



Research Brief

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases Data on Health Insurance Coverage for States and Counties; 1.2 Million Pennsylvanians Under 65 Lack Coverage

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released estimates on the number of people covered by health insurance for states and counties. The Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) provide information for various age groups, including adults under the age of 65 and children under the age of 19, on health insurance coverage for 2007.

The SAHIE data shows that of the 10,422,502 Pennsylvanians under 65, there were an estimated 1,167,286 people without health insurance in 2007, or 11.2 percent of that population.

Pennsylvania ranked 10th nationally in the number of people under the age of 65 without health insurance and 44th nationally in the percent of that age group without health insurance coverage. California led the nation with the most people under 65 without coverage (6.5 million); and Texas had the highest percentage of persons under 65 without health insurance coverage, at 26.8 percent.

Of the 2,955,274 children under the age of 19 in Pennsylvania, 208,932 (or 7.1 percent) were without health insurance in 2007. Pennsylvania ranked 10th nationally in the number and 39th nationally in the percent of children without health insurance. Texas had the highest number (1.4 million) and highest percent (19.5) of children without health insurance.

Of Pennsylvania's Hispanic population under 65 in 2007, approximately 24.4 percent (or 133,642 persons) were uninsured. Of Pennsylvania's Black alone (not Hispanic) population under 65, 15.3 percent (or 169,945 persons) were uninsured. Pennsylvania's White alone (not Hispanic) population under 65 included 9.6 percent uninsured (or 806,011 persons). Hispanic ethnicity is separate from race. SAHIE does not include all race categories: the three categories do not sum to the total for that age group.

At the county level, Philadelphia had the most people under 65 without health insurance in 2007 (135,929). Allegheny County had the second highest number of people without health insurance (98,501), followed by Montgomery (61,176). Cameron County has the least number of people without coverage (475).

Centre County had the highest percent of people without health insurance at 22.3 percent (see Table 1). Sullivan County had the second highest percent of people without coverage (19.9), followed by Wayne County (15.5). Montour County has the lowest percent of people without coverage, 9.0 percent.

Table 1
Persons Under 65, Number and Percent Without Health Insurance, 2007
Top 5 Ranking Counties and Lowest Ranking County: Pennsylvania

Rank	County	Number	Rank	County	Percent
1	Philadelphia	135,929	1	Centre	22.3
2	Allegheny	98,501	2	Sullivan	19.9
3	Montgomery	61,176	3	Wayne	15.5
4	Lancaster	56,449	4	Forest	15.5
5	Bucks	53,817	5	Pike	15.2
67	Cameron	475	67	Montour	9.0

Philadelphia had the most children (under the age of 19) without health insurance coverage with 19,201. Second was Lancaster County with 16,242, followed by Allegheny (14,721). Cameron County has the lowest number of children with coverage (78).

Sullivan County had the highest percent of children without health insurance coverage at 16.2 percent. The second highest percent was Juniata (15.5) followed by Forest (12.7). Philadelphia County has the smallest proportion of children without coverage, at 5.1 percent (see Table 2).

Table 2
Persons Under 19, Number and Percent Without Health Insurance, 2007
Top 5 Ranking Counties and Lowest Ranking County: Pennsylvania

Rank	County	Number	Rank	County	Percent
1	Philadelphia	19,201	1	Sullivan	16.2
2	Lancaster	16,242	2	Juniata	15.5
3	Allegheny	14,721	3	Forest	12.7
4	Montgomery	12,443	4	Lancaster	12.2
5	Bucks	11,303	5	Fulton	11.8
67	Cameron	78	67	Philadelphia	5.1

SAHIE is the only dataset that currently provides health insurance coverage data for all U.S. counties. The American Community Survey also contains data on health insurance coverage, but not all counties have data available; the 2008-2012 American Community Survey release in late 2013 will provide health insurance coverage data for all counties. To view the Census Bureau's Web site on Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, visit:

<http://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/index.html>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.