

2011 Oregon Health Insurance Survey

Initial results

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) conducted a statewide survey of health insurance coverage in 2011. Through the Oregon Health Insurance Survey (OHIS), OHA gathered detailed health insurance and health related information from over 10,000 Oregonians throughout the state.

The survey estimates 14.6% of all Oregonians lack health insurance coverage. Coverage for Oregon's children has improved dramatically – the survey results show that an estimated 5.6% of Oregon's children remain uninsured

The estimated number of uninsured Oregonians is 560,000¹. Details by age group are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Comparison of 2009 and 2011 Uninsured Estimates*

Age	2009*		2011	
	N	Rate	N	Rate
0-18	104,000	11.3%	52,000	5.6%
19-64	539,000	23.2%	503,000	21.0%
65+	4,000	0.8%	4,000	0.9%
Overall	647,000	17.3%	560,000	14.6%

*Estimates are rounded and may not equal 100%. See endnote for detail in Table 2, including upper and lower bounds for 2011 estimates. Estimates from 2009 and 2011 are not directly comparable because different survey methodologies were employed. See description under "About the Oregon Health Insurance Survey."

The estimated improvement in children's health insurance coverage coincides with continued efforts to expand children's health insurance access through various state and federal reforms, in particular *Healthy Kids*. Since its inception in 2009, *Healthy Kids* has expanded state health insurance coverage to an additional 90,000 children.

Approximately one in five Oregonians of working age (19-64) lack health insurance, revealing a sizeable number of Oregonians who do not have adequate access to affordable health insurance. Future survey publications, to be released throughout 2011 and 2012, will explore in detail Oregon's health insurance coverage and examine the challenges Oregonians face in accessing health care.

¹ The uninsured rate is derived from a sequence of questions asking about one randomly selected individual's health insurance coverage at the time the survey was conducted, otherwise known as a point-in-time estimate.

About the Oregon Health Insurance Survey

The Oregon Health Insurance Survey (OHIS) is the largest and most robust survey of Oregonians undertaken regarding their health insurance and health care. The survey was conducted over the first four months of 2011 with over 10,000 Oregon household completing the survey.² The sample is representative of the Oregon population.

The survey builds on the work of a number of other states, most notably Minnesota and Massachusetts, which use similar questions in asking about detailed health insurance coverage.³ A statewide address based sampling (ABS) design was utilized to maximize survey coverage. Randomly chosen households were mailed letters indicating their residence had been chosen and asking for their participation. Households could choose to take the survey over the phone, online, or via a written questionnaire. This method was used instead of a random digit dial, which has become increasingly challenging as more homes move away from land-lines to cell phones.

One randomly selected individual within the household provides detailed information on health insurance status, and health care access/cost, along with numerous other health related information. Additional household demographic information such as educational attainment, family income, housing tenure, and employment status were gathered.

The Oregon Health Insurance Survey was funded under Oregon's State Health Access Program grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Table 2: Detailed Results Table
2011 Oregon Health Insurance Survey

Age	Insured				Uninsured			
	N	Rate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	N	Rate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
0-18	874,000	94.4%	93.0%	95.7%	52,000	5.6%	4.3%	7.0%
19-64	1,890,000	79.0%	77.6%	80.4%	503,000	21.0%	19.6%	22.4%
65+	508,000	99.1%	98.5%	99.8%	4,000	0.9%	0.2%	1.5%
Overall	3,271,000	85.4%	84.4%	86.4%	560,000	14.6%	13.6%	15.6%

² The survey response rate and details on the survey methodology will be released later this summer as OHA continues to release OHIS information.

³ OHA worked closely with the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC), utilizing many of the questions in their Coordinated State Coverage Survey (CSCS) in developing the OHIS. States using a similar health insurance question sequence include MN, CO, MA, and OK. SHADAC is an entity of the University of Minnesota and funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.