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# Congress of the United States

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## MORE AMERICANS WENT WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN 2001, AS WORKING FAMILIES FEEL THE BURDEN OF THE RECESSION

*Over 41 million Americans, an increase of 1.4 million, were uninsured last year*

The Census Bureau announced today that 41.2 million Americans, or 14.6 percent of the population, were without health insurance during the entire year in 2001. This represents a 1.4 million increase over 2000 figures and reverses a two-year decline in the number of uninsured.

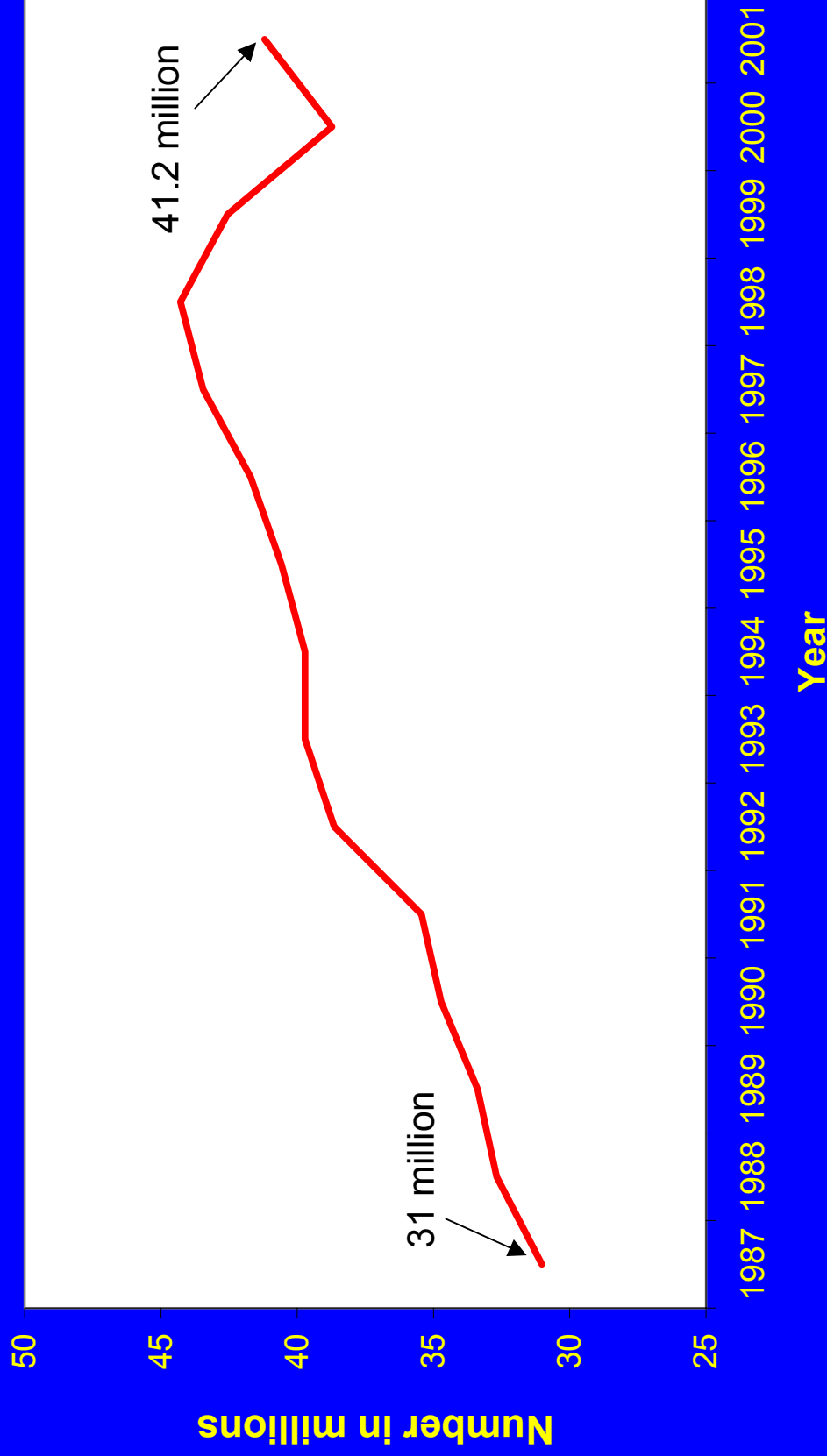
The report finds that the percentage of uninsured increased at all family income levels. Without action, these numbers are likely to rise this year. The unemployment rate has risen significantly since last year, states are struggling to finance Medicaid programs during the recession, and workers are burdened with higher health care premiums that have increased by 11 percent in 2001 and 12.7 percent in 2002.

