

State Estimates of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by Health Insurance Status

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Summary

This issue brief provides state-level estimates of people with limited English proficiency (LEP) by health insurance status from the American Community Survey. There are an estimated 24.5 million people with LEP in the United States. Over one-third of the LEP population, or 9.5 million people with LEP, were uninsured in 2012. The remaining individuals with LEP are covered by private and public health insurance plans and remain at risk of not receiving interpretation services or medical care in other languages.

Introduction

Reducing the number of people without health insurance is the primary goal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), but individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) may not receive adequate information in other languages on how to apply and enroll in health insurance plans. In addition, while more individuals with LEP may gain coverage, some are ineligible for Medicaid benefits or premium tax credits due to their immigration status.¹

Nevertheless, as more LEP populations gain coverage, more patients with LEP may prefer to receive health care services in languages other than English. Providing interpretation services to LEP patients reduces language barriers in health care and improves satisfaction, health outcomes and quality of care among LEP populations.²⁻⁹ Provisions in the Civil Rights Act and the ACA require federal and state governments to provide interpretation services and information in other languages at no cost to LEP populations seeking medical care or coverage through Medicaid and the health insurance marketplaces.¹⁰⁻¹³ Therefore, estimating the number of individuals with LEP by type of health insurance coverage will help policymakers and providers target language-based initiatives that reach LEP populations.

Monitoring changes in coverage for the LEP population at the state level requires access to timely, high quality data on LEP populations. The American Community Survey (ACS) is a relatively new source of state-level health insurance coverage estimates, and its large sample size makes it a powerful source of information on relatively small subpopulations, like LEP populations, at the state level. The Appendix at the end of this brief provides detailed information on the ACS and how it compares to other surveys that measure health insurance coverage. Data for this issue brief relies on the most recently available data (2012) in the ACS.



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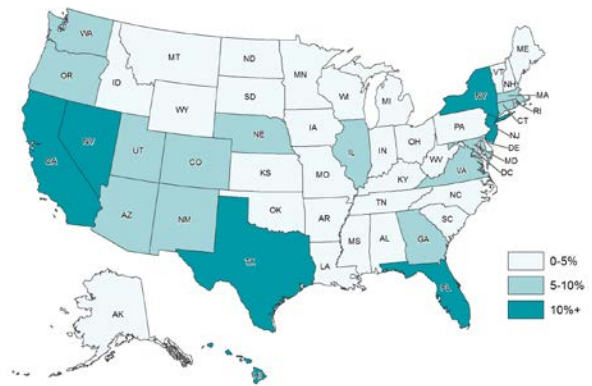
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by Health Insurance Status

Maps and tables included in this brief provide state-level estimates for people 5 years and older with limited English proficiency (LEP), meaning that they were unable to speak English “very well.” Language data are not available for children under five, and although there is a large amount of diversity in the languages spoken in the United States, most individuals with LEP speak Spanish.² In 2012, there were an estimated 24.5 million people 5 years old and over with LEP in the United States, or 8.6% of the total population over 5 (Map 1; Table 1). Although individuals with LEP live in every state, they comprise at least 10% of the state population in seven states. More than half of the LEP population resides in only four states (California, Texas, New York and Florida).

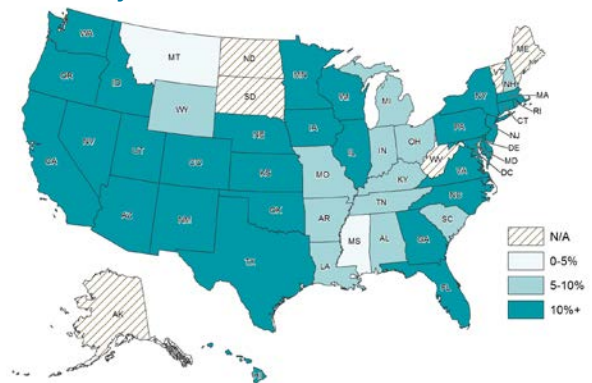
Approximately 9.5 million people with LEP were uninsured in 2012 (Map 2; Table 2). People with LEP comprised one out of five (21.7%) uninsured persons in 2012. LEP is common among uninsured populations, as the percent of the uninsured population five years and older with LEP exceeds 10% in 30 states and the District of Columbia. In three states (California, New Jersey, and New York), LEP is found in nearly one-third of the uninsured population 5 years and over.

LEP is less common among individuals with private health insurance, including employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) and insurance purchased directly from an insurer. There are approximately 7.3 million people with LEP that have ESI, but this population only makes up 4.5% of the total population over five with ESI (Map 3; Table 3). The LEP population covered by ESI exceeds 10% in only two states—California and Hawaii.

