

**Table 16 - MEPS
Medical Utilization and Expenditures of the Uninsured: Children
Calendar Year 2004 - Uninsured Ever During the Year**

Category	Population (Millions)	Distribution of Population	Uninsured (Millions)	Distribution of Uninsured	Percent Uninsured by Category
TOTAL POPULATION	81.1	100.0%	16.2	100.0%	19.9%
TOTAL HEALTH CARE SPENDING					
None	12.6	15.5%	4.6	28.4%	36.5%
\$1-100	8.8	10.9%	2.4	14.7%	26.9%
\$100-250	14.1	17.4%	2.6	16.2%	18.5%
\$250-500	13.9	17.2%	2.4	14.9%	17.3%
\$500-1000	13.0	16.0%	1.8	11.2%	14.0%
\$1000-2500	10.2	12.5%	1.3	8.0%	12.7%
\$2,500-\$5,000	4.7	5.8%	0.6	3.7%	12.8%
More than \$5,000	3.8	4.7%	0.5	2.8%	12.1%
SELF/OUT OF POCKET SPENDING					
None	26.5	32.7%	6.6	40.5%	24.7%
\$1-100	26.5	32.7%	4.4	27.3%	16.7%
\$100-250	11.5	14.1%	2.2	13.9%	19.6%
\$250-500	7.7	9.5%	1.5	9.3%	19.5%
\$500-1000	4.7	5.8%	0.8	4.7%	16.4%
\$1000-2500	2.8	3.5%	0.4	2.8%	15.8%
More than \$2500	1.4	1.7%	0.2	1.4%	16.7%
HOSPITAL SPENDING*					
None	79.0	97.3%	15.7	97.0%	19.9%
\$1-2,500	0.6	0.7%	0.2	1.1%	31.5%
\$2,500-5,000	0.7	0.8%	0.1	0.7%	17.8%
\$5,000-10,000	0.5	0.6%	0.1	0.5%	17.6%
\$10,000-50,000	0.4	0.5%	0.1	0.5%	23.2%
AMBULATORY VISITS					
None	23.1	28.5%	6.7	41.2%	28.8%
1-2	30.7	37.9%	5.8	36.0%	19.0%
3-5	16.4	20.2%	2.5	15.3%	15.1%
6 or more	10.9	13.4%	1.2	7.5%	11.2%
ER/ED VISITS					
None	70.6	87.1%	14.0	86.2%	19.8%
1	8.6	10.6%	1.8	11.0%	20.9%
2 or more	1.9	2.4%	0.4	2.7%	22.9%
HOSPITAL DISCHARGES					
None	78.9	97.3%	15.7	96.9%	19.9%
1	1.9	2.3%	0.4	2.7%	23.3%
2 or more	0.3	0.4%	0.1	0.4%	20.8%

* Annual hospital expenditures are below \$50,000 for virtually all (99.7 percent or more) of the total population and the population of uninsured persons.

These estimates are based on ERIU tabulations of 2004 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data collected by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The MEPS employs an overlapping panel design and collects data on two calendar years for each respondent. The tabulations reported here are based on responses to interview Rounds 3, 4, and 5 of Panel 6 and Rounds 1, 2, and 3 of Panel 7, which cover calendar year 2004 for both panels. Coverage status is obtained at the initial interview. At each subsequent interview, respondents are asked about whether their coverage has changed since the last interview and, if so, how and when. Respondents report whether they were covered by any public or private source of health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, TRICARE/CHAMPUS, other public coverage, employment-based private, other private health insurance). Respondents are considered uninsured if they respond “no” to all of the coverage options; they are not asked directly if they are uninsured. A person may gain or lose coverage during a year and these data permit estimates of the number lacking coverage at a particular point in time, at some time during the year, and throughout the entire year. We label those who are without health insurance for the entire year as “all-year uninsured,” and those without health insurance for at least one month and up to twelve months as “ever uninsured.” The “point-in-time uninsured” estimates include those without coverage in the first round of the calendar year (Round 3 for those who entered the survey in 2001, and Round 1 for those who entered the survey in 2004).

For further discussion of issues related to counting the uninsured see "[Counting and Characterizing the Uninsured](#)," by Pamela Farley Short, and ERIU [Research Highlight 1: A Revolving Door: How Individuals Move In and Out of Health Insurance Coverage](#)