

2010 WASHINGTON STATE POPULATION SURVEY

Research Brief No. 057

December 2010

First Look at the Uninsured Population in Washington State

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According to findings from the Washington State Population Survey¹ (SPS), the percentage of Washington residents without health insurance in 2010 increased slightly, moving from 11 percent in 2008 to 12.2 percent in 2010. However, this increase was not statistically significant at the five percent level. Just under one in eight Washingtonians is uninsured.

Table 1 contains the number and percentage uninsured by family income as a percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).² There were no statistically significant changes within each poverty category in the percentage uninsured between 2008 and 2010.³

Family Income as a Percent of the Federal Poverty Level	2008 SPS			2010 SPS		
	In Thousands		Percent Uninsured	In Thousands		Percent Uninsured
	Population	Number Uninsured		Population	Number Uninsured	
0 – 99%	1,168	341	29.2%	1,363	395	29.0%
100 – 199%	1,042	175	16.8%	1,174	225	19.2%
200 – 299%	951	88	9.3%	959	110	11.5%
Over 300%	3,427	122	3.6%	3,237	89	2.8%
State Total	6,588	726	11.0%	6,733	819	12.2%

¹ Data cited are from the 2008 (v02) and 2010 (v01) Washington State Population Surveys. More information about the surveys is available at: www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/index.htm.

² In 2009, 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level was \$21,756 for a married couple with two children (U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty Thresholds for 2009 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years." <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>).

³ The percentage of the population by FPL is not shown in Table 1 but can be calculated using the data provided in the population column. The poverty data from the SPS shows that both the number and the percentage of Washington residents with incomes below 100 percent of FPL and between 100 percent and 199 percent of FPL increased over the period. In addition, the number and percentage of Washington residents with incomes at 300 percent or more of the FPL has declined.

There were some changes in the types of health insurance coverage that Washingtonians had between 2008 and 2010. The percentage of Washington residents receiving health insurance from their employer declined between 2008 and 2010 from 59.9 percent to 57.1 percent (see Table 2). In addition, the percentage covered by Medicaid or Basic Health increased from 15.6 percent to 17.6 percent. Finally, the percentage of Washington residents covered by Medicare also increased from 13.6 percent to 14.8 percent. There was no significant change in the percentage of people purchasing their own insurance between 2008 and 2010.

Table 2

Type of Insurance**		2008 SPS		2010 SPS		Change in Percent (2010-2008)
		Number (in Thousands)	Percent of Total Population	Number (in Thousands)	Percent of Total Population	
Private Insurance						
	Employer Insurance	3,949	59.9%	3,847	57.1%	-2.8%*
	Purchased	731	11.1%	733	10.9%	-0.2%
Public Insurance						
	Medicaid/Basic Health	1,026	15.6%	1,186	17.6%	2.0%*
	Medicare	897	13.6%	993	14.8%	1.1%*
Insured By Any Source (Public and/or Private) **		5,862	89.0%	5,914	87.8%	-1.2%
Uninsured		726	11.0%	819	12.2%	1.2%
State Population		6,588		6,733		

* Indicates that the change in percent between 2008 and 2010 is statistically significant at the five percent level.

** In addition to the insurance sources listed, a person can be insured by military insurance, somebody outside the household, or by another type of plan (unspecified). A person can also have multiple forms of insurance, so total insured is not the sum of each insurance type.

Rates of insurance coverage vary by age (see Table 3). Between 2008 and 2010, the rate of uninsured decreased slightly for children (the change is not statistically significant) and the estimated number of children uninsured declined by 20,000. The rate of uninsured among working age adults significantly increased by just over two percentage points, from 15.5 percent to 17.9 percent uninsured. Over 12 out of 13 uninsured persons in Washington are working age adults between 19 and 64 years of age. During this period there was also a significant decline in the uninsured among those aged 65 years and older. The rate of uninsured among the elderly is always very small, and since 2000 has been between zero percent and one percent of the population.

Table 3	2008 SPS			2010 SPS		
	In Thousands		Percent Uninsured	In Thousands		Percent Uninsured
	Population	Number Uninsured		Population	Number Uninsured	
Age						
0 – 18	1,674	78	4.6%	1,679	58	3.4%
19 – 64	4,142	640	15.5%	4,233	759	17.9%
65 and Older	771	8	1.0%	822	2	0.3%
State Total	6,588	726	11.0%	6,733	819	12.2%

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