Five Charts on the Uninsured in Wisconsin

Health Insurance in Wisconsin: Progress and Potential Improvement

The uninsured rate has been dropping since the implementation of major Affordable Care Act provisions. Wisconsin has seen a significant drop, however further improvement could be realized if BadgerCare+ was expanded to adults under 138% of the federal poverty level.

Here are five charts on the uninsured in Wisconsin that use recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

1. Wisconsin’s uninsured rate dropped sharply in 2014 and 2015. From 2008 to 2013 the uninsured rate in Wisconsin held steady between 9.0% and 9.4%. The beginning of 2014 was a turning point when access to marketplace insurance opened up and BadgerCare eligibility for childless adults was expanded. 195,000 people gained insurance in Wisconsin between 2013 and 2015, which helped bring the uninsured rate down to 5.7%.

2. There are still nearly 323,000 uninsured Wisconsinites. Our state’s uninsured population exceeds the total combined population of four of its cities: Green Bay, Kenosha, Eau Claire and La Crosse.

More Wisconsin Residents Lack Health Insurance than Live in Several Major Cities Combined

Number of Wisconsin residents without health insurance in 2015, compared to number of residents in Wisconsin cities.

Source: American Community Survey
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3. Wisconsin trails two neighbor states, and others are catching up. Despite strong gains in insurance coverage over the past two years, Wisconsin trails two of its neighbors, Iowa (5.0%) and Minnesota (4.5%). Our other two neighbors, Illinois and Michigan, are catching up to Wisconsin.

**Strong Insurance Gains in Midwest, but Wisconsin Trails Iowa and Minnesota**

Share of total population without health insurance by state, 2013 and 2015.

![Graph showing the share of total population without health insurance by state, 2013 and 2015.](image)

Source: American Community Survey

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4. Large disparities persist. Despite sharp declines in uninsured rates across all racial groups, Wisconsin continues to see large coverage disparities between our white and minority populations.

**All races saw large declines in uninsured rates, but minorities still lag behind whites**

Percent of Wisconsin population without health insurance by race, 2013 and 2015

![Graph showing the percent of Wisconsin population without health insurance by race, 2013 and 2015.](image)

Source: American Community Survey

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5. More than 46,000 Wisconsin children are uninsured. While the uninsured rates have decreased significantly for both adults and children in Wisconsin, we still have some work to do. Among the estimated 322,616 people who remain uninsured, 14 percent are children.

The Uninsured in 2015

- All people in WI without health insurance: 5.7%
  - 322,616 people
- Children without health insurance: 3.6%
  - 46,228 children

Source: American Community Survey
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