Health Insurance Estimates From the Census Bureau

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NCVHS Health Insurance Hearing

November 19, 2008

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Summary: What are the Census Bureau's Strengths with regard to Health Coverage issues?

- ✓ Extent of Coverage

  Under-Insurance

- ✓ Length of Time Uninsured

- ✓ Characteristics of the Uninsured

- ✓ Health Insurance Coverage

  Characteristics of Insurance Policies

- ✓ Impact of Economic Change on Health Insurance/Systems Change

- ✓ Availability of Insurance Data to Support State-Level Policy Estimates

Census Bureau Sources of Health Insurance Data

- CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC)
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) Program

Current Population Survey (CPS ASEC)

Background:

- Congress directed the Census Bureau to ask questions to gauge the impact of noncash benefits; questions about health benefits added in 1980

- Census Bureau first published estimates on the uninsured included in 1991 income report

CPS ASEC: Characteristics

- Based on approx. 78,000 households interviewed in Feb.-April, either in person or over the phone

- Sample is state-representative, and multi-year state averages are published annually

- Questions ask about any coverage in previous calendar year

- Initial screening questions are household-based

CPS ASEC: Latest Estimates (Released in August 2008)

- 15.3 percent of persons lacked insurance in 2007, down from 15.8 percent in 2006

- 11.0 percent of children lacked insurance, down from 11.7 percent in 2006

- The percentage of persons covered by private insurance was 67.5 percent, down from 67.9 percent in 2006

CPS ASEC: Latest Estimates (Released in August 2008) cont.

- The percentage of persons with public coverage was 27.8 percent, up from 27.0 percent in 2006

- Based on 3-year 2005-2007 averages, state uninsured rates ranged from 8.3 percent (HI, MA) to 24.4 percent (TX)

- 7 out of the 10 states with increases in uninsured rates between 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 were in the South or Midwest

CPS ASEC: Strengths

- Long time series
- Data, reports, and tabulations are released quickly
- Large, state-representative sample
- High quality data on economic well-being, income and benefits received, work experience, and labor force status
- Data file is popular and easy to use
- High response rate

CPS ASEC: Limitations

- Health insurance is not a survey focus
- Long (14-16 month) recall period
- Compared to other estimates based on shorter recall periods (SIPP, MEPS), CPS annual estimates of the uninsured are generally higher
- Limited flexibility for adding new content

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

- Panel Survey
- Sample size has varied by panel (2004 panel was about 42,000 interviewed households, for example)
- 4-month reference period; person-based questions

SIPP Strengths

- Ability to examine a variety of longitudinal measures (duration of coverage, exits out of and entrances into coverage, characteristics of those who are chronically uninsured) that can't be measured in cross-sectional surveys like the CPS

- Shorter reference period than CPS; higher (and in all likelihood, more accurate) estimates of annual coverage

- A wealth of topical module topics, including medical expenditures and detailed questions about health and disability

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SIPP Limitations

- Microdata file is more difficult to use than CPS

- Complicated survey results in longer processing time and slower releases

- Limited ability to examine state-specific estimates

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American Community Survey (ACS)

- Replacement for Census Long Form
- About 3 million addresses annually
- Mailout survey with CATI/CAPI follow-up for nonrespondents
- Health insurance questions added in 2008
- First estimates will be released in 2009 for nation, states, and all geographic areas of 65,000 or more
- Person-based questions that cover current coverage status

ACS Strengths

- Huge sample size, allowing the eventual publication of estimates for all geographic areas and small population subgroups

- Quick publication turnaround time

- Relatively rich dataset in terms of other content (income, poverty, industry, occupation, educational attainment, work status, disability status, etc.)

- Questions ask about current health coverage status and are close to the beginning of the survey

ACS Limitations

- Extremely limited flexibility for content additions or changes
- Paper questionnaire allows no ability to fashion probes that ask about specific state programs or ask questions of specific universes (children, for example)
- Health insurance is not a survey focus

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) Program

- Model-Based Estimates
- Recently released estimates for 2005 for every county in the U.S. by age, sex, and income/poverty ratio
- Combines the CPS ASEC with other sources
- Funding Provided by CDC

Data Sources

- CPS ASEC
- Census 2000
- Population Estimates
- County Business Patterns
- SCHIP Participation
- Food Stamps administrative data
- IRS data
- Medicaid administrative data

2005 SAHIE Release

- Estimates for all <u>counties</u>:
  - o Uninsured persons by income/poverty ratio (200 or 250 percent), sex, and age
- Estimates for all <u>states</u>:
  - o Uninsured persons by income/poverty ratio (200 and 250 percent), sex, age, and race/ethnicity

Hot Report - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Back | Search | Favorites

Address http://smpbff1.dsd.census.gov/TheDataWeb_HotReport/servlet/HotReportEngineServlet?reportid=13db72e40f553a784d93a8594458 | Go   Links

