



National Health Interview Survey

Long-term Trends in Health Insurance Coverage

Table 1. Percentages (and standard errors) of persons under 65 years of age with health insurance coverage, by coverage type, and without health insurance: United States, selected years 1968-2017

Year	Sample size	Private coverage (any) ¹	Private coverage (employer) ²	Private coverage (other) ³	Medicaid	Medicare	Other public coverage	Uninsured ⁴
1968	120,670	79.3 (0.39)	---	---	---	---	---	---
1970	44,373	78.7 (0.53)	68.6 (0.60)	10.0 (0.37)	---	---	---	---
1972	119,939	77.3 (0.39)	69.4 (0.43)	7.8 (0.18)	3.5 (0.14)	---	2.6 (0.18)	16.7 (0.32)
1974	104,727	79.7 (0.31)	70.5 (0.35)	9.6 (0.18)	4.7 (0.16)	---	2.5 (0.20)	13.1 (0.24)
1976	101,594	78.9 (0.31)	68.5 (0.32)	10.3 (0.19)	4.9 (0.16)	0.2 (0.02)	2.6 (0.19)	14.1 (0.24)
1978	98,465	79.3 (0.34)	70.2 (0.35)	9.2 (0.19)	6.7 (0.19)	1.2 (0.04)	2.3 (0.16)	12.0 (0.22)
1980	91,425	79.4 (0.38)	71.4 (0.40)	8.0 (0.20)	7.1 (0.19)	1.4 (0.05)	2.0 (0.16)	12.0 (0.26)
1982	92,489	78.1 (0.53)	70.3 (0.55)	7.9 (0.21)	6.1 (0.29)	1.2 (0.04)	3.7 (0.21)	13.9 (0.36)
1984	46,729	76.9 (0.64)	68.4 (0.67)	8.7 (0.27)	6.8 (0.34)	1.1 (0.06)	3.6 (0.26)	14.6 (0.46)
1986	93,396	76.7 (0.62)	69.1 (0.62)	7.7 (0.21)	6.8 (0.33)	1.2 (0.04)	3.7 (0.23)	14.5 (0.39)
1989	54,860	76.8 (0.71)	69.3 (0.76)	7.6 (0.33)	6.4 (0.35)	1.2 (0.05)	3.3 (0.29)	15.0 (0.43)
1990	102,684	75.9 (0.51)	68.3 (0.51)	7.6 (0.19)	7.2 (0.26)	1.4 (0.05)	2.9 (0.24)	15.6 (0.35)
1991	105,053	74.2 (0.43)	66.4 (0.47)	7.8 (0.28)	7.1 (0.21)	1.3 (0.04)	3.0 (0.25)	17.2 (0.30)
1992	105,316	73.6 (0.48)	62.8 (0.52)	10.8 (0.31)	8.5 (0.27)	1.4 (0.06)	2.9 (0.25)	16.4 (0.29)
1993	113,042	72.0 (0.46)	64.9 (0.45)	7.1 (0.18)	9.8 (0.29)	1.4 (0.05)	2.9 (0.25)	16.8 (0.28)
1994	101,608	69.9 (0.50)	64.0 (0.48)	5.9 (0.17)	11.2 (0.34)	1.4 (0.05)	2.8 (0.23)	17.8 (0.32)
1995	90,512	71.3 (0.42)	65.6 (0.43)	5.7 (0.16)	11.5 (0.27)	1.6 (0.06)	2.6 (0.17)	16.3 (0.25)
1996	56,268	71.2 (0.55)	65.1 (0.57)	6.1 (0.22)	11.1 (0.33)	1.6 (0.07)	2.6 (0.19)	16.7 (0.36)
1997	91,275	70.7 (0.36)	66.4 (0.36)	4.2 (0.13)	9.7 (0.23)	1.6 (0.05)	2.7 (0.13)	17.5 (0.24)
1998	87,020	72.1 (0.36)	67.5 (0.37)	4.6 (0.14)	8.9 (0.22)	1.7 (0.06)	2.7 (0.15)	16.6 (0.25)
1999	85,732	72.8 (0.36)	68.3 (0.37)	4.4 (0.14)	9.1 (0.21)	1.7 (0.06)	2.2 (0.12)	16.1 (0.25)
2000	89,149	71.7 (0.35)	67.3 (0.37)	4.2 (0.14)	9.5 (0.22)	1.7 (0.06)	2.2 (0.13)	16.8 (0.25)
2001	89,478	71.5 (0.37)	67.2 (0.35)	4.1 (0.12)	10.4 (0.21)	1.8 (0.06)	2.1 (0.12)	16.1 (0.25)
2002	82,533	69.7 (0.37)	65.6 (0.37)	3.9 (0.13)	11.8 (0.23)	1.7 (0.06)	2.3 (0.14)	16.5 (0.24)

See footnotes at end of table

Table 1. Percentages (and standard errors) of persons under 65 years of age with health insurance coverage, by coverage type, and without health insurance: United States, selected years 1968–2017—continued

