

# Oklahoma's Health Landscape

Carly Putnam  
cputnam@okpolicy.org  
918 794 3944



**OKPOLICY.ORG**  

---

Oklahoma Policy Institute

- Health data
- State health agencies and their funding
- Insurance coverage stats
- Possible futures for health care in Oklahoma



Health  
vs  
Health care  
vs  
Health care policy



Previous access to health care is a significant predictor of future health

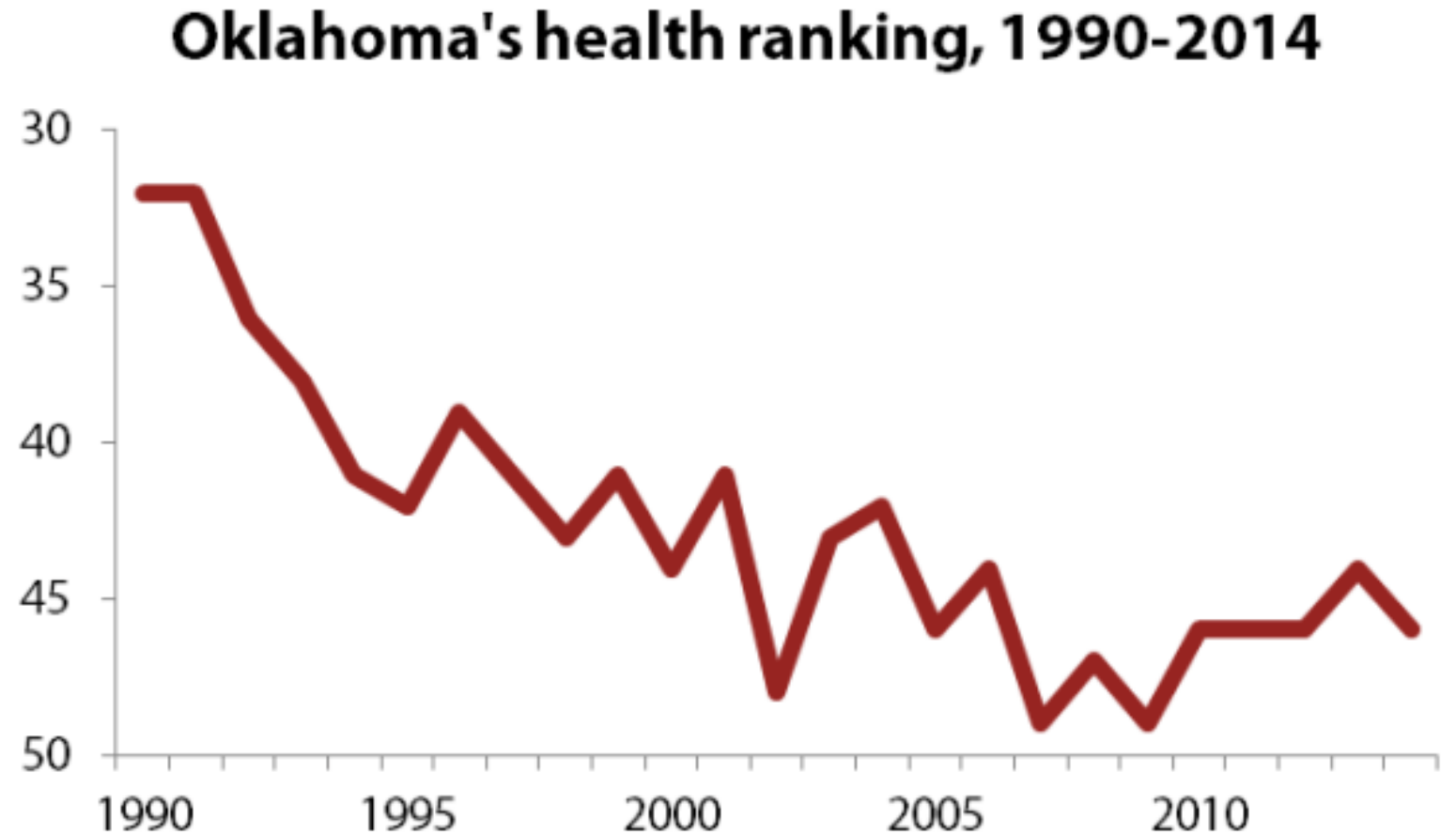


- **Health data**
- State health agencies and their funding
- Insurance coverage stats
- Possible futures for health care in Oklahoma