Google | G- | Go | Bookmarks | 18 blocked | Check | AutoLink | AutoFill | Send to | Settings

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

| Main | About SAHIE | Data | Methodology | Feedback | Publications | Related Sites |

Print Version

In this section

- Data Main Page
- Health Insurance Coverage Status for States and Counties: 2005
- Health Insurance Coverage Status for States: 2001
- Health Insurance Coverage Status for Counties and States: 2000

2005 Health Insurance Coverage Status for Counties

Create one detailed table by making one selection from each list below:

State: Alabama   **Sex:** Both Sexes

Age: Under 65 years   **Income:** All income levels   Submit

2005 Health Insurance Coverage Status in Alabama for Age (Under 65 years), Income (All income levels) and Sex (Both Sexes)

Notes from Table
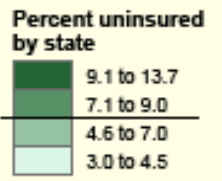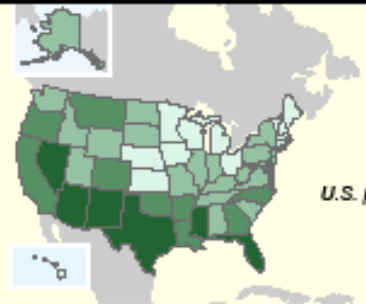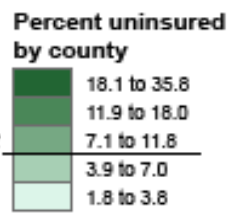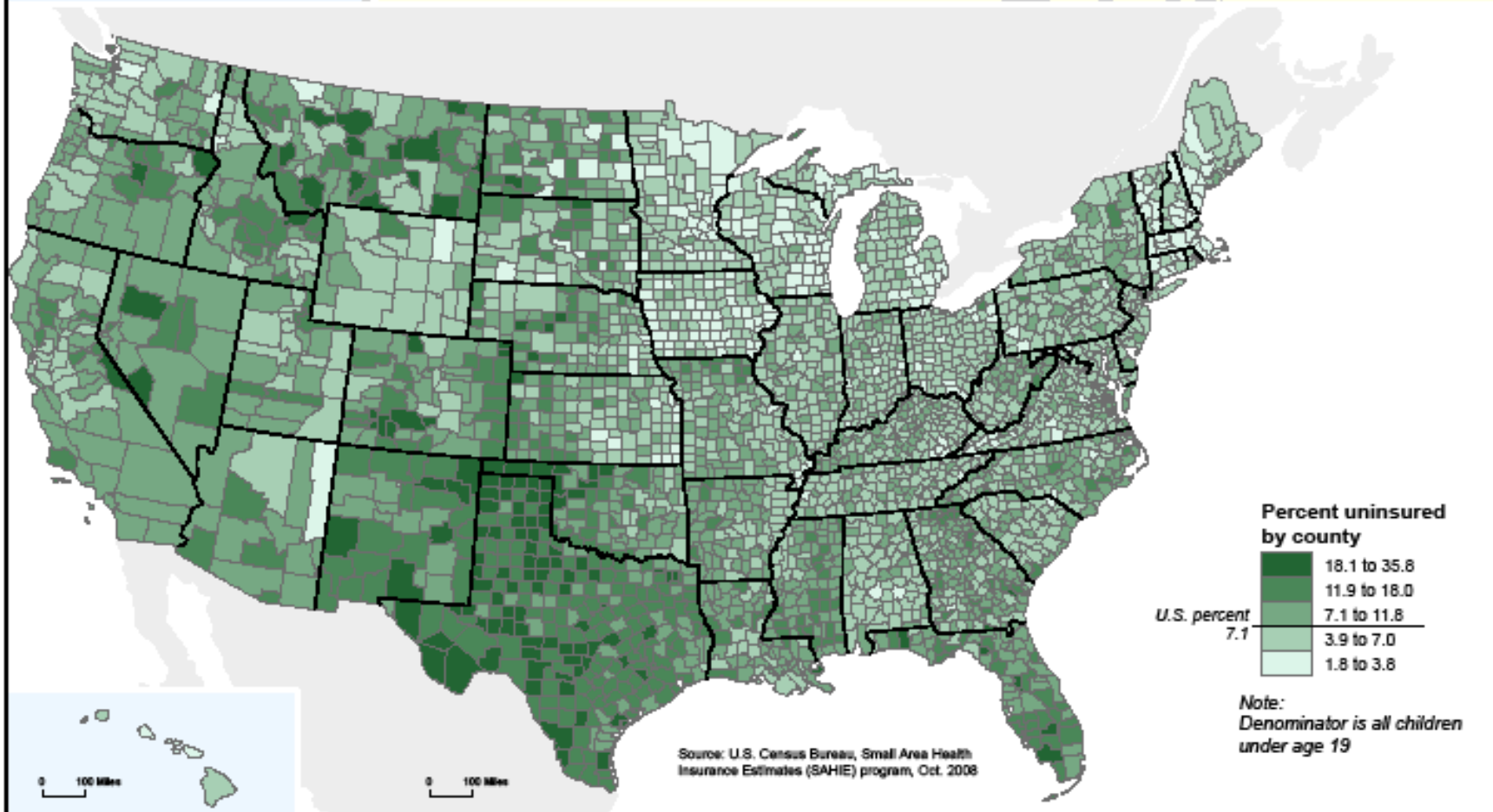
1. A margin of error (MOE) is the difference between an estimate and its upper or lower confidence bounds. Confidence bounds can be created by adding the margin of error to the estimate (for an upper bound) and subtracting the margin of error from the estimate (for a lower bound). All published margins of error for the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates program

