Health Insurance Coverage Status of Children Ages 0 to 17: 2008 to 2010

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 2008-10, 3-year average of uninsured children was 8.0 percent, with a 90-percent confidence interval ranging from 3.0 percent to 13.0 percent (Table 1). Nationally, the 2008-10, 3-year average uninsured rate for children was 9.9 percent. The 90-percent confidence interval for the nation ranged from 9.8 percent to 10.0 percent.

Comparing states using 3-year average uninsured rates for 2008-10 shows that Texas, Nevada, and Florida had the highest proportions of uninsured children in the nation (16.9 percent, 16.6 percent, and 16.3 percent, respectively) and Massachusetts had the lowest (3.4 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 15.1 percent or as high as 18.6 percent. Given this range, 13 other states have averages with confidence intervals overlapping that of Texas.

When examining the 2-year averages for 2008-09 and 2009-10, only one state had change that was statistically different from zero; Hawaii showed a decrease in the proportion of uninsured youth by 1.5 percentage points (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 2008-09 and 2009-10 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 at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html.

Figure 2. Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17 Without Health Insurance by State: 2008-2010 3-Year Average
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2009 to 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplements,
http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html

United States = 9.9%
North Dakota = 8.0%

- 3.4% to 5.9%
- 6.0% to 8.9%
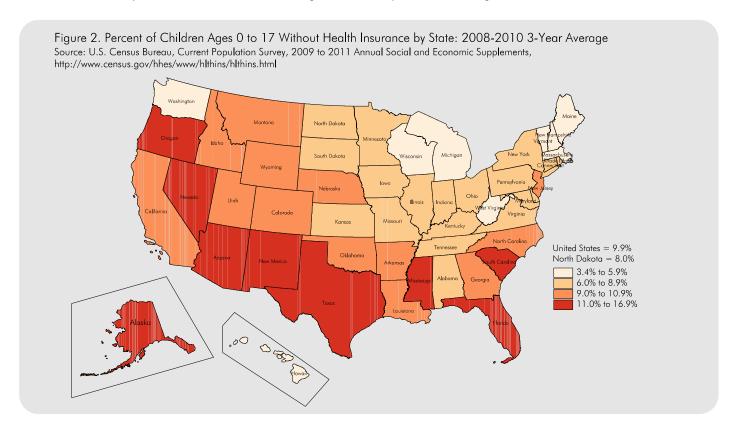- 9.0% to 10.9%
- 11.0% to 16.9%

Table 1. Percent of Children Ages 0 to 17 Without Health Insurance by State Using 2- and 3-Year Averages: 2008 to 2010

Notes: *Statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level. Since the confidence interval for this estimate does not include zero, we can conclude with 90-percent confidence that the 2009-10 average is different from the 2008-09 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, 2009 to 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html

