



Characteristics of the Uninsured and Individuals with Select Health Insurance Coverage in Michigan

Health Insurance Coverage at a Glance

The Michigan Department of Community Health is pleased to present a series of briefs highlighting the 2007 report on the *Characteristics of the Uninsured and Individuals with Select Health Insurance Coverage in Michigan*.

One out of eight non-elderly Michiganians is uninsured according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2003-2005 Current Population Survey. However, the distribution of the uninsured varies significantly among various age groups. In Michigan, the uninsured rate for children is 5.7 percent, but 15.6 percent for adults. Young adults have the highest rate of uninsurance, with one in three individuals in their early twenties being uninsured. Among those between ages 25 and 29, this increases to one in four.

Health insurance coverage is critical to keeping people healthy. Studies have shown that having Michigan residents without insurance coverage is detrimental to both to those without coverage, and to those with health insurance. The cost of health insurance is higher because of cost shifting from the uninsured.

Percent Uninsured by Age				
Age Group	Michigan		U.S.	
	1999/2001	2003/05	1999/2001	2003/05
Infants	12.6%	5.9%	14.1%	12.5%
1-5	7.0%	5.1%	11.6%	9.8%
6-12	8.1%	4.8%	12.1%	10.6%
13-17	8.8%	7.3%	13.7%	12.8%
Children	8.2%	5.7%	12.5%	11.2%
18-20	15.7%	18.0%	24.6%	25.1%
21-24	27.9%	33.9%	32.1%	34.7%
25-29	19.5%	24.3%	26.6%	29.7%
30-44	12.4%	14.1%	17.3%	20.0%
45-54	9.1%	11.6%	12.9%	14.9%
55-64	9.1%	9.7%	13.7%	13.3%
Adults	13.2%	15.6%	18.6%	20.4%
0-64	11.7%	12.7%	16.8%	17.7%

Source: CPS Data Files (1999-2005), Employee Benefit Research Institute.

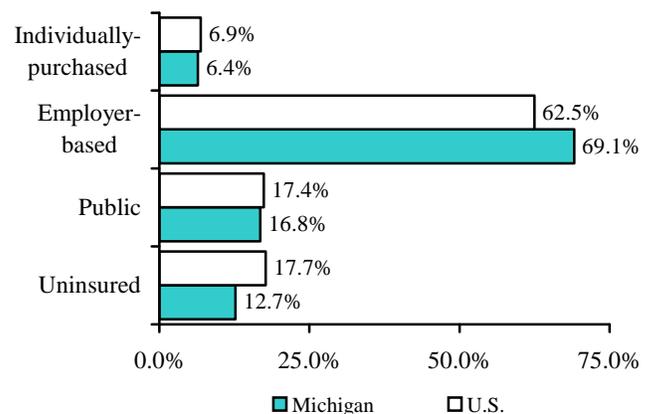
As the chart above demonstrates, Michigan compares favorably with the rest of the United States in the percentage of residents having insurance. Michigan children are almost half as likely to be uninsured as children in the rest of the nation and uninsured rates for adults are only three-quarters of those experienced in other states.

Also, the percentage of individuals without insurance has been increasing over time both in Michigan and throughout the United States. One bright spot is that the

incidence of uninsurance among Michigan's children declined by 2.5 percentage points between 1999-2001 and 2003-2005. A smaller, 1.3 percent reduction was realized throughout the rest of the nation. Unfortunately, during this same time period, increases in rates of uninsurance of 2.4 percent and 1.8 percent were seen for adults in Michigan and the United States respectively. These increases were largely due to reductions in the availability of employer-based coverage which decreased by 4.4 percent between 1999-2001 and 2003-2005 in Michigan and by 3.6 percent in the rest of the nation.

