



Have You Checked Your Credit Score This Month? [FREE score.com](#)

😊 Excellent	750 - 840	😊 Fair	620 - 659	😞 I Don't Know	????
😊 Good	660 - 749	😊 Poor	340 - 619	Find out INSTANTLY!	

Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more... [Go](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Interact](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Shopping](#)
- [Place An Ad](#)

METRO

Breaking News & More from THE PLAIN DEALER

- [About The Author](#)
- [RSS](#)

Latest Posts

- 11-year-old Barberton boy arrested in fire at neighbor's house
- Elyria boy injured in fall down 50-foot riverbank; it was his second fall this year
- Jury rules fired St. Bernadette teachers were defamed
- Cleveland man hit, killed Thursday night while outside vehicle on Interstate 71
- D.A.R.E. officer suspended; Gahanna hiker missing; YSU enrollment up; and more: Ohio news roundup

Categories

- 89th Street shooting (RSS)
- Animals (RSS)
- Beachwood (RSS)
- Black History (RSS)
- Breaking News (RSS)
- Browns (RSS)
- Business (RSS)
- Casinos (RSS)
- Cavaliers (RSS)
- Census (RSS)
- Church Closings (RSS)
- cleveland (RSS)
- Cleveland City Hall (RSS)
- Cleveland Clinic (RSS)
- Cleveland Water Division (RSS)
- Columns (RSS)
- County in Crisis (RSS)
- Crime (RSS)
- Cuyahoga County government (RSS)
- Cuyahoga River (RSS)
- Death (RSS)
- Demjanjuk (RSS)
- Dew Tour (RSS)
- East 12th shooting (RSS)
- Editor's Picks (RSS)
- Education (RSS)
- Election (RSS)
- Election results (RSS)
- Entertainment (RSS)
- Environment (RSS)
- Father's Day (RSS)
- FBI raids Cuyahoga County (RSS)
- Feast of the Assumption (RSS)
- Fire (RSS)
- Floods (RSS)
- Foreclosure (RSS)
- Fourth of July (RSS)
- Fugitive of the week (RSS)
- FYI (RSS)
- Gerald McFaul (RSS)
- Giving (RSS)
- Health (RSS)
- Heroes 2008 (RSS)
- Inauguration (RSS)
- Indians (RSS)
- Ingenuityfest (RSS)
- Innerbelt Bridge (RSS)
- Inside City Hall (RSS)
- Jessie Davis (RSS)
- johanna (RSS)
- Labor Day (RSS)
- Lee Lucas (RSS)

New census numbers show more uninsured

Posted by [Sarah Jane Tribble/Plain Dealer Reporter](#) September 11, 2009 00:53AM

Travel on Acela Express® is easy come, easy go.

Book now at [Amtrak.com](#)

FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

- [Dance like the stars](#)
- [Don't accept being bald...](#)
- [Personalized photo gifts](#)
- [Power Your Resume](#)

Free 3 in 1 Credit Report: View Your Credit Scores Now!

TransUnion
840
750
650
550
450
340
310
◀ You are here (640)

Experian
840
750
650
550
450
340
310
◀ You are here (635)

Equifax
840
750
650
550
450
340
310
◀ You are here (618)

[Click Here To Get Score!](#)

[FREE score.com](#)

- Lyndhurst (RSS)
- Medical (RSS)
- Medical Mart (RSS)
- Memorial Day (RSS)
- MetroHealth (RSS)
- Mosaic (RSS)
- Movies (RSS)
- neighborhoods (RSS)
- Neighborhoods (RSS)
- News (RSS)
- Obituary blog (RSS)
- Ohio City Guide (RSS)
- Ohio news roundup (RSS)
- Open (RSS)
- Photos (RSS)
- Podcasts (RSS)
- Presidential candidates (RSS)
- Real Estate News (RSS)
- Real Time News (RSS)
- Recreation (RSS)
- Regionalism (RSS)
- Religion (RSS)
- Rock Hall (RSS)
- Rocky River (RSS)
- School shooting (RSS)
- Science (RSS)
- Sean Levert (RSS)
- September 11 (RSS)
- Shooting (RSS)
- Special Reports (RSS)
- Spelling Bee (RSS)
- Sports (RSS)
- Sports Impact (RSS)
- St. Patrick's Day (RSS)
- Strongsville (RSS)
- Summer Guide (RSS)
- Swine Flu (RSS)
- Taste (RSS)
- Top Photos (RSS)
- Traffic (RSS)
- Traffic fatality (RSS)
- Tremont Guide (RSS)
- University Circle Guide (RSS)
- University Hospitals (RSS)
- Veterans (RSS)
- Video (RSS)
- Visit Cleveland (RSS)
- Water Compact (RSS)
- Weather (RSS)
- Westlake (RSS)
- Whatever Happened To... (RSS)
- World at War (RSS)

Favorite Links

- Got a news tip or breaking news photo?
- Business News
- OPEN: Ohio Politics Blog
- Sports News
- Entertainment News
- Real-Time News
- Living News

Archived Posts

As President Barack Obama pushes for a health system overhaul, saying that too many people are left without coverage, official U.S. Census Bureau numbers for 2008, released Thursday, hammered home the argument that more people nationwide and in Ohio are going without insurance.

