

AARP

Public Policy Institute

State-by-State Details from REFORMING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM: STATE PROFILES 1999

State and national lawmakers are recognizing once again that health care is an important concern for Americans. In fact, health care is a key issue in many state legislatures. *Reforming the Health Care System: State Profiles 1999*¹ provides detailed information on the vast differences among the states along key health dimensions – health insurance coverage, managed care, health financing and expenditures, health resources, use of health services, and state policies. This chartbook shows that the health care resources available to Americans often depend largely upon where they live. The wide diversity among the states suggests opportunities for states to learn from each other about how to improve their health care systems.

Comparable state-level data are often difficult to obtain from a single source. The most reliable and up-to-date public and private data available were used to produce the information in this report. Public state-level data were often available through federal government health agencies. AARP's Public Policy Institute staff also used data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census to calculate state values for some indicators.

State-by-state details of *State Profiles 1999* are presented below.² Indicators that are highlighted were selected as follows. First, for each state, we identified all of the indicators on which that state ranked in the top ten states (highest ranking) or bottom ten states (lowest ranking) based on the numerical values printed in the report. Due to space limitations, we then selected approximately six indicators per state to highlight in this summary, focusing on the categories of health insurance, health expenditures, and resources available. We report fewer highlights for those states that ranked near the middle on most indicators.

Data presented in this chartbook may differ from other published sources because: (1) data sources, definitions, or measurement procedures may vary, depending on the purpose of the study; (2) for any particular state, state agencies may have more detailed information available concerning a specific indicator; or (3) more current information may have become available since *State Profiles* was compiled. For additional data questions, refer to the Data Documentation section in the *State Profiles* report.

¹ Lamphere, Jo Ann, Normandy Brangan, Sharon Bee, and Kelly Griffin, AARP PPI publication #D17094 (December 1999).

² While the most current data available were used to compile the chartbook, the sources from which and the years in which the data were collected vary from indicator to indicator. See Data Documentation section in the chartbook for details.

Alabama

- Alabama has the second highest number of hospital admissions per 1,000 persons in the nation (after the District of Columbia).
- Alabama ranks among the ten states with the highest rates of death from heart disease, cancer, stroke, and tuberculosis.
- Nearly 30 percent all persons age 65 and older in Alabama are low-income (below 135% of the federal poverty level); Alabama ranks among the ten states with the largest percentage of older persons with low-incomes.
- Over half of all births in Alabama are paid by Medicaid (ranks 2nd).
- Alabama ranks first in state/local non-Medicaid spending on health (as a percent of its state budget).

Alaska

- Alaska has the smallest population of persons age 75 and over – both in number and as a percent of the population – and is projected to retain this status into 2011.
- Alaska is the state with the smallest number of Medicare beneficiaries (39,000).
- Alaska ranks 2nd, behind Nevada, in high numbers of deaths per 100,000 population from suicide, 3rd in number of tuberculosis cases, and 5th in firearm deaths. It ranks low in heart disease deaths (48th) and stroke deaths (41st).
- On many indicators, Alaska is an “outlier,” ranking very high or low compared to other states.

Arizona

- Arizona ranks 1st in the percentage of persons who did not see a doctor because of cost (25.3%).
- Arizona has the highest percentage of uninsured persons in the nation; over one-quarter of all persons under age 65 do not have health insurance. Among persons whose family income is below the national median, the percentage of uninsured persons rises to nearly 40 percent (ranks 3rd).
- One-third of persons living in poverty find help for health care through Medicaid; Arizona has one of the lowest coverage rates for this population (ranks 44th in the nation).
- Arizona has the highest percentage of its Medicare population enrolled in Medicare+Choice (41%).

Arkansas

- Arkansas has the second lowest median family income in the country (\$32,000). Nearly 70 percent of all persons in Arkansas have family income below the national median.
- Arkansas ranks first in the percentage of older persons living on incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- Arkansas is among the top ten states in high rates of death from heart disease (149.7 per 100,000), cancer (139.4 per 100,000), and stroke (38.5 per 100,000). The state has the smallest proportion of women over the age of 50 receiving a mammogram (55.9%).
- Arkansas ranks 2nd in the percentage of people who report that they did not see a doctor because of cost (19%).