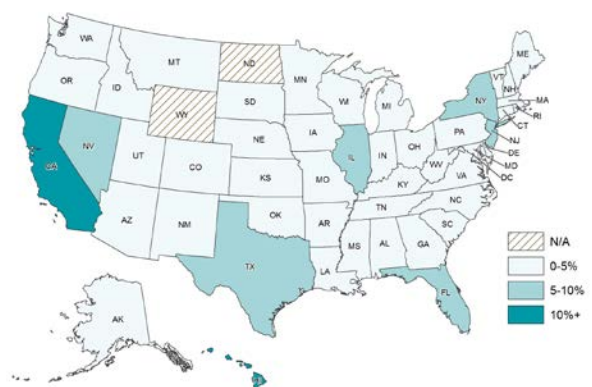
Map 1: Percent of Population 5 Years and Over with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



Map 2: Percent of Uninsured Population 5 Years and Over with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



Map 3: Percent of Population 5 Years and Over Covered by Employer-Sponsored Insurance with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



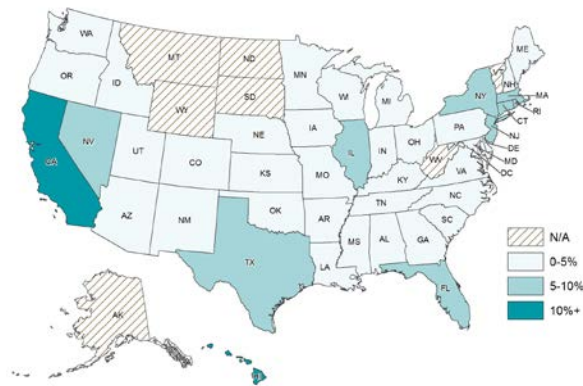
9.5 million people with limited English proficiency were uninsured in 2012

Similarly, the LEP population with insurance purchased directly from an insurer exceeds 10% in California and Hawaii (Map 4; Table 4). There are approximately 1.8 million people with LEP covered by insurance purchased directly from an insurer, and they comprise only 5% of the total population with insurance purchased in the individual market.

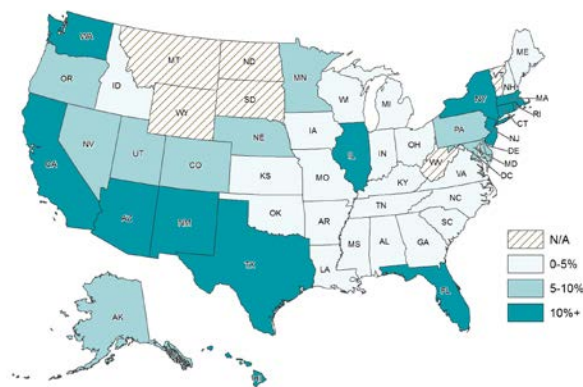
At least 12% of the Medicaid population five years and over are LEP, as there are nearly 5.5 million Medicaid enrollees over five with LEP (Map 5; Table 5) [See Appendix for discussion on the “Medicaid undercount” in the ACS].¹⁵ The Medicaid population with LEP exceeds 10% in thirteen states and exceeds 20% in two states (California and New York). The Medicaid population with LEP is also greater than 5% in an additional eleven states, including some states located in the center of the country, such as Colorado, Nebraska and Minnesota.

Among the 47.4 million people with Medicare, approximately 3.7 million, or 7.7%, are LEP (Map 6; Table 6). The proportion of Medicare beneficiaries with LEP is more common in states with large LEP populations, but nearly two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries with LEP can be found in four states (California, New York, Florida and Texas).

Map 4: Percent of Population 5 Years and Over Covered by Insurance Purchased Directly from an Insurer with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

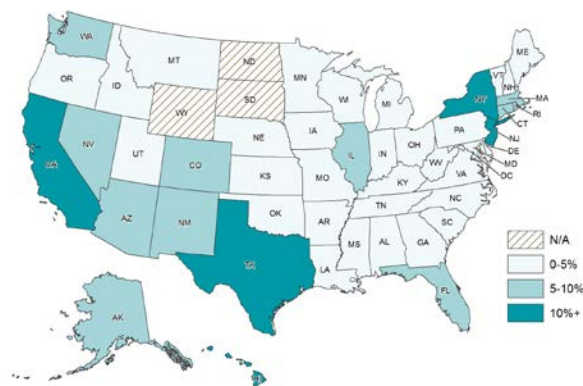


Map 5: Percent of Medicaid Population 5 Years and Over with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



12% of the Medicaid population reported limited English proficiency

Map 6: Percent of Medicare Population 5 Years and Over with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

