

Health Leadership Conference

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Quality Care and Patient Access

Panel Discussion with Leaders in Health Insurance



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Georgetown University Center on Health Insurance Reforms (CHIR)

Nationally recognized team of private insurance experts

- Part of McCourt School of Public Policy
- Legal & policy analysis
 - Federal and state regulation
 - Market trends
- Published reports, studies, blog posts
- Technical assistance



Commercial Market Health Insurance: Level Set



Commercial Health Insurance: Level Set

In 2023 for people under age 65:

- 57.3% have coverage through an employer (ESI)
 - Of these, 65% are in self-funded plans
- 30.6% have Medicaid or CHIP
- 5.2% through ACA Marketplaces
- 5.8% other
- 8.3% uninsured

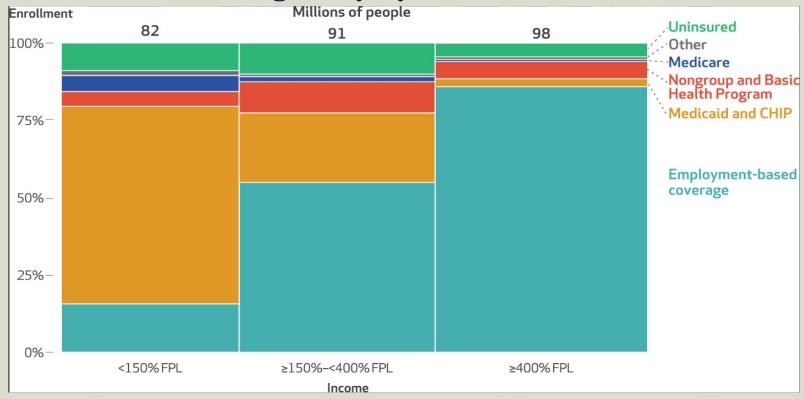
Source: Congressional Budget Office, Health insurance coverage for people younger than 65, 2023

2024: Medicaid "unwind" and enhanced Marketplace subsidies are likely causing shifts in coverage sources



Commercial Health Insurance: Level Set

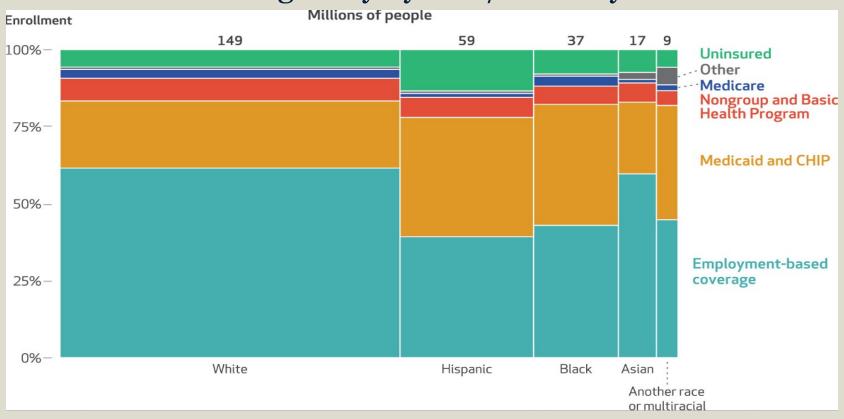
Sources of coverage vary by income:



Congressional Budget Office, Health insurance coverage for people younger than 65, by income, 2023

Commercial Health Insurance: Level Set

Sources of coverage vary by race/ethnicity:



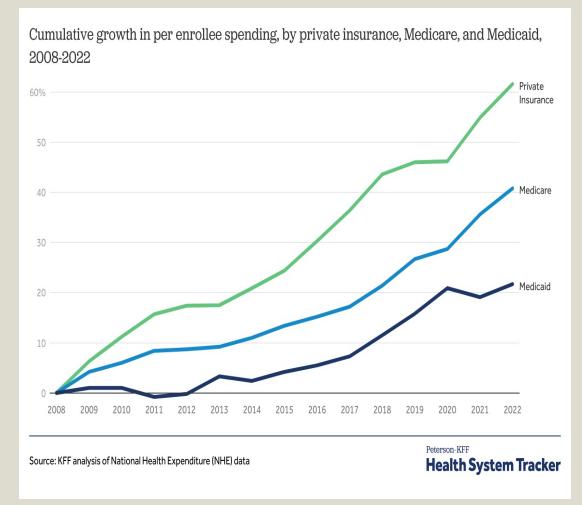
Congressional Budget Office, Health insurance coverage for people younger than 65, by race and ethnicity, 2023