California

- In California, one in ten persons report that they didn't see a doctor because of cost (ranks 20th).
- California ranks 5th in the number of persons under age 65 without insurance.
- In California, one-third of persons with family incomes below the national median did not have health coverage (ranks 5th), while one-tenth of those in families with higher incomes went without coverage (ranks 2nd).
- There are more HMOs in California than in almost any other state (ranks 4th), and those HMOs cover nearly one-half of all insured persons in California (ranks 2nd).

Colorado

- Colorado ranks 49th in deaths from cancer, 50th in deaths from heart disease, and 51st in deaths from diabetes.
- Colorado ranks third, after Tennessee and Washington, in the percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries in managed care (99.3%).

Connecticut

- Connecticut has higher Medicaid payments for its elderly and disabled enrollees than any other state (\$18,587). Most other states in New England are also in the top ten: New Hampshire 2nd, Rhode Island 6th, and Massachusetts 7th.
- Connecticut has high nursing home costs (\$154.77 per day); only Alaska ranks higher in its median cost per day. Nursing facilities are operating at 96 percent occupancy, the third highest occupancy rate in the country.

Delaware

- In Delaware, nearly one-quarter of persons in families with incomes below the national median do not have health insurance (ranks 27th), while less than one-tenth of the persons above the national median income go without insurance (ranks 17th).

- Delaware is one of eight states with a total population below 1 million. Among these smaller states, Delaware has the highest number of HMOs and number of persons enrolled in HMOs, nearly half of the entire insured population.

District of Columbia

- The District of Columbia has the second smallest total population behind Wyoming.
- It has the 2nd highest poverty rate in the nation and the 2nd largest proportion of older persons living below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- The rates of death from heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are among the highest of all states. It also has the highest number of cases of tuberculosis per 100,000 persons.
- It has the most hospital beds per 100,000 population. It has the highest ratio of specialist physicians to 100,000 population and the highest ratio of physicians in residency to 100,000 population in the nation. Yet, it has the 3rd largest percentage of population (21.3%) underserved by primary care physicians.
- The District has the lowest percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in their first trimester and the highest percentage of women over 50 receiving a mammogram.
- The District is among only 11 states in which a person age 65 and over and living at 100 percent of the federal poverty level can qualify for full Medicaid benefits.
- Twenty-five percent of all Medicare beneficiaries in the District are covered by Medicaid (ranks 2nd).

Florida

- No other state has a higher average employee cost for family health coverage (\$2,165 in 1996).
- In Florida, nearly one-third of persons in families below the national median income do not have health insurance (ranks 6th), while about one-tenth of the persons in families above the national median income go without insurance (ranks 4th).
- More than one in four Medicare beneficiaries in Florida are enrolled in Medicare+Choice.

Georgia

- Georgia has the tenth largest population in the country, yet one of the smallest older populations; it ranks 48th in the percentage of persons age 65-74 (5.5%) and 49th in the percentage of persons age 75 and older (4.4%).
- It has the 4th highest rate of stroke deaths per 100,000 population.
- Medicaid payments for elderly/disabled beneficiaries in Georgia are among the lowest in the country (\$6,217, ranks 48th).

Hawaii

- Hawaii has one of the lowest rates of uninsurance in the nation. It ranks 50th in the percentage of uninsured persons under age 65 (9.5%), and 50th in percentage of uninsured children under age 19 and below 200% of the federal poverty level (10%).
- The percentage of Hawaiians underserved by primary care physicians (2.9%) is the second lowest in the country, and the percentage of people who reported not seeing a doctor because of the cost (7.1%) is among the lowest in the country (ranks 47th).
- Hawaii is among 11 states that provide full Medicaid benefits to Medicare beneficiaries with incomes at 100% of the federal poverty level.

