

New Uninsured numbers in CT

One in eight state residents lack coverage

According to new survey results from the US Census Bureau, 418,000 Connecticut residents, 12% of us, did not have health coverage in 2009. These numbers are up by 43,000 from the year before. The 2009 uninsured rate is up significantly from 10% in 2008. Thankfully employer sponsored insurance held steady, possibly because of the generous COBRA subsidy available to workers laid off during the survey's timeframe.

Connecticut's uninsured is not a small problem

The number of uninsured Connecticut residents is greater than the combined total number of accountants, auditors, computer programmers, architects, economists, chief executives, social workers, clergy, lawyers, judges, librarians, writers and authors, photographers, dentists, doctors, pharmacists, registered nurses, veterinarians, dental hygienists, fire fighters, security guards, crossing guards, chefs and cooks, waiters and waitresses, dishwashers, janitors, tree trimmers and pruners, hairdressers, child care workers, insurance sales agents, travel agents, file clerks, mail carriers, electricians, painters, bakers, butchers, machinists, tool and die makers, commercial pilots, air traffic controllers, bus drivers, parking lot and service station attendants, fitness trainers, health educators, actors, dancers, funeral directors, budget and financial analysts, loan officers, chemists, historians, reporters, and legislators.

The number of uninsured in Connecticut is larger than the combined populations of New Haven **plus** Hartford **plus** Middletown **plus** New London **plus** Fairfield **plus** Norwich..

Just the increase in uninsured last year is larger than the populations of 157 Connecticut municipalities.

The number of uninsured in Connecticut is larger than five counties.

Most uninsured adults in Connecticut are working.

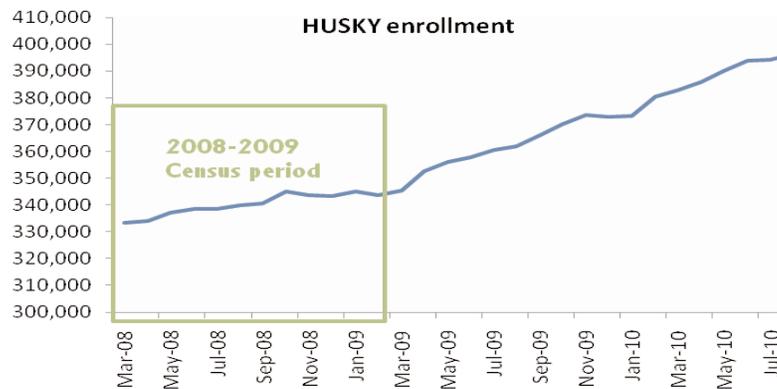
National and state health reforms are needed more than ever.

It is expected that health insurance premiums will rise by 6% next year before most reforms are implemented.

The ten Connecticut industries expected to generate the most jobs by 2014 are all in the service sector; service sector jobs are less likely to come with health benefits.

96% of Connecticut firms have fewer than 50 employees; small businesses face the highest health insurance premiums.

Since the 2009 Census survey, HUSKY enrollment has continued to grow, providing a critical safety net for otherwise uninsured families.



What does it mean to be uninsured?

The uninsured receive fewer medical services and are 25% more likely to die prematurely.

Connecticut's uninsured are ten times less likely to get care for an injury or illness and seven times less likely to get care for a medical emergency than residents with insurance.

Uninsured cancer patients are far more likely to be diagnosed at later stages of the disease and are far more likely to die.

Uninsured car accident victims are 37% more likely to die of their injuries than victims with insurance, receiving 20% less care including fewer X-rays, drugs and shorter hospital stays.

The uninsured often pay the highest prices for their care - full retail, not the discounted prices that HMOs and government pay.

62% of all bankruptcies are due to high medical bills and that proportion is rising.

Bottom Line:

One in eight Connecticut residents lacks any health coverage, risking long term damage to their health and economic well-being.

Sources: Current Population Survey, US Census Bureau, 9/16/10, D. Himmelstein, et. al., Medical Bankruptcy in the United States, 2007: Results of a National Study, American Journal of Medicine, August 2009, Care Without Coverage, Institute of Medicine, 2002, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, National Business Group on Health, CT State Depts. of Labor, Public Health and the Office of Health Care Access.