

Answers to the research questions that people are asking about Latinos' health and interactions with the health care system

## QUESTION 4: Where in the country are Latinos most likely to lack health coverage?

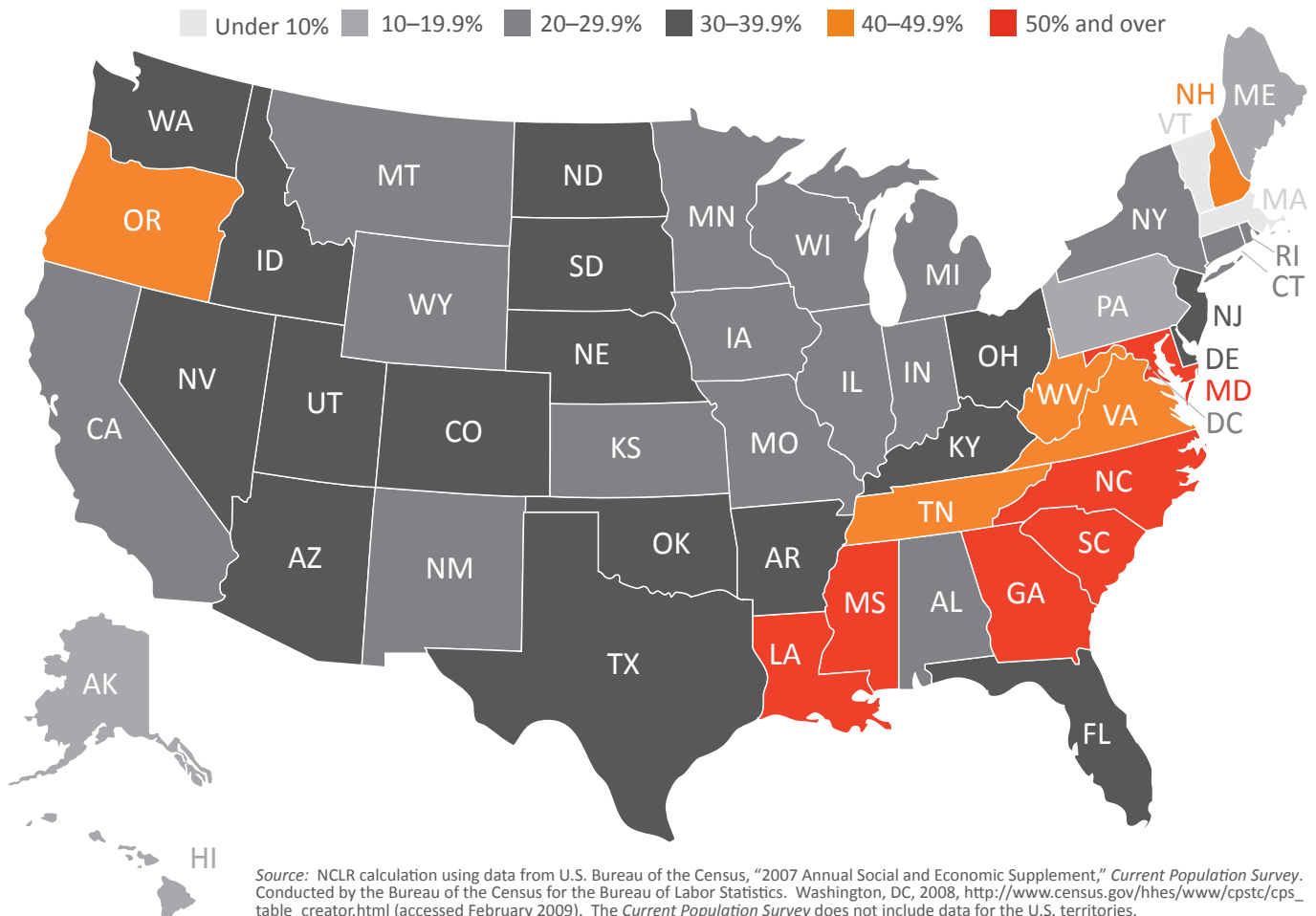
### ANSWER:

Hispanic<sup>1</sup> uninsurance rates tend to be disproportionately high throughout the nation, but Hispanics living in the Southeast region of the United States are most likely to be uninsured.