Get CSV file Original order

County	Number Insured	MOE[1] for Number Insured	Number Uninsured	MOE[1] for Number Uninsured	Number in Demographic Group[2]	Percent Uninsured[3]	MOE[1] for Percent Uninsured
Autauga County, Alabama	38,492	1,244	6,289	1,070	44,780	14.0	2.4
Baldwin County, Alabama	111,255	3,911	29,342	3,595	140,597	20.9	2.6
Barbour County, Alabama	18,623	674	3,307	598	21,930	15.1	2.7
Bibb County, Alabama	14,598	602	3,133	527	17,731	17.7	3.0
Blount County, Alabama	38,637	1,585	10,139	1,448	48,775	20.8	3.0

Done   Trusted sites

Percent Uninsured
At or below 200% of Poverty
Under Age 19
2005 SAHIE Program

Percent uninsured by state

U.S. percent 7.1

- 9.1 to 13.7
- 7.1 to 9.0
- 4.6 to 7.0
- 3.0 to 4.5

Percent uninsured by county

U.S. percent 7.1

- 18.1 to 35.8
- 11.9 to 18.0
- 7.1 to 11.8
- 3.9 to 7.0
- 1.8 to 3.8

Note:
Denominator is all children under age 19

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program, Oct. 2008

0 100 Miles

Future Plans for SAHIE

- Release 2006 Estimates in 2009
- Pending Future Funding Support:
  - o   Add more categories (age groups, income/poverty groups, etc.)
  - o   Incorporate the ACS
  - o   Research into improvements to model

CPS ASEC:
Medicaid Underreporting Research

- Survey estimates of Medicaid enrollment are well below administrative data enrollment figures
- In the "SNACC" Project the Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) was compared via exact match to the Current Population Survey (CPS)

"SNACC" Project

- SNACC is a collaboration between
  - **S**tate Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
  - **N**ational Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
  - **A**ssistant Secretary of Policy Evaluation (ASPE)
  - **C**ensus Bureau
  - **C**enters for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- SNACC was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through SHADAC
- Additional funding was also provided by ASPE

Medicaid Underreporting Questions Addressed by SNACC Project

- Questions of interest are:

    - How often do Medicaid enrollees report being on Medicaid on the CPS?
    - How often do Medicaid enrollees report being uninsured on the CPS?
    - What are the covariates of incorrectly reporting of Medicaid and being uninsured in the CPS

How Well is the CPS ASEC Classifying Medicaid Enrollees?

- Focusing on only those with MSIS-indicated Medicaid Enrollment*

   58.7% Reported on Medicaid

   24.6% Reported on coverage other than Medicaid

   16.6% Reported uninsured

   99.9%

- 41% of the linked respondents shown enrolled on MSIS report something other than Medicaid

- 16.6% reported uninsured biases CPS uninsured estimates upward.

*Year 2000 enrollment status, adjusted weight counts for actual (un-edited) responses

What Factors are Associated with Measurement Accuracy/Error?

- Length of time enrolled in Medicaid
- Recency of enrollment in Medicaid
- Poverty status impacts Medicaid reporting but does not impact the percent reporting they are uninsured
- Adults 18-44 are less likely to report Medicaid enrollment

CPS ASEC Questionnaire Design Work

- Conduct cognitive testing of "intertwined" set of questions to derive both current and calendar year estimates
- Conduct split-ballot field study (linked to records) with four panels:
  - CPS production instrument
  - CPS with health questions at front of questionnaire
  - Experimental series (from cognitive testing)
  - ACS

For Further Information:

Census Bureau Health Insurance Webpage:

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthins.html

American Community Survey: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/

Latest CPS Health Insurance Estimates:

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income07.html

SNACC Phase II Report: http://www.census.gov/did/www/snacc/

SIPP: http://www.census.gov/sipp/

SAHIE Webpage:

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/sahie/index.html

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