

Blanchflower, David G.

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Happiness and Health Care Coverage

David G. Blanchflower

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David G. Blanchflower

*Dartmouth College, University of Stirling,
NBER and IZA*

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IZA

P.O. Box 7240
53072 Bonn
Germany

Phone: +49-228-3894-0

Fax: +49-228-3894-180

E-mail: iza@iza.org

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ABSTRACT

Happiness and Health Care Coverage

In this paper I examine the characteristics of adults who report on whether they have health care coverage and of people who say that they are unable to see a doctor over the preceding year because of the cost. I make use of a unique data set, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a phone survey undertaken in the United States for the years 2005-2009. I find evidence that not having the ability to see a doctor because of an inability to pay is a major and substantial source of unhappiness in the United States, even for people with high income.

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Corresponding author:

David G. Blanchflower
Department of Economics
6106 Rockefeller Hall
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755-3514
USA
E-mail: blanchflower@dartmouth.edu

The debate over health care reform is currently raging in the United States. Of particular concern is the large number of people who do not have access to health insurance. It is of interest then to examine who actually has health care coverage and who does not. I make use of a unique data set, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a phone survey undertaken in the United States for the years 2005-2009. Data are available on nearly one and a half million people.

In this paper I examine the characteristics of adults who report on whether they have health care coverage. The main consequence of not having health care coverage, presumably is that that it leads to worse health outcomes. In particular, that is likely to mean being unable to afford to see a doctor, and most importantly, being unable to obtain needed medical treatments. The data set allows me to examine the characteristics of people who *say* that they are unable to see a doctor over the preceding year because of the cost. This includes people who have health care coverage. I then go on to examine the impact of a) not having health care coverage and b) not being able to see a doctor because of an inability to pay on various measures of happiness. This includes measures of life satisfaction as well as various measures of mental ill health including stress, depression, hopelessness and problems with emotions. I find evidence that not having the ability to see a doctor because of an inability to pay is a major and substantial source of unhappiness in the United States, even for people with high income.

1) Background on health care coverage and health outcomes

The background to this is the fact that health outcomes in the United States are poor compared with those in many other countries, on some measures, despite the fact that spending per capita is the highest in any country in the world.¹ The most recent estimates for 2004 of the amounts spent per capita on health care are set out below in PPP\$US.

United States	\$6,096	France	\$3,040
Luxembourg	\$5,178	Sweden	\$2,828
Norway	\$4,080	Denmark	\$2,780
Switzerland	\$4,011	Ireland	\$2,618
Austria	\$3,418	United Kingdom	\$2,560
Iceland	\$3,294	Italy	\$2,414
Canada	\$3,173	Japan	\$2,293
Germany	\$3,171	Finland	\$2,203
Belgium	\$3,133	Greece	\$2,179
Australia	\$3,123	Spain	\$2,099
Netherlands	\$3,092	New Zealand	\$2,081

¹ <http://hdrstats.undp.org/indicators/#H>

Despite this high spending per capita the US ranks 25th on life expectancy at birth², 30th on infant mortality rates³. Interestingly, despite this high expenditure on health care the US ranks 28th on the number of physicians per 100,000 people.⁴ There is evidence, though, that on other measures such as survival rates on various cancers such as prostate, colon, colorectal and breast cancer the US performs much better (Coleman, et al, 2008). The Coleman study found that U.S., Japan, and France recorded the highest survival rates among 31 nations for these four types of cancer. Survival rates varied among the 16 states and six metropolitan areas included in the study. Idaho had the best survival rates for rectal cancer in men and Seattle was highest for rectal cancer in women. Patients in Seattle also had the best survival rates for prostate cancer. For all other cancers studied, patients in Hawaii had the highest survival rates. Patients in New York City had the lowest survival rates for all four cancers except rectal cancer in both men and women. For those, patients in Wyoming had the lowest survival rate.

Of particular note in the United States is the proportion of residents who are not covered by health insurance. The latest numbers available from the Census Bureau, which use data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) are reported in [Table 1](#). In 2007 there were 45.6 million people who had no health insurance coverage. This number has increased sharply over time: in 2008, 46.3 million people, or 15.4% of the population were not covered, up from 13.7% in 2000. [Table 2](#) reports the percentage of persons of all ages who failed to obtain needed medical care due to cost at some time during the preceding year. In 2008 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that approximately 6.5% were in this category, up from 4.5% in 1997.

The most important source of health insurance in the U.S. is private insurance; 80% of the 202 million insured, or 177.8 million persons, have private health insurance. Within that group, the predominant source of private insurance is employer-provided health insurance. Only 10% of those with private insurance purchase insurance, or 26.6 million on their own, through direct purchase. A further 83 million get their coverage through government provided health care coverage, primarily Medicaid (39.6 million) or Medicare (41.4 million). As is apparent below the availability of health insurance is

² Behind, in order, Japan 82.3; Hong Kong 81.9; Iceland 81.5; Switzerland 81.3; Australia 80.9; Sweden 80.5; Spain 80.5; Canada 80.3; Italy 80.3; Israel 80.3; France 80.2; Norway 79.8; New Zealand 79.8; Austria 79.4; Singapore 79.4; Netherlands 79.2; Germany 79.1; United Kingdom 79; Cyprus 79; Finland 78.9; Greece 78.9; Belgium 78.8; Ireland 78.4; Luxembourg 78.4; and United States 77.9

³ Behind, in order, Iceland; Norway; Sweden; Japan; Finland; Singapore; Slovenia; Czech Republic; Switzerland; Netherlands; France; Spain; Denmark; Austria; Belgium; Luxembourg; Italy; Germany; Greece; Cyprus; Portugal; Australia; Canada; Ireland; United Kingdom; New Zealand; Israel; South Korea; Malta and the United States.

⁴ The ranking of countries by the number of physicians per 100,000 people for the period 2000-2004 was as follows. Belgium (449); Estonia (448); Greece (438); Italy (420); Lithuania (397); Israel (382); Uruguay (365); Iceland (362); Switzerland (361); Czech Republic (351); Portugal (342); Austria (338); France (337); Germany (337); Hungary (333); Spain (330); Sweden (328); Malta (318); Slovakia (318); Finland (316); Netherlands (315); Norway (313); Argentina (301); Latvia (301); Denmark (293); Ireland (279); Luxembourg (266) and the United States (256).

lower among men than women, lower for minorities than for whites and especially low for Hispanics. Approximately one in three Hispanics have no coverage compared with one in seven whites.⁵

Males	16.7%
Females	13.9%
Whites	14.3%
White males	15.7%
White females	12.9%
Non-Hispanic whites	10.4%
Blacks	19.2%
Black males	21.0%
Black females	17.6%
Asians	16.1%
Asian males	17.3%
Asian females	15.0%
Hispanics of any race	32.1%
Hispanics of any race males	35.1%
Hispanics of any race females	28.9%

Of interest also is the extent to which people are prevented from receiving needed medical care due to cost. The Centre for Disease Control provides such information from the National Health Interview Surveys. The proportion of adults that have been unable to obtain needed treatment has risen from 4.5% in 1997 to 6.5% in 2008. Consistent with the data on health care coverage it is especially high for blacks and Latinos.

Data are also available on the extent of health care coverage in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) database.⁶ The BRFSS is a state-based system of health surveys that collects information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access primarily related to chronic disease and injury. For many states, the BRFSS is the only available source of timely, accurate data on health-related behaviors. The BRFSS was established in 1984 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); currently data are collected monthly in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. More than 350,000 adults are interviewed each year, making the BRFSS the largest telephone health survey in the world. We have data available to us from the surveys of 2005-2008. Note that the 2008 survey contains approximately 1500 observations from 2009, hence we report estimates for 2009 but these should be treated with caution due to the small sample size.

Respondents in the BRFSS were asked the following question.

⁵ <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/historic/index.html>

⁶ <http://www.cdc.gov/BRFSS/>

Question 1. *"Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?"*

As **Table 3** shows, in 2008, the most recent survey available, 15.2% of adults aged 18 and over said they had no health coverage, slightly lower than the 16.1% in 2005. The number is very close to the 15.4% reported in **Table 1** above based on the Current Population Survey. As with the data from the CPS, lack of coverage is higher among men than women and higher for minorities than whites and especially prevalent for Hispanics. As is to be expected coverage rises with education and income, and is higher for single people than married, divorced or widowed. Lack of coverage is especially high for the young and those in poor health; the unemployed. Lack of coverage is highest in the Virgin Islands followed by Texas and lowest in Hawaii.

Respondents to the BRFSS were also asked a further question.

Question 2. *"Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?"*

Means and standard deviations of the responses are also tabulated in **Table 3**. In 2008 15.6% reported in the affirmative, up from 13.6% in 2005, despite the increase in health care coverage identified above. Interestingly, 8% of respondents with health care coverage said they couldn't see a doctor because of the cost. Presumably this arose because of large deductibles or because of restrictions of access to doctors of choice through HMOs,

Prevalence was higher for females than males, as was found in **Table 2** for inability to obtain treatment for needed medical care. Those aged 20-25, were especially impacted, as were minorities, those with little schooling, those on low incomes, the separated, the unemployed, the disabled. Incidence was highest in Texas and lowest in Hawaii.

