Latinos are more likely to be uninsured than any other racial or ethnic group in the U.S. However, Hispanic families’ access to health insurance varies by state (see Figure 1). In South Carolina:

- **Latinos have inadequate access to the current health coverage system.** In 2008, only about one-third (32.3%) of all Latinos living in South Carolina had employer-sponsored health insurance, and about one-ninth (11.4%) were covered by Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

- **As a result, Latino families are at risk for uninsurance.** That year, more than two in five (44.4%) Latinos in South Carolina were uninsured, and nearly one in three (29.5%) Latino children under age 18 had no form of health coverage.

- **Latinos are overrepresented among the uninsured.** Although Hispanics made up 2.3% of the total state population in 2008, they represented 6.4% of South Carolina’s uninsured.

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**Figure 1: Hispanic Uninsurance Rate by State, 2008**

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.


3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.