



Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Quarterly Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, January–December 2019

by Robin A. Cohen, Ph.D. and Amy E. Cha M.P.H., Ph.D.

Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

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 full year and 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 January–December 2019 NHIS. These estimates are being published prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from the NHIS. This table accompanies a more detailed report that provides cumulative estimates for January–December 2019 entitled “Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates From the National Health Interview Survey, January–December 2019” available from the NHIS website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>.

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, January–December 2019

Health insurance coverage status, age group (years) and poverty status ¹	2019 (Full year)	Quarter 1, 2019 (Jan–Mar)	Quarter 2, 2019 (Apr–Jun)	Quarter 3, 2019 (Jul–Sep)	Quarter 4, 2019 (Oct–Dec)
Uninsured ² at the time of interview					
All ages	10.3 (9.7–10.8)	9.4 (8.7–10.1)	9.6 (8.8–10.5)	11.4 (10.3–12.6)	10.6 (9.5–11.8)
Poor	16.5 (14.6–18.5)	14.3 (11.5–17.3)	13.7 (11.2–16.5)	18.4 (15.7–21.4)	19.2 (15.3–23.5)
Near poor	16.9 (15.6–18.3)	14.9 (12.6–17.4)	16.6 (14.2–19.2)	19.5 (16.7–22.4)	16.9 (14.3–19.7)
Not poor	6.7 (6.2–7.2)	6.4 (5.6–7.3)	6.2 (5.6–6.9)	7.2 (6.2–8.4)	6.9 (6.1–7.9)
Under 65	12.1 (11.4–12.8)	11.1 (10.2–11.9)	11.3 (10.4–12.3)	13.5 (12.2–14.8)	12.5 (11.2–13.8)
Poor	18.3 (16.2–20.5)	16.0 (12.9–19.4)	15.0 (12.3–18.0)	20.5 (17.6–23.7)	21.2 (16.9–26.2)
Near poor	20.1 (18.6–21.6)	17.6 (14.9–20.6)	19.7 (16.9–22.8)	23.1 (20.0–26.5)	19.9 (17.0–23.1)
Not poor	7.9 (7.3–8.4)	7.5 (6.6–8.5)	7.3 (6.5–8.1)	8.6 (7.4–9.9)	8.2 (7.2–9.4)
0–17	5.1 (4.5–5.7)	4.9 (3.9–6.0)	3.8 (3.1–4.7)	6.9 (5.7–8.3)	4.8 (3.8–5.9)
Poor	5.1 (3.8–6.8)	*	3.5 (1.7–6.5)	7.9 (4.7–12.2)	5.6 (3.2–9.1)
Near poor	6.5 (5.2–8.0)	6.7 (4.3–9.9)	5.4 (3.5–7.9)	8.7 (5.7–12.5)	5.4 (3.1–8.6)
Not poor	4.3 (3.6–5.1)	4.5 (3.3–6.0)	2.9 (2.0–3.9)	5.5 (4.1–7.3)	4.4 (3.1–5.9)
18–64	14.7 (13.9–15.4)	13.3 (12.3–14.4)	14.1 (12.9–15.3)	15.9 (14.4–17.6)	15.3 (13.7–17.0)
Poor	25.8 (23.0–28.9)	23.0 (18.1–28.4)	22.1 (18.4–26.3)	27.7 (23.5–32.3)	30.0 (24.2–36.3)
Near poor	26.8 (24.9–28.8)	23.4 (19.8–27.2)	26.8 (23.0–30.9)	29.9 (26.1–33.9)	27.2 (23.4–31.2)
Not poor	9.0 (8.4–9.6)	8.4 (7.4–9.5)	8.7 (7.7–9.6)	9.6 (8.2–11.1)	9.5 (8.3–10.8)
Public health plan coverage ³					
All ages	37.4 (36.6–38.3)	37.0 (35.7–38.3)	37.8 (36.3–39.3)	37.2 (35.7–38.7)	37.8 (36.5–39.2)
Poor	69.0 (66.9–71.1)	69.1 (64.4–73.5)	75.0 (71.3–78.5)	67.9 (64.3–71.3)	64.7 (60.0–69.3)
Near poor	55.3 (53.7–57.0)	55.3 (51.8–58.8)	56.4 (53.0–59.8)	53.9 (50.6–57.3)	55.7 (52.0–59.4)
Not poor	25.1 (24.4–25.8)	24.2 (23.2–25.2)	24.8 (23.5–26.2)	25.2 (23.9–26.5)	26.1 (24.8–27.5)

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, January–December 2019—cont.

