

# Research Brief



TOPIC: 2006 Washington Population Survey – Uninsured Statistics  
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Prepared by: Erin Burchfield  
Source: Washington Population Survey Data accessed at:  
<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/default.asp>

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The 2006 Washington State Population Survey results demonstrate that the structural problem of the uninsured in Washington State remains entrenched - the percentage of uninsured in Washington has not changed since 2004.<sup>1</sup> Progress was made in children's coverage, however, with a 23% decrease in the number of children who were uninsured over the last two years. We have the infrastructure in place to insure two-thirds of the uninsured if the programs were adequately funded with appropriate outreach.

### There are still close to 600,000 uninsured people in Washington State.

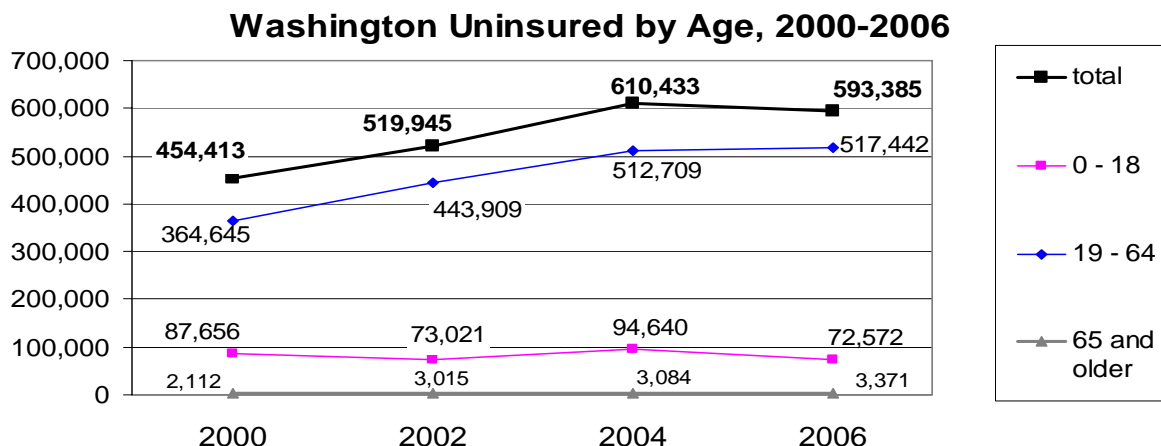
- 593,000 people were uninsured in 2006 – 17,000 fewer people than in 2004, but almost 140,000 more people than in 2000 (a 31% increase).
- The uninsured rate in 2006 was 9.3%, a non-statistically significant decrease from the 9.9% rate in 2004 – however, it is an increase from the 7.7% rate in 2000.
- Nearly three quarters of the uninsured (ages 0-64) are in working families (73%).<sup>2</sup>

### The number of uninsured children has dropped back to levels similar to those in 2002, the lowest number of uninsured children this decade.

- 72,572 children were uninsured in 2006, which is a 23% drop from 2004 uninsured levels, putting the state about where it was in 2002.
- This drops the child uninsurance rate from 5.9% in 2004 to 4.4% in 2006.

### The increase in the uninsured is being driven by working age adults – a 42% increase in this decade.

- The number of uninsured working age adults (ages 19-64) increased by over 4,000 people, even though the overall number of uninsured declined slightly, for a total of 517,000. This is a 42% increase in the number of uninsured working adults this decade – over 150,000 more than in 2000.



**We have the infrastructure in place to cover nearly 400,000 people or two-thirds of the uninsured if current programs were adequately funded.**

- The majority of this group, over 350,000 people, are adults living at 200% of the federal poverty level or less (\$33,200 per year for a family of 3.) Adults at this income level are eligible for the Basic Health Plan, however enrollment funding is now capped at 106,500 slots which does not meet the need of this population.
- Currently, over 45,000 children are living in families with incomes at 250% of the federal poverty level or below which makes them eligible for either Medicaid or the SCHIP program. As entitlement programs, both are required to cover all eligibles.

**Community health centers remain the medical home for about 1/3 of the state's uninsured, and over half of the uninsured kids in Washington.**

- In 2005, CHCs served over 200,000 of the state's uninsured – more than a third of the 2006 uninsured in Washington.
- In 2005, CHCs served over 40,000 uninsured children, this is over half of the state's 73,000 uninsured children in 2006 (57%).

**The levels of employer and public program insurance remain unchanged over the last two years.<sup>3</sup>**

- There was a slight and non-statistically significant increase in employer sponsored insurance over the last two years – in 2006 62.5% of the population received insurance through their employer, while in 2004, 61.1% had employer based insurance.
- Medicaid (13%) and Basic Health program (15.6%) coverage rates are similar to 2004.

**The majority of the uninsured are white (66%).<sup>4</sup>**

- Hispanic: 22%
- Black: 5%
- Asian: 2%
- American Indian / Alaska Native: 4%
- Native Hawaiian: 2%

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<sup>1</sup> Data on 2000-2004 uninsured differs from previously reported statistics because the Office of Financial Management altered the weighting system for the Washington Population Survey in October 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Analysis taken from the "The Uninsured Population in Washington State", Research Brief 39. Washington State Office of Financial Management. <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/researchbriefs/default.asp> .

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.