Figure 1 plots average health status against the proportion that say they are unable to see a doctor because of the cost. The unit of observation is the *state*, averaged across all years. There is a strong negative correlation ($R^2=.40$). **Figure 2** plots the proportion who cannot afford a doctor against fetal mortality rates for 2005.⁷ There is a positive relationship ($R^2=.28$). There is only a weak positive relationship in **Figure 3** with suicide rates, that is, intentional self-harm, for 2005 ($R^2=.10$). States with high proportions of individuals, who are unable to afford to see a doctor, unsurprisingly, have poor health outcomes. Inability to afford to see a doctor is negatively correlated with good health outcomes.

2) Econometric analysis of the incidence of health care coverage

⁷ Source: M.F. MacDorman and S. Kirmeyer (2009), 'Fetal and Perinatal Mortality, United States, 2005', *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Volume 57, Number 8 January 28.
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_08.pdf

In **Table 4** I estimate a set of dprobit equations using STATA where the probability of not having health coverage is modeled.⁸ This is equivalent to estimating the *ceteris paribus* effects, that is the effects holding other factors constant i.e. they are partial derivatives. The question to be answered then is whether the effects identified in the raw data remain once controls are included for income and schooling and whether the respondent is working, for example. In column 1 I only include controls for age, gender, race, year and state of residence. Controls are added for schooling, marital status, labor force status, income, Body Mass Index (BMI), size of household in column 2. The log of the state unemployment rate, measured by month, year and state is added in column 3. The probability of not having coverage in column 2, once these controls are included:

a) follows an inverse U-shape in age maximizing at age 32.5,

b) and is higher for Hispanics, Native Americans, men, the self-employed, the unemployed, the least educated, those with low incomes, with a low BMI and those living in Texas.

Rather surprisingly the unemployment rate is significant and negative in column 3. Data are unavailable on unemployment rates for Guam and the Virgin Islands, hence the smaller sample size.

Table 5 performs a similar exercise but now the dependent variable is the inability to afford to see a doctor. Results are similar. In column 2 with controls the probability of not being able to see a doctor

a) also follows an inverted U-shape in age maximizing at age 32.

b) is higher for females, minorities, in 2008 and 2009, in Texas, among the least educated, the unemployed, with high BMIs, in larger households and those on low incomes.

c) the log of the state unemployment rate is insignificant for people age 65 and older but is significant and positive for those under the age of 65 (column 4) and overall (column 5).

3) Happiness and mental health

In this section I examine the extent to which the lack of availability of health care coverage and/or the inability to see a doctor impacts an individual's *well-being*.

⁸ *dprobit* fits maximum-likelihood probit models and is an alternative to probit. Rather than reporting the coefficients, dprobit reports the marginal effect, that is the change in the probability for an infinitesimal change in each independent, continuous variable and, by default, reports the discrete change in the probability for dummy variables.

Data on happiness and well-being are available in many surveys around the world. There is even a World Database of Happiness.⁹ Most surveys now use a common format for the questions. These are typically asked as follows.

Question 3. 3-step happiness – e.g. from the US General Social Survey (GSS)

"Taken all together, how would you say things are these days – would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy or not too happy?"

Question 4. 4-step life satisfaction – e.g. from the European Eurobarometer Surveys

"On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?"

Answers to happiness and life satisfaction questions, it turns out, are well correlated with a number of important factors (for references see Di Tella and MacCulloch, 2007).

1. Objective characteristics such as unemployment.
2. Assessments of the person's happiness by friends and family members.
3. Assessments of the person's happiness by his or her spouse.
4. Heart rate and blood-pressure measures of response to stress.
5. The risk of coronary heart disease
6. Duration of authentic or so-called Duchenne smiles. A Duchenne smile occurs when both the zygomatic major and orbicularis oris facial muscles fire, and human beings identify these as 'genuine' smiles (see Ekman, Friesen and O'Sullivan (1988) and Ekman, Davidson and Friesen, (1990)).
7. Skin-resistance measures of response to stress.
8. Electroencephelogram measures of prefrontal brain activity.

The main, *ceteris paribus*, findings from happiness and life satisfaction equations across countries and time are as follows (Blanchflower, 2009; Blanchflower and Oswald, 2004a, 2004b, 2008, 2009; Winkelmann and Winkelmann, 1998).

Well-being is higher among:

- Women
- Married people
- The highly educated
- Active involvement in religion

⁹ See <http://www1.eur.nl/fsw/happiness/>

The healthy
Those with high income
The young and the old – U-shaped in age
The self-employed
People with low blood pressure
The sexually active and especially those who have sex at least once a week
Those with one sex partner
Those without children

Well-being is lower among:

Newly divorced and separated people
Adults in their mid to late 40s
The unemployed
Immigrants and minorities
Those in poor health
Commuters
People with high blood pressure
The less educated
The poor
The sexually inactive
Those with children

There have been a number of recent surveys of the happiness literature including Clark et al (2007); Frey and Stutzer (2002a, b) and Di Tella and MacCulloch (2006) which provide discussions of the relevant issues. Recent findings from the statistical happiness research include the following:

(i) For a person, money does buy a reasonable amount of happiness. But it is useful to keep this in perspective. Very loosely, for the typical individual, a doubling of salary makes a lot less difference than life events like marriage or unemployment.

(ii) For a nation, things are different. Whole countries, at least in the West where almost all the research has been done, do not seem to get much happier as they get richer.

(iii) Happiness is U-shaped in age. Women report higher well-being than men. Two of the biggest negatives in life are unemployment and divorce. Education is associated with high reported levels of happiness even after controlling for income.

(iv) Happy people are less likely to commit suicide (Koivuma et al, 2001).

(v) The structure of a happiness equation has the same general form in each industrialized country (and possibly in developing nations, though only a small amount of evidence has so far been collected). In other words, the broad statistical patterns look the same in France, Britain and the United States. As Di Tella and MacCulloch note "well-being equations, (where happiness and life satisfaction scores are correlated with the

demographic characteristics of the respondents) are broadly “similar” across countries, (is) an unlikely outcome if the data contained just noise” (2007, p.9).

(vi) There is some evidence, that the same is true in panels of people (that is, in longitudinal data). Particularly useful evidence comes from looking at windfalls, like lottery wins.

(vii) There is adaptation. Good and bad life events wear off, at least partially, as people get used to them.

(vii) Relative things matter a great deal. First, in experiments, people care about how they are treated compared to those who are like them, and in the laboratory will even pay to hurt others to restore what they see as fairness. Second, in large statistical studies, reported well-being depends on a person’s wage relative to an average or ‘comparison’ wage including Blanchflower and Oswald (2004); Di Tella *et al* (2005) and Luttmer (2005). Third, wage inequality depresses reported happiness in a region or nation (controlling for many variables), but the effect is not large (Alesina et al, 2004). Some of these patterns are visible in raw data alone. Strong correlations with income, marriage and unemployment are noticeable.

Since 2005 the BRFSS surveys have included data on life satisfaction. These BRFSS happiness data have already been examined by Oswald and Wu (2009). The question asked is slightly different from that used in the Eurobarometer surveys identified above. The question asked was

Question 5. *In general, how satisfied are you with your life? - very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, satisfied or very satisfied?*

Weighted responses were as follows (%).

	very dissatisfied	dissatisfied	satisfied	very satisfied	N
2005	0	5	50	45	356,612
2006	0	4	50	46	363,425
2007	1	4	50	44	372,019
2008	1	4	49	45	380,855
2005-2009	1	4	50	45	1,473,902

As has been widely found in the happiness literature, most people report being satisfied or very satisfied with their lives. Patterns of responses also vary little over time. The availability of these data files allows us to firstly show the main determinants of life satisfaction and then examine the impact of the lack of health care coverage and inability to see a doctor. **Table 6** estimates ordered logits with 1=very dissatisfied...4=very satisfied, hence positive coefficients illustrate higher levels of satisfaction. Column 1 includes a dummy for the inability to see a doctor, column 2 adds a dummy if the respondent has no health care, which is insignificant. In column 3 the inability to see a doctor dummy is excluded. Column 4 re-estimates the equation in column 1 using

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS). Life satisfaction is U-shaped in age, minimizing at age 44 (Blanchflower and Oswald, 2008, 2009). It is *higher* among minorities than it is among whites once income and schooling are controlled for.

Life satisfaction is negatively correlated with BMI (Blanchflower, Oswald and Van Landeghem, 2009). It is higher for women than men (Blanchflower and Oswald, 2004). Happiness is positively correlated with education and income, is higher for the employed than the unemployed or the disabled, is higher for married people than for singles or those who are divorced, separated or widowed. Happiness rises with the size of household. Non-smokers are happier than smokers. Those who do exercise are happier. Children lower happiness. Indeed, people with no children are happiest; as the number of children rises then happiness falls.

When a dummy for not being able to see a doctor is included it is always significant, whether or not a dummy for lack of health insurance is included. When the two variables are included together, the lack of insurance variable is insignificant. The inability to see a doctor is highly significant, with a t-statistic of over 100 even when a full set of controls are included for income, labor status, smoking, exercise and BMI etc.. Column 4 allows us to determine the size of this effect. It re-estimates the equation in column 1 but now using Ordinary Least Squares. Little of substance is altered. The size of the coefficient on the, *couldn't afford a doctor*, dummy is -.212. This is only slightly smaller in size than the coefficient of the dummy on the $\geq \$75,000$ income variable. The effect is large, even when income is controlled for.

