



2010 SURVEY DATA

PREPARED BY FRANCES MCCLELLAND INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
JOHN & DORIS NORTON SCHOOL OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES | THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Health Insurance for Adults in Arizona



ARIZONA HEALTH SURVEY

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Executive Summary

The 2010 Arizona Health Survey estimates that more than 750,000 adults in Arizona do not have health insurance. The recent economic downturn—which has been especially severe in Arizona—has resulted in more Arizonans being uninsured. Compared to 2008, fewer Arizonans have employer-based coverage and more are relying on AHCCCS coverage.

The Institute of Medicine¹ has recently highlighted the importance of health insurance. As their report makes clear, the high costs of health care make insurance both necessary and expensive. People who lack health insurance are less likely to receive preventive care, and are more likely to have undiagnosed or untreated medical conditions. Thus, uninsured persons are at greater risk of having serious—and expensive—health problems.

The 2010 Arizona Health Survey shows us that there are identifiable disparities in health insurance coverage. Young adults, especially young men, often lack health insurance. Low levels of education, low income and unemployment are all associated with lower rates of insurance. Marital status is also related to disparities in coverage: uninsurance rates are higher for those who have never been married, are separated from a spouse or are living with an unmarried partner. Hispanic Arizonans are more likely than non-Hispanic residents to be without health insurance. Arizonans living in Maricopa, Yuma and La Paz counties are more likely to be uninsured than those living in the rest of the state.

¹ IOM. 2009. *America's Uninsured Crisis: Consequences for Health and Health Care*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Overview and Methodology

This report focuses on health coverage in Arizona, using data from the 2010 Arizona Health Survey.

The 2010 Arizona Health Survey data are the result of telephone interviews of 8,215 adult heads of household living in Arizona. The sample was weighted to be representative of the statewide population in Arizona allowing for generalizing based upon the demographic characteristics of the population.

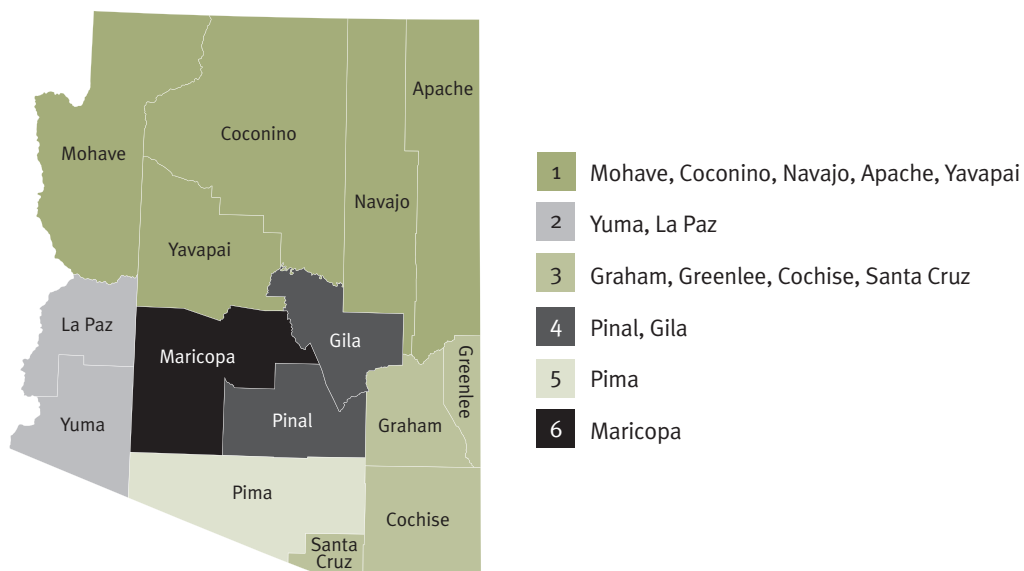
Survey questions and design were developed by St. Luke’s Health Initiatives with assistance from Westat (the firm contracted to conduct the survey), consultants and community partners who use the data to inform their research, policy and planning decisions. Survey questions were pretested to ensure their objectivity and validity.

Westat, a professional research service firm based in Rockville, Maryland, drew the samples and administered the telephone survey. Respondents were selected using Random Digit Dialing (RDD), a procedure that excludes businesses and includes unlisted residential telephone numbers. Interviewers were trained and supervised by Westat. The 2010 survey interviews were conducted between May 4 and July 22, 2010.

