



# NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY EARLY RELEASE PROGRAM

## Insurance Status by State Medicaid Expansion Status: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, 2013–September 2014

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### Highlights

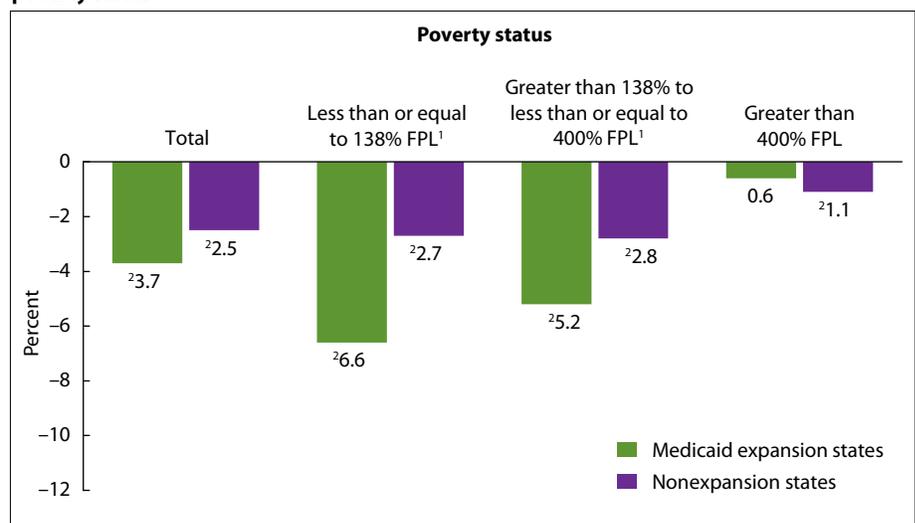
- The percentage of adults aged 18–64 who were uninsured at the time of interview decreased from 20.4% in 2013 to 15.9% in April–September 2014.
- Adults aged 18–64 with family incomes less than or equal to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) in Medicaid expansion states had a larger decrease in the percentage uninsured (10.2 percentage points) than those with similar income in nonexpansion states (3.3 percentage points) from 2013 to April–September 2014.
- Between 2013 and April–September 2014, the percentage of uninsured adults aged 18–34 with incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL decreased 9.1 percentage points in Medicaid expansion states, compared with only 0.7 percentage points in nonexpansion states.
- The greatest absolute decrease in the percentage uninsured from 2013 to April–September 2014 (12.1 percentage points) was among adults aged 45–64 with incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL in Medicaid expansion states.

### Introduction

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), states have the option to expand Medicaid coverage to all eligible persons with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (1,2). Previous research has shown that there have already been significant decreases in the percentages of persons who were uninsured between 2013 and the first 9 months of 2014 (3). Using data from 2013 and the second and third quarters (April through September) of the 2014 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), this report examines changes in the percentage of persons who were uninsured, by state Medicaid expansion status, age, and poverty status. Data from the second and third quarters of the 2014 NHIS were chosen for this analysis because they capture the surge in enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace and state-based exchange plans that occurred in March and the beginning of April 2014 (4). Data from the fourth quarter of the 2014 NHIS are not yet available.

This report is produced by the NHIS Early Release (ER) Program, which releases selected preliminary estimates prior to final microdata release. These estimates are available from the NHIS website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>. For more information about NHIS and the ER Program, see the “[Technical Notes](#)” and “[Additional Early Release Program Products](#)” sections of this report.

**Figure 1. Percentage point decreases from 2013 to 2014 (April–September) for persons of all ages who were uninsured at the time of interview, by state Medicaid expansion status and poverty status**



<sup>1</sup>Significant difference in the absolute percentage point decrease between Medicaid expansion and nonexpansion states ( $p < 0.05$ ).

<sup>2</sup>Significant difference between 2013 and 2014 estimates of the percentage who were uninsured at the time of interview ( $p < 0.05$ ).

NOTES: FPL is federal poverty level. Estimates for 2014 are based on data collected from April through September. State Medicaid expansion categorization is based on status as of October 31, 2013. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

DATA SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2013 and 2014, Family Core component.

## Results

Data from NHIS show that the percentage of persons of all ages who were uninsured at the time of interview decreased from 14.4% in 2013 to 11.3% in April–September 2014 (Table). Among adults aged 18–64, the percentage who were uninsured at the time of interview decreased from 20.4% in 2013 to 15.9% in April–September 2014. In general, significant decreases were observed only for persons under age 64 with incomes below 400% FPL. Overall, adults aged 45–64 with family incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL had the greatest decrease in the percentage uninsured (9.4 percentage points).