To explore this issue further **Table 7** estimates a series of ordered logits by income group. The effect of not seeing a doctor is significant in each of the equations. Particularly impressive is the fact that this is the case even for those in the highest income category (column 4), even if they are in very good or excellent health. The effects are broadly of the same orders of magnitude.¹⁰ It is of comparable magnitude to being unemployed for at least twelve months.

Not having the ability to see a doctor because of an inability to pay is a major and substantial source of unhappiness in the United States, even for people with high income.

In addition to the question on life satisfaction, respondents were asked three further questions on their mental health.

Question 6. *Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?*

¹⁰ When the equations in **Table 7** were re-estimated by OLS the coefficients on *the couldn't afford a doctor* were as follows, with t-statistics in parentheses - $< \$20k = -.208$ (64.0); $\$20k \text{ \& } < \$50k = -.205$ (81.9); $\$50k \text{ \& } < \$75k = -.210$ (42.4); $\$75k = -.221$ (40.9) and $\$75k \text{ and healthy} = -.182$ (26.9).

Question 7. *During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel so depressed that nothing could cheer you up? - All, most, some, a little, or none of the time?*

Question 8. *Over the last 2 weeks, how many days have you felt down, depressed or hopeless?*

Question 6 is available in all years of the survey. Two thirds of respondents reported zero days.¹¹ An OLS equation with the number of days when mental health is poor is reported in column 1 Table 8. Not being able to afford a doctor increases the number of days by *three* when mental health was reported as not good.

Question 7 is available only in the 2007 survey and in only 24 states. This question was used on a selective basis state by state. Weighted responses were as follows; none of the time 81.5%; a little of the time 10%; some of the time 6%; most of the time 1.5% and all of the time 1%. Again lack of access to a doctor adds to the probability of an individual being depressed.

Question 8 is available from 2005-2009 with the majority of responses from 2006 and is available for 39 states and Puerto Rico.¹² Not being able to afford a doctor raises the number of days feeling 'down, depressed and hopeless' by over one day.

A poor mental health equation such as the ones in [Table 8](#) look much like the inverse of the life satisfaction equations in [Tables 6 and 7](#), for example.

There is strong evidence that inability to see a doctor because of the cost not only has a large and significant effect lowering life satisfaction it also worsens mental health.

4) Interpretation and Conclusion

The evidence presented in this paper suggests that not being able to see a doctor due to inability to pay has very large effects on well-being. But, is the size of the effects plausible, given that they seem so large. For example, in [Table 6](#) the size of the coefficient of -.21 is approximately the same as the difference between zero income and income of \$75,000 or more or between working as an employee and having been unemployed for at least twelve months.

These effects are larger than the effects from the equivalent amount of money that the service would cost, because the person could simply pay for them. But that is to be expected as what is being picked up is not the cost of the coverage itself but the cost of the service needed. So health insurance, say costs \$10,000 a year but if an individual falls ill, the cost could be half a million dollars. Hence the need for insurance.

¹¹ The distribution of days of poor mental health is as follows: 0 days=66%; 1 day=4%; 2 days=6%; 3 days=3%; 4 days= 2%; 5-9 days=6%; 10-19 days=6%; 20+ days=6%.

¹² The weighted distribution was as follows 0 days 71%; 1 day 8%; 2 days 7%; 3 days 3%; 4 days 2%; 5 days 2%; 6 days 0%; 7 days 2%; 8-13 days 2% and 14 days 3%.

They, or a member of their family, have just experienced a negative health shock. The uncertainty around subsequent health care expenses could be causing this big fall in happiness. By falling ill, the person who needs the treatment experienced a major negative income and wealth shock. Not having access to a doctor lowers life satisfaction and worsens mental health. And by a lot, even controlling for income, education and many other controls. This is true even for people with high incomes. Hence, providing health care coverage for all will likely raise the health and happiness of the nation.

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Table 1. Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1999 to 2008

Year	Total People	Covered by Private or Government Health Insurance								Not Covered
		Total	Private Health Insurance			Government Health Insurance				
			Total	Employment-based	Direct Purchase	Total	Medicaid	Medicare	Military Health Care 1/	
2008	301,483	255,143	200,992	176,332	26,777	87,411	42,641	43,029	11,560	46,340
2007	299,106	253,449	201,991	177,446	26,673	83,031	39,554	41,375	10,955	45,657
2006	296,824	249,829	201,690	177,152	27,066	80,270	38,281	40,343	10,547	46,995
2005	293,834	249,020	201,167	176,924	27,055	80,213	38,104	40,177	11,166	44,815
2004	291,166	247,669	200,924	176,247	27,551	79,486	37,955	39,703	10,789	43,498
2003	288,280	244,876	199,871	175,844	26,783	76,755	35,647	39,456	9,979	43,404
2002	285,933	243,914	200,891	177,095	26,846	73,624	33,246	38,448	10,063	42,019
2001	282,082	242,322	201,695	178,261	26,309	71,295	31,601	38,043	9,552	39,760
2000	279,517	241,091	202,794	179,436	26,799	69,037	29,533	37,740	9,099	38,426
1999	276,804	238,037	200,721	176,838	27,731	67,683	28,506	36,923	8,648	38,767
<i>PERCENTS</i>										
2008	100.0	84.6	66.7	58.5	8.9	29.0	14.1	14.3	3.8	15.4
2007	100.0	84.7	67.5	59.3	8.9	27.8	13.2	13.8	3.7	15.3
2006	100.0	84.2	67.9	59.7	9.1	27.0	12.9	13.6	3.6	15.8
2005	100.0	84.7	68.5	60.2	9.2	27.3	13.0	13.7	3.8	15.3
2004	100.0	85.1	69.0	60.5	9.5	27.3	13.0	13.6	3.7	14.9
2003	100.0	84.9	69.3	61.0	9.3	26.6	12.4	13.7	3.5	15.1
2002	100.0	85.3	70.3	61.9	9.4	25.7	11.6	13.4	3.5	14.7
2001	100.0	85.9	71.5	63.2	9.3	25.3	11.2	13.5	3.4	14.1
2000	100.0	86.3	72.6	64.2	9.6	24.7	10.6	13.5	3.3	13.7
1999	100.0	86.0	72.5	63.9	10.0	24.5	10.3	13.3	3.1	14.0

Source: Current Population Survey - <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/historic/index.html>

Table 2. Percentage of persons of all ages who failed to obtain needed medical care due to cost at some time during the past 12 months: United States, 1997–2008

2008	6.5
2007	5.8
2006	5.8
2005	5.3
2004	5.5
2003	5.3
2002	4.7
2001	4.7
2000	4.5
1999	4.3
1998	4.2
1997	4.5
Under 18 years, total	2.8
18–64 years, total	8.8
65 years and over, total	2.4
All ages	6.5
Males	5.9
Females	7.1
Hispanic or Latino	7.7
Not Hispanic or Latino, single race, white	6.0
Not Hispanic or Latino, single race, black	8.3

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/released200906.htm#1>

Table 3. Means and standard deviations for the proportion without health care coverage and those who didn't see a doctor because of the cost, averages 2005-2009.

	No health care plan		Didn't see doctor	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
All	.1557	.3625	.1364	.3433
No health care coverage			.4267	.4945
2005	.1605	.3671	.1359	.3427
2006	.1569	.3637	.1332	.3398
2007	.1531	.3601	.1353	.3420
2008	.1523	.3593	.1412	.3482
2009	.1540	.3611	.1558	.3628
Health care coverage			.0831	.2762
Didn't visit doctor due to cost.	.4853	.4997		
Visited doctor	.1032	.3042		
Female	.1396	.3466	.1531	.3600
Male	.1727	.3780	.1189	.3237
Age <=20	.2648	.4412	.1334	.3400
Age >20 & age<=25	.3290	.4698	.2217	.4154
Age >25 & age<30	.2582	.4376	.1992	.3994
Age >=30 & age<50	.1656	.3717	.1552	.3621
Age >=50 & age<70	.1032	.3042	.1119	.3153
Age >=70	.0202	.1408	.0395	.1948
Health excellent	.1210	.3261	.0716	.2578
Health very good	.1184	.3231	.0930	.2905
Health good	.1872	.3901	.1572	.3640
Health fair	.2311	.4215	.2520	.4341
Health poor	.1644	.3707	.2953	.4562
White non-Hispanic	.1071	.3092	.1066	.3086
Black	.2027	.4020	.1900	.3923
Asian	.1176	.3221	.1023	.3031
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.1883	.3910	.1450	.3522
Native American	.2365	.4249	.2118	.4086
Other non-Hispanic	.1987	.3990	.2005	.4004
Multi-race non-Hispanic	.1741	.3792	.1996	.3997
Hispanic	.3455	.4755	.2299	.4207
Dk race	.1502	.3573	.1459	.3531
No school	.4081	.4915	.2949	.4561
Grades 1-8	.3808	.4856	.2600	.4386
Grade 9-11	.3165	.4651	.2419	.4282
High school graduate	.1991	.3993	.1566	.3634
1-3 yrs college	.1376	.3445	.1408	.3479
College graduate	.0629	.2429	.0734	.2608
Married	.1073	.3095	.1069	.3090
Divorced	.1875	.3903	.1999	.3999
Widowed	.0633	.2436	.0875	.2827

