The Financial Burden of Paying for Non-Premium Medical Expenses for Children (SEHSD Working Paper # 2011-13)

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Introduction

- There are over 7.5 million uninsured children in the U.S., as of 2009 (DeNavas-Walt, Proctor, and Smith, 2010).
- Lack of health insurance coverage often leads to poorer health in childhood because uninsured children are more likely to forgo needed medical care (Baker, 2009; Families USA, 2009).
- Forgoing medical care leads to serious long-term problems, such as poor overall health and developmental delays (Bailey and Stoll, 2010; Families USA, 2006; Baker, 2009).
- Many of the uninsured have low to moderate incomes, making it more difficult to pay for healthcare (Kaiser Commission, 2009).

Research Questions

- How do medical out-of-pocket expenditures for uninsured children compare with those of insured children?
- What are the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of uninsured children with the greatest medical out-ofpocket expenditures?
- In which states do uninsured children have the greatest per capita medical out-of-pocket expenditures?



Data and Methods

- This analysis uses tabular data from the 2010 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).
- The universe for this analysis is the civilian noninstitutionalized population under the age of 18 living in the U.S.
- Only non-premium, out-of-pocket expenditures are examined. These include all medicallyrelated expenses, with the exception of the premiums paid for health insurance. This is new content for the CPS ASEC.
- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