Oklahoma  
is an  
unhealthy  
state

Overall Oklahoma Ranking: 45			
Binge drinking	6	Salmonella	44
Underemployment rate	6	Poor physical health days	44
Pertussis	22	High blood pressure	44
Low birthweight	28	Lack of health insurance	44
Insufficient sleep	29	High cholesterol	44
Air pollution	34	Heart attack	44
Chlamydia	37	Preterm birth	45
Dentists	38	Obesity	45
Suicide	38	Cancer deaths	45
Stroke	39	Drug deaths	45
Violent crime	39	Occupational fatalities	46
Poor mental health days	39	Premature death	46
Children in poverty	40	Vegetables	46
Smoking	40	Physical inactivity	46
Infant mortality	41	Dental visit, annual	48
Heart disease	41	Cardiovascular deaths	48
Infectious disease	42	Teen birth rate	48
Diabetes	43	Fruits	49

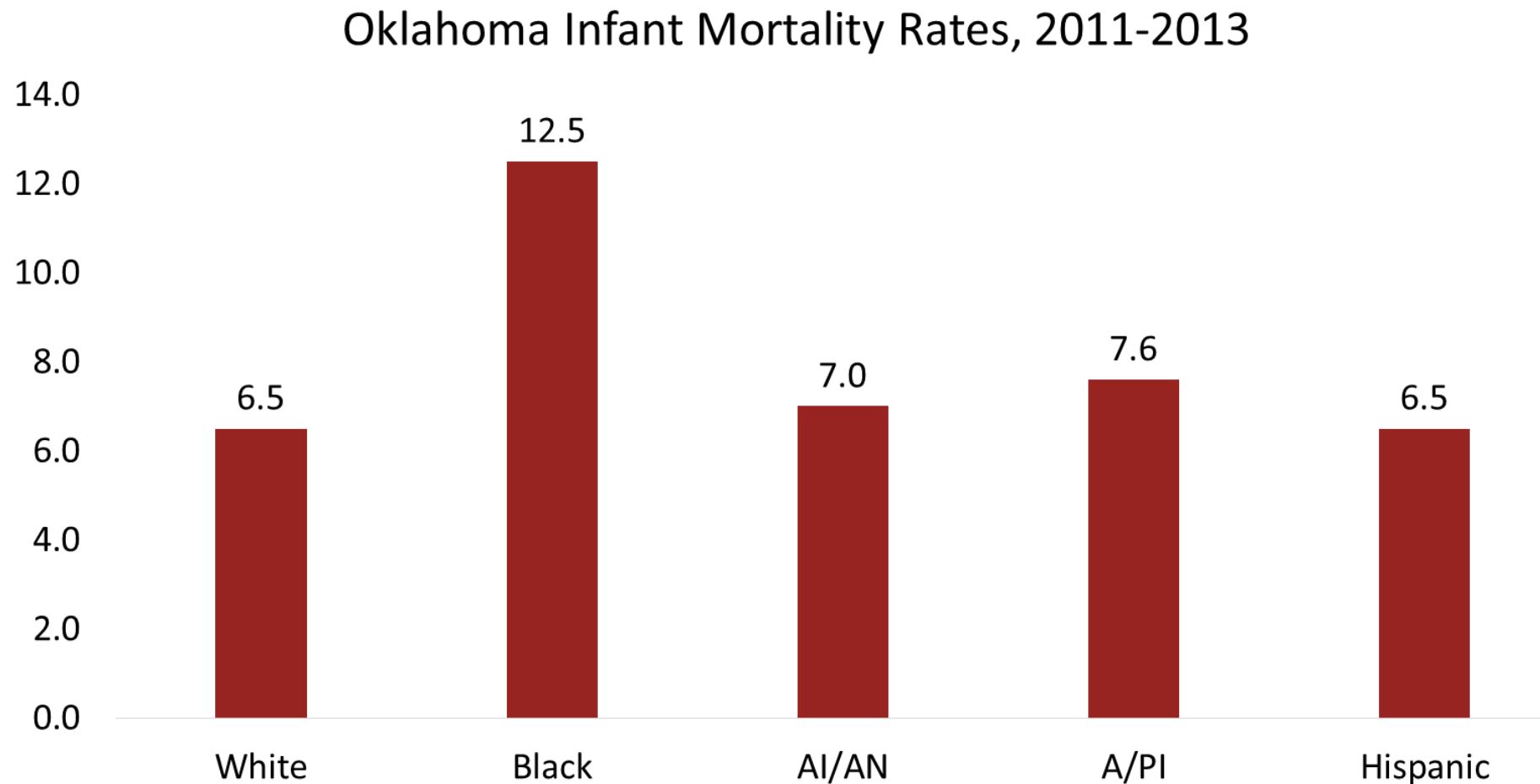
Oklahoma's health rankings have declined over the last quarter-century.



