

# FACT SHEET

Health *for*  
**Life**  
Better Health.  
Better Health Care.

## *Health for Life: A Five-Pillar Framework for Achieving National Healthcare Reform*

This fact sheet features the five pillars that support the *Health for Life* framework and provides supporting information.

- 1. Health Coverage for All, Paid for by All.** Finding ways to provide coverage for all is one of the greatest challenges facing our nation. This means every individual and employer must contribute to the cost of healthcare coverage, and governments must maintain their current responsibility for coverage for seniors, disabled individuals and certain low income people.

### *Supporting Statistics:*

#### **The Uninsured: Arizona & the U.S.**

- At 21 percent of the population, Arizona has one of the nation's highest rates of uninsured.  
*U.S. Census Bureau, 2008*
- In Arizona, nearly one in five adults lacked health insurance for at least some portion of 2008.  
*Health Insurance for Arizona Adults, St. Luke's Health Initiatives, 2008*
- Arizona has one of the highest rates of uninsured children in the nation. The vast majority of these children (88.2 percent) come from families where at least one parent works.  
*Left Behind: American's Uninsured Children, Families USA, 2008*
- Arizona's hospitals infused more than \$30 million into community health improvement programs that serve significant numbers of poor, medically underserved and uninsured Arizonans, as well as arm residents with information to improve their health.  
*Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA), 2008*
- In 2008, Arizona's hospitals collectively provided \$397 million in uncompensated care—a combination of charity care and bad debt—an increase of 9 percent from the previous year.  
*AzHHA, 2009*
- An estimated 43.8 million Americans had no health insurance in 2008. That's 700,000 more than in 2007 and 2.8 million more than in 1997.  
*Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2008, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), June 2009*



- Uninsured patients accounted for nearly one-fifth of the 120 million hospital-based emergency department visits nationwide in 2006.  
*Nationwide Emergency Department Sample, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*
- It's projected that at least 6.9 million nonelderly Americans will join the ranks of the uninsured by 2010. This estimate, which would bring the total number of uninsured to 52 million, does not directly take into account the additional effects of job losses, which are likely to add millions more to the number of uninsured Americans.  
*Health Affairs, May 2009*

2. **A Greater Focus on Wellness.** While not all illness is preventable, healthier lifestyles and a compliance with recommended care would lead to lower rates of preventable diseases and less costly care for those living with chronic illness.

*Supporting Statistics:*

#### Chronic Disease & Its Impact: Arizona & the U.S.

- Chronic disease in Arizona accounts for seven of the 10 leading causes of deaths.  
*Arizona Chronic Disease Report, Arizona Department of Health Services, 2005*
- Chronic diseases are linked to 70 percent of the deaths of all Americans and 75 percent of this country's \$2 trillion medical care costs.  
*Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion: Chronic Disease Overview, CDC, 2008*
- Asthma, a prevalent chronic condition, results in more than 35,000 hospitalizations in Arizona each year.  
*Arizona: Burden of Chronic Diseases, CDC, 2008*
- In 2007, 25 percent of adults in Arizona reported having high blood pressure and 38 percent of those screened reported having high blood cholesterol, which puts them at greater risk for developing heart disease and stroke.  
*Arizona: Burden of Chronic Diseases, CDC, 2008*

#### Healthy Lifestyles & Prevention: Arizona & the U.S.

- Eighteen percent of children in Arizona are obese.  
*Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, 2007 Survey of Children's Health, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health*
- If population-wide cholesterol levels were reduced by 10 percent, the incidence of coronary artery disease could drop by an estimated 30 percent.  
*Addressing the Nation's Leading Killers, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007*

- 3. The Most Efficient, Affordable Care.** Healthcare must become more efficient and healthcare coverage must become more affordable in order to place it within reach of every American.

*Supporting Statistics:*

**The High Cost Of Healthcare Coverage**

- Fourteen percent of people in Arizona report not visiting a doctor due to high costs.  
*Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, 2007*
- Yearly premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance rose to an average of \$12,680 annually for family coverage in 2008. Of that, workers paid an average of \$3,354, more than double the amount they paid nine years ago.  
*Employer Health Benefits Survey, Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research & Educational Trust, 2008*
- Fifty-three percent of U.S. residents said they or a family member have cut back on medical care in the past year because of cost concerns.  
*Kaiser Family Foundation Tracking Poll, February 2009*

**The Hidden Healthcare Tax**

- Arizona's 3.5 million privately insured consumers paid 40 percent above cost for hospital services in 2007 in order to cover losses hospitals incurred from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Medicare and uncompensated care.  
*An Analysis of Hospital Cost Shift in Arizona, The Lewin Group, 2009*
- In 2007, underpayment by AHCCCS and Medicare, as well as the cost of uncompensated care, increased private health insurance premiums in Arizona by 8.8 percent (\$1,017), increasing the annual price tag of a typical family health insurance policy to \$11,617.  
*An Analysis of Hospital Cost Shift in Arizona, The Lewin Group, 2009*

- 4. The Highest Quality Care.** Our nation needs to invest in research to identify best patient care practices as well as to develop guidelines for sharing and adopting these practices throughout the healthcare delivery system. This would make it easier for patients, families and providers to ensure the right care is given at the right time in the best setting.

*Supporting Statistics:*

**Improving Healthcare Outcomes & Access to Primary Care**

- Hospitals have the highest rate of quality improvement among the major healthcare delivery settings.  
*National Healthcare Quality Report 2008, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, March 2009*
- Cancer deaths among men in the U.S. fell by 19.2 percent from 1990 to 2005 and by 11.4 percent in women from 1991 to 2005.  
*CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, American Cancer Society, 2009*

- The rate of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections linked to intravenous tubes in U.S. hospital intensive care units has dropped nearly 50 percent since 2000.

*Journal of the American Medical Association, February 2009*

- It's estimated that by 2015, healthcare savings of between \$23 and \$40 billion could be achieved each year if 30 million Americans received their primary care from community health centers.

*Access Granted: The Primary Care Payoff, The Robert Graham Center, National Association of Community Health Centers, Capital Link, August 2007*

### The Healthcare Workforce Shortage

- Arizona ranks 43rd in the nation for physicians per 100,000 population.

*U.S. Census Bureau, Table 154, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2007*

- Arizona will need approximately 49,000 new registered nurses by the year 2017.

*The Arizona RN Shortage: 2007 Results, HealthWorks, Arizona Healthcare Workforce Data Center, AzHHA*

- 5. Utilizing the Best Information.** Good information is the gateway to good care. It increases patient safety and reduces duplicative testing, unnecessary costs and patient hassle. It also helps ensure open communication between patients and providers.

*Supporting Statistics:*

### Health Information Technology: Arizona & the U.S.

- Arizona was recently recognized at the 3rd Annual Safe-Rx™ Awards as having the eighth highest percentage of electronic prescribing (e-Prescribing) in the U.S. Even so, the percentage of e-prescriptions currently being processed in Arizona is only 2.89 percent; the national average is 2 percent.

*Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC), 2009*

- Moving to electronic prescribing could prevent 1.6 million adverse drug events and save more than \$29 billion over a 10-year period.

*Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, 2007*

- Cost is the most significant barrier for physicians and hospitals with respect to health information technology adoption.

*Health Affairs Medical Group Practice Survey, 2005 & American Hospital Association, 2007*

- More than 90 percent of primary care in Arizona is delivered through small and medium-sized medical practices, and less than 25 percent of these practices use an integrated electronic health records system.

*AHCCCS Arizona Medical Information Exchange, 2009*

August 2009

Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association