



UNINSURED RATE AMONG NONELDERLY ADULTS VARIES BY REGION IN KANSAS

This fact sheet is the first of a three-part series examining the geographic variation in health insurance coverage for Kansans.

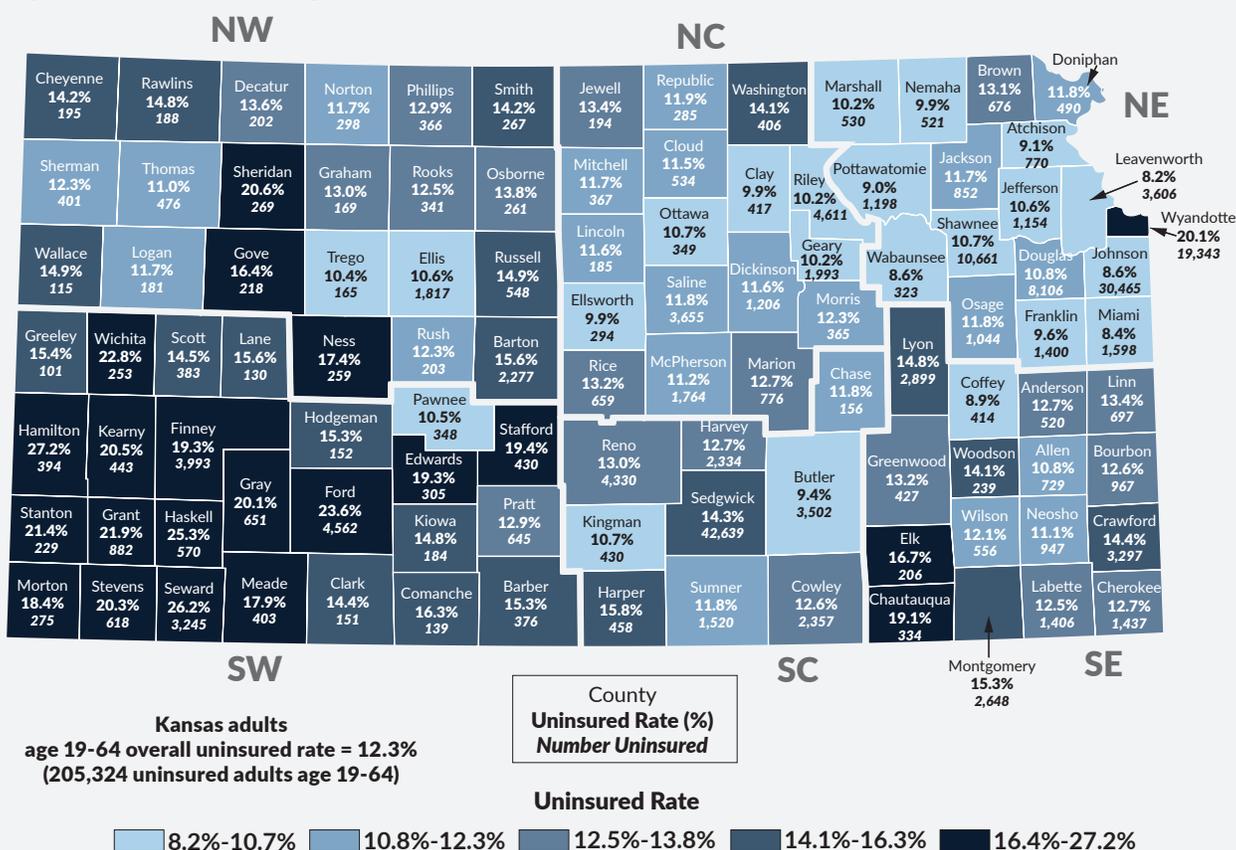
While Kansas has made strides in reducing the uninsured rate among nonelderly adults age 19-64, gains in health insurance coverage have stalled in recent years. In 2017, the overall uninsured rate among Kansas nonelderly adults remained unchanged from the previous year at 12.3 percent (205,324 Kansans). This fact sheet examines the county-specific uninsured rate among Kansas nonelderly adults in 2017 (Figure 1) – the most recent year for which county-level data are available – and regional changes in the

uninsured rate from 2009 to 2017 (Figure 2, page 2). It uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

