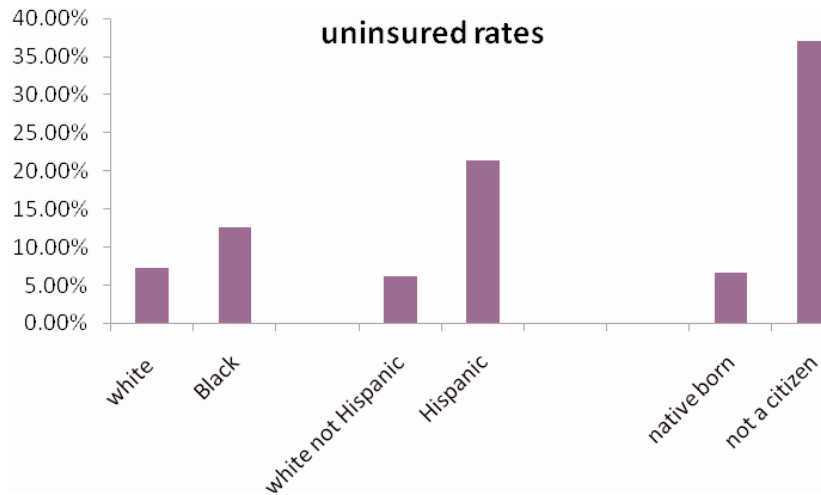


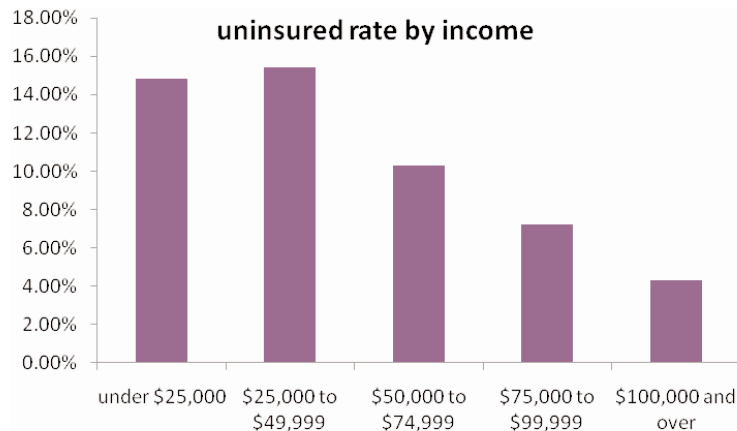
Connecticut uninsured rates vary significantly by community, race and citizenship

New report underscores the need for reform

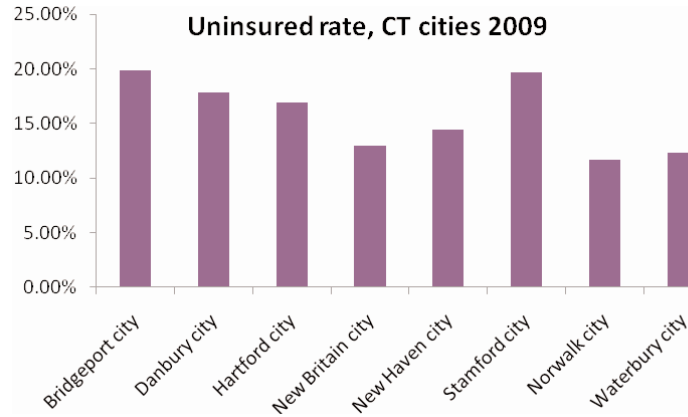
A new report from the US Census found wide racial and ethnic disparities in Connecticut's uninsured rates last year. Black state residents were 75% more likely than whites to be uninsured; the rate among Hispanics was 243% higher than non-Hispanic whites. The largest disparity was among non-citizens who were 4.6 times more likely to be without coverage than native born state residents.



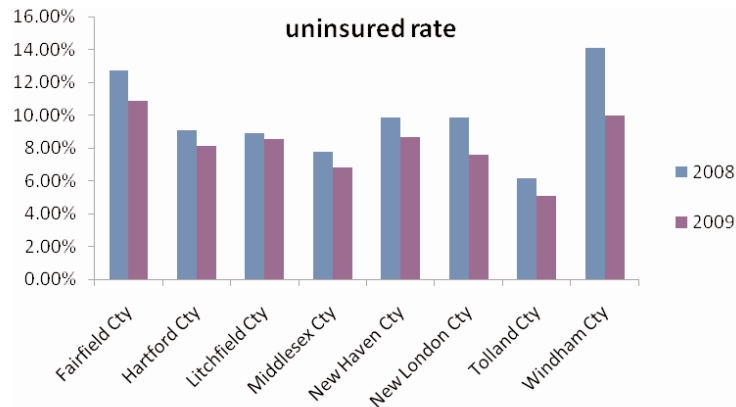
Not surprisingly, the survey found that income is closely linked to insurance status. Connecticut residents with household incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000 were over 2.6 times more likely to be uninsured than wealthier state residents with incomes over \$100,000.



The survey also found that Connecticut's uninsured rates vary significantly by community. Last year almost 20% of Stamford and Bridgeport city residents under age 65 were uninsured, the highest among Connecticut's cities. All Connecticut cities were above the state average of 8.8% in this survey. Bridgeport had the highest number of uninsured residents at 26,799 followed by Stamford at 23,570 and Hartford at 20,313.



Among counties, in 2009 Fairfield County led the state with 11% of residents uninsured more than twice the rate of Tolland County at 5%. Windham county's rate dropped dramatically last year from 14% in 2008 to 10% in 2009. Fairfield County still led the state in 2009 with 97,124 uninsured residents, followed by New Haven County at 72,593 and Hartford County at 69,909.



Statewide, this survey found 305,210 uninsured state residents, down slightly from 2008 numbers from the same survey at 310,597 or 8.8% uninsured residents. The numbers are from the Census's 2009 American Community Survey which for the second time this year asked respondents about their health insurance status. The statewide number and rate of uninsured in this survey differ from results of other Census surveys, most likely due to varying methodologies and sample sizes.

Bottom Line:

The burden of uninsurance is not shared evenly across Connecticut. Health reform is critical to addressing these disparities.

Source: 2009 American Community Survey, US Census