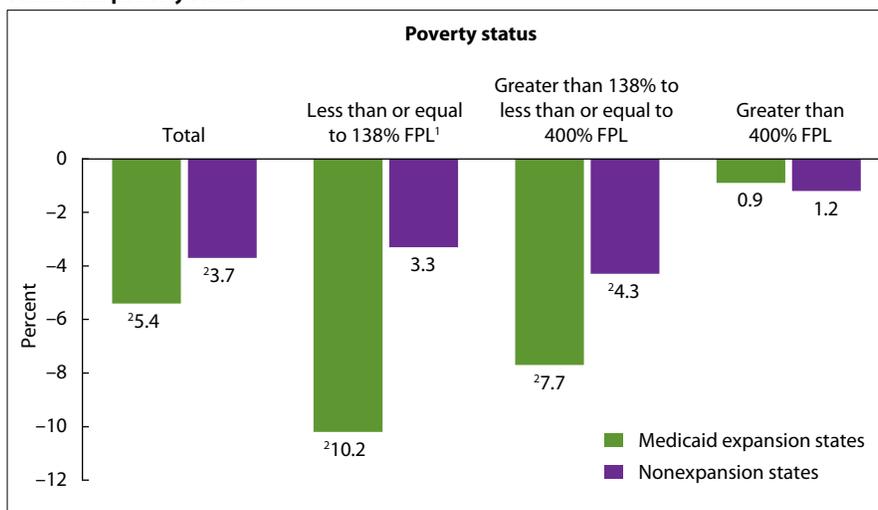
In 2013, 13.0% of persons of all ages in Medicaid expansion states were uninsured, compared with 16.0% in nonexpansion states (Table). Similarly, for nearly every age and income group, there were smaller percentages of uninsured persons in expansion states than in nonexpansion states in 2013.

Among persons residing in Medicaid expansion states, the percentage uninsured at the time of interview decreased from 13.0% in 2013 to 9.3% in April–September 2014 (Table). Among persons residing in nonexpansion states, the percentage uninsured at the time of interview decreased from 16.0% in 2013 to 13.5% in April–September 2014.

For persons with family incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL and those with incomes greater than 138% to less than or equal to 400% FPL, there were significantly greater decreases in the percentage uninsured for those in Medicaid expansion states than for those in nonexpansion states (Figure 1). Persons with incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL had a 6.6 percentage point decrease in the percentage uninsured between 2013 and April–September 2014, compared with a 2.7 percentage point decrease among those with similar incomes in nonexpansion states. A similar pattern was seen for those with incomes greater than 138% to less than or equal to 400% FPL.

Focusing on adults aged 18–64 with family incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL and with incomes greater than 138% to less than or equal to 400% FPL, there were significantly greater decreases in the percentage uninsured in Medicaid expansion states than in nonexpansion states (Figure 2). In Medicaid expansion states, those aged 18–64 with incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL had a 10.2 percentage point decrease in the percentage uninsured between 2013 and April–September 2014, compared with a 3.3 percentage point decrease in nonexpansion states. Persons aged 18–64 with incomes greater than 138% to less than or equal to 400% FPL in Medicaid expansion states had a 7.7 percentage point decrease in the percentage uninsured, compared with a 4.3 percentage point decrease in nonexpansion states. There were no significant changes in the percentage aged 18–64 with family incomes greater than 400% FPL who were uninsured from 2013 to April–September 2014 in either Medicaid expansion states or nonexpansion states.

**Figure 2. Percentage point decreases from 2013 to 2014 (April–September) for persons aged 18–64 who were uninsured at the time of interview, by state Medicaid expansion status and poverty status**

