
Early Release of Health Insurance Coverage Estimates: New Data from Quarter 3 of the 2001 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

(Released 3/6/2002)

Highlights

In the third quarter of 2001, the percent of persons without health insurance was 14.4% (39.9 million), up slightly from 14.2% (39.1 million) in the first quarter and 13.9% (38.3 million) in the second quarter. However, the differences in the quarterly estimates are not statistically significant. The average percent of persons uninsured for January - September 2001 was 14.2% (95% confidence interval = 13.5-14.8%).

The percent of children under 18 years old who lacked health insurance was 11.5% in quarter 1, 10.2% in quarter 2, and 11.4% in quarter 3. The percent of adults 18-64 years old who lacked health insurance was 17.9% in quarter 1, 17.9% in quarter 2, and 18.3% in quarter 3. These age-specific quarterly estimates are not significantly different among the three quarters.

The percent of persons under 65 years old who were covered by public health plans remained stable in the first three quarters of 2001: 13.4%, 13.5%, and 13.5%, respectively.

The percent of persons under 65 years old who were covered by private health insurance plans decreased slightly from 72.2% in quarters 1 and 2 to 71.6% in quarter 3. These differences are not statistically significant.

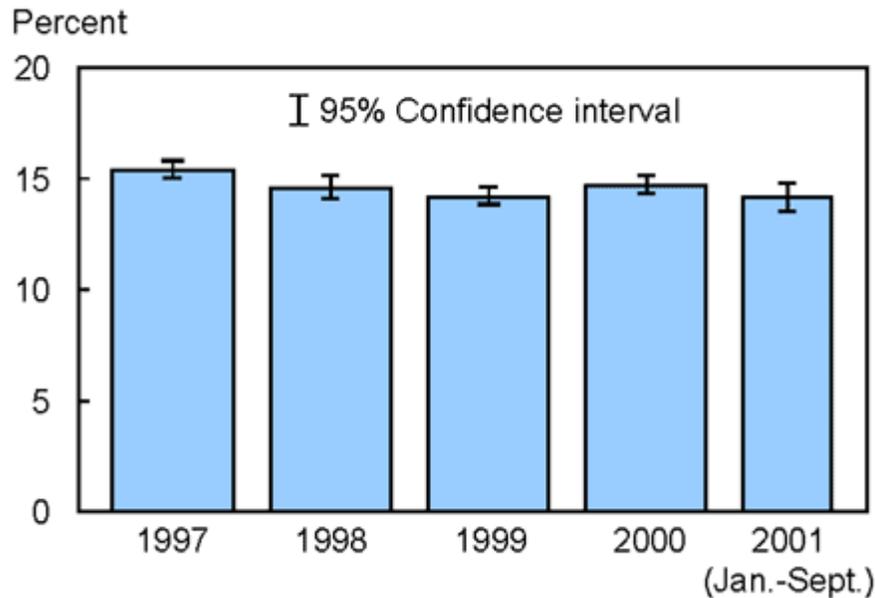
Health Insurance Coverage Estimates

Figure 1. Percent of persons of all ages without health insurance coverage: United States, 1997-2001

Table 1. Number and percent of persons without health insurance coverage, by age group: United States, January-September 2001

Table 2. Number and percent of persons aged under 65 years with private health insurance and public coverage, by age group: United States, January-September 2001

Figure 1. Percent of persons of all ages without health insurance coverage: United States, 1997 - 2001



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (Jan. - Sept.)
Percent	15.4	14.6	14.2	14.7	14.2
95% confidence interval	15.0-15.8	14.1-15.1	13.8-14.6	14.3-15.1	13.5-14.8

DATA SOURCE: Family Core component of the 1997-2001 National Health Interview Surveys. The estimate for the year 2001 was based on data collected from January-September.

NOTES: A person was defined as uninsured if he or she did not have any private health insurance, Medicaid, State-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plan, Medicare, or military health plan at the time of the interview. A person was also defined as uninsured if he or she had only Indian Health Service coverage or had only a private plan that paid for one type of service such as accidents or dental care. The analysis excluded persons with unknown health insurance status (about 1% of respondents). The data on health insurance status were cleaned and edited using an automated system based on logic checks and keyword searches. For comparability, the estimates for all years were created using these same procedures. The resulting estimates of persons not having health insurance coverage are generally 0.1% lower than those based on manual editing procedures used for the final data files.

Table 1. Number and percent of persons without health insurance coverage, by age group: United States, January-September 2001

Age group	2001		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
	Number in millions		
All ages	39.1	38.3	39.9
Less than 65 years	38.7	37.9	39.6
18-64 years	30.4	30.5	31.3
Less than 18 years	8.3	7.4	8.3
	Percent (95% confidence interval)		
All ages	14.2 (13.3-15.1)	13.9 (13.0-14.8)	14.4 (13.5-15.4)
Less than 65 years	15.9 (14.9-17.0)	15.6 (14.6-16.6)	16.2 (15.2-17.2)
18-64 years	17.9 (16.8-18.9)	17.9 (16.8-18.9)	18.3 (17.2-19.3)
Less than 18 years	11.5 (10.0-12.9)	10.2 (9.0-11.4)	11.4 (10.0-12.8)

DATA SOURCE: Family Core component of the January-September 2001 National Health Interview Survey.

NOTES: A person was defined as uninsured if he or she did not have any private health insurance, Medicaid, State-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plan, Medicare, or military health plan at the time of the interview. A person was also defined as uninsured if he or she had only Indian Health Service coverage or had only a private plan that paid for one type of service such as accidents or dental care. The analysis excluded persons with unknown health insurance status (about 1% of respondents). The data on health insurance status were cleaned and edited using an automated system based on logic checks and keyword searches. For comparability, the estimates for all years were created using these same procedures. The resulting estimates of persons not having health insurance coverage are generally 0.1% lower than those based on manual editing procedures used for the final data files. The number of uninsured was calculated as the percent of uninsured multiplied by the total population including persons with unknown coverage. The age-specific numbers of uninsured may not add to their respective totals due to rounding error.

Table 2. Number and percent of persons aged under 65 years with private health insurance and with public coverage, by age group: United States, January-September 2001

Type of coverage	2001		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Public	Percent (95% confidence interval)		
Less than 65 years	13.4 (12.3-14.4)	13.5 (12.5-14.5)	13.5 (12.6-14.4)
Less than 18 years	23.0 (20.9-25.1)	23.5 (21.6-25.3)	23.2 (21.3-25.1)
18-64 years	9.3 (8.5-10.0)	9.3 (8.5-10.0)	9.4 (8.7-10.1)
Private			
Less than 65 years	72.2 (70.6-73.7)	72.2 (70.7-73.7)	71.6 (70.2-73.0)
Less than 18 years	67.1 (64.7-69.6)	67.2 (65.0-69.4)	66.6 (64.4-68.8)
18-64 years	74.3 (73.0-75.6)	74.3 (72.9-75.6)	73.7 (72.5-75.0)

DATA SOURCE: Family Core component of the January-September 2001 National Health Interview Survey.

NOTES: The category public coverage includes Medicaid, Medicare (disability), State-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plan, and military health plan. The category private health insurance excludes plans that paid for only one type of service such as accidents or dental care. A small number of persons were covered by both private and public plans and are included in both categories. The analysis excluded persons with unknown health insurance status (about 1% of respondents). The data on type of coverage were cleaned and edited using an automated system based on logic checks and keyword searches. For comparability, the estimates for all years were created using these same procedures. The resulting estimates of persons having private or public coverage are generally within 0.1% of those based on manual editing procedures used for the final data files.