



Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Quarterly Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, October 2020–December 2021

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Since 2001, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Early Release Program has released selected estimates of health and health care for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population. This table presents quarterly estimates of health insurance coverage disaggregated by age group and family income as a percentage of the federal poverty level (FPL) for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population based on data from the October–December 2021 NHIS. Quarterly estimates for October–December 2020 through July–September 2021 are also presented for comparison. These estimates are being published prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from the NHIS.

Table. Percentage (and 95% confidence interval) of people who lacked health insurance coverage, had public health plan coverage, and had private health insurance coverage at the time of interview, by age group, family income as a percentage of the federal poverty level and quarter: United States, October 2020–December 2021

| Health insurance coverage status, age group (years) and family income as a percentage of the FPL ¹ | Quarter 4, 2020 (Oct–Dec) | Quarter 1, 2021 (Jan–Mar) | Quarter 2, 2021 (Apr–Jun) | Quarter 3, 2021 (Jul–Sep) | Quarter 4, 2021 (Oct–Dec) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Uninsured² | | | | | |
| All ages | 10.3 (9.3–11.5) | 9.5 (8.6–10.4) | 9.7 (8.6–10.8) | 8.9 (8.2–9.6) | 8.8 (7.9–9.7) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 18.4 (14.4–22.8) | 18.4 (14.6–22.7) | 16.7 (13.3–20.6) | 14.4 (11.3–18.0) | 14.4 (11.4–17.8) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 17.4 (14.0–21.2) | 13.7 (11.2–16.4) | 15.8 (13.2–18.8) | 14.0 (11.6–16.7) | 14.9 (13.0–17.0) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 6.3 (5.4–7.3) | 6.1 (5.5–6.9) | 5.9 (5.2–6.8) | 6.1 (5.4–6.9) | 5.3 (4.7–6.1) |
| Under 65 | 12.3 (11.1–13.7) | 11.3 (10.3–12.4) | 11.5 (10.3–12.8) | 10.7 (9.8–11.5) | 10.5 (9.4–11.6) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 20.2 (15.7–25.2) | 20.0 (15.9–24.7) | 19.0 (15.2–23.4) | 16.2 (12.7–20.3) | 15.8 (12.5–19.6) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 21.3 (17.2–25.8) | 16.6 (13.6–19.9) | 19.0 (15.8–22.4) | 17.1 (14.1–20.4) | 17.7 (15.4–20.1) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 7.6 (6.4–8.8) | 7.4 (6.6–8.2) | 7.1 (6.2–8.1) | 7.3 (6.4–8.2) | 6.4 (5.6–7.2) |
| 0–17 | 6.4 (4.6–8.7) | 4.6 (3.6–5.8) | 4.2 (3.1–5.6) | 4.2 (3.3–5.3) | 3.5 (2.6–4.5) |
| Less than 100% FPL | * | 6.8 (3.5–11.8) | 7.0 (3.6–12.0) | 6.1 (3.3–10.1) | * |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 10.9 (5.6–18.8) | 6.9 (4.4–10.3) | 5.4 (3.1–8.6) | 7.0 (4.1–11.0) | 3.0 (1.5–5.2) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 3.7 (2.1–5.9) | 3.0 (2.2–4.1) | 2.7 (1.8–3.9) | 2.3 (1.5–3.4) | 3.0 (2.0–4.2) |
| 18–64 | 14.5 (13.1–15.9) | 13.8 (12.6–15.1) | 14.2 (12.7–15.8) | 13.0 (12.0–14.1) | 13.1 (11.7–14.5) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 26.9 (21.5–32.8) | 27.4 (21.8–33.5) | 26.5 (21.0–32.6) | 21.7 (16.8–27.4) | 22.2 (17.8–27.2) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 26.5 (22.0–31.4) | 21.9 (18.1–26.1) | 25.5 (21.5–29.9) | 22.3 (18.6–26.4) | 24.9 (21.6–28.4) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 8.8 (7.5–10.2) | 8.8 (7.8–9.8) | 8.5 (7.3–9.8) | 8.9 (7.9–10.0) | 7.5 (6.5–8.5) |
| Public health plan coverage³ | | | | | |
| All ages | 38.0 (36.4–39.7) | 40.0 (38.5–41.5) | 39.0 (37.4–40.7) | 38.8 (37.4–40.2) | 40.4 (39.0–41.7) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 68.5 (63.5–73.2) | 67.5 (62.6–72.1) | 71.7 (67.1–75.9) | 67.9 (61.7–73.8) | 71.6 (67.8–75.2) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 57.2 (53.1–61.3) | 62.3 (58.8–65.6) | 58.6 (54.9–62.1) | 60.5 (57.1–63.7) | 57.8 (54.3–61.3) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 25.9 (24.4–27.5) | 26.9 (25.5–28.4) | 26.3 (24.6–27.9) | 26.5 (25.1–27.9) | 28.3 (27.0–29.6) |

See footnotes at the end of table.