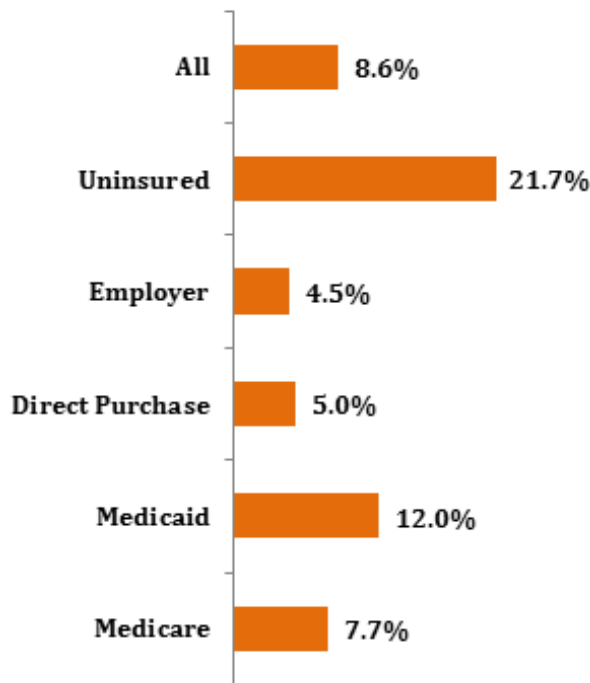


Source: 2012 American Community Survey, as analyzed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC). N/A indicates that data were either not available or suppressed because there were fewer than 50 observations in the denominator, or because relative standard errors (RSEs) were larger than 30%.

Conclusion

This issue brief estimates that there are approximately 24.5 million people with limited English proficiency (LEP) across the United States. Although individuals with LEP make up 8.6% of the American population, nearly 21.7% of the uninsured population and 12% of the Medicaid population is LEP.

Percent with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) by Health Insurance Status



LEP is more common among the uninsured and Medicaid population who remain at risk of not receiving interpretation services or medical care in other languages

Because limited English proficiency is more common among uninsured populations, these groups are at higher risk of not enrolling in Medicaid or health plans offered in the insurance marketplaces, especially if they do not receive adequate information in other languages or are ineligible for Medicaid or premium tax credits due to their unauthorized or recent immigration status (See SHADAC Brief 35).¹

Meanwhile, many individuals with LEP already have public and private health insurance and may be at risk of not receiving interpretation services or medical care in other languages. As the ACA continues to expand

public and private health insurance coverage, it is important for health plans and providers to provide language assistance services that improve access and quality of care for LEP populations.

About SHADAC

The University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to collect and analyze data to inform state health policy decisions relating to health insurance coverage and access to care. For information on how SHADAC can assist your state with small area estimation or other data issues relevant to state health policy, please contact us at shadac@umn.edu or call 612-624-4802.

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Appendix: Data and Methods

Data source and Definitions: Data provided in this brief are from the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files. The ACS, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, is an ongoing general household survey of the entire population (including persons living in group quarters). This mandatory survey—persons are required to respond under law—replaced the long form of the decennial census and provides annual estimates of health insurance coverage for the nation, states, and sub-state geographies. All responses are self-reported.

A question on health insurance coverage was added in 2008 that asks about current health insurance coverage for all members of the household, with the following response categories:

- Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)
- Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (of this person or another family member)
- Medicare, for people age 65 and over, or people with certain disabilities
- Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability
- TRICARE or other military health care
- VA (including those who have ever enrolled for or used VA health care)
- Indian Health Service
- Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan – specify

Those reporting no source of coverage or only Indian Health Services are classified as uninsured. Respondents are allowed to report multiple sources of coverage, so estimates of health insurance coverage may not sum to 100%.

Some research indicates that there are discrepancies between administrative counts of Medicaid enrollment and estimates from survey data (the “Medicaid undercount”). Nearly all state and federal surveys estimate fewer Medicaid enrollees than is described by enrollment records. Compared to more complicated questionnaires like the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) or the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), the ACS has a simpler health insurance question which could potentially contribute to misclassifying Medicaid enrollees – it lacks state-specific program names, lacks a verification question, and has a “laundry list” response option. Early analyses by SHADAC provide evidence that the ACS “undercount” is similar to other surveys that measure health insurance coverage.¹⁵

Language use is based on two questions in the ACS. First, the ACS asks each person 5 years old and over if they speak a language other than English at home. If other languages were spoken at home, each person indicates how well they speak English based on the following four categories: very well, well, not well, and not at all. Individuals not able to speak English very well are defined as being limited English proficient (LEP).