| State | 3-year average: 2008-2010 | | 2-year average | | | | Change in percentage points (2009-2010 average less 2008-2009 average) | |
| | | | 2008-2009 | | 2009-2010 | | | |
	Percent	90% Confidence Interval	Percent	90% Confidence Interval	Percent	90% Confidence Interval	Percent	90% Confidence Interval
United States	9.9	9.8 to 10.0	10.0	9.9 to 10.0	9.9	9.8 to 10.0	-0.1	-0.1 to 0.0
Alabama	6.8	0.1 to 13.5	5.8	2.8 to 8.7	8.4	-0.3 to 17.1	2.7	-1.9 to 7.2
Alaska	12.7	5.2 to 20.2	12.2	6.3 to 18.1	11.8	4.6 to 19.0	-0.4	-5.1 to 4.3
Arizona	14.8	7.5 to 22.1	14.7	9.6 to 19.8	14.2	6.5 to 21.9	-0.5	-5.1 to 4.1
Arkansas	9.4	3.4 to 15.3	10.4	5.3 to 15.4	9.4	3.4 to 15.4	-0.9	-4.8 to 3.0
California	10.6	9.7 to 11.5	10.6	9.8 to 11.4	10.7	9.8 to 11.6	0.1	-0.5 to 0.7
Colorado	9.9	5.0 to 14.8	11.0	5.5 to 16.4	8.7	4.9 to 12.5	-2.2	-5.6 to 1.1
Connecticut	6.4	3.0 to 9.7	6.6	2.8 to 10.3	6.8	3.8 to 9.8	0.3	-2.1 to 2.7
Delaware	8.0	3.7 to 12.2	9.0	4.1 to 13.8	7.4	4.0 to 10.8	-1.6	-4.5 to 1.4
District of Columbia	6.5	0.8 to 12.1	7.2	1.1 to 13.2	6.5	1.5 to 11.6	-0.6	-4.5 to 3.3
Florida	16.3	13.6 to 19.0	17.3	15.2 to 19.4	16.1	13.3 to 18.8	-1.2	-3.0 to 0.5
Georgia	10.6	7.4 to 13.7	10.9	8.5 to 13.3	10.6	7.3 to 13.9	-0.3	-2.3 to 1.7
Hawaii	3.7	1.7 to 5.8	4.5	2.1 to 6.8	2.9	1.5 to 4.3	-1.5*	-2.9 to -0.2
Idaho	9.4	3.8 to 15.0	9.6	5.4 to 13.7	9.6	3.7 to 15.6	0.1	-3.6 to 3.7
Illinois	7.7	5.7 to 9.7	7.8	6.2 to 9.3	8.4	6.3 to 10.4	0.6	-0.7 to 1.9
Indiana	6.9	3.2 to 10.6	7.3	4.7 to 9.9	7.3	3.2 to 11.4	0.0	-2.4 to 2.5
Iowa	6.2	1.9 to 10.5	5.6	2.4 to 8.8	6.6	2.1 to 11.2	1.0	-1.8 to 3.9
Kansas	8.9	3.4 to 14.3	9.6	4.7 to 14.4	7.8	2.9 to 12.7	-1.8	-5.2 to 1.7
Kentucky	8.3	3.8 to 12.9	9.1	4.3 to 13.9	7.5	3.8 to 11.1	-1.6	-4.6 to 1.4
Louisiana	9.6	3.8 to 15.4	9.9	5.0 to 14.7	8.7	3.2 to 14.2	-1.1	-4.8 to 2.5
Maine	4.7	1.5 to 7.9	4.9	1.1 to 8.6	4.2	1.8 to 6.5	-0.7	-2.8 to 1.5
Maryland	7.4	3.8 to 11.0	6.5	3.7 to 9.3	8.1	4.4 to 11.9	1.6	-0.7 to 4.0
Massachusetts	3.4	1.7 to 5.0	3.2	1.9 to 4.4	3.3	1.6 to 5.0	0.2	-0.9 to 1.2
Michigan	5.1	3.9 to 6.4	5.2	3.9 to 6.4	5.4	4.1 to 6.6	0.2	-0.6 to 1.1
Minnesota	6.0	3.4 to 8.6	6.1	3.2 to 8.9	5.7	3.6 to 7.8	-0.3	-2.1 to 1.4
Mississippi	12.6	3.2 to 21.9	12.2	6.7 to 17.6	12.1	1.7 to 22.6	0.0	-5.9 to 5.9
Missouri	8.5	2.0 to 14.9	8.3	5.2 to 11.3	9.3	1.3 to 17.3	1.1	-3.2 to 5.4
Montana	9.9	4.1 to 15.8	10.5	4.6 to 16.3	9.6	4.4 to 14.8	-0.8	-4.7 to 3.1
Nebraska	9.0	4.2 to 13.9	8.4	4.0 to 12.8	8.5	4.2 to 12.8	0.1	-3.0 to 3.1
Nevada	16.6	8.2 to 25.1	16.2	8.5 to 23.9	15.4	7.8 to 23.0	-0.8	-6.2 to 4.6
New Hampshire	4.3	1.8 to 6.8	3.7	1.3 to 6.1	4.6	2.3 to 7.0	0.9	-0.7 to 2.6
New Jersey	9.9	6.8 to 13.0	10.3	7.4 to 13.1	9.2	6.4 to 12.0	-1.1	-3.1 to 0.9
New Mexico	14.6	5.0 to 24.2	15.1	7.0 to 23.1	13.8	4.6 to 23.1	-1.2	-7.4 to 5.0