Idaho

- Idaho's rate of uninsurance for persons under age 65 is slightly higher than the U.S. average (18.3% vs. 17.8%). About ten percent of Idaho's residents are minorities or of ethnic descent. Of this group, 36.5 percent are uninsured (2nd highest), compared with 13.5 percent of whites.
- Idaho has one of the smallest shares of poor people under age 65 receiving Medicaid benefits (30.8%, ranks 48th).
- Idaho has fewer health resources available compared to other states. It has the 5th highest percentage of persons who are underserved by primary care physicians (19.7%). Idaho ranks among the bottom three states in number of specialists, residents, and registered nurses per 100,000 people.

Illinois

- Illinois ranks in the top ten states in median family income (\$47,694).
- It ranks in the top ten states in job-based health coverage for persons under age 65 (71%), and has a low percentage of persons under 65 who are uninsured (13.1 %, ranks 40th).
- It ranks in the ten states with the highest total premiums for family coverage through an employer (\$5,338), but ranks lower (33rd) in the average employee contribution toward that premium (\$1,264).

Indiana

- Indiana's low poverty rate (8.2%) is second only to New Hampshire's (7.7%).
- Indiana has the second highest percentage of persons under age 65 with insurance through an employer (74.1%) and the second lowest percentage of those covered by Medicaid (4.3%).
- Indiana has the fourth highest percentage of children with employer coverage in families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Iowa

- Iowa has one of the largest populations age 65 and older (5th highest 65-74 year olds and 3rd highest age 65 and older), and one of the smallest older populations with incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level (13.4%, ranks 48th).

- Iowa has the highest percentage of Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older with private insurance (82.6%).
- Medicare payments per beneficiary in Iowa are among the lowest in the nation (\$3,865, ranks 47th).

Kansas

- Kansas ranks in the top ten states for children with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level with employer health coverage (38.3%)
- Kansas ranks 5th in the percentage of Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older with private insurance.
- Kansas has the highest percentage of providers that accept Medicare payments as payment in full (assignment).
- Kansas is among the top ten states in number of generalists per 100,000 persons (39) but ranks 39th in number of specialists per 100,000 persons (158).
- Kansas ranks 6th in the number of Medicare post-acute providers per 10,000 beneficiaries.

Kentucky

- Kentucky has the third highest death rates per 100,000 population for heart disease (159.5) and cancer (145.7).
- In Kentucky, one-fifth of all Medicare beneficiaries are persons with disabilities under age 65, which is the highest proportion of any state.
- Kentucky has the eleventh highest Medicaid payments for children and adults (\$1,653) and the fifth lowest (46th) for elderly/disabled Medicaid beneficiaries (\$6,560).

Louisiana

- Louisiana has a very low median family income (\$34,000, ranks 45th); it has the fifth highest poverty rate (18.4%); and the third largest elderly population with incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level (30.8%) as a percent of its total elderly population.
- Louisiana is among the ten states with the highest death rates from heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and firearms. It also among the ten states with the highest number of tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population.
- A greater percentage of people are underserved by primary care physicians in Louisiana (24% of the population) than in any other state in the nation.
- Louisiana is among the ten states with the highest rates of uninsurance. Nearly one-quarter of persons under age 65 lack health coverage; 31.3 percent of persons with family incomes below the national median are uninsured; and 29.4 percent of children under age 19 with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level are without health insurance.
- Medicare payments per beneficiary (\$6,984) in Louisiana are second highest in the nation; the highest are in the District of Columbia.

Maine

- Maine is among only 11 states that provide full Medicaid benefits for persons age 65 and older with incomes at poverty.
- Maine ranks 3rd in the percentage of children in families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level with employer-based health insurance.
- Maine ranks higher in number of generalists (11th) than specialists (31st) per 100,000 population, and is in the top ten for physician assistants and registered nurses per 100,000 population.

