



## Why New Mexico Needs Health Reform: By the Numbers

Our broken health care system forces families and businesses to struggle with skyrocketing costs and puts millions of Americans at risk of losing the insurance they have now. Here is how our broken health care system affects people in New Mexico.

- 80 residents of New Mexico are losing health insurance every day, and 14,000 Americans nationwide lose insurance daily.
- The average family premium in New Mexico costs \$2,300 more because our system fails to cover everyone—and \$1,100 more nationally.
- Our broken health insurance system will cost the New Mexico economy as much as \$2.2 billion this year in productivity losses due to the uninsured—and up to \$248 billion nationally.
- In New Mexico there has been a 10 percent increase in the uninsured rate since 2007.
- 470,000 are uninsured today in New Mexico.
- In New Mexico the combined market share of the top two insurers is 65 percent, limiting employers' and families' health insurance options as well as the care they receive.
- The average family premium will rise from \$13,033 to \$22,238 by 2019 in New Mexico without health care reform.
- In New Mexico, without health care reform, 65,880 will have lost coverage from January 2008 to December 2010.
- In New Mexico, 220,000 people would gain coverage as a result of the House health care reform bill by 2013, and 353,000 would gain coverage by 2019.
- A typical New Mexico family will pay \$22,238 for health coverage in 2019 without health care reform.

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## In their own words

Martha is an all-too typical example of a small business owner who finds herself unable to afford health care coverage for her small staff and continues to struggle with the high premiums of her own health care coverage. One of the most unique spots along Historic Route 66 as it passes through Albuquerque is the Nob Hill area, and nestled in the heart of its unique shops and restaurants is Martha's "Body Bueno" Shop, a widely recognized retail store selling Martha's line of all-natural skin products. Although her store is a well-loved local fixture, Martha is not able to afford health care coverage for her employees. She can barely afford coverage for herself. Martha greatly values the help of her two full-time and two part-time employees, and wishes she had the ability to provide them with health benefits without cutting into their salaries. Unfortunately, her business does not pull in enough money for her to do this. Martha has been purchasing coverage for herself through Blue Cross Blue Shield, but every time she sees the rise in the premiums, she becomes increasingly concerned about her ability to afford it. She understands the importance of health care coverage and worries about the implications for herself and her employees, should any of them face a sudden medical emergency. But the day-to-day financial concerns of owning and operating her small business take precedent.

*Martha, Albuquerque, NM*  
*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 7.23.09*

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## Additional national statistics

- 128,000 small business jobs and \$84 billion per year can be saved with health reform.
- At least 62.1 percent of bankruptcies in 2007 were medical bankruptcies.
- The typical household will pay \$15,000 for health care this year—and they'll pay \$18,000 next year.
- The typical household will be paying \$36,000 for health care by 2020.
- We can save \$600 billion by modernizing our health care system.
- Twenty-five million Americans are underinsured, meaning that out-of-pocket health care costs absorbed 10 percent or more of a family's income or 5 percent of an adult's income.
- Almost 52 million Americans are uninsured.
- Approximately 87 million people—one in three Americans—went without health insurance for some period during 2007 and 2008.