

## **“Health Care is an Economic Human Right” Fact Sheet (Updated July 2010)**

**Fact:** Of the millions of uninsured in California, 4 of 5 people are members of working families.

**Source:** From CNN Health - *Study: 86.7 million Americans uninsured over last two years* (Jennifer Pifer-Bixler, 4 March 2009)

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/03/04/uninsured.epidemic.obama/>

**Fact:** Over 1 in 3 uninsured people come from household with an income above \$50,000

**Source:** From the California Healthcare Foundation - *California's Uninsured* (Paul Fronstin; December 2009).

<http://www.chcf.org/publications/2009/12/californias-uninsured>

**Fact:** ...and every minute in the U.S. eight people are denied coverage, charged a higher rate, or discriminated against for a pre-existing condition.

**Source:** From Affordable Health Care for America - *Health Care by the Numbers* (Offices of Democratic Leadership; 20 March 2010)

<http://docs.house.gov/energycommerce/HCBYTHENUMBERS.pdf>

**Fact:** However, there are about five workers for every available job.

**Source:** From Center for American Progress – *Today's Unemployment Crisis by the Numbers* (Kate Bolduan; 7 March 2009)

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/03/07/young.uninsured/index.html>

**Fact:** Young adults, ages 19 to 29, are the largest age group of uninsured people across the country. Only about 50% of young adults are offered coverage through an employer, compared to about 75% of adults who are over age 30.

**Source:** From CNN Politics – *The plight of young, uninsured Americans* (Kate Bolduan; 7 March 2009)

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/03/07/young.uninsured/index.html>

**Fact:** In California, the uninsured rate among women ages 18–64 is 21%.

**Source:** From UCLA Center for Health Policy Research – *Nearly 2.5 Million Nonelderly California Women Uninsured at Some Time During 2007* (Roberta Wyn and Erin Peckham; 17 June 2010)

[http://lahealthaction.org/index.php/library/full\\_entry/2657/](http://lahealthaction.org/index.php/library/full_entry/2657/)

**Fact:** Also, partnered gay and lesbian couples are twice as likely to be uninsured as heterosexual couples.

**Source:** From Health Affairs – *The Effects of Unequal Access To Health Insurance For Same-Sex Couples in California* (Ninez Ponce, Susan Cochran, Jennifer Pizer, Vickie Mays; 24 June 2010)

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.2009.0583v1>

**Fact:** Private insurers spend 30 cents of every dollar on administrative and shareholder costs.

**Source:** From California Chronicle - *Single Payer, Universal Health Care Bill Passes Key Assembly*

*Committee* (California Political Desk; 30 June 2010)

<http://www.californiachronicle.com/articles/view/166513>

**Fact:** ...despite the rise in obesity, chronic disease, and threats of bioterrorism, less than 4 cents of every health care dollar is spent on prevention and public health.

**Source:** From Alameda County Medical Center – *Healthcare Matters in 2008* (Wright Lassiter, III; 24 July 2008)

[http://www.acmedctr.org/files/Lassiter\\_HealthcareReform\\_080725.pdf](http://www.acmedctr.org/files/Lassiter_HealthcareReform_080725.pdf)

**Fact:** At some point 86.7 million people, 1 in 3 adults, went without healthcare in 2007 and 2008

**Source:** From CNN Health - *Study: 86.7 million Americans uninsured over last two years* (Jennifer Pifer-Bixler; March 2009)

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/03/04/uninsured.epidemic.obama/>

**Fact:** America is the only industrial nation that links healthcare to jobs and yet only 59% of Americans are covered by their jobs.

**Source:** From the Kaiser Family Foundation – *Employer Health Benefits 2009 Annual Survey* (The Kaoser Family Foundation & Health Resarch & Educational Trust; 2009)

<http://ehbs.kff.org/pdf/2009/7936.pdf>

**Fact:** About 12.6 million non-elderly adults, 36% percent of those who tried to purchase health insurance directly in the individual market, were in fact discriminated against because of a pre-existing condition.

**Source:** From HealthReform.gov – *Coverage Denied: How the Current Health Insurance System Leaves Millions Behind* (Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD; 2009)

[http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/denied\\_coverage/index.html](http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/denied_coverage/index.html)

**Fact:** The average monthly cost of health insurance for a family of four is over \$1000.

**Source:** From the Kaiser Family Foundation – *Medicaid and the Uninsured: Five Basic Facts on the Uninsured*; Page 1 (The Kaiser Family Foundation; September 2009)

<http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7806-02.pdf>

**Fact:** At least 4 in 10 non-elderly women with family incomes below the poverty level were uninsured for all or part of 2007.

**Source:** From UCLA Center for Health Policy Research – *Nearly 2.5 Million Nonelderly California Women Uninsured at Some Time During 2007* (Roberta Wyn and Erin Peckham; June 2010)

[http://lahealthaction.org/index.php/library/full\\_entry/2657/](http://lahealthaction.org/index.php/library/full_entry/2657/)

**Fact:** Approximately one-quarter of uninsured adults go without needed care due to cost each year.

**Source:** From the Kaiser Family Foundation – *Medicaid and the Uninsured: Five Basic Facts on the Uninsured*; page 1 (The Kaiser Family Foundation; September 2009)

<http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7806-02.pdf>

**Fact:** Around 62% of all bankruptcies filed in 2007 were linked to medical expenses, and of those that filed nearly 80% had health insurance.