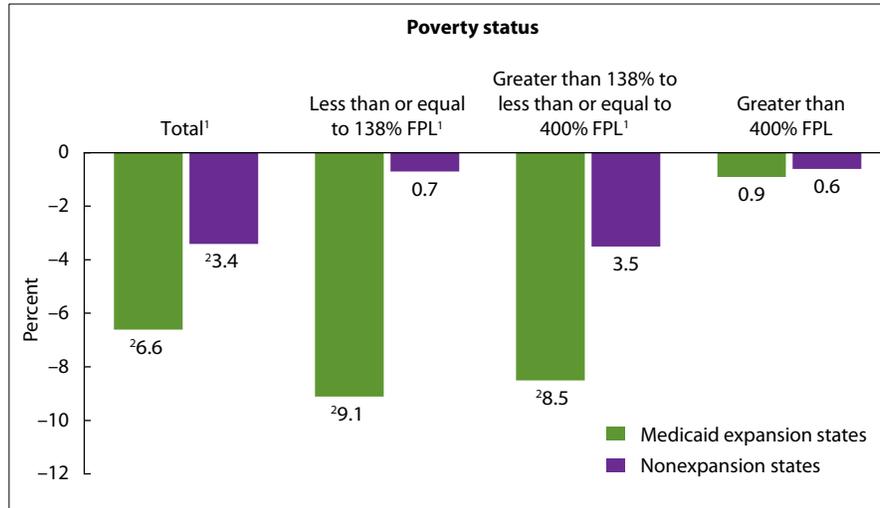


<sup>1</sup>Significant difference in the absolute percentage point decrease between Medicaid expansion and nonexpansion states ( $p < 0.05$ ).  
<sup>2</sup>Significant difference between 2013 and 2014 estimates of the percentage who were uninsured at the time of interview ( $p < 0.05$ ).  
 NOTES: FPL is federal poverty level. Estimates for 2014 are based on data collected from April through September. State Medicaid expansion categorization is based on status as of October 31, 2013. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.  
 DATA SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2013 and 2014, Family Core component.

Overall, most adult age groups in both Medicaid expansion and nonexpansion states exhibited significant decreases in the percentage uninsured over time. The 18–34 age group was the only age group where there were greater absolute decreases in the percentage uninsured for Medicaid expansion states than for nonexpansion states (Table). Those aged 18–34 in Medicaid expansion states had a decrease in the percentage uninsured of 6.6 percentage points, whereas those in nonexpansion states had a decrease of 3.4 percentage points.

Also within the 18–34 age group, those with family incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL and those with family incomes greater than 138% to less than or equal to 400% FPL were the only groups where there were greater absolute decreases in the percentage uninsured for Medicaid expansion states compared with nonexpansion states (Figure 3). The largest difference was among those with incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL; in Medicaid expansion states, there was a 9.1 percentage point decrease in the percentage uninsured between 2013 and April–September 2014, compared with a nonsignificant 0.7 percentage point decrease in nonexpansion states. Among those aged 18–34 with incomes greater than 138% to less than or equal to 400% FPL, there was an 8.5 percentage point decrease in the percentage uninsured in expansion states compared with a 3.5 percentage point decrease in nonexpansion states. Adults aged 18–34 with family incomes greater than 400% FPL had no significant changes in the percentage who were uninsured from 2013 to April–September 2014 in either Medicaid expansion states or nonexpansion states.

**Figure 3. Percentage point decreases from 2013 to 2014 (April–September) for persons aged 18–34 who were uninsured at the time of interview, by state Medicaid expansion status and poverty status**



<sup>1</sup>Significant difference in the absolute percentage point decrease between Medicaid expansion and nonexpansion states ( $p < 0.05$ ).  
<sup>2</sup>Significant difference between 2013 and 2014 estimates of the percentage who were uninsured at the time of interview ( $p < 0.05$ ).  
 NOTES: FPL is federal poverty level. Estimates for 2014 are based on data collected from April through September. State Medicaid expansion categorization is based on status as of October 31, 2013. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.  
 DATA SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2013 and 2014, Family Core component.

The greatest differences between 2013 and April–September 2014 in the percentage uninsured were observed among persons aged 45–64 with incomes less than or equal to 138% FPL in Medicaid expansion states (12.1 percentage point decrease) (Table). However, this decrease was not statistically larger than the 6.2 percentage point decrease among those in the same age and income groups in nonexpansion states.

**Table. Percentage (and standard error) of persons who were uninsured at the time of interview, for selected time periods, by state Medicaid expansion status, age group and poverty status: United States, 2013–September 2014**