Maryland

- Maryland has the highest median family income (\$55,702) in the country.
- It has a very low poverty rate (9.3%, ranks 43rd) and a low percentage of elderly with incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level (14.9%, ranks 46th).
- Maryland has the smallest percentage of the state population that is “underserved” by primary care physicians (2.2%).
- Compared to other states, the number of generalists per 100,000 is much lower (23, ranks 44th), and the number of specialists per 100,000 is much higher (325, ranks 4th).

Massachusetts

- Massachusetts is among only 11 states that provide full Medicaid benefits for persons age 65 and older with incomes at poverty.
- Massachusetts’ Medicare *and* Medicaid payments per beneficiary rank among the highest in the country. Massachusetts ranks 3rd in Medicare payments per beneficiary (\$6,716); 6th in Medicaid payments per child/adult (\$1,941); and 7th in Medicaid payments per elderly/disabled beneficiary (\$12,918). Massachusetts also has the highest average premium for family coverage through an employer (\$6,016).
- About 10 percent of Massachusetts’s jobs are health related (ranks 3rd), and the state has many specialists (2nd) and registered nurses (2nd). Yet, the number of generalists per 100,000 population is lower than in any other state except Connecticut.
- 5.4% of the total population is “underserved” by primary care physicians (ranks 46th). Only about 7 percent of the population reports not seeing a doctor due to the cost (ranks 46th).

Michigan

- Michigan’s population, both persons under 65 and age 65 and older, are more likely to rely on private coverage than in many other states. The state ranks 6th highest in the percentage of persons under age 65 with job-based coverage (71.6%) and 6th highest in the percentage of elderly with private coverage (78.4%).
- The portion of residents under age 65 without any insurance in Michigan (12.2%) is lower than the national average (17.8%). Michigan has one of the ten smallest percentages of children in families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level who are uninsured (16.7%).
- About 58 percent of poor persons in Michigan receive Medicaid benefits (ranks 4th highest).

Minnesota

- Minnesota has one of the lowest uninsurance rates for persons under age 65, about 10 percent do not have health insurance (ranks 49th). For children under age 19 with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level, about 13 percent lack coverage (ranks 46th).
- Minnesota has the second highest proportion of poor people covered by Medicaid (60.2%).
- Minnesota has the second highest number of generalists (49) per 100,000 population; it ranks in the top ten states for the highest proportion of medical residents (42) and registered nurses (1,056) as well.
- Minnesota has one of the smallest populations underserved by primary care physicians in the country (less than 5%, ranks 48th).

Mississippi

- Mississippi has one of the lowest median family incomes (\$32,026). It has the 4th highest poverty rate (18.6%). About thirty percent of elderly persons have incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- Mississippi is among only 11 states that provide full Medicaid benefits for persons age 65 and older with incomes at poverty.
- Mississippi is among the five states with the highest death rates due to heart disease (ranks 1st); cancer (ranks 5th); stroke (ranks 3rd); and firearms (ranks 4th).
- More than one in five persons in Mississippi are “underserved” by primary care physicians (ranks 2nd).

Missouri

- Missouri ranks in the top ten states in the percentage of mothers receiving early prenatal care.
- Missouri ranks in the top ten states for high death rates from heart disease (149.9).
- Missouri ranks 47th for the percentage of poor persons enrolled in Medicaid (31.6%) and ranks 50th in percentage of Medicare beneficiaries with Medicaid (6.1%).
- Missouri has one of the lowest nursing facility occupancy rates (66%).

Montana

- Montana ranks among the ten states with the lowest number of deaths per 100,000 persons from heart disease (106.4), cancer (114.5), and diabetes (9.6). It ranks 3rd highest in its suicide death rate (19.8).
- In Montana, 18.5 percent of the population under 65 is uninsured. A greater percentage of its population did not see a doctor because of cost (13.3%) than in almost any other state in the nation.
- While 97.7 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in managed care, less than one percent of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare+Choice managed care.
- Montana ranks 48th in Medicare payments per beneficiary (\$3,808).