- States with the highest rates of Latino uninsurance are generally concentrated in the Southeast—areas that are experiencing rapid growth of a relatively new Latino population (see Figure 1).<sup>2</sup>
- In 33 states, the percentage of Latinos who compose the state's uninsured population is two or more times greater than the percentage of Latinos in the state's overall population.<sup>3</sup>
- Many of the states where Latinos are most likely to be uninsured have relatively low employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) rates among their Latino populations (see Table 1). Generally, the states with the lowest ESI rates are located in the southern and eastern parts of the U.S.<sup>4</sup>
- Similarly, states that have the highest levels of Hispanic uninsurance tend to have the lowest rates of safety-net coverage among Latinos (see Table 1). With the exception of Oregon, the states with the highest uninsurance rates ranked in the bottom third for rates of Medicaid and CHIP coverage.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 1:**

U.S. Hispanic Uninsurance Rate by State, 2007



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**Table 1: Insurance Coverage of U.S. Hispanics by State, 2007**

State	Percentage of Population Hispanic	Percentage of Hispanics with Employer-Sponsored Insurance	Percentage of Hispanics with Medicaid/CHIP	Percentage of Hispanics Uninsured
Alabama	2.9	51.1	18.3	26.7
Alaska	4.5	50.0	20.0	16.7
Arizona	30.4	39.2	25.9	30.7
Arkansas	4.8	43.0	23.0	33.3
California	37.0	41.8	24.8	28.4
Colorado	19.5	43.1	17.5	35.1
Connecticut	12.0	35.1	37.7	22.8
Delaware	7.2	35.5	24.2	37.1
District of Columbia	8.8	41.2	25.5	29.4
Florida	21.2	42.6	11.9	34.9
Georgia	7.4	31.1	16.8	50.1
Hawaii	6.3	69.6	11.4	12.7
Idaho	9.8	44.2	22.4	32.7
Illinois	13.8	52.2	19.9	26.0
Indiana	4.5	50.9	27.2	25.1
Iowa	5.6	51.2	22.9	25.9
Kansas	8.2	42.7	25.8	28.4
Kentucky	2.2	28.7	29.8	33.0
Louisiana	2.5	20.2	10.6	59.6
Maine	1.0	58.3	33.3	8.3
Maryland	7.4	37.6	7.3	50.0
Massachusetts	6.8	36.6	55.1	7.2
Michigan	3.7	42.0	24.4	22.5
Minnesota	4.4	52.0	18.9	29.5
Mississippi	2.7	38.5	15.4	55.1
Missouri	3.3	52.6	24.5	22.9
Montana	2.3	33.3	33.3	28.6
Nebraska	7.1	37.1	23.4	35.5
Nevada	24.1	53.6	10.4	34.5
New Hampshire	2.1	40.7	11.1	48.1
New Jersey	16.9	41.1	16.9	37.3
New Mexico	41.3	44.4	21.3	25.9
New York	16.8	37.2	37.3	22.0
North Carolina	6.2	25.4	16.4	52.6
North Dakota	1.8	45.5	27.3	36.4
Ohio	2.8	40.4	21.5	35.3
Oklahoma	6.6	33.2	20.0	36.6
Oregon	10.5	28.5	25.8	44.2
Pennsylvania	4.3	45.6	34.9	17.1
Rhode Island	10.7	41.1	37.5	21.4
South Carolina	3.5	30.1	17.0	50.3
South Dakota	2.5	47.4	15.8	36.8
Tennessee	3.6	32.1	14.9	44.8
Texas	38.7	35.5	19.6	39.0
Utah	11.9	50.5	13.2	31.9
Vermont	1.3	62.5	12.5	12.5
Virginia	6.8	37.4	11.5	43.5
Washington	8.8	40.6	24.0	30.1
West Virginia	0.4	57.1	Insufficient Data	42.9
Wisconsin	6.2	48.1	31.3	23.3
Wyoming	7.7	57.5	17.5	20.0
United States	15.4	40.3	22.5	32.1

Source: NCLR calculation using data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement," *Current Population Survey*. Conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC, 2008, [http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstc/cps\\_table\\_creator.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstc/cps_table_creator.html) (accessed February 2009).

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. Furthermore, unless otherwise noted, estimates in this document do not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.

<sup>2</sup> NCLR calculation using data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, "2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement," *Current Population Survey*. Conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, DC, 2008, [http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstc/cps\\_table\\_creator.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstc/cps_table_creator.html) (accessed February 2009).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.