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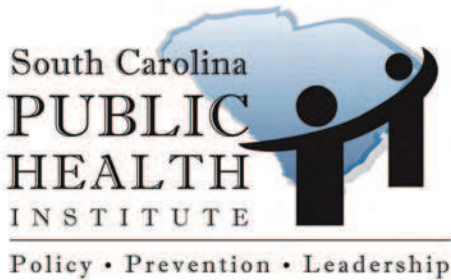


Policy • Prevention • Leadership

**DATA BRIEF:
UPDATE ON SOURCES OF DATA ON
THE UNINSURED IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

NOVEMBER 2009





Data Brief: Update on Sources of Data on the Uninsured in South Carolina

November 2009

In August 2009, the South Carolina Public Health Institute (SCPHI) released a report on the uninsured and underinsured in South Carolina (the report and an executive summary are available at www.scphi.org). The report provides data on the uninsured residents of our state and highlights the need for more timely and detailed information about the uninsured and underinsured. **The following Data Brief provides an update with statistics and maps depicting rates of uninsurance by county and Congressional District within South Carolina as well as data ranking each state in the country.**

SCPHI utilized data from The American Community Survey (ACS) to provide this most recent picture of the uninsured in South Carolina. The ACS is a new source of data for health insurance coverage estimates and is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau to provide communities with up-to-date information on key demographics and data relevant to policy development. In 2008 the Census Bureau introduced a health insurance question in the ACS questionnaire. This survey asks about coverage at the time of the survey. The first year of ASC data, 2008, was released in September 2009.

The situation in South Carolina related to the uninsured is not a good one — **one in five residents of South Carolina under the age of 65 has no health care coverage.** Additional points of significance are:

South Carolina has the 14th largest percent of the population under the age of 65 that is uninsured (**19.9%**) when compared to all other states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Congressional District 6 has the highest percent of underinsured under the age of 65 (**22.8%**) among South Carolina Congressional Districts.

Horry County has the **highest percent of uninsured** under the age of 65 (**25.8%**) among the 21 counties that could be analyzed in South Carolina.

An important feature of the ACS is that it has a large enough sample for state and sub-state level data (geographic areas must have a population of 65,000 or more for the data to be statistically significant). The Current Population Survey (CPS), a traditional source of data on the uninsured, does not provide sample sizes large enough for sub-state analysis.

The mission the South Carolina Public Health Institute (SCPHI) is to promote evidence-based policies, strategic prevention efforts, and effective leadership designed to improve the public's health now and in the future. As part of its mission, SCPHI examines public health challenges facing our state and communicates evidence-based information on issues affecting the public's health.

For this reason, SCPHI has developed the following maps and data tables based on ACS data to share this information with health care policy makers in our state. There is one caveat to using this data: because 2008 was the first year that a question on health insurance was introduced into the ACS, the strengths and limitations of this resource are not yet known. Additionally, this count is based on the latest Census data available, which was collected in 2008 before the full impact of the current recession was felt. Many states conduct periodic primary research of their own to quantify the uninsured in a timely manner with sample sizes large enough to do analysis on the county and/or city level. The last comprehensive effort to assess the uninsured in South Carolina was conducted in 2004. Updates are needed to reflect the current statistics, particularly in light of the economic downturn.

Sources: State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Table One:
The Uninsured in the U.S. and South Carolina: Percent Uninsured by Age Group, 2008

	All Ages	Under 18 years	18 to 64 years	Under 65 years	65 years or over*
US	15.1%	9.9%	19.8%	17.0%	1.4%
South Carolina	17.4%	12.6%	22.7%	19.9%	1.0%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau, 2008

*Most Americans age 65 or older are covered by Medicare.

