

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Women's use of reproductive and preventive health services depends on, among other factors, their insurance status. Uninsured women are less likely to have a usual source of health care and access to pregnancy prevention information and services.

The combined 2003-2004 California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) included 4,537 total respondents of reproductive age. The survey asked multiple health access questions, including questions regarding: 1) access to health care coverage; 2) types of health care coverage; and 3) demographic characteristics of women of childbearing age, i.e., ages 18-44.

Approximately one-fifth of women ages 18-44 reported that they had no health insurance. Among the insured women, 72.7 percent reported they had employment-based coverage, 18.4 percent had government health insurance, and 8.9 percent reported 'other' or self-purchased insurance coverage. The characteristics of uninsured women are examined below:

- The likelihood of being uninsured was highest for women in early adulthood and declined with age; more than one-quarter (26.1 percent) of women aged 18-24 were uninsured compared with 13.9 percent of women aged 40-44.
- Among women who completed the survey in Spanish, 43.6 percent were uninsured compared with 13.2 percent of those who responded to the survey in English.
- Close to one-third (31.7 percent) of women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL)¹ were uninsured compared with 9.0 percent of women with incomes above 200 percent FPL.
- Thirty-one percent of foreign-born women were uninsured compared with 12.3 percent of U.S.-born women.
- Approximately one-quarter of unmarried, divorced, separated, or widowed women were uninsured compared with 14.6 percent of married women.

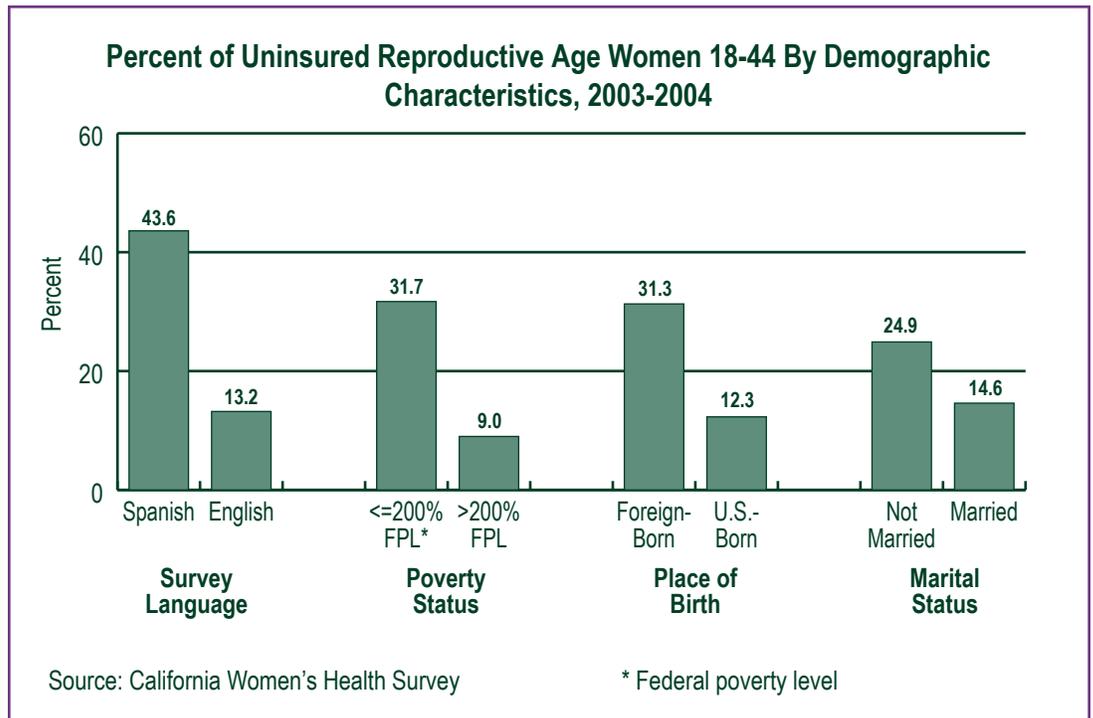
Health Insurance Status of Reproductive Age Women 18-44 in California, 2003-2004

California Department of Health Services
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch

Public Health Message:
Expanding access to health insurance, in particular among low-income women, is important to ensuring overall reproductive health. CWHS data suggest that some population subgroups, such as those who responded in Spanish language to the survey or women with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, have a higher likelihood of being uninsured.

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- 1 Federal poverty levels or poverty guidelines are used for determining income eligibility for certain programs. For example, a woman at or below the 200 percent of Federal Poverty Level, at risk of unintended pregnancy, and without health insurance is eligible to participate in the California's Family PACT Program.

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