

# Federal Statistics on Health Insurance Coverage: Technical Meeting on Methods Used in Household Surveys

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## Purpose

- **In September 2014, the first federal estimates of health insurance coverage for January to March 2014 would be released, capturing the last three months of open enrollment through the Health Insurance Marketplace.**
  - National Health Interview Survey Early Release Program
  - Current Population Survey
- **To promote transparency and awareness of the upcoming releases, NCHS and Census collaborated to discuss the methodology behind the collection and analysis of federal health insurance data.**

## Event Information

- August 18, 2014 from 10:00am – 12:00pm
- The George Washington University City View Room
- Media Advisory through Census
- Personal invitations emailed to partners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014

### Media Advisory — Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics to Host Technical Meeting on Federal Health Insurance Statistics Methodology

Release Number: CB14-148

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#### What:

The U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics will host "Federal Statistics on Health Insurance Coverage: Technical Meeting on Methods Used in Household Surveys."

#### When:

Monday, Aug. 18, 2014; 10 a.m. - noon (EDT)

#### Who:

##### U.S. Census Bureau:

John H. Thompson, director  
Victoria Velkoff, division chief, Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division  
Jennifer Cheeseman Day, assistant division chief for employment characteristics, Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division

##### National Center for Health Statistics:

Charles Rothwell, director  
Jennifer Madans, associate director  
Stephen Blumberg, associate director for science, Division of Health Interview Statistics

#### Discussants:

Gary Claxton, Kaiser Family Foundation  
Michael O'Grady, O'Grady Health Policy, LLC

# Agenda

- **Welcome and Introduction**
  - John Thompson, Director, U.S. Census Bureau
  - Charles Rothwell, Director, National Center for Health Statistics
- **Technical Presentation of Methods in Household Surveys**
  - Jennifer Day, U.S. Census Bureau
  - Stephen Blumberg, National Center for Health Statistics
- **Upcoming Releases**
  - Victoria Velkoff, U.S. Census Bureau
  - Jennifer Madans, National Center for Health Statistics
- **Discussants**
  - Gary Claxton, Kaiser Family Foundation
  - Michael O'Grady, O'Grady Health Policy, LLC

## Audience

- **22 attendees (external)**
- **321 Ustream viewers**
  - OMB
  - ASPE
  - AHRQ
  - BLS
  - Media
  - CNSTAT
  - COPAFS
  - Kaiser Family Foundation
  - SHADAC
  - Urban Institute
  - Population Association of America
  - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
  - Mathematica
  - Consortium of Social Science Associations

## **National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Early Release (ER) Program**

- ❑ **NHIS is conducted throughout the year based on monthly random samples.**
- ❑ **Annual files released six months after the completion of data collection.**
- ❑ **Data can be analyzed monthly or quarterly – estimates are an average over the time period covered.**
- ❑ **Change from Paper-and-Pencil Interview (PAPI) to Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) data collection in 1997 changed how data were processed allowing for estimates to be released throughout the year – Early Release Program.**
- ❑ **Quarterly Early Release reports and preliminary microdata files are produced prior to final processing and weighting to provide early access to the most recent information.**

## NHIS Early Release (ER) Program

- ❑ **Every three months, the ER Program produces:**
  - A report on 15 key health indicators - first release early 2001 (1997 through June 2000 data)
  - A separate report on health insurance coverage estimates - first release in early 2002 (1997 – September 2001 data)
  - Web tables - quarterly health insurance estimates and special tabulations
  - Preliminary microdata file used for these reports
- ❑ **In addition, the ER Program produces:**
  - Periodic reports on special health-related topics, e.g.,
    - Problems paying medical bills
    - Sources of coverage and health care access and utilization for young adults
    - Emergency Room Use Among Adults Aged 18–64
  - Bi-annual reports on wireless substitution for landline service

# Health Insurance ER Report Released Quarterly in September, December, March, and June



## NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY EARLY RELEASE PROGRAM

### Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, 2013

by Robin A. Cohen, Ph.D., and Michael E. Martinez, M.P.H., M.H.S.A.  
Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

