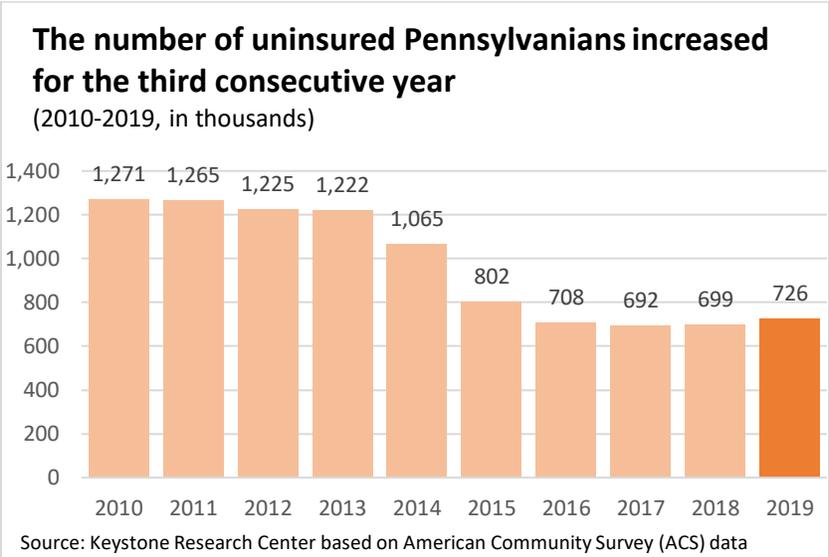


Number of Uninsured Pennsylvanians Rises for Third Consecutive Year

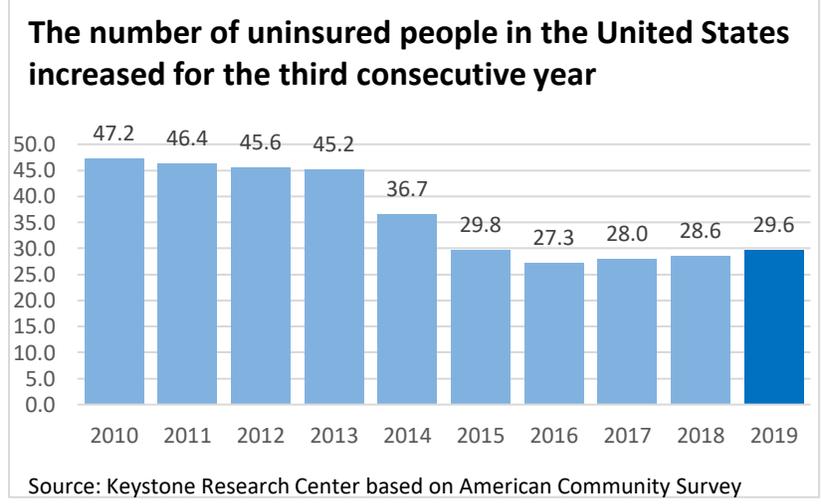
Highlights of New U.S. Census Data

The U.S. Census Bureau released the latest health insurance data on September 15, 2020. These new numbers paint a picture of the United States that is notably pre-COVID-19, yet still worrying.

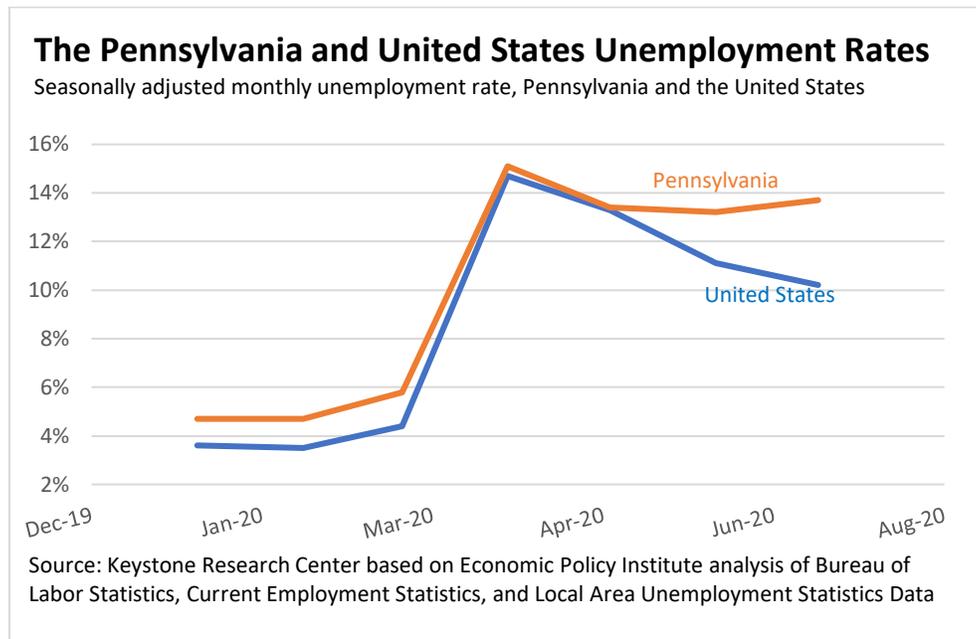
For the third consecutive year, the number of uninsured Americans in Pennsylvania and the U.S. has increased. In 2019, the number of uninsured Pennsylvanians topped 726,000, rising from 699,000 in 2018.



Nationally, the number of uninsured Americans increased from 28.6 million in 2018 to 29.6 million in 2019.



The American Community Survey (ACS) data used to estimate these health insurance numbers were collected in 2019, prior to the pandemic.¹ There is strong reason to believe that the number of uninsured in the U.S. has increased dramatically since these data were collected. Over half of all insured individuals have employer-provided coverage,² and the recent spike in unemployment left many without health insurance.



The current administration's policies have certainly played a role in this change. President Trump and his administration have been working to undermine the Affordable Care Act with the aim of dismantling it since before this global pandemic, continuing even as the virus spread across the country. This decrease in insurance coverage before the pandemic likely worsened the lives of Pennsylvanians, leaving many more vulnerable when the pandemic hit.

As even more individuals and families have lost employer-based health insurance, along with their jobs during the pandemic, the federal government must take steps to increase health coverage during this health and economic crisis. A critical step towards more Pennsylvanians accessing health insurance will be to pass a federal COVID relief package with support to states. Particularly important is an additional federal Medicaid matching payment (FMAP) increase, ideally tied to state unemployment rates.

Source Notes:

¹<https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/research-note-how-the-pandemic-could-skew-official-poverty-figures>

²U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-271.html>