

Counting Colorado's Uninsured: The Latest Estimates

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Census Bureau on Sept. 13, 2011 released the annual estimates from the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the number and percentage of Americans who lacked health insurance coverage in calendar year 2010.

UNINSURED: THE OVERALL NUMBERS

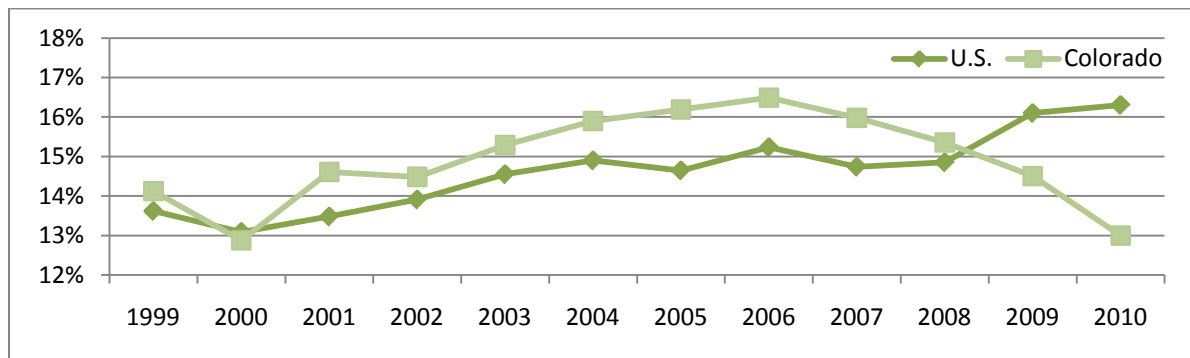
United States

- Nationally, an estimated 49.9 million Americans, or 16.3 percent of the population, were uninsured in 2010. That's up a bit from 49 million, or 16.1 percent, in 2009, although the change is not statistically significant.ⁱ

Colorado

- An estimated 656,000 Coloradans, or 13 percent, were uninsured in 2010. That compares with 721,000, or 14.5 percent, in 2009. When looking at two-year averages, Colorado recorded a statistically significant decline of 1.9 percentage points. In fact, Colorado was the only state that recorded a statistically significant decline between 2007-08 and 2009-10.

Graph 1. Annual Uninsured Percentage Rates: Colorado and the U.S.



THE INSURED AND THE UNINSURED: BREAKING DOWN THE COVERAGE IN COLORADO

Table 1. Insurance status of all people in Colorado and the United States, by percentage, 2009-10

	U.S.		Colorado	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Not Covered	16.1	16.3	14.5	13
Insured	83.9	83.7	85.5	87
Private insurance	64.5	64	70.1	70
Employment-based	56.1	55.3	59.5	58.4
Direct purchase	9.6	9.8	11.9	12.9
Government	30.5	31	26	27.8
Medicaid	15.7	15.9	11.9	12.1
Medicare	14.3	14.5	11.2	12
Military	4.1	4.2	5.6	6.8

Table 2. Insurance status of children under 18 in Colorado and the United States, by percentage, 2009-10

	U.S.		Colorado	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Not Covered	9.7	9.8	9	7.8
Insured	90.3	90.2	91	92.2
Private insurance	60.5	59.6	66.6	68.9
Employment-based	55.8	54.8	60.5	59.7
Direct purchase	5.7	5.7	7.6	10.8
Government	36.8	37.9	30.4	31.4
Medicaid	33.8	34.8	24.9	24.6
Medicare	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1
Military	3.2	3.3	5.5	7.4

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

The estimates are based on sample interviews collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and came from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Interviews were conducted over a three-month period in February, March and April of 2011, with most data collection occurring in March. Estimates are then obtained by weighting the sample results with population estimates of the civilian non-institutionalized population of the U.S. and each state. The final estimates are subject to sampling error.

Additional estimates of Colorado's uninsured rates are expected in the coming months from Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Jonathan Gruber, the American Community Survey, and the 2011 Colorado Household Survey (a new name will be unveiled soon by The Colorado Trust.)

ⁱ Data available at http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/income_wealth/cb11-157.html