

Analytic Uses of National Health Interview Survey Early Release Products: Health Insurance Reports, Preliminary Microdata Files, Special Topics

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention





Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, 2011

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Highlights

- Once each year, this quarterly report presents health insurance coverage rates for selected states. In 2011, the percentage of persons who were uninsured at the time of interview among the 32 states shown ranged from 3.9% in Massachusetts to 22.6% in Nevada.
- In 2011, 46.3 million persons of all ages (15.1%) were uninsured at the time of interview, 58.7 million (19.2%) had been uninsured at least part of the year prior to interview, and 34.2 million (11.2%) had been uninsured for more than a year at the time of interview. In 2011, the percentage of children under age 18 years who were uninsured at the time of interview

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 2011 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), along with comparable estimates from the 1997–2010 NHIS. Data analyses for the 2011 NHIS were based on 101,577 persons in the Family Core.

Three measures 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 also includes persons uninsured for more than a year), and (c) uninsured for more than

a year at the time of interview. Estimates of public and private coverage are also presented.

This report includes estimates for adults aged 19–25 (Tables 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11), which are of special interest because of provisions of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–148, P.L. 111–152). Under the Affordable Care Act, young adults aged 19–25 can be covered under their parent's employer-sponsored or individually purchased health insurance. Tables 8–11 present quarterly estimates for adults aged 19–25. Table 8 also provides quarterly estimates for adults aged 26–35.

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

- Children under age 18 years
- Adults aged 18–64

Early Release of Health Insurance Estimates

- ❑ **Published quarterly (March, June, September, and December)** – since January 2004
 - June report has state-level estimates
- ❑ **Three measures of lack of health insurance coverage**
 - Point in time
 - For more than a year
 - For at least part of the past year (includes those who currently have coverage)
- ❑ **Private coverage**
 - High deductible health plans, Consumer directed health plans, Flexible spending accounts
- ❑ **Public coverage**

Early Release of Health Insurance Estimates

- ❑ **Preliminary edits – may differ from final editing**
 - (usually less than 0.3 percentage points)
 - Verbatim responses on health insurance estimates – electronically coded
- ❑ **Annual and trend figures (1997+)**
- ❑ **Detailed tables**
 - Age groups, poverty status, race/ethnicity, education, employment status, marital status
- ❑ **Reports have evolved and will evolve**
 - HDHP's, CDHP's, and FSA – (2007+)
 - Detailed information on persons aged 19-25
 - Expansion of state-level estimates
- ❑ **Ability to monitor changes in “real time”**

