

# ABOUT THE ARIZONA HEALTH SURVEY

## About the Arizona Health Survey

The Arizona Health Survey 2008 is an extensive effort to collect data on a range of indicators, including health status and conditions, health-related behaviors, health insurance coverage, and access to healthcare services. In addition, AHS 2008 includes information about informal sources of care, resilience, and broader social and environmental determinants of health. Together, these indicators paint a more complete picture of health status, access, behaviors, and the social and environmental factors that affect health outcomes and population health. Most importantly, the data is both timely and relevant.

As a population-based survey, AHS provides the information that policy makers need to monitor the performance of the healthcare system and to develop programs to respond to critical issues of cost growth, uneven quality and disparities in access to coverage and care. To capture the rich diversity of Arizona’s Hispanic population, the questionnaires were translated and interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

AHS 2008 was developed with broad input from the community through a series of meetings that highlighted the critical need for better information. Health and social service providers, public health officials and community advocates all noted the need for state and local level data as they sought cost-effective solutions to address population health problems. These meetings also highlighted the expertise and interest of a cadre of highly-qualified and committed researchers, epidemiologists, statisticians and policy analysts capable of designing, analyzing and interpreting the data to provide useful information for both policy and system planning.

In addition to community input, items in the AHS 2008 questionnaire are drawn from several other surveys, including:

- California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)
- National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH)
- Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Household Component (MEPS-HC)
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

The survey was conducted by Westat, a national corporation with extensive experience in survey research, between March and June 2008 using random-digit dialing and a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) protocol.

The survey included almost 4,200 households. By design, three-quarters of the sample was drawn from Maricopa County, and one-quarter was drawn from the rest of the state. Within each household, one adult was randomly selected for interview (the “sample adult”). In Maricopa County households with children, one adolescent age 12–17 (the “sample adolescent”) was also interviewed, and information for one child under age 12 (the “sample child”) was obtained by interviewing the adult who is most knowledgeable about the child.

Those not living in a private residence (for example, homeless persons and persons living in facilities such as military barracks, prisons, college dormitories or other institutions) were excluded from the sample by design. Strictly speaking, the results of the survey should not be generalized to such persons.

### EXHIBIT 16 AHS 2008 Adult Respondent Demographics

Age 18+ | Weighted and Unweighted

	AHS RESPONDENTS		US CENSUS ESTIMATES FOR JULY 2007
	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED	
<b>TOTAL</b>	100% 4,196	100% 4,695,593	100% 4,668,889
18 to 29 years old	7% 289	22% 1,024,334	23% 1,072,509
30 to 39 years old	12% 509	19% 869,801	19% 871,968
40 to 49 years old	16% 664	19% 873,322	18% 859,521
50 to 64 years old	29% 1,208	22% 1,034,077	22% 1,044,500
65 or older	36% 1,522	19% 891,824	18% 820,391
Female	63% 2,631	51% 2,375,893	50% 2,349,550
Male	37% 1,564	49% 2,319,406	50% 2,319,339
Maricopa County	75% 3,139	59% 2,782,545	60% 2,721,798
Other Counties	25% 1,057	41% 1,913,048	40% 1,783,110
Hispanic origin	14% 575	25% 1,153,342	25% 1,118,525
Not Hispanic origin	86% 3,621	75% 3,542,251	75% 3,386,383

NOTE: Census estimates by age and gender are for all adults, 18 and older. Census estimates for Maricopa residents and Hispanic origin are for persons 20 and older.

Source: Arizona Health Survey 2008.

Because not all residents of the state had an equal chance of being selected and interviewed (for example, persons without land-line telephones at home), Westat created a weighting system to correct for sampling biases such that the survey matches the adult resident population of the state. Weighting characteristics included: sex, age, race and ethnicity, education, home ownership, and Maricopa County residence.

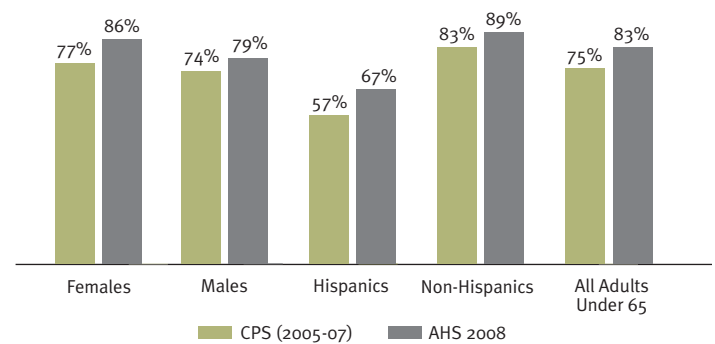
### Coverage Estimates: Arizona Health Survey and Current Population Survey

Most estimates of health insurance coverage are based on the Current Population Survey (CPS), a national phone survey of households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. In October 2008, the Census Bureau reported that in 2005 about 21% of Arizona residents lacked insurance.<sup>6</sup> In a pattern similar to virtually all state-level surveys, estimates of uninsurance based on AHS 2008 data are lower than estimates based on CPS data. This is because the Arizona Health Survey differs from CPS in several important ways. These include the timeframe for which health insurance coverage is measured, the breadth of questions, sampling techniques and the number of Arizonans sampled. For example, CPS defines a person as being covered if they had coverage any time during the previous calendar year, even if they were not covered at the time of the survey, which tends to increase coverage estimates. However, CPS samples are not based on random-digit dialing and may place more weight on lower-

income households, which are less likely to have health coverage, thus tending to decrease coverage estimates.<sup>7</sup>

An excellent summary of CPS health insurance coverage estimates is included in the recent AHCCCS state planning grant report.<sup>8</sup> Of particular importance, that report notes that the CPS does not include information about the health status of the uninsured, and little information about Hispanics with and without coverage. These are strengths of the AHS. A comparison of CPS average estimates and AHS 2008 estimates of adult (age 18-64) coverage is presented below.

**EXHIBIT 17 Adult Health Insurance Coverage in Arizona**  
Age 18 to 64 | CPS Average 2005-07 and AHS 2008



Source: Arizona Health Survey 2008.

1 Ayanian JZ, Weissman JS, Schneider EC, Ginsburg JA, Zaslavsky AM. Unmet Health Needs of Uninsured Adults in the United States. *JAMA*. 2000;284:2061-2069.  
 2 Hadley, J. *Sicker and Poorer: The Consequences of Being Uninsured*. 2002. Washington, DC, Kaiser Family Foundation.  
 3 Institute of Medicine. *Coverage Matters: Insurance and Health Care*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 2001.  
 4 Brown ME, Bindman AB, Lurie N. Monitoring the Consequences of Uninsurance: A Review of Methodologies. *Medical Care Research and Review*. 1998;55:177.  
 5 National Center for Health Statistics. *Health, United States, 2007*. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office P60-235. 2007. Hyattsville, MD, US Government Printing Office.  
 6 Census Bureau report.  
 7 State Health Access Data Assistance Center. *State Health Insurance Coverage Estimates: A Fresh Look at Why State-Survey Estimates Differ from CPS*. 12. 2007. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Issue Brief.  
 8 Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Administration. *Arizona State Planning Grant: Final report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services*. March, 2007.