

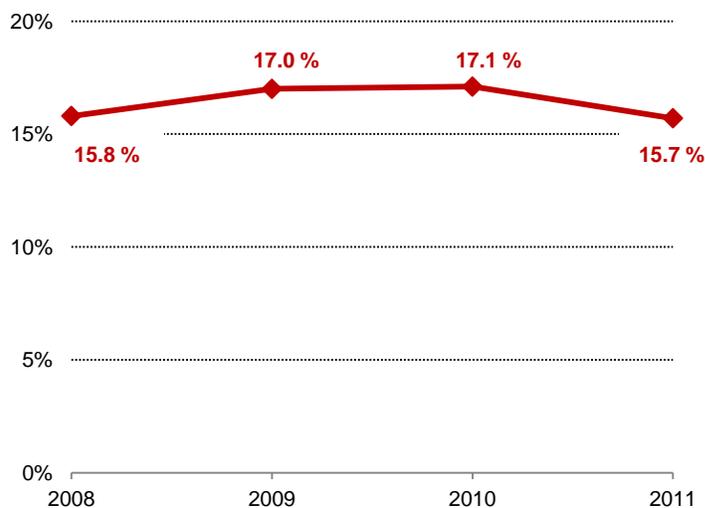
## Images of Progress in Oregon Health Coverage

### *A View of the State of Working Oregon*

Oregon is making progress in extending health coverage to Oregonians. As the most recent Census Bureau data shows, the development is particularly encouraging for young adults and children.<sup>1</sup> Still, much work remains to ensure that all Oregonians have health insurance.

#### Fewer Oregonians lack health coverage

(Share of Oregonians without health insurance)



Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

Oregon Center for Public Policy | [www.ocpp.org](http://www.ocpp.org)

The share of Oregonians without health insurance declined in 2011, reversing a rise experienced during the most recent recession.

In 2011, the share of Oregonians without coverage dropped to 15.7 percent, down from 17.1 percent in 2010.

With the decline, the rate of uninsured Oregonians returned to essentially the same level as it had been three years earlier. In 2008, the first full year of the recession, the rate stood at 15.8 percent.

In 2011, approximately 602,000 Oregonians had no health insurance, compared to about 650,000 in 2010 and 592,000 in 2008.

***A View of the State of Working Oregon*** is a series of occasional OCPP fact sheets published to help explain Oregon's economy from the perspective of working

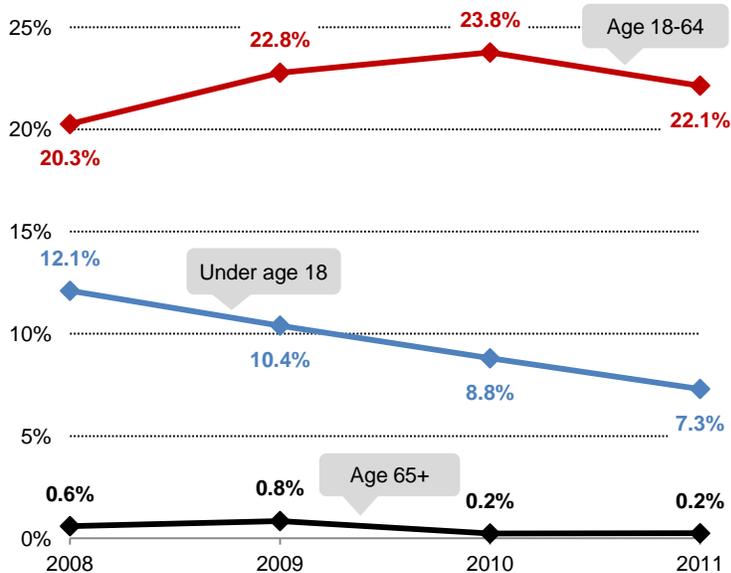
This work is made possible in part by the support of Community Catalyst, the Ford Foundation, the Stoneman Family Foundation, the Northwest Area Foundation, the Northwest Health Foundation, the Oregon Education Association, the Oregon School Employees Association, SEIU Local 503, OPEU and by the generous support of organizations and individuals.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy is a part of the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative (SFAI) and the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN).

<sup>1</sup> All data referenced in this publication is from the U.S. Census, American Community Survey, which included questions about health insurance beginning in 2008. The most recent data, for 2011, was released in September 2012.

### Working-age Oregonians finally see progress

(Share of Oregonians without health insurance)



Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

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Working-age Oregonians (those aged 18-64) recently gained health coverage.

From 2010 to 2011, the rate of uninsured working-age Oregonians dropped from 23.8 percent to 22.1 percent, a 1.6 percentage point decline.

