



Michigan Household Health Insurance Survey Highlights

The following text highlights some of the major findings of the Michigan Household Health Insurance Survey, conducted from December 2004 through August 2005, as part of the federally funded State Planning Project for the Uninsured. The Michigan Department of Community Health contracted with the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) to collect information describing Michigan's uninsured and some of the common circumstances creating barriers to Michiganians securing health insurance.

WHO ARE MICHIGAN'S UNINSURED?

During 2005, nearly 800,000 or 7.8% of Michigan residents lacked health insurance. The uninsured rate in Michigan varies considerably by age, with 10.9% of adults aged 18 to 64, and 3.7% of children under the age of 18 being uninsured. Over 26% of the uninsured are between the ages of 20 and 29 (Figure 1).

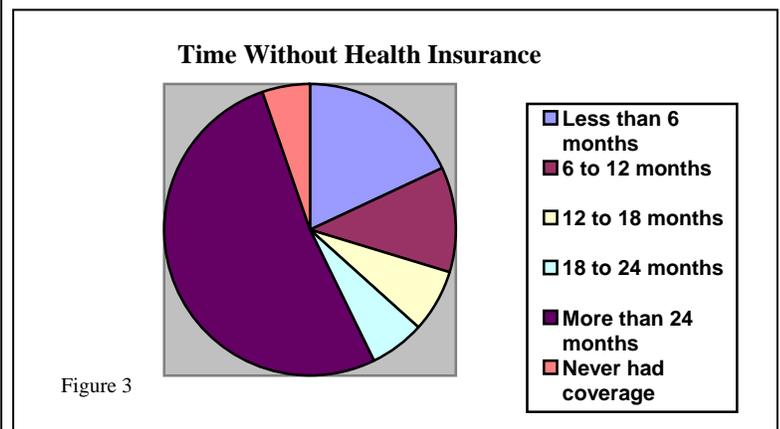
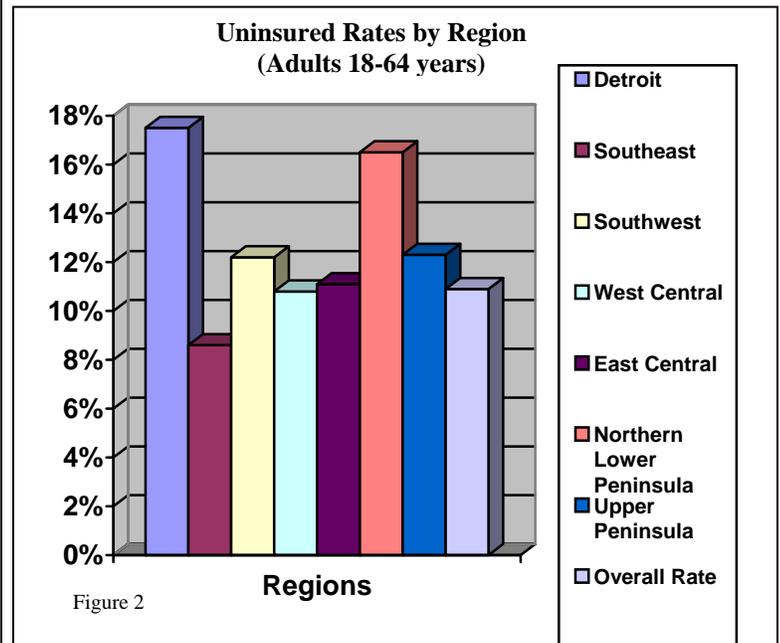
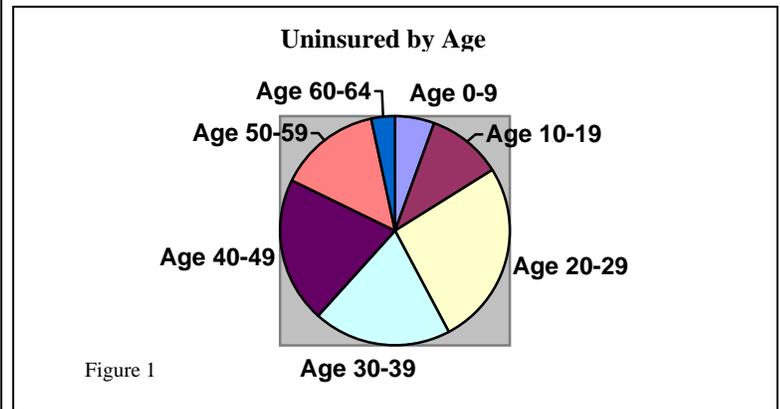
The uninsured rate also varies among different regions within the state (Figure 2). The City of Detroit has the highest adult uninsured regional rate at 17.5%, with the Northern Lower Peninsula following closely with 16.5% uninsured. The lowest rate, 8.6%, is found in southeast Michigan, not including the City of Detroit. The uninsured rate for children, however, is more evenly distributed throughout the state, ranging from a low of 2.8% uninsured in the Upper Peninsula to a high of 4.8% of children uninsured in East Central Michigan.

