

**Show Me
Fact Sheet**
January 2006

New Numbers on the Uninsured in Missouri

In 2004, two major surveys reported significant differences in the estimates of the uninsured for the state. The Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) commissioned a study to explain the differences and to establish a reliable count of Missouri's uninsured.

- ❖ On behalf of the Missouri Health Care Insurance and Access (MHCIA) survey project,¹ the Minnesota-based State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) conducted a household survey to determine rates of uninsurance for Missouri. The survey reported that 8.4 percent of all Missourians (or 463,000 persons) were uninsured at the time the survey was conducted in 2004.
- ❖ At approximately the same time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) reported that about 11 percent of all Missourians (or 620,000 persons) had no health insurance.
- ❖ Comparing the SHADAC and CPS surveys, the MFH study, *Comparison of Missouri Uninsurance Survey Data Sources*, concludes:
 - > The SHADAC appears to present a low estimate of the uninsured in Missouri while the CPS estimates appear to overestimate the number of uninsured.
 - > The SHADAC survey finds that a lower percentage of Missourians are uninsured because it uses a broad definition of the insured and because of its explicit focus on health insurance.
 - > CPS apparently counts some Medicaid recipients as uninsured.

Essential Findings

Controlling for differences in methodology and design, the 2005 MFH study establishes new estimates for the number of uninsured in Missouri. In 2005, the number of uninsured Missourians ranges from 635,000 - 707,000 (or 11% - 12.6% of the population), up from 550,000 - 620,000 (or 10% - 11% of the population) in 2004.

The *Show Me Series: Report 8: Comparison of Missouri Uninsurance Survey Data Sources* study was authored by Timothy D. McBride, PhD, Professor of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.

The complete study is a Show Me Series web-only publication available at www.mffh.org.

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