

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **New Census data: uninsured rate stable between 2012 and 2013**

### ***Improvements anticipated due to expanded access in 2014***

The uninsured rate remained unchanged in Connecticut in 2013, compared to 2012 rates, according to newly-released Census data from the American Community Survey. Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based policy think tank, anticipates that the uninsured rate will improve in 2014 as more residents sign up for health coverage through Access Health Connecticut, the health insurance marketplace established under federal health reforms.

Among Connecticut residents under age 65, 10.9% (an estimated 328,000) were without health insurance in 2013. Among Connecticut children under age 18, 4.3% (34,000) lacked insurance at the time of the survey in 2013. There were no statistically significant changes in these rates from 2012.

“We expect to see real improvement in expanding access to affordable health coverage in 2014,” said **Ellen Shemitz, Executive Director of Connecticut Voices for Children**. “Thousands more families are able to obtain doctor’s visits, preventive care, prescriptions, and other essential services through Access Health CT.”

Compared to 2009, the earliest year for which comparable ACS uninsured estimates are available, there was a statistically significant increase in the percentage of people under age 65 who were without health insurance in the state, growing from 10.1% in 2009 to 10.9% in 2013. There has been no statistically significant change in the number of uninsured Connecticut children over that period. Connecticut Voices for Children credited the state’s HUSKY health insurance program for helping to hold down the numbers of the uninsured by enrolling uninsured children and their families.

Nationally, in 2013, 16.7% of all Americans under age 65 were uninsured (44.7 million), a significant decrease from the 2012 rate of 16.9%. Among children in the U.S., 7.1% (5.2 million) were uninsured in 2013, a rate that was not significantly different from the 2012 rate.

In a preliminary look at poverty trends in the state, estimates from the Current Population Survey (CPS) indicate the percentage of all people in poverty was unchanged in 2012-2013, compared with

2010-2011. The rate was increased over the previous decade, from 8.2% in 2002-2003 to 10.8% in 2012-2013. (Because of small survey sample sizes at the state level in the CPS, two-year estimates should be used to evaluate trends over time in Connecticut. On Thursday, September 19, the Census will release more detailed state, county, and city estimates of poverty for Connecticut. These data from the American Community Survey are based on a larger sample size than the Current Population Survey, and will offer a more reliable and localized picture of poverty in Connecticut.)

Looking forward, Connecticut Voices for Children anticipates that more Connecticut residents will obtain health coverage as new opportunities for expanded coverage became available under the federal Affordable Care Act in 2014, including a further expansion of HUSKY coverage for low-income adults, and more affordable private coverage available through the Access Health CT marketplace. In addition, Connecticut residents can no longer be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition. According to Access Health CT, more than 250,000 Connecticut residents have signed up for health coverage through Access Health CT, including nearly 139,000 who were uninsured at the time of enrollment

Open enrollment in the private health insurance plans offered through Access Health CT begins on November 15. Families can enroll in the state's HUSKY health insurance plan throughout the year. Connecticut Voices pointed out that most uninsured children in the state are eligible for HUSKY.

"To ensure that eligible families get the health care they need, we need to make sure they are informed," said **Sharon Langer, Senior Policy Fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children**. "We should support continued targeted outreach to educate families about their health insurance options and help them navigate the application process."

"Connecticut Voices for Children provides a great service to the state by analyzing the census data from the ACS," said **Elizabeth Krause, vice president of policy and communications at the Connecticut Health Foundation**. "These data reinforce for us the need to continue our efforts to cover and keep covered Connecticut's residents. Since the beginning of 2014, Connecticut residents, especially the state's underserved population, many of who never had insurance, are now benefitting every day from access to quality, affordable health coverage through Access Health CT and HUSKY."

"We believe the real measure of change is the 140,000 state residents who are now insured after the initial enrollment period through Access Health CT," said **Frances G. Padilla, president of Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut**. "We made significant strides in 2014. We expect this progress to be reflected in next year's ACS data."

"We are proud that we played a role in Connecticut's recent effort to enroll families in health insurance, but we know that significant work to reach the many uninsured children and families remains," commented **Robin Lamott Sparks, Senior Director of Policy and Research, at the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition**. "Continued community education about accessing insurance and using the healthcare system are critical steps to sustain this change."

National and state-level data on health insurance coverage are available on the U.S. Census Web site at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Health insurance data are drawn from the American Community (ACS). **See the attached fact sheet for detailed survey results and guidance on using Census data.** This news release and fact sheet are also available on the CT Voices website at [ctvoices.org](http://ctvoices.org).

Connecticut Voices for Children is a research-based policy think tank that works to advance public policies that benefit the state's children, youth and families.

