

CT Health Notes Factoids 2007 - 2004

2007 Factoids

Factoid: As of May 2007, average hourly wages for US health care practitioners and technical workers were 2.5 times higher than for health care support workers (\$31.26 vs. \$12.31). (Monthly Labor Review, US Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Factoid: Medicare spent \$52,760 per CT patient with chronic illnesses who died between 2001 and 2005 in the last two years of their life – the eighth highest cost among states. (The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care 2008, April 2008)

Factoid: Health insurance consumes 7.8% of total US employee compensation, second only to wages and salaries. However, health insurance for private industry workers in New England consumes only 6.5% of total compensation, the lowest rate among all US Census regions. (Employer Costs for Employee Compensation – December 2007, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 3/12/08)

Factoid: Low wage American workers (less than \$15/hour) with employer-sponsored medical plans, on average, pay MORE of the premium for employer sponsored health benefits than higher paid workers. (US Bureau of Labor Statistics National Compensation Survey, December 2007)

Factoid: From 2005 to 2006 US health care administration and profit rose by 8.8% while overall health care spending grew by only 6.7%. (A Catlin et. al., Health Affairs, Jan/Feb 2008)

2007 Factoids

Factoid: Connecticut's unfunded liability for state retirees' benefits, including health, is estimated at \$21.7 billion. CT has the highest unfunded per capita retiree health bill in the US at \$6,186 per state resident, compared to the US average of \$1,283 per person. (Promises with a Price: Public Sector Retirement Benefits, Pew Center on the States, December 2007)

Factoid: White women in CT can expect to live an average of five years longer than black women in CT. (Making the Grade on Women's Health 2007, National Women's Law Center)

Factoid: Since 1990, the prevalence of smoking in CT decreased from 29.6 percent to 17.0 percent of the population. (United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings 2007)

Factoid: In March 2007, health insurance costs to private employers were highest in the Northeast averaging \$2.04/hour; the national average was \$1.83/hour. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Dept of Labor)

Factoid: The value of the federal tax exemptions for health benefits is estimated at over \$147 billion this year and expected to rise over \$1 billion by 2012. The exemption for health benefits cost the federal government almost twice as much as deductibility of home mortgage interest. (*Tax Expenditures and Employee Benefits: Estimates from the FY 2008 Budget*, EBRI, June 2007)

Factoid: Last year, health care practitioners and technical workers were paid, on average, two and a half times as much as health care support workers (\$29.82 vs. \$11.83/hour). (Bureau of labor Statistics, US DOL)

Factoid: By 2030, more than one of every three baby boomers – over 21 million – will be considered obese. (*When I'm 64: How Boomers will Change Health Care*, May 2007, American Hospital Association)

Factoid: Connecticut ranks lowest in the nation in the number of elderly residents who have lost all their teeth (12% CT vs. 21% US). (*The State of Aging and Health in America 2007*, CDC)

Factoid: 18.2% of the more than 70,000 uninsured children in CT did not receive any medical care in 2003. (*Cover the Uninsured*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Factoid: From 2004 to 2006, the uninsured rate in New London County doubled. Fairfield County had the highest uninsured rate in 2006; Litchfield County had the lowest rate. (*Databook: Health Insurance Coverage in CT, Results of OHCA's 2006 Household Survey*)

Factoid: CT is spending only \$3,118,657 on tobacco prevention and control this year. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that we should be spending at least seven times that amount. (*State of Tobacco Control: 2006*, American Lung Association)

Factoid: ConnectiCare ranked best among CT HMOs in 2005 complaints to the Dept. of Insurance (lowest ratio of complaints to direct premiums). CIGNA ranked last (fifth). The vast majority of complaints were for claims handling. (CT Insurance Dept)

2006 Factoids

Factoid: Six percent of US private industry workers were offered an HSA by their employer this year, compared to 5% in 2005. Workers with wages below \$15/hour were significantly more likely to be offered HSAs than higher wage

workers. (*Health Savings Accounts in National Compensation Survey Data*, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 11/29/06)

Factoid: Income tax exemption for employment-related health insurance is the largest federal “tax expenditure”, more than one and a half times the size of the exemption for home mortgage interest. Subsidies to workers in high wage firms (half of workers earn > \$23.07/hour) are nearly four times the subsidy to workers in low wage firms (half of workers earn <\$10.43/hour). (T. Selden and B. Gray, *Tax Subsidies for Employment-Related Health Insurance: Estimates for 2006*, Health Affairs, Nov./Dec 2006, p. 1568-1579)

