



Health Insurance in Connecticut: Summary of 2008 U.S. Census Data

September 10, 2009

The Uninsured in Connecticut and the Nation – 2008

Uninsured Indicator	Connecticut*	United States	
	2008 % and #	2008 % and #	2007 % and #
All persons uninsured, entire previous 12 months	10.0% (343,000)	15.4% (46.3 million) No significant change	15.3% (45.7 million)
Children < 18 uninsured, entire previous 12 months	5.4% (44,000)	9.9% (7.3 million) Significant decrease	11.0% (8.1 million)
All persons under 65 years old with employer-sponsored health insurance	70.2% (2.1 million)	61.9% (163.1 million) Significant decrease	62.9% (164.9 million)
Children under 18 years old with employer-sponsored health insurance)	69.1% (568,000)	58.9% (43.9 million) Significant decrease	59.5% (44.3 million)

Data from the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS).

*Single year estimates at the state level cannot be compared from one year to the next.

Fewer CT Residents with Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance Over This Decade

Uninsured Indicator	Connecticut 2007-2008 2-year Average % and #	Connecticut 2005-2006 2-year Average % and #	Connecticut 2000-2001 2-year Average % and #
All persons uninsured, entire previous 12 months	9.7% (334,500) No statistically significant change from previous years	10.2% (353,000)	9.4% (317,000)

Uninsured Indicator	Connecticut 2007-2008 2-year Average % and #	Connecticut 2005-2006 2-year Average % and #	Connecticut 2000-2001 2-year Average % and #
Children < 18 uninsured, entire previous 12 months	5.3% (43,500) No significant change from previous years	6.8% (56,500)	6.8% (56,000)
All persons under 65 years old with employer-sponsored health insurance	71.0% (2.1 million) Significant decrease from 00-01; no significant change from 05-06	72.3% (2.2 million)	77.1% (2.2 million)
Children under 18 years old with employer-sponsored health insurance	70.3% (577,500) Significant decrease from 00-01; no significant change from 05-06	71.2% (588,500)	77.3% (636,500)

Data from the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS). Two-year averages for uninsured children calculated by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2007-2008 uninsurance rates to other years are not statistically significant.** Because Connecticut is a small state, it is difficult to detect statistically significant changes among uninsured children. Historical data reflect revised estimates by the US Census Bureau. As a result, data listed here may not match previously published health insurance data from the CPS.

Technical Notes on the Data

Two-year estimates should be used for assessing change over time in state-level Census CPS health insurance data. Estimates of the uninsured come from the Current Population Survey (CPS). Sample sizes in the CPS are usually not large enough at the state level to detect statistically significant changes from one year to the next. To increase the likelihood of accurately assessing change over time, data from two years can be pooled to produce two-year averages (e.g., the 2006-2007 average uninsured rate). For this analysis, CT Voices for Children calculated two-year averages of the uninsured to evaluate trends over time for the uninsured in Connecticut.

The importance of statistical significance of changes over time. Unless specifically noted in the comparison charts above, there were no statistically significant changes in Census estimates between 2007-2008 data and other years as calculated at the 90% confidence interval. The numbers reported in CPS are estimates because only a sample of the entire population is surveyed. For this reason, estimates reported by the CPS are published with additional data that allow us to estimate the range of values within which the population's actual uninsured rate is likely to fall. This enables us to determine whether or not the change in an estimate from one time period to the next is large enough to conclude that a change in the population has occurred, or whether the change in the estimate may have been due to random chance. For example, in the field of opinion polling, the "margin of error" of a poll helps to assess whether there has been a significant change in polling results over time. **A change in Census estimates is called "statistically significant" if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance** (this term describes the statistical evidence of change, not whether it is important or meaningful). **Unless a change in Census estimates over time is statistically significant, it is not accurate to say, for example, that the uninsured rates have increased or declined.**

CT Voices' use of CPS data is informed by the guidance of analysts at the Census Bureau, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Coalition on Human Needs.