

# State Health Insurance Estimates From the Census Bureau

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# Census Bureau Sources of State Health Insurance Data

- CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)
- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) Program
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

## Current Population Survey (CPS ASEC)

### Background:

- Congress directed the Census Bureau to ask questions to gauge the impact of noncash benefits; questions about health benefits added in 1980
- Census Bureau first published estimates on the uninsured included in 1991 income report

## CPS ASEC: Characteristics

- Based on approx. 78,000 households interviewed in February-April, either in person or over the phone
- Sample is state-representative, and multi-year state averages are published annually
- Questions ask about any coverage in previous calendar year
- Initial screening questions are household-based

## CPS ASEC: Latest Estimates (Released in August 2008)

- 15.3 percent of persons lacked insurance in 2007, down from 15.8 percent in 2006
- 11.0 percent of children lacked insurance, down from 11.7 percent in 2006
- The percentage of persons covered by private insurance was 67.5 percent, down from 67.9 percent in 2006

## CPS ASEC: Latest Estimates (Released in August 2008) cont.

- The percentage of persons with public coverage was 27.8 percent, up from 27.0 percent in 2006
- Based on 3-year 2005-2007 averages, state uninsured rates ranged from 8.3 percent (HI, MA) to 24.4 percent (TX)
- 7 out of the 10 states with increases in uninsured rates between 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 were in the South or Midwest

## CPS ASEC: Strengths

- Long time series
- Data, reports, and tabulations are released quickly
- Large, state-representative sample
- High quality data on economic well-being, income and benefits received, work experience, and labor force status
- Data file is popular and easy to use
- High response rate

## CPS ASEC: Limitations

- Health insurance is not a survey focus
- Long (14-16 month) recall period
- Compared to other estimates based on shorter recall periods (SIPP, MEPS), CPS annual estimates of the uninsured are generally higher
- Limited flexibility for adding new content

## American Community Survey (ACS)

- Replacement for Census Long Form
- About 3 million addresses annually
- Mailout survey with CATI/CAPI follow-up for nonrespondents
- Health insurance questions added in 2008
- First estimates will be released in 2009 for nation, states, and all geographic areas of 65,000 or more
- Person-based questions that cover current coverage status

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## ACS Health Coverage Questionnaire Development


- ACS Content Test conducted in 2006
- Two types of questions were tested:
  - o Yes-No screener question about any coverage, followed by questions on type(s) of coverage for those who responded “yes”
  - o Eight separate yes-no questions about types of insurance
- Evaluation compared results to a more detailed set of questions asked in a follow-up interview
- The eight separate questions worked better

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## 2008 ACS Paper Questionnaire Questions

Is this person **CURRENTLY** covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans? Mark "Yes" or "No" for EACH type of coverage in items a - h.

	Yes	No
a. Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. TRICARE or other military health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Indian Health Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan - Specify 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ACS Strengths

- Sample size that allows the eventual publication of estimates for all geographic areas and small population subgroups
- Quick publication turnaround time
- Relatively rich dataset in terms of other content (income, poverty, industry, occupation, educational attainment, work status, disability status, etc.)
- Questions ask about current health coverage status and are close to the beginning of the survey

## ACS Limitations

- Extremely limited flexibility for content additions or changes
- Paper questionnaire allows no ability to fashion probes that ask about specific state programs or ask questions of specific universes (children, for example)
- Health insurance is not a survey focus

## Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) Program

- Model-Based Estimates
- Recently released estimates for 2005 for every county in the U.S. by age, sex, and income/poverty ratio
- Combines the CPS ASEC with other sources
- Funding Provided by CDC

## Data Sources

- CPS ASEC
- Census 2000
- Population Estimates
- County Business Patterns
- SCHIP Participation
- Food Stamps administrative data
- IRS data
- Medicaid administrative data

## 2005 SAHIE Release

- Estimates for all counties:
  - o Uninsured persons by income/poverty ratio (200 or 250 percent), sex, and age
- Estimates for all states:
  - o Uninsured persons by income/poverty ratio (200 and 250 percent), sex, age, and race/ethnicity

Hot Report - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: http://smpbf11.dsd.census.gov/TheDataWeb\_HotReport/Servlet/HotReportEngineServlet?reportid=13db72e40f553a784d93a859445c

## Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

Main | About SAHIE | Data | Methodology | Feedback | Publications | Related Sites | Print Version