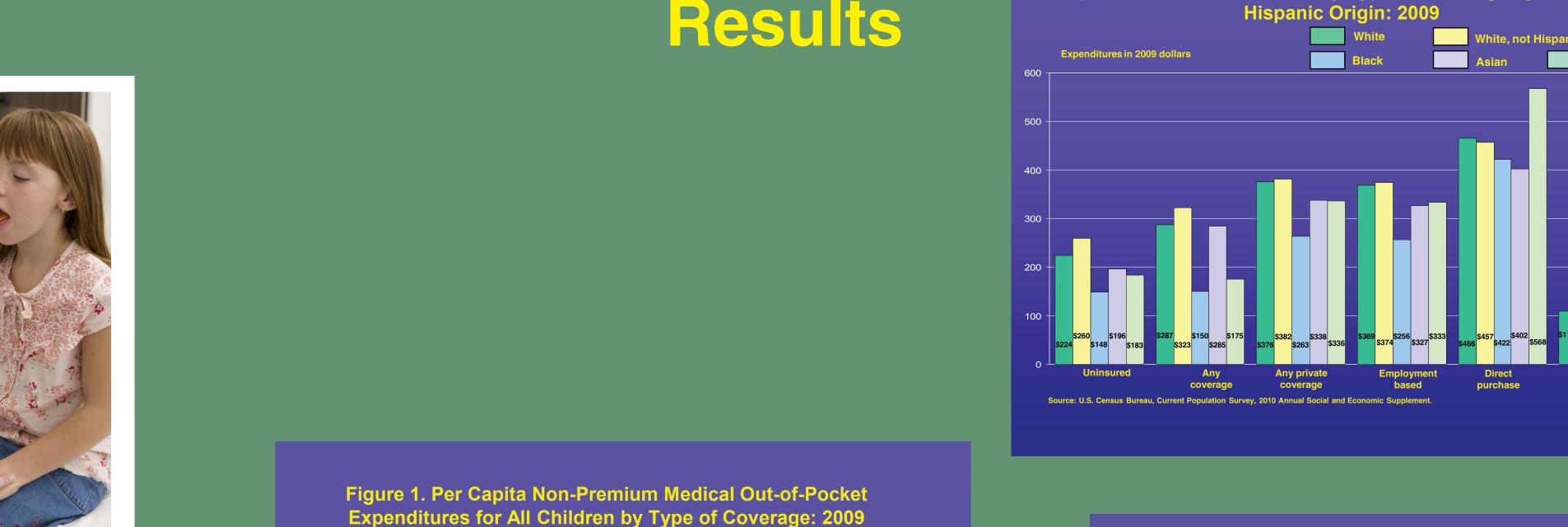


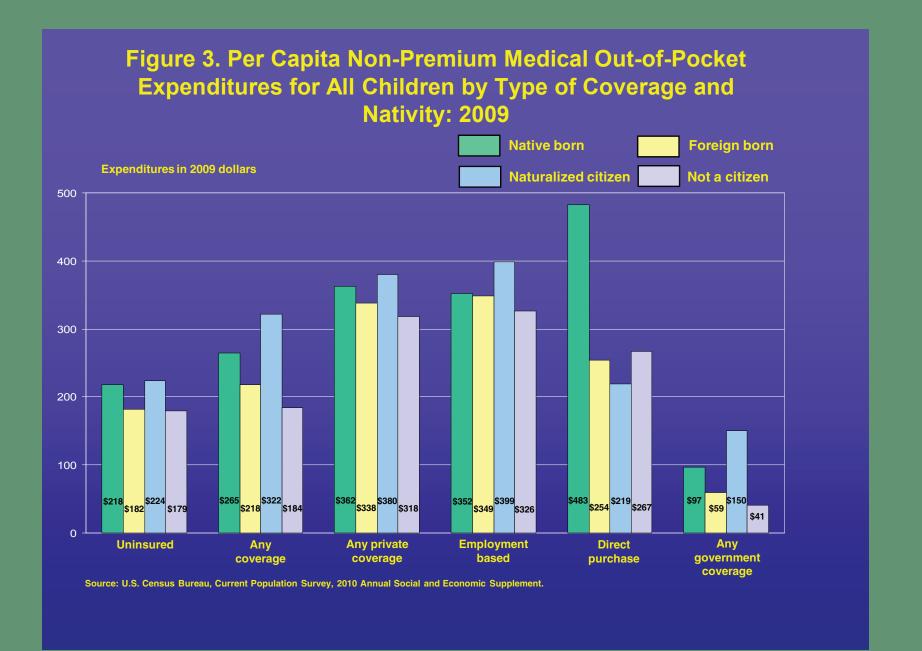
Figure 5. Per Capita Non-Premium Medical Out-of-Pocket

