



# America's Uninsured Children: Minority Children at Greater Risk

There are 9,069,000 uninsured children  
in the United States.

Of these children, more than 60 percent are  
racial or ethnic minorities.

Going without health insurance can have devastating consequences for children. While children of all races and ethnicities are affected by lack of health insurance coverage, minority children are most at risk. Of the 9,069,000 uninsured children in this country, more than 60 percent are racial or ethnic minorities:

- 1,578,000 are black,
- 3,309,000 are Hispanic, and
- 669,000 are children of other races or ethnicities.

The lack of health coverage can lead to dramatic differences in quality of care, mortality rates, and other health outcomes. Minority children are more likely to lack health coverage; they are also more likely to have unmet medical needs and to suffer higher rates of infant mortality, asthma, lead poisoning, and obesity.<sup>1</sup> These problems affect minority communities across the country. Complete data are available only for the following 12 states, which have significant numbers of minority children:



- In California, 1,369,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 6 percent (81,000) are black; 64 percent (881,000) are Hispanic; and 10 percent (138,000) are children of other races or ethnicities, including Asian or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and members of more than one racial or ethnic group.
- 12 percent of black children are uninsured, 19 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, and 10 percent of children of other races or ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 8 percent of white children.
- For children of other races or ethnicities, 18 percent of children who are American Indian, Alaskan, Hawaiian Natives, or Pacific Islanders are uninsured.



## Florida

- In Florida, 719,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 22 percent (160,000) are black, and 36 percent (258,000) are Hispanic.
- 18 percent of black children are uninsured, and 27 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, compared to 13 percent of white children.



## Georgia

- In Georgia, 307,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 37 percent (114,000) are black, 20 percent are Hispanic, and 7 percent are children of other races or ethnicities.
- 14 percent of black children are uninsured, 26 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, and 19 percent of children of other races and ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 9 percent of white children.



## Hawaii

- In Hawaii, 7 percent of children of other races or ethnicities are uninsured.
- For children of other races or ethnicities, 7 percent of children who are American Indian, Alaskan, Hawaiian Natives, or Pacific Islanders are uninsured.



## Illinois

- In Illinois, 376,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 29 percent (110,000) are black, and 28 percent (103,000) are Hispanic.
- 18 percent of black children are uninsured, and 19 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, compared to 7 percent of white children.



## New Jersey

- In New Jersey, 264,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 25 percent are black, 34 percent (90,000) are Hispanic, and 9 percent are children of other races or ethnicities.
- 18 percent of black children are uninsured, 22 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, and 12 percent of children of other races or ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 6 percent of white children.



## New York

- In New York, 441,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 25 percent (109,000) are black, 25 percent (110,000) are Hispanic, and 12 percent are children of other races or ethnicities.
- 12 percent of black children are uninsured, 11 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, and 14 percent of children of other races or ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 7 percent of white children.



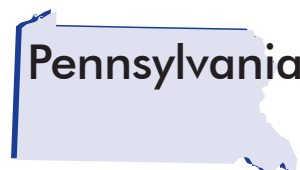
## North Carolina

- In North Carolina, 275,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 26 percent are black, 25 percent are Hispanic, and 9 percent are children of other races or ethnicities.
- 12 percent of black children are uninsured, 35 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, and 18 percent of children of other races or ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 8 percent of white children.



## Oklahoma

- In Oklahoma, 146,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 14 percent are Hispanic, and 23 percent are children of other races or ethnicities.
- 19 percent of children of other races or ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 14 percent of white children.
- For children of other races or ethnicities, 28 percent of children who are American Indian, Alaskan, Hawaiian Natives, or Pacific Islanders are uninsured.



## Pennsylvania

- In Pennsylvania, 281,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 17 percent are black, 10 percent are Hispanic, and 4 percent are children of other races and ethnicities.
- 12 percent of black children are uninsured, 14 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, and 12 percent of children of other races and ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 8 percent of white children.



- In Texas, 1,367,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 12 percent (158,000) are black, 66 percent (895,000) are Hispanic, and 2 percent are children of other races or ethnicities.
- 19 percent of black children are uninsured, 29 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, and 11 percent of children of other races or ethnicities are uninsured, compared to 11 percent of white children.
- For children of other races or ethnicities, 35 percent of children who are American Indian, Alaskan, Hawaiian Natives, or Pacific Islanders are uninsured.



- In Virginia, 172,000 children are uninsured. Of those, 27 percent are black, and 17 percent are Hispanic.
- 11 percent of black children are uninsured, and 22 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured, compared to 7 percent of white children.

### A Note about Terms

The Census Bureau collects information about race and ethnicity using the following designations: 1) white, non-Hispanic; 2) black, non-Hispanic; 3) Hispanic; and 4) other. The category of “other” is composed of individuals who identify themselves as American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or a member of more than one group (e.g., white-black, white-Asian, black-Asian).

<sup>1</sup> Children's Defense Fund, *Improving Children's Health: Understanding Children's Health Disparities and Promising Approaches to Address Them* (Washington: Children's Defense Fund, April 2006).

Written by Families USA  
for the Campaign for Children's Health Care  
September 2006

