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CONTACT

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Anne Saunders  
603.715.5382

## Census Data: Fewer Granite Staters with Health Insurance in 2011

CONCORD – The share of New Hampshire’s population without health insurance has grown since 2008-2009 from 10 percent to 11.3 percent in 2010-2011.

The two-year moving average for the state is part of data released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. All told, 147,000 state residents went without health insurance coverage for the most recent two-year period.

“New Hampshire has an opportunity to expand its Medicaid program, largely at federal expense, and these numbers suggest this could be an important way to help our uninsured residents,” said Jeff McLynch, executive director of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute.

The Census Bureau also found that poverty levels in the state remain unchanged from 2008-2009 and that median household income remains stagnant and well below pre-recession levels. Median household income in New Hampshire, adjusted for inflation, has fallen \$3,900 since 2006-2007 and stands now at \$67,308.

New Hampshire’s poverty rate, at 7.1 percent, shows no improvement from 2008-2009. But it remains markedly higher than a decade ago (2000-2001) when it was at 5.5 percent.

“The data suggest that, over the past year, New Hampshire has made no progress in combating poverty or boosting incomes. When policymakers reconvene in January to craft the next budget, they need to take a different approach, one that puts struggling families first,” he said.

At the national level, the Census Bureau reports poverty levels at 15 percent, unchanged from last year, but median household income is down by 1.5 percent, adjusting for inflation, to \$50,054.

The state-by-state figures from the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey are preliminary. Later this month, on Sept. 20, the Census Bureau will release more detailed state-level data as part of the American Community Survey.