Nebraska

- In Nebraska, less than 12 percent of the population under age 65 is uninsured; and there is a low percentage of uninsured among those with family incomes below national median (ranks 49th). It has one of the lowest rates of uninsured children with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level (14.2%)
- Nebraska ranks 49th in percentage of population who did not see a doctor because of cost.
- It ranks 3rd highest in generalists per 100,000 population, 7th in physician assistants per 100,000 population, and 6th in hospital beds per 100,000 population.

Nevada

- Nevada ranks low (47th) in percentage of mothers who receive early prenatal care.
- It ranks 1st in suicide death rate (22.0 per 100,000) and 3rd in firearm death rate (22.5 per 100,000).
- Nevada has the 2nd highest percentage of uninsured children below 200% of the federal poverty level (36.2%).
- It ranks in the bottom ten states in percentage of persons under age 65 with Medicaid, and in percentage of children in families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level with Medicaid. It ranks 51st in percentage of poor persons under age 65 with Medicaid (26.1%).

New Hampshire

- New Hampshire has the lowest poverty rate in the U.S. (7.7%).
- It ranks 1st in percentage of mothers with early prenatal care (89.6%).
- New Hampshire ranks 4th in persons under age 65 with employer coverage (73.9%). It ranks in the bottom ten states in percentage uninsured (12%) and percentage of uninsured children below 200% of the federal poverty level (16.3%).
- New Hampshire ranks 5th in Medicaid payments per child/adult (\$1,957) and 2nd in Medicaid payments per elderly/disabled person (\$18,253).
- New Hampshire ranks 2nd in Medicaid expenses as a percentage of state spending (30.8%).

New Jersey

- New Jersey ranks 48th in deaths per 100,000 from strokes (21.2) and firearms. It has the lowest suicide death rate in the nation.
- New Jersey has one of the lowest percentages of uninsured children in families below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- New Jersey ranks among the top ten states for total Medicaid spending and percentage of total Medicaid spending devoted to long-term care (36.5%).
- New Jersey ranks in the top ten states in number of Medicare beneficiaries and in Medicare payments per Medicare beneficiary (\$5,889).
- New Jersey ranks 2nd in total average premiums per employee (\$5,879).

New Mexico

- New Mexico has the lowest median family income (\$30,900) and the highest poverty rate in the nation (23.4%), and 26.7 percent of its older population have incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- New Mexico is among the ten states with the highest rates of death from heart disease, cancer, and stroke. New Mexico also ranks 5th highest in suicide death rate (17.1 per 100,000). It has the second lowest proportion of mothers receiving early prenatal care (70.2%).
- New Mexico has the 3rd highest rate of uninsurance (26.4%) among persons age 65 and under; it ranks last (51st) in percentage of persons under age 65 with employer coverage, and has the 3rd highest rate of uninsurance among those with family incomes less than the national median (34.4%).
- While New Mexico ranks 2nd highest in percentage of persons under age 65 with Medicaid (15.8%), 43.1 percent of poor persons are covered by Medicaid (ranks 28th).

New York

- New York has the lowest stroke death rate in the U.S. (19.2 per 100,000). It also falls among the ten states with the lowest death rates from diabetes, suicide and firearms.
- New York ranks 2nd in percentage of children with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level with Medicaid.
- New York ranks highest in overall Medicaid spending (\$21.7 billion) and Medicaid spending as a percentage of state spending (33%). It ranks 3rd highest in Medicaid payments per child/adult (\$2,031) and Medicaid payments per elderly/disabled (\$17,287).
- New York is among top ten states for many health care resources: specialists per 100,000 population (339), physicians in residency per 100,000 population (79, ranks 2nd); physician assistants per 100,000 population (23), and hospital average daily census (53,843, ranks 1st). New York ranks among the bottom ten states in percentage of mothers with early prenatal care (80.6%).

North Carolina

- North Carolina ranks near the middle on most demographic, health status, health care utilization, health insurance, managed care, and health expenditure and financing indicators reviewed.
- North Carolina has one of the ten highest stroke death rates.
- North Carolinians face high costs for purchasing family coverage through their employer. The state ranks 4th (behind Alabama, Colorado, and Florida) in the average amount an employee contributes to family coverage (\$1,695).
- North Carolina has the fifth highest percentage of persons who did not see a doctor because of cost (13.8%).

