percentage points (2005-2006 average less 2004-2005 average) ¹	
	Percent	90% Confidence Interval	2004-2005		2005-2006		Percent	90% Confidence Interval
			Percent	90% Confidence Interval	Percent	90% Confidence Interval		
United States	11.0	10.9 to 11.1	10.7	10.6 to 10.8	11.3	11.2 to 11.4	*0.6	0.5 to 0.7
Alabama	6.1	2.9 to 9.3	5.4	2.7 to 8.1	6.0	3.0 to 8.9	0.6	-1.5 to 2.6
Alaska	9.5	4.4 to 14.5	9.1	4.5 to 13.6	9.4	4.7 to 14.0	0.3	-3.0 to 3.6
Arizona	15.7	9.5 to 21.9	15.1	9.4 to 20.8	16.7	10.8 to 22.6	1.6	-2.5 to 5.7
Arkansas	8.7	3.9 to 13.5	8.5	4.2 to 12.7	10.0	4.9 to 15.1	1.6	-1.8 to 4.9
California	12.7	11.8 to 13.5	12.6	11.8 to 13.4	13.1	12.3 to 13.9	0.5	-0.1 to 1.1
Colorado	14.3	6.9 to 21.7	14.2	7.3 to 21.0	14.2	7.3 to 21.0	0.0	-4.9 to 4.9
Connecticut	6.9	2.6 to 11.2	7.4	3.2 to 11.6	6.9	3.0 to 10.7	-0.6	-3.4 to 2.3
Delaware	11.7	4.8 to 18.6	11.7	5.3 to 18.1	11.8	5.4 to 18.2	0.1	-4.4 to 4.6
District of Columbia	7.5	0.9 to 14.1	6.9	1.1 to 12.6	7.5	1.3 to 13.7	0.7	-3.6 to 4.9
Florida	17.1	14.8 to 19.5	16.3	14.2 to 18.3	18.5	16.1 to 20.9	*2.3	0.7 to 3.8
Georgia	11.7	8.9 to 14.6	11.2	8.6 to 13.8	11.9	9.2 to 14.6	0.7	-1.1 to 2.5
Hawaii	5.2	2.3 to 8.1	4.6	2.2 to 7.0	5.8	2.8 to 8.8	1.2	-0.7 to 3.1
Idaho	11.0	5.5 to 16.4	10.0	5.2 to 14.7	12.2	6.7 to 17.7	2.3	-1.4 to 5.9
Illinois	10.1	8.2 to 11.9	10.4	8.6 to 12.1	9.8	8.0 to 11.6	-0.5	-1.8 to 0.7
Indiana	8.7	5.4 to 12.0	9.2	5.9 to 12.4	8.8	5.7 to 11.9	-0.4	-2.6 to 1.9
Iowa	5.7	2.1 to 9.4	5.5	2.1 to 8.8	5.7	2.3 to 9.0	0.2	-2.2 to 2.6
Kansas	6.6	2.6 to 10.6	6.3	2.7 to 9.8	6.8	3.0 to 10.5	0.5	-2.1 to 3.1
Kentucky	8.2	3.3 to 13.1	7.5	3.2 to 11.7	8.2	3.7 to 12.7	0.8	-2.3 to 3.8
Louisiana	10.5	5.0 to 15.9	7.8	3.8 to 11.7	12.2	6.3 to 18.0	*4.4	0.9 to 7.9
Maine	6.3	1.2 to 11.3	6.2	1.6 to 10.8	7.1	1.9 to 12.2	0.9	-2.6 to 4.3
Maryland	9.2	5.0 to 13.4	8.9	5.0 to 12.7	9.1	5.3 to 12.9	0.3	-2.5 to 3.0
Massachusetts	5.7	3.4 to 7.9	5.0	3.1 to 6.9	5.6	3.5 to 7.7	0.6	-0.8 to 2.0
Michigan	5.2	3.9 to 6.5	5.5	4.2 to 6.8	4.9	3.7 to 6.0	-0.7	-1.5 to 0.2
Minnesota	6.8	3.6 to 10.0	6.1	3.4 to 8.7	7.1	3.9 to 10.3	1.1	-1.0 to 3.1
Mississippi	14.5	7.6 to 21.4	12.4	6.6 to 18.1	15.1	8.5 to 21.7	2.8	-1.6 to 7.1
Missouri	8.0	4.4 to 11.5	7.4	4.3 to 10.5	8.3	4.9 to 11.7	0.9	-1.4 to 3.2
Montana	14.2	5.8 to 22.6	14.1	6.3 to 21.8	14.4	6.5 to 22.2	0.3	-5.2 to 5.8
Nebraska	7.1	3.1 to 11.1	5.6	2.6 to 8.6	7.7	3.6 to 11.8	2.1	-0.5 to 4.7
Nevada	16.3	7.6 to 25.1	15.1	7.2 to 23.0	16.6	8.5 to 24.6	1.5	-4.2 to 7.1
New Hampshire	6.3	2.3 to 10.3	5.8	2.3 to 9.2	6.4	2.6 to 10.2	0.7	-1.9 to 3.2
New Jersey	11.3	8.1 to 14.4	10.3	7.6 to 12.9	11.9	8.8 to 15.0	1.7	-0.4 to 3.7
New Mexico	17.5	7.2 to 27.8	17.3	7.7 to 26.9	19.0	9.0 to 28.9	1.7	-5.3 to 8.6
New York	7.6	6.4 to 8.8	7.2	6.2 to 8.2	8.1	7.0 to 9.1	*0.9	0.1 to 1.6
North Carolina	11.9	8.7 to 15.1	10.9	8.1 to 13.6	12.9	9.7 to 16.0	2.0	-0.1 to 4.1
North Dakota	9.4	3.5 to 15.3	9.0	3.7 to 14.3	9.6	4.1 to 15.1	0.6	-3.2 to 4.4
Ohio	7.1	5.4 to 8.7	7.8	6.1 to 9.4	6.7	5.3 to 8.0	-1.1	-2.2 to 0.0
Oklahoma	13.2	6.0 to 20.5	13.6	6.4 to 20.8	11.8	5.7 to 17.8	-1.9	-6.5 to 2.8
Oregon	11.3	4.3 to 18.4	10.5	4.3 to 16.6	11.8	5.0 to 18.5	1.3	-3.3 to 5.9
Pennsylvania	8.1	6.4 to 9.8	8.5	6.8 to 10.1	7.4	5.8 to 8.9	-1.1	-2.2 to 0.0
Rhode Island	6.3	2.0 to 10.5	7.4	2.9 to 11.8	5.9	2.1 to 9.6	-1.5	-4.4 to 1.4
South Carolina	9.5	4.1 to 15.0	9.0	4.2 to 13.7	10.5	5.0 to 15.9	1.5	-2.1 to 5.1
South Dakota	8.4	4.3 to 12.6	8.1	4.3 to 11.8	8.7	4.7 to 12.6	0.6	-2.1 to 3.3
Tennessee	8.3	4.8 to 11.8	9.3	5.6 to 12.9	7.8	4.7 to 10.8	-1.5	-3.9 to 0.9
Texas	20.3	18.4 to 22.2	19.8	18.1 to 21.5	20.1	18.3 to 21.8	0.3	-1.0 to 1.5
Utah	12.5	7.9 to 17.1	11.3	7.3 to 15.3	13.7	9.0 to 18.3	2.4	-0.7 to 5.4
Vermont	6.0	1.3 to 10.7	5.0	1.3 to 8.7	6.7	1.9 to 11.4	1.7	-1.4 to 4.7
Virginia	8.6	5.8 to 11.4	7.9	5.5 to 10.2	9.3	6.5 to 12.1	1.5	-0.4 to 3.3
Washington	7.4	4.2 to 10.6	7.7	4.7 to 10.6	7.8	4.7 to 10.9	0.2	-2.0 to 2.3
West Virginia	7.9	3.4 to 12.4	7.7	3.5 to 11.8	7.6	3.6 to 11.5	-0.1	-3.0 to 2.8
Wisconsin	5.5	2.8 to 8.2	5.8	3.2 to 8.4	5.9	3.2 to 8.6	0.1	-1.8 to 2.0
Wyoming	9.3	2.6 to 15.9	9.8	3.2 to 16.4	9.5	3.4 to 15.6	-0.3	-4.8 to 4.2