Factoid: Increases in health care costs have forced 36% of Americans to decrease savings for retirement and 28% report difficulty paying for basic necessities. (2006 Health Confidence Survey: Dissatisfaction with Health Care System Doubles Since 1998, EBRI, Nov. 2006)

Factoid: It is estimated that 701,547 Americans visit an ER each year because of adverse drug events. The most common reasons are accidental overdoses and allergic reactions. The elderly are at highest risk of ER visits for adverse drug events. (Budnitz, et. al., JAMA, 296:1858-1866, 10/18/06)

Factoid: CT ranked 47th among states in rate of suicide in 2002. The District of Columbia was 51st with the lowest rate; Wyoming was first among states with the highest suicide rate. (Grading the States 2006, NAMI)

Factoid: In 2002 CT was 22nd among states in total cost of employee-only premiums (actuarially adjusted) averaging \$3,203. Family coverage averaged \$9,003, 6th highest in the nation (not adjusted). (*Health Affairs* 25:832-843, May/June 2006)

Factoid: CT is 37th among states in medical board rate of disciplinary actions. CT has been among the bottom 15 states in physician oversight for nine of the last 10 three-year periods. (Ranking of State Medical Board Serious Disciplinary Actions 2006, Public Citizen and Trends in Physician Regulation, Federation of State Medical Boards, 4/06)

Factoid: Healthy low-income workers' incomes grew almost twice as fast as incomes of unhealthy low-income workers' from 1995 to 2001 (106% vs. 62% increases). While healthy workers' incomes started out 2.6 times higher than low-income colleagues in 1995, that disparity had grown to 3.4 times in 2001. (Theodos & Bednarzik, *Earnings Mobility and Low-Wage Workers in the United States*, BLS Monthly Labor Review, July 2006)

Note: Low-income is defined as earnings below \$18,000 during 1993-95.

Factoid: A couple both age 65 today living to average life expectancy could need as much as \$295,000 to cover premiums for health insurance coverage and out-

of-pocket expenses during retirement. A couple who lives to age 95 could need as much as \$550,000. (*Savings Needed to Fund Health Insurance and Health Care Expenses in Retirement*, EBRI Issue Brief No. 295, July 2006)

Factoid: US health benefits average \$1.72 per hour worked in the private sector. Rates vary from 77 cents per hour (6.2% of total compensation) for service workers to \$2.50 per hour (5.6% of compensation) for management, professional and related occupations (March 2006). (US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Factoid: CT has the 12th highest average single premiums in the US (2003). (*Shifting Ground: Changes in Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, May 2006)

Factoid: Uninsured adults in CT are 6 times more likely than insured adults to miss seeing a doctor when they need one because of cost. (The Coverage Gap: A State-by-State Report on Access to Care, State Health Access Data Assistance Center, April 2006)

April 17, 2006

Factoid: In 2005, each CT resident averaged \$67.89 in insurance premium taxes and \$77.89 in tobacco taxes. Our total tax payments averaged \$3,300.49 per person. (US Census)

Factoid: It is estimated that employers would spend less, long-term, to offer to pay the mortgage of new employees rather than offer to pay for family health benefits. (Charles J. Farrell, "Health Care or a House?", *Wall Street Journal*, 2/22/06)

Factoid: 39% of CT residents were enrolled in managed care plans in 2004, the second highest rate in the US behind only CA. (Health, United States, 2005, National Center for Health Statistics)

Factoid: From 2002 through 2004, 96% of CT HMO adult members had at least one ambulatory or preventive care visit, compared to only 35% of indemnity managed care organization adult members. (A Comparison of Managed Care Organizations in Connecticut, CT Dept. of Insurance, October 2005)

The federal government spent \$8,649.37 per CT resident in FY 2004, the 8th highest per capita rate among states. 32% of that spending was by the Dept. of Defense. (Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2004, US Census)

2005 factoids

Factoid: CT will spend only \$40,000 on tobacco prevention in FY 2006, while tobacco companies spent \$157.2 million in CT on advertising in 2003. (*A Broken Promise to Our Children: The 1998 State Tobacco Settlement Seven Years Later*)

Factoid: In the 2004 general election, Washington CT had the highest voter turnout in the state at 93%; Windham had the lowest at 58%. And once again, more people voted in Greenwich than in Hartford. (CT Secretary of the State's Office)