Table Two:
The Uninsured in South Carolina: Percent Uninsured by Age Group and County**, 2008

County of Residence	All Ages	Under 18 years	18 to 64 years	Under 65 years	65 years or over*
Aiken County	17.5%	11.7%	23.1%	20.0%	2.9%
Anderson County	16.3%	9.2%	22.9%	19.0%	0.2%
Beaufort County	16.1%	14.9%	22.6%	20.2%	0.4%
Berkeley County	23.7%	22.2%	27.1%	25.7%	5.6%
Charleston County	16.7%	13.7%	20.9%	18.9%	1.1%
Darlington County	18.3%	9.4%	25.5%	20.9%	0.4%
Dorchester County	17.4%	13.4%	21.7%	19.2%	0.2%
Florence County	18.0%	8.9%	24.5%	20.2%	2.2%
Greenville County	17.5%	14.8%	21.6%	19.7%	1.0%
Greenwood County	13.6%	8.2%	19.2%	16.0%	0.0%
Horry County	21.6%	17.4%	28.8%	25.8%	0.8%
Lancaster County	18.0%	4.3%	26.8%	20.7%	0.0%
Laurens County	13.7%	8.2%	18.8%	16.0%	0.0%
Lexington County	13.9%	8.9%	18.2%	15.6%	0.9%
Oconee County	18.2%	13.7%	25.2%	22.2%	0.7%
Orangeburg County	18.3%	9.7%	25.7%	21.2%	0.5%
Pickens County	14.9%	11.9%	18.9%	17.2%	0.0%
Richland County	14.0%	9.2%	17.9%	15.5%	0.4%
Spartanburg County	18.5%	16.6%	22.9%	21.1%	0.8%
Sumter County	15.6%	8.8%	22.4%	18.1%	0.2%
York County	15.6%	9.6%	20.4%	17.4%	0.4%

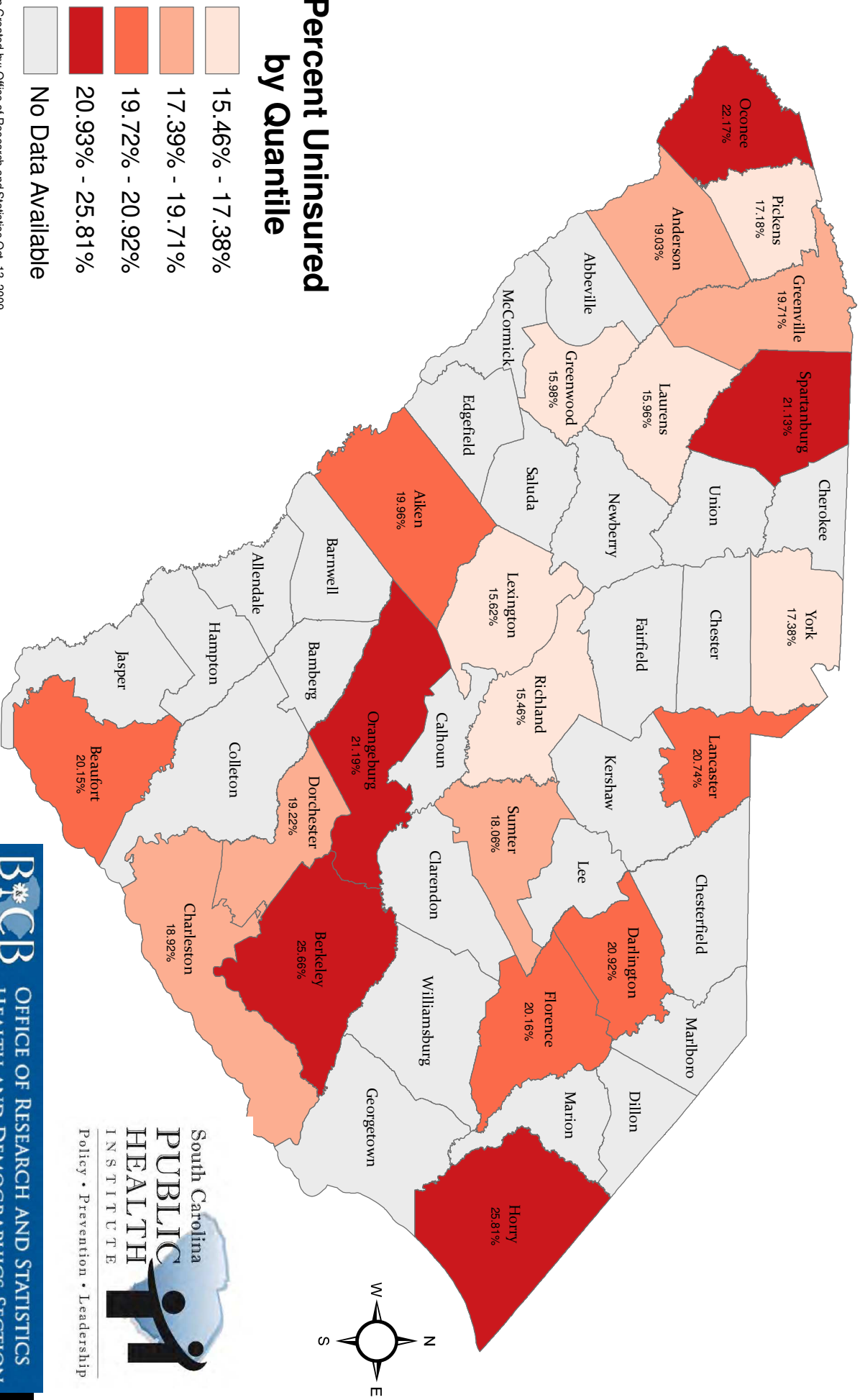
Source: American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau, 2008