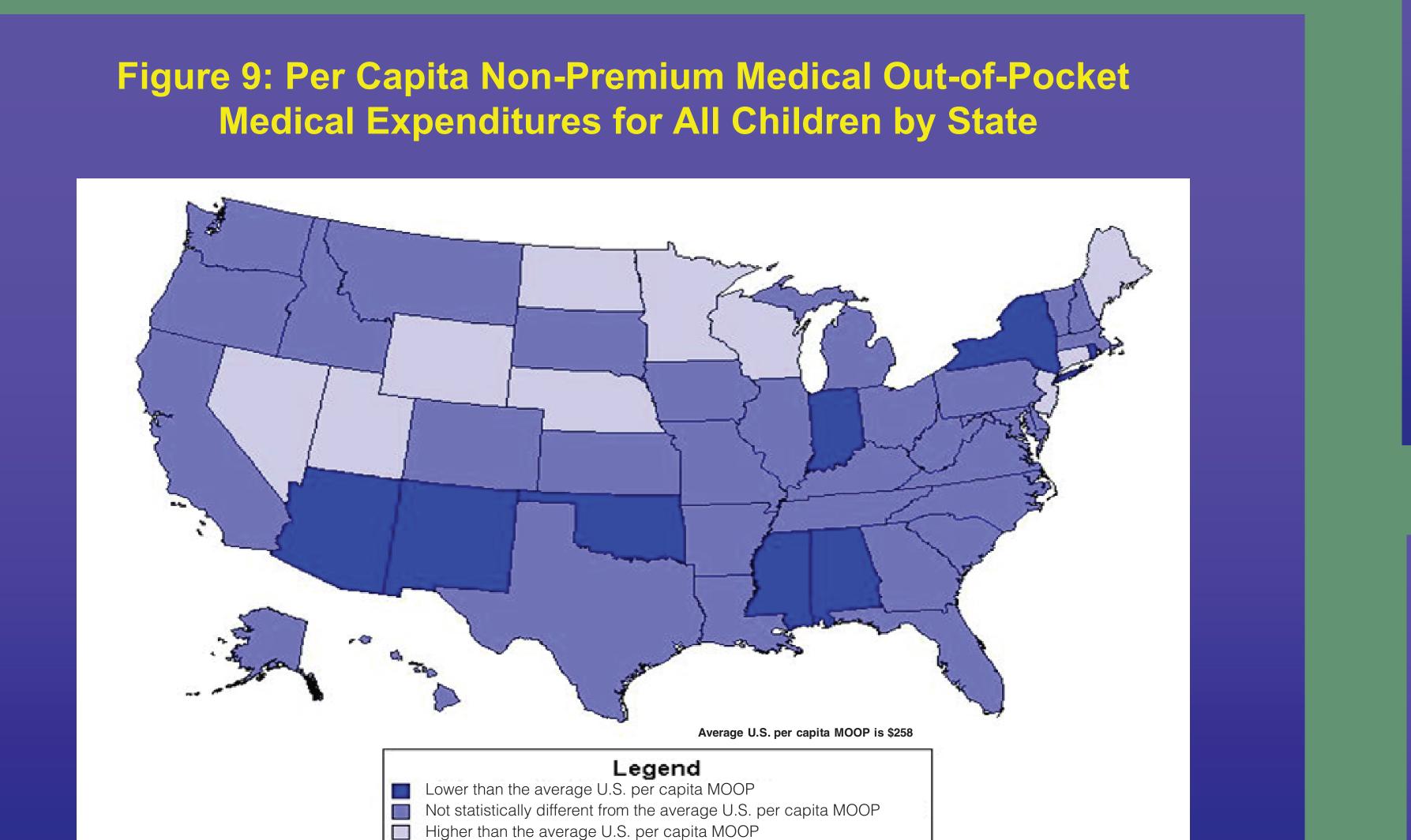
Expenditures for All Children by Coverage Status and Parents'

