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New Census Data on Uninsured Women and Children October 2003

The March of Dimes each year commissions the U.S. Census Bureau to prepare the most recent data nationally and by state on the health insurance status of women of childbearing age (15-44) and children under age 19.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL DATA FOR 2002

Women of Childbearing Age (15-44):

- The number of uninsured women of childbearing age continued to rise in 2002, increasing by more than 650,000 to 12.1 million.
- Nearly 1 in 5 women of childbearing age was uninsured in 2002.
 - At 19.6%, the 2002 rate is both higher than it was in 2001 (18.7%), and greater than the rate for all Americans under age 65 (17.2%).
 - These women accounted for 28% of all uninsured Americans.
- Hispanic women in this age group were more than 2.5 times as likely as non-Hispanic whites to be uninsured—37% compared with 14%. Native American (29%), African-American (24%) and Asian women (24%) were also more likely than whites to be uninsured.
- Among Hispanics, Mexican (41%) and Central/South American (38%) women were uninsured at the highest rates, compared with 21% of Puerto Ricans and 27% for all other Hispanic women.

Children Under Age 19:

- In 2002, 9.3 million (12%) of the nation's 77.3 million children under 19 were uninsured—showing no improvement from 2001.
- Hispanic children were nearly three times as likely as non-Hispanic whites to be uninsured—23% compared with 8%. Native American (20%), African-American (14%) and Asian children (12%) were also more likely than whites to be uninsured.

- Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program were important sources of health insurance for children—covering 23% of those under age 19 in 2002, according to the Census data.
- Among Hispanic children, Mexicans (25%) and Central/South Americans (26%) were uninsured at the highest rate, compared with 12% of Puerto Ricans and 15% for all other Hispanic children.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE DATA

- The rates of uninsured vary by state. (See table attached.) For example, New Mexico (31.2%) and Texas (30.4%) had the highest average rates of uninsured for women of childbearing age over the 2000-2002 period, while Wisconsin (9.1%) and Minnesota (9.7%) had the lowest.
- For children under 19, Texas (22.6%) and Nevada (17.3%) had the highest rates, and Vermont (4.5%) and Rhode Island (4.6%) had the lowest.
- The attached state data are the best and latest available Census Bureau estimates. Census presents these state data using a three-year average (2000-2002) because small sample sizes make single-year state data less reliable. While the March of Dimes has computed state rankings based on the percentage of uninsured, differences among states are often small and may not be significant.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, March 2003 Current Population Survey. Data prepared for the March of Dimes.

Uninsured Women of Childbearing Age (15-44) and Children, by State

(2000-2002 Average)

	Women Ages 15-44			Children Under Age 19		
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Rank	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Rank
Alabama	169	17.2	28	117	9.8	23
Alaska	28	19.9	36	27	13.4	40
Arizona	236	21.2	41	254	16.3	47
Arkansas	129	23.8	47	84	11.6	35
California	1769	22.8	44	1552	15.2	46
Colorado	178	18.2	33	173	14.3	43
Connecticut	95	13.1	13	67	7.7	12
Delaware	19	11.1	6	18	8.5	17
District of Columbia	19	13.8	16	11	9.5	22
Florida	771	23.4	45	673	16.5	48
Georgia	379	19.7	35	311	13.1	38
Hawaii	29	11.7	8	28	8.5	16
Idaho	57	20.2	37	54	13.6	41
Illinois	486	17.7	31	371	11.1	34
Indiana	202	15.7	24	174	10.8	32
Iowa	70	11.6	7	47	6.2	6
Kansas	86	15.4	23	63	8.9	19
Kentucky	154	17.5	30	111	10.6	29
Louisiana	264	26.8	49	176	13.7	42
Maine	34	13.3	14	22	7.7	13
Maryland	165	14.5	19	147	10.0	25
Massachusetts	149	10.5	4	95	6.3	7
Michigan	308	14.3	17	185	7.0	10
Minnesota	108	9.7	2	74	5.8	4
Mississippi	133	20.6	40	88	10.8	31
Missouri	173	14.5	18	89	6.0	5
Montana	36	19.5	34	34	14.4	44
Nebraska	38	10.4	3	33	7.1	11
Nevada	94	21.4	42	103	17.3	50
New Hampshire	33	12.3	11	20	6.5	8
New Jersey	310	16.9	27	215	10.2	26
New Mexico	118	31.2	51	89	16.9	49
New York	856	20.5	38	509	10.4	27
North Carolina	366	20.6	39	255	11.8	37
North Dakota	17	12.2	10	13	8.4	15
Ohio	353	14.6	21	262	8.9	21
Oklahoma	172	23.9	48	141	15.2	45
Oregon	129	17.3	29	105	11.7	36
Pennsylvania	316	12.6	12	247	8.3	14
Rhode Island	24	10.7	5	12	4.6	2
South Carolina	136	16.3	26	95	8.9	20
South Dakota	22	14.5	20	17	8.7	18
Tennessee	175	13.8	15	104	7.0	9
Texas	1429	30.4	50	1447	22.6	51
Utah	79	14.9	22	77	9.9	24
Vermont	16	11.9	9	6	4.5	1
Virginia	248	15.7	25	203	10.7	30
Washington	235	18.1	32	179	11.0	33
West Virginia	78	21.7	43	44	10.4	28
Wisconsin	103	9.1	1	68	4.9	3
Wyoming	24	23.6	46	17	13.3	39
United States (3-yr avg)	11615	18.9	--	9308	12.1	--

Source: Data prepared for the March of Dimes by the Bureau of the Census using Current Population Surveys from March 2001, March 2002, and March 2003, except rankings computed by the March of Dimes. **Notes:** State data are compiled using three-year averages because small sample sizes make single-year state data less reliable. Rankings are based on more than one decimal place; differences among states may not be significant.