



March 29, 2006

ONLINE RESOURCES HELP HOSPITALS PREPARE FOR COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

ATA GLANCE

The Issue:

The statistics bear repeating – more than 45 million people uninsured, eight out of 10 in working families, and more than 8 million children who go without coverage and well child check-ups.

Our Take:

Hospitals provide care on a daily basis to those with insurance and to those with no where else to turn for medical care. And frequently, hospital workers help those with no insurance find programs that provide coverage for them and their families. That is why, for five years, the AHA has been a national partner in **Cover the Uninsured Week**. When one person goes without the needed health care services due to lack of coverage, that is one person too many. As member of the health care community and members of our local communities, we need to stand together and raise our voices – now is the time to find solutions to this problem and taking part in Cover the Uninsured Week is just one way.

What You Can Do:

- Strengthen your connection with your community, take part in Cover the Uninsured Week, May 1-7, 2006 by logging into www.covertheuninsured.org for additional resources, and host a health and enrollment fair or other CTUW activity.
- Share this advisory with your **community relations department**, **public relations managers**, and **patient advocates**.
- Work to help find a solution to this national crisis.

Further Questions:

Contact Darlene Vanderbush, AHA director of advocacy and member communications, at (202) 626-2361 or dvanderbush@aha.org.





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BACKGROUND

The statistics bear repeating – more than 45 million people uninsured, eight out of 10 in working families, and more than 8 million children who go without coverage and well child check-ups.

AT ISSUE

For the fifth year, the AHA is a national partner in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-sponsored <u>Cover the Uninsured Week</u>, set for May 1-7, 2006. Our colleagues at the national level include representatives from the business, consumer advocate, labor and not-for-profit sectors. While each has diverse issues, all agree that more than 45 million uninsured is unacceptable and we're working to find a solution.

Cover the Uninsured Week is one way. By highlighting the number of uninsured people – who could be your neighbor who is out of work, the cashier at the grocery store who checks you out or the older student who returned to graduate school – we can help make difference, put it at the top of the national agenda, and make elected officials sit up and take notice.

Hospitals lead the way in every community to improve the health and well being of its citizens. It's only natural that you and your team help those in your community and the nation who may not have health coverage by working to make this a top legislative issue for our elected leaders.

HOW YOUR HOSPITAL CAN TAKE PART

- Designate a coordinator for Cover the Uninsured Week activities.
- Determine what public coverage programs are available in your area.

- Work with others in your community to host a health and enrollment fair and offer:
 - Information on public coverage programs
 - Wellness screenings
 - Enrollment assistance for Medicaid and SCHIP
- Highlight the services that your hospital provides to the community, and information on how to take advantage.
- Encourage staff and patients alike to visit <u>www.covertheuninsured.org</u> to send a message to elected officials in Washington on the need to make this a top legislative priority
- Go to <u>www.covertheuninsured.org</u> to order materials, including banners and signs, for your events.
- Last, but not least, tell us what you're doing in your community to highlight
 Cover the Uninsured Week. Send us an e-mail at ahawashdc@aha.org,
 and tell us about your activities.

Let's get America covered!

Cover the Uninsured Week Regional Field Contacts

If you or your staff have questions about hosting an event, ordering supplies or need advice, Cover the Uninsured Week organizers have folks on hand to help!

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