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# Health Care Coverage in South Dakota Counties

Mary KILLSAHUNDRED  
*South Dakota State University*

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## Health Care Coverage in South Dakota Counties by Mary Killsahundred

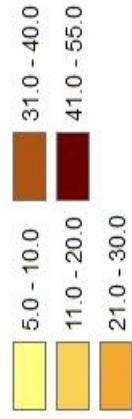
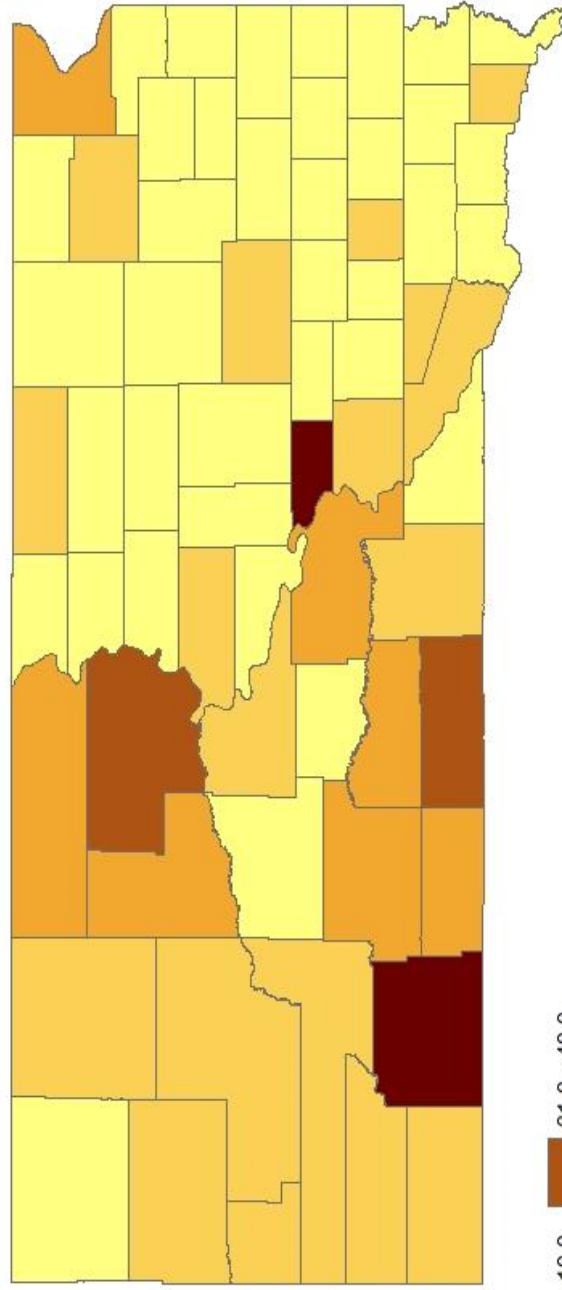
In September 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau released a [national report](#) on health care coverage. Providing figures from 2014, the report details not only the types of plans people in the nation may be covered by (private or governmental insurance) but also details the population that is uninsured.

As shown in the report, for South Dakota, the uninsured population was reported as declining by approximately 1.5%, or from approximately 93,000 to 82,000 people between 2013 to 2014 (p. 20). As the report clarifies, the data comes from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic supplements (p. 22).

In taking a closer look at the state, the American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2010-2014) reports that over half of counties in South Dakota have 5 to 10 % of the population reporting not having health insurance. While only 2 counties (Oglala Lakota and Buffalo) reports a population in which almost half (between 41-55%) report not having health insurance, another seven counties have a population in which between 31 to 40% report not having health insurance.

As the census does not consider people who primarily use the Indian Health Service (IHS) as having [health insurance](#) since the census does not consider IHS service as comprehensive coverage, these numbers are not included in the data. Therefore, the counties of Buffalo Oglala Lakota, Todd, and Dewey which are the locations of American Indian reservations, perhaps unsurprisingly, report the highest percentage of the population not having health insurance.

# Percent of South Dakota Population Without Health Insurance



0 125 250 Miles

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Years ACS Estimates  
Prepared by: Mary Killisno, South Dakota State Data Center