



Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Quarterly Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, April 2019–June 2020

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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 poverty status for the civilian noninstitutionalized U.S. population based on data from the April–June 2020 NHIS. Quarterly estimates for April–December 2019 and January–March 2020 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. Percentages (and 95% confidence intervals) of persons who lacked health insurance coverage, had public health plan coverage, and had private health insurance coverage at the time of interview, by age group, poverty status and quarter: United States, April 2019–June 2020

| Health insurance coverage status, age group (years) and poverty status ¹ | Quarter 2, 2019 (Apr–Jun) | Quarter 3, 2019 (Jul–Sep) | Quarter 4, 2019 (Oct–Dec) | Quarter 1, 2020 (Jan–Mar) | Quarter 2, 2020 (Apr–Jun) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Uninsured ² at the time of interview | | | | | |
| All ages | 9.6 (8.8–10.5) | 11.4 (10.3–12.6) | 10.6 (9.5–11.8) | 9.7 (8.9–10.6) | 9.1 (7.9–10.3) |
| Poor | 13.7 (11.2–16.5) | 18.4 (15.7–21.4) | 19.2 (15.3–23.5) | 16.0 (13.1–19.4) | 11.2 (6.5–17.6) |
| Near poor | 16.6 (14.2–19.2) | 19.5 (16.7–22.4) | 16.9 (14.3–19.7) | 16.0 (13.5–18.7) | 14.4 (11.5–17.6) |
| Not poor | 6.2 (5.6–6.9) | 7.2 (6.2–8.4) | 6.9 (6.1–7.9) | 6.2 (5.5–7.1) | 6.6 (5.5–7.7) |
| Under 65 | 11.3 (10.4–12.3) | 13.5 (12.2–14.8) | 12.5 (11.2–13.8) | 11.4 (10.5–12.4) | 10.8 (9.4–12.2) |
| Poor | 15.0 (12.3–18.0) | 20.5 (17.6–23.7) | 21.2 (16.9–26.2) | 17.8 (14.5–21.5) | 12.8 (7.5–20.0) |
| Near poor | 19.7 (16.9–22.8) | 23.1 (20.0–26.5) | 19.9 (17.0–23.1) | 18.8 (16.0–22.0) | 17.1 (13.6–21.0) |
| Not poor | 7.3 (6.5–8.1) | 8.6 (7.4–9.9) | 8.2 (7.2–9.4) | 7.3 (6.4–8.3) | 7.7 (6.4–9.0) |
| 0–17 | 3.8 (3.1–4.7) | 6.9 (5.7–8.3) | 4.8 (3.8–5.9) | 4.8 (3.7–6.0) | 4.7 (3.5–6.2) |
| Poor | 3.5 (1.7–6.5) | 7.9 (4.7–12.2) | 5.6 (3.2–9.1) | * | * |
| Near poor | 5.4 (3.5–7.9) | 8.7 (5.7–12.5) | 5.4 (3.1–8.6) | 7.3 (4.2–11.6) | 6.1 (3.5–9.8) |
| Not poor | 2.9 (2.0–3.9) | 5.5 (4.1–7.3) | 4.4 (3.1–5.9) | 3.3 (2.2–4.7) | 3.8 (2.5–5.5) |
| 18–64 | 14.1 (12.9–15.3) | 15.9 (14.4–17.6) | 15.3 (13.7–17.0) | 13.9 (12.7–15.1) | 13.0 (11.4–14.8) |
| Poor | 22.1 (18.4–26.3) | 27.7 (23.5–32.3) | 30.0 (24.2–36.3) | 24.3 (19.7–29.4) | 18.5 (10.6–28.9) |
| Near poor | 26.8 (23.0–30.9) | 29.9 (26.1–33.9) | 27.2 (23.4–31.2) | 24.7 (21.3–28.5) | 23.0 (18.2–28.4) |
| Not poor | 8.7 (7.7–9.6) | 9.6 (8.2–11.1) | 9.5 (8.3–10.8) | 8.7 (7.6–9.8) | 8.9 (7.5–10.6) |
| Public health plan coverage ³ | | | | | |
| All ages | 37.8 (36.3–39.3) | 37.2 (35.7–38.7) | 37.8 (36.5–39.2) | 37.5 (36.1–38.8) | 38.4 (36.7–40.0) |
| Poor | 75.0 (71.3–78.5) | 67.9 (64.3–71.3) | 64.7 (60.0–69.3) | 72.7 (68.7–76.4) | 78.4 (72.2–83.7) |
| Near poor | 56.4 (53.0–59.8) | 53.9 (50.6–57.3) | 55.7 (52.0–59.4) | 56.4 (53.4–59.4) | 61.3 (57.4–65.1) |
| Not poor | 24.8 (23.5–26.2) | 25.2 (23.9–26.5) | 26.1 (24.8–27.5) | 25.3 (23.7–27.0) | 26.1 (24.3–28.0) |

