Status of U.S. Health Insurance Coverage: Stalled Gains, More Underinsured

National Academy of Social Insurance
Health Care Coverage and Costs: Assessing Medicare-Based Approaches

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Health Care Coverage and Access
Tracking Health System Performance

March 5, 2020
Nearly 30 million fewer people are uninsured than pre-ACA projections, but gains have stalled.

CBO projections and NHIS actual number (in millions) of uninsured nonelderly individuals, 2012-2022

Sources:
Recent stalled gains in insurance coverage stem from 4 primary factors.

- 14 states have not yet expanded Medicaid, including the heavily populated states of Florida and Texas;
- People with incomes just over the marketplace subsidy threshold ($48,560 for an individual or $100,400 for a family of four) and many in employer plans have high premiums relative to income;
- Congressional and executive actions on the individual market and Medicaid have reduced potential enrollment in both;
- Undocumented immigrants are ineligible for subsidized coverage.
EXHIBIT 3

Nearly 2 of 5 uninsured people are eligible for Medicaid or subsidized marketplace coverage.

30 million uninsured, 2019

- Not lawfully present: 20%
- Eligible for subsidized coverage through a marketplace: 23%
- Eligible for Medicaid or CHIP: 15%
- With income less than 100% FPL and living in a non-expansion state: 12%
- Other*: 30%

Notes: *Other includes people who have access to health insurance through an employer or directly from insurer, but chooses not to purchase it. Source: CBO, Federal Subsidies for Health Insurance Coverage for People Under Age 65: 2019 to 2029 (May 2019).
EXHIBIT 4

The uninsured rate exceeded the national average in 14 of the 19 states that had not expanded Medicaid by 2018.

2018

Notes: *Medicaid expansion status as of January 1, 2018. Of the 19 states that had not expanded eligibility for Medicaid under the ACA as of January 2018, uninsured rates exceeded the national average in 14 of them.

There is strong public support for expanding Medicaid in the states that haven’t yet done so.

Percent of adults ages 19-64 who live in a state that did not expand Medicaid and strongly/somewhat favor expansion*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>&lt;250% FPL</th>
<th>250%+ FPL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: * The following states have not expanded their Medicaid programs: AL, FL, GA, KS, MS, MO, NC, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, WI, and WY. Ballot initiatives to expand were approved in 3 states, ID, NE, UT, but the states have not yet expanded. FPL = federal poverty level. 250% FPL is $30,350 for an individual and $62,750 for a family of four.

Even bronze plan premiums are high relative to income in many states for people earning just over the subsidy threshold.

2020 HealthCare.gov premiums as a percentage of income for 40-year-olds earning $51,000

EXHIBIT 7

Affordability is the top reason why Americans who shopped for marketplace coverage didn’t enroll in a plan and why uninsured adults did not visit the marketplace.

Percent of adults ages 19-64 who visited the marketplace but did not select a marketplace plan or Medicaid coverage

- You could not find a plan you could afford: 26%
- You obtained health insurance through a different source: 18%
- You decided you didn’t need health insurance: 4%
- Some other reason*: 51%

Percent of adults ages 19-64 who were uninsured and did not visit the marketplace

- You did not think you could afford health insurance: 36%
- You did not think you would be eligible for health insurance: 28%
- You were not aware of the marketplace: 15%
- You did not think you needed health insurance: 7%
- Some other reason*: 8%

*Respondents who reported “some other reason” cited missed deadlines and citizenship status, among other reasons.


^3% of uninsured adults ages 19 to 64 who did not visit the marketplace reported it was because they had, or will have, insurance through another source, 2% reported it was because the marketplaces were not open for enrollment when they needed coverage, and 1% reported they went someplace else to look for health insurance. Respondents who reported “some other reason” cited lack of time and citizenship status, among other reasons.

EXHIBIT 8

More adults are underinsured, with the greatest growth occurring among those with employer coverage.

Percent of adults ages 19-64 insured all year who were underinsured

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Notes: “Underinsured” refers to adults who were insured all year but experienced one of the following: out-of-pocket costs, excluding premiums, equaled 10% or more of income; out-of-pocket costs, excluding premiums, equaled 5% or more of income if low-income (<200% of poverty); or deductibles equaled 5% or more of income. Total includes adults with coverage through Medicaid and Medicare. Respondents may have had another type of coverage at some point during the year, but had coverage for the entire previous 12 months. * For 2014 and 2016, includes those who get their individual coverage through the marketplace.


EXHIBIT 9

Worker contributions to premiums and deductibles out-paced growth in median income between 2008 and 2018.

*Average annual growth (rolling two-year increments, %)*

Note: Single and family premium contributions and deductibles are weighted for the distribution of single-person and family households in the state.


Combined cost of premiums and deductibles was 11.5% of median income in 2018, up from 7.8% in 2008.

Note: Single and family premium contributions, deductibles, and combined estimates are weighted for the distribution of single-person and family households in the state.


EXHIBIT 11

Of those reporting medical bill problems, many have resorted to extreme measures to pay bills, including dipping into retirement funds or selling personal items like jewelry or furniture.

Percent of adults ages 18+ who reported having problems paying or were unable to pay for medical bills during the past two years

- Borrowed money: 49%
- Used any savings: 44%
- Took on credit card debt or loan: 32%
- Sold personal items: 26%
- Raised money through fundraising: 7%

Regardless of who is elected president in November, large majorities of likely voters think he or she should make reducing the amount people pay for health care a top priority.

Percent of likely voters, by political affiliation, who responded that reducing the following should be a high-priority

- Prescription drugs: 74% (Democrats) vs. 86% (Republicans)
- Health care, not including prescription drugs: 69% (Democrats) vs. 85% (Republicans)
- Health insurance, including premiums and deductibles: 71% (Democrats) vs. 84% (Republicans)
- Long-term care like nursing care: 69% (Democrats) vs. 80% (Republicans)

EXHIBIT 13

We asked likely voters about their confidence in the Democratic nominee vs. President Trump to make health care more affordable. The difference in confidence was widest among blacks, young adults, Hispanics, and women.

Percent of likely voters who are confident that the Democratic nominee or President Trump will make their health care more affordable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confident in Democratic nominee</th>
<th>Confident in President Trump</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All likely voters</strong></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blacks</strong></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18-25 year-olds</strong></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hispanics</strong></td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HS or less</strong></td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## A reform package that builds on the ACA with enhanced premium and cost-sharing subsidies substantially lowers household premiums and deductibles

Premiums and out-of-pocket costs by income group, current law and reform, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>250% FPL</th>
<th>450% FPL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACA</td>
<td>Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Premiums for a family of four</strong></td>
<td>$5,382</td>
<td>$644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family coverage deductible</strong></td>
<td>$4,800</td>
<td>$400</td>
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Thank you!

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