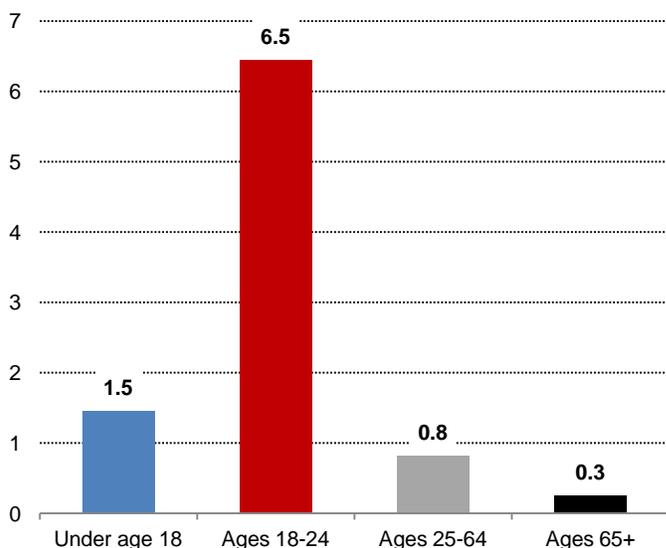
Despite their recent gains in coverage, working-age Oregonians are still much less likely to have health insurance than children or the elderly.

The share of uninsured children has declined every year since 2008, following the launch of Oregon’s Healthy Kids program.

Medicare covers nearly all Oregon seniors.

### Young adult coverage surges, but still lags

(Percentage point increase in Oregon health insurance rates, 2010-2011)



Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

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Much of the recent gains in coverage among working-age Oregonians was due to progress among young adults.

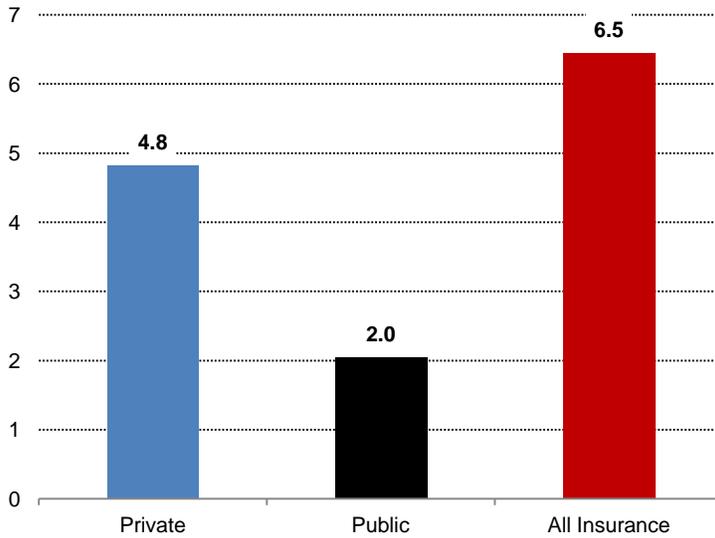
For young adults — the group aged 18-24 — coverage rose 6.5 percentage points between 2010 and 2011, cutting their uninsured rate by a fifth.

Specifically, in 2010, 33.1 percent of young adults (one in three) lacked insurance. By 2011, that number had dropped to 26.6 percent, a 20 percent reduction.

Despite the progress, in 2011, young adults still lagged all other Oregonians except the group aged 25-34 in getting coverage.

### Young adults gain private, public coverage

(Percentage-point rise in insured Oregonians aged 18-24, 2010-2011)



Figures for private and public coverage do not sum to the figure for all insurance because some individuals have both private and public coverage.  
Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

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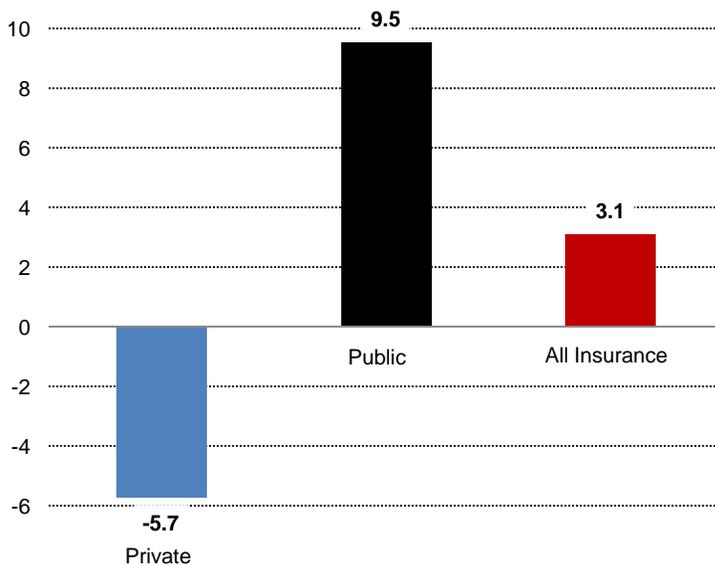
The increase in health coverage among young adults (Oregonians aged 18-24) primarily occurred in the private insurance marketplace, although public coverage for this age group also increased significantly.