See footnotes at the end of table.

Table. Percentages (and 95% confidence intervals) of persons who lacked health insurance coverage, had public health plan coverage, and had private health insurance coverage at the time of interview, by age group, poverty status and quarter: United States, April 2019–June 2020—cont.

| Health insurance coverage status, age group (years) and poverty status ¹ | Quarter 2, 2019 (Apr–Jun) | Quarter 3, 2019 (Jul–Sep) | Quarter 4, 2019 (Oct–Dec) | Quarter 1, 2020 (Jan–Mar) | Quarter 2, 2020 (Apr–Jun) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Under 65 | 26.6 (25.1–28.2) | 25.7 (24.2–27.3) | 26.3 (25.0–27.6) | 25.8 (24.3–27.4) | 26.7 (24.7–28.8) |
| Poor | 72.1 (68.0–75.9) | 64.0 (60.0–67.9) | 60.3 (55.0–65.4) | 69.5 (65.1–73.7) | 75.2 (68.5–81.1) |
| Near poor | 48.0 (44.2–51.9) | 45.2 (41.5–48.8) | 47.6 (43.5–51.8) | 47.9 (44.6–51.3) | 53.9 (49.5–58.2) |
| Not poor | 12.1 (11.0–13.4) | 11.7 (10.6–12.8) | 12.5 (11.3–13.8) | 11.7 (10.3–13.4) | 13.2 (11.4–15.1) |
| 0–17 | 42.4 (39.7–45.2) | 40.7 (37.8–43.6) | 41.7 (39.1–44.3) | 40.9 (37.8–44.0) | 41.3 (37.3–45.4) |
| Poor | 92.8 (89.2–95.5) | 87.7 (82.4–91.8) | 83.0 (75.9–88.7) | 87.6 (81.8–92.1) | **92.8 (84.8–97.4) |
| Near poor | 73.3 (67.2–78.8) | 69.9 (64.1–75.2) | 71.6 (66.0–76.8) | 70.4 (65.1–75.4) | 76.6 (70.1–82.4) |
| Not poor | 15.9 (13.8–18.2) | 15.5 (13.4–17.8) | 17.6 (15.2–20.2) | 18.0 (15.6–20.6) | 18.4 (14.7–22.6) |
| 18–64 | 20.8 (19.4–22.2) | 20.2 (18.7–21.7) | 20.6 (19.2–22.1) | 20.3 (18.9–21.7) | 21.3 (19.5–23.3) |
| Poor | 59.2 (54.3–64.0) | 50.6 (45.4–55.7) | 47.6 (41.9–53.3) | 59.4 (53.8–64.8) | 64.9 (55.8–73.3) |
| Near poor | 35.5 (31.6–39.5) | 33.5 (29.9–37.1) | 35.7 (31.3–40.3) | 36.4 (33.1–39.8) | 41.5 (36.0–47.1) |
| Not poor | 10.9 (9.8–12.2) | 10.4 (9.4–11.5) | 10.8 (9.6–12.2) | 9.7 (8.1–11.5) | 11.4 (9.8–13.2) |
| Private health insurance coverage ⁴ | | | | | |
| All ages | 61.6 (59.9–63.3) | 60.3 (58.5–62.1) | 60.6 (58.9–62.3) | 62.3 (60.7–63.9) | 62.1 (60.3–64.0) |
| Poor | 14.5 (11.9–17.4) | 17.7 (14.7–21.0) | 19.9 (16.3–23.9) | 15.6 (12.3–19.3) | 14.3 (10.1–19.4) |
| Near poor | 35.6 (32.6–38.7) | 34.1 (31.3–36.9) | 34.6 (31.6–37.7) | 36.1 (33.1–39.3) | 32.9 (29.0–37.0) |
| Not poor | 78.8 (77.5–80.0) | 77.7 (76.2–79.2) | 77.1 (75.6–78.6) | 78.7 (77.2–80.0) | 77.4 (75.6–79.1) |
| Under 65 | 63.8 (62.0–65.6) | 62.6 (60.6–64.5) | 63.1 (61.3–64.9) | 64.7 (62.9–66.5) | 64.7 (62.5–67.0) |
| Poor | 14.4 (11.6–17.5) | 17.3 (14.2–20.8) | 20.5 (16.4–25.0) | 15.0 (11.5–19.0) | 13.8 (9.4–19.3) |
| Near poor | 34.6 (31.2–38.2) | 34.2 (31.1–37.5) | 34.4 (31.2–37.9) | 36.2 (32.7–39.7) | 32.5 (28.3–36.8) |
| Not poor | 82.3 (81.0–83.7) | 81.3 (79.6–83.0) | 81.1 (79.5–82.6) | 82.6 (81.1–84.2) | 81.2 (79.2–83.1) |
| 0–17 | 55.3 (52.4–58.1) | 53.8 (50.7–56.9) | 55.5 (52.8–58.3) | 56.2 (53.2–59.1) | 56.2 (52.4–60.0) |
| Poor | 4.5 (2.4–7.8) | 5.9 (3.3–9.6) | 14.1 (9.0–20.7) | 8.3 (5.3–12.2) | * |
| Near poor | 24.1 (18.9–29.9) | 23.2 (19.0–27.9) | 25.4 (20.4–30.9) | 24.5 (20.5–28.8) | 20.7 (14.4–28.3) |
| Not poor | 82.4 (80.0–84.7) | 80.2 (77.3–82.8) | 79.6 (76.9–82.1) | 80.3 (77.8–82.7) | 79.8 (75.7–83.4) |
| 18–64 | 67.0 (65.3–68.7) | 65.8 (63.9–67.6) | 65.9 (63.9–67.9) | 67.9 (66.2–69.6) | 67.9 (65.8–69.9) |
| Poor | 20.5 (16.9–24.6) | 23.8 (19.6–28.4) | 24.0 (19.4–29.1) | 18.7 (14.2–23.9) | 19.2 (13.3–26.2) |
| Near poor | 39.9 (36.3–43.6) | 39.4 (35.5–43.4) | 39.0 (35.2–42.8) | 42.2 (38.3–46.1) | 38.9 (33.5–44.4) |
| Not poor | 82.3 (80.9–83.7) | 81.7 (80.1–83.2) | 81.6 (79.9–83.2) | 83.4 (81.8–85.0) | 81.7 (79.6–83.5) |