Affordable Care Act

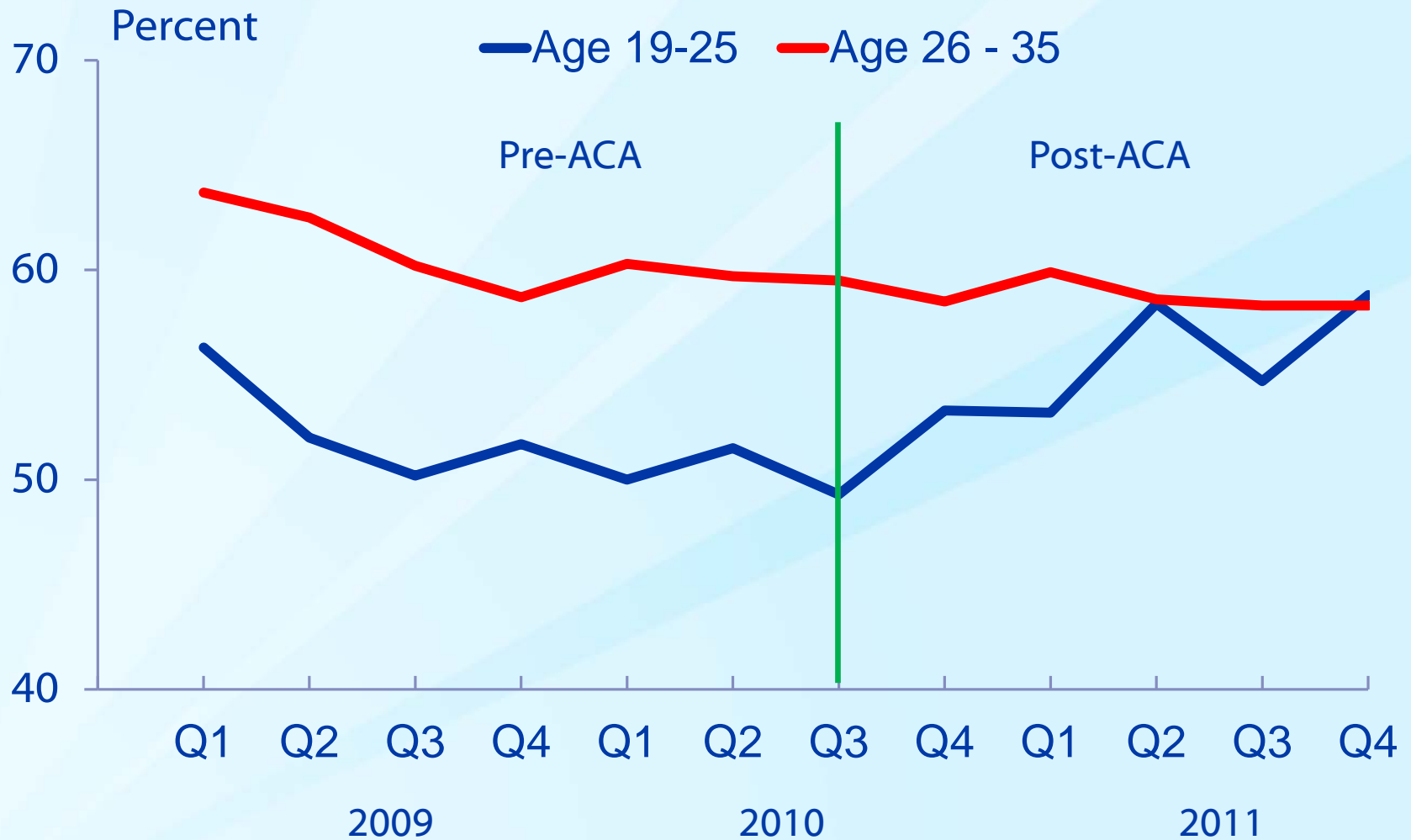
- ❑ Provisions of the law will be enacted in stages
- ❑ Within the first year (enacted March 23,2010)
 - September 23, 2010 – Coverage of young adults up to age 26 on parents health policies; Individual and group plans prohibited from placing lifetime limits on the dollar value of coverage; Requirement of new plans to provide preventive care benefits

One Million Young Adults Gain Health Insurance in 2011 Because of the Affordable Care Act (September, 2011)

Reuters: Health law keeps 2.5 million young adults insured (December, 2011)

