

Secondary Research

Key points for problem space selection:

- The **lack of health insurance has deadly consequences** because people are less likely to receive preventive health care and care for various conditions and illnesses. For example, because uninsured Americans are less likely than those with private insurance to receive cancer screenings, they are more likely to be diagnosed with more advanced cancer rather than an earlier stage of cancer (Halpern et al., 2008)
- **Newly insured Americans rated themselves happier** and in better health and reported **fewer sick days from work**. They were also 50 percent more likely to have seen a primary care doctor in the year since they received coverage
- It is likely that **2021 will be a dynamic year for US health care policy**. There is pressing need and opportunity for health reform that helps achieve better access, affordability, and equity.
- The coronavirus disease 2019 (**COVID-19**) **pandemic**, which placed historic stress on an **already strained system**, has only exacerbated many of these shortcomings.
- The number of **uninsured people is expected to rise to 37.2 million** (10.6 percent of the population) by 2028. This comes at a time when a growing body of research links insurance coverage to improvements in financial security, health, and longevity.
- The number of uninsured Americans has risen steadily.^{3,17} The COVID-19 pandemic will only accelerate this trend and has highlighted the limitations of employer-sponsored insurance. During the height of the pandemic, millions of Americans lost their jobs and their access to employer-based insurance coverage over the span of several months. Many lost jobs were in industries that did not offer any coverage.

Credits:

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.01560>

<https://open.lib.umn.edu/socialproblems/chapter/13-4-problems-of-health-care-in-the-united-states/>

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.01560#B3>