Medicaid expansion status, age group, and poverty status <sup>1</sup>	2013	April–September 2014	Difference (percentage points)
All states			
All ages	14.4 (0.26)	11.3 (0.30)	†–3.1
≤138% FPL	25.5 (0.55)	20.9 (0.70)	†–4.6
>138% and ≤400% FPL	16.6 (0.37)	12.6 (0.42)	†–4.0
>400% FPL	4.0 (0.18)	3.3 (0.24)	†–0.7
0–17 years	6.5 (0.26)	5.5 (0.35)	†–1.0
≤138% FPL	8.6 (0.59)	6.7 (0.65)	†–1.9
>138% and ≤400% FPL	7.6 (0.44)	6.6 (0.57)	–1.0
>400% FPL	1.6 (0.24)	1.4 (0.34)	–0.2
18–64 years	20.4 (0.37)	15.9 (0.40)	†–4.5
≤138% FPL	39.7 (0.85)	32.8 (1.07)	†–6.9
>138% and ≤400% FPL	24.1 (0.51)	18.1 (0.56)	†–6.0
>400% FPL	5.4 (0.24)	4.3 (0.31)	†–1.1
18–34 years	25.9 (0.53)	20.9 (0.59)	†–5.0
≤138% FPL	40.1 (1.20)	34.9 (1.41)	†–5.2
>138% and ≤400% FPL	26.7 (0.73)	20.6 (0.87)	†–6.1
>400% FPL	8.4 (0.51)	7.6 (0.72)	–0.8
35–44 years	20.9 (0.54)	17.1 (0.63)	†–3.8
≤138% FPL	44.8 (1.37)	38.4 (1.87)	†–6.4
>138% and ≤400% FPL	24.4 (0.85)	19.5 (1.01)	†–4.9
>400% FPL	4.2 (0.39)	3.6 (0.47)	–0.6
45–64 years	15.4 (0.40)	10.9 (0.41)	†–4.5
≤138% FPL	36.0 (1.01)	26.6 (1.33)	†–9.4
>138% and ≤400% FPL	21.2 (0.72)	14.6 (0.72)	†–6.6
>400% FPL	4.2 (0.29)	2.8 (0.29)	†–1.4
65 and over	1.1 (0.10)	0.9 (0.14)	–0.2
≤138% FPL	3.1 (0.43)	2.8 (0.65)	–0.3
>138% and ≤400% FPL	0.8 (0.15)	0.6 (0.15)	–0.2
>400% FPL	*0.2 (0.11)	*0.5 (0.20)	0.3
Medicaid expansion states <sup>2</sup>			
All ages	13.0 (0.35)	9.3 (0.35)	†–3.7
≤138% FPL	22.7 (0.71)	16.1 (0.81)	††–6.6
>138% and ≤400% FPL	15.8 (0.53)	10.6 (0.53)	††–5.2
>400% FPL	3.9 (0.21)	3.3 (0.30)	–0.6
0–17 years	5.6 (0.33)	4.2 (0.40)	†–1.4
≤138% FPL	7.8 (0.78)	5.4 (0.76)	†–2.4
>138% and ≤400% FPL	6.6 (0.59)	5.0 (0.74)	–1.6
>400% FPL	1.2 (0.25)	*1.6 (0.50)	–0.4
18–64 years	18.4 (0.49)	13.0 (0.47)	†–5.4
≤138% FPL	34.7 (1.04)	24.5 (1.18)	††–10.2
>138% and ≤400% FPL	23.2 (0.72)	15.5 (0.73)	††–7.7
>400% FPL	5.2 (0.31)	4.3 (0.37)	–0.9

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table. Percentage (and standard error) of persons who were uninsured at the time of interview, for selected time periods, by state Medicaid expansion status, age group and poverty status: United States, 2013–September 2014—Continued**