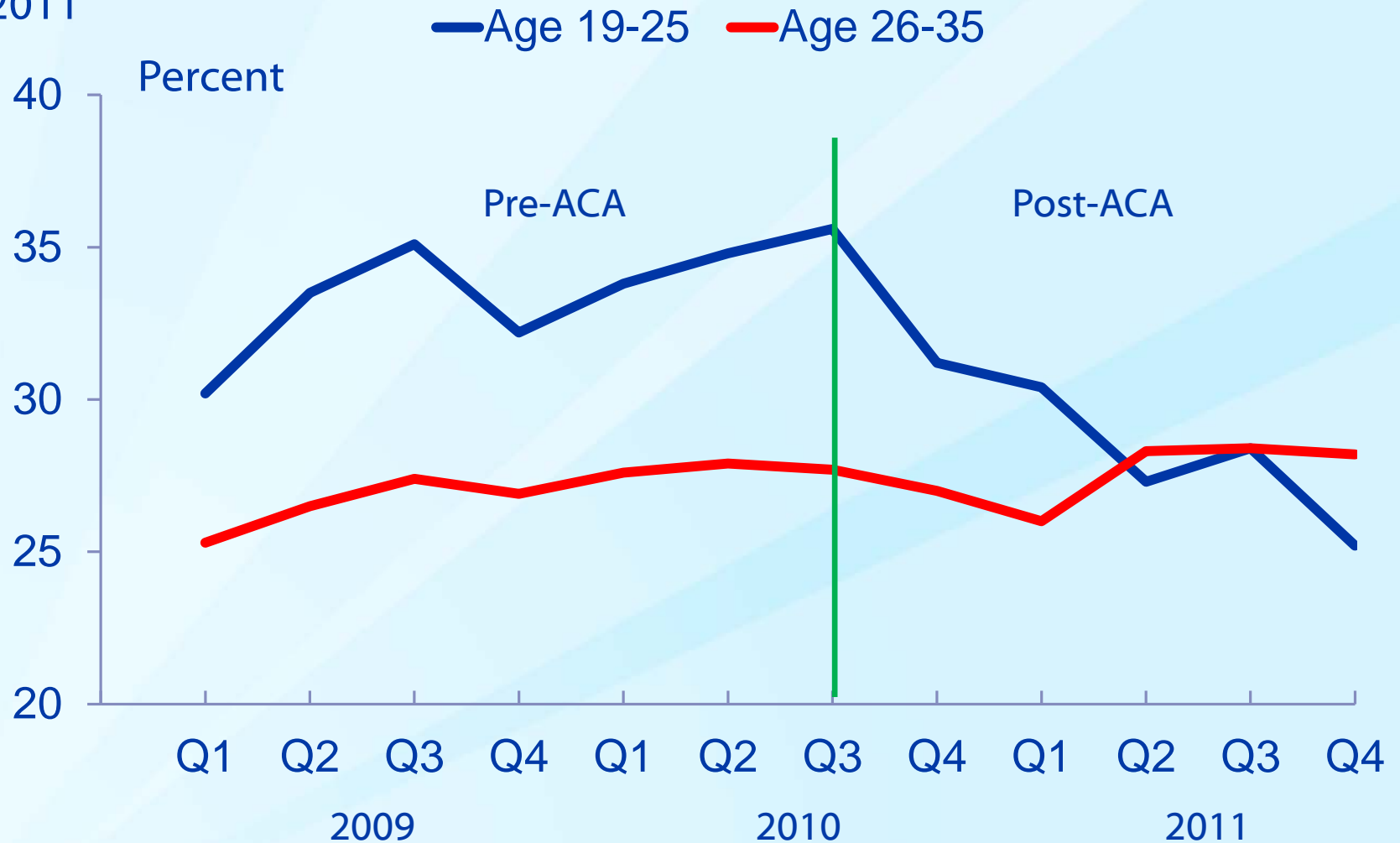
USA Today: 3.1 million young people covered after health care law (June, 2012)

Percentages of adults aged 19-25 and adults aged 26-35 who had private health insurance coverage by year and quarter: United States, January 2009 – December 2011