The majority (52%) of Michigan's uninsured have gone without coverage for a period of at least two years (Figure 3). Among the 89.1% of adults and 96.3% of children with health insurance, employer-based coverage was the primary source of health insurance. About 81% of insured adults and 71% of insured children receive coverage through employer plans.

A belief persists that those without health insurance are largely the unemployed. The Household Survey found, however, that 80% of uninsured households include at least one adult who is either employed by others, or is self-employed. Of those households, 73% include a member working 40 or more hours per week.

The survey found that residents with the lowest annual family incomes do not have the highest rate of uninsurance. Those with annual incomes of less than \$10,000 have an uninsured rate of 18.8%, while those with incomes between \$10,000 and \$15,000 have the highest rate at 25.5%. The uninsured rate drops to 20.5% for those with incomes from \$15,000 to \$25,000 and continues to decrease with higher annual incomes until, at \$75,000 or more, the rate of uninsurance is 2.7%.

Incomes for more than one quarter of Michigan's uninsured are below the Federal Poverty Level (FLP). A total of 63% of Michigan's uninsured live below 200% of the federal poverty level.



BARRIERS TO SECURING HEALTH INSURANCE

About two-thirds of uninsured adults report that the primary reason they are uninsured is because they can't afford coverage, or they've lost or left a job that provided health insurance. An estimated 60,000 households with employed workers are eligible for coverage but do not take it, primarily because they cannot afford their share of the cost.

The industry in which people work makes a difference as to whether or not they have health insurance. The uninsured are found disproportionately working in service jobs. The size of employer also matters. Michigan's uninsured are more likely to work for small employers. Forty-one percent of the uninsured work for employers with less than 10 employees.

Almost 93% of households with an uninsured individual indicated a willingness to pay something for basic coverage through an employer-based plan. Over 35% would be willing to pay up to \$50 per month and another 30% would be willing to pay between \$50 and \$100 per month; 27% are willing to pay more than \$100 per month (Figure 4).

Similarly, over 90% of uninsured household respondents would be willing to pay for a government-sponsored basic coverage plan, with 41% willing to pay up to \$50 per month and another 30% willing to pay between \$50 and \$100 per month; 19% are willing to pay more than \$100 per month (Figure 5).

Michigan's uninsured have a positive attitude toward government-sponsored health insurance programs for their children. Nearly all (over 92%) of respondents from households with an uninsured child would enroll them in a government-sponsored health insurance program requiring no monthly premium. A slightly higher percentage, 94%, would enroll in such a program requiring a \$5 monthly premium.

Of the uninsured, over half (55%) of adults and 27% of children experienced a time in the past year when they needed to see a doctor but could not afford it. Nearly 40% of uninsured adults and 18% of uninsured children have no regular source for medical care.

Concern among the uninsured about the cost of health care far exceeds their concern about not being able to get the medical care they need, with nearly half (49%) of the uninsured adults most concerned about not being able to pay for their own health care (Figure 6).

**Willingness to Pay for Employer-Based Health Insurance
(Amount per Month)**

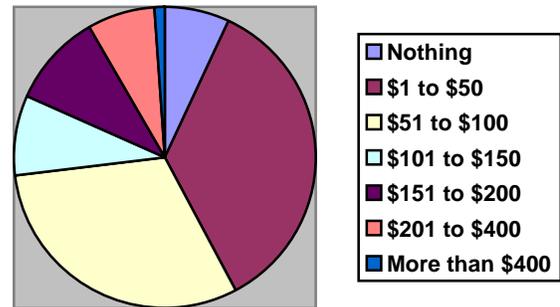


Figure 4

**Willing to Pay for Government-Sponsored Health Insurance
(Adults 18-64 years)**

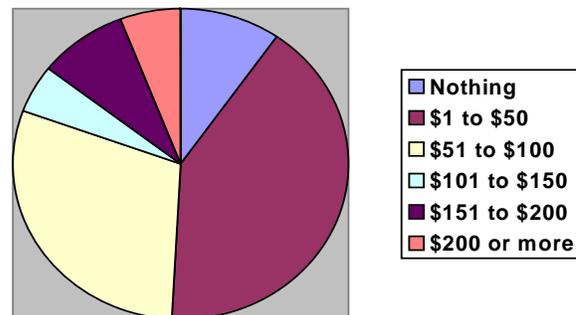


Figure 5

**Most Worrisome Concerns About Not Having Health Insurance
(Adults 18-64 years)**

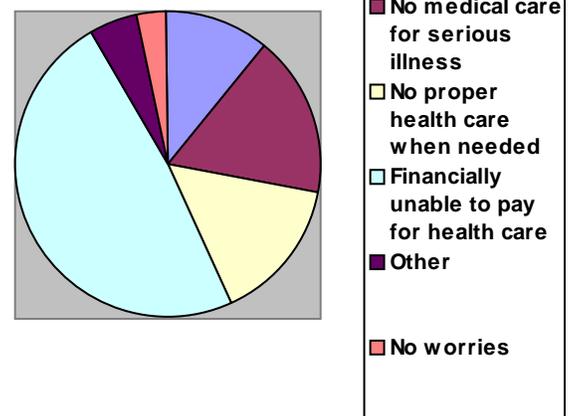


Figure 6