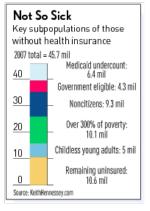


Uninsured Figures Overhype The Lack Of Health Coverage

By SEAN HIGGINS, INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Posted 06/26/2009 07:36 PM ET



President Obama rarely misses a chance to stress that 46 million people in the U.S. lack health coverage. But the actual number of chronically uninsured Americans is far less, experts say.

Obama cited the figure in a recent speech to the American Medical Association to create a sense of urgency and moral necessity for his proposed health care reforms.

"We are not a nation that accepts nearly 46 million uninsured men, women, and children. We are not a nation that lets hardworking families go without the coverage they deserve; or turns its back on those in need. We are a nation that cares for

its citizens," Obama said.

The media and lawmakers, especially those advocating for broader federal coverage, often cite the 46 million figure — 45.7 million in 2007 according to the latest Census survey. But several studies have found that paints a distorted picture of the problem.

"This situation is really misrepresented," said June O'Neill, professor of finance at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York. O'Neill is also the former director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. "It is contradicted by the studies that show the large amount of resources that the uninsured actually do get."

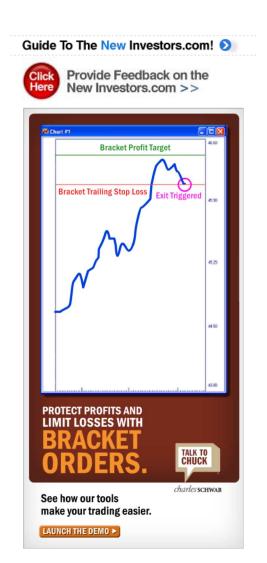
Many can afford coverage but, for various reasons, choose to go without it, O'Neill says. Others are eligible for coverage from the government but don't take it. Others choose alternative means, such as neighborhood clinics.

Keith Hennessey, a top economic adviser to President Bush, breaks down the 45.7 million figure, based off of Census/Labor Department data. After excluding the well-off, young adults, noncitizens, those eligible for government programs and other factors, he finds there are just 10.6 million left.

Even that includes people who lacked coverage for a limited time.

The Census says people "were considered 'uninsured' if they were not covered by any type of health insurance at any time in that (past) year."

Thus, a person switching jobs who goes temporarily without coverage is deemed uninsured,



1 of 3 6/29/2009 3:31 PM

even if he or she quickly gets coverage that same year.

"When you say 46 million Americans are uninsured that is a snap shot in time. It doesn't say anything about whether they were uninsured yesterday or whether they will be uninsured tomorrow," said Michael Tanner, health policy analyst at the free-market Cato Institute.

There are ways to address this issue, he says, such as making insurance more portable for workers.



« Previous Article in Investing

Next Article in Investing »

See Also

- Indexes Retreat In Late Trade 03:05 PM ET
- SXC Health Expands Its Role 06/26/2009 07:40 PM ET
- Trade Tightens In McAfee's Latest Pattern 06/26/2009 07:40 PM ET
- Baidu Revs Up Against Its Rival 06/26/2009 07:40 PM ET
- Nasdaq Up, Dow Takes Dent Amid Russell Shake-Up 06/26/2009 07:28 PM ET

Related Topics

Investing

Comments 4 Comments

Posted By: BHB(5) on 6/29/2009 | 3:03 PM ET

AMA lobbyist attacking healthcare reform by nit-picking "cronic vs non-chronic"un-insured. The bigger problem is that EVERYTHING in this country has become contentious. Red vs blue, conservative vs liberal, pro vs con - dig in heels and defend your side as "Real America" let's stop the juvenile behavior and work towards solutions not bullet-points!

Posted By: BillWatson(10) on 6/29/2009 | 1:10 PM ET

300 million Americans and every American business have big problems with health care, how to obtain it, and how to pay for it. Government needs to become the basic necessities no frills provider in a dual public/private system. Public care would be free, funded by sales tax, for anyone using it. Businesses could opt out of health care completely. Private pay and private care would be rid of indigent and all government requirements. All government payments would go through public system only

Posted By: rjsimon(5) on 6/29/2009 | 12:30 PM ET

idigcoal said it all...I believed all during the campaign that Obama was not qualified for the highest office in the country and every day he proves me right...he is a misguided neophyte, dangerous in foreign policy and on the domestic course of this country....the liberal media needs to get out of bed with him and begin some hardcore questioning...until they do they lack all credibility

Posted By: idigcoal(10) on 6/27/2009 | 3:10 PM ET

As usual Obama distorts the truth and makes big statements that are misleading at best to persuade people to back his agenda which is on the verge of bankrupting our country. With health care and cap and trade he will succeed in putting this country in a hole that we might never come out of. I can only hope that the liberal media will wake up and start being more balanced and questioning in their coverage. We have to quit listening to an agenda that itchy ears want to hear, but will not work.

Leave a Comment

Back to Top

To participate in Community areas, please Sign In or Register



Investing Tip

Prepare, then pull the trigger at buy points.

#

2 of 3 6/29/2009 3:31 PM

Stock Research	elBD	News & Analysis	Education	Community	IBD TV	Store
IBD Charts		Investing	Daily Stock Analysis	Forums		
Stock Checkup		Business	Online Courses	Meetups		
Screen Center		Economy	Ask IBD	Calendar		
Options Center		Technology	Financial Dictionary			
ETF Center		Management	IBD Workshops			
IBD Indexes		Politics				
Daily Graphs Online		Opinion				
		Special Reports				
		Economic Calendar				



Turn \$10 Into \$16K w/o Tenants or Rehabs

F-mini Trader -...

Study Secrets From Veterar Trading Center





More than a trade. More for Trade free for 30 days at TD the trader. AMERITRADE.















- · Lessons on Buying Stocks
- · Lessons on Selling Stocks
- · What is CAN SLIM?
- · How to Invest in Options
- · Investing Education Videos

Home | About IBD | Media Kits | Licensing | Contact us | Partner Program | Retail Locations |

IBD Editorials | CAN SLIM Advisors

INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Investor's Business Daily, IBD and CAN SLIM and their corresponding logos are registered trademarks of Data Analysis Inc.

© 2000-2009 Investor's Business Daily, Inc. All rights reserved. Copyright and Trademark Notice | Privacy Statement | Terms and Conditions of Use

William O'Neil + Co.

© 2009 William O'Neil + Co. Incorporated. All Rights Reserved. The William O'Neil + Co. Database and all data contained herein are provided by William O'Neil + Co. Incorporated and are used by IBD under license agreement. Daily Graphs and Daily Graphs Online are trademarks of William O'Neil + Co.

This site is powered by Interactive Data Corp. Real Time Services market data. Price and Volume data is delayed 20 minutes unless otherwise noted, is believed accurate but is not warranted or guaranteed by Interactive Data Corp. Real Time Services and is subject to Interactive Data Corp. Real Time Services terms. All times are Eastern United States.

6/29/2009 3:31 PM 3 of 3