*Most Americans age 65 or older are covered by Medicare.

**Only includes counties with a population of at least 65,000.

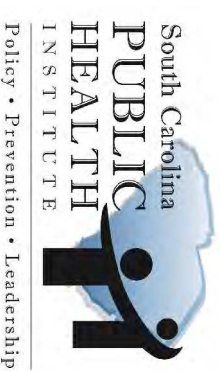
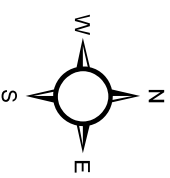
The Uninsured:

Rates for the Under Age 65 Population in South Carolina by County

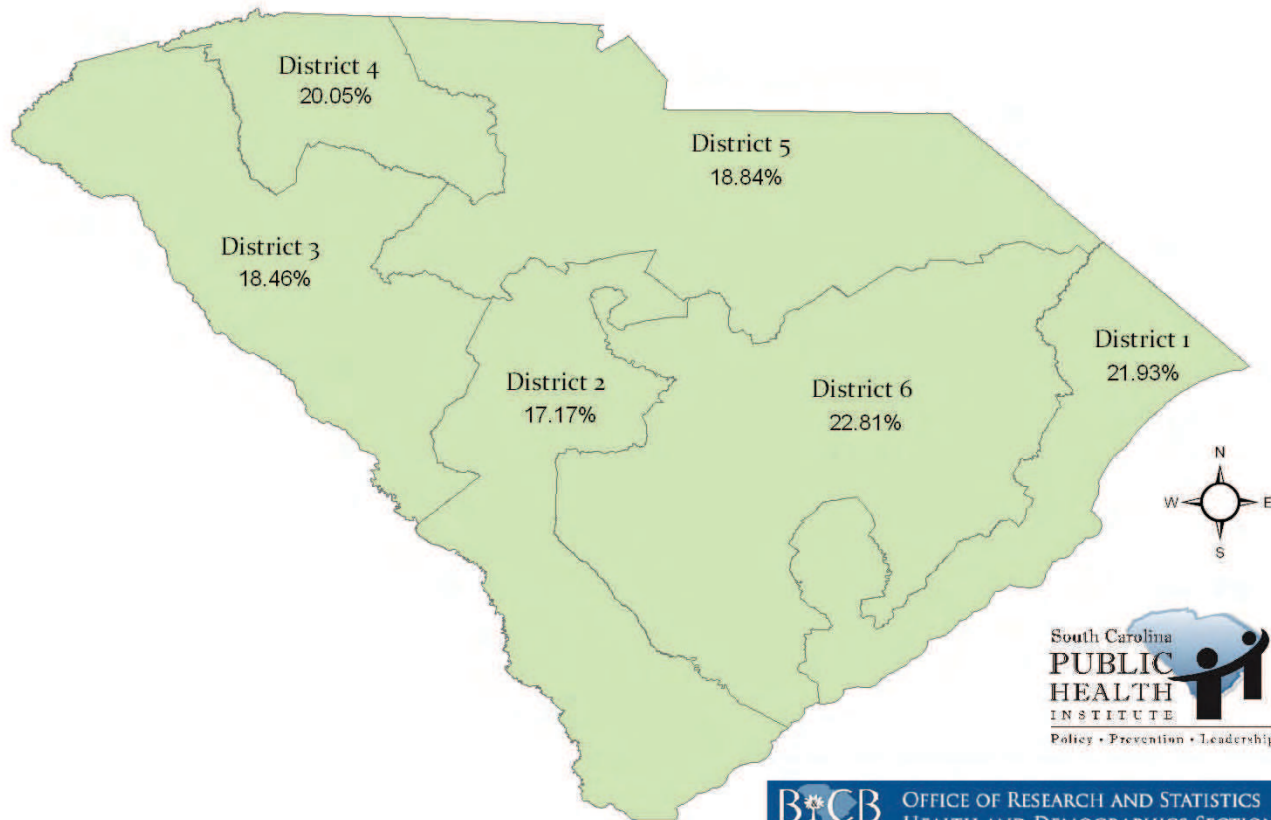


Percent Uninsured by Quintile

- 15.46% - 17.38%
- 17.39% - 19.71%
- 19.72% - 20.92%
- 20.93% - 25.81%
- No Data Available



The Uninsured: Rates for the Under Age 65 Population in South Carolina by Congressional District



Map Created by: Office of Research and Statistics Oct. 13, 2009.
Uninsured Rates are from, U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

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Table Three:
The Uninsured in South Carolina: Percent Uninsured by Age Group and Congressional

Congressional District	All Ages	Under 18 years	18 to 64 years	Under 65 years	65 years or over*
Congressional District 1	19.1%	15.6%	24.3%	21.9%	1.5%
Congressional District 2	15.0%	10.1%	20.1%	17.2%	0.5%
Congressional District 3	15.8%	10.9%	21.2%	18.5%	1.0%
Congressional District 4	17.7%	14.9%	22.1%	20.1%	0.9%
Congressional District 5	16.6%	9.1%	22.8%	18.8%	0.8%
Congressional District 6	20.1%	14.8%	25.9%	22.8%	1.3%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau, 2008