Samples were weighted to adjust for the increased number of people using cell phones as their only means of telecommunication. Comparison of the statistics generated in the statewide and Geographic Service Area (GSA) samples with known population parameters indicated that the samples were representative microcosms of the populations they were designed to represent, to mirror Arizona’s demographic composition. Separate weighting variables were calculated for each GSA. The sampling error for the statewide sample was .011 percent, calculated when the proportion answering a question is 50 percent and assuming the 95 percent level of significance.

The 2010 Arizona Health Survey examines health data in the six GSAs. They represent a compilation of one or more Arizona counties for each service area.

EXHIBIT 1: Geographic Service Areas (GSAs) in Arizona



The sample was weighted to be representative of the statewide population and the population in six GSAs in Arizona. The GSAs and the number of interviews conducted in each are shown in Table 1. All random samples have sampling errors when estimating population parameters. The sampling errors for the statewide sample and each GSA, calculated when the proportion answering a question is 50 percent and assuming the 95 percent level of significance, are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Geographic Service Areas: Sampling		
	Sample Size	Sample Error (+/-)
1. Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Yavapai	1,053	.030
2. Yuma, La Paz	743	.036
3. Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Santa Cruz	755	.035
4. Pinal, Gila	798	.035
5. Pima	2,143	.021
6. Maricopa	2,723	.019
Total	8,215	.011

All data reported have been rounded. The survey data reflect a statewide weighted sample similar to the population data for Arizona.

In some instances, data from the 2010 and 2008 Arizona Health Surveys were compared.

Detailed methodology information for both the 2008 and 2010 Arizona Health Survey can be found at www.arizonahealthsurvey.org.

Findings from the 2010 Survey

Based on data from the 2010 Arizona Health Survey about 84 percent of Arizona's adults—just under 4 million—have health insurance. Approximately 759,000 adult Arizonans (16 percent) do not have health insurance.

Because Medicare provides almost universal coverage for persons aged 65 and older, almost all of the uninsured adults are younger than 65. The remainder of this report will focus on adults between 18 and 64 years old.

Stability of Coverage

In the 18 to 64 age group, 25 percent reported having gone without health insurance for all or part of the year prior to the administration of the survey. About half of these persons (12 percent) had coverage for part of the year, but the others (13 percent) had been uninsured for a whole year or longer.

Sources of Coverage

In this report, having health insurance is defined as having, at the time of the survey, at least one of the following types of coverage:

- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- Medicare
- Employer-provided health insurance
- Directly purchased insurance
- Other coverage, such as military or Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS)

A person who is covered only by the Indian Health Service (IHS)—but not any of the five types listed above—is considered to be uninsured. This definition is used to correspond with that of the US Census.

In 2010, there were about 3.8 million Arizonans in the 18 to 64 age group. More than half of them (just over 2 million) reported having employer-based coverage. The coverage may be through the respondent's own employer or professional association, or that of a spouse or parent.

About one out of every five working-age Arizonans has healthcare coverage from AHCCCS (the state's Medicaid program). Nearly 6 percent have Medicare coverage. Together with insurance purchased directly and other types of coverage, about 3.1 million Arizonans in the 18 to 64 age group have some type of health insurance coverage. This leaves about 750,000 (20 percent) who do not have coverage of any type.

Compared to the estimates from the 2008 Arizona Health Survey, more Arizonans report AHCCCS coverage (up from 16 percent to 20 percent), fewer report employer-based coverage (down from 59 percent to 54 percent), and more report no insurance coverage at all (up from 17 percent to 20 percent). These shifts are consistent with the effects of the economic recession, which had its strongest impacts only after the first Arizona Health Survey had been fielded in the spring of 2008.

TABLE 1. Types of Health Insurance Coverage (Ages 18 to 64)

Type of Coverage	2010		2008	
	Estimated Number	Percent of Population	Estimated Number	Percent of Population
AHCCCS	768,000	20%	595,000	16%
Medicare	224,000	6%	297,000	8%
Employer	2,075,000	54%	2,242,000	59%
Direct Purchase	172,000	4%	177,000	5%
Other	148,000	4%	50,000	1%
With Health Insurance	3,092,000	80%	3,143,000	83%
Without Health Insurance	750,000	20%	659,000	17%
Total	3,842,000		3,802,000	

Sources: Arizona Health Survey 2010 and Arizona Health Survey 2008.

Note: The numbers of persons with each type of coverage sum to more than the total number with health insurance, because some persons have more than one type of coverage. For the same reason, the percentages in each column sum to more than 100 percent.

Coverage by Age

The percent of young adults without health insurance has increased since 2008. That year, the Arizona Health Survey estimated that 28 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds had no insurance. Fortunately, one provision of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 may offer a way of reversing this trend. Starting in fall of 2010 (after the date of this survey), children up to age 26 are allowed to stay on their parents' healthcare plan. This may now make health insurance feasible for some of these uninsured young adults.

As noted above, virtually all Arizonans 65 or older have coverage, largely because of Medicare.

TABLE 2. Lack of Health Insurance Coverage by Age

Age Group	Estimated Number Uninsured	Percent of Age Group Uninsured
18 to 24	188,000	32%
25 to 34	190,000	21%
35 to 44	178,000	21%
45 to 54	123,000	15%
55 to 64	70,000	11%
65 and Up	9,000	1%
Total	759,000	16%

Source: Arizona Health Survey 2010.

Note: The numbers of insured in each age group do not sum to the total because of rounding.

Coverage by Income

The income group which is least likely to be insured is the group whose household income is at least \$15,000 but less than \$30,000 per year. More than a third of this group report being uninsured. Many people in this group may be earning too much to qualify for AHCCCS, but are not working in the types of jobs which provide benefits such as health insurance.

Members of households with incomes less than \$15,000 are more likely to qualify for AHCCCS coverage yet one in four of those at the lowest incomes report being uninsured.

Members of households with incomes greater than \$30,000 are more likely to have health insurance, largely because they are receiving employer-based coverage. Even so, about five percent of persons in the highest income category (\$75,000 per year or more) report being uninsured.

Consistently across all income categories, the two most frequently cited reasons for not having health insurance were “I can’t afford it” and “I’m not eligible because I changed employers, or lost a job.”

TABLE 3. Lack of Health Insurance Coverage by Income (Ages 18 to 64)

Household Annual Income	Estimated Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured
\$0 to \$14,999	44,000	25%
\$15,000 to \$29,999	189,000	34%
\$30,000 to \$49,999	169,000	27%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	73,000	14%
\$75,000 or More	58,000	5%

Source: Arizona Health Survey 2010.

Coverage by Other Demographic Characteristics

Females have slightly higher rates of health insurance than males. Overall, 83 percent of women and 78 percent of men have coverage. These rates are both lower than what they were in 2008: 86 percent for women and 79 percent for men.

The difference between the sexes is greatest for the youngest adults: 72 percent of women—but only 65 percent of men—in the 18 to 24 age group have health insurance. This difference is largely accounted for by higher rates of AHCCCS participation for the young women (38 percent) than for the young men (26 percent).

Educational level is strongly related to health-insurance status. Only six percent of persons with a four-year college education are uninsured, a number that rises to almost 40 percent for persons without a high school education. (In 2008, 35 percent of persons without a high school education were uninsured.) As the level of education increases, the likelihood of being on AHCCCS decreases and the likelihood of having coverage through an employer increases.

Insurance status is also related to marital status. Persons who are married, widowed or divorced have lower rates of uninsurance, about 15 percent. Those who are living with a partner, separated from a spouse, or who have never been married have uninsurance rates in the neighborhood of 30 percent. About 70 percent of married persons have employer-based coverage; only 36 percent of persons living with an unmarried partner do so. Although age and income may also be factors, many employers extend coverage to spouses but not to other domestic partners.

Approximately three percent of the Arizona Health Survey respondents identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). These respondents were more likely to be uninsured, more likely to be on AHCCCS or Medicare, and less likely to have employer coverage.

Ethnicity is also related to insurance status. The rate of uninsurance was three times higher for Hispanic persons (37 percent) than for non-Hispanic white persons (12 percent). The gap was slightly smaller in 2008, when 34 percent of Hispanics were uninsured and 11 percent of non-Hispanics. Proportionally, fewer Hispanics were covered by employer-based policies.

