



National Association of Health Underwriters

America's Benefits Specialists

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Number of Uninsured Americans Decreased By More Than One Million

(Arlington, VA) – The U.S Census Bureau released new figures today on the number of Americans without health insurance and the good news is that the number has dropped for the first time in several years. In 2007, 45.7 million people were without health insurance coverage, down from 46.9 million people in 2006.

“Even though the number of uninsured Americans declined slightly over the past year, we still must address the real issue that millions of Americans can’t afford health insurance,” stated Janet Trautwein, executive vice president and CEO of NAHU. “As health care costs continue to soar, so does the cost of providing the health benefits to cover those expenses. The factors impacting the cost of medical care require comprehensive solutions in order to achieve a ‘healthy’ system where Americans have access to affordable and high-quality health care.

“NAHU shares the concern of many that we have far too many uninsured in America, and we are committed to working with policymakers to broaden access to affordable and high-quality health insurance. NAHU’s health care reform plan, ‘Healthy Access,’ focuses on containing the cost of medical care in a number of ways including, wellness initiatives, eliminating public-program cost-shifting, and paying for the most effective care. It also focuses on providing meaningful incentives for the purchase of health insurance coverage as well as assistance for those with lower incomes. These ‘Healthy Access’ principles guide our advocacy efforts both federally and in the states.

“Many studies show that 25 percent of uninsured Americans are eligible for public programs such as Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) and nearly 75 percent of all uninsured children are eligible but not enrolled in these programs. Many others, including many children who are uninsured today, are eligible for employer-sponsored coverage but can’t afford their share of the premiums. We need to focus our efforts on finding ways to educate Americans on the health coverage options that are available to them, both public and private. NAHU’s Healthy Access Database details public plan options and ways to access the private health insurance market in all 50 states and can be used to compare health coverage options for Americans on a state-by-state basis.”

For more information about NAHU’s Healthy Access Database or Healthy Access Reform Plan, go to www.nahu.org.

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents more than 20,000 health insurance agents, brokers, consultants and other health insurance professionals. Its members serve employers and individual consumers in accessing and purchasing affordable health insurance and related products. For more information, please contact Kelly Loussedes, vice president of public relations, at 703-276-3835 or kloussedes@nahu.org.

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