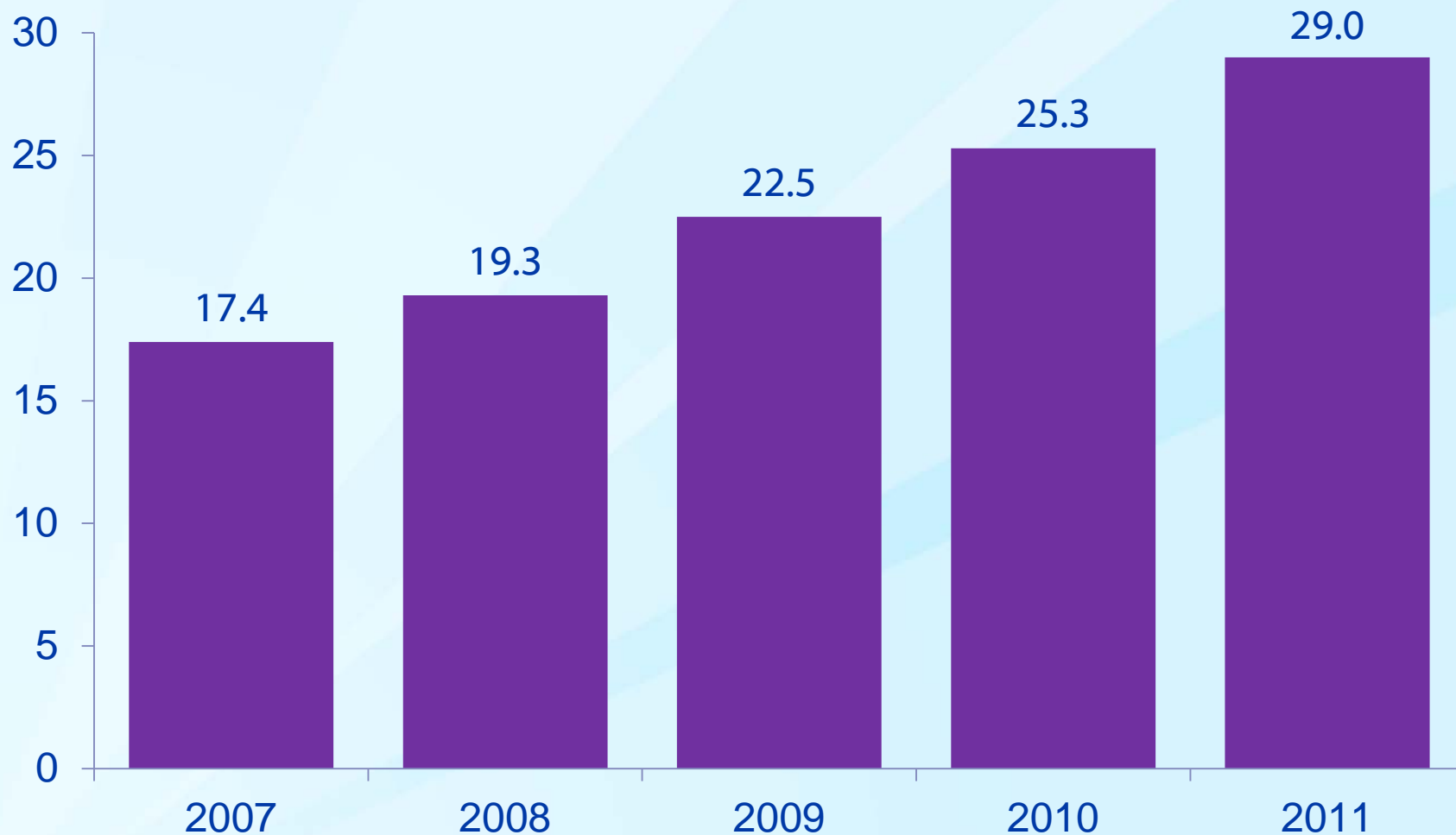
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2009 – 2011, Family Core component. Preliminary files.

Percentages of adults aged 19-25 and adults aged 26-35 who were uninsured by year and quarter: United States, January 2009 – December 2011



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2009 – 2011, Family Core component. Preliminary files.

Percentage of persons under age 65 who are enrolled in a high deductible health plan, among those with private health insurance: United States, 2007–2011



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2009 – 2011, Family Core component. Preliminary files.

