



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Bill Richardson
Governor

Kathryn Falls
Secretary

Contact: Kathy Slater-Huff (505) 827-3175

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U.S. Census Report Shows Increase in New Mexicans with Health Care Coverage in 2009

National Average of Insured Adults Decreases

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The 2009 U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) released today shows an increase in the overall number of people in New Mexico with health care coverage during the three year average 2007-2009 from the previous report.

The percentage of insured children in New Mexico increased by 1.1 percentage points, while the percentage of insured adults in New Mexico increased by .2 percentage points.

“For the third year in a row, we have seen an increase in the number of insured children in New Mexico. To also see an increase in the number of insured adults is wonderful news for the people of New Mexico,” said Kathryn Falls, Human Services Department Secretary.

“Even in these economic times, it is clear to see New Mexico’s commitment to the health and well-being of our citizens” said Governor Bill Richardson. “Getting families the quality health care coverage they need gives them one less thing to worry about .”

While the 2007 -2009 report shows a national decrease of insured individuals of .3 percentage points, the number of persons currently enrolled in coverage in New Mexico has seen a .4 percentage point increase. New Mexico’s actual enrollment numbers showed a decrease of uninsured from 450,000 in the 2006-2008 report to 444,000 in the 2007-2009 report. The report found more people turning to publicly funded programs for coverage.

“People who may have never thought that they needed or thought that they might qualify for publicly-funded programs are utilizing them now. They are realizing the peace of mind that health care coverage can bring for their families,” said Falls.

The CPS report found a decrease in the percentage of uninsured adults in New Mexico at 24.4 percent in 2009 down from 26.4 percent in 2008. Nationally, the number of adults who lacked

coverage increased from 17.2 percent to 18.8 percent. The rate for uninsured children in New Mexico decreased to 21.7 percent in 2009 down from 23.6 in 2008.

New Mexico is currently at an all time high enrollment in public health coverage programs through the *Insure New Mexico!* Solutions, which include Medicaid and other premium assistance programs, with approximately 550,000 people enrolled, 330,000 of them children.

The CPS survey was conducted during the Spring of 2010 for the calendar year 2009. During that time respondents were asked whether or not they have had health insurance at any period during the previous year. If the answer is yes, that person is considered “insured.”

Medicaid and Medicare are considered insurance, however individuals who rely on the Indian Health Services, free clinics, and/or a hospital emergency room as providers of health care are considered “uninsured.”

The complete U.S. Census CPS report can be found at www.census.gov.

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