



Catholic Charities of Idaho

1501 S. Federal Way
Boise, ID 83705
www.ccidaho.org



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BOISE

Healthcare

Given our Christian mission, Catholic Charities of Idaho and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise represent the voice of the most vulnerable in Idaho. Our legislative priorities are in the areas of affordable housing, food/nutritional security, equitable and affordable healthcare, economic security, and immigration reform.

About Accessible Healthcare

The current health care system in the United States has multiple systemic problems including rising costs of care, limited accessibility to care, lack of adequate insurance coverage, and a growing population of those who are uninsured. As the economy continues to worsen and unemployment rates continue to rise, more families are finding themselves without healthcare. The cost of quality healthcare coverage has increased at an alarming pace over the last decade, and working families have experienced higher deductibles, higher co-payments, and higher costs of services not covered in their insurance plan. While being uninsured creates a burden on the person who lacks health insurance, it also impacts the service delivery system and the community of insured individuals who often pay higher premiums to offset the cost of those who cannot afford to pay for treatment.

Healthcare Statistics

- Each year, approximately 100 adults in Idaho die because they do not have health insurance.
- One-fifth of the Idaho population is uninsured. There are 217,759 adults between the ages of 18 and 64 without healthcare coverage in Idaho.
- 85% of the uninsured in Idaho are members of a working family.
- 23% of Idahoans living in rural counties are uninsured, compared to 15% in urban counties.
- Between 2000 and 2007, health insurance premiums for Idaho families rose by 122%, while median earnings rose by only 31%.
- Young adults represent 18% of the adult population yet they make up 28% of the uninsured adult population.
- More than one out of every three (38%) young adults is uninsured in Idaho.
- Many young adults are dropped from their parent's health insurance at the age of 19, upon high school graduation, or upon college graduation.

Catholic Social Teaching

The belief in the transcendent dignity of every human person is the driving factor that promotes the protection of basic human rights, including the right to equitable and affordable healthcare. Church teachings emphasize the significance of protecting the life and well-being of every person, and special attention must be given to the health needs of the poor and marginalized. We have a moral duty to ensure that all members of our community have access to quality healthcare.

About Catholic Charities of Idaho

The mission of Catholic Charities of Idaho is to advance the dignity of individuals, families, and communities by strengthening families, advocating justice, and engaging the community to serve the common good. These three principles guide the work of Catholic Charities of Idaho throughout the state of Idaho. Catholic Charities of Idaho offers services to all people regardless of religion, age, gender, disability, race/ethnicity, income, or background.

About the Catholic Diocese of Boise

United with our Bishop and in communion with the Universal Church, we the People of God in Idaho are called to build up the Kingdom of God by: proclaiming the presence of God in word and sacrament; calling each other to conversion and to joyful sharing of the Good News by word and deed; nurturing and supporting vital faith communities; being a prophetic voice which affirms the good values of society and challenges what is destructive; discovering, celebrating and integrating the gifts of each individual, community and culture; recognizing and responding to those in need.

For a list of resources used in this publication, please contact:

Christine Tiddens, Legislative Intern

ctiddens@ccidaho.edu

(208) 989-1097

Fax: (208) 350-7499