Universe for analysis: We restrict the ACS universe to the population residing in housing units (and not group quarters). All analyses on the limited English proficiency (LEP) population are restricted to individuals 5 years of age and older, as children under 5 years are not asked about their ability to speak English.

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TABLE 1: TOTAL POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER BY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND BY STATE

State	Limited English Proficient (LEP)		Not Limited English Proficient		Total Population 5 Years and Over
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent	
United States	24,551,760	8.6%	261,537,490	8.6%	286,089,250
Alabama	94,600	2.2%	4,314,110	2.2%	4,408,720
Alaska	28,690	4.4%	624,510	4.4%	653,190
Arizona	553,810	9.3%	5,412,740	9.3%	5,966,540
Arkansas	79,660	3.0%	2,597,040	3.0%	2,676,700
California	6,673,420	19.2%	28,026,690	19.2%	34,700,110
Colorado	297,440	6.3%	4,438,550	6.3%	4,736,000
Connecticut	281,140	8.6%	3,000,510	8.6%	3,281,650
Delaware	41,110	4.9%	795,210	4.9%	836,320
District of Columbia	33,720	6.1%	519,510	6.1%	553,220
Florida	2,074,660	11.6%	15,757,080	11.6%	17,831,740
Georgia	499,130	5.6%	8,489,440	5.6%	8,988,570
Hawaii	161,550	12.8%	1,096,680	12.8%	1,258,230
Idaho	56,070	3.9%	1,398,680	3.9%	1,454,750
Illinois	1,109,310	9.4%	10,658,510	9.4%	11,767,820
Indiana	191,660	3.2%	5,733,790	3.2%	5,925,450
Iowa	76,250	2.8%	2,700,340	2.8%	2,776,590
Kansas	117,960	4.5%	2,490,950	4.5%	2,608,910
Kentucky	74,070	1.9%	3,903,790	1.9%	3,977,860
Louisiana	104,800	2.5%	4,060,870	2.5%	4,165,670
Maine	19,190	1.6%	1,206,910	1.6%	1,226,100
Maryland	344,550	6.4%	5,036,080	6.4%	5,380,630
Massachusetts	530,070	8.8%	5,506,070	8.8%	6,036,140
Michigan	292,840	3.2%	8,794,120	3.2%	9,086,960
Minnesota	213,880	4.4%	4,685,470	4.4%	4,899,350
Mississippi	29,750	1.1%	2,659,310	1.1%	2,689,060
Missouri	118,590	2.2%	5,358,210	2.2%	5,476,800
Montana	9,450	1.0%	908,290	1.0%	917,740
Nebraska	91,110	5.5%	1,579,930	5.5%	1,671,040
Nevada	308,880	12.2%	2,230,940	12.2%	2,539,830
New Hampshire	29,890	2.5%	1,185,190	2.5%	1,215,080
New Jersey	1,003,730	12.3%	7,150,590	12.3%	8,154,320
New Mexico	165,420	8.7%	1,736,300	8.7%	1,901,710
New York	2,418,030	13.6%	15,413,190	13.6%	17,831,230
North Carolina	446,760	5.0%	8,439,790	5.0%	8,886,550
North Dakota	8,530	1.4%	622,700	1.4%	631,220
Ohio	243,680	2.3%	10,310,200	2.3%	10,553,880
Oklahoma	137,990	4.0%	3,310,050	4.0%	3,448,040
Oregon	215,000	6.0%	3,366,890	6.0%	3,581,890
Pennsylvania	466,100	4.0%	11,158,150	4.0%	11,624,250
Rhode Island	83,810	8.8%	868,630	8.8%	952,440
South Carolina	118,110	2.8%	4,172,350	2.8%	4,290,460
South Dakota	13,700	1.9%	726,790	1.9%	740,490
Tennessee	150,340	2.6%	5,754,840	2.6%	5,905,170
Texas	3,288,590	14.0%	20,255,390	14.0%	23,543,970
Utah	136,930	5.4%	2,416,510	5.4%	2,553,450
Vermont	7,150	1.3%	563,190	1.3%	570,350
Virginia	422,290	5.7%	7,018,100	5.7%	7,440,390
Washington	496,930	7.9%	5,818,980	7.9%	6,315,910
West Virginia	10,390	0.6%	1,691,700	0.6%	1,702,090
Wisconsin	168,170	3.2%	5,060,420	3.2%	5,228,590
Wyoming	12,890	2.5%	513,230	2.5%	526,120

Source: 2012 American Community Survey, as analyzed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC).