Preliminary microdata files

Preliminary microdata files

- ❑ **Made accessible through the Research Data Center (September, December, and March)**
 - NCHS RDC (Atlanta, Hyattsville, Remotely)
- ❑ **Sources (Family, Sample Child, Sample Adult)**
- ❑ **113 variables**
- ❑ **Minimal documentation**
 - Table
 - Variable name, Description, Comment/source
 - Includes variables that are not on the file but are used to create recodes on the file
 - Use previous data year's Survey Description Document and other documentation
 - Use draft questionnaire for current data year

Table. Variables on the Preliminary Quarterly Microdata File, and variables used to calculate recodes on the Preliminary Quarterly Microdata File, for Quarters 1, 2 and 3 of the 2011 National Health Interview Survey

Variable	Description	Comment/source
TYPEPRI	<u>Recode</u> Private coverage variable for Early Release analysis	On data file (F) 0 = no private, 1 = yes private, 9 = not ascertained
CPLKIND	Place of usual source of medical care – child	On data file (SC)
CANAGE14	Age first diagnosed with lung cancer	Not on file (SA), used for recode
STRAT_ER	Stratum for Early Release analysis	On data file
PSU_ER	Primary sampling unit for Early Release analysis	On data file

Weights on file – WTFA, WTFA_SA, and WTFA_SC

Preliminary microdata files

❑ Limited number of variables –

- 113 including design and weighting variables
 - No variables from supplements
 - Enables duplication of estimates produced for the Key Health Indicators and Health Insurance Early Release Reports

❑ Plan ahead

- **Must put in a proposal through the Research Data Center**
- <http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/>

Special topics

Special topics

- ❑ **Responses to recent health policy data requests**
 - On the NCHS website – link on main page
 - http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health_policy/responses.htm
- ❑ **Methodological reports (NCHS publications)**
 - Impact of Medicare and Medicaid probe questions on health insurance estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2004
 - Impact of Income Bracketing on Poverty Measures Used in the National Health Interview Survey's Early Release Program: Preliminary Data from the 2007 NHIS
- ❑ **New Early Release reports on special topics**

Financial Burden of Medical Care

Financial Burden of Medical Care

New questions added to the NHIS (family questionnaire)

- ❑ Problems paying medical bills in the past 12 months**
- ❑ Currently have medical bills that are being paid over time**
- ❑ Currently have medical bills that they are unable to pay at all**

“Historical” trend question (1997+)

- ❑ Medical care cost in the past year (Family Core)**

1 in 3 Americans Burdened With Medical Bills



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TDWI doctors weigh in on health & healthcare

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HEALTH -- March 8, 2012 at 10:16 AM EDT

Report: 1 in 3 Americans Burdened With Medical Bills

BY: JASON KANE

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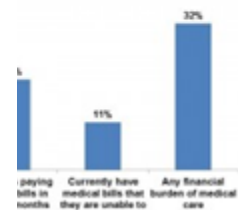
Many U.S. Families Struggle to Pay Medical Bills

By Steven Reinberg
HealthDay Reporter

File Under: Health Costs | Lack Of | Medicaid | Medicare | Insurance / Misc. | Private

WEDNESDAY, March 7 (HealthDay News) -- One-third of Americans are in families that are having trouble paying for health care, a government report released Wednesday shows.