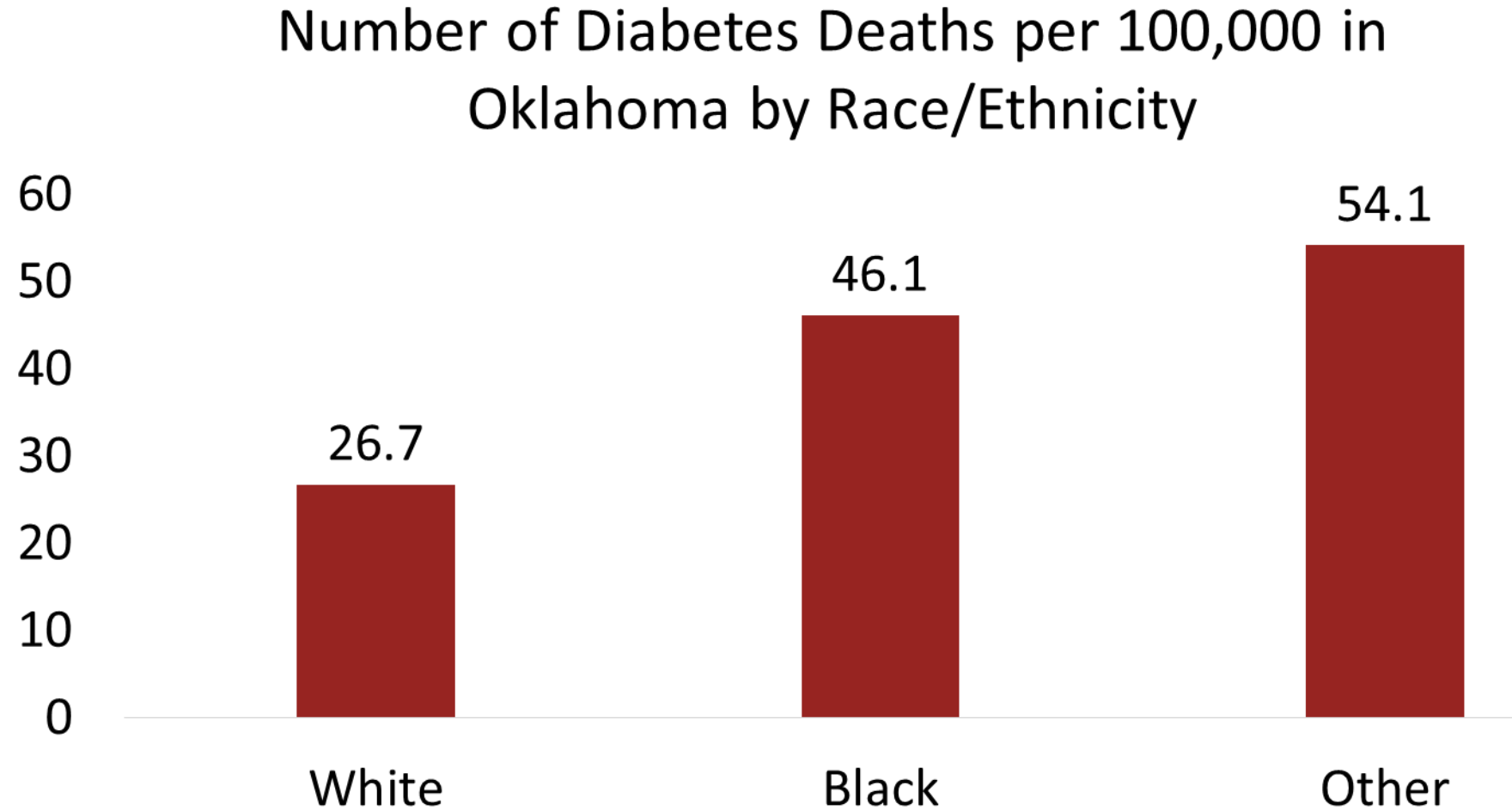
Source: United Health Foundation, 2014



- Oklahoma's infant mortality rate is higher than the national average
- Highest for Black Oklahomans



- Oklahoma ranks 7<sup>th</sup> for adult diabetes prevalence
- Death rates due to diabetes are substantially higher for nonwhite Oklahomans