TABLE 2: UNINSURED POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER BY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND BY STATE

State	Limited English Proficient (LEP)		Not Limited English Proficient		Total Population 5 Years and Over Without Health Insurance
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent	
United States	9,547,420	21.7%	34,385,510	78.3%	43,932,930
Alabama	48,040	7.8%	564,520	92.2%	612,560
Arizona	244,440	22.8%	825,640	77.2%	1,070,080
Arkansas	34,150	7.5%	424,100	92.6%	458,250
California	2,395,770	36.9%	4,089,990	63.1%	6,485,770
Colorado	125,730	17.6%	586,990	82.4%	712,720
Connecticut	94,420	29.8%	222,400	70.2%	316,820
Delaware	15,050	20.5%	58,430	79.5%	73,480
District of Columbia	5,990	19.0%	25,550	81.0%	31,540
Florida	915,720	25.0%	2,749,290	75.0%	3,665,010
Georgia	274,670	15.8%	1,462,720	84.2%	1,737,390
Hawaii	16,030	19.1%	68,150	81.0%	84,180
Idaho	29,150	12.0%	214,670	88.0%	243,830
Illinois	425,630	26.5%	1,177,970	73.5%	1,603,600
Indiana	85,060	9.6%	802,910	90.4%	887,970
Iowa	27,640	11.4%	214,090	88.6%	241,730
Kansas	49,880	14.5%	294,440	85.5%	344,320
Kentucky	29,940	5.3%	530,570	94.7%	560,510
Louisiana	52,940	7.2%	678,610	92.8%	731,540
Maryland	143,360	25.1%	426,950	74.9%	570,310
Massachusetts	57,390	23.5%	186,770	76.5%	244,160
Michigan	76,010	7.0%	1,014,400	93.0%	1,090,410
Minnesota	65,010	15.5%	354,370	84.5%	419,390
Mississippi	14,980	3.1%	466,490	96.9%	481,470
Missouri	49,150	6.3%	736,820	93.8%	785,980
Montana	4,110	2.4%	164,690	97.6%	168,800
Nebraska	37,140	19.2%	156,380	80.8%	193,520
Nevada	143,240	25.2%	425,720	74.8%	568,960
New Hampshire	8,220	5.9%	131,960	94.1%	140,190
New Jersey	387,610	35.6%	701,530	64.4%	1,089,150
New Mexico	67,690	18.2%	303,430	81.8%	371,120
New York	652,680	32.0%	1,385,990	68.0%	2,038,660
North Carolina	264,590	17.4%	1,260,420	82.7%	1,525,010
Ohio	84,970	6.7%	1,179,850	93.3%	1,264,820
Oklahoma	82,220	12.5%	576,550	87.5%	658,770
Oregon	78,370	14.5%	460,960	85.5%	539,330
Pennsylvania	130,200	11.3%	1,020,870	88.7%	1,151,070
Rhode Island	27,830	25.0%	83,400	75.0%	111,220
South Carolina	66,970	9.1%	671,060	90.9%	738,030
Tennessee	77,120	9.1%	773,590	90.9%	850,710
Texas	1,630,790	29.4%	3,909,470	70.6%	5,540,260
Utah	70,000	18.8%	302,640	81.2%	372,630
Virginia	175,330	18.3%	784,470	81.7%	959,800
Washington	188,810	20.9%	716,610	79.2%	905,420
Wisconsin	61,700	12.4%	434,880	87.6%	496,580
Wyoming	7,360	8.4%	80,210	91.6%	87,570

Source: 2012 American Community Survey, as analyzed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC).

TABLE 3: POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER WITH EMPLOYER-SPONSORED INSURANCE (ESI) BY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND BY STATE