New York	7.5	6.1 to 8.9	7.3	6.3 to 8.3	7.7	6.2 to 9.2	0.4	-0.5 to 1.3
North Carolina	10.1	7.3 to 12.8	10.6	8.2 to 12.9	10.5	7.7 to 13.3	-0.1	-1.9 to 1.8
North Dakota	**8.0**	**3.0 to 13.0**	**6.9**	**2.9 to 10.9**	**8.1**	**3.2 to 13.0**	**1.2**	**-2.0 to 4.3**
Ohio	7.6	5.8 to 9.4	7.3	5.7 to 8.8	8.5	6.6 to 10.3	1.2	0.0 to 2.4
Oklahoma	10.6	5.1 to 16.1	9.9	4.9 to 14.9	12.3	6.6 to 17.9	2.4	-1.4 to 6.1
Oregon	11.3	4.6 to 18.0	11.8	4.8 to 18.7	11.1	5.3 to 17.0	-0.6	-5.1 to 3.9
Pennsylvania	7.2	4.9 to 9.6	6.8	5.4 to 8.1	7.5	4.8 to 10.2	0.8	-0.8 to 2.3
Rhode Island	6.4	2.2 to 10.6	7.0	2.2 to 11.7	5.7	2.5 to 8.8	-1.3	-4.1 to 1.5
South Carolina	13.1	5.4 to 20.8	12.6	6.4 to 18.7	13.3	5.5 to 21.0	0.7	-4.2 to 5.7
South Dakota	8.3	4.6 to 12.0	9.2	5.2 to 13.1	7.5	4.5 to 10.5	-1.7	-4.2 to 0.8
Tennessee	8.0	4.2 to 11.7	8.0	4.9 to 11.1	7.2	3.6 to 10.8	-0.8	-3.1 to 1.6
Texas	16.9	15.1 to 18.6	17.2	15.7 to 18.7	16.4	14.8 to 18.0	-0.8	-1.9 to 0.3
Utah	10.7	6.3 to 15.2	10.4	7.1 to 13.7	11.4	6.7 to 16.0	1.0	-1.9 to 3.8
Vermont	4.5	0.9 to 8.1	4.7	1.1 to 8.3	4.8	1.4 to 8.3	0.1	-2.4 to 2.6
Virginia	7.6	4.9 to 10.2	7.2	5.1 to 9.3	7.9	5.2 to 10.5	0.7	-1.0 to 2.4
Washington	5.8	3.7 to 8.0	5.8	3.6 to 8.0	5.3	3.6 to 7.1	-0.5	-1.9 to 0.9
West Virginia	5.1	2.2 to 8.0	6.3	2.9 to 9.6	4.5	2.2 to 6.8	-1.8	-3.8 to 0.2
Wisconsin	5.0	3.0 to 7.1	5.3	2.9 to 7.6	4.6	3.1 to 6.1	-0.6	-2.0 to 0.8
Wyoming	9.5	4.1 to 15.0	9.2	3.9 to 14.5	9.9	4.9 to 14.8	0.7	-2.9 to 4.3

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One in 12 North Dakota Children are Uninsured

Current estimates indicate that the 2008-2010, 3-year average of uninsured children in North Dakota was 8.0 percent (approximately 12,000 children), which is roughly equivalent to 1 out of every 12 children in the state. Nationally, 9.9 percent of children were without health insurance coverage.

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.

Comparisons of all states using three-year average uninsured rates for 2008-10 show that Texas had the highest proportion of uninsured children in the nation (16.9 percent) and Massachusetts had the lowest (3.4 percent). North Dakota's rate for uninsured children ranked in the middle of the 50 states

When examining the two-year averages between 2008-09 and 2009-10 for North Dakota, it appears that the proportion of uninsured children in our state increased by 1.2 percentage points. 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," said Richard Rathge, director of the State Data Center.

Only one state, Hawaii, had a statistically significant change in the proportion of uninsured children - a decrease of 1.5 percentage points from 2008-09 to 2009-10.

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