Research Brief

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases Data on Health Insurance Coverage for States and Counties Shows 1.2 Million Pennsylvanians Without Coverage

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the U.S. Census Bureau has released experimental estimates on the number of people covered by health insurance for states and counties. This data, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE), provides information on the total population with and without health insurance coverage as well as the same data for children under the age of 18. These estimates are for 2000.

The SAHIE data shows that Pennsylvania had an estimated 1,193,079 people without health insurance in 2000, or 9.9 percent of Pennsylvania's population of 12,063,804 in the sample. Please note that this population figure is different than the Census 2000 population of 12.3 million. The population in the SAHIE data does not take into account populations living in group quarters (military barracks, for example).

Pennsylvania's ranked 7th nationally in the number of people without health insurance and 43rd nationally in the percent of people without health insurance coverage. California led the nation with the most people without coverage; 6.4 million and New Mexico had the highest percent of people without health insurance coverage at 23.7 percent. To view the table: **Experimental Small Area Health Insurance Estimates by State, 2000**, visit our Web site: http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/SAHIE/sahie00st.html

Of the 2,827,141 children under the age of 18 in Pennsylvania in 2000, 200,566 (or 7.1 percent) were without health insurance. Pennsylvania ranked 11th nationally in the number and 42nd nationally in the percent of children without health insurance. California had the highest number of children without health insurance (1.5 million) and New Mexico had the highest percent (20.6).

At the county level, Philadelphia had the most people without health insurance in 2000, 252,345. They also had the highest percent of people without health insurance at 17.0 percent (see table1). Allegheny County had the second highest number of people without health insurance, 95,074, followed by Lancaster (52,811), Montgomery (50,083) and Bucks (43,275). Cameron has the least number of people without coverage, 509.

Forest County had the second highest percent of people without coverage, 14.7. Sullivan was third (13.5), followed by Fayette (12.9) and Greene (12.7). Butler County has the lowest percent of people without coverage, 5.9 percent.

Table 1
Total Estimated Number and Percent Without Health Insurance, 2000
Top 5 Ranking Counties and Lowest Ranking County: Pennsylvania

Rank	County	Number	Rank	County	Percent
1	Philadelphia	252,345	1	Philadelphia	17.0
2	Allegheny	95,074	2	Forest	14.7
3	Lancaster	52,811	3	Sullivan	13.5
4	Montgomery	50,083	4	Fayette	12.9
5	Bucks	43,275	5	Greene	12.7
67	Cameron	509	67	Butler	5.9

Philadelphia had the most children without health insurance coverage with 42,057. Second was Allegheny County with 12,322, followed by Lancaster (10,485), Delaware (8,972) and Montgomery (7,360). Cameron County has the lowest number of children with coverage, 94.

Forest County had the highest percent of children without health insurance coverage at 11.9. Second was Sullivan (11.5) followed by Philadelphia (11.3), Indiana (11.2) and Fayette (11.1). Butler County has the lowest percent of children without coverage, 3.9 percent (see Table 2).

Table 2
Total Estimated Number and Percent of Children Without Health Insurance, 2000
Top 5 Ranking Counties and Lowest Ranking County: Pennsylvania

Rank	County	Number	Rank	County	Percent
1	Philadelphia	42,057	1	Forest	11.9
2	Allegheny	12,322	2	Sullivan	11.5
3	Lancaster	10,485	3	Philadelphia	11.3
4	Delaware	8,972	4	Indiana	11.2
5	Montgomery	7,360	5	Fayette	11.1
67	Cameron	94	67	Butler	3.9

The PaSDC has posted complete state and county ranking tables for all people and children under the age of 18 without health insurance coverage, maps and methodology at: http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/SAHIE/sahie.html

To view the Census Bureau's Web site on Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, visit: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/sahie/

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

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