Why Did the Number of Uninsured Continue to Increase in 2005?

John Holahan
Allison Cook
The Urban Institute

Alliance for Health Reform October 19, 2006

Key Findings: 2004-2005

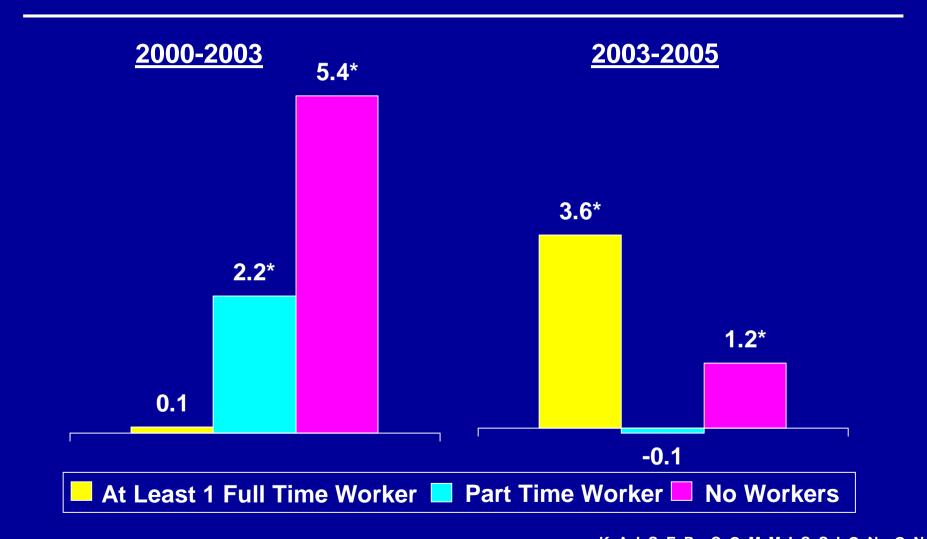
- The number of uninsured increased in 2005 by 1.3 million: 44.8 → 46.1 million
 - Adults accounted for 1.0 million of the increase
 - 1.1 million were from low-income families (less than 200% FPL)
- The uninsured grew in 2005 primarily because of the continued decline in employer-sponsored insurance (ESI)

Key Findings: 2004-2005 (cont.)

- Unlike previous years, there was no increase in Medicaid/SCHIP coverage to offset the ESI decline → both the uninsured rate and the number of uninsured increased
- ESI decreases were greatest among children from low and middle-income families
- These changes created an increase of 300,000 uninsured children, reversing the small gain (400,000) in coverage among children between 2000 and 2004

Figure 3

Economic Conditions Improved in 2003-2005 vs. 2000-2003: Changes in Family Work Status (in millions of people)

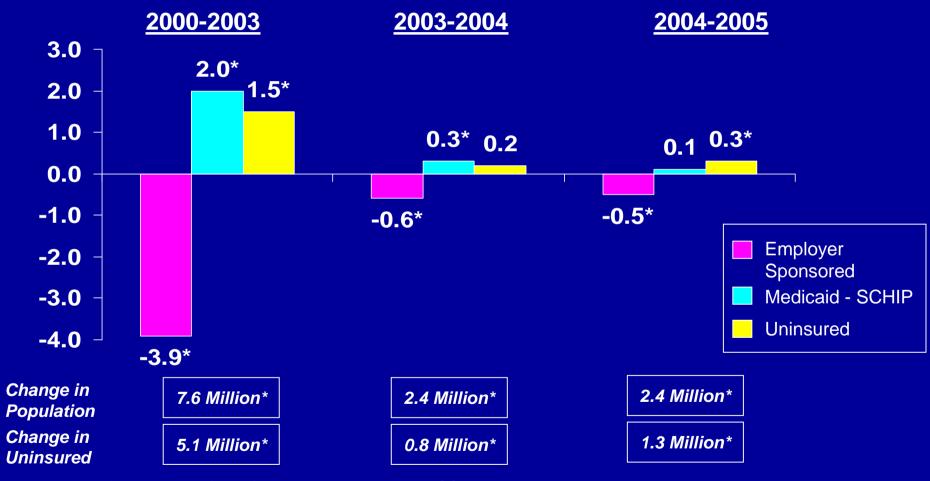


KAISER COMMISSION ON Medicaid and the Uninsured

^{*} Statistically significant change (p<.10).

Changes in Health Insurance Coverage of the Nonelderly

-- Percentage Point Changes --



^{*} Statistically significant change (p<.10). Medicaid also includes SCHIP, other state programs.

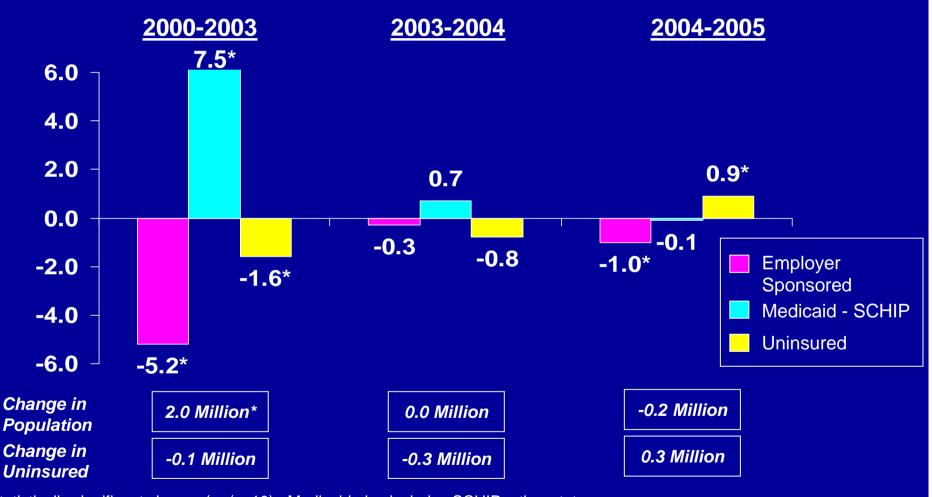
Figure excludes changes in CHAMPUS/Medicare and private nongroup insurance for ease of presentation because changes in coverage are generally small. *Source: Urban Institute*

