

Ensuring Access to Health Insurance for All People in Oregon



Six percent of people in Oregon do not have health insurance

About six percent of people in Oregon don't have health insurance. Of this six percent, many are Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members who lose health insurance coverage because of a temporary change to their eligibility, like making more money one month. When people lose coverage—even for short periods of time—they miss health care appointments and lose contact with their providers, which means they don't get care when they need it. Delaying care can cause people to get sicker, need *more* care overall, and cost more in the end.

In the new waiver, Oregon plans to make it easier for eligible people to get OHP coverage, and easier for OHP members to stay covered.

Uninsurance by the numbers

Most uninsured people in Oregon are eligible for Medicaid or Marketplace health insurance.



About 60% of kids without health insurance in Oregon are eligible for OHP.



About 25% of adults without health insurance in Oregon are eligible for OHP.

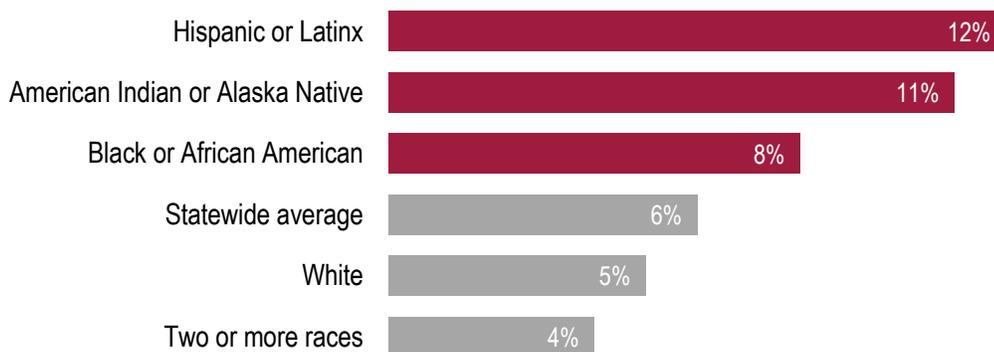


Almost 50% of people without insurance in Oregon could get help paying for health insurance through the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.



More than 30% of people without insurance said they lost OHP, and data from the Oregon Health Insurance Survey suggests that many of these people might still be eligible for OHP.

People in communities of color and Tribal communities are nearly twice as likely to be uninsured.



Potential strategies to insure more people in Oregon

Below are three strategies the Oregon Health Authority plans to ask the federal government for permission to provide:

- 1. Continuous OHP enrollment for kids, from birth until their sixth birthday.** This means kids would keep their coverage until they turn six and can keep seeing the same health care providers for longer, which results in better health outcomes. For parents and caregivers of kids on OHP, this means that there will be less paperwork, and less worry about whether a small shift in income will mean a child loses their health care coverage.
- 2. Two-year continuous OHP enrollment for people age six and up, even if their income changes.** Many people who lose OHP health insurance are only ineligible for a short time and then rejoin OHP. This “on and off” OHP hurts health care outcomes *and* costs taxpayers money in administrative work. By providing two-year continuous enrollment without needing to do paperwork if income changes, people will have better health outcomes.
- 3. A fast, easy way to get enrolled in OHP for people who apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.** Many people who are eligible for SNAP are also eligible for OHP health insurance. According to a 2021 analysis of SNAP membership, 17% of adults and 6% of children receiving SNAP were eligible for, but not receiving OHP health insurance. Oregon wants to let these people know that they can also receive free health care and help them get enrolled.

What this means for OHP members

For eligible people who aren't enrolled in OHP: In the new waiver, it will be easier for eligible people to get enrolled in OHP. Oregon will provide more outreach in different languages, through trusted partners and community-based organizations. This means eligible people will get to talk to someone they trust, in their preferred language. When people in Oregon sign up for other benefits (like food assistance), they will also get information about enrolling in OHP.

For OHP members: OHP members will get to stay covered longer. Right now, members need to re-enroll every year, and they lose coverage if something changes in their eligibility (like a change in income). In the new waiver, members won't have to re-enroll as often, and temporary changes in eligibility won't make them lose OHP.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Community Partner Outreach Program at community.outreach@dhsosha.state.or.us or by calling 1-833-647-3678. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.