**Note to reporters on other data from Census sources:** National and some state-level poverty and income data are available from the Current Population Survey. However, for several years, the Census Bureau has advised that data from the American Community Survey (ACS) should be used for state-level poverty and income estimates, rather than CPS data. This is because the ACS surveys more people than the CPS and offers a more reliable measure. The Census will publicly release state-level poverty and income estimates from the ACS on Thursday, September 18. Poverty, income, and uninsured estimates will also be available for the eight largest cities in the state, as well as all Connecticut counties. (No city-level estimates for health insurance coverage, poverty, or income are available from the CPS.) CT Voices will summarize these ACS state- and local-level data in a news release on September 18. **CT Voices and the Census Bureau encourage reporters to rely on the ACS poverty estimates on Thursday for a more reliable and localized picture of poverty in Connecticut.** (A summary of CPS poverty and income data is available from CT Voices upon request.)

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**Health Insurance in Connecticut:  
Summary of 2013 U.S. American Community Survey Data**

**September 16, 2014**

**Connecticut Trends in Uninsured Rate, Employment-Based Health Insurance**

| <b>Insurance Status:</b>  | <b>2013<br/>% and #</b>  | <b>2012<br/>% and #</b> | <b>2009<br/>% and #</b> |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Uninsured:</b>   |  |                         |                         |
| All persons uninsured   | 9.4%<br>(333,000)<br><b>No significant change<br/>from 2012; significant<br/>increase from 2009</b>  | 9.1%<br>(322,000)       | 8.8%<br>(305,000)       |
| All persons under 65 years old<br>uninsured                                 | 10.9%<br>(328,000)<br><b>No significant change<br/>from 2012; significant<br/>increase from 2009</b> | 10.5%<br>(317,000)      | 10.1%<br>(302,000)      |
| Children < 18 uninsured   | 4.3%<br>(34,000)<br><b>No significant change<br/>from 2012 or 2009</b>                               | 3.8%<br>(30,000)        | 3.8%<br>(30,000)        |
| <b>Insured (Employment-Based):</b>  |  |                         |                         |
| All persons under 65 years old<br>with employment-based health<br>insurance | 64.5%<br>(1.9 million)   | Not Available           | Not Available           |
| Children under 18 years old with<br>employment-based health<br>insurance    | 60.0%<br>(470,000)   | Not Available           | Not Available           |

Data from Connecticut Voices for Children analysis of U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2013 and previous uninsurance rates are not statistically significant.** Because Connecticut is a small state, it is difficult to detect statistically significant changes among uninsured children. The earliest year for which comparable ACS data are available is 2009. Comparable ACS estimates of employer sponsored coverage for years prior to 2013 were unavailable.

## National Trends in the Uninsured Rate, Employment Based Health Insurance

| Insurance Status  | United States  |                         |
|---|--|-------------------------|
|   | 2013<br>% and #  | 2012<br>% and #         |
| <b>Uninsured:</b>   |  |                         |
| All persons uninsured   | 14.5%<br>(45.2 million)<br><b>Significant decrease<br/>from 2012</b> | 14.8%<br>(45.6 million) |
| All persons under 65 years old<br>uninsured                                 | 16.7%<br>(44.7 million)<br><b>Significant decrease<br/>from 2012</b> | 16.9%<br>(45.2 million) |
| Children under 18 years old<br>uninsured                                    | 7.1%<br>(5.2 million)<br><b>No significant<br/>change from 2012</b>  | 7.2%<br>(5.3 million)   |
| <b>Insured (Employment-Based):</b>  |  |                         |
| All persons under 65 years old<br>with employment-based health<br>insurance | 57.1%<br>(152.9 million)   | Not Available           |
| Children under 18 years old with<br>employment-based health<br>insurance    | 50.6%<br>(37.2 million)  | Not Available           |

Data from Connecticut Voices for Children analysis of U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2013 and previous uninsurance rates are not statistically significant.** Because Connecticut is a small state, it is difficult to detect statistically significant changes among uninsured children. The earliest year for which comparable ACS data are available is 2009. Comparable ACS estimates of employer sponsored coverage for years prior to 2013 were unavailable.

### Guidelines for Using Census Data

**Unless a change in Census estimates over time is statistically significant, it is not accurate to say, for example, that uninsured rates have increased or declined.** The numbers reported in the ACS survey are estimates because only a sample of the entire population is surveyed. For this reason, the Census Bureau publishes additional data that allow us to estimate the range of values within which the population’s actual uninsured rate is likely to fall. This enables us to determine whether or not the change in an estimate from one time period to the next is large enough to conclude that a change in the population has occurred, or whether the change in the estimate may have been due to chance. For example, in the field of opinion polling, the “margin of error” of a poll helps to assess whether there has been a significant change in polling results over time. **A change in Census estimates is called “statistically significant” if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance.** (This term describes the statistical evidence of change, not whether it is important or meaningful.

Connecticut Voices’ analyses of ACS data are informed by the guidance of analysts at the Census Bureau, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Coalition on Human Needs.