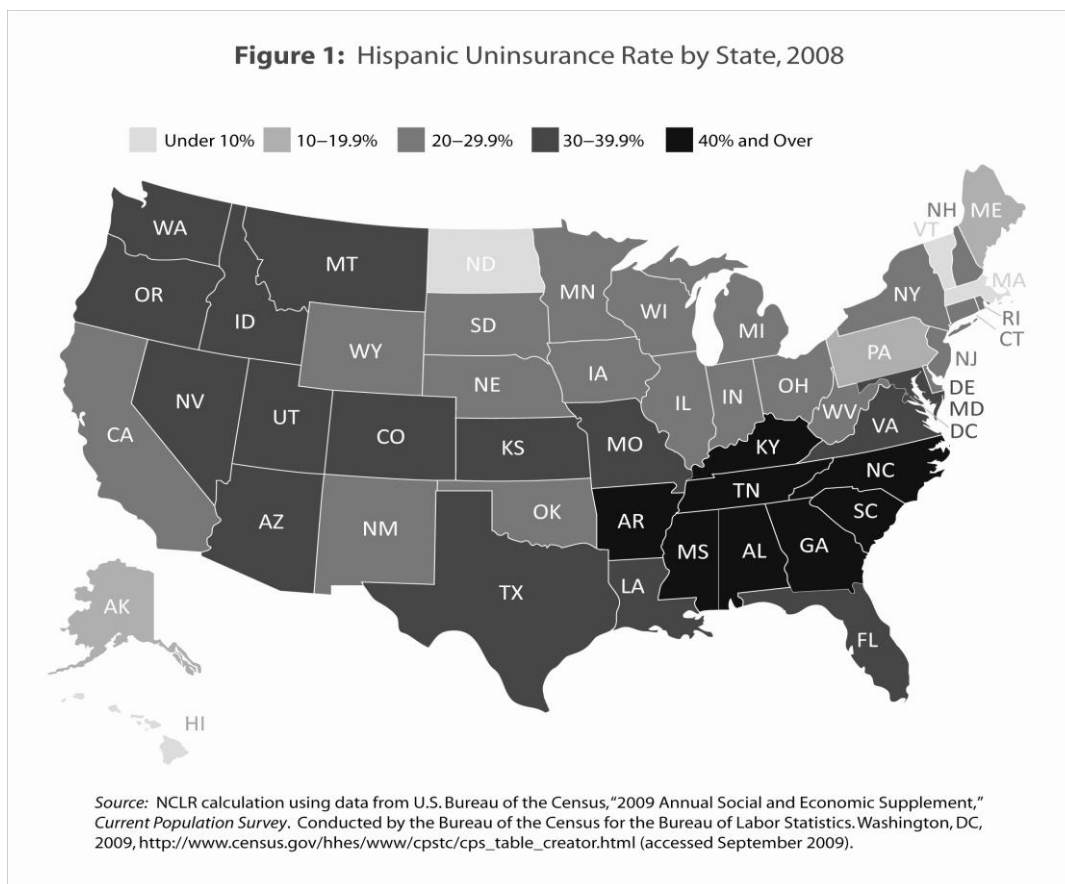


Latinos and Health Coverage: Massachusetts by the Numbers¹

Latinos² are more likely to be uninsured than any other racial or ethnic group in the U.S. **However, Hispanic families' access to health insurance varies by state** (see Figure 1). In Massachusetts:

- ❖ Latinos have higher levels of public health coverage than employer-sponsored insurance. In 2008, only about two-fifths (42.8%) of all Latinos living in Massachusetts had employer-sponsored health insurance, and more than one-half (54.8%) were covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.³
- ❖ However, a number of Latino families are at risk for uninsurance. That same year, about 28,000 (5.6%) Latinos in Massachusetts were uninsured for the full year, including nearly 4,000 Latino children under age 18 with no form of health coverage.⁴
- ❖ Hispanics are more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanics. Despite a major decrease in uninsured Hispanics—from about 85,000 in 2006 to 28,000 in 2008—studies have found that Latinos are still disproportionately uninsured.⁵ Researchers estimate that in 2009, Hispanics in Massachusetts were more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic residents by a statistically significant difference.⁶



¹ Due to the major reform of Massachusetts insurance policies, the insurance trends of Latinos are vastly different than in other states. Thus, comparisons to other states are slightly limited.

² The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. Furthermore, unless otherwise noted, estimates in this document do not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.

³ NCLR calculation using data for the U.S. Bureau of the Census, “2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement,” *Current Population Survey*. Conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC, 2009, http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpssc/cps_table_creator.html.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Sharon K. Long, Lokendra Phadera, and Karen Stockley, “Health Insurance Coverage in Massachusetts: Estimates from the 2008 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey” (Boston, MA: Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, October 2009).