Table. Percentage (and 95% confidence interval) of people who lacked health insurance coverage, had public health plan coverage, and had private health insurance coverage at the time of interview, by age group, family income as a percentage of the federal poverty level and quarter: United States, October 2020–December 2021—cont.

| Health insurance coverage status, age group (years) and family income as a percentage of the FPL ¹ | Quarter 4, 2020 (Oct–Dec) | Quarter 1, 2021 (Jan–Mar) | Quarter 2, 2021 (Apr–Jun) | Quarter 3, 2021 (Jul–Sep) | Quarter 4, 2021 (Oct–Dec) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Under 65 | 26.3 (24.4–28.2) | 28.3 (26.6–30.0) | 27.3 (25.7–29.0) | 26.9 (25.3–28.5) | 28.4 (27.0–29.9) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 65.2 (59.6–70.6) | 64.3 (59.1–69.2) | 67.7 (62.5–72.6) | 63.9 (56.9–70.5) | 68.7 (64.2–72.9) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 47.8 (42.9–52.7) | 54.4 (50.5–58.3) | 50.4 (46.5–54.2) | 51.3 (47.5–55.1) | 49.7 (46.2–53.3) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 11.8 (10.4–13.4) | 12.8 (11.6–14.1) | 12.6 (11.2–14.1) | 13.2 (11.8–14.6) | 13.6 (12.5–14.7) |
| 0–17 | 41.7 (37.1–46.3) | 45.6 (42.6–48.6) | 43.8 (41.2–46.4) | 42.5 (39.9–45.3) | 45.4 (42.8–48.0) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 85.9 (77.2–92.2) | 87.5 (81.7–92.1) | 87.0 (81.2–91.6) | 85.2 (79.9–89.6) | 89.2 (84.5–92.9) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 69.2 (60.2–77.3) | 76.4 (71.5–80.8) | 78.0 (73.2–82.2) | 74.9 (69.0–80.2) | 74.0 (68.8–78.7) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 16.7 (13.1–20.9) | 19.1 (16.8–21.5) | 16.7 (14.5–19.2) | 19.4 (16.9–22.1) | 20.8 (18.2–23.7) |
| 18–64 | 20.6 (19.2–22.1) | 22.0 (20.5–23.5) | 21.3 (19.5–23.3) | 21.1 (19.6–22.7) | 22.2 (20.8–23.7) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 52.7 (46.6–58.8) | 51.3 (45.4–57.1) | 55.8 (48.5–62.9) | 52.3 (44.2–60.4) | 57.3 (52.2–62.2) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 37.1 (32.4–42.1) | 42.3 (38.1–46.7) | 37.0 (32.4–41.7) | 39.1 (35.0–43.3) | 37.9 (33.8–42.0) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 10.3 (9.0–11.6) | 10.8 (9.6–12.1) | 11.3 (9.7–13.0) | 11.1 (9.9–12.5) | 11.2 (10.0–12.5) |
| Private health insurance coverage ⁴ | | | | | |
| All ages | 61.2 (59.4–63.0) | 59.7 (58.0–61.4) | 60.6 (59.1–62.0) | 61.4 (59.9–62.9) | 59.8 (58.2–61.4) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 18.1 (14.2–22.5) | 17.0 (13.2–21.5) | 15.7 (12.5–19.4) | 20.8 (15.4–27.1) | 17.3 (13.7–21.4) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 34.9 (31.2–38.7) | 32.2 (29.1–35.4) | 34.2 (31.2–37.4) | 34.9 (31.5–38.5) | 34.4 (31.0–37.9) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 78.2 (76.6–79.7) | 77.1 (75.9–78.2) | 77.9 (76.7–79.2) | 77.0 (75.4–78.6) | 76.5 (75.0–77.9) |
| Under 65 | 63.2 (61.1–65.4) | 62.3 (60.4–64.2) | 63.2 (61.6–64.8) | 64.2 (62.4–65.9) | 62.9 (61.2–64.6) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 17.2 (13.1–21.9) | 17.3 (13.2–22.0) | 14.8 (11.3–19.0) | 21.2 (15.1–28.4) | 16.7 (13.2–20.7) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 34.1 (29.8–38.6) | 31.8 (28.0–35.8) | 34.6 (31.2–38.2) | 34.4 (30.3–38.6) | 35.6 (31.9–39.4) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 82.0 (80.1–83.7) | 81.6 (80.2–82.9) | 82.0 (80.5–83.3) | 81.1 (79.4–82.7) | 81.6 (80.1–82.9) |
| 0–17 | 54.3 (49.6–58.9) | 52.0 (48.9–55.0) | 54.3 (51.6–57.1) | 55.5 (52.4–58.5) | 53.4 (50.8–56.0) |
| Less than 100% FPL | * | 6.7 (4.0–10.5) | 8.0 (4.5–13.0) | 10.1 (6.4–15.0) | 6.5 (3.7–10.4) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 24.8 (17.2–33.7) | 20.2 (15.7–25.3) | 20.3 (16.1–25.1) | 22.6 (17.8–27.9) | 26.3 (21.0–32.0) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 80.8 (76.4–84.8) | 80.0 (77.5–82.4) | 82.3 (79.8–84.7) | 80.2 (77.2–82.9) | 78.6 (75.7–81.2) |
| 18–64 | 66.5 (64.7–68.3) | 66.1 (64.2–68.1) | 66.4 (64.7–68.2) | 67.3 (65.5–69.1) | 66.4 (64.6–68.2) |
| Less than 100% FPL | 22.1 (17.2–27.7) | 23.2 (17.4–29.9) | 19.0 (14.3–24.5) | 27.2 (18.7–37.0) | 22.3 (17.6–27.6) |
| 100% to less than 200% FPL | 38.8 (34.3–43.3) | 38.2 (33.5–43.1) | 41.5 (37.4–45.8) | 40.5 (35.8–45.2) | 40.2 (36.2–44.3) |
| 200% and greater FPL | 82.3 (80.6–84.0) | 82.1 (80.8–83.4) | 81.8 (80.1–83.5) | 81.3 (79.7–82.9) | 82.6 (80.9–84.1) |