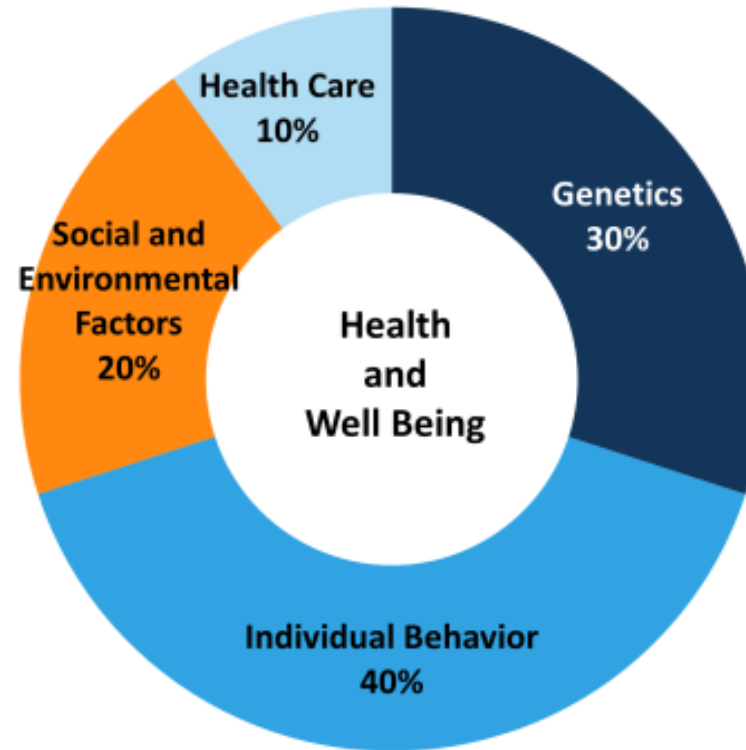


Source: Kaiser Family Foundation  
All categories of race include people of Hispanic ethnicity

# Social determinants of health

Figure 1

## Impact of Different Factors on Risk of Premature Death



SOURCE: Schroeder, SA. (2007). We Can Do Better — Improving the Health of the American People. *NEJM*. 357:1221-8.