North Dakota

- North Dakota is one of the smallest five states in total population, but has the fifth largest percentage of persons age 65 and older. Over 25 percent of persons in the older population have incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level (ranks 12th).
- North Dakota ranks in the top ten states for percentage of children under age 3 vaccinated (83%).
- In North Dakota, less than one-third of poor persons under age 65 were covered by Medicaid. It has the second highest Medicaid long term care expenditures (as a percent of total Medicaid spending) in the nation (48.2%).
- North Dakota ranks second, behind Iowa, in the percentage of Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older with private insurance (82.3%).
- North Dakota ranks 2nd in hospital beds per 100,000 population (608) and has the 2nd lowest nursing facility occupancy rate.

Ohio

- Ohio ranks 7th in total state population.
- Ohio ranks among the top ten states in hospital average daily census, emergency room visits, outpatient visits per 1,000 population, and total skilled nursing facility beds.
- Over 40 percent of Ohio's Medicaid spending goes to long-term care (ranks 6th).
- Ohio ranks among the top ten states in number of HMOs, HMO enrollment, and number of Medicare+Choice plans.

Oklahoma

- Oklahoma ranks among the bottom ten states in median family income (\$35,525).
- Nearly one-quarter of Oklahoma's older persons have incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- Oklahoma ranks 7th highest in deaths from heart disease. Oklahoma ranks nearly last (49th) in percentage of young children who are vaccinated.
- Over 20 percent of Oklahoma's population under age 65 is uninsured; over 27 percent of children living in families below 200% of the federal poverty level are uninsured.
- Oklahoma ranks 2nd in Medicare home health visits per person served (146).
- Oklahoma ranks in the bottom ten states in Medicaid payments per child/adult (\$1,091) and Medicaid payments per elderly/disabled person (\$7,263).

Oregon

- Oregon's population age 65 and older is expected to rise from 13.8 percent of the total population in 1999 to 16.2 percent in 2011.
- Oregon ranks in the bottom ten states in the percentage of vaccinated young children (73%). Oregon has the 6th highest percentage of children with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level insured through employer-based coverage (39.9%).

- In Oregon, 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare+Choice (ranks 5th). Nearly 80 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in managed care (ranks 9th).

Pennsylvania

- Nearly 16 percent of the Pennsylvania's total population is age 65 and over, one of the largest proportions in the country.
- Pennsylvania ranks in the top ten states for hospital admissions per 1,000 population (146.2) and outpatient visits per 1,000 population (2,303.5).
- Pennsylvania ranks 48th in its uninsured population (11.2%). Over 70 percent of persons under age 65 have employment-based health coverage.
- Pennsylvania ranks in the top ten states in Medicare payments per beneficiary (\$5,831). Over 25 percent of Pennsylvania's seniors are enrolled in Medicare+Choice.
- Pennsylvania ranks 1st in the percentage of its Medicaid spending allocated to long-term care (49%). It ranks 4th in total Medicaid expenses as a percent of state spending (26.4%).

Rhode Island

- Rhode Island has a large elderly population. It ranks 2nd behind Florida in population 75+ in 1999 (7.8%). Only nine states will have a larger percentage of their populations age 75 and over by 2011.
- Rhode Island ranks 2nd in percentage of mothers who received early prenatal care (89.5%) and 7th in percentage of vaccinated young children (84%). It ranks 2nd in percentage of women 50+ who received a mammogram (83.1%).
- It ranks among bottom ten states in death rates per 100,000 from stroke (23.0), suicide (7.1), and firearms (4.6).
- Rhode Island ranks 3rd highest in Medicaid expenses as a percent of total state spending (27.2%). Medicaid payments per elderly/disabled person was \$14,581 (ranks 6th).
- Medicare payments per beneficiary were \$5,973 (ranks 8th).
- Rhode Island ranks 1st in the percentage of jobs that are in the health care sector (11.3%).