**Source:** From HealthReform.gov - *Medical Bankruptcy in the United States, 2007: Results of a National Study* (Ellen Montz and Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD - American Journal of Medicine; May 2009)

<http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/insurance/index.html>

**Fact:** What about those who are not old enough to work? In America, 8.6million children, or 1 in 9 children, go without health insurance.

**Source:** From Families USA - *U.S. Has 8.6 Million Uninsured Children and the Economic Downturn Is Likely to Drive the Number Higher* (25 November 2008)

[www.familiesusa.org/resources/newsroom/press-releases/2008-press-releases/us-has-86-million.html](http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/newsroom/press-releases/2008-press-releases/us-has-86-million.html)

**Fact:** ...but we already pay twice as much per person than any other industrialized country.

**Source:** From Reuters - *U.S. Scores Dead Last Again in Health Care Study* (Maggie Fox; 23 June 2010)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65M0SU20100623>

**Source:** From the Kaiser Family Foundation - *Snapshots: Health Care Spending in the United States and OECD Countries*

<http://www.kff.org/insurance/snapshot/chcm010307oth.cfm>

**Fact:** The average cost of employer-based family health insurance more than doubled over the past decade while wages have increased by less than 35%.

**Source:** From National Coalition of Health Care - *The average cost of employer-based family health insurance coverage more than doubled over the past decade, while salary growth remained stagnant* (The Kaiser Family Foundation; 2009)

<http://nchc.org/facts-resources/quick-facts/average-cost-employer-based-family-health-insurance-coverage-more-double>

**Fact:** The World Health Organization ranked the United States health care system 37th in the world for quality and 55th in the world for fairness.

**Source:** From the World Health Organization - *The World Health Report 2000: Health Systems: Improving Performance* - from the table found on page 155 (World Health Organization; 2000)

[http://www.who.int/whr/2000/en/whr00\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/whr/2000/en/whr00_en.pdf)

**Fact:** Under Just Health Care, only 5% of the population would pay more taxes.

**Source:** From Physicians for a National Health Program - *HR 676* (24 January 2007)

[http://www.pnhp.org/nhibill/nhi\\_bill\\_final.pdf](http://www.pnhp.org/nhibill/nhi_bill_final.pdf)

**Fact:** Over sixty percent of health spending in the U.S. is funded by government.

**Source:** From Physicians for a National Health Program – *Single-Payer FAQ* (Don McCanne, MD - PNHP Senior Health Policy Fellow; 2009)

<http://www.pnhp.org/facts/single-payer-faq>

**Fact:** By eliminating profit, we could save California \$186 billion dollars in the first year.

**Source:** From The Lewin Group - *The Health Care for All Californians Act: Cost and Economic Impacts Analysis*; page viii (John Sheils and Randall Haught, 19 January 2005)

<http://www.marin.ca.gov/EFiles/BS/AgMn/agdocs/050329/050329-6-HH-FINAL-REP.PDF>

**Source:** From Senior Action Network - *Legislative Information SB810* (2010)

<http://www.sfsan.org/legislative-support-oppose-list/sb-810-fact-sheet.html>

**Fact:** California has over 1500 health coverage plans to choose from and 60% of the care delivered is sub-standard.

**Source:** From Health Care for All - California - *Education - General: Healthcare in Crisis* (25 June 2009)

[http://www.healthcareforall.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&id=6&layout=blog&Itemid=117](http://www.healthcareforall.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=6&layout=blog&Itemid=117)

**Fact:** In Alameda, we have approximately 200,000 uninsured people...

**Source:** From Alameda County's Official Web Site - *Healthcare Matters in 2008* (Wright Lassiter, III; 24 July 2008)

[http://www.acmedctr.org/files/Lassiter\\_HealthcareReform\\_080725.pdf](http://www.acmedctr.org/files/Lassiter_HealthcareReform_080725.pdf)

### **Are We Healthy? A Health Care Crisis in Alameda County**

**Fact:** 8.2 million Californians had no health insurance in the past year—over a quarter of the California population...

**Source:** From the Los Angeles Times - *About 1 in 4 in California lack health insurance, a UCLA study finds* (Duke Helfand; 16 March 2010)

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/mar/16/business/la-fi-uninsured16-2010mar16>

**Fact:** ...and approximately 200,000 of those people are in Alameda County.

**Source:** From Alameda County Medical Center – *Healthcare Matters in 2008* (Wright Lassiter, III; 24 July 2008)

[http://www.acmedctr.org/files/Lassiter\\_HealthcareReform\\_080725.pdf](http://www.acmedctr.org/files/Lassiter_HealthcareReform_080725.pdf)

**Fact:** Approximately 81,000 to 90,000 children and parents in Alameda County are uninsured.

**Source:** From Alameda County's Official Website - *AC Children and Families Health Insurance Task Force* (2009)

[http://www.acgov.org/board/district3/ac\\_task.htm](http://www.acgov.org/board/district3/ac_task.htm)

**Fact:** More than 70% of the County's uninsured are people of color, and more than 50% of those uninsured are immigrants.