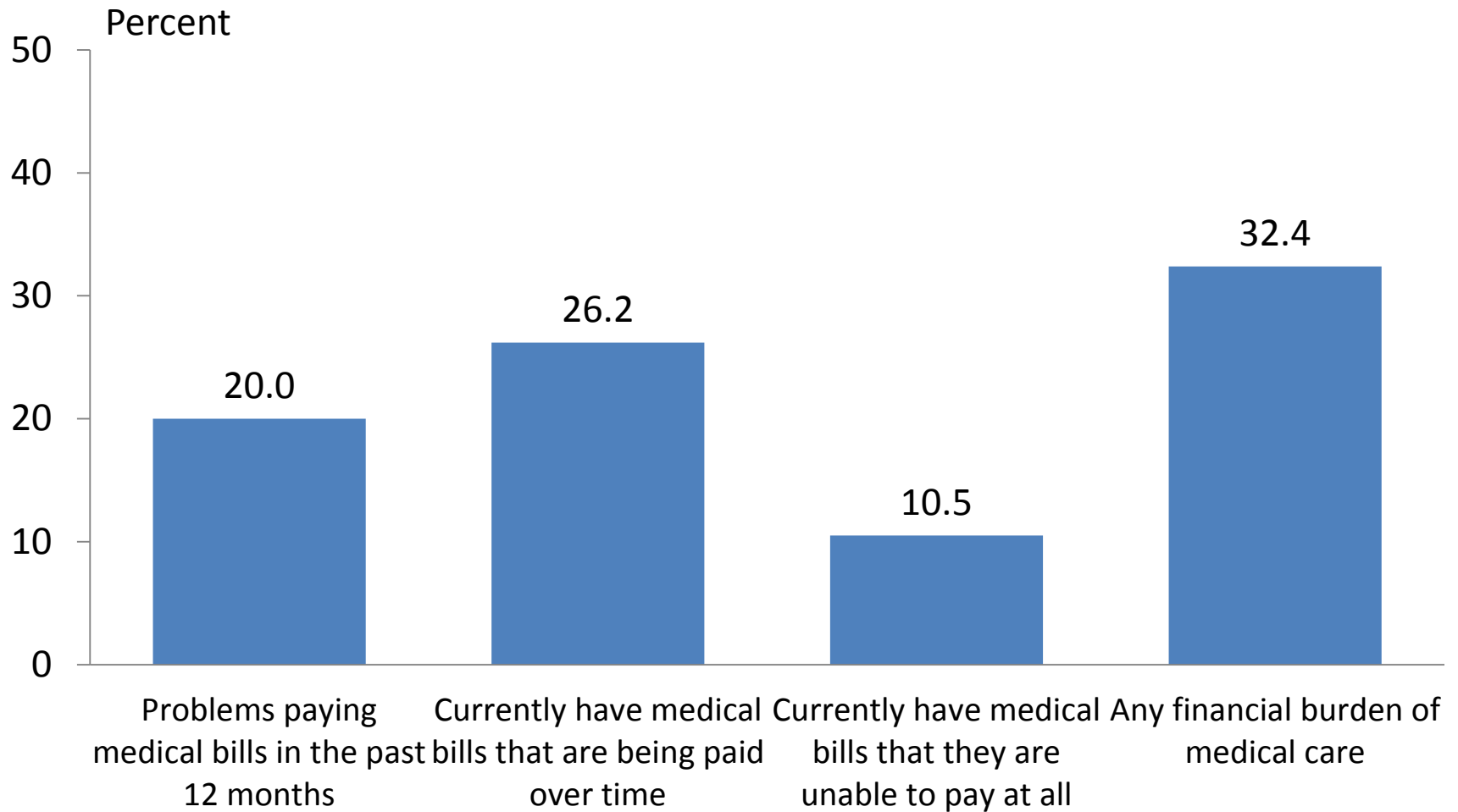
1 in 3 U.S. health care families in a family experiencing burden of medical care



1 in 3 U.S. health care families in a family experiencing problem paying for medical bills in the first half of 2011, according to a survey from the Center for Disease Control. In 2010, about 26% of people were paying for medical bills over time; 20% of people were having trouble paying medical bills.