Following implementation in September 2010 of the federal Affordable Care Act provision requiring insurers to allow coverage on a parent’s plan until age 26, private coverage rose 4.8 percentage points among young adults.

Public coverage — mainly through the Oregon Health Plan — among Oregon young adults also increased between 2010 and 2011, rising 2.0 percentage points.

### Public coverage boosts kids' health security

(Percentage point change in insured Oregonians under age 18, 2009-2011)



Figures for private and public insurance do not add to figure for all insurance because some individuals have both private and public coverage.  
Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

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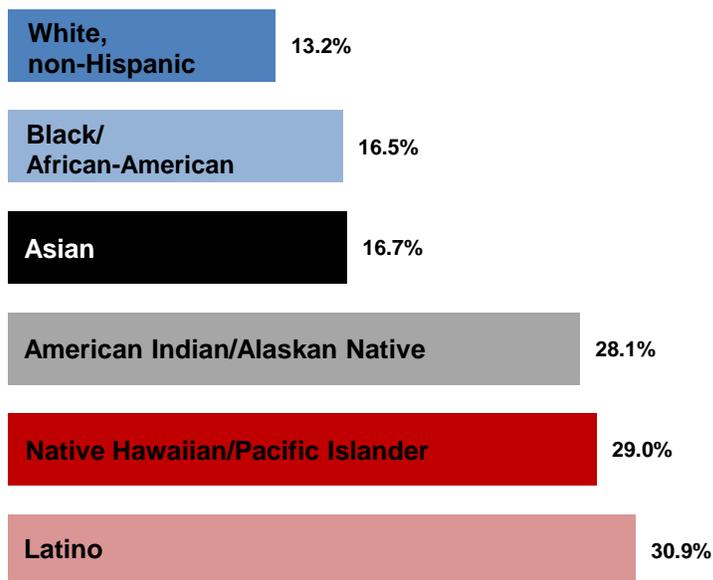
Between 2009, the earliest available detailed data, and 2011, Oregon children experienced a 5.7 percentage point drop in private health coverage.

Yet, the share of Oregon children with health coverage during and following the recession rose. The reason: an important public structure.

Oregon’s Healthy Kids program more than made up for losses in private coverage. Public coverage for children increased 9.5 percentage points from 2009 to 2011. So, despite the loss of private insurance, overall children’s coverage rose by 3.1 percentage points over the two year period.

**Minorities face higher health coverage barriers**

(Rate of Oregonians without insurance by race and ethnicity, 2011)



Differences between the health insurance rate for non-Hispanic whites and the rates for all other groups are statistically significant.  
Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

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Racial and ethnic minorities in Oregon are more likely to lack health insurance than whites.

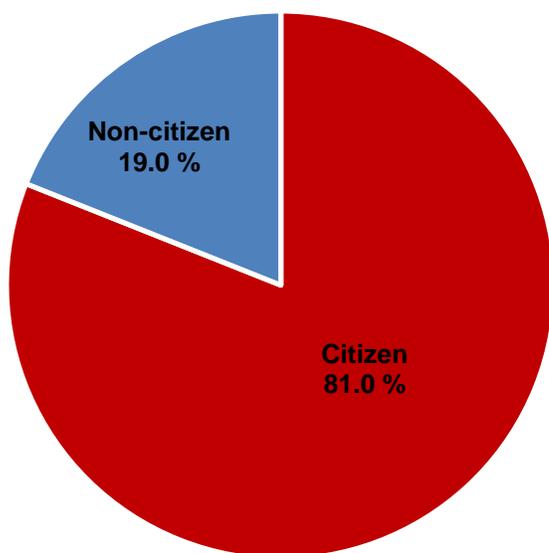
In 2011, 13.2 percent of white Oregonians went without coverage. By contrast, 16.5 percent of African-Americans and 16.7 percent of Asians were uninsured.

Other groups fared even worse. In 2011, 28.1 percent of American Indian/Alaskan Natives, 29.0 percent of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders and 30.9 percent of Latinos lacked health insurance.

While two of every three uninsured Oregonians in 2011 were white, minorities were disproportionately represented among the uninsured.

**4 out of 5 uninsured Oregonians are citizens**

(Citizenship status as a share of uninsured Oregonians, 2011)



Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

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The vast majority of Oregonians lacking health insurance are United States citizens.

In 2011, 81.0 percent (four out of five) of uninsured Oregonians were citizens. An estimated 77.9 percent of the uninsured (more than three quarters) were born in the country, and 3.1 percent were naturalized citizens.

The remaining 19 percent of the uninsured were non-citizens. This group included both documented and undocumented individuals.