State	Limited English Proficient (LEP)		Not Limited English Proficient		Total Population 5 Years and Over with ESI
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent	
United States	7,299,140	4.5%	156,365,200	95.5%	163,664,340
Alabama	29,890	1.2%	2,517,780	98.8%	2,547,660
Alaska	8,190	2.0%	396,130	98.0%	404,320
Arizona	129,120	4.2%	2,921,330	95.8%	3,050,450
Arkansas	33,460	2.4%	1,335,420	97.6%	1,368,870
California	1,967,720	10.9%	16,073,040	89.1%	18,040,760
Colorado	85,020	3.1%	2,700,990	97.0%	2,786,010
Connecticut	100,780	4.8%	2,003,050	95.2%	2,103,830
Delaware	15,300	2.8%	528,280	97.2%	543,580
District of Columbia	13,530	3.9%	331,340	96.1%	344,870
Florida	486,130	5.7%	8,076,580	94.3%	8,562,710
Georgia	144,020	2.9%	4,871,020	97.1%	5,015,030
Hawaii	95,850	11.0%	773,740	89.0%	869,580
Idaho	15,330	1.9%	778,740	98.1%	794,070
Illinois	380,140	5.5%	6,590,710	94.6%	6,970,860
Indiana	59,960	1.7%	3,499,570	98.3%	3,559,530
Iowa	33,260	1.9%	1,698,980	98.1%	1,732,240
Kansas	46,700	2.9%	1,565,230	97.1%	1,611,930
Kentucky	28,690	1.3%	2,249,080	98.7%	2,277,770
Louisiana	24,970	1.2%	2,120,090	98.8%	2,145,050
Maine	8,120	1.2%	685,700	98.8%	693,820
Maryland	126,260	3.5%	3,482,350	96.5%	3,608,610
Massachusetts	182,620	4.6%	3,818,670	95.4%	4,001,290
Michigan	117,850	2.1%	5,445,950	97.9%	5,563,800
Minnesota	75,000	2.4%	3,090,250	97.6%	3,165,250
Mississippi	9,510	0.7%	1,306,780	99.3%	1,316,290
Missouri	43,980	1.4%	3,119,360	98.6%	3,163,340
Montana	3,050	0.7%	464,110	99.4%	467,160
Nebraska	35,240	3.4%	1,003,410	96.6%	1,038,650
Nevada	118,410	8.4%	1,285,850	91.6%	1,404,260
New Hampshire	13,460	1.7%	796,910	98.3%	810,370
New Jersey	334,720	6.4%	4,885,070	93.6%	5,219,790
New Mexico	39,480	4.2%	897,930	95.8%	937,410
New York	678,230	6.5%	9,822,430	93.5%	10,500,660
North Carolina	102,250	2.1%	4,737,300	97.9%	4,839,550
Ohio	88,360	1.4%	6,426,950	98.6%	6,515,310
Oklahoma	35,690	1.9%	1,813,480	98.1%	1,849,170
Oregon	76,660	3.8%	1,918,740	96.2%	1,995,400
Pennsylvania	169,280	2.4%	7,025,300	97.7%	7,194,580
Rhode Island	26,770	4.6%	560,440	95.4%	587,210
South Carolina	32,150	1.4%	2,322,780	98.6%	2,354,930
South Dakota	5,500	1.3%	426,420	98.7%	431,910
Tennessee	41,560	1.3%	3,247,220	98.7%	3,288,780
Texas	773,930	6.3%	11,441,950	93.7%	12,215,880
Utah	43,200	2.6%	1,632,470	97.4%	1,675,670
Vermont	3,160	1.0%	330,770	99.1%	333,930
Virginia	170,450	3.5%	4,760,200	96.5%	4,930,650
Washington	169,080	4.4%	3,646,200	95.6%	3,815,290
West Virginia	5,780	0.6%	990,840	99.4%	996,620
Wisconsin	65,200	2.0%	3,239,470	98.0%	3,304,660

Source: 2012 American Community Survey, as analyzed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC).

TABLE 4: POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER WITH INSURANCE PURCHASED DIRECTLY FROM AN INSURER BY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND BY STATE