TABLE 4. Types of Insurance by Demographic Characteristics (Arizona Adults, Ages 18 to 64)

	Estimated Population Size	Without Health Insurance	Type of Health Insurance			
			AHCCCS	Medicare	Employer	Direct Purchase
Total	3,842,000	750,000 20%	768,000 20%	224,000 6%	2,075,000 54%	172,000 4%
Male	1,949,000	421,000 22%	350,000 18%	113,000 6%	1,046,000 54%	96,000 5%
Female	1,893,000	329,000 17%	418,000 22%	110,000 6%	1,029,000 55%	76,000 4%
Did Not Complete High School	625,000	236,000 38%	235,000 38%	41,000 7%	156,000 25%	12,000 6%
High School Diploma	1,017,000	244,000 24%	284,000 28%	72,000 7%	439,000 44%	41,000 11%
Some Post-High School	1,213,000	211,000 17%	215,000 18%	77,000 6%	687,000 57%	54,000 11%
Bachelor's Degree or More	982,000	57,000 6%	35,000 4%	33,000 3%	792,000 81%	65,000 7%
Married	2,115,000	302,000 14%	249,000 12%	86,000 4%	1,469,000 70%	96,000 5%
Living with Partner	396,000	112,000 28%	130,000 33%	15,000 4%	143,000 36%	8,000 2%
Widowed	52,000	9,000 17%	16,000 30%	11,000 22%	19,000 37%	1,000 1%
Divorced	296,000	38,000 13%	87,000 30%	45,000 15%	139,000 48%	19,000 6%
Separated	77,000	24,000 31%	32,000 43%	8,000 10%	20,000 26%	1,000 1%
Never Married	888,000	261,000 29%	249,000 28%	57,000 6%	275,000 32%	46,000 5%
Heterosexual	3,602,000	677,000 19%	705,000 20%	192,000 5%	1,983,000 55%	165,000 5%
Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual	132,000	32,000 24%	35,000 27%	17,000 14%	51,000 38%	5,000 4%
Hispanic	1,072,000	391,000 37%	258,000 24%	46,000 4%	405,000 38%	13,000 1%
Non-Hispanic White	2,305,000	281,000 12%	365,000 16%	153,000 7%	1,421,000 62%	140,000 6%

Source: Arizona Health Survey 2010.

Note: Percentages within each row may total more than 100 percent because some respondents may have more than one type of insurance.

Coverage by Employment Status

As mentioned above, the majority of Arizonans in the 18 to 64 age group have employer-based coverage. This type of coverage often can extend to the spouse and children of the worker.

Among persons not currently employed, disabled persons, retirees and students are generally well-covered by health insurance. Fewer than 10 percent of any of these groups report being uninsured. Disabled persons are very likely to have AHCCCS, Medicare or both. In addition, 26 percent of the disabled have employer-based coverage, perhaps from a spouse or parent.

Homemakers have an uninsurance rate of about 19 percent, not too different from the state average. Their primary sources of coverage are employer-based and AHCCCS.

Other unemployed persons, which include those currently looking for work, have a much higher rate of uninsurance: 34 percent. Employer-based plans (which might come from a spouse or from a COBRA plan) cover just over a quarter of this population. An additional 37 percent are covered by AHCCCS.

Persons who are currently employed are very likely to have some form of health insurance. Most—but not all—report employer-based coverage (69 percent). The likelihood of having employer-based coverage is strongly associated with the size of the employer: larger employers are more likely to provide health insurance.

From 2008 to 2010, the rates of uninsurance increased for persons not in the work force—from 17 percent to 23 percent—but decreased slightly for employed persons, from 18 percent to 16 percent.

Persons who work for local, state, or federal governments are almost universally covered; only 4 percent are uninsured. Self-employed persons have the highest rates of direct-purchase coverage (17 percent); however, many are uninsured (21 percent) and almost half (48 percent) have employer-based coverage. Some of these persons may have coverage from a spouse; others may be heads of firms large enough to provide health insurance benefits to their employees and themselves.

Another facet of employment status which is associated with uninsurance is working part-time. Only 46 percent of part-time workers have employer coverage; 28 percent of them have no health insurance of any type.

TABLE 5. Types of Insurance by Employment Status (Arizona Adults, Ages 18 to 64)

