

HEALTH INSURANCE – WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

The preconception health of women has been strongly linked to future reproductive health outcomes for both women and infants. Preconception health care and counseling provide an important opportunity to deliver risk-appropriate screening, health promotion, and disease prevention services to improve the health of women and their infants.¹⁰¹ Individuals who are uninsured—including women of reproductive age—are less likely to receive preventive health services and chronic disease management.¹⁰²

In 2011, over one-fifth of reproductive-aged females were uninsured (21.3 percent) representing 13.3 million females aged 15–44 years.

Younger (15–19 years) and older females (35–44 years) were least likely to be uninsured, 14.6 percent and 19.2 percent, respectively, compared to over one-quarter of those aged 20–24 and 25–29 years. Hispanic and non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native females of reproductive age were most likely to lack insurance coverage in 2011, 37.5 percent and 32.9 percent, respectively, compared to about one-quarter of non-Hispanic Black females (24.0 percent), one-fifth of non-Hispanic Asians (20.2 percent) and one-sixth of non-Hispanic Whites (15.2 percent).

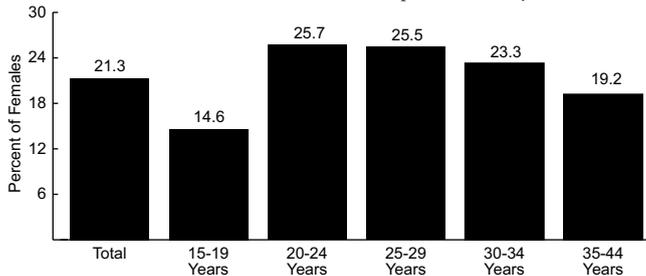
The majority of reproductive-aged females had private insurance coverage in 2011 (63.9 percent) alone or in combination with some form of public coverage, while 14.8 percent had

publicly-funded insurance such as Medicaid.¹⁰³ Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native and Black females of reproductive age were most likely to be publicly insured: 26.6 percent and 23.5 percent, respectively, followed by Hispanic females (19.8 percent); 11.4 percent of non-Hispanic White females had public coverage.

Medicaid, in particular, is an important safety net for pregnant women, financing approximately 40 percent of all births in the United States. This coverage includes prenatal care, labor and delivery, and postpartum care up to 60 days after birth.¹⁰⁴ Of the 14.8 percent or 9.2 million women of reproductive age who rely on publicly funded insurance, the majority (88.2 percent) are covered by Medicaid (data not shown).

Females Aged 15–44 Years Without Health Insurance, by Age, 2011

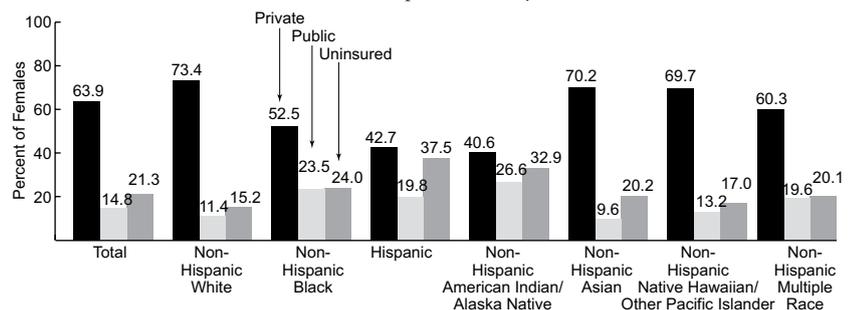
Source (III.5): U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey



*Estimates for private coverage include individuals that may have some other form of insurance; estimates for public coverage exclude individuals with any form of private coverage. Estimates may not equal 100 due to rounding. **Public or Government health insurance includes federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and military health care, and individual state health plans.

Health Insurance Coverage of Females Aged 15–44 Years, by Type of Coverage* and Race/Ethnicity, 2011

Source (III.5): U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey



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