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California's Uninsured by County

Nearly One-Third of Residents in Los Angeles County, the San Joaquin Valley, and the Northern/Sierra Counties Lacked Health Insurance in 2009

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The number of Californians without health insurance grew in all counties and 37 counties – from Imperial to Kern to Shasta – had uninsured rates above the statewide average of 24.3%, according to 2009 estimates. The lack of health insurance among so many was due to sharp increases in local unemployment and the corresponding drops in both household income and job-based coverage.

Los Angeles County had the largest total number of uninsured residents, with 2.7 million nonelderly adults and children (28.9% of the total population) experiencing some period of uninsurance in 2009. The rate of job-based coverage in Los Angeles County was also relatively low, at 43.3%. On the other end of the spectrum, counties in the Bay Area and the Central Coast Region had the lowest rates of uninsurance (under 19%) and the highest rates of job-based coverage (over 60%). These figures reflect the benefits of some of the lowest unemployment rates in the state.

Job loss, foreclosures, and loss of insurance coverage have combined in many areas of the state to make families vulnerable to prolonged financial as well as health problems. Yet, major elements of health care reform aimed at helping middle- and lower-income families will not go into effect until 2014. Included among these provisions are federal subsidies for purchasing health insurance through a state-based health insurance exchange and a

federally funded expansion of Medi-Cal. Given the ongoing effects of the recession throughout California, every effort should be made to help families in need even sooner than 2014.

Data Source

The results above are based on projected estimates of 2009 insurance status from a predictive model that simulated 2009 insurance status using changes in unemployment rates by county from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) and the 2007 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). Based on the increase in the county unemployment rate, the model simultaneously predicted the increase in the number of households with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and the rates of job-based coverage, public coverage through Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, and other insurance in three separate models, after controlling for demographic characteristics. In the public coverage model, the reported increases in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families in the administrative data from 2007 to 2009 were used as an adjustment factor. The uninsured rate was derived by subtracting the total percentage of these three types of coverage from 100%. The population totals for 2009 are from California Department of Finance population projections for nonelderly adults and children.

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This publication contains data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the nation's largest state health survey. Conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, CHIS data gives a detailed picture of the health and health care needs of California's large and diverse population. Learn more at:
www.chis.ucla.edu

Exhibit 1

Insurance Status and Type During the Past 12 Months by Region and County, Ages 0-64, California, 2009

County	Job-Based Coverage All Year	Medi-Cal/ Healthy Families All Year	Other Coverage All Year*	Uninsured All or Part Year	Total Population
All California	50.1%	16.3%	9.3%	24.3%	34,387,000
Northern and Sierra Counties					
Butte	40.8%	17.1%	17.4%	24.7%	194,000
Tuolumne, Inyo, Calaveras, Amador, Mariposa, Mono, Alpine	51.6%	10.5%	10.0%	27.9%	158,000
Shasta	36.6%	22.0%	8.6%	32.7%	159,000
Sutter	47.1%	24.4%	5.7%	22.8%	88,000
Del Norte, Siskiyou, Lassen, Trinity, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra	40.1%	21.6%	8.6%	29.7%	139,000
Humboldt	42.4%	18.0%	16.1%	23.5%	117,000
Tehama, Glenn, Colusa	34.2%	26.5%	11.4%	27.9%	102,000
Nevada	53.3%	7.3%	14.1%	25.3%	83,000
Mendocino	30.5%	24.7%	19.5%	25.4%	79,000
Yuba	40.1%	24.7%	7.5%	27.7%	71,000
Lake	39.1%	23.8%	10.5%	26.7%	53,000
Greater Bay Area					
Santa Clara	60.6%	10.9%	9.0%	19.5%	1,613,000
Alameda	60.7%	14.8%	9.5%	15.0%	1,369,000
Contra Costa	62.4%	11.3%	9.0%	17.3%	932,000
San Francisco	62.9%	10.1%	9.8%	17.2%	700,000
San Mateo	66.0%	6.1%	13.6%	14.3%	640,000
Sonoma	55.2%	11.1%	15.6%	18.2%	430,000
Solano	53.9%	15.7%	10.1%	20.3%	390,000
Marin	56.9%	8.6%	18.2%	16.3%	212,000
Napa	61.8%	10.5%	10.5%	17.2%	120,000
Sacramento Area					
Sacramento	56.7%	17.6%	8.2%	17.6%	1,276,000
Placer	67.3%	3.5%	14.2%	15.0%	292,000
Yolo	65.6%	8.3%	6.2%	20.0%	183,000
El Dorado	54.6%	6.0%	19.1%	20.4%	160,000
San Joaquin Valley					
Fresno	43.2%	27.6%	4.8%	24.4%	875,000
Kern	38.8%	24.4%	7.5%	29.3%	780,000
San Joaquin	44.9%	18.1%	8.9%	28.2%	652,000
Stanislaus	43.7%	19.8%	7.7%	28.7%	494,000
Tulare	33.0%	32.4%	9.0%	25.6%	414,000
Merced	32.0%	30.7%	5.7%	31.6%	244,000
Kings	40.9%	23.4%	7.5%	28.3%	149,000
Madera	34.4%	27.5%	6.1%	32.0%	140,000
Central Coast					
Ventura	55.1%	12.8%	10.8%	21.2%	750,000
Monterey	40.0%	21.8%	9.0%	29.3%	383,000
Santa Barbara	52.8%	16.1%	11.9%	19.3%	376,000
Santa Cruz	44.7%	14.6%	18.5%	22.3%	241,000
San Luis Obispo	53.6%	9.2%	14.5%	22.7%	226,000
San Benito	52.5%	13.9%	7.6%	25.9%	57,000
Los Angeles	43.3%	19.6%	8.2%	28.9%	9,313,000
Other Southern California					
Orange	55.0%	11.4%	10.3%	23.3%	2,843,000
San Diego	56.0%	11.2%	9.9%	22.9%	2,824,000
San Bernardino	50.2%	17.8%	6.9%	25.1%	1,949,000
Riverside	47.2%	15.3%	9.4%	28.0%	1,952,000
Imperial	35.6%	28.5%	5.2%	30.6%	165,000

Notes:

*"Other Coverage" includes: 1) individually purchased private coverage, 2) other public coverage, such as Medicare, and 3) any combination of insurance types during the past year without a period of uninsurance.

Not all numbers will add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Rates are predicted estimates from a simulation model based on the 2007 California Health Interview Survey and 2007/2009 California Employment Development Department data.

Funder Information

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