

394,000 CT residents lack health insurance in 2005

One in nine residents uninsured

According to a new survey by the US Census Bureau, 11.3% of Connecticut residents did not have health insurance coverage last year.

Connecticut's uninsured is not a small problem

The number of uninsured Connecticut residents is more than the combined total number of accountants, auditors, computer programmers, architects, engineers, economists, social workers, clergy, lawyers, judges, librarians, writers and authors, photographers, dentists, doctors, pharmacists, registered nurses, veterinarians, dental hygienists, fire fighters, security guards, crossing guards, chefs and cooks, waiters and waitresses, dishwashers, janitors and maids, tree trimmers and pruners, barbers, hairdressers, child care workers, cashiers, insurance sales agents, travel agents, telemarketers, file clerks, mail carriers, electricians, painters, bakers, butchers, machinists, tool and die makers, commercial pilots, air traffic controllers, bus drivers, parking lot and service station attendants.

The number of uninsured in Connecticut is larger than the combined populations of New Haven plus Hartford plus Waterbury plus Norwich

The number of uninsured in Connecticut is larger than five counties

Two out of three uninsured Connecticut adults are working

Are things likely to get better or worse?

Probably worse

Health insurance premiums are rising by 7.3% this year; employers are shifting many of those costs onto workers

Service sector jobs are expected to grow 66% faster than the rest of Connecticut's economy through 2010 - service jobs are less likely to come with health benefits

95% of Connecticut firms have under 50 employees; small businesses are less likely to offer health benefits

Connecticut workers' health premiums grew four times faster than wages from 2000 to 2004

What does it mean to be uninsured?

The uninsured receive fewer medical services and are 25% more likely to die prematurely.

Connecticut's uninsured are 10 times less likely to get care for an injury or illness and 7 times less likely to get care for a medical emergency than residents with insurance.

Uninsured cancer patients are far more likely to be diagnosed at later stages of the disease and are far more likely to die

Uninsured car accident victims are 37% more likely to die of their injuries than victims with insurance, receiving 20% less care including fewer X-rays, drugs and shorter hospital stays

The uninsured often pay the highest prices for their care - full retail, not the discounted prices that HMOs and government pay

Half of all bankruptcies are due to high medical bills

The costs of caring for the uninsured adds \$257 to each Connecticut individual's health premium and \$882 for families

Bottom Line:

One in nine Connecticut residents lacks any health coverage, risking long-term damage to their health and economic well-being.

Sources: Current Population Survey, US Census Bureau, August 2006, Illness and Injury as Contributors to Bankruptcy, Himmelstein, et. al., Health Affairs Web Exclusive, Feb. 2006, C. Borger, et al, Health Affairs Web Exclusives Feb. 2006, Care Without Coverage, Institute of Medicine, 2002, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Health Care: Are you better off today than you were four years ago?, Families USA, Sept. 2004, Paying a Premium: The Added Cost of Care for the Uninsured, Families USA, July 2005, CT State Dept.s of Labor, Public Health and Office of Health Care Access.