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**news release**

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**Census Data: Fewer Granite Staters with**

**Health Insurance in 2012**

CONCORD – The share of New Hampshire’s population without health insurance has grown since 2009-2010 from 11.5 percent to 14.1 percent in

2011-2012.

The two-year moving average for the state is part of data released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. All told, 158,500 state residents under the age of 65 went without health insurance coverage for the most recent two-year period, an increase of almost 30,000.

“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 and boost our economy at the same time,” said Jeff McLynch, executive director of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute.

According to the Census data, 43,000 fewer Granite Staters are covered with employer-sponsored insurance, down from 2009-2010 and part of a long-term decline since 1999.

When it comes to children, Medicaid coverage is helping to preserve access to medical care for kids. Nearly 67,000 New Hampshire children were covered by Medicaid in 2011-2012, up from 51,000 in 2009-2010, meaning that Medicaid now reaches nearly a quarter of N.H. children.

New Hampshire’s poverty rate, at 7.9 percent, shows no improvement from 2009-2010. But it remains markedly higher than a decade ago (2000-2001) when it was at 5.5 percent.

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

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