



Why Louisiana 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 Louisiana.

- 180 residents of Louisiana are losing health insurance every day, and 14,000 Americans nationwide lose insurance daily.
- The average family premium in Louisiana costs \$900 more because our system fails to cover everyone—and \$1,100 more nationally.
- Our broken health insurance system will cost the Louisiana economy as much as \$4.0 billion this year in productivity losses due to the uninsured—and up to \$248 billion nationally.
- In Louisiana there has been a 7 percent increase in the uninsured rate since 2007.
- 840,000 are uninsured today in Louisiana.
- In Louisiana the combined market share of the top two insurers is 74 percent, limiting employers' and families' health insurance options as well as the care they receive.
- The average family premium will rise from \$12,474 to \$21,286 by 2019 in Louisiana without health care reform.
- In Louisiana, without health care reform, 127,040 will have lost coverage from January 2008 to December 2010.
- In Louisiana, 423,000 people would gain coverage as a result of the House health care reform bill by 2013, and 681,000 would gain coverage by 2019.
- A typical Louisiana family will pay \$21,286 for health coverage in 2019 without health care reform.

In their own words

“I have a heart murmur, thyroid growths on my ovaries and I have trouble with my legs – but I still go to work,” said 55-year-old Evelyn Harp. Harp works two jobs, but with health insurance too high, she does not always get the medical treatment she needs. “Sometimes I can afford it, sometimes I can’t afford it,” she said of doctor visits and medical tests. Harp is hoping things will eventually change.

Evelyn Harp, New Orleans, LA
WWLTV.com Top Stories, 7.23.09

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.