**In this section**

- Data Main Page
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Status for States and Counties: 2005
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Status for States: 2001
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Status for Counties and States: 2000

### 2005 Health Insurance Coverage Status for Counties

Create one detailed table by making one selection from each list below:

State:  Sex:

Age:  Income:

#### 2005 Health Insurance Coverage Status in Alabama for Age (Under 65 years ), Income (All income levels ) and Sex (Both Sexes )

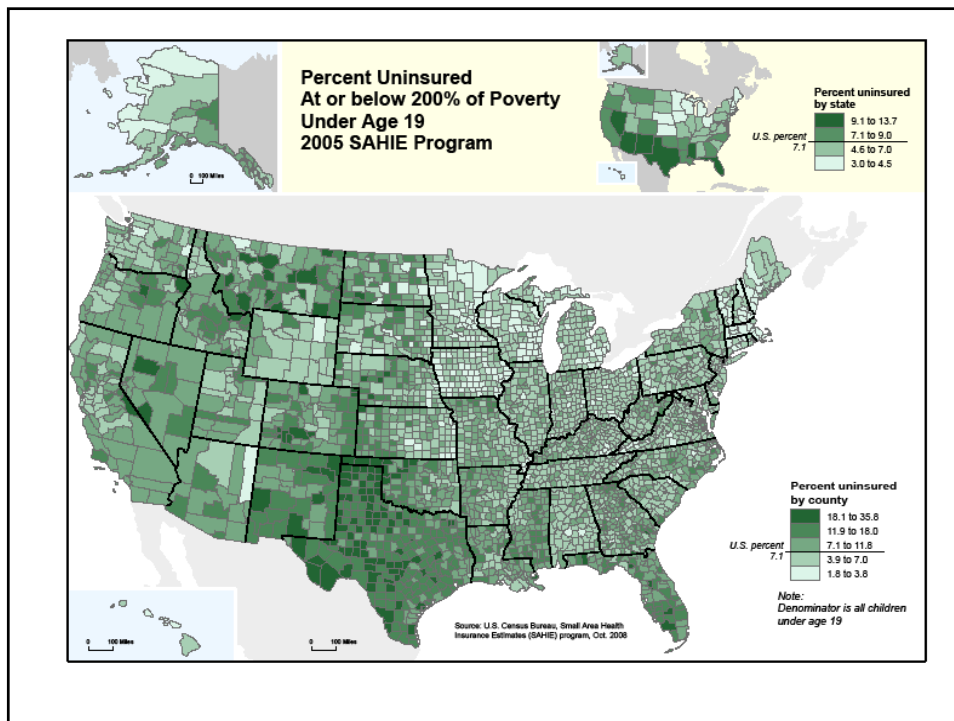
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County	Number Insured	MOE <sup>1</sup> for Number Insured	Number Uninsured	MOE <sup>1</sup> for Number Uninsured	Number in Demographic Group <sup>2</sup>	Percent Uninsured <sup>3</sup>	MOE <sup>1</sup> for Percent Uninsured
Autauga County, Alabama	38,492	1,244	6,289	1,070	44,780	14.0	2.4
Baldwin County, Alabama	111,255	3,911	29,342	3,595	140,597	20.9	2.6
Barbour County, Alabama	18,623	674	3,307	598	21,930	15.1	2.7
Bibb County, Alabama	14,598	602	3,133	527	17,731	17.7	3.0
Blount County, Alabama	38,637	1,585	10,139	1,448	48,775	20.8	3.0

**Notes from Table**

1. A margin of error (MOE) is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. Confidence bounds can be created by adding the margin of error to the estimate (for an upper bound) and subtracting the margin of error from the estimate (for a lower bound). All published margins of error for the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates program

Done  Trusted sites



## Future Plans for SAHIE

- Release 2006 Estimates in 2009
- Pending Future Funding Support:
  - o Add more categories (age groups, income/poverty groups, etc.)
  - o Incorporate the ACS
  - o Research into improvements to model

## For Further Information:

Census Bureau Health Insurance Webpage:

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html>

American Community Survey: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

ACS Content Test results:

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/content\\_test/P8\\_Health\\_Insurance.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/content_test/P8_Health_Insurance.pdf)

Latest CPS Health Insurance Estimates:

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income07.html>

SAHIE Webpage:

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

Or contact me at [charles.t.nelson@census.gov](mailto:charles.t.nelson@census.gov)