Related content

- [Census Bureau estimates 46.3 million Americans are uninsured; poverty rate up; income down](#)
- [A state-by-state look at the uninsured, poverty and income.](#)

An estimated 46.3 million people living in the United States, or about 15.4 percent, didn't have health insurance in 2008, up from 45.7 million in 2007. The change in percentage of uninsured from 2007 to 2008 was statistically insignificant, bureau officials said.

Ohioans fared better than the national average, but still saw the ranks of uninsured climb to 1.3 million, or an average of 11.6 percent of the state's population for 2007-2008. This was an increase from 1.2 million, or an average of 10.7 percent, in 2005-2006.

"This is going to give a greater impetus for getting health reform done," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a nonprofit Washington think tank that advocates health care for all Americans.

There are those who say the estimate of uninsured is too high. And there are those who say the number is too low.

Those who contend the number of uninsured is too high, say it's because the Census counts noncitizens as well as those who qualify for government programs and are not enrolled. Those who contend the numbers are too low, say it's because the Census counted anyone who reported having health care coverage at any time during the year as being insured.

"A lot of people who lost their insurance weren't counted," admitted David Johnson, chief of the Census Bureau's housing and household economic statistics division, when asked about it during a media call.

In August, the national unemployment rate hit 9.7 percent, up from 5.4 percent in January 2008. Families USA estimates that for every percentage point the unemployment rate rises, another 1.1 million people join the ranks of the uninsured. Pollack estimates the actual number of uninsured at 50 million nationwide.

In contrast, Mike Tanner, a senior fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute said that the new Census number of uninsured is misleading. That 46.3 million includes 9.5 million people that the Census categorized in 2008 as "not a citizen."

Obama made clear in his speech to the nation Wednesday night that illegal immigrants would not get coverage under the proposed plan.

The recession, which economists say began at the end of 2007, has taken a heavy toll on workers. The nation's poverty rate rose to 13.2 percent, the highest level since 1997, and was up from 12.5 percent in 2007. Americans' median household income fell 3.6 percent to \$50,303.

For states, the Census looked at two-year rolling averages. It reported that 13.2 percent of Ohioans were poor in 2007 and 2008, up from 12.2 percent in 2005 and 2006. That means about 15,000 more people in the state fell into poverty, joining the ranks of 1.5 million Ohio poor.

Poor people generally have worse health care than people with higher incomes, said J.B. Silvers, professor of health systems management at Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School. "You can argue about causation, but my summary of that is that being poor is the worst pre-existing condition you can have," Silvers said.

Obama told Congress Wednesday that the "time for bickering" was over and action is needed.

Much of America seems to believe that something will happen. In a CNN poll released Thursday morning, 55 percent of Americans said it was "somewhat likely" that Congress would pass most of Obama's proposals. There's broad consensus from both Democrats and Republicans on the need to mandate some changes in the way insurers treat Americans -- and some of those mandates would help decrease the number of uninsured.

Those include not allowing insurers to drop people who get seriously ill or to deny coverage for those with pre-existing conditions. They would also include allowing people to keep their insurance when they change or lose their jobs.

William Hayes, president of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio said some of the widely agreed upon reforms could benefit people in Ohio more than other states, such as Massachusetts.

"Our market on the individual insurance side has historically had less regulation than other states, which has meant that it has been more expensive and harder to get individual insurance," Hayes said.

State lawmakers passed a host of mandates earlier this year, including increasing the age of dependents who can have insurance through their parents and lowering the price that insurance companies can charge those with serious illnesses. But

Get A Fixed Mortgage Now

\$200,000 for Only \$1,074/Month, Fixed Rate for Life at LendingTree
www.LendingTree.com

1 Tip of a flat belly :

Cut down 3 lbs of your belly every week by using this 1 weird tip.
Fatburningfurnace.com

Health Insurance

Find Health Insurance in your State. Online!
www.Med-HealthInsurance.com

Tags: [health](#), [health insurance](#), [u.s. census bureau](#)

[Print This Page](#) | [Send To A Friend](#) | [Permalink \(Learn More\)](#)
Share: [Reddit](#) | [Digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [Google](#) | [Yahoo](#) | [What is this?](#)

COMMENTS (17)[Post a comment](#)

Posted by **Indep1** on [09/11/09 at 7:20AM](#)

"That 46.3 million includes 9.5 million people that the Census categorized in 2008 as "not a citizen."

