



NEWSLETTER

STATE HEALTH ACCESS DATA ASSISTANCE CENTER

SPECIAL FEDERAL DATA RELEASE EDITION

September 2016

Announcements

Census Bureau Releasing 2015 CPS and ACS Coverage Estimates This Week

The U.S. Census Bureau will release 2015 health insurance coverage estimates from the [Current Population Survey \(CPS\)](#) and the [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) on Tuesday, September 13th, with the full release of ACS data on [American FactFinder](#) scheduled for Thursday, September 15th. The new data from these large-scale federal sources will provide a picture of coverage at the national and state level after two years of ACA implementation as well as historical trend information for context. Be sure to watch the [SHADAC blog](#) for data digests throughout the week.

September 21st SHADAC Data Release Webinar with Census Experts:

Register Now



SHADAC researchers will team up with Census Bureau experts to discuss the new 2015 data from the [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) and the [Current Population Survey \(CPS\)](#) during a webinar on September 21st. Speakers will give an overview of the new national and state coverage estimates and will explain: when to use estimates from which survey; how to access the estimates via Census reports and [American FactFinder](#); and how to access state-level estimates from the ACS using SHADAC state-level tables. Attendees will also learn more about the employer offer and take-up estimates from the CPS, for which three years of data will be available. [Register for this event.](#)

Coming Soon: SHADAC's Annual County-Level Uninsured Tables for 2015



Stay tuned for annual county-level uninsurance tables from SHADAC. Using uninsurance estimates from the [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#), the tables will include 2015 rates of uninsurance for all states and territories and for all counties with a population greater than 65,000. The tables will also show changes in uninsurance from 2014 to 2015 and indicate state-level uninsurance rates by characteristics (e.g., age, race/ethnicity, and poverty level). [Click here to access SHADAC's ACS county-level uninsured tables for data year 2014.](#)

Also on the Horizon: SHADAC's Comparison of Federal Government Surveys that Count the Uninsured (Annual Brief)

With the release of the new coverage estimates, SHADAC will update our annual brief, "Comparing Federal Government Surveys that Count the Uninsured." This brief provides comparisons of uninsurance estimates from five federal surveys: The [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#), the [Current Population Survey \(CPS\)](#), the [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey – Household Component \(MEPS-HC\)](#), the [National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\)](#), and the [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#). We revise this brief each year to include current and historical national estimates of uninsurance along with the most recent available state-level estimates from these surveys. We also discuss the main reasons for variation in the estimates across surveys. [Access last year's brief.](#)

Newly Available Data

Early-Release Estimates from 2016 NHIS Show Stable Uninsured Rates, Ongoing Disparities



The [National Center for Health Statistics \(NCHS\)](#) released the [first early estimates](#) of national uninsurance levels for 2016 from the [National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\)](#). The data show that the nationwide uninsurance rate among non-elderly Americans in the first quarter of 2016 (10.0%) was statistically unchanged from that of the same period in 2015 (10.7%). Uninsurance rates were stable across age, race/ethnicity, and income groups during this time period as well, but disparities in uninsurance continue among certain subpopulations. In particular, 18.0% of people in poverty, 14.9% of young adults (ages 19–25), 18.6% of Hispanics, and 12.4% of non-Hispanics who reported other or multiple races were uninsured in the first quarter of 2016. The new estimates also show coverage disparities between non-elderly residents of Medicaid expansion states (7.9% of whom were uninsured in the first quarter of 2016) and residents of Medicaid non-expansion states (13.6% of whom were uninsured in the first quarter of 2016).

2015 MEPS-IC Data: Employer Coverage Rates Stable, but Small Employer Offer Rate Down

The [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#) recently released a [statistical brief](#) on the national results from the 2015 [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey](#)-Insurance Component (MEPS-IC), an annual survey of private employers and State and local governments that is designed to be representative of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The brief describes trends from 2008 to 2015 in employer-sponsored insurance (ESI), with emphasis on 2014-2015 changes. According to the data, the percentage of employees enrolled in ESI was unchanged from 2014 to 2015, but the number of ESI enrollees increased from 55.8 to 57.3 million ($p < .10$) due to a general increase in employment during this time period. The coverage offer rate at firms with 100 or more employees grew from 97.3 percent to 98.8 percent from 2014 to 2015, but the offer rate at firms with fewer than 50 employees fell from 49.8 percent to 47.6 percent.



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