

Budget for the Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

Background:

The Vermont Household Survey estimates the number of Vermonters who are uninsured and underinsured and provides detailed information about these populations, as well as insured Vermonters.

This survey provides policy makers with the necessary information to understand who is uninsured, who is underinsured, and where people get their coverage. The survey has been used by policymakers since at least 2000 and also provides information on how coverage has changed over time. This survey is how we know that the uninsured rate has fallen from 6.8% in 2012 to 3.7% in 2014.

What is the money in the bill for?

Our bill directs the administration to do an update to the 2014 survey to determine whether Vermont has further reduced the uninsured and to provide updated information on who the uninsured are. My committee felt this was essential information in order to inform our deliberations next legislative session and to inform next steps in ensuring that Vermonters have coverage. Without this information, it would be difficult to accurately target efforts at further reducing the uninsured. The estimate assumes a narrower survey than last time, but ensures that we maintain an adequate number of contacts in order to be statistically valid.

Survey Details:

The last survey was based on telephone interviews conducted between August 13, 2014 – Dec. 4, 2014.

Calls were to 4,052 randomly selected households, including 41% by cell phones. This includes data about 8,923 Vermont residents.

The sample included 1,000 surveys from each region of the state to ensure there was better precision in estimates for rural areas.

The Department of Financial Regulation contracted with Market Decisions after a competitive bid process to conduct the surveys.

The cost of a full survey is about \$300,000.

Survey results are available at hcr.vermont.gov

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