South Carolina

- South Carolina has the highest death rate from stroke in the nation (39.3 per 100,000) and 4th highest diabetes death rate (17.3 per 100,000).
- It ranks among bottom ten states in mothers with early prenatal care (80.8%).
- South Carolina ranks 6th in percentage of uninsured children living in families below 200% of the federal poverty level (29.1%). It has the lowest percentage of Medicare beneficiaries with private insurance (48.9%) in the U.S.
- Less than 5 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in managed care (ranks 49th).

South Dakota

- South Dakota's suicide death rate is 7th highest (16.4 per 100,000).
- South Dakota has the fewest emergency room visits per 1,000 population (237.5) in the U.S.
- In South Dakota, 12.1 percent of persons under age 65 are uninsured (only six states are lower). About 17 percent of South Dakota's population with family incomes below the national median are uninsured (only four states are lower).
- South Dakota ranks 2nd behind Vermont in percentage of children in families below 200% of the federal poverty level with employment-based health insurance (44.5%) and only three states leave a smaller percentage of poor children (below 200% of the federal poverty level) uninsured.
- South Dakota ranks 50th in percentage of poor persons under age 65 with Medicaid (27.9%).
- South Dakota ranks 50th in Medicare payments per beneficiary (\$3,737).

Tennessee

- Tennessee ranks among the bottom ten states in median family income (\$36,450); nearly 30 percent of its elderly population have incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- Tennessee ranks 1st in the percentage of Medicare beneficiaries with Medicaid; it ranks 3rd in percentage of persons under age 65 with Medicaid (14.4%). Nearly 60 percent of poor persons under age 65 in Tennessee were covered by Medicaid.
- Of all Medicaid spending in Tennessee, only 2.6 percent was allocated to home health care (ranks 48th one of the smallest allocations to home health care in the nation).

Texas

- Nearly 20 million people live in Texas. The state has the 9th largest percentage of population in poverty (16.7%); almost 30 percent of the elderly have incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- Texas ranks among the ten states with the highest death rates from diabetes and number of tuberculosis cases.
- Texas ranks 2nd highest in the percentage of uninsured persons under age 65 (26.6%). Among those whose family income was less than the national median, over 38 percent were uninsured (ranks 2nd). No state had a larger portion of its residents with family incomes above the national median without health insurance (12.2%). Texas ranks among the 10 states for percentage of uninsured children in families below 200% of the federal poverty level (nearly 36%).
- The state ranks among the bottom ten states in percentage of mothers with early prenatal care, and women age 50 and over getting mammograms. A high percentage of Texans reported not seeing a doctor because of cost (13.6%).
- Texas ranks 3rd in Medicare skilled nursing facility discharges and Medicare home health visits per person served; it ranks 4th in Medicare payments per beneficiary (\$6,531).

Utah

- Utah has the highest percentage (35.1%) of its population 18 years and under; it ranks 50th in percentage of population age 65 years and older.
- Utah has one of the lowest poverty rates in the nation (ranks 49th).
- Utah ranks low (51st) in percentage of young children vaccinated (71%). It has the lowest cancer death rate (84.9 per 100,000) and 3rd lowest heart disease death rate (95.2).
- Utah ranks 5th in percentage of persons under age 65 with employer coverage (72.5%), 1st in children in families below 200% of the federal poverty level with employment-based coverage (56.7%), and 51st in persons under age 65 with Medicaid (4%).
- Utah ranks 50th in number of hospital beds per 100,000 population (200).

Vermont

- Vermont ranks near the middle on many demographic, health status, and utilization indicators. The state ranks 4th in the percentage of vaccinated children (86%) and in the top ten states for mothers who received early prenatal care (88.1%).
- Vermont ranks among the states with the lowest percentage of population uninsured (12.8%) and percentage of uninsured persons with family incomes below the national median (18%). Vermont ranks among the top ten states in percentage of children below 200% of the federal poverty level with Medicaid (43.7%).
- Vermont ranks 49th in Medicaid payments per child/adult (\$1,072). It also ranks 49th in Medicare payments per beneficiary (\$3,771).
- Vermont ranks 3rd in percentage of overall Medicaid spending devoted to home health care (18.8%).
- Vermont ranks 48th in hospital admissions per 1,000 population (88.8).

