



THE VALUE OF INSURANCE

Believe it or not, many of the uninsured don't understand what health insurance is and why it's valuable. Here's what they need to know:

1. Health coverage helps pay costs when you need care.

No one plans to get sick or hurt, but most people need medical care at some point. Health coverage helps pay for these costs and protects the insured person or family from very high expenses. For example, without health insurance, you could pay an average of \$30,000 for a 3-day hospital stay, or \$7,500 to fix a broken leg.

2. There are other important benefits of health insurance.

Plans available in the Health Insurance Marketplace (and most other plans) provide free preventive care, like vaccines and check-ups. They also cover some costs for prescription drugs.

3. How does health insurance work?

Health insurance is a contract between you and your insurance company. You buy a plan, and the company agrees to pay part of your medical costs when you get sick or hurt. You'll usually pay a premium every month for health coverage, and you may also have to meet a deductible once each year before the insurance company starts to pay its share. Depending on your plan, your care may only be covered when you get it from a provider in the plan's network, or you may have to pay a bigger share of the bill.

4. Make sure what you're getting is comprehensive.

You may see products that look and sound like health insurance, but don't give you the same protection as full health insurance. Some examples are policies that only cover certain diseases, policies that only cover you if you're hurt in an accident, or plans that offer you discounts on health services. Don't mistake insurance-like products for full comprehensive insurance protection.

5. Get more information about how insurance works at [HealthCare.Gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.cuidadodesalud.gov).

You can also call the Health Insurance Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.

KEY INSURANCE TERMS

Premium

How much you may every month for health coverage

Deductible

How much you pay for care before your insurance company starts to pay its share

Coinsurance (Copayments)

What you pay out-of-pocket for services after you pay the deductible

Out-of-pocket Maximum

How much in total you'll have to pay if you get sick