Obama made clear in his speech to the nation Wednesday night that illegal immigrants would not get coverage under the proposed plan. "

I appreciate that The Plain Dealer included the FACT that about 20% of the "uninsured" are not Americans.

Obama may have made clear whatever you say he did, but ObamaCare, HR3200 lacks enforcement for keeping ILLEGAL ALIENS off of ObamaCare.

Obama: "There are also those who claim that our reform effort will insure illegal immigrants. This, too, is false. The reforms I'm proposing would not apply to those who are here illegally.""

Fact: Obama supporters in the House defeated an Amendment that would have enforced this claim.

HR 3200 does not, in fact, mandate coverage for illegal aliens. That allows Obama to say what he said. But Obama is also aware that such a claim needs an enforcement mechanism.

The House Ways & Means Committee rejected an amendment that would have helped ensure illegal aliens would not receive taxpayer-funded health care benefits.

The amendment, offered by Rep. Dean Heller (R-NV), would have required the government to verify that enrollees in the "public plan" and applicants for "affordability credits" are not illegal aliens. Eligibility verification would have been determined by using existing databases - the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) and the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system.

As The Plain Dealer reported on Friday ,Aug 21, 2009, "Income and Eligibility Verification System, (is) already used by states for social service eligibility."

Every Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee voted against the Heller Amendment. Obama and his supporters can say that illegals are not covered, but they strongly opposed setting up the enforcement mechanism to make this a reality.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

[Post a comment](#)

Posted by **ignorantnot** on [09/11/09 at 7:22AM](#)

Gee, they move the census under the politicians in the White House, and what do you know - they found more uninsured, just as Obama wants to push socialized medicine - what are the odds?

Oh, and cleposter, simple answer to why no report on ACORN - it is not news worthy per the PD, NY Times, CBS, NBC . . . so what if they are getting billions in taxpayer dollars to do work for Obama.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

[Post a comment](#)

Posted by **redz28** on [09/11/09 at 7:37AM](#)

You guys can nit pick all you want on numbers. Some of those certainly include people laid off and unable to afford insurance. Something should be done, COBRA is worthless.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **Indep1** on [09/11/09 at 7:42AM](#)

Thanks also for pointing out in the print edition of this article that about 20% of the "uninsured" earned over \$50,000/year.

And don't forget that according to The Plain Dealer's Fact Check, "Twenty-five percent of uninsured are now eligible for health care"

The core of the uninsured numbers about 15 million, or 5% of the population. This is the group that includes those with pre-existing conditions and related issues. There are several prudent proposals out there that do not involve socialized medicine.

These proposals could easily pass in Congress if Pelosi and Reid allowed a vote on them. Since they prefer ObamaCare, they won't allow a vote on prudent proposals that are focused on the true core of the uninsured.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **politicalred** on [09/11/09 at 8:04AM](#)

Doesn't the White House run the Census Bureau now? Obama can claim any number of uninsured Americans he wants.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **BDBuddy** on [09/11/09 at 8:10AM](#)

don't have insurance... wish i did

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **beebo1952** on [09/11/09 at 8:44AM](#)

'The change in percentage of uninsured from 2007 to 2008 was statistically insignificant, bureau officials said. '

What a waste of "journalism."

Why not discuss what wasn't highlighted in The Speech the other evening: How the heck is he going to pay for it other than cut Medicare and raise taxes? If there was that kind of money being wasted in Medicare and Medicaid now, don't you think they would be "squeezing" it out? He may think his supporters are stupid, but not the rest of Americans. As the line goes in that Hollywood movie: "Show Me The Money"

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **nomoredrama1** on [09/11/09 at 8:44AM](#)

indep1... which amendment are you referring to?

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **sjtribble** on [09/11/09 at 9:09AM](#)

cleposter: Thanks for reading the article. I had not heard about Acorn. Please e-mail me at stribble@plainsd.com

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **patarroyo** on [09/11/09 at 10:05AM](#)

You didn't hear about Acorn because it's not important. Rogue employee. FOX is making a big deal out of it because that is what they do: stoke the fires of Americans who oppose all progress and want us to go back to the 1950s, when moms stayed at home, dads were the bread winners, and minorities were seen and not heard. FOX promotes disunity because it brings in their advertising dollars.

