



Census Data Released on September 10, 2009

Missourians falling behind in health coverage and income

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The Census Bureau released data from the Current Population survey on September 10. This data allows tracking of trends in health insurance coverage, and also provides national poverty data and some state poverty and income data. Two years of data are averaged to give greater reliability to the numbers.

On September 22, the Census Bureau will release information from the American Community Survey. This data will be more state specific, and provide a more current picture of these demographics.

Unemployment continues to grow in Missouri, and the full impact of the recession cannot be assessed from the 2007/08 numbers.

Highlights of the September 10 release

- Poverty is increasing nationally and in Missouri. In Missouri, 9.4 percent of the population had income under the federal poverty level in 2000/01. By 2007/08 this had increased to 13.1 percent
- The median income in Missouri continues to drop. The median income in 2000/01 was \$53,330.¹ By 2007/08 it had dropped to \$46,903. This is the third largest decline among all states
- The numbers of uninsured Missourians continue to grow. In 2007/08 there were an estimated 734,000 uninsured Missourians, about one in every 8 individuals. This number has grown consistently since 2000/01, when about 9.4 percent of Missourians were uninsured
- More Missouri children are insured than in the population as a whole. In 2007/08, only 8.6 percent of children, approximately 123,000, were uninsured. Sixty-one percent had employer-sponsored insurance, and 29.7 were insured by Medicaid/CHIP. Nationwide, 10.5 percent of children were uninsured.
- Employer sponsored insurance in Missouri continues to decline. In 2000/01 72.5 percent of Missourians had employer sponsored insurance. That percent has decreased to 64.4 percent in 2007/08
- Some increases in enrollment in Medicaid (in spite of eligibility cuts) and Medicare mitigated the impact of the loss of employer sponsored insurance over this time period. Missouri's population is aging at a higher proportion than the national population

¹ The 2000/01 numbers have been adjusted for inflation, and are in 2008 dollars.