

Health insurance coverage in Iowa: A tale of six reports

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In this presentation

- Iowa health insurance coverage
 - Children
 - Adults
 - Businesses
 - Trends in coverage
 - Impact of coverage-related issues
 - Willingness to change
- Holes in knowledge



Reports summarized

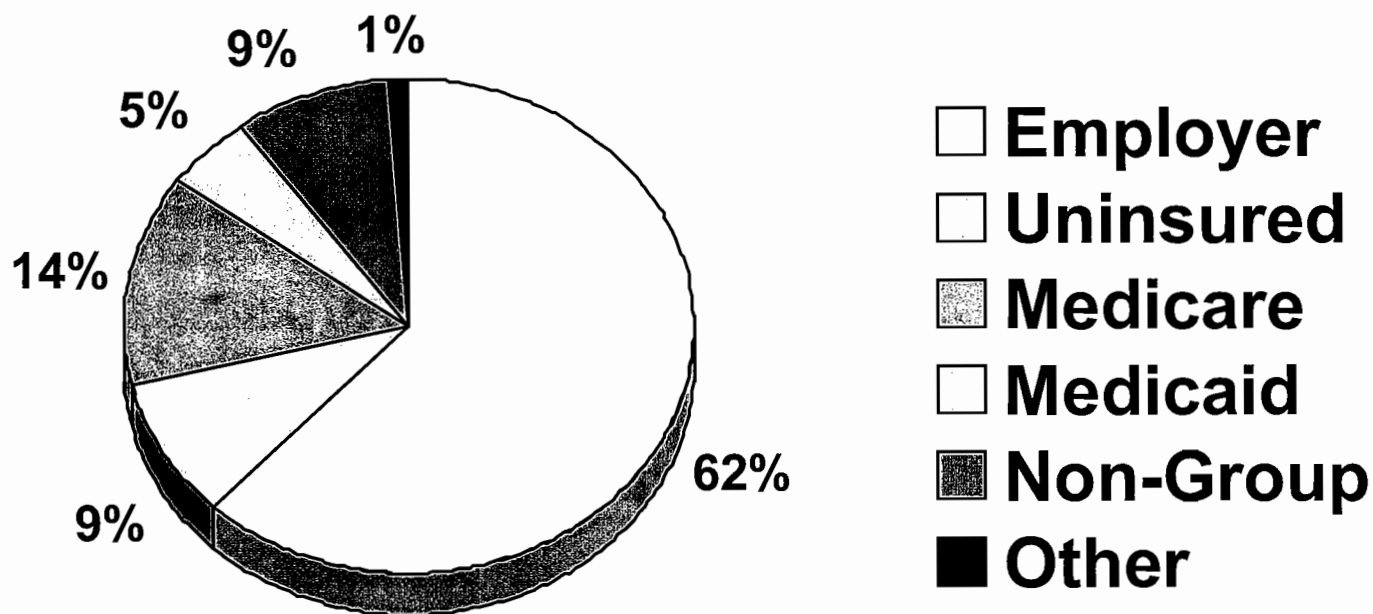
1. **2005 Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey**
 - Child coverage issues
2. **2005 IDPH Survey of Iowa Consumers**
 - Adult coverage issues
3. **2005 Iowa State Planning Grant**
 - Adult coverage issues
 - 2005 Iowa survey data and national data
4. **What a drag it is**
 - Business attitudes about coverage (2004)
5. **2001 Iowa State Planning grant**
 - Consumer surveys/focus groups
 - Business surveys
6. **Iowan's Talk about Examining Health Care**



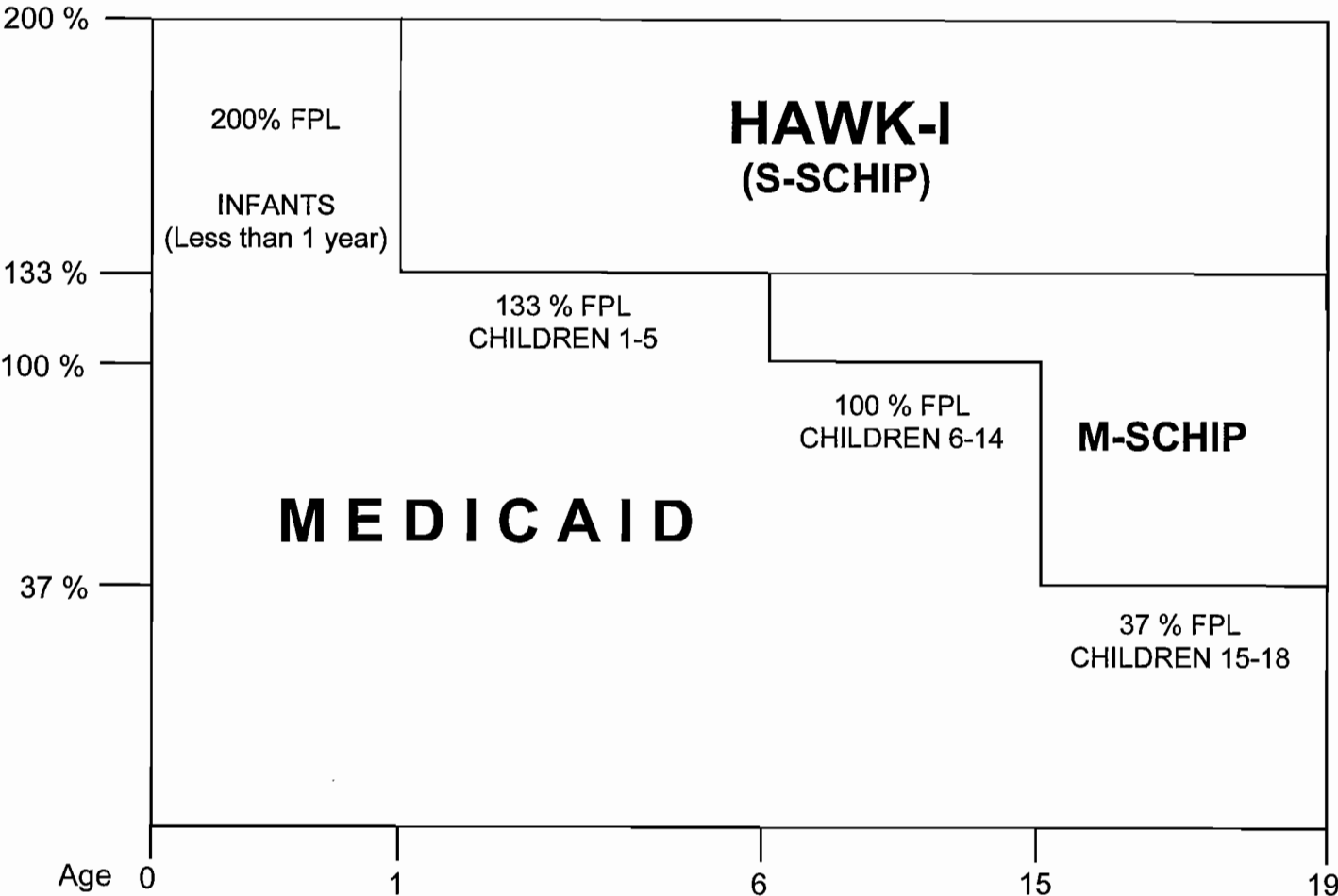
Health Insurance of lowans



Insurance Coverage (all ages)



Public insurance for children



Uninsured (all ages)

- Varied by age:
 - 9% overall
 - 3% for children
 - 12% for adults 19-64
 - 19% for 19-24
- Varied by race:
 - White-9%
 - Black-12%
 - Hispanic/Latino-22%
- Varied by Gender
 - Men-10%
 - Women-8%



Source: 2001 SPG report from CPS data



Uninsured (all ages)

- Varied by marital status:
 - Married 7%
 - Unmarried 11%
 - 14% divorced/separated
- Varied by race:
 - White-9%
 - Black-12%
 - Hispanic/Latino-22%
- Varied by income
 - Under \$20,000-37%
 - \$20-30,000-23%
 - >\$50,000-20%

(half of uninsured in families with incomes below 200% FPL)

Iowa children's coverage

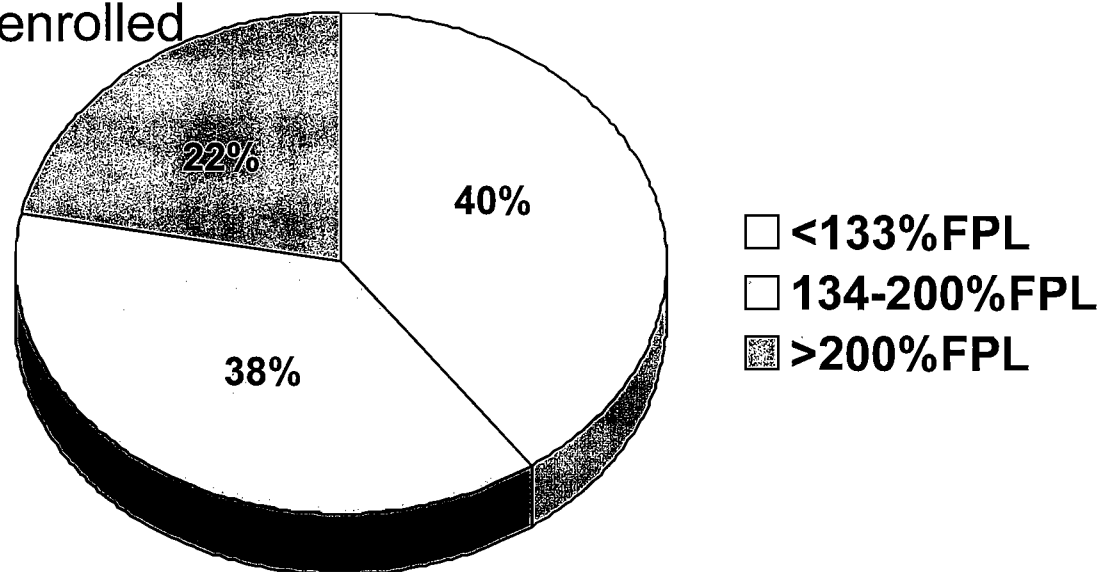


Uninsured children in Iowa

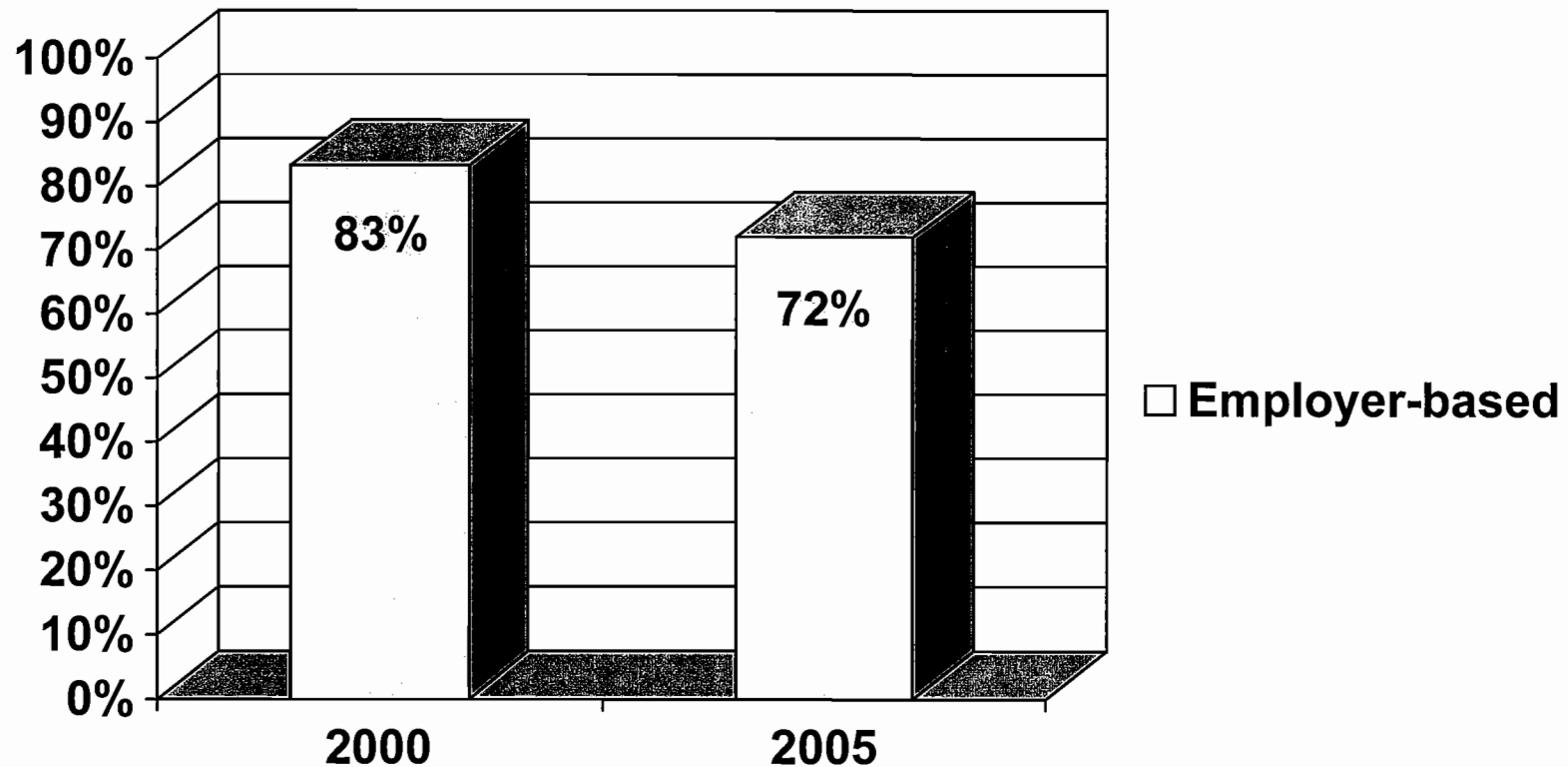
- Coverage improved from 2000-2005
 - 6% to 3% uninsured
 - 4% uninsured at some point in year
 - 1/4 a had parent with insurance
 - 20% without dental insurance
 - Improved from 25% in 2000
- Most uninsured due to related issues of high cost and lost job and/or lost benefits

Uninsured children in Iowa

- 3/4 of uninsured children are eligible for Medicaid/*hawk-i*
 - 99% of all children in Iowa covered if all up to 200% FPL enrolled



Employer-based insurance declined for children



- 20% of children with private insurance had been in Medicaid at some point in life (3% in hawk-i)

Parents

- 11% uninsured-same as 2000
- 83% have same insurance as child
 - 70% through an employer
- 90%-health insurance “very important” for them
 - 97%- “very important” for their children to have insurance

Uninsured Adults

- 81% of uninsured were employed
 - 5% unemployed
- 2/3 were without insurance for more than a year
 - 20% for 10 years or more
- 3/4 reported in good or excellent health



Source: 2001 SPG report from CPS and IA consumer survey



Uninsured adults

- 3/4 never turned down a job with coverage
- 1/4 declined coverage from work
- Among those declining coverage, 1/3 thought they would have to pay \$200 or more per month for insurance

Employers



Employer coverage: Iowa

- In Iowa, 54% of employers offer health insurance
- Health insurance varies by number of employees
 - 97%- >50 employees
 - 85%-11-50 employees
 - 54%-4-10 employees
 - 30%-1-3 employees
- 50% of employers pay entire premium
- Uninsured employees more likely to be low wage

Employer coverage: Iowa

- Why offer insurance
(most important reasons for 3/4 of companies)
 - Attract/retain employees
 - Keep employees healthy
 - Be good corporate citizen
 - Employees expect it

Impact of coverage



Impact of coverage:

Uninsured children vs private and publicly insured

- Much less likely to have a regular source of care (personal MD or RN)
- Had fewer doctor visits
- Much more likely to have an unmet need for medical care (17% vs 1%)
- Less able to get sick care
- More likely to have had an ER visit
- Less likely to have preventive visit in past year
 - Medicaid/*hawk-i* most likely (84% vs 79% vs 66%)
- Most worried about paying for child's care
 - 62% “a great deal” vs 11% Medicaid/*hawk-i* and 5% private

Impact of coverage:

Uninsured children vs private and publicly insured

Health status

- Least likely to be rated in “excellent health”
- Least likely to have a special health care need
 - Medicaid/*hawk-i* most likely (35% vs 18% vs 13%)

Attitudes

- Most worried about paying for child’s care
 - 62% “a great deal” vs 11% Medicaid and 5% private
- Slightly less important for child to have insurance

Impact of coverage: Underinsured children

- 30% of those with insurance had a problem paying for a service
- 10% rated their insurance as fair or poor at meeting their needs
 - Medicaid/*hawk-i* more likely to be rated “excellent”
 - 55% vs 29%

Impact of coverage: Higher costs for adults

- 1/3 put off MD visit
- 55% delay care
- 1/2 reduced use of plans
- 1/4 changed plans
- 1/4 did not schedule suggested tests
- 1/4 did not fill suggested prescription
- 1/4 stayed in job they didn't like
- 1/4 affected retirement decision

Impact of coverage: Adults

- 60%-Costs are increasing
- 60% fear losing coverage
 - 10% very fearful
- 60% are making sacrifices (1/3 major)
- 80% of uninsured would benefit from coverage
- “Almost impossible to purchase on own” and delayed important needed care (focus groups)

Impact of Coverage: Employers

- \$337 average monthly contribution per employee
- 92%-companies being hurt by HI costs
- Reluctant to transfer costs to employees
 - 60%-more productive with HI
 - 75%-will try and absorb costs
 - 1/4-increase contributions and/or use contractors

Future possibilities



Future possibilities: Adults to reduce costs

- 1/2- choose plan with higher deductible
- 1/2- choose plan with higher copays
- 2/3- use more NPs and PAs
- 40%- reduce number of MD visits

Future possibilities: Covering uninsured

- Health Security plan (Social security-like plan)
 - 74%-a good idea
 - 2/3-would benefit me
 - 60% support it
 - 1/10 would actively support it
 - 16% oppose it
 - 8% actively oppose it
- Dollars willing to pay limited for uninsured
 - Average-\$82/month, median-\$50

Future possibilities: Employers not now covering employees

- Willing contribution
 - 1/3-0
 - 1/3-<\$100
 - 1/3 more or not sure
- Willingness to participate in subsidized plan
 - 50%-Yes
 - 30%-No
 - 20%-depends on subsidy
- 62%-state funds should be used to help low wage employees

Future possibilities: Employers

1. Tax credit concept based on size of firm (under 25)
 - 150,000 eligible, 120,000 now uninsured
 - 40,000 would agree to participate, 32,000 new
 - \$17 million
2. Subsidized insurance product
 - State subsidizes highest cost employees (reinsurance-cost of \$3 million for 11,000 people)
3. Pool with state employees
 - Less viable in Iowa with little competition
4. Combined strategy

Gaps in knowledge

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