

Characteristics of the Uninsured in Texas, 2018

Spotlight: Hidalgo County

Matthew Buettgens, Linda Blumberg, and Clare Pan

The share and characteristics of the uninsured population vary substantially across geographic areas within Texas. This fact sheet shows the number and characteristics of nonelderly people in **Hidalgo County** who were uninsured in 2018. These estimates are produced using the Urban Institute’s Health Insurance Policy Simulation Model (HIPSM) and are part of a statewide analysis available here http://bit.ly/TX_Uninsured.

In 2018, an estimated 30 percent of people below age 65 living in Hidalgo County were uninsured, compared with 19 percent of all Texans and 11 percent of the US population. Among the uninsured in Hidalgo County, 73 percent had incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level, 2 percent were non-Hispanic white, 97 percent were Hispanic, and 0 percent were non-Hispanic black. 15 percent were eligible for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and 9 percent were eligible for premium tax credits for private marketplace coverage. 56,000 people would become eligible for Medicaid if Texas were to expand eligibility to those with income below 138 percent of the federal poverty level, as permitted under the Affordable Care Act. Also, 60 percent of the uninsured in Hidalgo County were in working families, 36 percent were in families consisting entirely of US citizens, and 75 percent of adults had a high school education or less.

FIGURE 1
The Uninsured Rate in Hidalgo County Compared with Other Texas Counties, Texas as a Whole, and the US

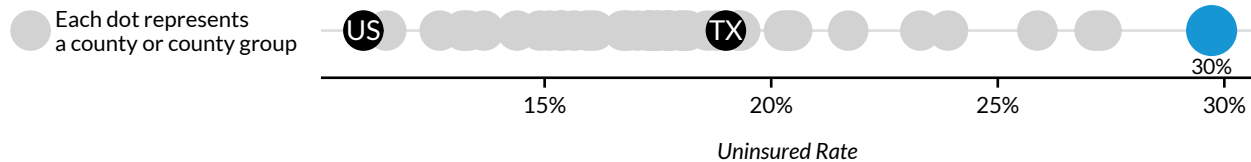
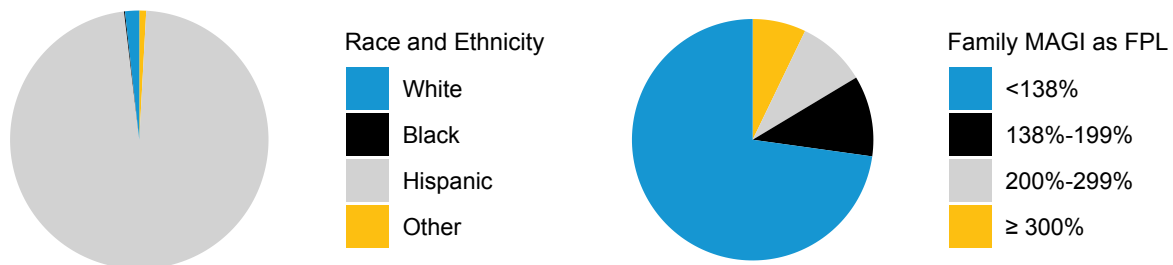


FIGURE 2
Characteristics of the Uninsured in Hidalgo County



MAGI = Modified adjusted gross income; FPL = federal poverty level

Characteristics of Uninsured in Hidalgo County

	Thousands of people	Percent of area uninsured
Family modified adjusted gross income (% of federal poverty level)		
<138%	177	73%
138%-199%	26	11%
200%-299%	22	9%
300%-399%	8	3%
≥400%	9	4%
Age		
0-18	37	15%
19-34	96	39%
35-54	88	36%
55-64	22	9%
Race and ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic white	4	2%
Non-Hispanic black	0.3	0%
Hispanic	236	97%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.8	0%
Other, non-Hispanic	0.3	0%
Education (ages 19-64)		
Less than a high school diploma	86	42%
High school diploma	68	33%
Some college	39	19%
College graduate	13	6%
<i>Total</i>	206	100%
Health status		
Excellent	53	22%
Very good	64	26%
Good	82	34%
Fair	34	14%
Poor	10	4%
Family structure (ages 19-64)		
Single without dependents	56	27%
Single with dependents	38	18%
Couple without dependents	31	15%
Couple with dependents	81	39%
<i>Total</i>	206	100%
Family work status		
No workers	97	40%
Only part-time worker(s)	30	12%
At least one full-time worker	116	48%
Public assistance receipt		
SNAP	115	47%
Not receiving SNAP	129	53%
Language spoken at home		
English	14	6%
Spanish	223	92%
Other	6	3%
English proficiency (ages 19-64)		
Speaks very well or better	172	83%
Does not speak very well or less proficient	34	17%
<i>Total</i>	206	100%
Family citizenship status		
All citizens	88	36%
At least one noncitizen	155	64%
Program eligibility		
Eligible for Medicaid/CHIP	38	15%
Eligible for marketplace premium tax credits	23	9%
Not currently eligible	183	75%
Would gain Medicaid eligibility if Texas expands Medicaid	56	23%
Would be ineligible even with Medicaid expansion	127	52%
Total	243	100.0%

Source: Urban Institute analysis, HIPSIM 2018.

Notes: Sample sizes smaller than 100 are not shown. SNAP recipients are undercounted in the HIPSIM.

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