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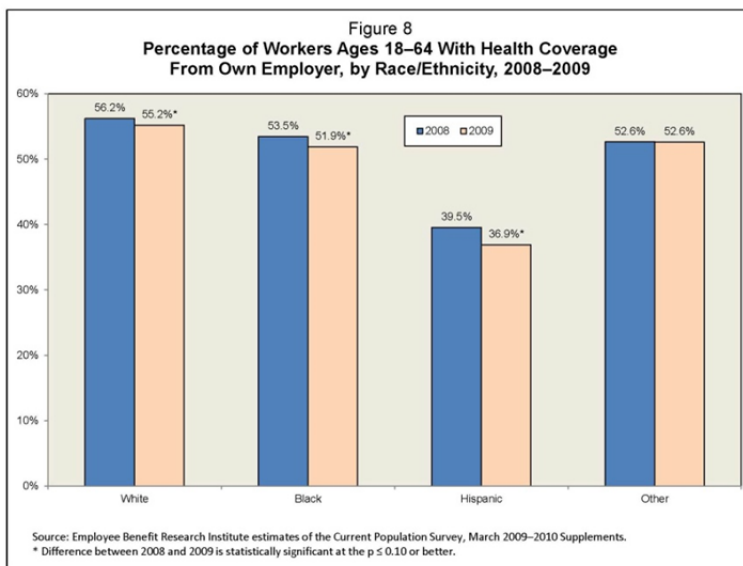
**Fast Fact from EBRI:**

## Race, Ethnicity and Health Coverage During the Recession

WASHINGTON—How did the recent recession affect the health coverage of workers of different races or ethnic backgrounds?

According to a study by the nonprofit Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), workers of all races experienced statistically significant declines in coverage during 2008 and 2009.

The study found that the likelihood that non-Hispanic whites who had coverage through their own job fell from 56.2 percent to 55.2 percent. Among non-Hispanic blacks, the percentage with coverage fell from 53.5 percent to 51.9 percent. And among Hispanics of all races, the percentage with coverage through their own job fell from 39.5 percent to 36.9 percent.



The analysis uses data from 2008 and 2009 that were collected in the March 2009 and March 2010 Current Population Survey following the 2007–2009 recession. The full report appears in the April 2011 *EBRI Issue Brief*, “The Impact of the 2007–2009 Recession on Workers’ Health Coverage,” online at [www.ebri.org](http://www.ebri.org).

During a recession, some employers will drop coverage, some will increase the worker share of the premium, and some may change eligibility requirements. Structural changes in the economy during a recession, such as the substitution of part-time workers for full-time workers, reduce the number of workers eligible for health benefits. This reflects the

fact that while unemployment is rising, an increasing share of workers might decline coverage for a number of reasons.

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