Separated	.2951	.4560	.2853	.4515
Single	.2702	.4440	.1742	.3793
Unmarried couple	.3553	.4786	.2594	.4383
<\$10k	.3313	.4707	.3078	.4616
\$10 and < \$15k	.3157	.4648	.2927	.4550
≥\$15 & <\$20k	.3359	.4723	.2777	.4479
≥\$20-\$25	.2887	.4531	.2405	.4274
≥\$25-\$35	.2132	.4096	.1826	.3863
≥\$35-\$50	.1292	.3354	.1249	.3306
≥\$50-\$75	.0699	.2551	.0771	.2668
≥\$75k	.0371	.1891	.0384	.1923
Wage worker	.1384	.3453	.1223	.3276
Self-employed	.2521	.4342	.1644	.3706
Unemployed>12 months.	3819	.4858	.3155	.4647
Unemployed <12 months.	4579	.4982	.3106	.4627
Homemaker	.2067	.4049	.1691	.3748
Student	.1984	.3988	.1372	.3440
Retired	.0316	.1751	.0465	.2107
Disabled	.1484	.3555	.2799	.4489
Labor force other	.2699	.4439	.1646	.3709
Alabama*	.1595	.3662	.1623	.3687
Alaska	.1677	.3736	.1450	.3521
Arizona*	.1915	.3935	.1360	.3428
Arkansas*	.1963	.3972	.1651	.3713
California	.1700	.3757	.1442	.3513
Colorado	.1675	.3734	.1319	.3384
Connecticut	.0926	.2899	.0903	.2866
Delaware	.0786	.2692	.0930	.2905
District	.0900	.2863	.0996	.2995
Florida*	.1922	.3940	.1516	.3586
Georgia*	.1643	.3706	.1561	.3629
Hawaii	.0711	.2570	.0683	.2522
Idaho*	.1883	.3910	.1574	.3642
Illinois	.1485	.3557	.1253	.3311
Indiana	.1513	.3583	.1401	.3471
Iowa*	.1018	.3024	.0837	.2769
Kansas*	.1249	.3306	.1119	.3152
Kentucky	.1623	.3688	.1696	.3753
Louisiana*	.2137	.4099	.1763	.3811
Maine	.1156	.3198	.0981	.2975
Maryland	.1153	.3195	.1036	.3047
Massachusetts	.0734	.2608	.0744	.2624
Michigan	.1233	.3288	.1235	.3291
Minnesota	.0796	.2706	.0915	.2884
Mississippi*	.1954	.3965	.1892	.3917
Missouri	.1354	.3421	.1441	.3512

Montana	.1805	.3846	.1270	.3330
Nebraska*	.1311	.3375	.1015	.3020
Nevada*	.2156	.4112	.1514	.3584
New Hampshire	.1095	.3123	.0990	.2987
New Jersey	.1402	.3472	.1291	.3353
New Mexico	.2148	.4107	.1590	.3657
New York	.1334	.3400	.1160	.3202
North Carolina*	.1837	.3872	.1633	.3696
North Dakota*	.1165	.3209	.0696	.2545
Ohio	.1229	.3283	.1264	.3324
Oklahoma*	.2010	.4008	.1747	.3797
Oregon	.1657	.3719	.1422	.3493
Pennsylvania	.1089	.3116	.1001	.3001
Rhode Island	.1106	.3136	.1008	.3010
South Carolina*	.1741	.3792	.1560	.3629
South Dakota*	.1275	.3335	.0867	.2815
Tennessee*	.1463	.3535	.1511	.3581
Texas*	.2632	.4404	.1968	.3976
Utah*	.1503	.3574	.1247	.3304
Vermont	.1140	.3178	.1005	.3007
Virginia*	.1095	.3122	.1097	.3125
Washington	.1412	.3483	.1253	.3310
West Virginia	.1662	.3723	.1769	.3816
Wisconsin	.1005	.3007	.0913	.2881
Wyoming*	.1685	.3743	.1265	.3324
Guam*	.2172	.4125	.1894	.3920
Puerto Rico	.0794	.2704	.1382	.3451
Virgin Islands	.2908	.4541	.1627	.3691
Not RTW state	.1364	.3433	.1236	.3291
RTW state	.1881	.3908	.1564	.3632

* =Right to Work Law State

Question #1. *Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?*

Question #2. *Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?*

Table 4. Dprobit and probability of *no* health care coverage, 2005-2009

	(1)	(2)	(3)
2006	-.0024 (3.63)	.0009 (1.66)	.0002 (0.38)
2007	-.0026 (4.16)	.0034 (6.47)	.0027 (3.88)
2008	-.0060 (9.30)	.0006 (1.27)	.0010 (1.54)
2009	-.0013 (0.19)	.0030 (0.51)	.0053 (0.85)
Age	.0008 (10.09)	.0046 (59.19)	.0046 (40.96)
Age ²	-.00007 (50.56)	-.00007 (87.91)	-.00007 (56.38)
Male	.0129 (27.26)	.0191 (45.57)	.0190 (39.99)
Black	.0649 (66.30)	.0092 (12.85)	.0095 (10.92)
Asian	-.0062 (3.13)	.0009 (0.58)	-.0002 (0.11)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.0473 (9.20)	.0109 (2.88)	.0179 (4.20)
Native American	.1006 (47.14)	.0238 (16.22)	.0235 (9.93)
Other non-Hispanic	.0626 (19.72)	.0215 (8.92)	.0217 (8.72)
Multi-race non-Hispanic	.0439 (22.33)	.0089 (6.16)	.0086 (5.27)
Hispanic	.1708 (44.25)	.0437 (49.79)	.0437 (36.18)
Dk race	.0675 (23.53)	.0246 (10.98)	.0237 (9.58)
Alaska	.0026 (0.82)	.0119 (4.25)	.0156 (4.59)
Arizona	-.0023 (0.88)	.0068 (2.94)	.0076 (2.86)
Arkansas	.0250 (8.72)	.0190 (8.03)	.0210 (8.13)
California	-.0381 (17.61)	-.0232 (12.84)	-.0212 (10.01)
Colorado	-.0184 (8.11)	.0014 (0.70)	.0022 (0.99)
Connecticut	-.0378 (16.64)	-.0145 (7.11)	-.0132 (5.36)
Delaware	-.0445 (17.55)	-.0226 (10.33)	-.0225 (9.71)
District	-.0613 (26.99)	-.0313 (14.88)	-.0294 (9.98)
Florida	.0264 (11.07)	.0254 (12.57)	.0259 (10.59)
Georgia	.0009 (0.36)	.0115 (5.23)	.0133 (4.93)
Hawaii	-.0510 (23.27)	-.0311 (17.13)	-.0319 (12.45)
Idaho	.0201 (7.06)	.0126 (5.43)	.0117 (4.68)
Illinois	-.0289 (11.62)	-.0095 (4.36)	-.0076 (3.31)
Indiana	-.0049 (1.89)	-.0017 (0.84)	-.0001 (0.04)
Iowa	-.0323 (12.99)	-.0192 (9.31)	-.0190 (8.56)
Kansas	-.0234 (10.20)	-.0087 (4.46)	-.0079 (3.68)
Kentucky	.0259 (9.39)	.0096 (4.45)	.0126 (4.74)
Louisiana	.0385 (13.32)	.0417 (16.44)	.0419 (12.76)
Maine	-.0076 (2.86)	-.0106 (5.07)	-.0092 (4.13)
Maryland	-.0361 (16.89)	-.0079 (4.01)	-.0079 (3.86)
Massachusetts	-.0554 (31.06)	-.0363 (25.16)	-.0353 (11.04)
Michigan	-.0238 (10.48)	-.0116 (6.10)	-.0081 (3.08)
Minnesota	-.0480 (18.66)	-.0262 (11.83)	-.0253 (10.55)
Mississippi	.0158 (5.90)	.0073 (3.44)	.0110 (4.02)
Missouri	-.0010 (0.40)	-.0045 (2.10)	-.0026 (1.04)
Montana	.0329 (11.37)	.0208 (8.86)	.0201 (6.30)
Nebraska	-.0079 (3.43)	-.0060 (3.21)	-.0071 (3.26)
Nevada	.0059 (2.02)	.0204 (7.74)	.0221 (7.76)
New Hampshire	-.0137 (5.40)	-.0004 (0.22)	-.0009 (0.38)