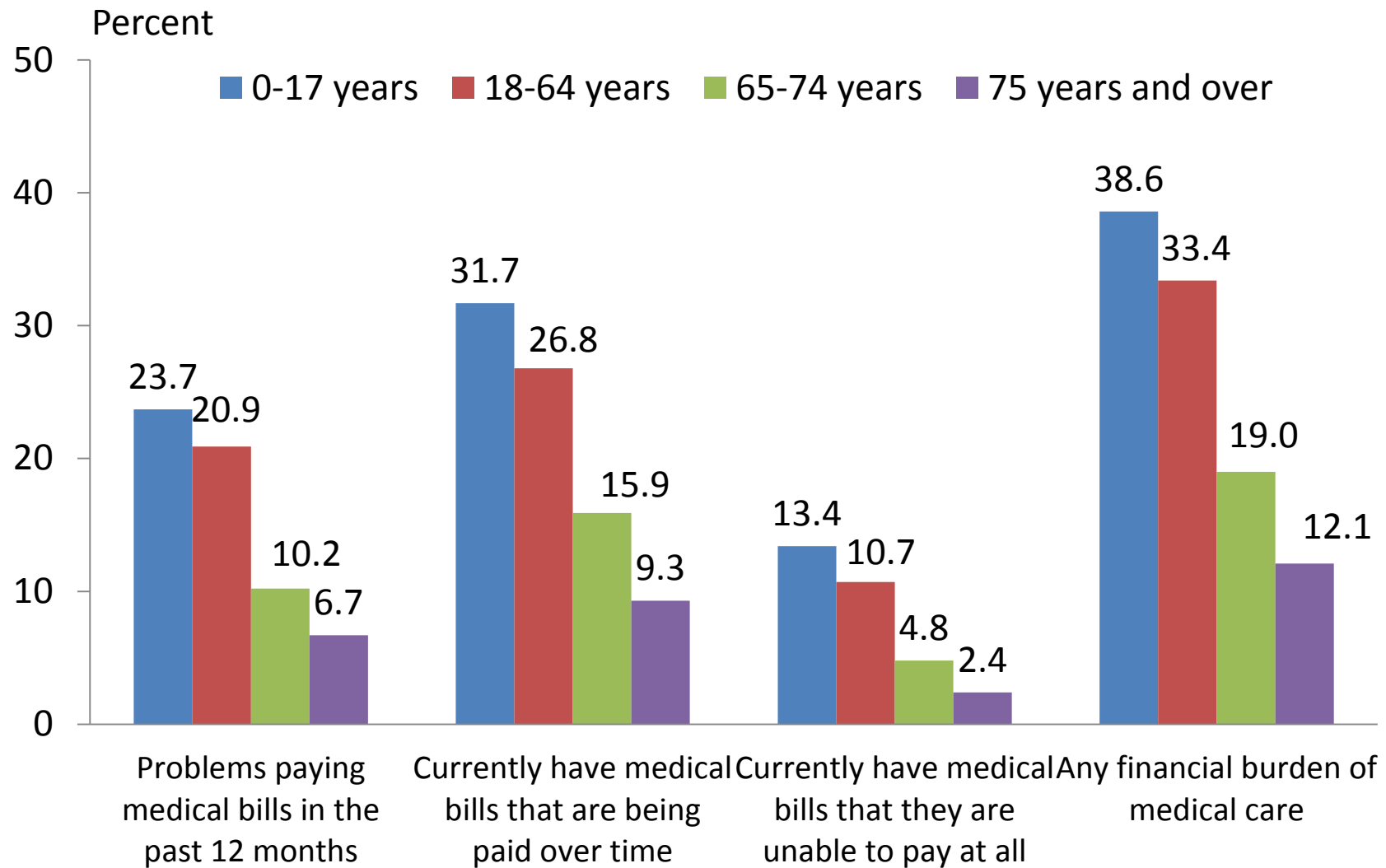


Percentages of persons in families with selected financial burdens of medical care: United States, January–June 2011



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, Family Core and Supplemental components, 2011.

Percentages of persons in families with selected financial burdens of medical care, by age group: United States, January – June 2011



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, Family Core and Supplemental components, 2011.

Summary

- ❑ **NHIS is the NCHS source of health insurance estimates**
- ❑ **Health Insurance Early Release report published 4 times a year**
- ❑ **Annually produce state-level health insurance estimates**
- ❑ **Special reports**
 - preview of new data
 - Produce periodic policy relevant estimates
- ❑ **Plan ahead if you want to use the Preliminary Microdata files!**

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For more information about the NHIS
and the Early Release Program

[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/
releases.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm)