

Health Insurance Coverage Status of Children Ages 0 to 17: 2007 to 2009

The Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), a joint project between the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. 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 2007-09 3-year average of uninsured children was 7.2 percent, with a 90-percent confidence interval ranging from 2.7 percent to 11.8 percent (Table 1). Nationally, the 2007-09, 3-year average uninsured rate for children was 10.3 percent. The 90-percent confidence interval for the nation ranged from 10.2 percent to 10.4 percent.

Comparing states using 3-year average uninsured rates for 2007-09 shows that Texas had the highest proportion of uninsured children in the nation (18.6 percent), while Massachusetts had the lowest (3.1 percent) (Table 1). However, when the 90-percent confidence intervals are taken into account, there is less statistical difference among states. For example, to be 90-percent confident in these estimates, the average for Texas could be as low as 16.8 percent or as high as 20.4 percent. Given this range, 10 other states have averages with confidence intervals overlapping that of Texas.

When examining the 2-year averages for 2007-08 and 2008-09, three states and the nation overall had change that was statistically different from zero. Texas showed a decrease in the proportion of uninsured youth by 2.5 percentage points; Illinois and Indiana showed an increase (1.3 and 1.7 percentage points, respectively) (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 2007-08 and 2008-09 averages.

Although confidence intervals can be relatively large for states such as North Dakota that have a small population base, CPS statistics are one way 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 website: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html>.

Figure 2. Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17 Without Health Insurance by State: 2007-2009 3-Year Average
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2008 to 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplements,
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html>

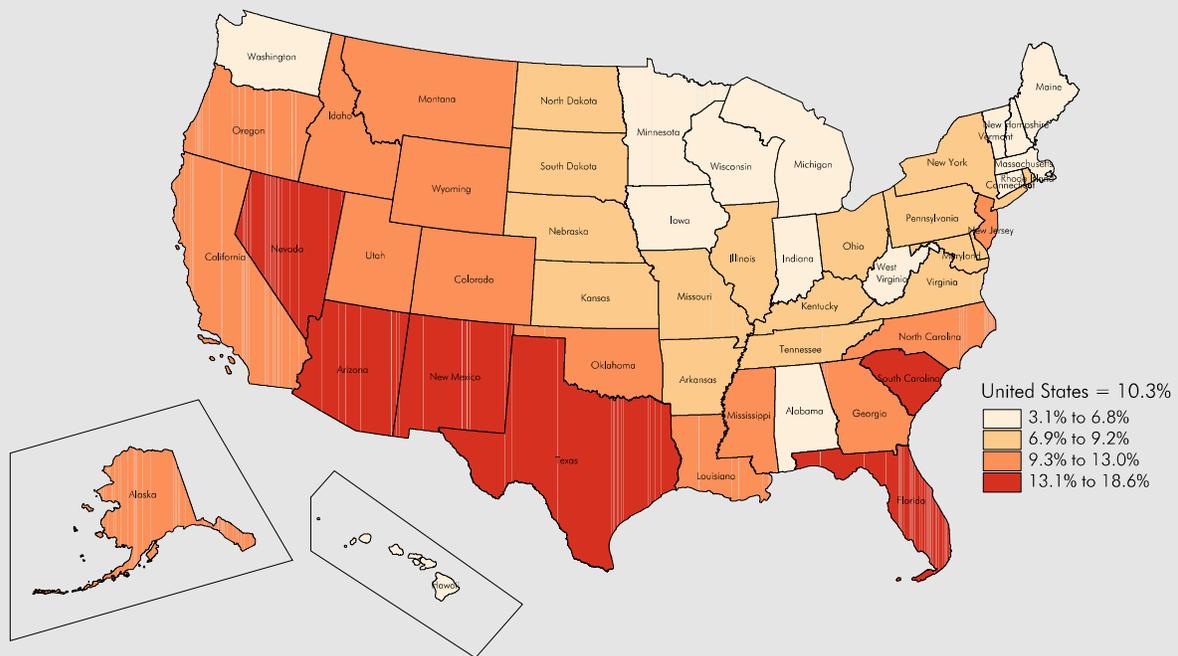


Table 1. Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17 Without Health Insurance by State Using 2- and 3-Year Averages: 2007 to 2009

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 2008-09 average is different from the 2007-08 average. For methodology, source, and accuracy of these data, visit <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2008 to 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html>

State	3-year average: 2007-2009		2-year average				Change in percentage points (2008-2009 average less 2007-2008 average) ¹	
	Percent	90% Confidence Interval	2007-2008		2008-2009		Percent	90% Confidence Interval
			Percent	90% Confidence Interval	Percent	90% Confidence Interval		
United States	10.3	10.2 to 10.4	10.5	10.4 to 10.5	10.0	9.9 to 10.0	-0.5*	-0.6 to -0.4
Alabama	6.3	3.0 to 9.6	5.5	2.8 to 8.1	5.8	2.8 to 8.7	0.3	-1.7 to 2.3
Alaska	11.9	5.6 to 18.3	13.0	6.7 to 19.2	12.2	6.3 to 18.1	-0.8	-5.1 to 3.6
Arizona	14.4	8.9 to 19.9	14.9	9.7 to 20.1	14.7	9.6 to 19.8	-0.2	-3.8 to 3.4
Arkansas	9.0	4.3 to 13.7	7.7	3.9 to 11.5	10.4	5.3 to 15.4	2.7	-0.5 to 5.8
California	10.6	9.8 to 11.4	10.6	9.9 to 11.3	10.6	9.8 to 11.4	0.0	-0.5 to 0.5
Colorado	11.6	5.4 to 17.9	12.7	6.4 to 18.9	11.0	5.5 to 16.4	-1.7	-5.9 to 2.5
Connecticut	6.1	2.4 to 9.8	5.3	2.2 to 8.4	6.6	2.8 to 10.3	1.3	-1.2 to 3.7
Delaware	8.5	3.5 to 13.5	8.3	3.8 to 12.8	9.0	4.1 to 13.8	0.6	-2.7 to 4.0
District of Columbia	6.8	0.6 to 13.0	6.3	0.9 to 11.6	7.2	1.1 to 13.2	0.9	-3.1 to 4.9
Florida	17.9	15.5 to 20.3	18.0	15.7 to 20.2	17.3	15.2 to 19.4	-0.7	-2.2 to 0.9
Georgia	11.1	8.5 to 13.7	11.0	8.7 to 13.3	10.9	8.5 to 13.3	-0.1	-1.8 to 1.6
Hawaii	4.6	1.9 to 7.2	5.1	2.4 to 7.8	4.5	2.1 to 6.8	-0.6	-2.5 to 1.2
Idaho	10.0	5.3 to 14.7	10.0	5.6 to 14.3	9.6	5.4 to 13.7	-0.4	-3.4 to 2.6
Illinois	7.4	5.8 to 8.9	6.5	5.2 to 7.8	7.8	6.2 to 9.3	1.3*	0.2 to 2.3
Indiana	6.6	4.1 to 9.1	5.6	3.6 to 7.6	7.3	4.7 to 9.9	1.7*	0.1 to 3.3
Iowa	5.3	2.0 to 8.7	5.1	2.1 to 8.0	5.6	2.4 to 8.8	0.6	-1.6 to 2.7
Kansas	8.9	3.9 to 14.0	9.4	4.6 to 14.1	9.6	4.7 to 14.4	0.2	-3.2 to 3.6
Kentucky	8.7	3.7 to 13.8	9.0	4.1 to 13.9	9.1	4.3 to 13.9	0.1	-3.3 to 3.5
Louisiana	10.7	5.1 to 16.3	11.9	6.2 to 17.6	9.9	5.0 to 14.7	-2.1	-5.8 to 1.7
Maine	4.9	0.9 to 9.0	5.4	1.3 to 9.5	4.9	1.1 to 8.6	-0.6	-3.3 to 2.2
Maryland	7.8	4.3 to 11.4	8.3	4.8 to 11.7	6.5	3.7 to 9.3	-1.8	-4.0 to 0.5
Massachusetts	3.1	1.8 to 4.4	3.2	1.9 to 4.5	3.2	1.9 to 4.4	-0.1	-1.0 to 0.9
Michigan	5.5	4.1 to 6.9	5.5	4.2 to 6.7	5.2	3.9 to 6.4	-0.3	-1.2 to 0.6
Minnesota	6.2	3.1 to 9.2	6.5	3.5 to 9.5	6.1	3.2 to 8.9	-0.5	-2.5 to 1.6
Mississippi	12.1	6.2 to 18.1	12.8	6.9 to 18.6	12.2	6.7 to 17.6	-0.6	-4.6 to 3.4
Missouri	9.0	5.4 to 12.6	8.6	5.3 to 11.9	8.3	5.2 to 11.3	-0.4	-2.6 to 1.9
Montana	11.2	4.6 to 17.8	11.6	5.2 to 17.9	10.5	4.6 to 16.3	-1.1	-5.4 to 3.2
Nebraska	8.9	3.9 to 14.0	10.1	4.8 to 15.3	8.4	4.0 to 12.8	-1.7	-5.0 to 1.7
Nevada	15.6	7.4 to 23.7	16.7	8.9 to 24.5	16.2	8.5 to 23.9	-0.5	-6.0 to 5.0
New Hampshire	4.6	1.6 to 7.7	5.1	2.0 to 8.1	3.7	1.3 to 6.1	-1.4	-3.3 to 0.6
New Jersey	11.1	7.9 to 14.4	12.1	8.9 to 15.3	10.3	7.4 to 13.1	-1.9	-4.0 to 0.3
New Mexico	15.2	6.2 to 24.2	15.8	7.2 to 24.4	15.1	7.0 to 23.1	-0.8	-6.7 to 5.2
New York	7.8	6.7 to 9.0	8.0	6.9 to 9.1	7.3	6.3 to 8.3	-0.7	-1.5 to 0.1
North Carolina	11.1	8.3 to 13.8	10.7	8.1 to 13.3	10.6	8.2 to 12.9	-0.1	-1.9 to 1.6
North Dakota	7.2	2.7 to 11.8	7.9	3.4 to 12.4	6.9	2.9 to 10.9	-1.0	-4.0 to 2.0
Ohio	7.7	6.0 to 9.4	7.2	5.6 to 8.8	7.3	5.7 to 8.8	0.1	-1.0 to 1.1
Oklahoma	10.8	5.2 to 16.4	9.9	4.9 to 14.9	9.9	4.9 to 14.9	0.0	-3.5 to 3.5
Oregon	11.4	4.1 to 18.6	11.1	4.5 to 17.7	11.8	4.8 to 18.7	0.7	-4.1 to 5.4
Pennsylvania	7.0	5.4 to 8.5	7.1	5.6 to 8.5	6.8	5.4 to 8.1	-0.3	-1.3 to 0.7
Rhode Island	7.6	2.1 to 13.0	8.4	2.9 to 13.8	7.0	2.2 to 11.7	-1.4	-5.0 to 2.2
South Carolina	13.1	6.2 to 20.0	13.5	7.0 to 20.0	12.6	6.4 to 18.7	-0.9	-5.4 to 3.5
South Dakota	8.8	4.6 to 13.0	9.0	5.0 to 12.9	9.2	5.2 to 13.1	0.2	-2.6 to 3.0
Tennessee	8.4	4.9 to 11.8	9.3	5.7 to 12.8	8.0	4.9 to 11.1	-1.3	-3.6 to 1.1
Texas	18.6	16.8 to 20.4	19.7	17.9 to 21.4	17.2	15.7 to 18.7	-2.5*	-3.6 to -1.3
Utah	10.4	6.8 to 14.0	10.0	6.7 to 13.2	10.4	7.1 to 13.7	0.5	-1.9 to 2.8
Vermont	6.3	1.5 to 11.1	6.6	1.9 to 11.3	4.7	1.1 to 8.3	-1.9	-4.9 to 1.1
Virginia	8.2	5.6 to 10.8	8.6	6.0 to 11.1	7.2	5.1 to 9.3	-1.4	-3.0 to 0.3
Washington	6.1	3.6 to 8.7	6.8	4.2 to 9.4	5.8	3.6 to 8.0	-1.0	-2.7 to 0.7
West Virginia	5.7	2.4 to 9.0	5.5	2.5 to 8.4	6.3	2.9 to 9.6	0.8	-1.4 to 3.0
Wisconsin	5.4	2.8 to 8.1	5.8	3.2 to 8.4	5.3	2.9 to 7.6	-0.6	-2.3 to 1.2
Wyoming	9.3	3.5 to 15.2	9.2	3.7 to 14.7	9.2	3.9 to 14.5	0.0	-3.8 to 3.8