New Jersey	-.0293 (13.93)	-.0055 (2.94)	-.0045 (1.95)
New Mexico	-.0010 (0.40)	.0086 (3.97)	.0090 (3.33)
New York	-.0375 (16.74)	-.0212 (11.28)	-.0200 (9.05)
North Carolina	-.0015 (0.68)	.0010 (0.56)	.0028 (1.26)
North Dakota	-.0124 (4.50)	-.0067 (3.00)	-.0078 (2.98)
Ohio	-.0180 (7.89)	-.0113 (6.06)	-.0089 (3.75)
Oklahoma	.0228 (8.80)	.0157 (7.41)	.0160 (6.39)
Oregon	.0021 (0.82)	.0008 (0.40)	.0034 (1.40)
Pennsylvania	-.0175 (8.12)	-.0168 (10.01)	-.0156 (7.51)
Rhode Island	-.0341 (13.20)	-.0183 (8.38)	-.0163 (6.32)
South Carolina	.0083 (3.41)	.0106 (5.19)	.0140 (5.16)
South Dakota	-.0050 (1.97)	-.0061 (3.01)	-.0073 (2.93)
Tennessee	.0047 (1.66)	.0001 (0.05)	.0022 (0.68)
Texas	.0262 (10.34)	.0367 (16.18)	.0382 (14.04)
Utah	-.0179 (7.02)	-.0012 (0.57)	-.0024 (1.02)
Vermont	-.0183 (7.46)	-.0140 (7.15)	-.0138 (6.06)
Virginia	-.0273 (11.12)	-.0087 (4.06)	-.0096 (3.85)
Washington	-.0128 (6.25)	-.0034 (1.97)	-.0017 (0.83)
West Virginia	.0220 (7.07)	.0026 (1.10)	.0035 (1.42)
Wisconsin	-.0184 (7.43)	-.0137 (6.89)	-.0126 (5.34)
Wyoming	.0137 (5.01)	.0250 (10.38)	.0231 (7.84)
Guam	.0210 (2.79)	-.0071 (1.34)	
Puerto Rico	-.0827 (49.79)	-.0579 (50.83)	-.0565 (30.65)
Virgin Islands	.0416 (12.22)	.0320 (11.26)	
Grades 1-8		-.0071 (1.81)	-.0069 (1.69)
Grade 9-11		-.0193 (5.40)	-.0188 (5.08)
High school graduate		-.0359 (9.80)	-.0352 (9.22)
1-3 yrs college		-.0453 (13.10)	-.0446 (12.41)
College graduate		-.0657 (18.79)	-.0649 (17.88)
Married		-.0244 (38.20)	-.0244 (35.28)
Divorced		.0056 (7.95)	.0056 (7.59)
Widowed		-.0109 (12.37)	-.0110 (11.63)
Separated		-.0029 (2.64)	-.0033 (2.83)
Unmarried couple		.0275 (22.26)	.0272 (20.82)
# children		-.0027 (14.39)	-.0025 (10.88)
Self-employed		.1083 (24.37)	.1065 (98.70)
Unemployed>12 months		.0784 (50.81)	.0779 (44.46)
Unemployed <12 months		.1319 (86.83)	.1310 (77.92)
Homemaker		.0406 (46.34)	.0398 (40.99)
Student		-.0002 (0.21)	-.0006 (0.54)
Retired		-.0225 (31.37)	-.0223 (27.76)
Disabled		-.0341 (55.37)	-.0339 (45.55)
Labor force other		.0446 (10.01)	.0431 (9.22)
\$10k and < \$15k		.0063 (6.31)	.0059 (5.62)
≥\$15k & <\$20k		.0044 (4.74)	.0045 (4.60)
≥\$20k-\$25k		-.0101 (11.86)	-.0100 (10.70)

≥\$25k-\$35k		-.0332 (44.95)	-.0327 (37.20)	
≥\$35k-\$50k		-.0551 (84.68)	-.0546 (68.75)	
≥\$50k-\$75k		-.0709 (16.94)	-.0703 (94.23)	
>=\$75k		-.0953 (46.29)	-.0945 (16.43)	
BMI		-.0005 (18.80)	-.0005 (17.45)	
# adults		.0114 (46.00)	.0114 (42.26)	
Log state unemployment rate			-.0064 (2.94)	
N		1,540,017	1,471,393	1,460,086
Pseudo R ²	.1042	.2415	.2408	

Table 5. Dprobit and probability that in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
			Age \geq 65	Age<65	All ages
Age	.0034 (39.95)	.0045 (50.1)	-.0139 (18.8)	.0080 (38.94)	.0045 (40.70)
Age ²	-.00005 (69.87)	-.00007 (73.8)	.0000 (17.5)	-.0001 (45.66)	-.0000 (58.54)
Male	-.0330 (66.29)	-.0208 (44.05)	.0039 (6.11)	-.0323 (43.83)	-.0205 (36.75)
Black	.0645 (63.47)	.0057 (7.04)	.0184 (14.82)	-.0007 (0.65)	.0060 (6.53)
Asian	-.0106 (4.99)	-.0008 (0.41)	.0082 (2.05)	-.0039 (1.18)	-.0009 (0.37)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.0587 (10.47)	.0190 (4.17)	.0415 (3.90)	.0134 (2.20)	.0154 (3.27)
Native American	.0745 (33.76)	.0050 (3.07)	.0266 (8.91)	-.0023 (0.79)	.0048 (2.21)
Other non-Hispanic	.0791 (23.27)	.0360 (12.59)	.0181 (4.58)	.0431 (11.15)	.0366 (12.80)
Multi-race non-Hispanic	.0811 (37.81)	.0318 (18.19)	.0183 (7.13)	.0390 (13.43)	.0319 (15.06)
Hispanic	.1000 (86.52)	.0128 (13.85)	.0222 (13.84)	.0110 (7.70)	.0126 (11.15)
Dk race	.0731 (24.47)	.0330 (12.67)	.0179 (7.30)	.0367 (9.54)	.0325 (12.47)
2006	-.0039 (5.59)	-.0010 (1.61)	-.0025 (2.81)	.0006 (0.58)	-.0003 (0.46)
2007	-.0026 (3.76)	.0033 (5.27)	-.0019 (2.23)	.0073 (7.13)	.0043 (5.70)
2008	.0003 (0.51)	.0063 (10.03)	-.0009 (1.24)	.0096 (9.40)	.0058 (7.93)
2009	.0120 (1.56)	.0224 (3.07)	.0084 (0.45)	.0233 (3.66)	.0192 (2.66)
Grades 1-8		-.0145 (3.22)	-.0028 (0.68)	-.0219 (3.06)	-.0146 (2.99)
Grade 9-11		-.0233 (5.44)	-.0098 (2.58)	-.0222 (3.14)	-.0233 (5.01)
High school graduate		-.0412 (9.42)	-.0193 (4.88)	-.0442 (6.24)	-.0410 (8.62)
1-3 yrs college		-.0357 (8.20)	-.0170 (4.61)	-.0387 (5.43)	-.0356 (7.54)
College graduate		-.0511 (11.70)	-.0201 (5.45)	-.0609 (8.44)	-.0510 (10.71)
Married		.0056 (7.42)	.0027 (1.71)	.0053 (4.95)	.0057 (6.88)
Divorced		.0283 (30.94)	.0099 (5.85)	.0333 (26.66)	.0284 (29.67)
Widowed		.0082 (7.51)	.0035 (2.32)	.0160 (8.75)	.0084 (7.41)
Separated		.0336 (22.19)	.0171 (5.44)	.0364 (18.19)	.0336 (21.29)
Unmarried couple		.0499 (31.76)	.0223 (4.38)	.0602 (28.71)	.0498 (29.23)
# children		.0024 (11.0)	.0060 (8.96)	.0015 (4.64)	.0025 (9.91)
Self-employed		.0453 (51.22)	.0010 (0.70)	.0611 (49.34)	.0455 (47.22)
Unemployed>12 months		.0733 (42.65)	.0343 (9.70)	.0883 (39.15)	.0731 (41.00)

Unemployed <12 months	.0795 (51.82)	.0205 (4.81)	.0971 (50.37)	.0793 (50.52)
Homemaker	.0053 (6.07)	-.0040 (3.19)	.0147 (11.57)	.0052 (5.76)
Student	-.0087 (6.09)	.0080 (0.97)	-.0061 (3.12)	-.0088 (5.80)
Retired	-.0260 (32.24)	-.0061 (6.13)	-.0284 (19.65)	-.0261 (31.97)
Disabled	.0289 (31.17)	.0308 (18.46)	.0284 (21.88)	.0286 (28.49)
Labor force other	.0242 (4.90)	.0027 (0.54)	.0438 (6.17)	.0237 (4.96)
\$10k and < \$15k	.0105 (9.12)	.0014 (1.34)	.0188 (11.36)	.0106 (9.30)
≥\$15k & <\$20k	-.0005 (0.50)	-.0090 (8.62)	.0089 (5.73)	-.0004 (0.38)
≥\$20k-\$25k	-.0151 (15.33)	-.0164 (16.63)	-.0109 (7.15)	-.0149 (14.26)
≥\$25k-\$35k	-.0406 (46.45)	-.0248 (26.29)	-.0482 (35.29)	-.0403 (42.20)
≥\$35k-\$50k	-.0643 (80.66)	-.0308 (33.08)	-.0831 (66.29)	-.0640 (71.66)
≥\$50k-\$75k	-.0842 (12.40)	-.0321 (32.77)	-.1142 (93.97)	-.0839 (99.13)
≥\$75k	-.1165 (148.70)	-.0340 (34.26)	-.1661 (23.28)	-.1161 (28.80)
BMI	.0007 (20.94)	.0001 (3.4)	.0009 (19.73)	.0007 (19.96)
# adults	.0086 (28.76)	.0039 (7.51)	.0114 (27.51)	.0087 (28.20)
Log state unemployment rate		.0022 (0.75)	.0111 (3.48)	.0079 (3.33)
N	1,540,269	1,471,565	406,329	1,053,940
Pseudo R ²	.0624	.1646	.0890	.1528
				.1651

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2005-2008.

Notes; excluded categories white, wage worker< annual income<\$10k, single., no schooling and 2005. All equations also include 11 month dummies. State unemployment rate is measure at the month*state*year level. Standard errors are clustered at month*state*year. All equations include a full set of state dummies. T-statistics in parentheses.

