Ascension Health
Advocacy Environmental Assessment

Health Status and Needs of the Poor: Policy Update

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Figure 1: Poverty Rate by Age: 1959-1999

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Statistics, 2000
Figure 2: Poverty Rate by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959-1999

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Statistics, 2000
Figure 3: Poverty Rates of People in Families by Family Type and Presence of Workers: 1959-1999

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Statistics, 2000
Figure 4: Three-Year Average Poverty Rates by State, 1997-1999

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Statistics, 2000
Figure 5: Growth in the Number of Uninsured Americans: 1988-1999

Figure 6: The Nonelderly Uninsured by Poverty Level and Work Status, 1999

Poverty Level

<100% FPL 36%
100-199% FPL 29%
200-299% FPL 15%
300% of FPL and Above 20%

Family Work Status

No Workers 18%
Part-time Workers 12%
2 or More Full-Time Workers 16%
1 Full-Time Worker 54%

Total: 42 Million Uninsured

Figure 7: Access to Employer-Based Coverage for Low and High Wage Workers, 1996

Access 55%

Low-Wage Workers
(Wage $7 per hour or less)

- Not Offered: 45%
- Declined: 13%
- Covered by Employer: 42%

Access 96%

High-Wage Workers
(Wage $15 per hour or more)

- Not Offered: 4%
- Declined: 6%
- Covered by Employer: 90%

Figure 8: The Uninsured Population, 1999

Total = 42 Million

- Low-Income* Children: 18%
- Other Children: 7%
- Other Adults: 28%
- Low-Income* Adults without Children: 25%
- Low-Income* Adults with Children: 22%

* Low Income is defined as less than 200% of FPL, or $26,580 for a family of three in 1999.

Figure 9: The Nonelderly Uninsured by Citizenship, 1999

Native Citizens 78%

Non-Citizens, Residents <6 years 6%

Non-Citizens, Residents 6+ years 12%

Naturalized Citizens 4%

Total = 42 Million

Figure 10: Sources of Health Insurance Coverage Among Nonelderly Persons, by Age, Sex and Family Income, 1999

Figure 11: Sources of Health Insurance Coverage Among Nonelderly Persons by Citizenship and Family Income Status, 1999

Figure 12: Sources of Prescription Drug Coverage for Medicare Beneficiaries, 1998

Total = 38.1 million Medicare beneficiaries

No drug coverage (10.2 million)

Employer-sponsored

Medicaid

Medigap

Other *

*Includes those receiving coverage from other public programs and those in non-risk HMOs.

Note: Data are based on the non-institutionalized population.

Figure 13: Medicare Beneficiaries without Prescription Drug Coverage, by Poverty Level, 1998

- Less than 100% of poverty (2.0 million)
- 100-135% of poverty (1.6 million)
- 135-175% of poverty (1.4 million)
- More than 175% of poverty (5.2 million)

Total = 10.2 million beneficiaries, 1998

Note: The federal poverty level was $8,050 for individuals and $10,850 for couples in 1998.
Figure 14: Problems Obtaining Needed Care Among Nonelderly Adults, Uninsured vs. Insured, 2000

- Did Not Get Medical Care for a Serious Condition: 3% Insured, 20% Uninsured
- Postponed Needed Medical Care for a Serious Condition: 5% Insured, 28% Uninsured
- Did Not Fill Prescription Due to Cost: 12% Insured, 30% Uninsured
- Skipped a Recommended Medical Test or Treatment: 13% Insured, 39% Uninsured

Figure 15: Eligibility Pathway for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Chronic or Disabling Conditions, by Major Diagnostic Group, Children

Source: Faces of Medicaid, Center for Healthcare Strategies, 2000
Figure 16: Eligibility Pathway for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Chronic or Disabling Conditions; by Major Diagnostic Group, Adults

Source: Faces of Medicaid, Center for Healthcare Strategies, 2000