Counting Colorado's Uninsured: The Latest Estimates

American Community Survey (ACS)

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Introduction

The U.S. Census Bureau on September 18, 2014, released the annual estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the number and percentage of Americans who lacked health insurance coverage in calendar year 2013.[a]

Uninsured: The Overall Numbers

United States

- Nationally, an estimated 45.2 million Americans, or 14.5 percent of the population, were uninsured in 2013. That's down significantly from 45.6 million, or 14.8 percent, in 2012.[b]

Colorado

- According to the ACS, an estimated 729,000 Coloradans, or 14.1 percent, were uninsured in 2013. That compares with 751,000, or 14.7 percent, in 2012 – a statistically significant decline.

Table 1. Uninsured Rates in Colorado by Age, Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Annual Household Income, 2009-2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Age					
Under 18	10.2%	10.1%	9.4%	8.8%	8.2%
18-64	20.3%	20.7%	19.8%	19.5%	18.8%
65 and older	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Gender					
Male	17.8%	17.7%	16.9%	16.4%	15.4%
Female	13.7%	14.2%	13.3%	13.1%	12.8%
Race/Ethnicity					
Non-Hispanic White	11.1%	11.7%	11.3%	10.8%	10.7%
Hispanic or Latino	32.1%	29.7%	27.3%	27.5%	25.3%
Annual Household Income					
Under 25,000	29.8%	28.9%	26.2%	24.5%	22.9%
25,000 to 49,999	23.5%	23.0%	23.9%	22.9%	21.9%
50,000 to 74,999	15.2%	16.6%	16.0%	15.9%	15.9%
75,000 to 99,999	9.4%	9.2%	8.7%	9.1%	10.1%

[a] Data available from the U.S. Census B ureau at http://factfinder2.census.gov
[b] Statistically different at the 90 percent confidence level.

Table 2. Uninsured Rates in Colorado by County, 2012-2013

Nine of the 11 counties large enough for estimates showed small declines in their uninsured rates. Boulder and Mesa counties posted slight increases.

	2012		2013		Difference From 2012 to 2013	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number Change	Percentage Point Change
Colorado	*751,244*	*14.7*	*729,188*	*14.1*	*-22,056*	*-0.6*
Adams County	98,805	21.7	92,081	19.8	-6,724	-1.9
Arapahoe County	94,489	16.0	92,426	15.3	-2,063	-0.7
Boulder County	29,139	9.6	32,081	10.4	2,942	0.8
Denver County	104,980	16.7	100,653	15.7	-4,327	-1.0
Douglas County	19,287	6.5	19,397	6.4	110	-0.1
El Paso County	85,101	13.9	69,330	11.1	-15,771	-2.8
Jefferson County	59,686	11.1	59,236	10.9	-450	-0.2
Larimer County	37,474	12.2	35,081	11.2	-2,393	-1.0
Mesa County	20,938	14.3	23,109	15.8	2,171	1.5
Pueblo County	20,829	13.2	20,161	12.8	-668	-0.4
Weld County	46,059	17.7	38,580	14.4	-7,479	-3.3

Table 3. Uninsured Rates in Colorado by City, 2012-2013

Nine of the 15 cities large enough for estimates posted small declines in their uninsured rates. Lakewood posted the largest rate increase at 3.6 percent.

	2012		2013		Difference From 2012 to 2013	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number Change	Percentage Point Change
Colorado	*751,244*	*14.7*	*729,188*	*14.1*	*-22,056*	*-0.6*
Arvada	11,762	10.8	9,435	8.4	-2,327	-2.4
Aurora	72,383	21.6	73,601	21.5	1,218	-0.1
Boulder	6,558	6.5	8,408	8.2	1,850	1.7
Centennial	9,092	8.8	8,284	7.9	-808	-0.9
Colorado Springs	60,445	14.4	52,014	12.2	-8,431	-2.2
Denver	104,980	16.7	100,653	15.7	-4,327	-1.0
Fort Collins	16,809	11.5	13,919	9.3	-2,890	-2.2
Greeley	16,703	17.8	13,851	14.6	-2,852	-3.2
Highlands Ranch	4,587	4.5	8,457	8.0	3,870	3.5
Lakewood	20,109	14.1	25,500	17.7	5,391	3.6
Longmont	13,994	15.9	14,584	16.3	590	0.4
Loveland	8,897	12.7	10,109	14.3	1,212	1.6
Pueblo	15,534	14.8	16,229	15.6	695	0.8
Thornton	21,637	17.5	21,097	16.6	-540	-0.9
Westminster	14,154	13	15,976	14.5	1,822	1.5

Methodology and Limitations

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey with an annual sample size of about three million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico. It is conducted in every U.S. county and every Puerto Rican municipality. Health insurance estimates are extrapolated from the survey results based on the number and percentage of people who reported being uninsured at the time of the 2013 survey. These single-year estimates are calculated only for counties and cities that have populations that are large enough for analysis.