Virginia

- Virginia's median family income ranks 16th (\$45,000). Virginia's poverty rate is 12.5 percent.
- Virginia ranks among the top ten states in high death rates from stroke (29.8 per 100,000 population) and among the bottom ten states in low vaccination rates for children (73%).
- Except for Mississippi, no state has lower average Medicaid payments for children and adults (\$1,047) than Virginia.
- Virginia ranks among the ten states with the lowest percentage of Medicare beneficiaries with Medicaid (10.4%).
- Virginia ranks among the ten states with the highest employee costs for family coverage (\$1,656 in 1996).
- One-third of Virginia's Medicaid funds is spent on long-term care.

Washington

- Washington ranks among the top ten states in median family income (\$46,831) and among the ten states with the lowest percentage of older persons with low incomes (15.6% below 135% of the federal poverty level).
- Washington ranks among the ten states with the lowest rates of percentage of low birth weight infants, and heart disease deaths.
- Washington ranks 49th in hospital admissions per 1,000 population (85.1) and the lowest in the U.S. in the number of hospital beds per 100,000 population (193).
- Washington ranks among the ten states with the lowest percentage of uninsured persons (12.9%).
- Washington ranks 6th in the number of generalist physicians per 100,000 population (12.9%).
- Washington has the lowest number of Medicare home health visits per person served (32) in the U.S. in 1997. The median cost per day in a nursing home in Washington is over \$127 (ranks 6th).

West Virginia

- In 1999, West Virginia's population 75+ was among the top ten states; by 2011, West Virginia will rank among the top four (exceeded by Florida, Iowa, and North Dakota).
- West Virginia ranks among the five states with the lowest median family income (\$33,200). Nearly 30 percent of its population age 65 and older have incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level (28.9%).
- West Virginia ranks among the ten states with the highest death rates from heart disease (160.7 per 100,000), cancer (140.5 per 100,000), and diabetes (18.0 per 100,000).
- West Virginia ranks 3rd in hospital admissions, 2nd in outpatient visits, and 2nd in emergency room visits. It ranks 3rd in persons who didn't see a doctor because of cost (15.5%).
- West Virginia ranks 3rd in percentage of persons under age 65 with Medicaid and 9th in percentage of poor persons under age 65 with Medicaid. The percentage of children below 200% of the federal poverty level with Medicaid coverage ranks 4th, behind the District of Columbia, New York, and Massachusetts.

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin has a high median family income (\$50,587). It ranks 47th in the percentage of persons in poverty, and 44th in the percentage of elderly persons with incomes below 135% of the federal poverty level.
- Wisconsin ranks lowest in the percentage of persons who did not see a physician due to cost (6.2%).
- Wisconsin ranks lowest (51st) in percentage of persons under age 65 who are uninsured (8.9%) and it has the highest percentage of persons under 65 with employer coverage (77.2%).
- Wisconsin ranks among the top ten states in Medicaid spending for long-term care, as a percentage of total Medicaid spending (38.7%), and for Medicaid spending on home health care (14.8% of total Medicaid spending).

Wyoming

- Wyoming ranks 4th in suicide death rate.
- Wyoming ranks 6th in percentage of minorities/ethnic populations with no health insurance (29.9% uninsured).
- Wyoming ranks among the five states with the lowest Medicaid spending as a percentage of state spending (9.1%); and 51st in Medicaid enrollees/1,000 population.
- Wyoming ranks highest in the nation in percentage of Medicaid spending devoted to home health care (21%).

To obtain a copy of the 273-page full report *Reforming the Health Care System: State Profiles 1999*, please send your order to AARP Fulfillment, 601 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20049 and request publication D17094.

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