



Hispanic Children and Health Coverage August 2005

Latino Children Disproportionately Lack Health Care Coverage *Estimates from the 2004 Current Population Surveyⁱ*

- There are 2.9 million uninsured Latino children in the United States. One out of every five Latino children under age 18 lacks health insurance.
- One-third (34.7%) of all uninsured children under age 18 are Latino. Yet Latinos comprise only 18 percent of all children under 18.

Coverage Rates for Hispanic Children and Recent Increases *Data compiled by the Urban Instituteⁱⁱ*

- Twenty percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, compared to 9 percent of African-American children and 6 percent of white children.
- Uninsurance rates for Hispanic children fell from 26 percent in 1998 to 20 percent in 2003.
- While the uninsurance rate fell for Latino children by 6 percentage points, the uninsurance rate for Latino parents rose by 3 percentage points, equaling more than 1.5 million uninsured parents.
- More than 7 in 10 Latino uninsured children are eligible for coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP, but are not enrolled.

Uninsured Hispanic Children Are Not Getting Medical Care *New analysis of data compiled by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC).ⁱⁱⁱ*

- More than 40 percent (41.4 %) of uninsured Hispanic children did not receive any medical care during 2003, compared with just 18 percent (17.6 %) of insured Hispanic children.
- Uninsured Hispanic children are 10 times more likely not to receive needed medical care than Hispanic children with insurance (6.1% vs. 0.6%).
- Three-fourths (74.7%) of Hispanic families with insured children report that their kids have someone they think of as his/her personal doctor or nurse, compared with less than half (41%) of Hispanic families with uninsured children.

Additional Facts about Hispanic Families and Health Care Coverage

- *Poverty in the Hispanic Community:* In 2003, 29.4 percent of Hispanic families with children under age 18 lived below the federal poverty level.^{iv}
- *Program Awareness and Desire to Enroll in Medicaid and SCHIP:* About nine out of every 10 low-income Hispanic families with uninsured children have heard of Medicaid, SCHIP or both. The vast majority of low-income Hispanic parents with uninsured children who have heard of Medicaid and/or SCHIP say they would enroll their children if they knew they were eligible.^v
- *Population Increase:* Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States according to the Census Bureau. Between July 2003 and July 2004, the U.S. Latino population grew from 39.9 million to 41 million, or 14 percent of the civilian population, compared with 37 million African Americans (12.2%).^{vi}
- *Projected Population Increase:* The proportion of Latinos in America is expected to double in the next 50 years.^{vii}
- *Poor Health Ratings:* Nineteen percent of Hispanics rate their health as fair or poor, compared with 12 percent of non-Hispanic whites and 15 percent of African Americans.^{viii}

SOURCES

ⁱ United States Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (released in September 2004).

http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032004/health/h08_000.htm.

ⁱⁱ Report uses data from an Urban Institute analysis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2003 National Health Interview Survey.

ⁱⁱⁱ State Health Access Data Center (SHADAC) analysis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

^{iv} United States Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey (released in September 2004).

http://ferret.bls.census.gov/macro/032004/pov/new02_100_16.htm.

^v Kenney, G.; Haley, J.; and Tebay, A. "Key Findings From the Urban Institute's 1999 and 2002 NSAF Surveys." <http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/press/docs/UrbanKeyFindings2003.pdf>

^{vi} United States Bureau of the Census. Current Population Reports (issued June 2004).

<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2004-srh.html>.

^{vii} Key Facts: Race, Ethnicity & Medical Care. Kaiser Family Foundation. (June 2003).

<http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=14366>.

^{viii} Doty, M. "Hispanic Patients' Double Burden: Lack of Health Insurance and Limited English." The Commonwealth Fund. (February 2003).

http://www.cmf.org/usr_doc/doty_hispanicdoubleburden_592.pdf