How To Estimate The Number Of Uninsured Children In Your School District

Gaining knowledge about the number of uninsured children living in your school district's bounds is essential in making the case to your school district leadership about the need to engage in this work, as well as to set reasonable targets for the number of uninsured children you seek to enroll.

CDF and AASA use the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1- or 5-Year Estimates of Uninsured Children Under Age 18. The most recent year available is from 2014. Depending on the size of your district, only one of the two measures (1-year or 5-year) may be available. If both are available, we recommend using the 5-year estimates.

Let's get started!

1. **Go to: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml**

2. **Click "Advanced Search" and then "SHOW ME ALL"**

3. Type "S2701" HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS" into the "topic or table name" search box and click "GO"

4. Check the box for S2701 HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATUS 2014 ACS 1-Year Estimates

5. **On the left, click on "Geographies," and then select the geographic type: "School District" (Unified)/Remainder – 970. Select your state and then scroll through to find your School District. Click "Add to your Selections" and then "Close"**

6. **Click on "Health Insurance Coverage Status"**

7. **This will give you a detailed report on health coverage in your school district bounds that you can access by either selecting view (to see on the screen as noted below) or download (to receive in an Excel file).**

Look at the "AGE" section and find "Under 18 years." This is the row you want to focus on. The first column is total number of children under age 18 estimated to be LIVING in the school district boundary. (Note: this is NOT the number of children ENROLLED in your school district). The third column is an estimate for the number of children who are uninsured living in the school district bounds and the fifth column is the percent of uninsured children living in the school district bounds.

CDF and AASA typically set out to enroll approximately one-third of the uninsured child population in the district's geographic bounds. The one-third calculation controls for children living in the school district bounds who are not enrolled in the school system (either because they are too young and not yet eligible, or they are enrolled in an alternative school setting), as well as those who are ineligible due to their immigration status or income. In states where coverage in Medicaid and CHIP has been extended to children regardless of their immigration status, we set a goal of enrolling 40 percent.