**Source:** From Alameda County's Official Website - *AC Children and Families Health Insurance Task Force* (2009)

[http://www.acgov.org/board/district3/ac\\_task.htm](http://www.acgov.org/board/district3/ac_task.htm)

**Fact:** 1 billion in budget cuts and 1,500 jobs have been eliminated in the last 9 years because of a lack of state funding.

**Sources:** CBS Broadcasting - *Alameda County Supes Close \$150M Budget Gap* (25 June 2010)  
<http://cbs5.com/local/alameda.county.budget.2.1773727.html>

### **The New Health Care Reform Bill**

**Fact:** The Health Care Reform Bill should cover about 97% of all Americans.

**Source:** From The Huffington Post - *New HELP Bill Covers 97 Percent Of Americans, Costs \$600 Billion* (David Espo; 1 July 2009)  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/01/tnr-full-help-bill-covers\\_n\\_224509.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/01/tnr-full-help-bill-covers_n_224509.html)

**Fact:** Under a single-payer system, all people would have access to comprehensive coverage.

**Source:** From Physicians for a National Health Program - *Single-Payer FAQ* (Don McCanne, MD - PNHP Senior Health Policy Fellow; 2009)  
<http://www.pnhp.org/facts/single-payer-faq>

**Fact:** Over the next 10 years the new plan will cost over \$600 billion...

**Source:** From The Huffington Post - *New HELP Bill Covers 97 Percent Of Americans, Costs \$600 Billion* (David Espo; 1 July 2009)  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/01/tnr-full-help-bill-covers\\_n\\_224509.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/07/01/tnr-full-help-bill-covers_n_224509.html)

**Fact:** ...and reduce the deficit by \$143 billion.

**Source:** From CBS News - *Health Care Reform Bill Summary: A Look At What's in the Bill* (Jill Jackson and John Nolen; 21 March 2010)  
[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544\\_162-20000846-503544.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20000846-503544.html)

**Fact:** \$400 billion would be saved a year with a single-payer health care system.

**Source:** From Physicians for a National Health Program - *The Single-Payer Amendment to HR 3200* (25 August 2009)  
[http://www.pnhp.org/amendment/Amendment\\_Overview.pdf](http://www.pnhp.org/amendment/Amendment_Overview.pdf)

**Fact:** Illegal immigrants will not be able to buy health insurance even if it is completely out-of-pocket.

**Source:** From CBS News - *Health Care Reform Bill Summary: A Look At What's in the Bill* (Jill Jackson and John Nolen; 21 March 2010)  
[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544\\_162-20000846-503544.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20000846-503544.html)

**Fact:** It will be mandated by law to purchase health insurance; however, there will be no limit on insurance companies being able to continually raise premiums and deductibles every year.

**Source:** From Physicians for a National Health Program - *More of the Same Is Not Health Care Reform, It's a Placebo* (Leonard Rodberg, PhD; 23 July 2009)  
[http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more\\_of\\_the\\_same\\_is\\_.php](http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more_of_the_same_is_.php)

**Fact:** By June 2010, insurance companies could no longer deny children coverage based on a pre-existing condition, and in 2014 no one can be denied coverage for a pre-existing condition.

**Source:** From CBS News - *Health Care Reform Bill Summary: A Look At What's in the Bill* (Jill Jackson and John Nolen; 21 March 2010)

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544\\_162-20000846-503544.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20000846-503544.html)

**Fact:** No health care plan will be required to offer abortion coverage, and states can pass legislation to opt out of offering abortion coverage.

**Source:** From CBS News - *Health Care Reform Bill Summary: A Look At What's in the Bill* (Jill Jackson and John Nolen; 21 March 2010)

[http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more\\_of\\_the\\_same\\_is\\_.php](http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more_of_the_same_is_.php)

**Fact:** The public option will supposedly be self-sustaining, and follow the same rules as private insurance companies.

**Source:** From CBS News - *Health Care Reform Bill Summary: A Look At What's in the Bill* (Jill Jackson and John Nolen; 21 March 2010)

[http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more\\_of\\_the\\_same\\_is\\_.php](http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more_of_the_same_is_.php)

**Fact:** Subsidies that will be available to low- and moderate-income people will be inadequate, so insurance will remain unaffordable and underinsurance will continue.

**Source:** From CBS News - *Health Care Reform Bill Summary: A Look At What's in the Bill* (Jill Jackson and John Nolen; 21 March 2010)

[http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more\\_of\\_the\\_same\\_is\\_.php](http://pnhp.org/news/2009/july/more_of_the_same_is_.php)

**Fact:** By 2014, everyone must purchase health insurance or face a \$695 annual fine.

**Source:** From CBS News - *Health Care Reform Bill Summary: A Look At What's in the Bill* (Jill Jackson and John Nolen; 21 March 2010)

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544\\_162-20000846-503544.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20000846-503544.html)