Why doesn't the PD do some real journalism and explore the racial overtones in the health care debate? Because race keeps getting brought up over and over again. Whether it's the fact that our President is black, that this Acorn scandal (which has little to do with Acorn and more to do with an individual) involves, gasp, a large black woman (with the racist self-named non-racists thinking "I told you so"), or the illegal immigrant issue raising its ugly head, race is cropping up repeatedly.

I am especially fond of the illegal immigrant issue because in NE Ohio, we don't really have a lot of illegal immigrants, and I am amused/appalled that the term "illegal immigrant" has evolved into a euphemism for Mexican, which itself is a euphemism for Latino. That's because most of the anti-illegal immigrant crowd can't or willfully chooses not to distinguish between Latinos. It's like calling a Korean person Vietnamese or Chinese, and it's terribly offensive. Of course, these same people are so insensitive that they don't realize that, and even if they did, they wouldn't care.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **vet420** on [09/11/09 at 10:09AM](#)

The fact that anyone in the U.S. is uninsured is proof of how immoral our insurance system is.

indep1:

Not every non-citizen is an illegal immigrant. The reason that Heller's ammendment was voted down in committee was that the system used to check citizenship status is slow. Are the doctors and hospitals suppose to wait 48 hours to treat an injured or sick patient while waiting for the results of the background check? What happens to the doctors and hospitals if a patient dies before the results come back and it turns out that patient was here legally? Reagan made it mandatory to provide treatment for illegal aliens for a reason. It is cheaper to provide service than to defend against a lawsuit that you will most certainly lose. Anyways, our dying economy is reducing the number of illegal aliens in the country.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **drew62** on [09/11/09 at 10:41AM](#)

Indep1-no one is proposing "socialized medicine"-the British have socialized medicine. The VA is an example of socialized medicine. Your phony logic to come up with 15 Million uninsured misses the point. Even if the figure was actually "only" 15 Million-it still points out that it is a dysfunctional system that is broken. Please identify your "prudent proposals". I'll accept Wyden-Bennett as something worth exploring.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **vet420** on [09/11/09 at 10:42AM](#)

indep1:

Not every non-citizen is here illegally. Heller's ammendment was rejected in committee because the systems for checking citizenship are already too slow. Are hospitals suppose to wait 48 hours to provide medical care? What happens when a patient dies while waiting on the background check and it turns out that they were here legally? Can you imagine the cost of the lawsuit that the hospital would most certainly lose? Ronald Reagan made it mandatory to provide health care to illegals for a reason. Anyways, our dying economy is reducing the number of illegal immigrants in the country.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **ThePatriot09** on [09/11/09 at 11:53AM](#)

patarroyo-Stop playing the race card. Its starting to get pathetic-someone disagrees with what Obama's doing and you automatically assume that they must be a racist-that's ridiculous!

If Alan Keyes, who is 100% black (as opposed to under 50% black in

Obama's case), had run in the Presidential election, I would've voted for him in a heartbeat.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **Indep1** on [09/11/09 at 1:58PM](#)

drew:

The Empowering Patients First Act HR 3400 was introduced by Rep. Tom Price. The Health Care Freedom Act (S. 1324) was introduced by Sen. Jim DeMint.

Finally, some Republicans are supporting the Healthy Americans Act, a bipartisan bill co-sponsored by Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Bob Bennett (R-Utah).

Barney Frank said in a televised statement that socialized medicine is the long term goal for liberals. They just can't try to get it all this year. They have to get it incrementally, and they need to deceive the American people about what the real long term goals are.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **Indep1** on [09/11/09 at 2:17PM](#)

nomoredrama1 :

As mentioned, the Amendment is called the Heller Amendment. because it was proposed by Rep. Dean Heller from Nevada.

According to CBS News, Sept. 10, 2009:

"(the Heller Amendment) said that to "utilize the public health insurance option, an individual must have had his or her eligibility determined and approved" through two existing verification programs already used by the federal government. One is called SAVE, and checks immigration status, and the other is called IEVS, which is used in conjunction with Social Security.

In a party line vote, Democrats rejected Heller's amendment. After the vote, Heller said in a statement that: "If the majority party insists on moving forward with government-run healthcare plan, Congress should do everything within its power to curb abuse. Requiring citizenship verification for enrollment would ensure only citizens and legal residents receive taxpayer funded healthcare."

One likely reason why Democrats shot down Heller is that they're under pressure from the left to include -- or at least not explicitly exclude -- illegal immigrants. That would mean rejecting any requirement that applicants' eligibility as citizens or legal immigrants be verified.

