



EBRI News

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New Research from EBRI:

Census Revision Had Small Impact on Number of Uninsured

WASHINGTON—A U.S. Census Bureau revision of data for 2004 and 2005 caused a small reduction in the overall number of uninsured U.S. residents and slightly modified the demographic and work place composition of the uninsured, according to a study released today by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI).

The Census Bureau announced in March that it had revised its estimates for the number of people with and without health insurance after discovering a coding error that affected a small number of individuals. These individuals were coded as not having health insurance coverage when, in fact, they did have coverage. The May 2007 *EBRI Issue Brief*, available at www.ebri.org, updates the data for individuals under age 65.

The EBRI update makes these main points:

- Based on the new Census data, the number of individuals under age 65 with health insurance increased by 1.8 million in both 2004 and 2005—a 0.7 percentage point increase in individuals with coverage and a 0.7 percentage point decrease in individuals counted as uninsured during each year. The increase in coverage was mainly due to an increase in the number of people with employment-based health benefits as a dependent.
- Overall, the Census Bureau correction had a small impact on national uninsured estimates. The estimated number of individuals under age 65 without health insurance coverage was reduced from 46.1 million in 2005 prior to the correction to 44.4 million after the correction, or from 17.9 percent to 17.2 percent (a 0.7 percentage point decline).
- While the overall decrease in the estimated number of uninsured was slight, the correction has affected various subgroups disproportionately. The uninsured population is now slightly more likely to be male, Hispanic, foreign-born noncitizen, lower-income, and adult dependent (whether working or not working). Uninsured workers are now more likely to be employed in small firms; in agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, construction, and service industries; and on a part-time or part-year basis.
- However, the overall change in the uninsured population is minor (less than 1 percentage point) and these changes in the distribution of the uninsured population are slight at best.

The May 2007 *EBRI Issue Brief* updates data originally published in the October 2006 *EBRI Issue Brief*.

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