In addition, the Census numbers reveal that:

- **Insurance rates for workers, both full or part-time, fell in 2001.** Having a job did not prevent many Americans from losing their health insurance, as the percentage of uninsured full-time workers rose from 15.7 percent to 16 percent. Part-time workers saw a larger increase, from 20.6 percent to 22 percent. In addition, the percentage of Americans with employer-based health insurance fell from 63.6 percent of the population in 2000 to 62.6 percent in 2001.
- **Increases in the number of uninsured were felt more heavily at the top and the bottom of the income spectrum.** Those with family earnings over \$75,000 a year were more likely to be uninsured in 2001 than in 2000 (7.7 percent in 2001 vs. 7.1 percent in 2000). For those with family earnings of less than \$25,000, 23.3 percent were uninsured in 2001, compared with 22.8 percent the year before.
- **Poor Americans still face high risk of being uninsured.** Although more than two million additional Americans were covered by public insurance in 2001 than in 2000, more than 30 percent (30.7 percent) of poor people were uninsured last year.

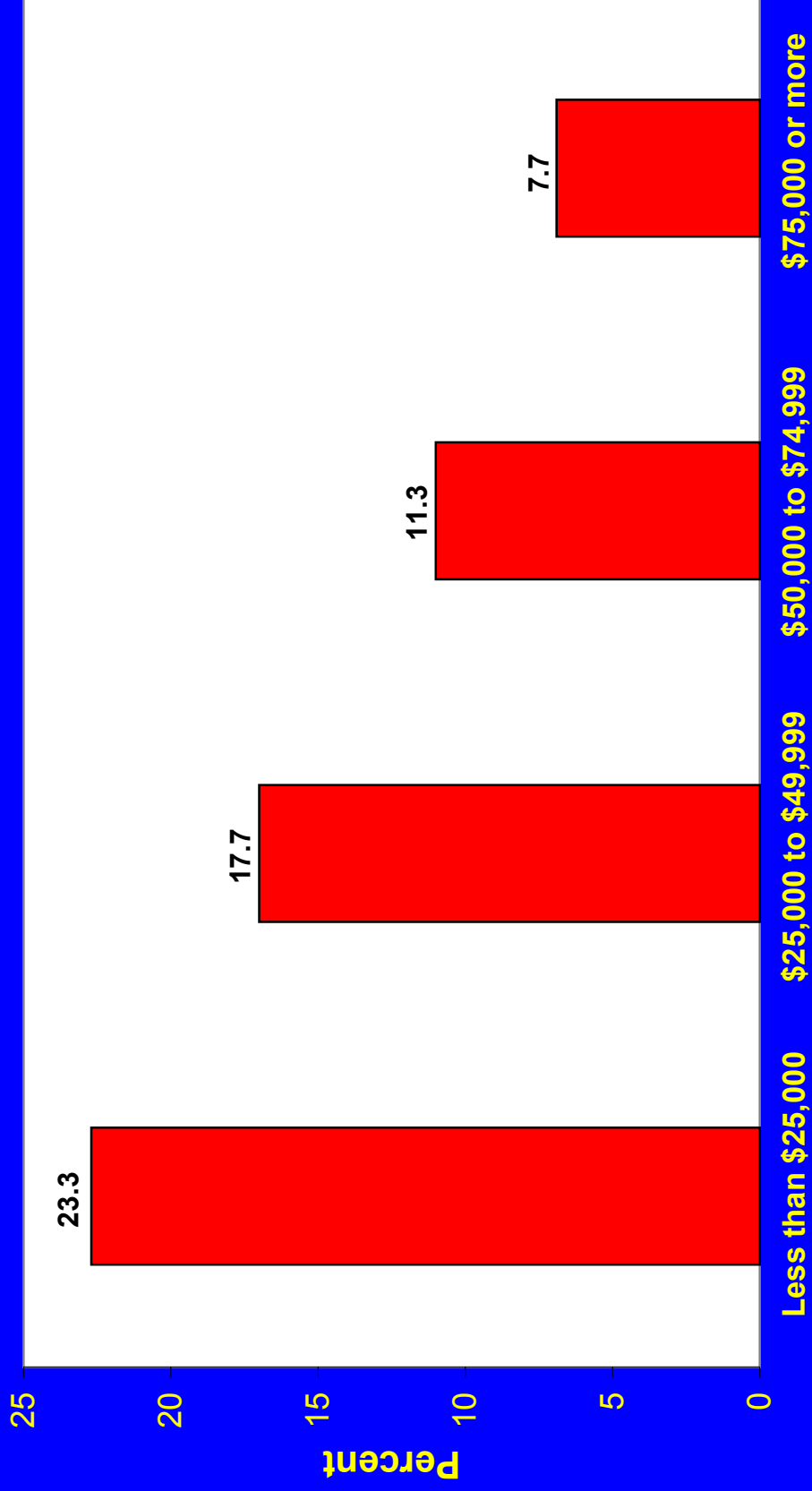
- **The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) continues to help reduce the number of uninsured poor children.** With an enrollment of 4.6 million nationwide, SCHIP has been effective at providing low-income children with health insurance. Since 1997, when the legislation was enacted as part of the Balanced Budget Act, the number of uninsured children under the age of 18 has dropped from 10.7 million to 8.5 million in 2001. However, to ensure future success, further legislation is necessary to correct a funding gap expected in the next three years.
- **The number of uninsured adults rose in 2001.** While the SCHIP program has lowered the number of uninsured children under 18 in the last four years, Americans between the ages of 18 to 24 have consistently been more likely to be uninsured than the rest of the population, and the number of uninsured young adults has increased. In 2001, 28.1 percent of 18 to 24 year olds, up from 27.6 percent in 2000, did not have health insurance. Additionally, individuals 25 to 34 saw their uninsured rates rise to 23.4 percent in 2001, an increase of 1.5 percentage points from 2000.
- **The number of Hispanics and African-Americans without health insurance increased in 2001.** Both ethnic groups experienced no statistical change last year. However, these groups have substantially higher percentages of uninsured individuals than the population as a whole. In 2001, 33.2 percent for Hispanics and 19 percent of African-Americans were uninsured.

