



# Press Release

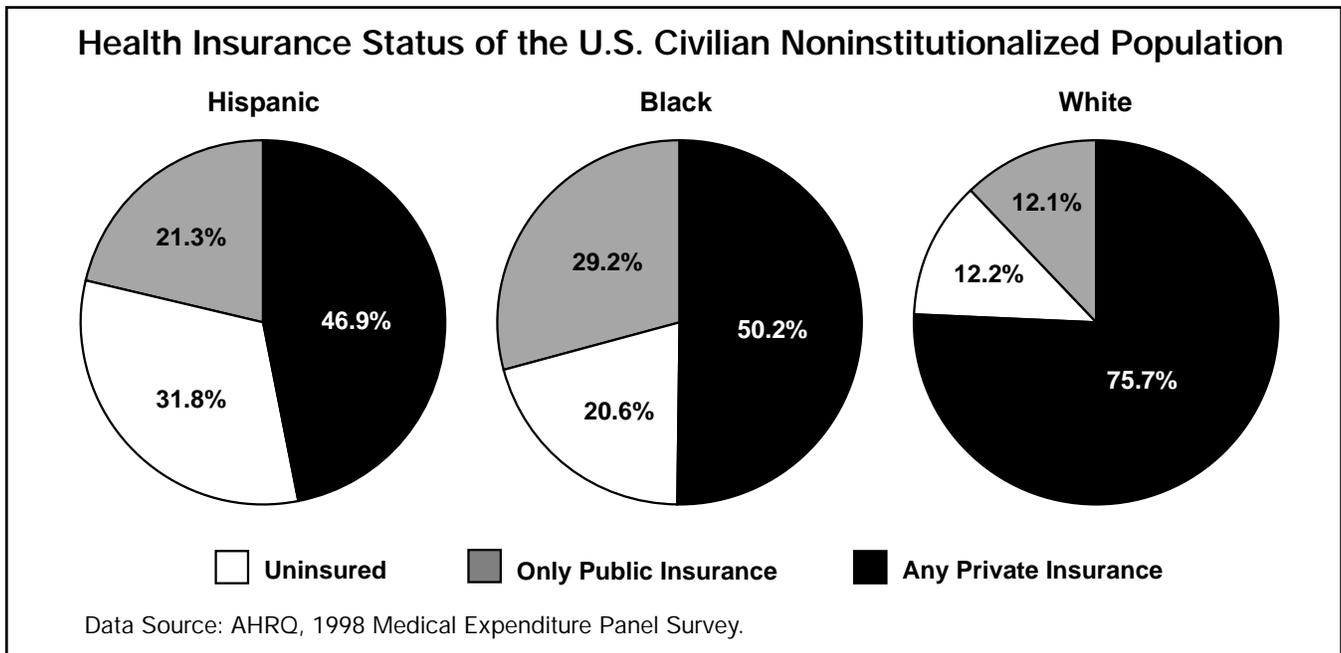
## Quality Research for Quality Healthcare

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### HISPANIC AND BLACK AMERICANS STILL MORE LIKELY THAN WHITES TO BE UNINSURED

Almost one-third of all Hispanics and one-fifth of all blacks in the United States had no health insurance in early 1998, compared with 12.2 percent of whites. In addition, blacks were the most likely to be covered by public insurance, while whites were the most likely to have private coverage. The total number of Americans without health insurance was 42.3 million, or 15.8 percent of the population. These estimates are from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's 1998 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS).



In addition, the percent of elderly Americans who held private health insurance coverage (usually in addition to their Medicare coverage) decreased from 60.5 percent to 55.3 percent from 1997 to 1998.

For more information from Health Insurance Status of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population: 1998, *Research Findings 11* (AHRQ Publication Number 00-0023), please visit our Web site at [www.meps.ahrq.gov/publicat.htm](http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/publicat.htm) or call the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse at 1-800-358-9295.

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◆ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality ◆

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