
**NEARLY 46 MILLION AMERICANS LACK HEALTH INSURANCE
NUMBER OF UNINSURED INCREASED BY SIX MILLION SINCE 2001**

The Census Bureau says the number of people without health insurance nationwide increased to 45.8 million, the fourth consecutive annual increase. A total of 800,000 Americans became uninsured last year—many because fewer employers offer health insurance to their workers. As a consequence, American families are paying higher and higher health insurance premiums—which are expected to double under Bush's tenure by 2006.

One in 7 Americans Lack Health Insurance

Nearly 46 Million Americans Are Uninsured—Increasing for the 4th Year in a Row. The number of Americans lacking health insurance increased by 800,000 in 2004 and by 6 million since Bush took office in 2001. Today, a total of 45.8 million people are uninsured, that's 1-in-7 Americans. [U.S. Census Bureau, 8/30/05; Table HI-4]

- **The Number of Uninsured Is Equal to the Combined Populations of 24 States.** In order to provide some perspective on the sheer magnitude of the problem of the uninsured, the number of Americans who are denied health insurance is equal to the combined populations of 24 states: Oklahoma, Connecticut, Iowa, Mississippi, Kansas, Arkansas, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, West Virginia, Nebraska, Idaho, Maine, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Montana, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Alaska, Vermont, and Wyoming. [Matt Miller, The Two Percent Solution, 2003]

Fewer Than 60 % of Employers Offer Health Insurance. Employer-based health insurance, which covers the majority of Americans, has eroded under the Bush Administration. The percentage of Americans covered by employer-based insurance decreased to 59.8 % in 2004, down from 60.4 % last year. The total number of Americans with employer-sponsored coverage has fallen by more than 3.6 million since 2000. [U.S. Census Bureau, 8/30/05; Table HI-4]

The Number of Uninsured Children Has Not Declined Over the Past Year. Despite an enrollment increase of 600,000 in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) signed into law by President Clinton, the number of children without health insurance remained essentially the same over the past year 8.3 million—1 in 9 children. Over 21% of Hispanic children and 13% of African American children lack health insurance. [U.S. Census Bureau, 8/30/05; Page 16]

African Americans and Latinos Suffered Greatest Increase in Uninsured. African Americans and Hispanics have a much higher rate of uninsurance than the rest of the population. [U.S. Census Bureau, 8/30/05; page 17]

- **Latinos:** In 2004, 13.7 million Latinos were without health insurance, an increase of 1.8 million since 2000. [U.S. Census Bureau, 8/30/05; Table C-1]
- **African Americans:** In 2004, the number of African Americans without health insurance remained at about 7.4 million. This is an increase of almost 770,000 people since 2000. [Census Bureau, 8/30/05; Table C-1]

27 States Experienced an Increase in the Number of Uninsured. During 2004, the number of uninsured Americans increased in 27 states – including Texas, California, New Jersey, Florida, Tennessee, and South Carolina. [U.S. Census Bureau, 8/30/05; Table H1-4]

1.9 Million More Americans Enrolled in Medicaid in 2004. As 1.1 million Americans dropped into poverty in 2004, the enrollment rate in Medicaid increased from 12.4 percent of the population in 2003 to 12.9 percent in 2004. Without the safety net of Medicaid and SCHIP for people who dropped into poverty, the health insurance numbers would be even worse. But Republicans have proposed a \$10 billion cut in Medicaid this fall. [U.S. Census Bureau, 8/30/05, page 16]