

SNAPSHOT OF UNINSURED IN WEST VIRGINIA

- **Number of Uninsured: 254,000 people aged 0-64 in 2007¹**

The number of uninsured West Virginia represents 14% of the state's total population. In comparison, the number of uninsured in the U.S. represents 15% of our nation's total population.

- < The risk of being uninsured is greatest for adults aged 19-34.²
- < The highest rates of uninsurance occur in the southern part of the state, and uninsurance rates have increased for all regions except the eastern panhandle.³

- **More Than Half of Uninsured (53%) Are Men; 47% Are Women³**

- **Reasons for Lack of Insurance Coverage in West Virginia**

The high cost of premiums, co-pays and deductibles remains the biggest obstacle to obtaining health insurance.⁴ West Virginia spends 13 percent more per person on health care than the national average.⁵

- < **Small Business Coverage** – Because of costs, few small employers in the state offer health insurance. Nationally, 35 percent of firms with fewer than 10 workers offer health insurance compared to less than 25 percent in West Virginia.⁶

- **Impact of Being Uninsured in West Virginia**

- < Families USA estimates that four working-age West Virginians die each week due to lack of health insurance (approximately 210 people in 2006).
- < Between 2000 and 2006, the estimated number of adults between the ages of 25 and 64 in West Virginia who died because they did not have health insurance was nearly 1,500.⁹

^{1, 6} <http://www.visionshared.com/healthcarereform/Recommendations.pdf>

^{2, 3, 5} <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/wvhealthpolicy/reports/2008%20Non-Elderly%20Report.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/profileind.jsp?ind=137&cat=3&rgn=50>

BURDEN OF CHRONIC DISEASE IN WEST VIRGINIA

- **West Virginia Ranks Among the Nation's Leaders For Many Chronic Diseases.** Here are the leading causes of death in West Virginia and how West Virginia ranked nationally (in 2005)⁷:
 1. **Heart Disease** – 7th highest death rate in the U.S.
 2. **Cancer** – 6th highest death rate in the U.S.
 3. **Stroke** – Tied for 13th highest death rate in the U.S.
 4. **Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases** – 3rd highest death rate in the U.S.
 5. **Diabetes** – 2nd highest death rate in the U.S.
 6. **Kidney Disease** – 8th highest death rate in the U.S.
 7. **Infant Mortality Rate** – 15th highest rate in the U.S.
 8. **Preterm Birth Rate** – 10th highest in the U.S.
 9. **Low Birth Weight Rate** – 5th highest death rate in the U.S.
- **Major Causes of Chronic Disease in West Virginia are the High Rates of Obesity and Smoking**
- **Eighty percent (80%) of Health Care Spending in West Virginia is Associated with Chronically Ill Patients**⁸
 - < The costs of treating Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Hypertension, Stroke, Mental Disorders, and Pulmonary Conditions — without counting the costs of the secondary health problems they cause — totaled \$2.3 billion in 2003.⁹
 - < It is estimated that asthma, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease cost the state more than \$893 million annually.
- **Loss of Productivity in the Workplace**
 - < In 2003, lost workdays and lower employee productivity because of chronic conditions cost the state \$8.1 billion.⁴
 - < Smoking costs over \$1 billion in lost productivity each year.

⁷ <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/data/WVirginia09.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.visionshared.com/healthcarereform/Recommendations.pdf>

^{9,4} <http://healthcarereform.wvlegislature.gov/Resources/6/WVFactSheet.pdf>