Table 6. Life satisfaction equations, 2005-2009

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Ordered logit	Ordered logit	Ordered logit	OLS
Couldn't afford a doctor-	.7304 (122.89)	-.7282 (118.27)		-.2116 (132.56)
No health care plan		-.0074 (1.18)	-.2013 (33.16)	
2006	.0339 (6.63)	.0341 (6.65)	.0344 (6.75)	.0099 (7.03)
2007	-.0855 (17.26)	-.0853 (17.19)	-.0876 (17.71)	-.0337 (24.59)
2008	-.0379 (7.66)	-.0377 (7.62)	-.0432 (8.74)	-.0195 (14.29)
2009	-.0897 (1.58)	-.0880 (1.54)	-.1031 (1.81)	-.0340 (2.16)
Black	.0959 (13.35)	.0962 (13.38)	.0883 (12.32)	.0310 (15.69)
Asian	-.3466 (23.56)	-.3462 (23.51)	-.3485 (23.75)	-.0849 (20.57)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.0686 (1.83)	.0733 (1.94)	.0605 (1.61)	.0195 (1.88)
Native American	.1344 (8.95)	.1367 (9.08)	.1432 (9.54)	.0361 (8.76)
Other non-Hispanic	-.0908 (4.05)	-.0903 (4.02)	-.1136 (5.08)	-.0264 (4.28)
Multi-race non-Hispanic	-.0798 (5.79)	-.0793 (5.75)	-.1020 (7.42)	-.0237 (6.28)
Hispanic	.0946 (11.57)	.0959 (11.67)	.0870 (10.64)	.0298 (13.19)
BMI	-.0169 (54.99)	-.0169 (54.91)	-.0180 (58.44)	-.0045 (53.58)
Age	-.0150 (21.74)	-.0149 (21.53)	-.0156 (22.74)	-.0045 (24.01)
Age ²	.00017 (26.17)	.0001 (25.97)	.0001 (28.73)	.00005(28.85)
Male	-.1217 (32.22)	-.1220 (32.21)	-.0973 (25.82)	-.0332 (31.82)
Grades 1-8	-.0957 (1.99)	-.0933 (1.93)	-.0719 (1.50)	-.0239 (1.81)
Grade 9-11	-.0525 (1.10)	-.0505 (1.06)	-.0254 (0.54)	-.0136 (1.04)
High school graduate	-.0176 (0.37)	-.0161 (0.34)	.0182 (0.39)	-.0047 (0.37)
1-3 yrs college	-.0183 (0.39)	-.0168 (0.35)	.0072 (0.15)	-.0080 (0.61)
College graduate	.1301 (2.74)	.1317 (2.77)	.1570 (3.32)	.0294 (2.26)
Married	.5884 (90.47)	.5897 (90.45)	.5706 (87.82)	.1641 (91.15)
Divorced	.0458 (6.21)	.0469 (6.35)	.0245 (3.32)	.0107 (5.29)
Widowed	.0994 (11.96)	.0997 (11.98)	.0923 (11.13)	.0301 (13.07)
Separated	-.2141 (16.25)	-.2122 (16.10)	-.2478 (18.82)	-.0628 (17.58)
Unmarried couple	.2285 (18.66)	.2316 (18.88)	.1962 (16.05)	.0659 (19.39)
# children	-.0160 (8.20)	-.0162 (8.29)	-.0210 (10.81)	-.0035 (6.58)

Self-employed	.1437 (22.56)	.1441 (22.48)	.1307 (20.48)	.0370 (21.04)	
Unemployed>12 months-	.6290 (43.54)	-.6283 (43.35)	-.6726 (46.42)	-.1901 (49.42)	
Unemployed <12 months-	.4985 (39.94)	-.4989 (39.72)	-.5377 (42.80)	-.1479 (43.96)	
Homemaker	.0971 (13.59)	.0979 (13.68)	.0990 (13.90)	.0210 (10.70)	
Student	.1867 (13.80)	.1857 (13.64)	.1912 (14.09)	.0480 (12.75)	
Retired	.1773 (29.54)	.1769 (29.44)	.1882 (31.40)	.0417 (25.12)	
Disabled	-.8306 (95.90)	-.8324 (95.75)	-.8741 (100.81)	-.2493 (109.69)	
Labor force other	-.0704 (1.72)	-.0728 (1.76)	-.0809 (1.97)	-.0286 (-2.53)	
\$10k and < \$15k	.0567 (4.99)	.0567 (4.99)	.0509 (4.48)	.0204 (6.64)	
≥\$15k & <\$20k	.1391 (12.83)	.1392 (12.82)	.1440 (13.30)	.0463 (15.77)	
≥\$20k-\$25k	.2022 (19.19)	.2018 (19.13)	.2195 (20.86)	.0640 (22.41)	
≥\$25k-\$35k	.2909 (28.28)	.2904 (28.18)	.3305 (32.18)	.0902 (32.32)	
≥\$35k-\$50k	.4167 (40.60)	.4160 (40.39)	.4780 (46.60)	.1258 (45.16)	
≥\$50k-\$75k	.5745 (54.64)	.5733 (54.28)	.6557 (62.37)	.1693 (59.30)	
≥\$75k	.8549 (80.34)	.8537 (79.80)	.9535 (89.62)	.2417 (83.85)	
# adults	.0224 (8.46)	.0221 (8.31)	.0178 (6.72)	.0067 (9.24)	
Non-smoker	.3943 (71.13)	.3939 (70.93)	-.1265 (13.49)	-.0359 (13.87)	
Smoke some days	.1182 (12.59)	.1183 (12.58)	.2179 (24.62)	.0567 (23.14)	
Gave up smoking	.3195 (53.84)	.3189 (53.66)	.3021 (35.35)	.0775 (32.75)	
Exercise past 30 days	.3826 (91.32)	.3826 (91.20)	.3824 (91.40)	.1112 (95.96)	
Cut 1/constant	-5.0998	-5.0974	-5.0405	3.3353	
Cut 2	-2.8552	-2.8521	-2.8092		
Cut 3	.5900	.5934	.5983		
Cut 4					
N	1404029		1,401,253	1,403,825	1,404,029
Pseudo/Adjusted R ²	.0788	.0789	.0731	.1382	

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2005-2008.

Notes; excluded categories white, wage worker, annual income<\$10k, single, no schooling, smokes every day and 2005. T-statistics in parentheses. All equations also include 11 month dummies and two additional income variables for DK and Not answered, a schooling level dk and race dk. All equations include a full set of state dummies.

In general, how satisfied are you with your life? - very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, satisfied or very satisfied? T-statistics in parentheses.

Table 7. Life satisfaction ordered logits by various income levels and coverage

	<\$20k	\$20k & <\$50k	≥\$50k & <\$75k	≥\$75k	≥\$75k & health very good or excellent	With health care coverage
Couldn't afford a doctor-	-.6594 (61.71)	-.7168 (77.22)	-.7341 (59.83)	-.8011 (37.06)	-.6978 (24.51)	-.7303 (98.45)
2006	.0211 (1.74)	.0360 (4.21)	.0263 (2.83)	.0366 (3.14)	.0563 (3.98)	.0355 (6.51)
2007	-.1551 (12.93)	-.0773 (9.29)	-.0707 (7.86)	-.0781 (7.06)	-.0589 (4.38)	-.0791 (15.00)
2008	-.0855 (7.18)	-.0289 (3.46)	-.0430 (4.76)	-.0298 (2.72)	-.0152 (1.15)	-.0327 (6.22)
2009	-.3034 (1.81)	.0655 (0.62)	-.1328 (1.29)	-.0795 (0.79)	-.0909 (0.73)	-.1062 (1.75)
Black	.2593 (18.29)	.0823 (7.00)	-.0042 (0.30)	-.1187 (5.87)	-.1265 (4.85)	.0901 (11.51)
Asian	-.2511 (5.54)	-.2722 (9.74)	-.3626 (13.17)	-.4112 (16.28)	-.3245 (10.32)	-.3499 (22.68)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.2156 (2.34)	.0527 (0.87)	-.0000 (0.00)	.0882 (1.02)	-.0385 (0.35)	.0888 (2.15)
Native American	.1751 (6.41)	.1396 (5.74)	.1444 (4.75)	.1043 (2.22)	.2099 (3.23)	.1228 (7.11)
Other non-Hispanic	.0166 (0.33)	-.0607 (1.62)	-.1426 (3.28)	-.1443 (2.77)	-.2041 (3.24)	-.1073 (4.40)
Multi-race non-Hispanic	-.0016 (0.06)	-.0638 (2.79)	-.1014 (3.97)	-.0962 (2.87)	-.0480 (1.11)	-.0857 (5.76)
Hispanic	.1935 (11.52)	.1126 (8.50)	.0782 (4.75)	.0192 (0.85)	.0468 (1.64)	.0798 (8.48)
BMI	-.0103 (16.17)	-.0164 (31.68)	-.0193 (33.08)	-.0250 (32.37)	-.0100 (9.25)	-.0175 (52.88)
Age	-.0186 (11.93)	-.0172 (15.31)	-.0231 (17.07)	-.0184 (9.36)	-.0307 (11.98)	-.0141 (18.78)
Age ²	.0002 (17.01)	.0001 (18.24)	.0002 (18.91)	.0002 (10.67)	.0003 (14.02)	.0001 (23.01)
Male	-.1259 (12.64)	-.1379 (21.58)	-.1232 (18.36)	-.0904 (11.24)	-.0854 (8.61)	-.1168 (29.06)
Grades 1-8	-.0125 (0.17)	-.1607 (1.69)	-.2089 (1.40)	-.2457 (1.17)	-.2971 (1.00)	-.0397 (0.71)
Grade 9-11	.0216 (0.29)	-.0905 (0.96)	-.1111 (0.76)	-.0238 (0.12)	-.2732 (0.99)	.0056 (0.11)
High school graduate	.0430 (0.59)	-.0511 (0.55)	-.0354 (0.25)	.0103 (0.05)	-.2433 (0.90)	.0525 (0.95)
1-3 yrs college	-.0086 (0.12)	-.0552 (0.59)	-.0322 (0.22)	.0312 (0.16)	-.2300 (0.85)	.0606 (1.10)
College graduate	.0551 (0.74)	.0546 (0.58)	.0867 (0.60)	.1899 (0.97)	-.0750 (0.28)	.2118 (3.84)
Married	.4448 (28.86)	.5747 (54.67)	.6008 (50.74)	.6794 (39.89)	.6694 (33.00)	.5839 (81.59)
Divorced	-.0075 (0.51)	.0750 (6.47)	.0873 (6.40)	.1398 (6.29)	.0960 (3.62)	.0420 (5.19)
Widowed	.1290 (7.81)	.1200 (9.05)	.0137 (0.80)	-.0519 (1.72)	-.1481 (3.87)	.0934 (10.53)
Separated	-.1155 (5.28)	-.2385 (10.82)	-.3480 (12.02)	-.5333 (11.84)	-.5645 (10.55)	-.2402 (16.18)
Unmarried couple	.1685 (6.10)	.2225 (11.01)	.2323 (10.08)	.3257 (11.63)	.3050 (9.21)	.2264 (15.97)
# children	-.0135 (2.69)	-.0179 (5.33)	-.0216 (6.24)	-.0171 (4.32)	-.0142 (3.01)	-.0227 (10.60)