Jennifer Ng'andu, deputy director of the National Council of La Raza's Health Policy Project, recently told the Associated Press that she believes any plan without coverage of illegal immigrants won't last. (Her group is the largest U.S. advocacy organization for Hispanics, especially Mexicans.) "If we don't talk about integrating communities that have been traditionally shut out, we're going to be talking about health care reform again in 15 years," Ng'andu said.

At least in Washington circles, this became a relatively high-profile debate last month, which is probably why Obama felt the need to respond to it yesterday. One example: Rep. Lamar Smith, the Texas Republican, wrote an opinion article for The Hill newspaper saying the National Council of La Raza and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus were responsible for blocking the verification amendment. "The Democrats' bill in the House, H.R. 3200, contains gaping loopholes that will allow illegal immigrants to receive taxpayer-funded benefits. And these loopholes are no accident," Smith wrote.

Republicans also pointed out over the summer that House Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats killed a GOP proposal requiring states to keep illegal aliens off of Medicaid. Rep. Nathan Deal of Georgia said afterwards that the "reason for the amendment is that the underlying bill would require millions of people to be automatically enrolled in Medicaid without any guarantees that these new enrollees are United States citizens or legal residents."

The Congressional Research Service says that as of early 2008, there were approximately 37.3 million foreign-born persons in the United States, including legal and illegal immigrants. The foreign-born population was divided into about 15.1 million naturalized U.S. citizens

and 22.2 million non-citizens. Some estimates put the number of illegal non-citizens at 11 million; Texas estimates illegal immigrants cost its hospitals \$1.3 billion in 2006, and California put the figure at \$1.4 billion in 2004.

This brings us back to Obama's speech last night. It's true that the Democrats haven't explicitly called for illegal immigrants to be covered by H.R. 3200, but by voting down two amendments that would have verified participants' legal status, they seem to have implicitly allowed it. It's no crime in Washington to say one thing and do another, especially when you're under pressure from influential special interest groups, but it should still be a bit embarrassing for politicians discovered to be doing it."

"It's like having a speed limit sign at a place where police have stated they will never patrol," says Steven Camarota with the Center for Immigration Studies. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that covering illegals through the government's proposed healthcare subsidies would cost taxpayers \$30 billion annually."

So while Joe Wilson may not have chosen the best way to express it, he did have a point. As the president might have said, the Republican politico's outburst has turned into one of those teachable moments.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **Indep1** on [09/11/09 at 2:27PM](#)

Posted by **vet420** on [09/11/09 at 10:42AM](#)

"indep1:
Not every non-citizen is here illegally. Heller's ammendment was rejected in committee because the systems for checking citizenship are already too slow. "

vet420:

What objective source claims that Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) and the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system are particularly "slow". I've never read that. Please share with us whohas documented that claim

Of course every non citizen is not here illegally. Nobody said they were.

Here are the facts:

"The Congressional Research Service says that as of early 2008, there were approximately 37.3 million foreign-born persons in the United States, including legal and illegal immigrants. The foreign-born population was divided into about 15.1 million naturalized U.S. citizens and 22.2 million non-citizens. **Some estimates put the number of illegal non-citizens at 11 million**; Texas estimates illegal immigrants cost its hospitals \$1.3 billion in 2006, and California put the figure at \$1.4 billion in 2004. " Source: CBS News, Sept. 10, 2009

The Census Bureau has put forward similar numbers. Most agree with the census that about 20% of the uninsured are illegal aliens. If you have differing information, I'd be interested.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Username (Don't Have a Username? [Sign up here](#)):

Password:

Remember Me



Site Search Search Local Business Listings



[Site Map](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact us](#)
[Make us your home page](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Interact](#) | [Living](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Place an Ad](#)

- [Your Photos](#)
- [Your Videos](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Music](#)

- [Post a Job](#)
- [Post a free classified ad](#)
- [Sell your car](#)
- [Sell/Rent your Home](#)
- [Apartments & Rentals](#)
- [Claim your Business Listing for Free](#)

- [Friday! Magazine](#)
- [High School Sports](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Taste](#)
- [Going Out Guides](#)
- [Style](#)

- [Subscribe to our content \(RSS\)](#)
- [Subscribe to Email Newsletters](#)
- [cleveland.com Tweeter feed](#)
- [cleveland.com on Facebook](#)
- [cleveland.com mobile site](#)



Special home delivery offers!

[The Plain Dealer](#)
[Sun News](#)

© 2009 Cleveland Live, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).
[Community Rules](#) apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site. [Contact interactivity management](#).