Employer-based coverage is still the dominant source of health insurance. Over 70 percent of adults and 68 percent of children in Michigan have employer-based health insurance. Interestingly, only 47 percent of individuals with employer-based insurance have it in their own name; the other 53 percent are dependents. Only a small segment of Michigan's population has individually-purchased health insurance, with 8.5 percent of children and 5.5 percent of adults having such coverage. Meanwhile, 27.1 percent of children and 8.6 percent of adults are covered by Medicaid and 2.9 percent of non-elderly Michigan residents have other public coverage such as Medicare, MICHild or military health care.

Health Insurance Coverage by Type
Non-elderly Michiganians
2003-2005



Note: Public coverage includes Medicaid, Medicare, MICHild and military health care.

Note: Totals more than 100% because some individuals have more than one type of insurance.

Rates of uninsurance also vary by race. In Michigan, Whites have an uninsured rate of 11.1 percent, Blacks have a rate of 18.7 percent and 19.5 percent of Hispanics are uninsured. These rate discrepancies are mirrored and magnified at the national level, with rates of uninsurance being 13 percent for Whites, 20.9 percent for Blacks and 34.1 percent for Hispanics.

Women in Michigan are somewhat more likely to have insurance than men, with uninsured rates of 14.1 and 17.2 percent respectively, primarily because more women are eligible for public coverage due to pregnancy or because they have minor children.

Rates of uninsurance are inversely related to income. Families whose income is below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level are almost four times more likely to be uninsured than families whose income exceeds 399 percent of poverty.

Percent Uninsured by Family Income		
Family Income as % of Poverty	Michigan	U.S.
	2003-2005	2003-2005
0 - 99%	25.3%	33.7%
100 – 149%	22.9%	31.8%
150 – 199%	18.4%	28.0%
200 – 399%	11.8%	16.8%
≥ 400%	6.4%	7.7%
ALL	12.7%	17.7%

A major reason low-income families are uninsured is because employers typically do not provide health coverage to low wage-earners. Only 16 percent of individuals living in homes below 100 percent of poverty have employer-based coverage and only 37.2 percent of family members with incomes between 100 and 149 percent of poverty have such coverage. The incidence of having employer-based coverage increases to 88.7 percent in homes with incomes above 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

The following chart demonstrates a positive correlation between education and rates of insurance. The likelihood of being insured increases with higher education. Michigan families headed by an individual with a high school education have an uninsured rate of 15.2 percent, while family members in a household headed by a person with at least a bachelor's degree have an uninsured rate of 6.6 percent. Additionally, families headed by individuals at all

levels of educational attainment in Michigan tend to be less likely to be at risk of being uninsured than similar families nationally.

Percent Uninsured by Education Attainment of Family Head		
Education Level of Family Head	Michigan	U.S.
	2003-2005	2003-2005
No High School	24.4%	42.8%
Some High School	24.4%	32.2%
High School Graduate	15.2%	20.8%
Some College	14.2%	16.5%
Associate Degree	7.6%	12.4%
Bachelor's Degree	7.1%	9.3%
Master's Degree	5.5%	5.9%
Professional School	7.7%	6.9%
Doctorate Degree	4.3%	6.3%
ALL	12.7%	17.7%

Members of Michigan families headed by a married couple have an uninsured rate of 8.8 percent while those headed by a single person have a rate of 20.4 percent. One in ten individuals in a family headed by a full-time worker is uninsured, while those in families headed by part-time workers are twice as likely to be uninsured. Families headed by workers in larger firms are half as likely to be uninsured as households with workers at firms of less than 100 workers, with rates of 8.2 and 16.2 percent respectively. The self-employed are three times more likely to be uninsured than workers in the public sector and twice as likely as those working in the private sector.

Information and reports from the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), and the U.S. Census Bureau were used in development of this brief.

Estimates are based on the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Preliminary tabulations and analysis for this report were provided by the EBRI. For more information on the CPS, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov. Three-year averages are used for most comparisons to eliminate year-to-year fluctuations and improve reliability. For more information about this report and other health insurance estimates for Michigan, call the Department of Community Health at (517) 241-2966.

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Profile of the Uninsured
Percent of Non-elderly Uninsured, CPS 2003-2005 Average