#### Highlights

- In 2013, 44.8 million persons of all ages (14.4%) were uninsured at the time of interview, 55.4 million (17.8%) had been uninsured for at least part of the year prior to interview, and 33.4 million (10.7%) had been uninsured for more than a year at the time of interview.
- In 2013, among children aged 0–17, 6.5% were uninsured at the time of interview, 42.2% had public health plan coverage, and 52.6% had private health insurance coverage.
- In 2013, among persons aged 18–64, 20.4% were uninsured at the time of interview, 16.7% had public health plan coverage, and 64.2% had private health insurance coverage.
- Among children aged 0–17, the percentage who were uninsured at the time of interview decreased from 13.9% in 1997 to 6.5% in 2013.
- The percentage of adults aged 18–64 who were uninsured at the time of interview has generally increased since 1997 but decreased from 2010 to 2013.
- In 2013, the percentage of persons under age 65 who were uninsured at the time of interview varied by state. For example, 3.8% and 5.2% were uninsured in the District of Columbia and Massachusetts, respectively, whereas 24.8% were uninsured in Nevada and 24.7% were uninsured in Florida.

#### Introduction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is releasing selected estimates of health insurance coverage for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population based on data from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), along with comparable estimates from the 2008–2012 NHIS. Estimates for 2013 were based on data for 104,203 persons.

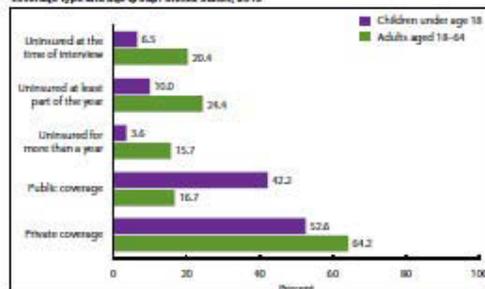
These estimates of lack of health insurance coverage are provided: (a) uninsured at the time of interview, (b) uninsured at least part of the year prior to interview (which includes persons uninsured for more than a year), and (c) uninsured for more than a year at the time of interview (e.g., Tables 1 and 2). Estimates of public and private coverage

are also presented (e.g., Table 3). Table 3 also includes estimates for 1997 and 2005.

Additional tables present estimates of uninsured, public coverage, and private coverage by poverty status for persons under age 65 (Table 4), adults aged 18–64 (Table 5), and children aged 0–17 (Table 6). Table 7 shows the percentages of persons who were uninsured, had public coverage, and had private coverage, by age and sex. Estimates for persons under age 65, by race and ethnicity, are shown in Table 8. Table 9 presents estimates for adults aged 18–64 by other selected demographic characteristics that are relevant to adults only.

For individuals with private health insurance, estimates are presented in Tables 10 and 11 for enrollment in high-deductible health plans (HDHPs), enrollment in consumer-directed health

Figure 1. Percentage of persons without health insurance, using three measures of noncoverage and age group, and percentage of persons with health insurance at the time of interview, by coverage type and age group: United States, 2013.