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

**While the estimate meets NCHS standards of reliability, its complement does not.

¹Poverty categories are based on the ratio of the family's income in the previous calendar year to the appropriate poverty threshold (given the family's size and number of children), as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for that year. Persons categorized as "poor" have a ratio less than 1.0 (i.e., their family income is below the poverty threshold); "near poor" persons have incomes of 100% to less than 200% of the poverty threshold; and "not poor" persons have incomes that are 200% of the poverty threshold or greater. The remaining group of respondents were "unknown" with respect to poverty status and are not shown separately in the table but are included in the totals for each age group. The percentage of respondents with unknown poverty status in the second quarter of 2019 was 8.8%, in the third quarter of 2019 was 8.9%, in the fourth quarter of 2019 was 8.7%, in the first quarter of 2020 was 9.0%, and in the second quarter of 2020 was 9.9%. Estimates may differ from estimates that are based on both reported and imputed income.

²A person was defined as uninsured if he or she 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. A person was also defined as uninsured if he or she 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 persons 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 persons 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. 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. While this change had little impact on Quarter 1 (January–March), there were lower response rates and differences in respondent characteristics for Quarter 2 (April–June). Comparisons of demographic distributions between Quarter 2 and Quarter 1 (and Quarter 2 of 2019) revealed that telephone-only data collection led to an over-representation of more affluent households, including a greater proportion of homeowners, among the participating sample. Though NHIS survey weights account for some of this change, differences observed in estimates between April–June 2020 and earlier time periods may be partially or fully attributable to these changes. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey, 2019–2020.

Suggested citation:

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