# Social determinants of health

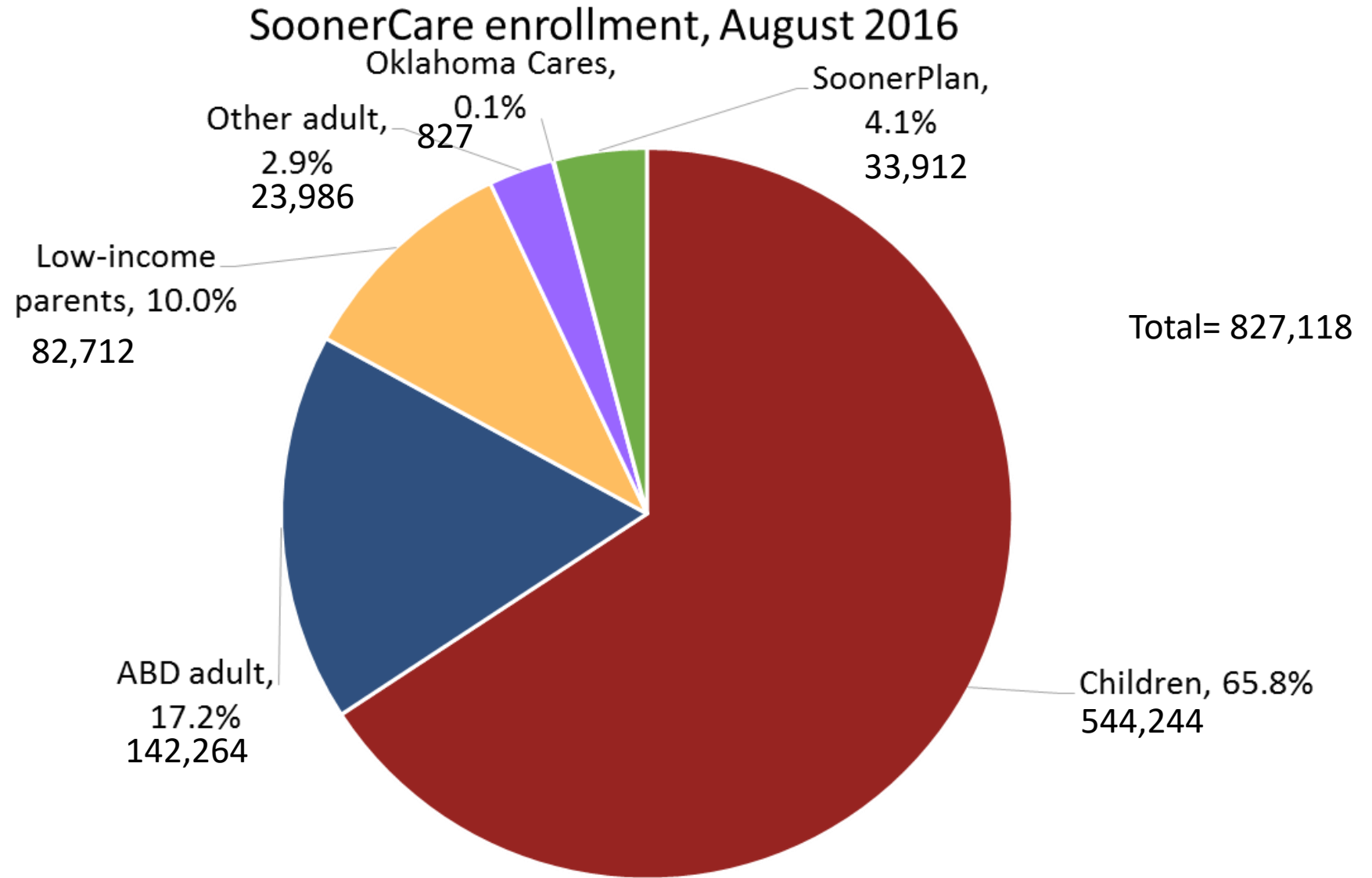
Figure 2

## Social Determinants of Health

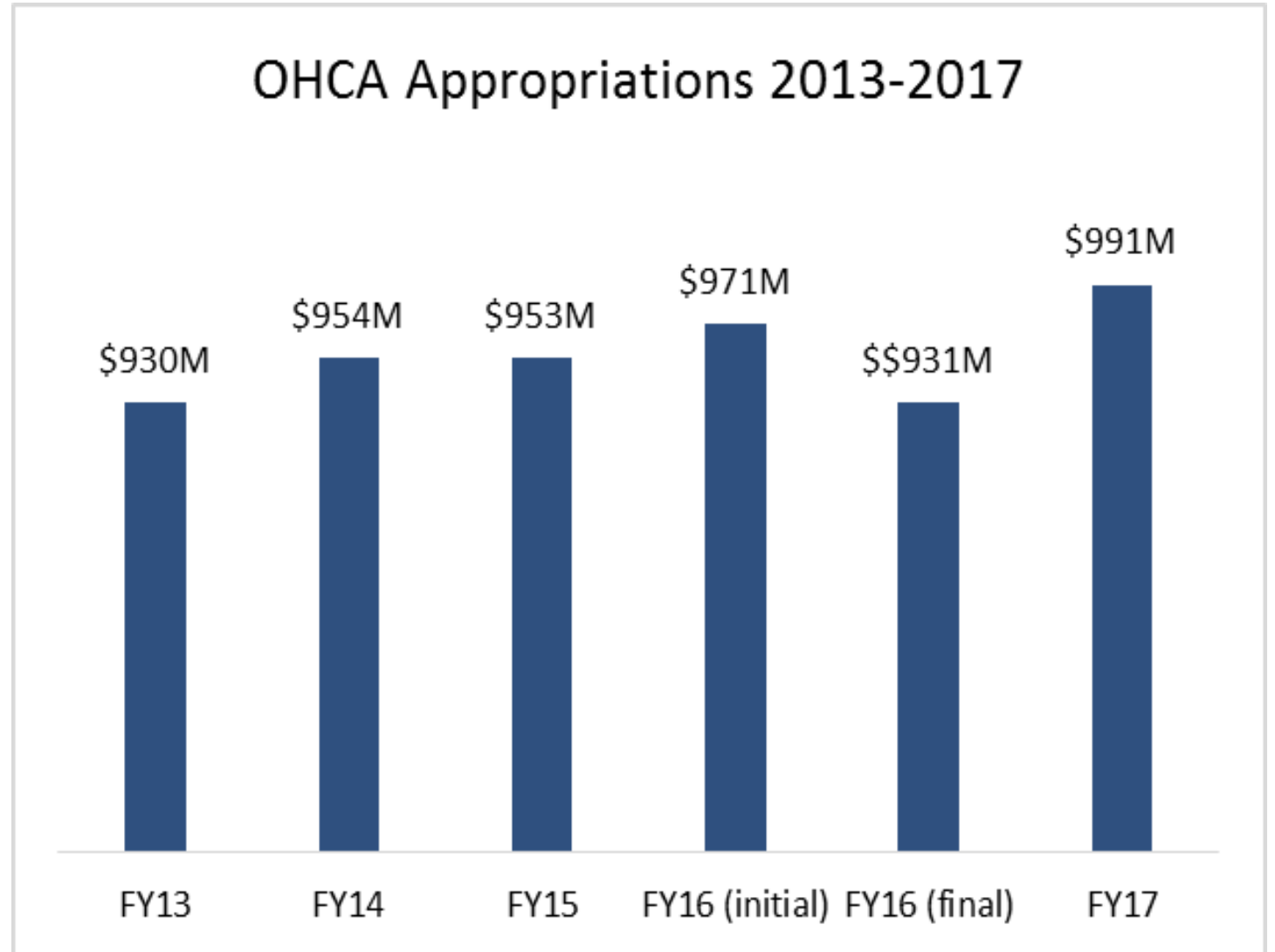
Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	Quality of care
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education			
Support	Walkability				
Health Outcomes					
Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations					

- Health data
- **State health agencies and their funding**
- Insurance coverage stats
- Possible futures for health care in Oklahoma