Self-employed	.1338 (6.52)	.1759 (15.69)	.1524 (13.61)	.1366 (11.98)	.1069 (7.81)	.1504 (21.14)	
Unemployed>12 months	-.6286 (27.56)	-.5831 (21.86)	-.6446 (17.52)	-.7198 (13.78)	-.5755 (8.59)	-.6240 (35.47)	
Unemployed <12 months	-.4824 (21.27)	-.4918 (23.61)	-.5027 (19.05)	-.5768 (14.77)	-.4616 (9.61)	-.4626 (28.91)	
Homemaker	-.0494 (2.71)	.1333 (10.65)	.1538 (11.27)	.1013 (6.44)	.1459 (7.70)	.1050 (13.60)	
Student	.2450 (9.00)	.1409 (5.97)	.1193 (4.19)	.1727 (4.64)	.1921 (4.39)	.1933 (12.61)	
Retired	-.0215 (1.41)	.2231 (22.82)	.3008 (26.67)	.2332 (14.91)	.3432 (16.40)	.1830 (29.35)	
Disabled	-.7494 (51.34)	-.8974 (55.72)	-1.0470 (42.13)	-1.2371 (26.72)	-.3794 (3.55)	-.8354 (88.91)	
\$10k and < \$15k	.0731 (6.52)					.0306 (2.38)	
≥\$15k & <\$20k	.1647 (14.94)					.0996 (8.04)	
≥\$20k-\$25k		.1012 (12.83)				.1689 (14.09)	
≥\$25k-\$35k		.2453 (30.85)				.2616 (22.50)	
≥\$35k-\$50k						.3892 (33.66)	
≥\$50k-\$75k			.1785 (27.45)			.5467 (46.37)	
≥\$75k						.8286 (69.47)	
# adults	.0540 (9.04)	.0144 (3.16)	-.0127 (2.46)	-.0040 (0.68)	.0039 (0.53)	.0217 (7.34)	
Non-smoker	-.1109 (5.79)	-.1041 (6.77)	-.1087 (6.18)	-.1237 (5.22)	-.0624 (2.09)	-.1268 (12.13)	
Smoke some days	.1939 (10.24)	.1788 (12.16)	.1804 (10.94)	.2276 (10.81)	.2193 (8.46)	.1979 (20.32)	
Gave up smoking	.2724 (14.97)	.2437 (17.16)	.2684 (16.84)	.3105 (15.23)	.2967 (11.85)	.2787 (29.45)	
Exercise past 30 days	.3525 (40.03)	.3640 (53.41)	-.3767 (46.87)	.4244 (37.81)	.3126 (20.43)	.3901 (86.67)	
Cut 1	-4.7117	-5.7182	-6.3457	-6.5023	-7.0651	5.2077	
Cut 2	-2.6036	-3.3232	3.8437	-4.2063	-4.8097	2.9595	
Cut 3	.5521	.1866	-.2174	-.4646	-.8095	.5247	
N		231,495	482,623	416,440	312,627	225,921	1,247,030
Pseudo/Adjusted R ²	.0593	.0506	.0452	.0352	.0278		.0734

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2005-2008.

Notes; excluded categories white, wage worker, annual income<\$10k, single, no schooling, smokes every day and 2005. T-statistics in parentheses. All equations also include 11 month dummies and two additional income variables for DK and Not answered, a schooling level dk and race dk. All equations include a full set of state dummies.

Question. *In general, how satisfied are you with your life? - very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, satisfied or very satisfied?*

Table 8. Happiness, poor mental health and depression

	#days mental health not good OLS	Depressed Ordered logit	# days 'down depressed or hopeless' OLS
Couldn't afford a doctor	3.0229 (152.70)	.8804 (44.34)	1.3057 (66.51)
Age	.0181 (7.59)	.0074 (2.43)	.0142 (5.97)
Age ²	-.0006 (27.30)	-.0001 (6.78)	-.0002 (11.45)
Male	-.9065 (69.70)	-.1521 (8.90)	-.2234 (17.05)
Black	-.9058 (37.05)	-.1121 (3.95)	-.1743 (7.24)
Asian	-.7104 (13.92)	.3313 (5.86)	-.1713 (3.82)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-.3078 (2.39)	.1963 (1.32)	-.0395 (0.33)
Native American	-.0434 (0.85)	.0168 (0.30)	.0028 (0.06)
Other non-Hispanic	.2489 (3.26)	.1060 (1.12)	.0014 (0.02)
Multi-race non-Hispanic	.6039 (12.74)	.1375 (2.81)	.1554 (3.87)
Hispanic	-.8655 (30.95)	.1655 (4.78)	-.0119 (0.42)
BMI	.0506 (47.92)	.0102 (8.38)	.0200 (18.96)
Grades 1-8	.1292 (0.79)	-.1589 (0.90)	-.0416 (0.25)
Grade 9-11	.2334 (1.44)	-.2798 (1.60)	.0371 (0.22)
High school graduate	.0231 (0.14)	-.5281 (3.04)	-.1972 (1.20)
1-3 yrs college	.2957 (1.84)	-.6031 (3.47)	-.1820 (1.10)
College graduate	.0963 (0.60)	-.6862 (3.94)	-.1957 (1.18)
Married	-.2100 (9.38)	-.2347 (8.65)	-.1986 (8.87)
Divorced	.4341 (17.12)	.0678 (2.31)	.1267 (4.99)
Widowed	.1600 (5.56)	.0634 (1.84)	.0412 (1.41)
Separated	1.8324 (41.51)	.2795 (6.06)	.6769 (15.28)
Unmarried couple	.2017 (4.76)	.0289 (0.60)	-.0500 (1.18)
# children	.0102 (1.52)	-.0058 (0.69)	-.0149 (-2.27)
Self-employed	-.0385 (1.76)	-.0733 (2.39)	-.0346 (-1.61)
Unemployed > 12 months	2.9567 (62.15)	.7484 (15.33)	1.1946 (25.00)
Unemployed < 12 months	1.8577 (44.58)	.4793 (10.74)	1.0518 (24.65)
Homemaker	.3616 (14.67)	.1706 (5.56)	.2121 (8.58)
Student	.6539 (13.92)	.1613 (3.05)	.0451 (0.98)
Retired	.4959 (23.87)	.1408 (5.09)	.2105 (10.01)
Disabled	6.3700 (226.26)	1.2157 (44.34)	2.5554 (90.56)
\$10k and < \$15k	-.7732 (20.32)	-.2038 (5.55)	-.2337 (-6.36)
≥\$15k & <\$20k	-1.1133 (30.57)	-.2732 (7.58)	-.5266 (14.89)
≥\$20k-\$25k	-1.2797 (36.11)	-.3234 (8.89)	-.5879 (16.90)
≥\$25k-\$35k	-1.5348 (44.32)	-.4154 (11.54)	-.7722 (22.92)
≥\$35k-\$50k	-1.6265 (47.06)	-.5472 (14.95)	-.8612 (25.56)
≥\$50k-\$75k	-1.7518 (49.42)	-.6563 (16.90)	-.8901 (25.72)
≥\$75k	-1.9800 (50.77)	-.8198 (20.63)	-.9496 (27.13)
# adults	-.0547 (6.01)	-.0161 (1.50)	-.0157 (1.75)
Non-smoker	-1.8071 (95.29)	-.4109 (19.09)	-.2125 (6.57)
Smoke some days	-.6391 (19.90)	-.1050 (2.94)	-.5975 (29.26)
Gave up smoking	-1.3819 (67.94)	-.3442 (14.61)	-.6847 (36.13)
Exercise past 30 days	-1.1206 (77.60)	-.3902 (22.96)	-.5614 (38.66)

2006	.0894 (5.06)			
2007	.0701 (4.10)		.2500 (2.44)	
2008	.1229 (7.19)		.0576 (2.46)	
2009	.0496 (0.26)		.8086 (1.12)	
Cut 1/constant	5.3452	.4771	2.3816	
Cut 2		-1.4176		
Cut 3		.7961		
Cut 4		3.9301		
N		1,442,428	138,493	220,673
Pseudo/Adjusted R ²	.1361	.0977	.1602	

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2005-2008 column 1; 2007 survey column 2 and 2006-2008 surveys column 3.