Date of Release: October 19, 2010

One in 14 North Dakota Children are Uninsured

Current estimates indicate that the 2007-2009, 3-year average of uninsured children in North Dakota is 7.2 percent (approximately 11,000 children), which is roughly equivalent to 1 out of every 14 children in the state.

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's (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), a joint project between the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. 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 three-year averages to compare estimates across states and two-year averages to evaluate changes in state estimates over time. Although confidence intervals around the estimates can be relatively large for states such as North Dakota, CPS statistics are one way of estimating the number of children at risk.

Three-year averages from the 2007-2009 CPS ASEC indicate that while the majority of North Dakota children have health insurance coverage, 7.2 percent of the state's children had no form of health insurance. Nationally, 10.3 percent of children were without health insurance coverage.

Comparisons of all states using three-year average uninsured rates for 2007-09 show that Texas had the highest proportion of uninsured children in the nation (18.6 percent), while Massachusetts had the lowest (3.1 percent).

When examining the two-year averages between 2007-08 and 2008-09 for North Dakota, it appears that the proportion of uninsured children in our state decreased by a percentage point. However, because of small sample size, this amount of change is not statistically significant. This means that the difference in the two periods may be an artifact of the sample rather than a true representation of change. "Sampling error can be a difficult concept and it can be frustrating when you are trying to evaluate change over time; however, it is important to make sure we correctly interpret the data, especially when evaluating issues such as our children's health and well-being. Thus, we need to pay attention to sampling error to avoid drawing mistaken conclusions," said Richard Rathge, Director of the State Data Center.

In addition to the nation overall, only three states had a statistically significant change in the proportion of uninsured children. Texas showed a decrease in the proportion of uninsured youth by 2.5 percentage points; Illinois and Indiana showed an increase (1.3 percentage points and 1.7 percentage points, respectively).

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