Health insurance coverage status, age group (years) and poverty status ¹	2019 (Full year)	Quarter 1, 2019 (Jan–Mar)	Quarter 2, 2019 (Apr–Jun)	Quarter 3, 2019 (Jul–Sep)	Quarter 4, 2019 (Oct–Dec)
Under 65	26.0 (25.1–26.9)	25.5 (24.1–27.0)	26.6 (25.1–28.2)	25.7 (24.2–27.3)	26.3 (25.0–27.6)
Poor	65.3 (63.0–67.5)	65.3 (60.2–70.1)	72.1 (68.0–75.9)	64.0 (60.0–67.9)	60.3 (55.0–65.4)
Near poor	47.0 (45.1–48.9)	47.1 (43.1–51.1)	48.0 (44.2–51.9)	45.2 (41.5–48.8)	47.6 (43.5–51.8)
Not poor	11.8 (11.2–12.5)	11.0 (10.1–12.1)	12.1 (11.0–13.4)	11.7 (10.6–12.8)	12.5 (11.3–13.8)
0–17	41.4 (39.8–43.0)	40.7 (38.0–43.5)	42.4 (39.7–45.2)	40.7 (37.8–43.6)	41.7 (39.1–44.3)
Poor	87.8 (85.3–90.1)	88.0 (81.7–92.8)	92.8 (89.2–95.5)	87.7 (82.4–91.8)	83.0 (75.9–88.7)
Near poor	70.3 (67.7–72.8)	66.5 (60.6–72.0)	73.3 (67.2–78.8)	69.9 (64.1–75.2)	71.6 (66.0–76.8)
Not poor	16.3 (14.9–17.8)	16.3 (13.8–19.1)	15.9 (13.8–18.2)	15.5 (13.4–17.8)	17.6 (15.2–20.2)
18–64	20.4 (19.6–21.2)	19.9 (18.6–21.3)	20.8 (19.4–22.2)	20.2 (18.7–21.7)	20.6 (19.2–22.1)
Poor	52.3 (49.4–55.1)	52.7 (47.1–58.3)	59.2 (54.3–64.0)	50.6 (45.4–55.7)	47.6 (41.9–53.3)
Near poor	35.4 (33.3–37.5)	36.9 (32.9–41.1)	35.5 (31.6–39.5)	33.5 (29.9–37.1)	35.7 (31.3–40.3)
Not poor	10.4 (9.8–11.0)	9.4 (8.4–10.4)	10.9 (9.8–12.2)	10.4 (9.4–11.5)	10.8 (9.6–12.2)
Private health insurance coverage ⁴					
All ages	61.3 (60.2–62.4)	62.6 (61.1–64.2)	61.6 (59.9–63.3)	60.3 (58.5–62.1)	60.6 (58.9–62.3)
Poor	18.3 (16.6–20.2)	21.0 (16.6–26.0)	14.5 (11.9–17.4)	17.7 (14.7–21.0)	19.9 (16.3–23.9)
Near poor	35.4 (33.9–37.0)	37.4 (33.7–41.2)	35.6 (32.6–38.7)	34.1 (31.3–36.9)	34.6 (31.6–37.7)
Not poor	78.2 (77.3–79.0)	79.1 (77.8–80.4)	78.8 (77.5–80.0)	77.7 (76.2–79.2)	77.1 (75.6–78.6)
Under 65	63.7 (62.5–64.8)	65.2 (63.5–66.9)	63.8 (62.0–65.6)	62.6 (60.6–64.5)	63.1 (61.3–64.9)
Poor	18.2 (16.3–20.3)	20.5 (15.5–26.2)	14.4 (11.6–17.5)	17.3 (14.2–20.8)	20.5 (16.4–25.0)
Near poor	35.4 (33.6–37.2)	38.1 (33.9–42.4)	34.6 (31.2–38.2)	34.2 (31.1–37.5)	34.4 (31.2–37.9)
Not poor	82.0 (81.1–82.8)	83.1 (81.8–84.3)	82.3 (81.0–83.7)	81.3 (79.6–83.0)	81.1 (79.5–82.6)
0–17	55.2 (53.4–57.0)	56.3 (53.5–59.2)	55.3 (52.4–58.1)	53.8 (50.7–56.9)	55.5 (52.8–58.3)
Poor	8.9 (7.1–11.1)	11.2 (6.6–17.4)	4.5 (2.4–7.8)	5.9 (3.3–9.6)	14.1 (9.0–20.7)
Near poor	25.8 (23.1–28.5)	30.0 (24.1–36.4)	24.1 (18.9–29.9)	23.2 (19.0–27.9)	25.4 (20.4–30.9)
Not poor	80.7 (79.1–82.2)	80.5 (77.7–83.2)	82.4 (80.0–84.7)	80.2 (77.3–82.8)	79.6 (76.9–82.1)
18–64	66.8 (65.7–67.9)	68.5 (66.9–70.0)	67.0 (65.3–68.7)	65.8 (63.9–67.6)	65.9 (63.9–67.9)
Poor	23.6 (20.9–26.5)	25.6 (18.7–33.6)	20.5 (16.9–24.6)	23.8 (19.6–28.4)	24.0 (19.4–29.1)
Near poor	40.1 (38.3–42.0)	42.3 (37.9–46.8)	39.9 (36.3–43.6)	39.4 (35.5–43.4)	39.0 (35.2–42.8)
Not poor	82.4 (81.6–83.2)	83.9 (82.6–85.1)	82.3 (80.9–83.7)	81.7 (80.1–83.2)	81.6 (79.9–83.2)

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

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 first quarter of 2019 was 9.0%, in the second quarter of 2019 was 8.8%, in the third quarter of 2019 was 8.9% and in the fourth quarter of 2019 was 8.7%. 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. Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2019.

Suggested citation:

Cohen RA and Cha AE. Health insurance coverage: Early release of quarterly estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January-December 2019. National Center for Health Statistics. August 2020. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm>.