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# *Available Data on Alaska's Uninsured:*

*Getting started on the path to more  
affordable health coverage*

For "Covering the Uninsured Week"  
May 1, 2006

Health Planning & Systems Development Unit  
Office of the Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Health & Social Services  
Phone: 465-3091

[www.hss.state.ak.us/commissioner/Healthplanning](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/commissioner/Healthplanning)

# Questions, Answers

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First: what do we know about health insurance coverage and lack of coverage in Alaska?

Second, what do we need to know to recommend better policy?

What the data\* tell us:

- People who are self-employed, part-time workers, seasonal workers, and people who work for small firms are most likely to be uninsured.
- Most of the uninsured are employed; most uninsured who are not employed are children and others not in the workforce; only one in ten of the uninsured are unemployed people in the workforce (slide #9).

\*Current Population Survey (CPS), US Census Bureau.

# Counts by Age of the Uninsured in Alaska 2002-2004

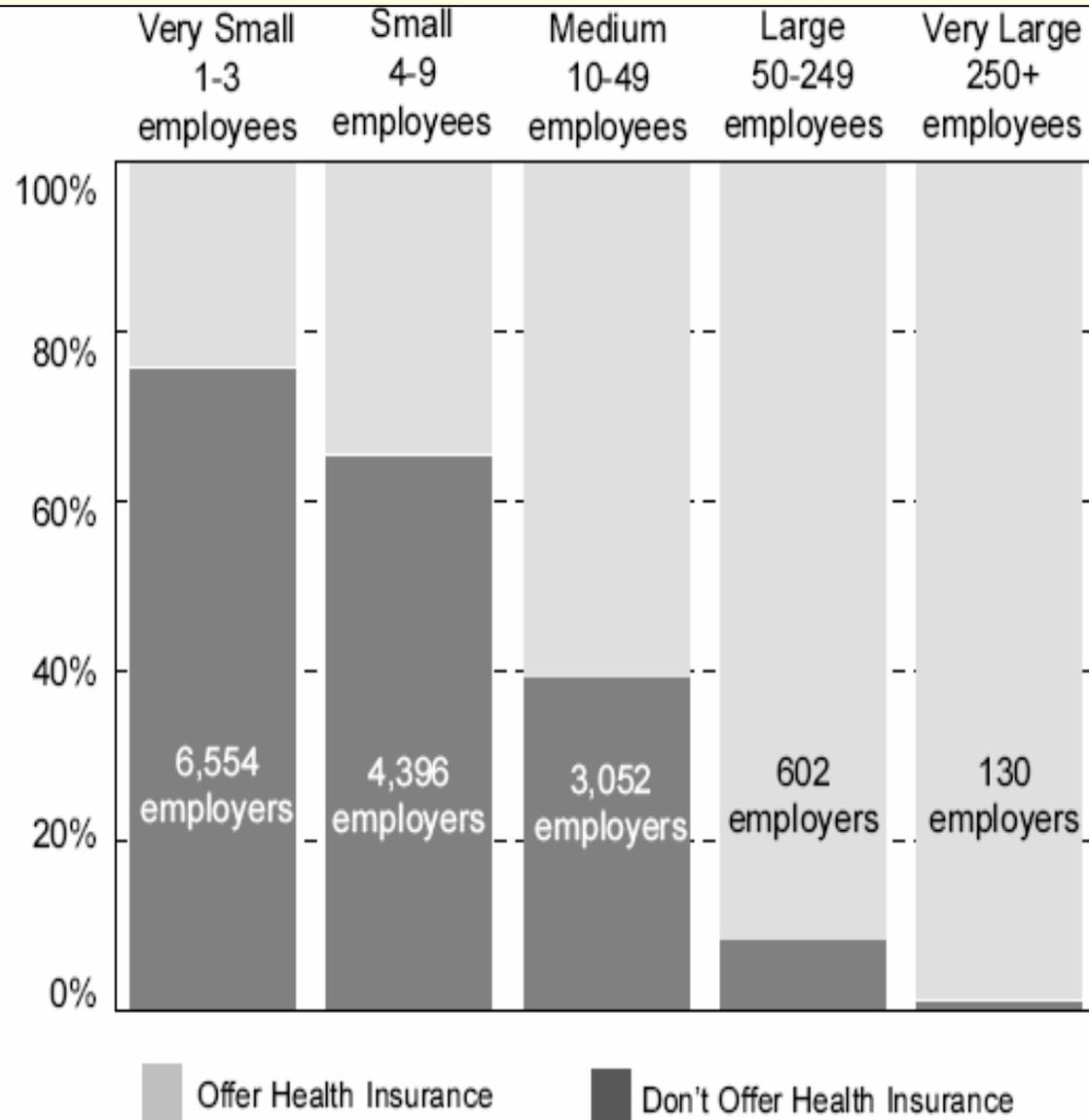
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- About 117,000 Alaskans (18% of the population) have been counted as "uninsured" on average 2002-2004.

(Source: Current Population Survey of the US Census Bureau, Annual March Supplement)

- 20% (23,000) of the uninsured are children 18 and under
- 79% (93,000) of the uninsured are non-elderly adults
- 1% (800) are elderly 65 and over

# SMALLER FIRMS ARE LESS LIKELY TO OFFER HEALTH INSURANCE



May 2006

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# Alaska "State Planning Grant" is Looking at Options for Affordable Health Benefits

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## How we are learning about needs for health insurance in Alaska:

- **Household survey** of Alaskans to learn about kinds of coverage, barriers to coverage, and relationship to places and kinds of employment
- **Employer survey** of benefit offerings and the problems faced by employers in finding affordable packages to offer
- **Focus groups** with citizens and employers to get more deeply into some of the specific issues
- **Interviews** with people who work as advocates, or who represent interest groups such as small employers
- **Economic analysis** of costs, impacts on individual citizens, businesses and on public "safety net" programs of the lack of insurance options
- **Examining strategies and their effectiveness** in place in Alaska and in other states that help address the need

# Where to Find Information, Share Concerns and Stories

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Attend or call in to Forum at 2 this afternoon  
(800-944-8766 passcode 64519), or attend at 6  
A website link will be available soon on the web page of  
Health Planning & Systems Development:

[www.hss.state.ak.us/commissioner/healthplanning](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/commissioner/healthplanning)

(For links to information about insurance, for data and  
research on the uninsured, and for a form for sending  
comments, stories and suggestions to the Unit staff)

Email: [infohealthplanning@health.state.ak.us](mailto:infohealthplanning@health.state.ak.us)

Write: Health Planning & Systems Development  
PO Box 110601 Juneau AK 99811