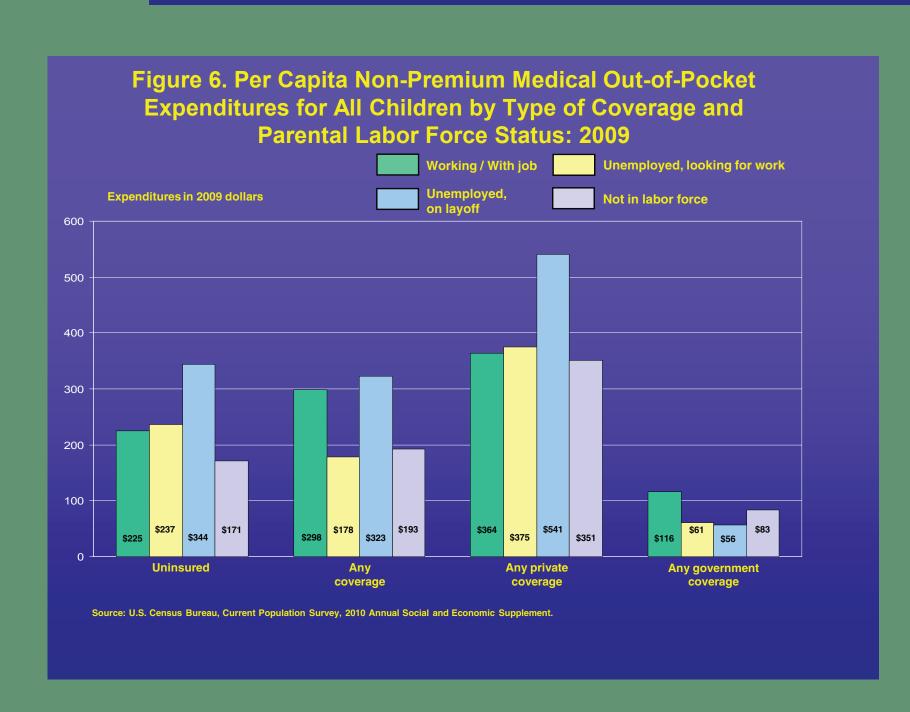
Marital Status: 2009

* Indicates that expenditures are statistically different between the insured and uninsured for each category.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