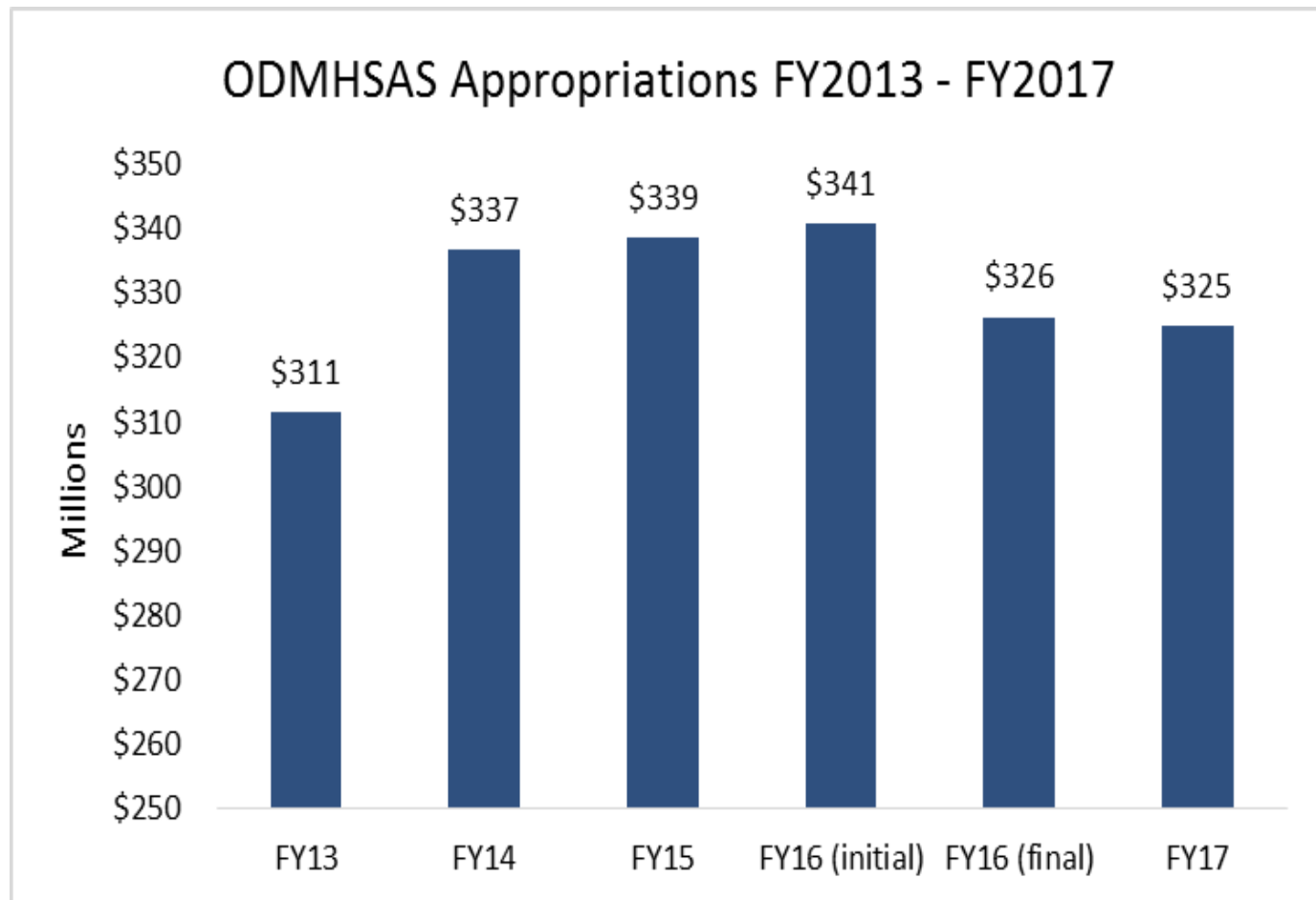
SoonerCare covers more than 800,000 Oklahomans every month



Unlike most health agencies, OHCA has seen gradual funding increases over the years