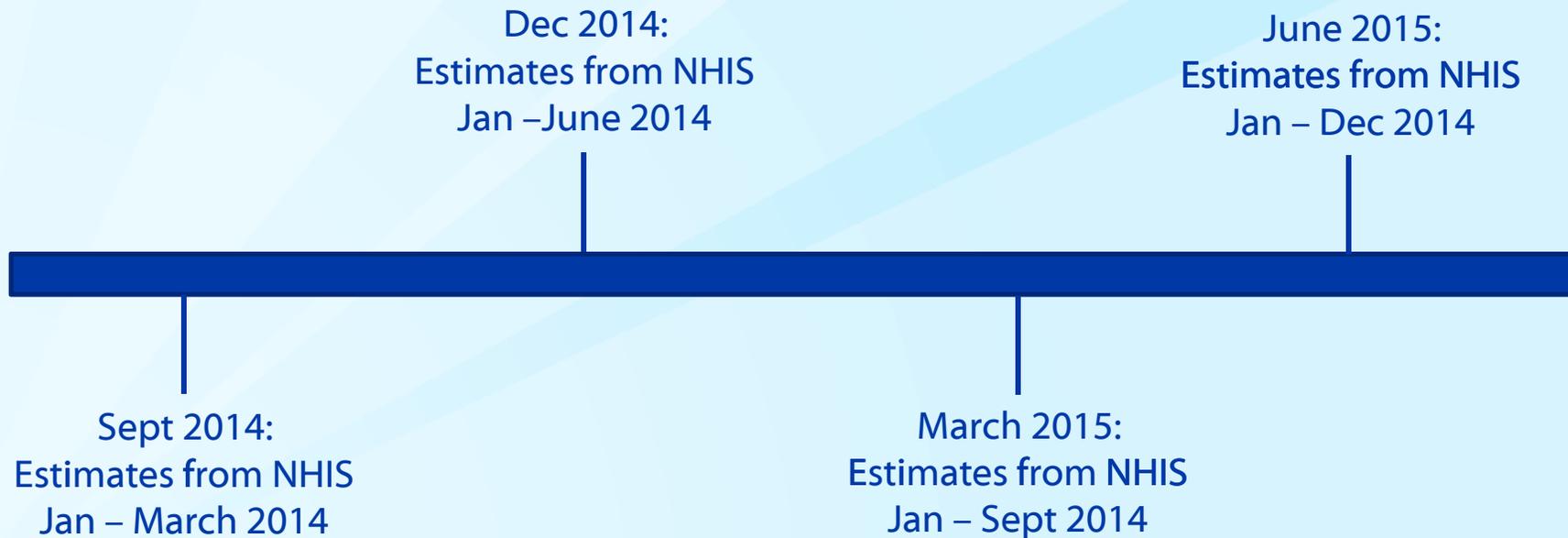


Notes: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. DATA SOURCE: COCNERIS, NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY, 2013, EARLY RELEASE PROGRAM.

## Early Release Health Insurance Estimates

Represent an Average Over the Number of Months Included

- ❑ September release is based on answers collected between January through March
- ❑ December release is based on January–June
- ❑ March release is based on January–September
- ❑ June release is based on January–December



# Content of Health Insurance Early Release Report

## ❑ Percentages and counts of persons

- Uninsured at time of interview
- Uninsured at least part of the year
- Uninsured for more than a year



By age group,  
over time

## ❑ Percentages of persons

- Uninsured at the time of interview
- With public health plan coverage
- With private health plan coverage



By age and poverty status,  
over time  
By race/ethnicity over time  
By age and sex

## ❑ Percentages of adults

- Uninsured at the time of interview
- With public health plan coverage
- With private health plan coverage



By education;  
By employment status;  
By marital status

# Health Insurance ER Report: Statistics

- ❑ **Percentages of persons in high-deductible health plans**
  - Without a health savings account
  - In a consumer directed health plan
  
- ❑ **Subnational coverage estimates**
  - By expanded region (9--similar to Census division)
  - By state Medicaid expansion status
  - By state Health Insurance Marketplace type
  - By selected states (in December, March, and June reports)
  
- ❑ **And starting with the September 2014 report, percentage and count of persons under age 65 classified as having exchange-based coverage (centered on mid-Feb).**
  - Estimates for population subgroups will be released later in the year as sample size permits.

## **Early Release Health Insurance Estimates are Preliminary**

- ❑ **Based on a streamlined version of final processing procedures.**
  - More automated.
  - Based on the prior year's list of health insurance plan names (list was updated with latest exchange plans for September release).
  - Does not distinguish between individual types of public programs.
- ❑ **Preliminary estimates are generally close to the final estimates.**
  - Within 0.1 percentage points for the proportion uninsured.
  - Within 0.2 or 0.3 percentage points for estimates of private and public coverage.

## Preliminary Quarterly Microdata Files

- ❑ Data are available in the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC).
- ❑ The RDC provides a mechanism for researchers to access data not released to the public because of nondisclosure or confidentiality reasons.
- ❑ Access is provided either on site (Hyattsville, Atlanta, and the 12 Census RDCs) or via a remote system.



<http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/>