<u>KAISER COMMISSION ON</u> **Medicaid and the Uninsured**

Figure 5

Changes in Health Insurance Coverage of Low Income (<200% FPL) Children

-- Percentage Point Changes --



* Statistically significant change (p</= .10). Medicaid also includes SCHIP, other state programs.

Figure excludes changes in CHAMPUS/Medicare and private nongroup insurance for ease of presentation because changes in coverage are generally small. **Source: Urban Institute**

<u>KAISER COMMISSION ON</u> **Medicaid and the Uninsured**

Figure 6

Changes in Employment of Nonelderly Workers, By Firm Size, 2000-2005

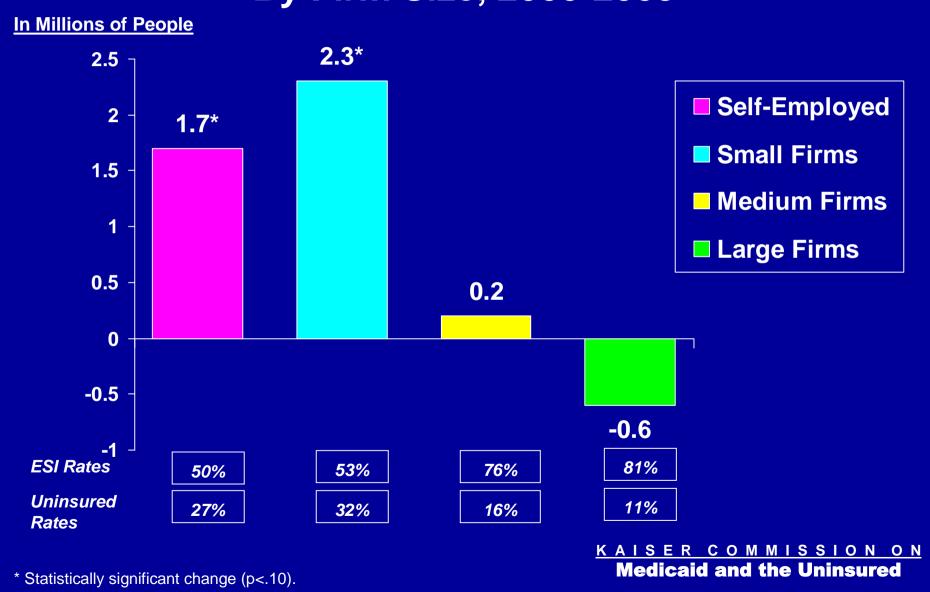
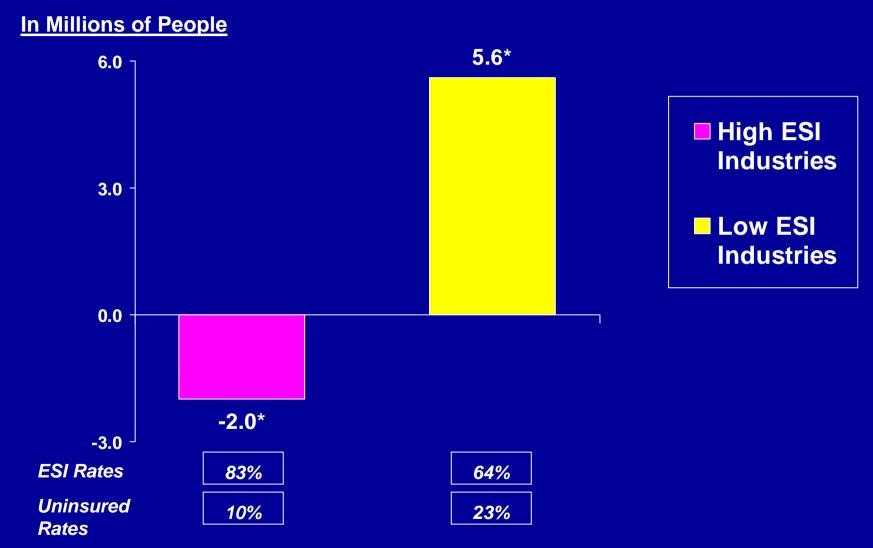


Figure 7

Changes in Employment of Nonelderly Workers, By Industry, 2000-2005



^{*} Statistically significant change (p<.10).

<u>KAISER COMMISSION ON</u> **Medicaid and the Uninsured**

Summary

- Despite an improving economy after 2003, the share of Americans with job-based insurance continued to decline
- By 2005, Medicaid and SCHIP were no longer growing to fill this gap
- The large majority of the 1.3 million growth in the uninsured between 2004 and 2005 were adults and most were from low-income families
- New development: the number of uninsured children grew slightly in 2005, where declines in ESI were deep—among low and middle income children