State	Limited English Proficient (LEP)		Not Limited English Proficient		Total Population 5 Years and Over With Insurance Purchased Directly From Insurer
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent	
United States	1,802,440	5.0%	33,972,880	95.0%	35,775,320
Alabama	7,760	1.2%	616,760	98.8%	624,520
Arizona	29,320	3.7%	753,650	96.3%	782,970
Arkansas	3,930	1.2%	336,440	98.9%	340,370
California	464,690	11.7%	3,503,220	88.3%	3,967,910
Colorado	20,420	3.1%	642,430	96.9%	662,850
Connecticut	21,900	5.4%	385,520	94.6%	407,420
Delaware	1,800	2.0%	86,650	98.0%	88,450
District of Columbia	3,310	4.4%	71,490	95.6%	74,800
Florida	152,010	6.3%	2,254,900	93.7%	2,406,910
Georgia	29,880	3.1%	940,530	96.9%	970,410
Hawaii	22,830	13.3%	148,370	86.7%	171,200
Idaho	3,780	1.5%	243,690	98.5%	247,470
Illinois	98,520	6.7%	1,375,210	93.3%	1,473,730
Indiana	15,660	2.2%	687,220	97.8%	702,880
Iowa	7,510	1.5%	508,930	98.6%	516,440
Kansas	11,070	2.9%	376,120	97.1%	387,190
Kentucky	5,460	1.1%	478,750	98.9%	484,210
Louisiana	10,790	2.1%	503,710	97.9%	514,500
Maine	3,620	2.1%	165,270	97.9%	168,890
Maryland	28,970	4.4%	624,070	95.6%	653,040
Massachusetts	53,480	7.0%	709,300	93.0%	762,790
Michigan	32,440	2.9%	1,099,250	97.1%	1,131,680
Minnesota	14,330	1.8%	773,150	98.2%	787,480
Mississippi	1,940	0.6%	339,610	99.4%	341,550
Missouri	10,640	1.4%	761,240	98.6%	771,890
Nebraska	7,470	2.7%	271,420	97.3%	278,890
Nevada	19,500	7.1%	255,460	92.9%	274,960
New Hampshire	4,010	2.8%	138,420	97.2%	142,420
New Jersey	73,130	7.7%	874,790	92.3%	947,920
New Mexico	8,940	4.6%	184,140	95.4%	193,080
New York	187,940	9.5%	1,801,830	90.6%	1,989,760
North Carolina	24,490	2.1%	1,169,680	98.0%	1,194,170
Ohio	30,320	2.5%	1,193,520	97.5%	1,223,840
Oklahoma	4,350	1.0%	421,340	99.0%	425,690
Oregon	21,020	3.9%	523,840	96.1%	544,860
Pennsylvania	53,130	3.1%	1,642,580	96.9%	1,695,710
Rhode Island	5,890	5.1%	110,160	94.9%	116,050
South Carolina	8,200	1.5%	522,570	98.5%	530,770
Tennessee	10,250	1.3%	777,170	98.7%	787,420
Texas	173,510	7.4%	2,159,940	92.6%	2,333,450
Utah	8,540	2.9%	285,940	97.1%	294,470
Virginia	42,100	4.3%	941,720	95.7%	983,820
Washington	42,530	5.0%	816,630	95.1%	859,160
Wisconsin	11,270	1.6%	700,290	98.4%	711,560

Source: 2012 American Community Survey, as analyzed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC).

TABLE 5: MEDICAID POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER BY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND BY STATE

State	Limited English Proficient (LEP)		Not Limited English Proficient	Total Population 5 Years and Over with Medicaid
	Estimated Population	Percent	Percent	
United States	5,466,280	12.0%	88.0%	45,548,440
Alabama	10,960	1.5%	98.5%	748,660
Alaska	6,570	7.4%	92.7%	89,420
Arizona	135,270	12.8%	87.3%	1,061,070
Arkansas	10,040	2.1%	98.0%	489,760
California	1,670,240	26.8%	73.3%	6,244,350
Colorado	58,620	9.5%	90.5%	614,790
Connecticut	62,440	12.1%	87.9%	517,160
Delaware	9,950	6.2%	93.8%	161,600
District of Columbia	12,130	8.7%	91.4%	140,160
Florida	397,220	14.5%	85.5%	2,746,840
Georgia	51,060	3.8%	96.2%	1,345,020
Hawaii	32,380	16.9%	83.2%	192,160
Idaho	8,050	4.1%	95.9%	197,320
Illinois	191,810	10.4%	89.7%	1,852,940
Indiana	31,060	3.9%	96.1%	803,310
Iowa	11,700	2.8%	97.2%	411,400
Kansas	11,310	3.8%	96.2%	296,430
Kentucky	11,070	1.7%	98.4%	671,000
Louisiana	14,050	1.7%	98.3%	824,180
Maine	5,600	2.1%	97.9%	266,900
Maryland	45,530	6.3%	93.8%	728,110
Massachusetts	244,430	19.2%	80.8%	1,271,610
Michigan	70,970	4.4%	95.6%	1,610,580
Minnesota	58,560	9.2%	90.8%	638,510
Mississippi	3,370	0.6%	99.4%	583,390
Missouri	15,610	2.1%	97.9%	743,660
Nebraska	11,310	6.3%	93.8%	180,840
Nevada	24,590	9.4%	90.6%	261,190
New Hampshire	4,810	3.9%	96.2%	124,790
New Jersey	178,850	17.6%	82.4%	1,016,690
New Mexico	39,920	10.4%	89.6%	383,780
New York	869,910	23.6%	76.4%	3,691,700
North Carolina	58,970	4.3%	95.7%	1,377,970
Ohio	38,360	2.4%	97.7%	1,629,480
Oklahoma	13,470	2.7%	97.4%	508,080
Oregon	43,040	7.8%	92.2%	551,720
Pennsylvania	111,600	6.2%	93.8%	1,798,710
Rhode Island	23,810	15.2%	84.8%	157,000
South Carolina	9,550	1.4%	98.6%	694,470
Tennessee	20,310	2.0%	98.0%	1,005,140
Texas	644,930	18.1%	81.9%	3,567,110
Utah	15,090	5.9%	94.1%	255,790
Virginia	34,180	4.8%	95.2%	707,730
Washington	100,020	11.7%	88.3%	854,710
Wisconsin	32,800	4.1%	95.9%	798,880

