

One in ten CT residents still uninsured last year

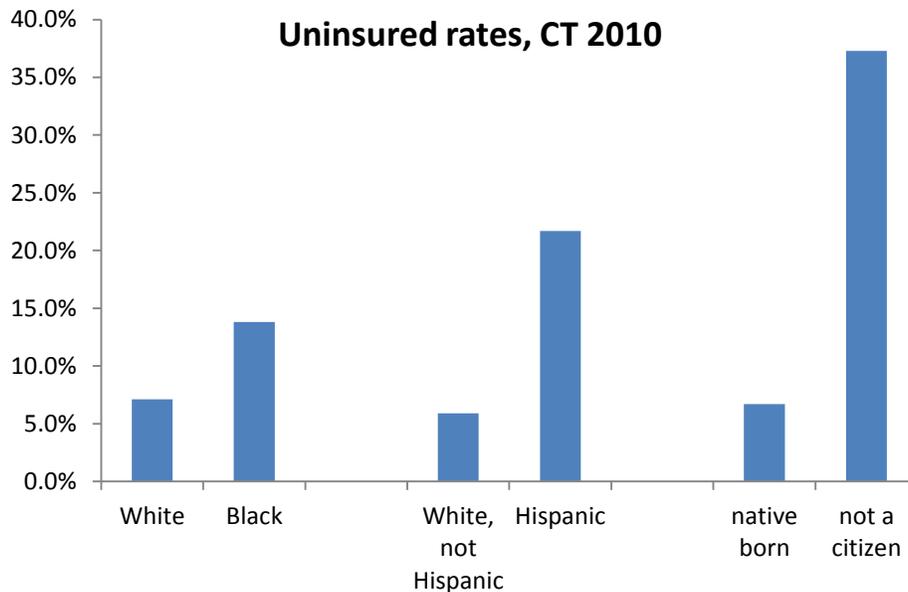
New surveys from the US Census Bureau find that between 320,000 and 384,000 Connecticut residents remained uninsured last year, not significantly different than 2009.

The number of uninsured in Connecticut is larger than the combined populations of Hartford **plus** New Britain **plus** Stamford.

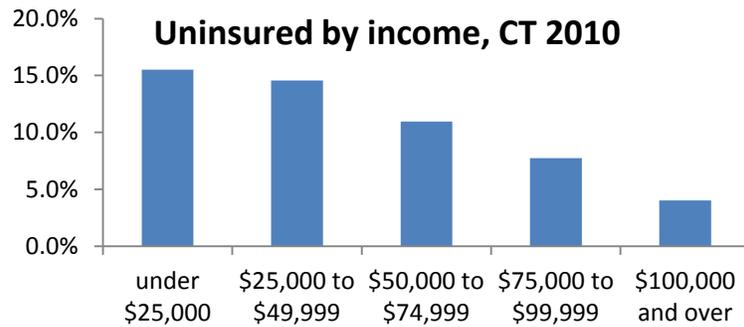
The number of uninsured in Connecticut is larger than five counties.

Connecticut's uninsured rates vary significantly by community, race, citizenship and income

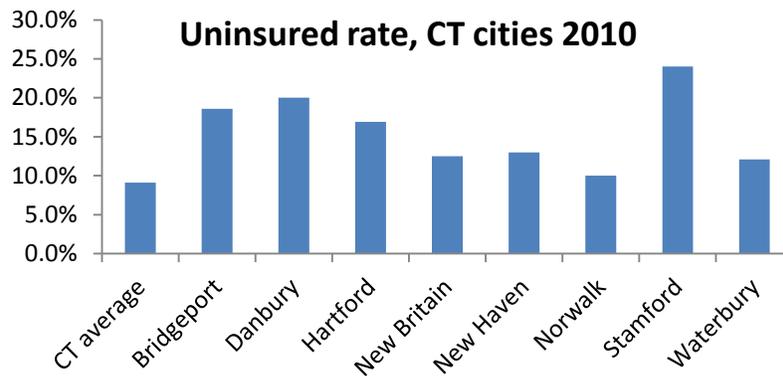
Blacks in Connecticut were almost twice as likely as whites to be uninsured last year. Hispanics were 3.8 times more likely than whites to be without coverage. And non-citizens were 5.6 times less likely to have health insurance than native born Connecticut residents.



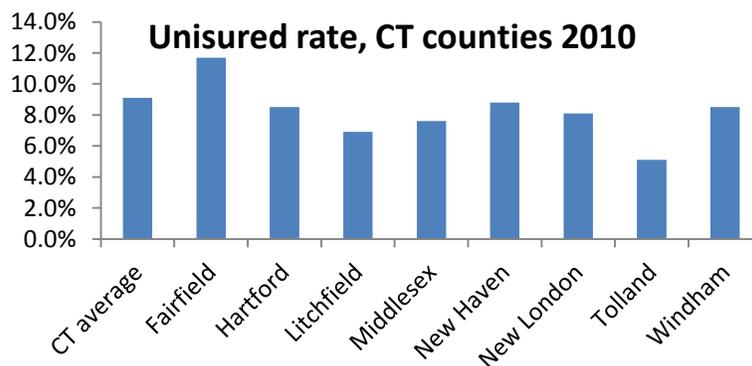
Not surprisingly, wealthier state residents were more likely to be insured last year.



Connecticut's uninsured rate was not evenly distributed across the state last year. Stamford topped the list of cities with 24% of residents uninsured. Nearby Norwalk had the lowest rate at 10%.



Among counties Fairfield continued to lead with the state's highest uninsured rate of 11.7% last year. Tolland also retained the lowest uninsured rate at less than half that or 5.1%.



National and state reforms are needed more than ever

It is expected that health insurance premiums will rise 6.4% this year.

The ten Connecticut industries expected to generate the most jobs by 2014 are in the service sector; service sector jobs are the least likely to offer health benefits.

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

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 10 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.

In 2008, there were 12,134 hospitalizations of uninsured patients in Connecticut. Charges for those hospitalizations were over \$239 million.

Between 2006 and 2008, the number of emergency room visits for uninsured patients in Connecticut rose by 3,939.

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 than HMOs and government pay.

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

Bottom Line:

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

Sources: Current Population Survey, American Community Survey, US Census Bureau, 2011, 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, Mercer National Survey of Employer Sponsored Health Plans, November 2010, National Business Group on Health, CT State Depts. of Labor, Public Health and the Office of Health Care Access.