

The US population today

Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin and by Race for the United States: 2000 and 2010 (US 2010 Census)

	Total number	% of the total population (% in 2000)	Evolution of number between 2000 and 2010 : %
	308,745,538	100	+ 9.7
	223,553,265	72.4 (75.1)	+5.7
	50,477,594	16.3 (12.5)	+43
	38,929,319	12.6 (12.3)	+12.3
	14,674,252	4.8 (3.6)	+43.3
	2,932,248	0.9 (0.9)	+18.4
	9,009,073	2.9 (3.6)	+32

Religious beliefs in the US today (2012)

	% among adults
Christians	78 % (90 % in 1963)
Including : Protestants	51 % (including 26 % Evangelical churches)
	24 %
	1.7 %
	0.6 %
	1.7 %
	0.7 %
	0.6 %
	16 % (about 6 % in the 1960s)

The Healthcare system

In the United States even though public health coverage exists, most healthcare insurance is private, people getting a coverage individually or through the programs negotiated by their employers.

Public Health Insurance

Public health insurance was introduced through the 1935 *Social Security Act* (New Deal) for the needy and the elderly. In 1945 president Truman supported the idea of a compulsory national health insurance but his project was deemed socialist and failed. In 1965 president Johnson signed *Medicare* and *Medicaid* programs into laws.

Public federal health coverage is provided by:

Program	Medicare	Medicaid	Children's Health Insurance Program	Veterans Health Administration
Date of creation	1965	1965	1997	1812
Enrolees	People over 65 Disabled young people	Low income people	Families with children having low income but still too high to benefit from Medicaid	Veterans
Share of population benefitting from the program in 2011	15% Americans were covered by Medicare (5 % by Medicare alone)	16.5% Americans were covered by Medicaid (11.5 % by Medicaid alone)	5.3 million children	8.3 million veterans

In 2011, 20% Americans were covered by sole public healthcare programs.

Private insurance

Employer-sponsored health insurance coverage (ESI) developed in the wake of the Second World War when employers used this incentive to attract workers in a tight labour market with much needed manpower. Most employers offer extension of the insurance coverage to the employee's family with extra cost. In 2011, 52% Americans were covered by private plans alone and 45% were covered by employment based program alone.

Assessment: facts and figures

The US is the fourth country for healthcare spending per capita per year: \$8,402 in 2010, half of which is used by 5% of the national population. Healthcare spending accounts for 17.9% of the US GDP in 2010 (12% for France, 9% for the average of the OECD countries).

The United States ranks 42nd regarding life expectancy and 34th regarding infant mortality.

49.9 million Americans, that is 16.3% of the population, were uninsured in 2010. 20% of black people and 30% of Hispanics were uninsured.

Reasons advocated for the absence of coverage: 1. Cost. 2. Job loss or employment change. 3. Ineligibility for public programs due to age or change in situation.

Obama's reform: *the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (dubbed "Obamacare" by opponents)

The PPACA was signed by president Obama on March 23, 2010. Its main principle amounts to extending health protection to more low middle class people (especially those working as independents or in small companies) and who are ineligible for public programs.

- ◆ Health insurance becomes
- ◆ Insurances can no longer deny
- ◆ Apart from small companies, employers must provide
- ◆ Businesses employing less than 25 people can benefit from t
- ◆ Young adults under 27 can benefit from t
(In 2011, 6.6 million young adults a

Most Republicans opposed the plan, citing as reasons:

- ◆
- ◆ 1
- ◆ Th

Politics

Democratic party

Republican-party

A majority are in favour of abortion, same sex marriage, gun control and many are against the death penalty
The government must make sure every American has a healthcare coverage

Economic liberalism, as little intervention of the state as possible, free regulation of the market
Need to reduce the deficit with spending cuts (except military expenses)
Against high revenue taxes

Against "big federal government", for self reliance, importance of local governments

Citizens' individual rights must be protected

Date of foundation

Symbol

General trend

Economic view

A majority are against abortion, same sex marriage, gun control and in favour of the death penalty.
Public Healthcare programs should be limited to Medicare and Medicaid.

1824

Social views

liberal

Strict border control and checking of immigrants status, self deportation

Vision of government

Free market framed by the state's regulations
Increasing taxes and reducing the military budget can help reduce the deficit and finance welfare programs

Strict border control
Immigration reform, possibility to grant citizenship to some undocumented aliens.

immigration

1854

conservative

Elephant

The federal government should intervene when necessary.

Donkey