Medicaid Expansion status, age group, and poverty status <sup>1</sup>	2013	April–September 2014	Difference (percentage points)
18–34 years	23.5 (0.67)	16.9 (0.65)	††–6.6
≤138% FPL	35.2 (1.56)	26.1 (1.52)	††–9.1
>138% and ≤400% FPL	25.6 (0.98)	17.1 (1.05)	††–8.5
>400% FPL	8.4 (0.70)	7.5 (0.75)	–0.9
35–44 years	18.5 (0.64)	14.4 (0.75)	†–4.1
≤138% FPL	39.1 (1.70)	30.3 (2.18)	†–8.8
>138% and ≤400% FPL	23.0 (1.09)	18.0 (1.34)	†–5.0
>400% FPL	3.8 (0.43)	3.0 (0.55)	–0.8
45–64 years	13.9 (0.57)	9.0 (0.54)	†–4.9
≤138% FPL	30.9 (1.32)	18.8 (1.78)	†–12.1
>138% and ≤400% FPL	20.8 (1.06)	12.3 (0.97)	†–8.5
>400% FPL	3.9 (0.37)	3.1 (0.44)	–0.8
65 and over	1.0 (0.14)	1.0 (0.20)	0.0
≤138% FPL	2.7 (0.52)	*2.7 (0.95)	0.0
>138% and ≤400% FPL	0.8 (0.21)	*0.5 (0.17)	–0.3
>400% FPL	*0.3 (0.18)	*0.7 (0.32)	0.4
Nonexpansion states <sup>3</sup>			
All ages	16.0 (0.41)	13.5 (0.48)	†–2.5
≤138% FPL	28.6 (0.84)	25.9 (1.05)	†–2.7
>138% and ≤400% FPL	17.4 (0.52)	14.6 (0.66)	†–2.8
>400% FPL	4.3 (0.31)	3.2 (0.38)	†–1.1
0–17 years	7.5 (0.40)	6.8 (0.58)	–0.7
≤138% FPL	9.3 (0.89)	7.9 (1.04)	–1.4
>138% and ≤400% FPL	8.5 (0.66)	8.1 (0.88)	–0.4
>400% FPL	2.2 (0.41)	*1.1 (0.43)	–1.1
18–64 years	22.7 (0.59)	19.0 (0.66)	†–3.7
≤138% FPL	45.4 (1.30)	42.1 (1.57)	–3.3
>138% and ≤400% FPL	25.0 (0.73)	20.7 (0.84)	†–4.3
>400% FPL	5.6 (0.37)	4.4 (0.51)	–1.2
18–34 years	28.7 (0.86)	25.3 (1.02)	†–3.4
≤138% FPL	45.6 (1.78)	44.9 (2.00)	–0.7
>138% and ≤400% FPL	27.8 (1.12)	24.3 (1.43)	–3.5
>400% FPL	8.3 (0.74)	7.7 (1.28)	–0.6
35–44 years	23.8 (0.90)	20.1 (1.08)	†–3.7
≤138% FPL	51.7 (2.13)	47.1 (2.96)	–4.6
>138% and ≤400% FPL	25.7 (1.29)	20.8 (1.53)	†–4.9
>400% FPL	4.7 (0.70)	4.3 (0.84)	–0.4
45–64 years	17.0 (0.56)	13.1 (0.63)	†–3.9
≤138% FPL	41.5 (1.45)	35.3 (1.92)	†–6.2
>138% and ≤400% FPL	21.6 (0.97)	16.9 (1.06)	†–4.7
>400% FPL	4.5 (0.45)	2.5 (0.36)	†–2.0
65 and over	1.2 (0.15)	0.9 (0.20)	–0.3
≤138% FPL	3.4 (0.70)	*2.9 (0.90)	–0.5
>138% and ≤400% FPL	0.7 (0.20)	0.8 (0.24)	0.1
>400% FPL	*0.1 (0.06)	*0.2 (0.19)	0.1

See footnotes at end of table.

<sup>1</sup>Significant difference between 2013 and April–September 2014 estimates of the percentage who were uninsured at the time of interview ( $p < 0.05$ ). The reliability or precision of the differences was not evaluated.

<sup>‡</sup>Significant difference in the absolute percentage point decrease between Medicaid expansion states and nonexpansion states ( $p < 0.05$ ).

\* Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 30% and should be used with caution as it does not meet standards of reliability or precision.

<sup>1</sup>FPL is federal poverty level. FPL is based on family income and family size, using the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds. Persons with unknown poverty status are not shown separately. The percentage of respondents with unknown poverty status is 9.6%. Estimates may differ from estimates that are based on both reported and imputed income.

<sup>2</sup>Medicaid expansion states are AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, HI, IL, IA, KY, MD, MA, MI, MN, NV, NJ, NM, NY, ND, OH, OR, RI, VT, WA, and WV (as of October 31, 2013).

<sup>3</sup>Nonexpansion states are AL, AK, FL, GA, ID, IN, KS, LA, ME, MS, MO, MT, NE, NH, NC, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, and WY (as of October 31, 2013).

NOTES: A person was defined as uninsured if he or she did not have any private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), state-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plan, or military plan. 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. These health insurance estimates are being released prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from the National Health Interview Survey. The resulting estimates for persons without health insurance are generally 0.1–0.3 percentage points lower than those based on the editing procedures used for the final data files. Occasionally, due to decisions made for the final data editing and weighting, estimates based on preliminary editing procedures may differ by more than 0.3 percentage points from estimates based on final files. Estimates for 2014 are based on data collected from April through June. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

DATA SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2013–2014, Family Core component.

## Technical Notes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is releasing the percentage of uninsured by state Medicaid expansion status for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population based on data from the 2013–2014 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). Estimates for 2013 through 2014 are stratified by year, age group, poverty status, and state Medicaid expansion status.

The 2013 and 2014 estimates are based on preliminary microdata files. The 2014 estimates are being released prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from NHIS. Differences between estimates calculated using preliminary data files and those using final data files are typically less than 0.1 percentage point. However, preliminary estimates of persons without health insurance coverage are generally 0.1–0.3 percentage points lower than the final estimates due to the editing procedures used for the final data files.

### Data source

Data used to produce this ER report are derived from the NHIS Family Core component for January 2013 through September 2014. Estimates for 2014 are presented for the second and third quarters combined. This component collects information on all family members in each household. Data analysis was based on information collected on 104,519 persons in 2013 and 57,792 persons in 2014. More information on the design, content, and use of NHIS is available on the NHIS website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>.

### Estimation procedures

NCHS creates survey weights for each calendar quarter of the NHIS sample. Estimates were calculated using the NHIS survey weights, which are calibrated to census totals for the sex, age, and race/ethnicity of the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population. Weights for 2013 and 2014 NHIS data were derived from 2010 census-based population estimates. The NHIS data weighting procedure is described in more detail elsewhere (5).

Point estimates, and estimates of their variances, were calculated using SUDAAN software to account for the complex sample design of NHIS. The Taylor series linearization method was chosen for variance estimation.

Unless otherwise noted, all estimates shown meet the NCHS standard of having less than or equal to 30% relative standard error. Differences between percentages or rates were evaluated using two-sided significance tests at the 0.05 level. Terms such as “more likely” and “less likely” indicate a statistically significant difference. Terms such as “similar” and “no difference” indicate that the estimates being compared were not significantly different. Lack of comment regarding the difference between any two estimates does not necessarily mean that the difference was tested and found to be not significant.

### Definitions of selected terms

**Uninsured at interview**—A person was defined as uninsured if he or she did not have, at the time of interview, any private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), state-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plan, or military plan. 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 analyses excluded persons with unknown health insurance status (about 1% of respondents each year). Data on health insurance status were edited using an automated system based on logic checks and keyword searches. For comparability, the estimates for both years were created using these same procedures. Health insurance information is collected for all persons in a family and is reported on an individual basis.

**Medicaid expansion status**—Under provisions of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–148, P.L. 111–152) (ACA), states have the option to expand Medicaid eligibility to cover adults who have incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. There is no deadline for states to choose to implement the Medicaid expansion, and they may do so at any time. As of October 31, 2013, 26 states and the District of Columbia had expanded Medicaid.

**Poverty status**—Poverty status was based on the ratio of the family's income in the previous calendar year to the appropriate poverty threshold (given the family's size and number of children) defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for that year (6,7). The percentage of respondents with unknown poverty status for 2013 was 16.3% and for the second and third quarters of 2014 was 10.2%. For more information on unknown income and unknown poverty status, see the NHIS Survey Description Document for 2013, available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>. NCHS provides imputed income files, which are released a few months after the annual release of NHIS microdata and are not available for the ER updates. Therefore, estimates stratified by poverty status in this ER report are based on reported income only and may differ from similar estimates produced later that are based on both reported and imputed income.

## Additional Early Release Program Products

Three periodical reports are published through the NHIS ER Program:

- *Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the National Health Interview Survey* is published quarterly and provides estimates of 15 selected measures of health: health insurance coverage, having a usual place to go for medical care, obtaining needed medical care, influenza vaccination, pneumococcal vaccination, obesity, leisure-time physical activity, current smoking, alcohol consumption, HIV testing, general health status, personal care needs, serious psychological distress, diagnosed diabetes, and asthma episodes and current asthma.
- *Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey* is published quarterly and provides detailed estimates of health insurance coverage.
- *Wireless Substitution: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey* is published biannually and provides selected estimates of telephone coverage in the United States.

In addition to these reports, preliminary microdata files containing selected NHIS variables are produced as part of the ER Program. For the 2014 NHIS, these files were made available three times: in September 2014, December 2014, and March 2015. NHIS data users can analyze these files through the NCHS Research Data Center without having to wait for the final annual NHIS microdata files to be released.

New measures may be added as work continues and in response to changing data needs. Feedback on these releases is welcome ([nhislist@cdc.gov](mailto:nhislist@cdc.gov)).

Announcements about ER reports, other new data releases, publications, or corrections related to NHIS will be sent to members of the HISUSERS e-mail list. To join, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/subscribe.html>.

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## Suggested citation

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