

Insurance Coverage among Women of Reproductive Age in New Hampshire

The Affordable Care Act established several provisions aimed at reducing the uninsurance rate, and the number of uninsured women of reproductive age (15–44) in the United States fell from 12.7 million in 2013 to 7.5 million in 2017.

In New Hampshire, which expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, the uninsurance rate fell from 15.5 percent in 2013 to 7.2 percent in 2017. Despite these gains, approximately 17,000 New Hampshire women of reproductive age remained uninsured in 2017.

Uninsurance Rate among Subgroups of Women in New Hampshire and the US, 2017

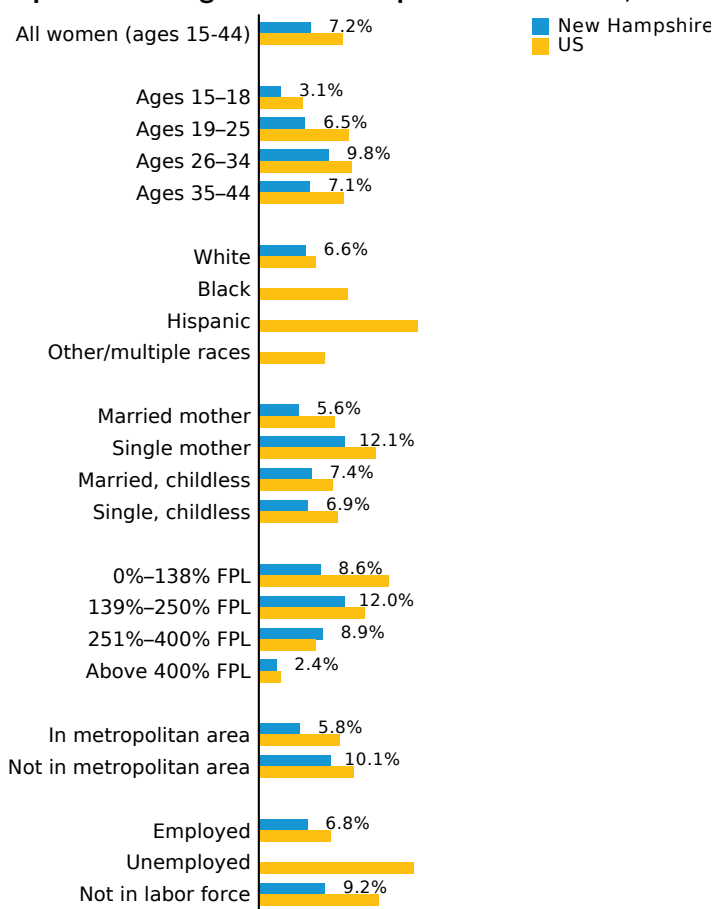
Uninsured women are vulnerable to well-documented access, affordability, and health problems associated with lacking insurance coverage, including potentially limited access to family planning and other reproductive health services.

- Women of reproductive age in New Hampshire had a lower uninsurance rate (7.0 percent) than similar women nationwide (11.7 percent) in 2017 (figure 1).
- Within New Hampshire, women ages 26 to 34, women of other/multiple races, women with incomes between 139 and 250 percent of the FPL, and women living in nonmetropolitan areas had higher uninsurance rates than the state average for all women of reproductive age in 2017.

Looking ahead

Reducing the uninsurance rate among women of reproductive age in New Hampshire may require further expanding access to Medicaid or other highly subsidized insurance, as well as targeted outreach and enrollment efforts to subgroups of already eligible women with the highest uninsurance rates. It will also be critical to track women's ability to access the general and reproductive health services they need, including monitoring the availability and capacity of community health centers and Title X clinics.

Figure 1. Uninsurance Rate among Subgroups of Women of Reproductive Age in New Hampshire and the US, 2017



Source: Urban Institute analysis of 2017 American Community Survey.

Note: FPL is federal poverty level. White, black, and other/multiple race are non-Hispanic. Subgroups with no state estimate had a sample size smaller than 200. Differences reported in text are significant at $p < 0.05$.