Notes; excluded categories white, wage worker, annual income<\$10k, single, no schooling, smokes every day and 2005. T-statistics in parentheses. All equations also include 11 month dummies and full sets of state dummies.

Column 1. *Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?*

Column 2. *During the past 30 days, about how often did you feel so depressed that nothing could cheer you up? (If necessary: all, most, some, a little, or none of the time).*

Column 3. *Over the last 2 weeks, how many days have you felt down, depressed or hopeless?*

Figure 1. Health status and being unable to afford to visit a doctor

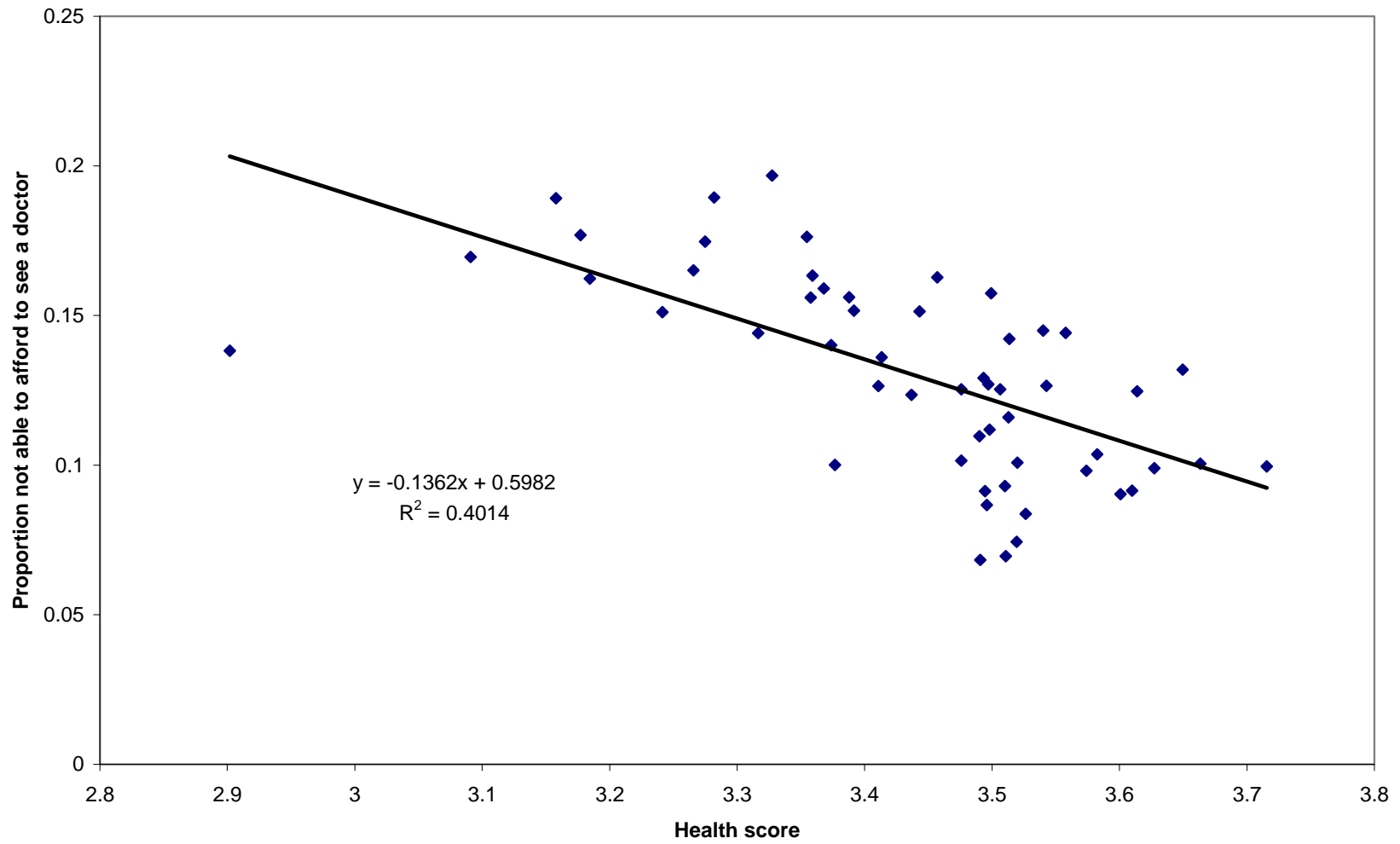


Figure 2. Fetal mortality rates and being unable to afford to visit a doctor

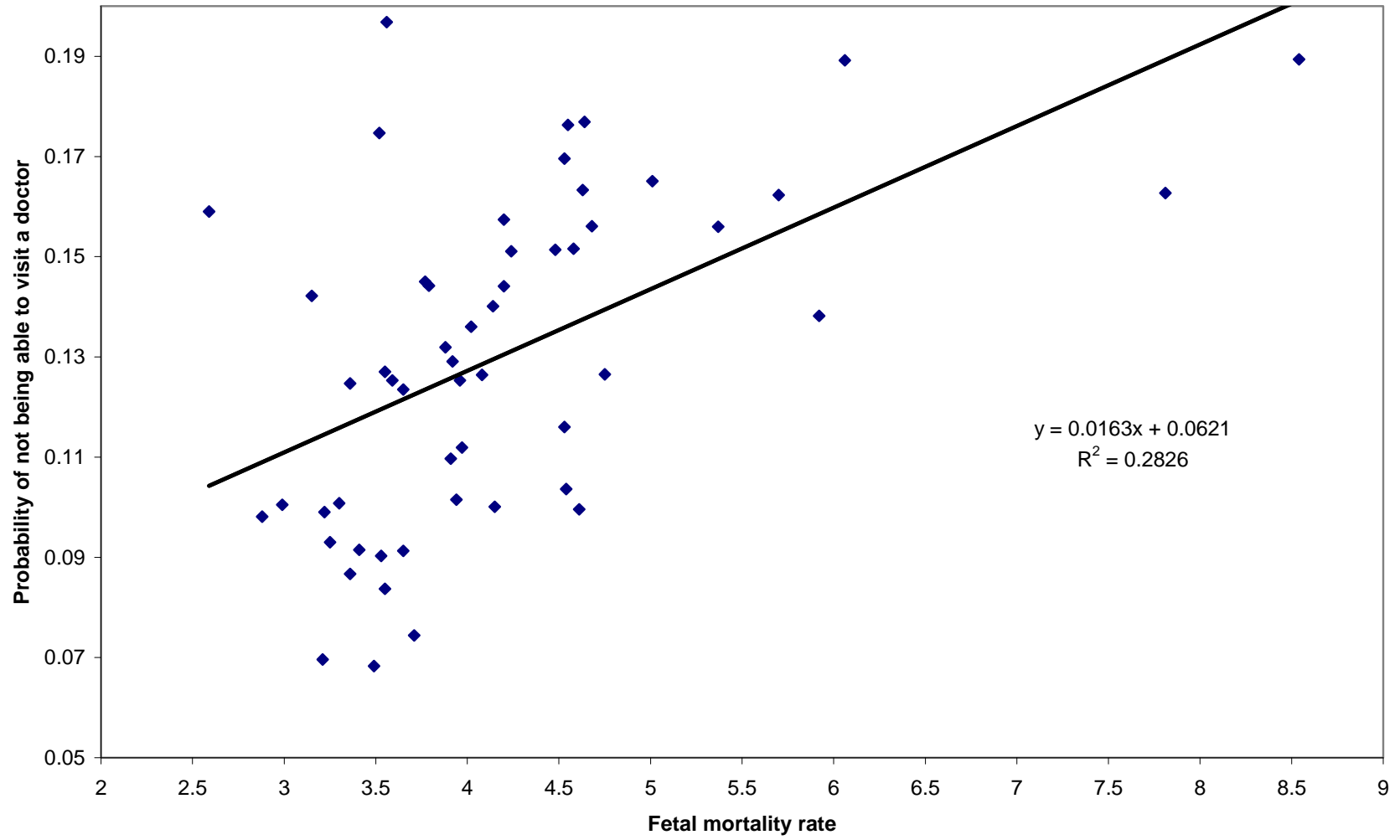


Figure 3. Intentional self-harm and being unable to afford a doctor