*Most Americans age 65 or older are covered by Medicare.

Table Four:
Percent Uninsured under Age 65 and Rank, 2008

State	Percent Uninsured under 65 years	Rank	State	Percent Uninsured under 65 years	Rank
Texas	26.5%	1	Washington	14.7%	27
Florida	24.8%	2	Illinois	14.2%	28
New Mexico	24.2%	3	New Jersey	13.9%	29
Nevada	23.8%	4	Kansas	13.8%	30
Oklahoma	22.3%	5	South Dakota	13.5%	31
Alaska	21.4%	6	Virginia	13.4%	32
Montana	21.2%	7	Ohio	13.4%	33
Arizona	21.2%	8	New York	13.3%	34
Arkansas	20.8%	9	Michigan	13.1%	35
Georgia	20.7%	10	Maine	12.7%	36
Mississippi	20.2%	11	Nebraska	12.7%	37
Louisiana	20.0%	12	Maryland	12.3%	38
Idaho	20.0%	13	New Hampshire	12.2%	39
South Carolina	19.9%	14	North Dakota	12.1%	40
California	19.7%	15	Rhode Island	12.0%	41
Colorado	19.0%	16	Delaware	11.8%	42
Oregon	18.7%	17	Pennsylvania	10.9%	43
West Virginia	18.6%	18	Iowa	10.5%	44
North Carolina	18.0%	19	Vermont	10.4%	45
Utah	16.9%	20	Wisconsin	10.4%	46
Alabama	16.1%	21	Connecticut	10.2%	47
Kentucky	16.1%	22	Minnesota	9.8%	48
Wyoming	15.7%	23	Puerto Rico	9.7%	49
Indiana	15.7%	24	District of Columbia	8.7%	50
Tennessee	15.5%	25	Hawaii	7.8%	51
Missouri	14.9%	26	Massachusetts	4.6%	52

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau, 2008