Source: 2012 American Community Survey, as analyzed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center

TABLE 6: MEDICARE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER BY LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND BY STATE

State	Limited English Proficient (LEP)		Not Limited English Proficient		Total Population 5 Years and Over With Medicare
	Estimated Population	Percent	Estimated Population	Percent	
United States	3,664,160	7.7%	43,731,730	92.3%	47,395,890
Alabama	3,960	0.5%	845,950	99.5%	849,900
Alaska	4,550	6.8%	62,280	93.2%	66,830
Arizona	79,740	7.6%	966,420	92.4%	1,046,160
Arkansas	3,760	0.7%	528,540	99.3%	532,300
California	1,078,950	22.0%	3,818,010	78.0%	4,896,970
Colorado	35,720	5.4%	623,050	94.6%	658,770
Connecticut	46,580	8.4%	505,690	91.6%	552,270
Delaware	3,930	2.5%	153,180	97.5%	157,100
District of Columbia	3,450	4.6%	72,100	95.4%	75,550
Florida	441,820	11.7%	3,328,570	88.3%	3,770,390
Georgia	33,710	2.6%	1,284,970	97.4%	1,318,680
Hawaii	36,570	17.0%	178,050	83.0%	214,610
Idaho	5,040	2.1%	234,590	97.9%	239,630
Illinois	145,360	8.1%	1,656,580	91.9%	1,801,940
Indiana	18,160	1.8%	974,830	98.2%	992,990
Iowa	3,990	0.8%	496,900	99.2%	500,880
Kansas	9,170	2.2%	416,900	97.9%	426,060
Kentucky	4,970	0.7%	743,580	99.3%	748,550
Louisiana	17,520	2.5%	675,120	97.5%	692,640
Maine	5,480	2.1%	256,050	97.9%	261,530
Maryland	36,060	4.5%	769,130	95.5%	805,190
Massachusetts	106,570	10.5%	908,210	89.5%	1,014,780
Michigan	52,520	3.2%	1,600,620	96.8%	1,653,140
Minnesota	20,700	2.7%	753,540	97.3%	774,240
Mississippi	1,840	0.4%	491,860	99.6%	493,690
Missouri	10,400	1.0%	993,940	99.0%	1,004,350
Montana	1,350	0.8%	171,700	99.2%	173,050
Nebraska	5,270	1.9%	266,320	98.1%	271,580
Nevada	31,780	8.2%	356,750	91.8%	388,530
New Hampshire	5,810	2.7%	207,290	97.3%	213,100
New Jersey	167,520	12.7%	1,147,660	87.3%	1,315,170
New Mexico	37,020	11.0%	300,000	89.0%	337,020
New York	461,060	15.7%	2,473,210	84.3%	2,934,270
North Carolina	18,140	1.2%	1,533,170	98.8%	1,551,310
Ohio	36,610	1.9%	1,849,830	98.1%	1,886,440
Oklahoma	9,270	1.5%	606,140	98.5%	615,410
Oregon	21,710	3.4%	614,500	96.6%	636,210
Pennsylvania	81,560	3.7%	2,115,480	96.3%	2,197,040
Rhode Island	15,490	8.9%	158,570	91.1%	174,060
South Carolina	9,280	1.2%	797,650	98.9%	806,930
Tennessee	11,750	1.1%	1,074,980	98.9%	1,086,730
Texas	407,530	13.1%	2,694,290	86.9%	3,101,820
Utah	11,320	3.8%	286,210	96.2%	297,530
Vermont	2,330	2.0%	111,920	98.0%	114,250
Virginia	40,790	3.5%	1,127,440	96.5%	1,168,240
Washington	57,530	5.8%	931,560	94.2%	989,080
West Virginia	1,280	0.3%	374,110	99.7%	375,380
Wisconsin	14,980	1.7%	881,070	98.3%	896,040

Source: 2012 American Community Survey, as analyzed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC).

Our Website

shadac.org provides valuable research and resources on health insurance coverage in states, data collection methods, and state health policy. Here you will find:

Data Center

A web-based interactive tool allowing users to customize tables and graphs of health insurance coverage estimates from the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the American Community Survey (ACS).

Technical Assistance

SHADAC offers technical assistance to states relating to implementation of the Affordable Care Act and is a designated technical assistance resource for the RWJF State Health Reform Assistance Network.

Resources

shadac.org provides many resources for analysts to understand the technical and policy-relevant issues associated with measuring health insurance coverage and access to care.

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