

Issue Report



Health Care Coverage in Michigan

With the health care debate dominating the headlines and an uncertain future for both the insured and uninsured; it seemed necessary to evaluate the state of health care in Michigan before everything changes. Currently, Michigan ranks rather well with only 11 percent of the population uninsured.

PRIVATELY INSURED

Those with private insurance make up the bulk of Michigan's population. In 2007, roughly 73 percent of the state's population held some form of private insurance. Significantly greater than the national average of 67 percent.

PUBLICLY INSURED

More than 25 percent of Michigan residents had some form of public health coverage in 2007--21st.highest in the nation.

Medicaid covered 1.5 million people in 2007. Despite representing more than half of the medicaid covered population, children only required 16 percent of the total Medicaid budget which represents more than 20 percent of the state's expenditures.

Uninsured

Michigan's uninsured population represented roughly 11 percent of the total population of 10 million in 2007--18th lowest compared to other states.

Roughly 6 percent of children in Michigan lacked health insurance in 2007 and nearly 8 percent of those ages 0-5.

Nearly 30 percent of uninsured individuals under the age of 65 were African American or Hispanic.

More than 85 percent of uninsured adults lived in a household headed by a person with less than a bachelor's degree.

Roughly 84 percent of the uninsured lived in families in which at least one adult worked full or part time.

Source: Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation.



MICHIGAN RURAL NETWORK

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Two Michigan programs that target uninsured children--Healthy Kids and MICHild--recently received nearly \$4 million in additional funding. The award was made as part of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) and is part of Michigan's ongoing effort to ensure health coverage for all Michigan children.

Health care on the national level is currently being heavily debated within congress. As we know, the US House of Representatives and the US Senate have passed individual bills on health care reform. While little is known about the Senate bill, the house bill consists of a number of items that would benefit the people of Michigan. Whether the cost is too great is still undetermined. The bills have been returned to committee to reconcile them before a final vote is taken--this will likely happen sometime in the early part of 2010.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RURAL MICHIGAN?

According to the USDA economic research service , rural Michigan is currently experiencing a nearly 15 percent poverty rate. Of the 450,000, 185,000 of those remain uninsured and another 157,000 rely on Medicaid for health coverage. The remainder receive employer based benefits or purchase private individual policies.

With a great deal of residents engaged in or employed by small business, agriculture and tourism, rural Michigan stands to benefit a great deal if a national health care system is put in place. However, higher taxes and government mandates for insurance can be dangerous for small business as well. We will keep you posted on new developments in this ongoing debate.

Sources:

- Michigan Center for Rural Health
- Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation.
- USDA
- Kaiser Family, State Health Facts
- The CommonWealth Fund
- Rural Assistance Center