Commercial Health Insurance: Rising Pressure

- Health insurance premiums are rising faster than inflation and earnings
- Average family premiums nearly\$24,000 in 2023
- An increase of **7%** over last year

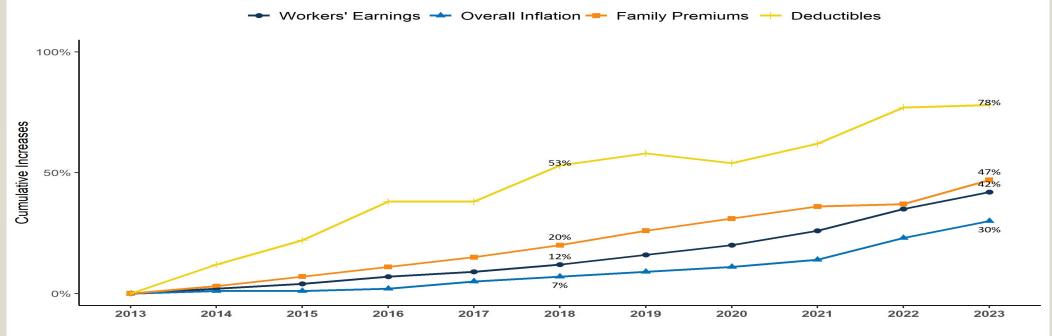






Health Insurance Affordability: Unsustainable Trends

Cumulative Increases in Family Coverage Premiums, General Annual Deductibles, Inflation, and Workers' Earnings, 2013-2023



NOTE: Average general annual deductibles are for single coverage and are among all covered workers. Workers in plans without a general annual deductible for in-network services are assigned a value of zero.

SOURCE: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018-2023; Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 2013-2017. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, U.S. City Average of Annual Inflation, 2013-2023; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Current Employment Statistics Survey, 2013-2023.



McCourt School of Public Policy

Commercial Market Health Insurance: Policy Framework



Health Insurance Plan Types and Regulatory Framework

- Fully insured group plans
 - Small-group market (in most states 50 or fewer employees)
 - Large-group market
- Self-funded plans
- Nongroup plans
 - Marketplace
 - Off-Marketplace
- Non-ACA compliant ("alternative" products)
 - Can include: short-term, limited duration (STLDI), fixed indemnity/excepted benefit, health care sharing ministries (HCSM), Farm Bureau plans

Health Insurance Plan Types and Regulatory Framework

Protection	Non- group	Small- group	Large- group	Self- funded	Alternative products
Guaranteed issue and renewal	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
No health status rating	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Essential health benefits	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Coverage for dependents	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Preventive services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Out-of-pocket maximums	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Annual and lifetime limits	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
No surprise out-of-network balance billing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No





Commercial Health Insurance: On the Horizon

- Non-group market
 - State updates to essential health benefits
 - Limits on short-term, limited duration insurance?
 - Reauthorization of enhanced subsidies?
- Small-group market
 - Limits on Association Health Plans?
- Cross-market issues
 - *Braidwood* the end of free preventive services?
 - Common standards for Marketplace, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid MCOs?
 - PBM, price transparency
 - Anti-trust enforcement
 - Facility fees/site neutral payments
 - The role of AI in health care





Commercial Market Health Insurance: Market Dynamics



Market Trends

- Consolidation, consolidation
 - Insurers purchasing primary care and specialty practices, clinics, and more
 - UnitedHealth: the largest owner of physician practices in U.S. today
- Coverage issues
 - Behavioral health integration
 - GLP-1s
 - Deductibles at a tipping point?
- The shrinking small-group market
 - Incursion of level-funded plans
 - Role of ICHRAs?

Patients and Health Plans: Areas of Potential Alignment



Patients and their Health Plans: Areas of Potential Alignment

- Reauthorization of Marketplace premium tax credits
- Limits on alternative insurance products
 - Short-term, limited duration insurance
 - Health Care Sharing Ministries
 - Fixed indemnity
- Inappropriate provider billing
 - Preventive services
 - Facility fees/site neutral payment
 - Enforcement/protection of No Surprises Act
- Anti-trust enforcement, anti-competitive contracting





Questions?

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