

2010 March

Health Access

Uninsured middle-age Americans are at higher risk of death until age 65.



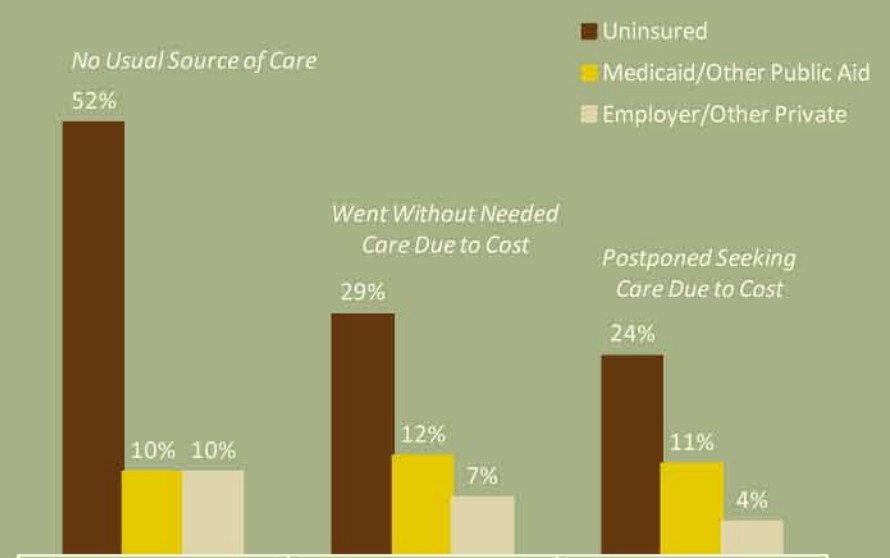
Western Yolo County. Courtesy Andrew Fulks.

Politics aside, the fact that 45 million people in America are uninsured⁵⁸ and unable to access consistent preventive health care is a pressing public health problem. Uninsured people are at increased risk of illness and death. A recent study estimates that 44,789 U.S. deaths per year are attributable to being uninsured, with uninsured middle-age Americans at higher risk of death.⁶⁵

Uninsured Californians are less likely to:⁵⁷

- 1) Have a usual source of care (a "medical home")
- 2) See a doctor regularly or have a well-child visit
- 3) Take medications for diabetes and high blood pressure
- 4) Receive a variety of preventive health services, including flu shots, mammograms, pap tests, and colonoscopies.

Barriers to Health Care among Adults 18-64 by Insurance Status, U.S., 2008.⁴³



American Red Cross Month • Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month • National Nutrition Month • National Poison Prevention Month

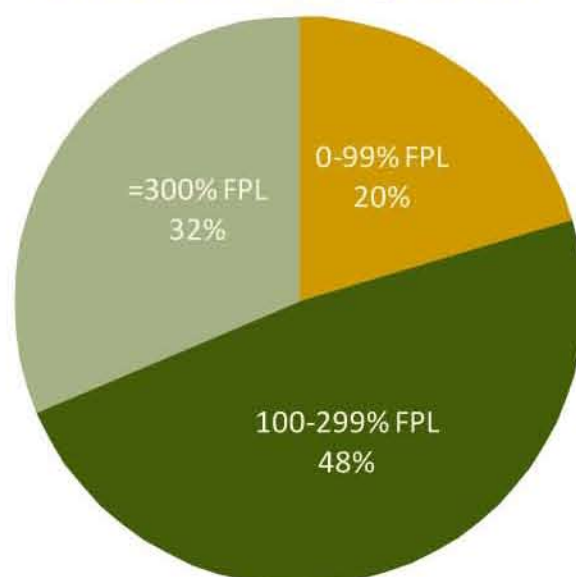
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i>	15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i>
21	22	23	24 <i>World TB Day</i>	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Meet the Uninsured in Our Region

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 13% of Yolo County adults age 18-64 were uninsured in 2008.⁵⁸ The California Health Interview Survey gives further detail about the uninsured in the Sacramento Region, which includes Yolo County. Among our uninsured:⁴⁰

- 86% are U.S. citizens (77% are born in the U.S., 9% are naturalized U.S. citizens)
- 85% have at least a high school education (35% high school degree, 31% some college, 19% college degree)
- 57% have household incomes \$20K to \$80K, 22% have household incomes greater than \$80K
- 53% are White, 25% are Hispanic, 11% are Asian, 7% are African American, and 5% Other
- 52% are employed full time
- 48% live between 100-300% federal poverty level (FPL)

Uninsured in Past Year by Federal Poverty Level Sacramento Region, 2007⁴⁰



The Cost of the Uninsured⁵⁶

Extending health insurance coverage not only improves health, it is also cost effective. Routine health care that identifies problems early, or prevents them altogether, results in less illness, fewer hospitalizations, fewer premature deaths, higher productivity and greater quality of life.

Most uninsured people do eventually access medical care, often in emergency care settings and often with illnesses that might have been prevented or better managed with consistent preventive health care. The burden of these costs is placed on our medical systems, community centers, insurers (public and private), local government and citizens in the form of higher insurance premiums, higher co-pays, and diversion of government funds.

- Health Insurance Coverage Statistics (U.S.)
- Health Insurance in California
- California HealthCare Foundation
- Medi-Cal Eligibility: Uninsured Pregnant Women

- www.cdc.gov/nchs/FASTATS/hinsure.htm
- www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/Publication.aspx?pubID=374
- www.chcf.org
- www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/PE.aspx