*Estimate is not shown, as it does not meet NCHS standards of reliability.

¹FPL is federal poverty level. The percentage of respondents in the unknown FPL category in the fourth quarter of 2020 was 10.4%, in the first quarter of 2021 was 10.5%, in the second quarter of 2021 was 9.7%, in the third quarter of 2021 was 9.5%, and in the fourth quarter of 2021 was 9.8%. Estimates may differ from estimates that are based on both reported and imputed income.

²People were defined as uninsured if they did not have any private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), state-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plan, or military plan. People were also defined as uninsured if they had only Indian Health Service coverage or had only a private plan that paid for one type of service, such as accidents or dental care.

³Public health plan coverage includes Medicaid, CHIP, state-sponsored or other government-sponsored health plan, Medicare, and military plans. A small number of people were covered by both public and private plans and were included in both categories.

⁴Private health insurance coverage includes any comprehensive private insurance plan (including health maintenance and preferred provider organizations). These plans include those obtained through an employer, purchased directly, purchased through local or community programs, or purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace or a state-based exchange. Private coverage excludes plans that pay for only one type of service, such as accidents or dental care. A small number of people were covered by both public and private plans and were included in both categories.

NOTES: These health insurance estimates are being released prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). Occasionally, due to decisions made for the final data editing and weighting, estimates based on preliminary editing procedures may differ from estimates based on final files. The estimates are based on a sample of the population and therefore are subject to sampling error. Quarterly estimates have wider confidence intervals than annual estimates due to smaller sample sizes, and this should be taken into account when evaluating the statistical significance of differences between groups and changes over time. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHIS data collection switched to a telephone-only mode beginning March 19, 2020. Personal visits (with telephone attempts first) resumed in all areas in September 2020. In addition, from August–December 2020, a subsample of adult respondents who completed the NHIS in 2019 were recontacted by telephone and asked to participate again. Response rates were lower and respondent characteristics were different in July–December 2020. Differences observed in estimates between October–December 2020 and other time periods may have been impacted by these differences in respondent characteristics. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2020–2021.

Suggested citation:

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