Factoid: One in three CT home health care patients had to be hospitalized in 2003, ranking us 49th in the nation on that quality measure. (2004 National Healthcare Quality Report)

Treatment of medical conditions related to obesity cost taxpayers \$39 billion in 2003. (*F as in Fat: How obesity policies are failing in America*, Trust for American's Health, Aug. 2005)

CT hospitals with free bed funds spent, on average, 10% of the balance in 2004, up from 7.8% in 2003 and 5.2% in 2002. (Policymaker Issue Brief No. 18, CT Health Policy Project, http://www.cthealthpolicy.org/briefs/issue_brief_18.pdf)

Factoid: Despite the fact that among states CT is 5th highest in the number of insurance mandates, we are 24th in personal health care spending per person and we are tied for 43rd in percentage of residents without insurance. (Health Insurance Mandates in the States 2005, Council for Affordable Health Insurance, Kaiser statehealthfactsonline.org)

Factoid: It is estimated that 10.5% of working adults in CT in 2003 were uninsured. (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Factoid: The average waiting period for new CT employees in the private sector until they are eligible for health insurance was 7 weeks in 2002. The US average was 7.9 weeks. The wait was 35% longer, on average, for workers at businesses with 50 or more employees than at smaller businesses. (AHRQ, Center for Financing, Access and Cost Trends, 2002 MEPS)

Factoid: 88.7% of pregnant women in CT received prenatal care in their first trimester in 2001 – the fifth highest rate in the US. We were behind only MA, NH, RI and VT. (*2004 National Healthcare Quality Report, AHRQ*)

Factoid: The number of uninsured Americans is greater than the number of Hispanic Americans. (2000 Census)

Factoid: Six of the ten highest paid occupations in CT in Nov. 2003 were doctors and dentists. The highest of them (surgeons at \$171,860/year average) were behind only chief executives (at \$174,570 average). Lawyers were 20th at \$108,710. The average annual wage in CT was \$43,370. Fire fighters averaged \$47,530, childcare workers \$20,790, crossing guards \$24,460 and telemarketers \$26,800. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Dept. of Labor)

Factoid: From 2001 to 2004, the percentage of CT residents with employer-sponsored insurance dropped by 2.0%, the percent with Medicare and other federal coverage dropped by 2.8%, while the percent on HUSKY rose by 4.2%. (*Snapshot: CT's Health Insurance Coverage, Results of the Office of Health Care Access 2004 Household Survey*, Jan. 2004)

2004 Factoids

Factoid: From 1991 to 2000, experts estimate that while 176,633 deaths were averted due to medical advances, equalizing access to care and mortality rates of African-Americans and whites would have saved 886,202 lives. (SH Woolf, et. al., *American Journal of Public Health*, Dec. 2004)

Factoid: It is estimated that CT spent \$856 million last year on medical costs for adults attributable to obesity -- over half of that was paid by the Medicaid program. (EA Finkelstein, et. al., *Obesity Research*, 12:18-24, 2004)

Factoid: More Americans were uninsured in 2000 than were over the age of 65. (US Census)

Factoid: In 2000, 95% of registered Connecticut Latino voters showed up to vote -- more than any other ethnic group. (US Census)

Factoid: In 2002, a CT state representative won her seat by ONE vote. Another won his by only five votes. (CT Secretary of the State's office)

Factoid: Two thirds of chronically ill adults who cut back on medications because of cost didn't tell their doctor before they cut back; one third never told their doctor. Most reported that no one ever asked them about their ability to pay for the drugs. ("Cost-Related Medication Underuse", *Archives of Internal Medicine*, 9/13/04)

Factoid: Health care costs consumed 3.8% of income for workers with advanced degrees in 2002, but 7.2% of income for workers who did not complete high school. (US Dept. of Labor)

Factoid: Approximately the same number of Americans are uninsured as have a bachelor's degree. (2000 Census)

Factoid: More Americans are uninsured than the total number attending high school, college, and graduate school. (US Census)

Factoid: American workers making UNDER \$15/hour paid, on average, \$5.17 MORE per month for single health benefits than workers making over \$15/hour in March 2003. (US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Factoid: Americans spend more on medical care than any other category of personal consumption, including our cars, housing, food or recreation. (2003 data, US Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Economic Accounts)

Factoid: More Americans are uninsured than are veterans. (US Census)

Factoid: Approximately the same number of Americans are uninsured as the number who attend a musical performance in a year. (US Census)

Factoid: There are more uninsured Americans than there are Americans of Irish descent. (US Census)