

10-18-2012

Twenty counties in Nebraska have uninsured rate over 20 percent

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Recommended Citation

Kiper, Melanie, "Twenty counties in Nebraska have uninsured rate over 20 percent" (2012). *Publications since 2000*. 226.
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Twenty counties in Nebraska have uninsured rate over 20 percent

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released 2010 estimates of health insurance coverage for each of the nation's roughly 3,140 counties.

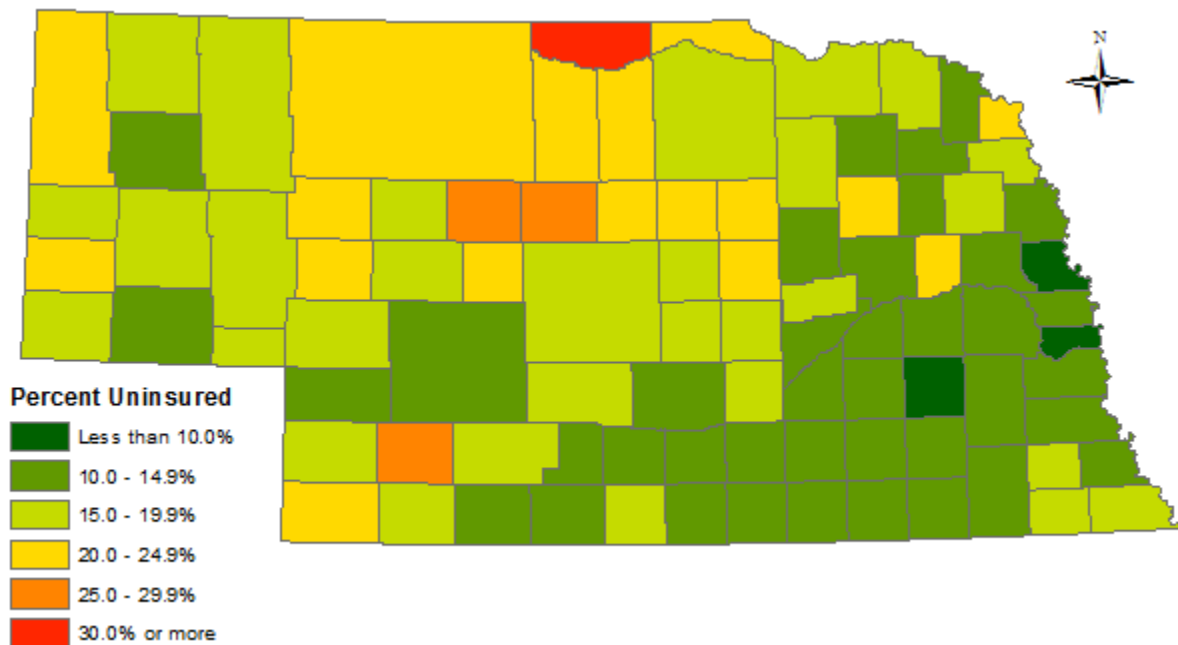
Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE; <http://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/index.html>) are the only source for single-year estimates of health insurance coverage status for every county in the nation. These estimates are available by sex, age groups, race and Hispanic origin (for states only), and income-to-poverty ratios.

The estimates are based on statistical models combining data from a variety of sources, including the American Community Survey (ACS), Census Bureau population estimates, administrative records (such as aggregated federal tax returns and Medicaid participation records) and 2000 Census statistics.

There are twenty counties in Nebraska where more than 20.0% of the population is uninsured (see Figure 1 and Table 1). Keya Paha County has the highest uninsured rate at 32.6% uninsured, followed by Blaine (29.9%), Hayes (29.2%), and Thomas (25.6%) all having an uninsured rate higher than 25.0% (see Table 2).

It is interesting to note that 16 of the 20 counties with uninsured rates over 20.0% are also 16 of the 20 counties with lowest population counts. Three of the remaining four counties with the fewest number of people also had high uninsured rates: Garden (18.8%, population rank 76), Deuel (17.3%, population rank 78) and Hooker (18.0%, population rank 87). The exception is Gosper county ranked 77 in population with only a 12.5% uninsured rate.

Figure 1. Percent of uninsured persons for Nebraska counties, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, August 2012
 Prepared by the Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska, October 2012

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Table 1. Number of Nebraska counties by percent of uninsured in county, 2010

Percent Uninsured	Number of counties
30% or more	1
25.0 – 29.9%	3
20.0 – 24.9%	17
15.0 – 19.9%	30
10.0 – 14.9%	39
Less than 10.0%	3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, August 2012
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Table 2. Counties in Nebraska with 20% or more uninsured persons, 2010

County	Total Population	Number Uninsured	Percent Uninsured	Population Rank
Keya Paha	604	197	32.6	85
Blaine	386	115	29.9	91
Hayes	770	225	29.2	82
Thomas	518	132	25.6	83
McPherson	437	105	24.0	92
Wheeler	659	156	23.7	84
Rock	1,160	272	23.4	80
Greeley	1,923	430	22.4	73
Logan	617	135	21.9	88
Boyd	1,529	327	21.4	74
Garfield	1,470	314	21.4	75
Grant	499	106	21.2	89
Colfax	8,975	1,884	21.0	26
Arthur	360	75	20.7	93
Dundy	1,533	318	20.7	79
Sioux	1,026	212	20.7	81
Brown	2,358	487	20.6	67
Loup	491	99	20.3	90
Banner	558	113	20.2	86
Cherry	4,478	899	20.1	51

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, August 2012, and 2006-2010 American Community Survey, August 2012
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Want more information on health insurance coverage?

At present, SAHIE is the only source of health insurance estimates for all counties. There are no county estimates derived from the Current Population Survey.

In September 2012, the Census Bureau will release health insurance coverage estimates for counties with a population of 65,000 or more from the 2011 ACS. In October 2012 similar estimates will be released for counties with a population of 20,000 or more from the 2009-2011 ACS. Starting next year, the five-year estimates from ACS will include statistics on health insurance coverage for all areas, regardless of size.

In June 2012, the UNMC Center for Health Policy published a report, "Health Insurance Coverage in Nebraska," by Kelly Shaw-Sutherland and Jim P. Stimpson. The report presents data for the whole of Nebraska, including uninsured population, source of insurance coverage, characteristics of the uninsured, and characteristics of public and private insurance beneficiaries. The report includes county-level data from the 2009 SAHIE.

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