

## U.S. Census Releases Current Population Survey Data on Health Insurance

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This week, the U.S. Census Bureau released preliminary data on health insurance coverage from the Current Population Survey. This paper provides an overview of that data. The Census Bureau recommends using two-year aggregates to increase the stability of data when comparing different time periods, as indicated below.

### Missourians

The number of uninsured Missourians stands at 852,000 in 2009-2010. This is about twice as many as were uninsured a decade ago. Although Missouri's population has increased slightly, the data show a definite negative trend.

- In 2009-2010 about 1 in 7 Missourians lacked health insurance
- In 2007-2008 about 1 of 8 Missourians lacked health insurance

**Summary of trends:** The number of uninsured Missourians continues to grow. Data regarding specific populations (below) indicate this is related to the decreasing availability of employer sponsored insurance for Missourians under the age of 65.

### Missouri children

- About 1 in 11 children in Missouri was uninsured in 2009-2010, compared to 1 in 20 a decade ago.
- About 6 in 10 children with insurance were covered by employer sponsored insurance, compared to about 7 in 10 children a decade ago.
- Almost 1 in 3 children with insurance are insured by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)<sup>1</sup>, compared to about 1 in 5 children a decade ago.

**Summary of trends:** The number of uninsured children in Missouri continues to grow. Fewer children have employer sponsored insurance. The availability of Medicaid/CHIP has softened the blow for children whose families do not have or cannot afford employer sponsored insurance.

### Missourians under the age of 65<sup>2</sup>

- About 1 in 6 Missourians under the age of 65 was uninsured compared to about 1 in 12 a decade ago.
- Slightly over 6 in 10 Missourians had employer sponsored insurance in 2009-2010, compared to more than 7 in 10 Missourians a decade ago
- About 1 in 6 Missourians was insured by Medicaid, compared to about 1 in 10 a decade ago.<sup>3</sup>

**Summary of trends:** The percent of uninsured under the age of 65 was 8.6 in 1999-2000 and stands at 16.4 percent in 2009-2010. The percent of uninsured under the age of 65 showed insignificant increases

<sup>1</sup> In Missouri, Medicaid and CHIP are both administered as part of the MO HealthNet program

<sup>2</sup> Most Missourians over the age of 65 are insured by Medicare

<sup>3</sup> The increase is due to an aging population in Missouri, and to more children insured by Medicaid/CHIP. Most adults under the age of 65 are not eligible for Medicaid in Missouri

between 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, but has increased significantly since 2007-2008, when the recession began. Employer sponsored insurance has steadily declined over the past decade, resulting in increased numbers of uninsured adults, as well as children.

The percent of individuals under the age of 65 insured by Medicaid has increased steadily and significantly compared to a decade ago. Eligibility for parents and caregivers was cut sharply in 2005, but Missouri's aging population and the increase of children insured by Medicaid/CHIP contribute to the increase.