Year	Sample size	Private coverage (any) ¹	Private coverage (employer) ²	Private coverage (other) ³	Medicaid	Medicare	Other public coverage	Uninsured ⁴
2003	81,596	68.9 (0.40)	64.4 (0.41)	4.0 (0.15)	12.3 (0.25)	1.8 (0.06)	2.4 (0.17)	16.5 (0.26)
2004	83,357	68.8 (0.39)	64.0 (0.39)	4.6 (0.14)	12.5 (0.24)	1.8 (0.06)	2.4 (0.12)	16.4 (0.23)
2005	87,077	68.2 (0.40)	63.6 (0.40)	4.4 (0.14)	12.9 (0.25)	1.8 (0.06)	2.5 (0.13)	16.4 (0.24)
2006	67,066	66.3 (0.48)	61.5 (0.48)	4.6 (0.17)	14.0 (0.32)	2.1 (0.08)	2.5 (0.14)	17.0 (0.29)
2007	67,065	66.8 (0.45)	61.6 (0.46)	4.9 (0.17)	13.9 (0.30)	2.1 (0.08)	2.7 (0.17)	16.6 (0.29)
2008	65,495	65.6 (0.46)	60.5 (0.46)	4.8 (0.19)	14.7 (0.32)	2.3 (0.08)	2.7 (0.16)	16.8 (0.29)
2009	78,011	63.3 (0.49)	58.0 (0.48)	5.0 (0.17)	16.1 (0.33)	2.3 (0.08)	2.9 (0.18)	17.5 (0.28)
2010	79,336	61.7 (0.47)	56.6 (0.45)	4.8 (0.15)	16.9 (0.29)	2.3 (0.07)	3.1 (0.15)	18.2 (0.29)
2011	89,060	61.8 (0.45)	56.4 (0.44)	4.8 (0.15)	17.8 (0.31)	2.4 (0.07)	3.0 (0.11)	17.2 (0.24)
2012	94,247	61.8 (0.41)	56.9 (0.42)	4.4 (0.14)	18.0 (0.28)	2.4 (0.07)	3.0 (0.14)	16.9 (0.24)
2013	90,225	61.8 (0.42)	56.6 (0.42)	4.7 (0.15)	18.1 (0.28)	2.6 (0.07)	3.0 (0.13)	16.7 (0.25)
2014	96,079	63.7 (0.41)	56.4 (0.42)	6.4 (0.17)	19.6 (0.30)	2.5 (0.08)	3.1 (0.17)	13.3 (0.22)
2015	88,199	65.5 (0.42)	57.4 (0.43)	7.7 (0.18)	20.6 (0.35)	2.6 (0.08)	3.0 (0.16)	10.6 (0.19)
2016	80,590	65.7 (0.44)	57.4 (0.43)	7.8 (0.18)	21.1 (0.35)	2.8 (0.08)	2.8 (0.14)	10.3 (0.23)
2017	64,457	65.7 (0.47)	58.2 (0.48)	7.1 (0.17)	20.2 (0.36)	2.7 (0.08)	3.1 (0.16)	10.7 (0.25)

--- Data not available.

¹Includes persons covered by private coverage obtained through an employer, purchased directly, or obtained through any other means. Beginning in 2014, private coverage also includes plans purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace or a state-based exchange. Excludes plans that paid for only one type of service such as accidents or dental care.

²The category "Private coverage (employer)" is private insurance originally obtained through a present or former employer or union; this also includes private insurance obtained through the workplace, self-employment, or a professional association.

³The category "Private coverage (other)" includes persons who are covered by private insurance that is directly purchased as well as plans obtained through school or other means. Beginning in 2014, this category also includes plans purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace or a state-based exchange.

⁴A person was defined as uninsured if he or she did not have any private health insurance, Medicare (1976+), Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (1999+), state-sponsored (1982–1989, 1992+) or other government-sponsored health plan (1997+), or military-related coverage. 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.

NOTES: Percentages do not add to 100 because a small percentage of persons reported more than one type of coverage. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. In this table, unknown values (responses coded as "refused," "not ascertained," or "don't know") were not counted in the denominators when calculating estimates. For private health insurance coverage, this may result in the percentage with "private coverage (employer)" and the percentage with "private coverage (other)" not adding up to the percentage with "private coverage (any)." For a full description of the methodology used for these tables, see the report entitled "Health Insurance Coverage Trends, 1959–2007: Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey" (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr017.pdf>).

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, health insurance supplements (prior to 1997) and family core questionnaire (starting with 1997).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This table is an update of Table 1 from the report entitled "Health Insurance Coverage Trends, 1959–2007: Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey" which was released in July 2009 (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr017.pdf>). This table was produced by Robin A. Cohen of the National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Suggested citation

Cohen RA. Long-term trends in health insurance: Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, United States, 1968–2017. National Center for Health Statistics. July 2018. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health_policy/coverage_and_access.htm.

Table 2. Number (in millions) of persons under 65 years of age with health insurance coverage, by coverage type, and without health insurance: United States, selected years 1968–2017

Year	Population under age 65	Private coverage (any) ¹	Private coverage (employer) ²	Private coverage (other) ³	Medicaid	Medicare	Other public coverage	Uninsured ⁴
1968	177.1	140.5	---	---	---	---	---	---
1970	180.9	142.3	124.1	18.0	---	---	---	---
1972	184.2	142.3	127.9	14.4	6.5	---	4.7	30.7
1974	186.6	148.7	131.5	17.9	8.7	---	4.6	24.4
1976	188.8	148.9	129.4	19.5	9.3	0.5	4.9	26.6
1978	191.0	151.6	134.0	17.5	12.8	2.4	4.3	23.0
1980	194.0	154.1	138.5	15.6	13.8	2.7	3.9	23.3
1982	201.7	157.5	141.8	16.0	12.2	2.5	7.5	28.0
1984	203.8	156.7	139.4	17.7	13.9	2.3	7.3	29.7
1986	205.2	157.5	141.7	15.7	13.9	2.4	7.6	29.8
1989	208.8	160.4	144.6	15.8	13.4	2.5	6.9	31.3
1990	214.3	162.7	146.3	16.3	15.4	3.0	6.1	33.4
1991	216.3	160.5	143.7	16.8	15.4	2.8	6.5	37.2
1992	218.4	160.8	137.1	23.7	18.6	3.0	6.4	35.8
1993	220.7	158.9	143.2	15.8	21.6	3.2	6.4	37.1
1994	223.6	158.8	145.9	12.9	23.9	3.0	6.1	38.8
1995	228.6	159.8	146.2	13.5	25.6	3.1	6.4	40.6
1996	230.4	164.4	151.3	13.1	26.6	3.7	5.9	37.7
1997	232.5	165.5	151.4	14.2	25.8	3.7	6.0	38.9
1998	234.6	165.8	155.9	9.8	22.9	3.8	6.4	41.0
1999	236.8	170.8	159.8	10.8	21.1	4.1	6.3	39.2
2000	239.2	174.2	163.4	10.5	21.9	4.1	5.2	38.5
2001	241.3	173.0	162.5	10.1	22.9	4.0	5.4	40.5
2002	243.6	174.1	163.8	10.0	25.2	4.3	5.1	39.2

See footnotes at end of table

Table 2. Number (in millions) of persons under 65 years of age with health insurance coverage, by coverage type, and without health insurance: United States, selected years 1968–2017—continued

Year	Population under age 65	Private coverage (any) ¹	Private coverage (employer) ²	Private coverage (other) ³	Medicaid	Medicare	Other public coverage	Uninsured ⁴
2003	251.8	173.6	162.1	10.1	30.9	4.5	6.1	41.6
2004	253.7	174.5	162.3	11.6	31.6	4.5	6.1	41.6
2005	256.1	174.7	162.9	11.1	33.2	4.5	6.4	42.1
2006	258.2	171.2	158.8	11.8	36.2	5.4	6.5	43.9
2007	260.7	174.1	160.7	12.7	36.2	5.4	7.0	43.3
2008	262.0	171.9	158.6	12.6	38.4	5.9	7.0	44.1
2009	263.4	166.7	152.8	13.1	42.4	6.2	7.7	46.2
2010	265.4	163.9	150.2	12.7	44.8	6.0	8.1	48.3
2011	266.2	164.5	150.1	12.7	47.4	6.4	7.9	45.8
2012	266.7	164.9	151.8	11.8	48.1	6.5	8.1	45.2
2013	267.5	165.3	151.5	12.5	48.5	7.1	8.1	44.6
2014	268.2	170.7	151.3	17.2	52.6	6.7	8.4	35.7
2015	269.4	176.6	154.7	20.8	55.4	7.0	8.1	28.7
2016	270.7	177.7	155.5	21.2	57.0	7.5	7.6	27.9
2017	270.7	177.7	157.5	19.2	54.6	7.3	8.5	28.9

-- Data not available.

¹Includes persons covered by private coverage obtained through an employer, purchased directly, or obtained through any other means. Beginning in 2014, private coverage also includes plans purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace or a state-based exchange. Excludes plans that paid for only one type of service such as accidents or dental care.

²The category "Private coverage (employer)" is private insurance originally obtained through a present or former employer or union; this also includes private insurance obtained through the workplace, self-employment, or a professional association.

³The category "Private coverage (other)" includes persons who are covered by private insurance that is directly purchased as well as plans obtained through school or other means. Beginning in 2014, this category also includes plans purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace or a state-based exchange.

⁴A person was defined as uninsured if he or she did not have any private health insurance, Medicare (1976+), Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (1999+), state-sponsored (1982–1989, 1992+) or other government-sponsored health plan (1997+), or military-related coverage. 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.

NOTES: A person may have more than one type of coverage, therefore, individual coverage types may not add up to the population total. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. In this table, unknown values (responses coded as "refused," "not ascertained," or "don't know") were not counted in the denominators when calculating estimates. For private health insurance, coverage this may result in the number with "private coverage (employer)" and the number with "private coverage (other)" not adding up to the number with "private coverage (any)." For a full description of the methodology used for these tables, see the report entitled "Health Insurance Coverage Trends, 1959–2007: Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey" (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr017.pdf>).

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