Uninsured Rate Varies by County

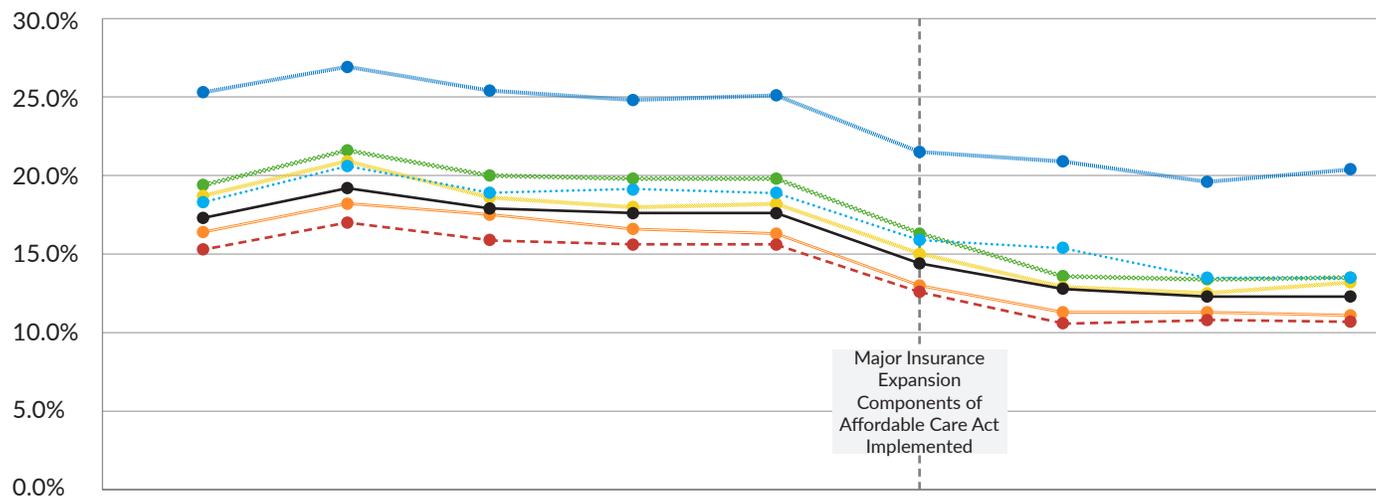
- There was more than a three-fold difference between Kansas counties with the highest and lowest uninsured rate among nonelderly adults in 2017: 27.2 percent in Hamilton County and 8.2 percent in Leavenworth County.
- While most counties with the highest uninsured rates were in the southwest

Figure 1. Kansas Adults Age 19-64: Uninsured Rate and Number by County, 2017



Note: Uninsured Kansas adults age 19-64 (not in institutions) = 205,324. County-level data in Excel format are available at bit.ly/2OC2dTr. Regions are designated using the Kansas Department of Health and Environment District Office Boundaries map. Source: KHI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

Figure 2. Kansas Adults Age 19-64: Uninsured Rate by Regions, 2009-2017



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
SW	25.3%	26.9%	25.4%	24.8%	25.1%	21.5%	20.9%	19.6%	20.4%
SE	19.4%	21.6%	20.0%	19.8%	19.8%	16.3%	13.6%	13.4%	13.5%
NW	18.7%	20.9%	18.6%	18.0%	18.2%	15.0%	12.9%	12.5%	13.2%
SC	18.3%	20.6%	18.9%	19.1%	18.9%	15.9%	15.4%	13.5%	13.5%
NC	16.4%	18.2%	17.5%	16.6%	16.3%	13.0%	11.3%	11.3%	11.1%
NE	15.3%	17.0%	15.9%	15.6%	15.6%	12.6%	10.6%	10.8%	10.7%
KS	17.3%	19.2%	17.9%	17.6%	17.6%	14.4%	12.8%	12.3%	12.3%

Note: Regions are designated using the Kansas Department of Health and Environment District Office Boundaries map.

Source: KHI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2017 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

region of the state, Wyandotte County in northeast Kansas also had one of the highest rates (20.1 percent).

among nonelderly adults in each region. However, the uninsured rate in all regions has flattened out since 2016.

Uninsured Rate Has Flattened

- The southwest region of Kansas had a consistently higher uninsured rate than other regions in Kansas from 2009 to 2017.
- Between 2013 and 2016, there was a significant decrease in the uninsured rate

Discussion

Regardless of where Kansas adults age 19-64 live, insurance coverage has improved since 2009, and the improvement has followed a similar trend across all regions. However, the gap between the southwest and other regions in the state persists. Further analysis of the underlying contributors to the high uninsured rate in the southwest could help communities implement targeted approaches.

Technical Note

The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) data is the only data source for single-year county-specific estimates for health insurance coverage (<http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie/about.html>). SAHIE estimates for health insurance coverage at the state level could differ slightly from those derived from other data sources because of differences in methodology.

ABOUT THE FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is based on work done by Hina B. Shah, M.P.H.; Cheng-Chung Huang, M.P.H.; and Wen-Chieh Lin, Ph.D. It is available online at khi.org/policy/article/19-38.

KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

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