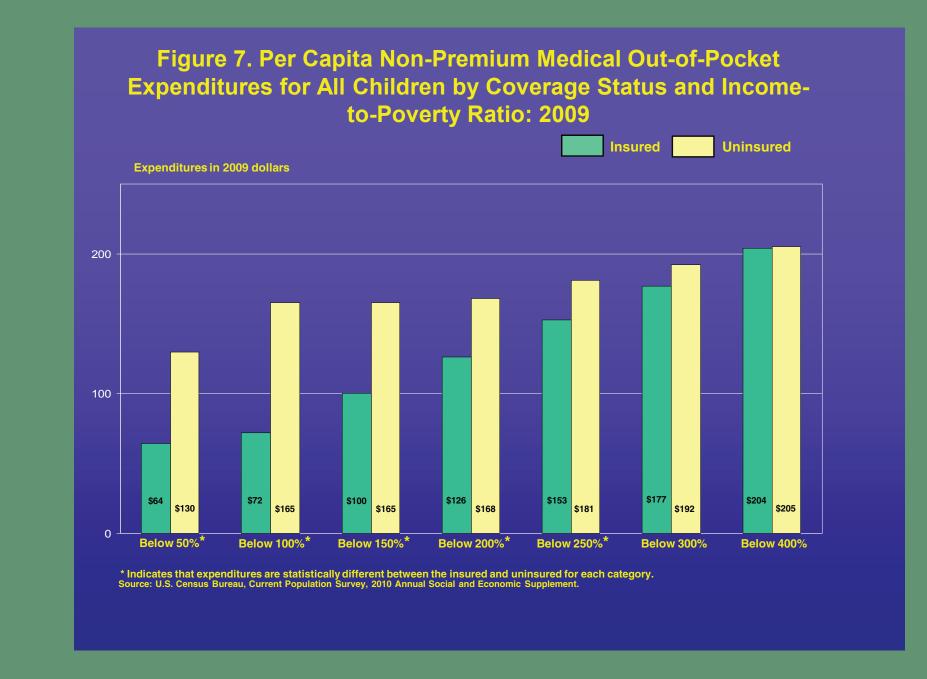
Insured Uninsured

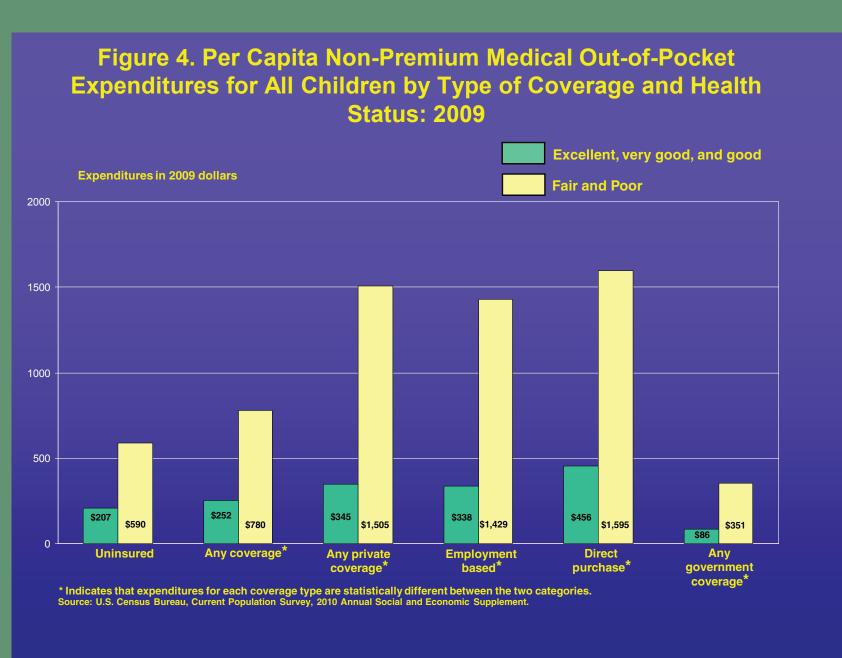


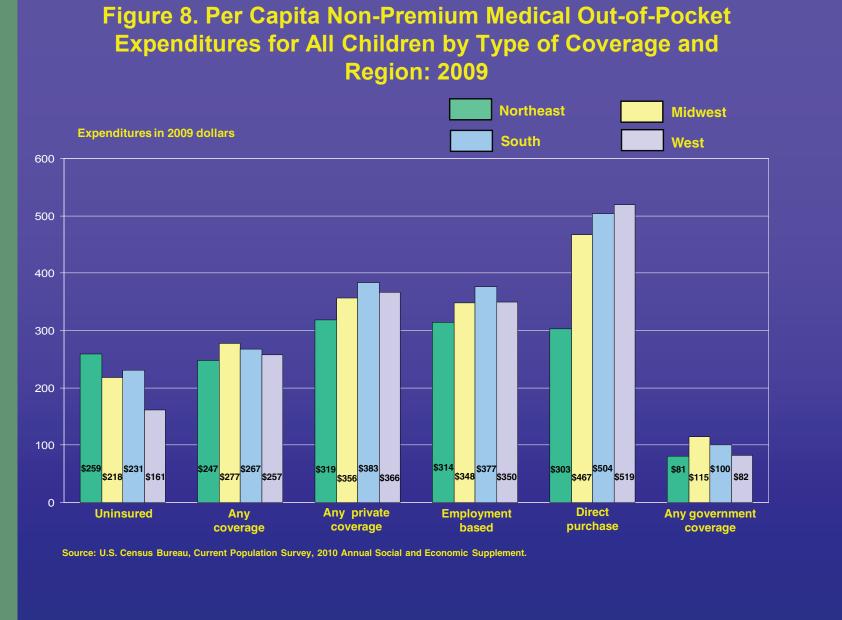




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

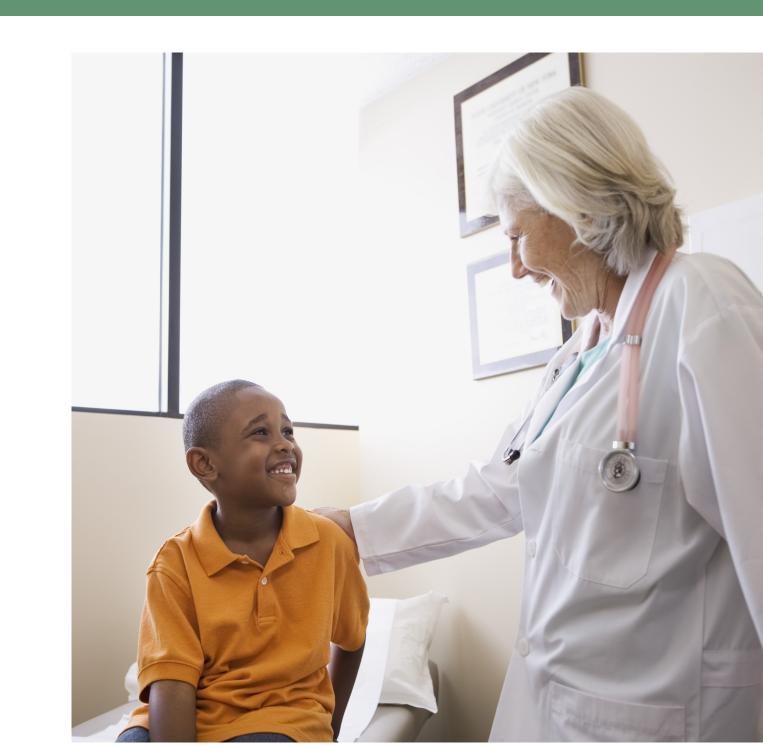






Discussion

- Uninsured children tend to have lower out-ofpocket medical expenditures than children with health insurance coverage.
- This supports previous research finding that uninsured children often forgo needed medical care.
- Families may not be able to afford regular medical care due to costs, particularly when these costs are not offset by any type of health coverage (Bailey and Stoll, 2010).



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