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MARCH 26, 2010

Health reform does not cover all



Let's take a time out and talk about some of the numbers in the health care bill, mainly how many people will be covered and how many won't be. While the effort to overhaul the nation's health care system was pitched as a movement to cover the uninsured, millions of them will remain without coverage after the plan is enacted.

Well how many will remain uninsured and who are they, you ask? [This piece from Kaiser Health News explains.](#)

The bill covers 32 million people. That leaves some 23 million uninsured, the story explains. Some -- about 7 million are illegal immigrants.

The other 16 million are a mix of people. Some will be exempt from the mandate because they can't afford to buy their own insurance. (People are exempt if the most affordable plan is more than 8 percent of their income) Others would opt out for religious objection. And still others would prefer to pay a penalty than get insurance coverage.

Congress recognized [months ago that any bill likely to pass would leave out some people from being covered.](#)

For more details on who the uninsured are, check out this interactive map from [NPR from last fall that gives a breakdown by geographic region.](#)

Still confused about when the key elements of reform kick in? [Here's a cool chart with timetables from the Kaiser Family Foundation.](#)

And if you have more questions about how reform will affect you, take a look at our [Q&A from earlier this week](#) with Bradley Herring, an assistant professor in health policy and management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Posted by [Kelly Brewington](#) at 7:00 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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About Picture of Health



Kelly Brewington came to the health beat a year ago after covering everything from education and government to race and immigration in her 11 years as a reporter. Since then, she has tackled stories on autism, heart failure and

acupuncture used to treat drug addiction. She's been fascinated by medicine since childhood, when her doctor dad and nurse mom gave her Gray's Anatomy coloring book to play with. She also blames her early exposure to the field of medicine for her hypochondria.

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Feel Good Friday Harbor Hospital Center James E. Wood Jr., Harbor Hospital chief of orthopaedics, will discuss the common causes and treatments of knee pain. Registration is required; a light breakfast will be served. Call 410-350-2563.	Details Free
Walking program Centre at Glen Burnie Harbor Hospital sponsors a daily walking program.	Details Registration required.

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