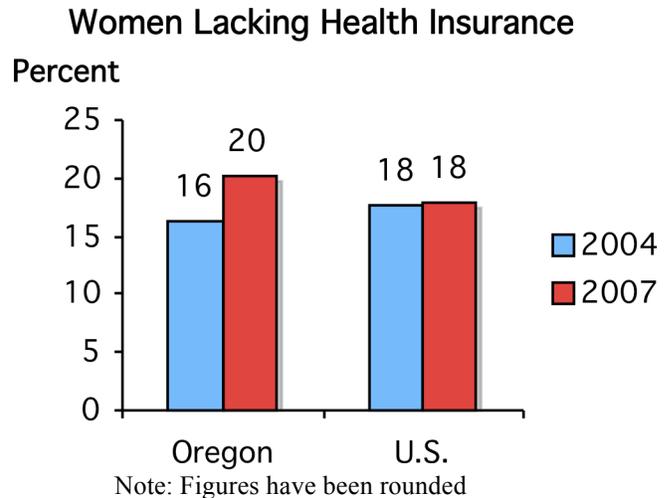


# Oregon: Women and Health Insurance

Prepared by OHSU's Policy Advisory Toward Health for Women (PATH) project

## *Oregon Loses Ground in Coverage for Women*

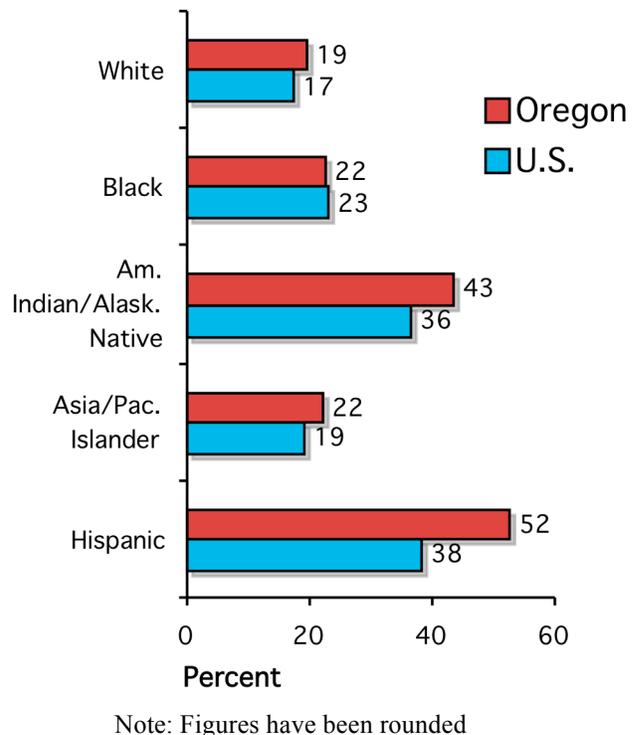
- The percent of uninsured women has risen since 2004, from 16 percent to 20 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- Presently, one of five women in Oregon lacks health insurance. This translates to nearly 370,000 women.
- Nationally, Oregon ranks 41 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia for its high proportion without health insurance (not shown). In 2004, Oregon ranked 31st.



## *Major Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage*

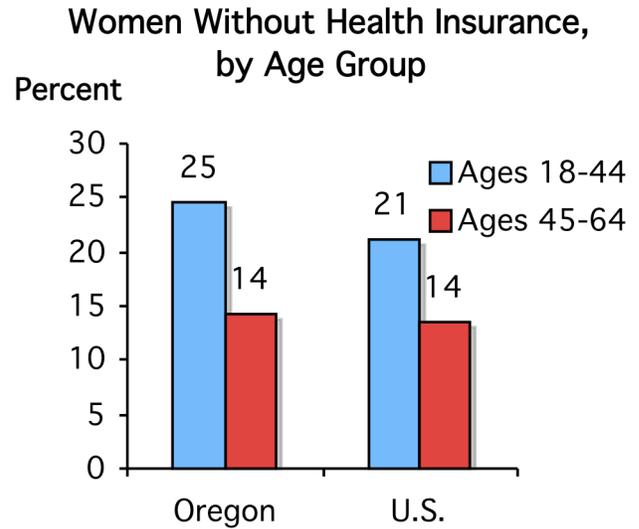
- Exceptionally high levels of Hispanic and American Indian/Alaskan native women in Oregon lack health insurance. Relative to the country as a whole, Oregon underperforms for these groups.
- About one-half of Hispanic women in Oregon lack health insurance. Among states, this is one of the worst levels of coverage for Hispanic women.
- Every minority group is less likely to have health insurance than white women.

### Women Without Health Insurance by Racial and Ethnic Group



*Younger Women Less Likely to Have Coverage than Older Women*

- In Oregon, about one in four women ages 18 to 44—major childbearing years—lacks health insurance.
- For this age group, Oregon underperforms the national average, which is about 21 percent.
- While higher levels of coverage for older women are encouraging, Oregon and the country as a whole are far from reaching the government’s Healthy People 2010 goal of 100 percent coverage.



Note: Figures have been rounded

*Women Face Multiple, Unique Barriers to Accessing Health Care*

- Uninsured women are less likely than insured women to access health care and more likely to postpone needed care due to costs.
- In general, women face greater barriers than men in accessing care. Given the need for regular reproductive health check-ups, women tend to use more health care services than men. At the same time, women have lower incomes on average than men and are less likely to have employer-sponsored insurance.

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Prepared by Oregon Health & Science University’s Policy Advisory Toward Health for Women (PATH) project. Based on analysis from *Making the Grade on Women’s Health: A National and State-by-State Report Card* by the National Women’s Law Center and Oregon Health & Science University, 2007. Report Card data are available at: [hrc.nwlc.org](http://hrc.nwlc.org). For more information on OHSU’s PATH project, see [www.ohsuwomenshealth.com/path/about.html](http://www.ohsuwomenshealth.com/path/about.html).

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<sup>1</sup>The 2007 Report Card uses data from a different source than in 2004 (although both rely on the same underlying data, the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey), and the two sets of data are not entirely comparable. However, for the purposes of this Report Card, the trends shown by these two sets of data are still generally accurate.