	Estimated Population Size	Without Health Insurance	Type of Health Insurance			
			AHCCCS	Medicare	Employer	Direct Purchase
Employed	2,004,000	330,000 16%	193,000 10%	25,000 1%	1,383,000 69%	98,000 5%
1 to 9 Employees	503,000	119,000 24%	68,000 14%	8,000 2%	241,000 48%	62,000 12%
10 to 50 Employees	270,000	74,000 27%	27,000 10%	2,000 1%	143,000 53%	17,000 6%
51 to 99 Employees	78,000	19,000 24%	12,000 15%	4,000 5%	48,000 62%	- -
100 to 1,000 Employees	388,000	56,000 14%	35,000 9%	5,000 1%	295,000 76%	16,000 4%
More than 1,000 Employees	758,000	58,000 8%	52,000 7%	6,000 1%	653,000 86%	3,000 0%
Not Employed	1,668,000	379,000 23%	551,000 33%	195,000 12%	590,000 35%	74,000 4%
Homemaker	315,000	58,000 19%	82,000 26%	5,000 1%	158,000 50%	15,000 5%
Disabled	273,000	23,000 8%	129,000 47%	130,000 48%	70,000 26%	3,000 1%
Retired	164,000	14,000 9%	10,000 6%	22,000 14%	109,000 67%	15,000 9%
Student	92,000	6,000 7%	26,000 28%	2,000 2%	20,000 21%	9,000 10%
Other Persons Not Employed	824,000	277,000 34%	305,000 37%	36,000 4%	233,000 28%	33,000 4%

Source: Arizona Health Survey 2010.

Note: Percentages within each row may total more than 100 percent because some respondents may have more than one type of insurance.

TABLE 6. Types of Insurance by Type of Employment (Arizona Adults, Ages 18 to 64)

	Estimated Population Size	Without Health Insurance	Type of Health Insurance			
			AHCCCS	Medicare	Employer	Direct Purchase
Employed by a Private Company	1,415,000	263,000 19%	154,000 11%	15,000 1%	968,000 68%	35,000 3%
Employed by the Government	402,000	15,000 4%	16,000 4%	7,000 2%	360,000 90%	11,000 3%
Self-Employed	275,000	57,000 21%	32,000 12%	6,000 2%	132,000 48%	47,000 17%
Work Full-Time	1,641,000	208,000 13%	110,000 7%	15,000 1%	1,246,000 76%	73,000 4%
Work Part-Time	502,000	143,000 28%	106,000 21%	13,000 3%	230,000 46%	25,000 5%

Source: Arizona Health Survey 2010.

Note: Percentages within each row may total more than 100 percent because some respondents may have more than one type of insurance.

Coverage by Region

The highest rates of uninsurance were observed in the most and least populous regions. Maricopa County, with 2.4 million adults under 64, has nearly a half million uninsured residents (21 percent). The southwestern corner of the state, Yuma and La Paz counties, with barely 100,000 adults between 18 and 64, also has a 20 percent uninsurance rate. The rest of the state has lower rates, in the neighborhood of 15 percent.

Employer-based coverage rates do not differ much from region to region. Consistently just over half of the population has employer coverage. Rates of AHCCCS participation do vary, however. The more populated counties, Maricopa and Pima, have rates under 20 percent. In the other regions, reported AHCCCS rates are well over 20 percent. In the central region of Gila and Pinal counties, 34 percent of working-age adults report being covered by AHCCCS.

TABLE 7. Types of Insurance by Region (Arizona Adults, Ages 18 to 64)

	Estimated Population Size	Without Health Insurance	Type of Health Insurance			
			AHCCCS	Medicare	Employer	Direct Purchase
Maricopa County	2,365,000	496,000 21%	417,000 18%	119,000 5%	1,280,000 54%	110,000 5%
Pima County	601,000	97,000 16%	111,000 18%	42,000 7%	345,000 57%	26,000 4%
North (Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Yavapai)	412,000	63,000 15%	110,000 27%	34,000 8%	213,000 52%	25,000 6%
Central (Pinal, Gila)	210,000	28,000 13%	72,000 34%	14,000 7%	112,000 53%	7,000 3%
Southeast (Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Santa Cruz)	119,000	18,000 15%	29,000 24%	10,000 8%	64,000 54%	3,000 2%
Southwest (Yuma, La Paz)	110,000	22,000 20%	29,000 26%	4,000 4%	60,000 55%	1,000 1%

Source: Arizona Health Survey 2010.

Note: Percentages within each row may total more than 100 percent because some respondents may have more than one type of insurance.

Conclusion

Analysis of 2010 Arizona Health Survey data revealed that more than 750,000 Arizona adults lacked coverage, led by young adults (especially men). The data further revealed relationships between lack of coverage and low education levels, low income, relationship status and ethnicity.

The numbers and relationships described here are likely to shift as Arizona moves forward with both state healthcare budget cuts and Affordable Care Act implementation, making the data presented here a point-in-time measure of where we stood as of Summer, 2010.