

Population Health Statistics

When we talk about underserved families, usually we think first about the lack of health insurance coverage.

From 2000 census data, we know that there are now over 41 million US residents who are uninsured. Nearly 12% of all children in the U.S., or about 8.5 million U.S. children under 18 have no health insurance, 8 out of 10 uninsured children live in households where at least one of the adults is working.

The same data for Wisconsin tells us that more than 407,000 residents were uninsured, and somewhere between 67,000–108,000 of those were children and teens under 18.

Interestingly enough, at least 76% of these uninsured children in the US are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Plan—in Wisconsin this is called BadgerCare).

Consequences of No Insurance

One in five parents of uninsured children delayed or skipped needed medical care for their child over the past year because they did not know how they would pay for it.

One in five parents of uninsured children has kept or would keep their children from participating in extracurricular sports because they fear that their children might get injured.

For more information about health and insurance coverage for the U.S., see: "Health Insurance for Children: A Synopsis", The Future of Children, Spring 2003, pp.1–3 or the website www.futureofchildren.org or www.CoveringtheUninsured.org a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For individual information for each state, see:
The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation's website www.statehealthfacts.kff.org