

Why is U.S. health care reform important for women and families?

- More than 17 million women are currently uninsured in the U.S.
- In 2006, the number of uninsured children increased to 8.7 million (11.7% of all children) up from 8.0 million (10.9 %) in 2005
- Health insurance premiums for family coverage have increased 87% between 2000 and 2006
- Due to the high cost of insurance, employers are increasingly dropping family coverage, putting the health of women and children at risk
- 24% of women rely on their spouse for coverage, making them vulnerable should they become divorced, widowed, or if their husbands become unemployed
- Women are less likely than men to be eligible for employee health plans because they are more likely to work part-time.

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Sources:

Kaiser Family Foundation:

http://www.kff.org/womenshealth/upload/6000_05.pdf

United States Census Bureau:

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/010583.html

National Partnership for Women and Families:

http://www.nationalpartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ourwork_hcc_HealthCareCoverage