



NEWS RELEASE

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2009 Colorado Health Insurance Report Released by DORA's Division of Insurance

*Are health insurance premiums going up, or down, in Colorado?
Which is growing faster: health insurance premiums or inflation?
How many Coloradans with health benefits are under a plan regulated by the Division of Insurance?*

These and many other questions are answered in the recently published Colorado Health Insurance Report for 2009.

"It's interesting to note that a higher percentage of Coloradans were covered by either the commercial health insurance market or a self-insured employer health plan, than the national average," said Insurance Commissioner Marcy Morrison. "But equally interesting and somewhat troubling is that the report shows health premiums are growing at a faster pace than either inflation or wages."

In 2008, the Colorado General Assembly enacted House Bill 08-1389 requiring the Commissioner of Insurance to report annually on the cost of health care, the factors that drive the cost of health care and the financial status of health carriers (including HMO's) in Colorado. The 2009 Colorado Health Insurance Report is the first annual installment of the requirement and examines increases in health insurance premiums in the state of Colorado. The report also provides an overview of the expenses and financial statements of companies doing business in Colorado, focusing primarily on the commercial health insurance market for individual, small group and large group health plans.

Key findings of the report include:

-In Colorado, 33.3%, or one out of three Coloradans, have health coverage that is regulated by the Division of Insurance. There are 29.9% covered by self-insured plans offered through their employer. Another 20.6% receive coverage through government programs, including but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, the Federal Employees' Health Benefit Plan and the Veteran's Administration and 16.2% of Coloradans are uninsured.

-During 2008, 63.2% of Coloradans were covered by either the commercial health insurance market or a self-insured employer health plan, which is more than the 56.9% of citizens nationwide.

-While the increases in premiums for employer provided health coverage in Colorado have mirrored the increase nationwide, the portion contributed by Colorado employees to those premiums has increased much more quickly than the national average.

-The number of private employers offering self-insured health plans to their employees has increased in Colorado at twice the national rate.

-The ten largest health carriers have 70% of the market share in Colorado. There are approximately 400 health insurance carriers doing business in Colorado.

The complete report is available on the Division's website at:

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/insurance/legi/2010/legiColoradoHealthInsuranceReport040110.pdf>

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DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.