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While the Majority of North Dakota Children Have Health Insurance, Many are Without

The vast majority of North Dakota children ages 0 to 17 are covered by some form of health insurance. Current estimates indicate that the 2004-2006, 3-year average of uninsured children in North Dakota is 9.4 percent (approximately 14,000 children), roughly equivalent to the state's 8th largest city, Jamestown.

This month's "Economic Brief," a monthly publication from the North Dakota State Data Center at North Dakota State University, focuses on those children ages 0 to 17 without health insurance in North Dakota. The Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), a joint project between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau, provides annual estimates of the number of people with and without health insurance by selected characteristics. The CPS ASEC is designed to collect statistically reliable estimates primarily at the national level. Because state estimates are less reliable (due to relatively small sample sizes which can cause state estimates to fluctuate widely year-to-year), the Census Bureau recommends using 3-year averages to compare estimates across states and 2-year averages to evaluate changes in state estimates over time. Though confidence intervals around the estimates can be relatively large for states like North Dakota, CPS statistics are one way of estimating the number of children at risk.

Three-year averages from the 2004-2006 CPS ASEC indicate that while the majority of North Dakota children have health insurance coverage, 9.4 percent of the state's children had no form of health insurance. Nationally, 11.0 percent of children were without health insurance coverage. "Strong support for SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program), Medicaid, and the Caring Program for Children have allowed North Dakota to keep the vast majority of our children insured. This is an accomplishment in which all of us should be proud," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

Comparing all states using 3-year average uninsured rates for 2004-06 shows that Texas had the highest proportion of uninsured children in the nation (20.3 percent), while Hawaii and Michigan had the lowest (5.2 percent each). When examining the 2-year averages between 2004-05 and 2005-06, three states had a statistically significant change in the proportion of uninsured children; Florida, Louisiana, and New York showed an increase in the proportion of uninsured youth.

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