# Number of Uninsured Americans 1987-2001



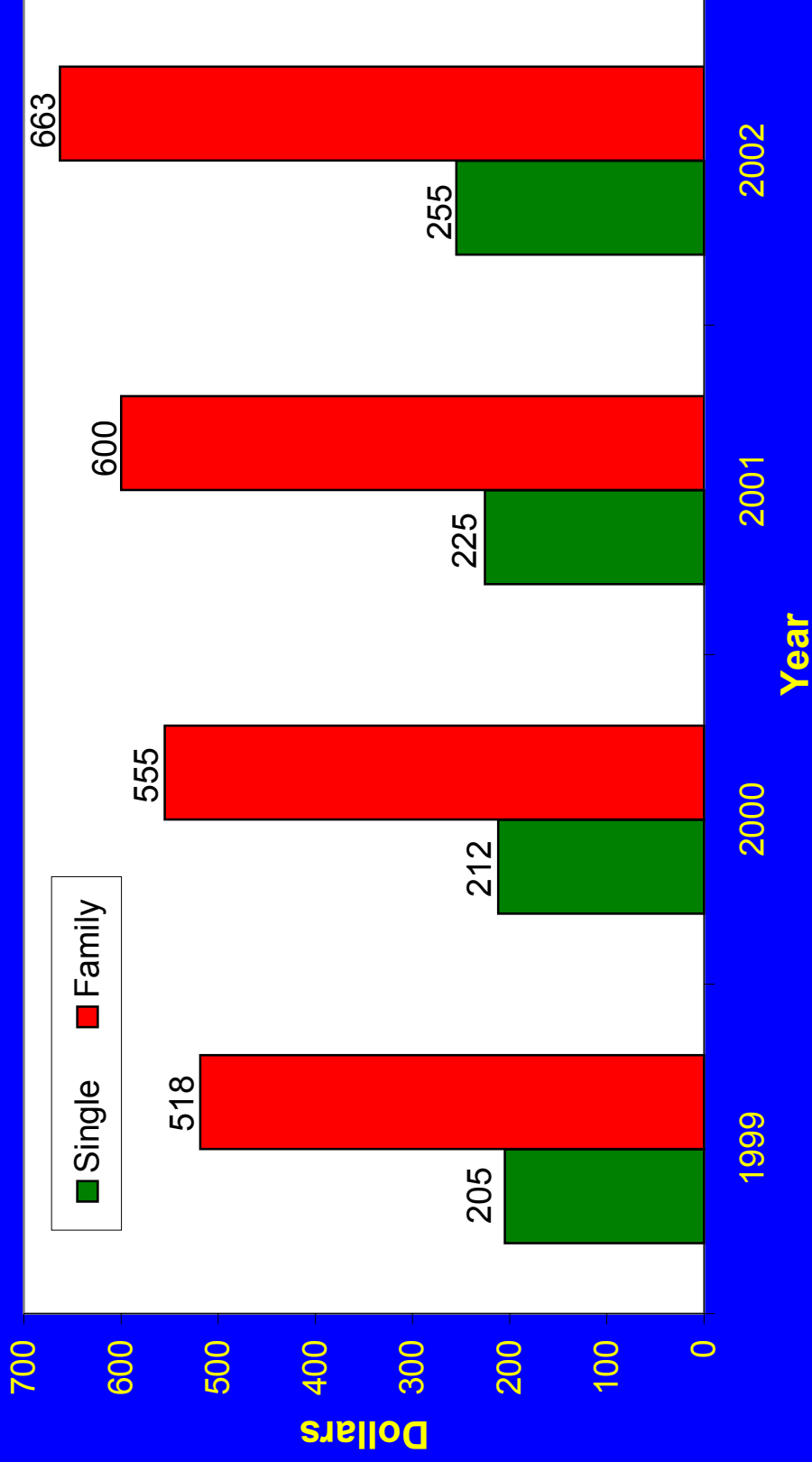
Source: Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

# Percent Uninsured by Household Income, 2001



Source: Census Bureau. U.S. Department of Commerce.

# Average Monthly Premium Costs for Covered Workers 1999-2002, in 2002 dollars



Source: Employer Health Benefits Annual Survey 1999-2002, The Kaiser Family Foundation and Health Research and Educational Trust.

## Percent of People Without Health Insurance Coverage by State

State	3-year average, 1999-2001
New Mexico	23.2
Texas	23.0
Louisiana	19.7
California	19.2
Arizona	18.4
Oklahoma	17.9
Florida	17.8
Alaska	17.7
Nevada	17.2
Idaho	16.5
Montana	16.0
New York	15.8
Wyoming	15.6
Georgia	15.3
Mississippi	15.2
Colorado	15.1
Arkansas	15.0
North Carolina	14.2
West Virginia	14.2
District of Columbia	13.6
Illinois	13.6
Utah	13.6
Washington	13.5
South Carolina	13.3
Alabama	13.2
Oregon	13.1
Kentucky	13.0
New Jersey	12.5
Virginia	11.9
Kansas	11.4
Maryland	11.3
North Dakota	10.9
Indiana	10.8
Ohio	10.8
Tennessee	10.8
Maine	10.7
South Dakota	10.4
Michigan	9.9
Connecticut	9.7
Hawaii	9.7
Vermont	9.7
Nebraska	9.6
Delaware	9.5
New Hampshire	9.0
Missouri	8.8
Massachusetts	8.7
Pennsylvania	8.7
Wisconsin	8.5
Iowa	8.0
Minnesota	7.8
Rhode Island	7.2

Source: Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.