



Source: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the U.S.: 2006, US Census Bureau.

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As of 2009, we are told that there are “47 million uninsured Americans.” This number comes from estimates based on a monthly survey of 50,000 households. Of these 47 million people...

1. 6 million are erroneously counted as uninsured. These are people who either have insurance through Medicaid or S-CHIP but, because they do not have private insurance, erroneously report that they are “uninsured.”
2. 4 million are eligible for Medicaid or S-CHIP but have not yet signed up. Because Medicaid and S-CHIP cannot refuse applicants for pre-existing conditions, if these people went to an emergency room they would be automatically enrolled. These people are, effectively, insured.
3. 20 million were uninsured for less than four months. The Census Bureau counts someone as “uninsured” for the year if that person was uninsured at any point during that year – regardless of the duration.

→ **That leaves 17 million people, or less than 6% of the population, who are uninsured for an extended period.**

4. 5 million are childless adults between the ages of 18 and 34. These are people who have the least need for health insurance.

→ **That leaves 12 million people, or less than 4% of the population, who are uninsured for an extended period and most in need of insurance.**

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau.