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FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE EDUCATION

UNINSURED AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

Health insurance brings about access to variety of health care resources to African Americans. They make up about 12% of the population in the United States, which in actual number translates to about 35,539,912 African Americans in the country. As a group, their health status continues to lag behind that of whites. Being able to have access to good health care is becoming an ordeal to many African Americans due to lack of health insurance. Access to health insurance coverage could reduce the disparities in quality of health care received compared to other groups. The statistics of the uninsured African American population continues to grow at an alarming rate.

QUICK FACTS

General Population

- ❖ There are 7.7 million uninsured African Americans in the United States.
- ❖ 35% of African Americans do not have a regular doctor, compared to 25% of whites.
- ❖ Although more than eight in 10 African Americans are in working families, employer-sponsored health insurance among African Americans remains substantially lower than whites (53% vs. 73%).
- ❖ Uninsured African Americans are at least three times more likely than those with private or Medicaid to be without a usual source of care.

African American Children

- ❖ There are 1.6 million uninsured African American children in the United States. Nearly one out of every seven African American child under the age 18 lacks health insurance.
- ❖ Uninsured African American children are 20 times more likely not to receive the medical care they need than insured African American children (14.7% vs. 0.7%).
- ❖ More than eight in 10 uninsured African American children are eligible for coverage through Medicaid, but are not enrolled.

African American Women

- ❖ 22% of African American women are uninsured in the United States.
- ❖ Only half of black women have employer-based health care compared with two-thirds of white women.
- ❖ 17% of African American women ages 18-64 are uninsured.

African American Men

- ❖ 25% of African American men do not have health insurance in the United States.
- ❖ 21.2% of African American men over the age of 18 do not have a usual source of medical care, compared to 16% of non-Hispanic white men.
- ❖ Nearly four out of 10 African American men ages 18-29 are lacking health insurance.

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