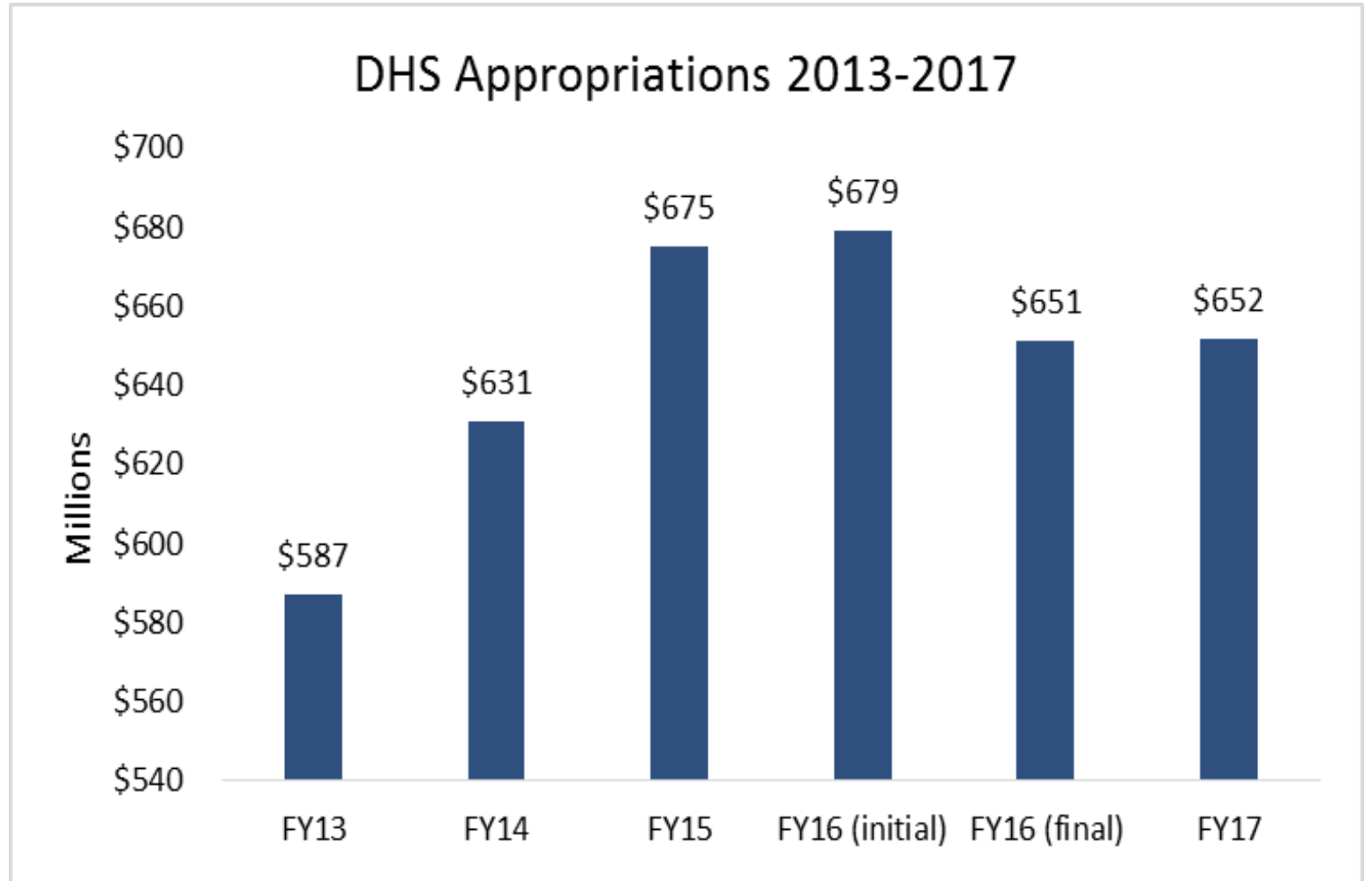


The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' FY2017 appropriation fails to make up FY2016's midyear cuts

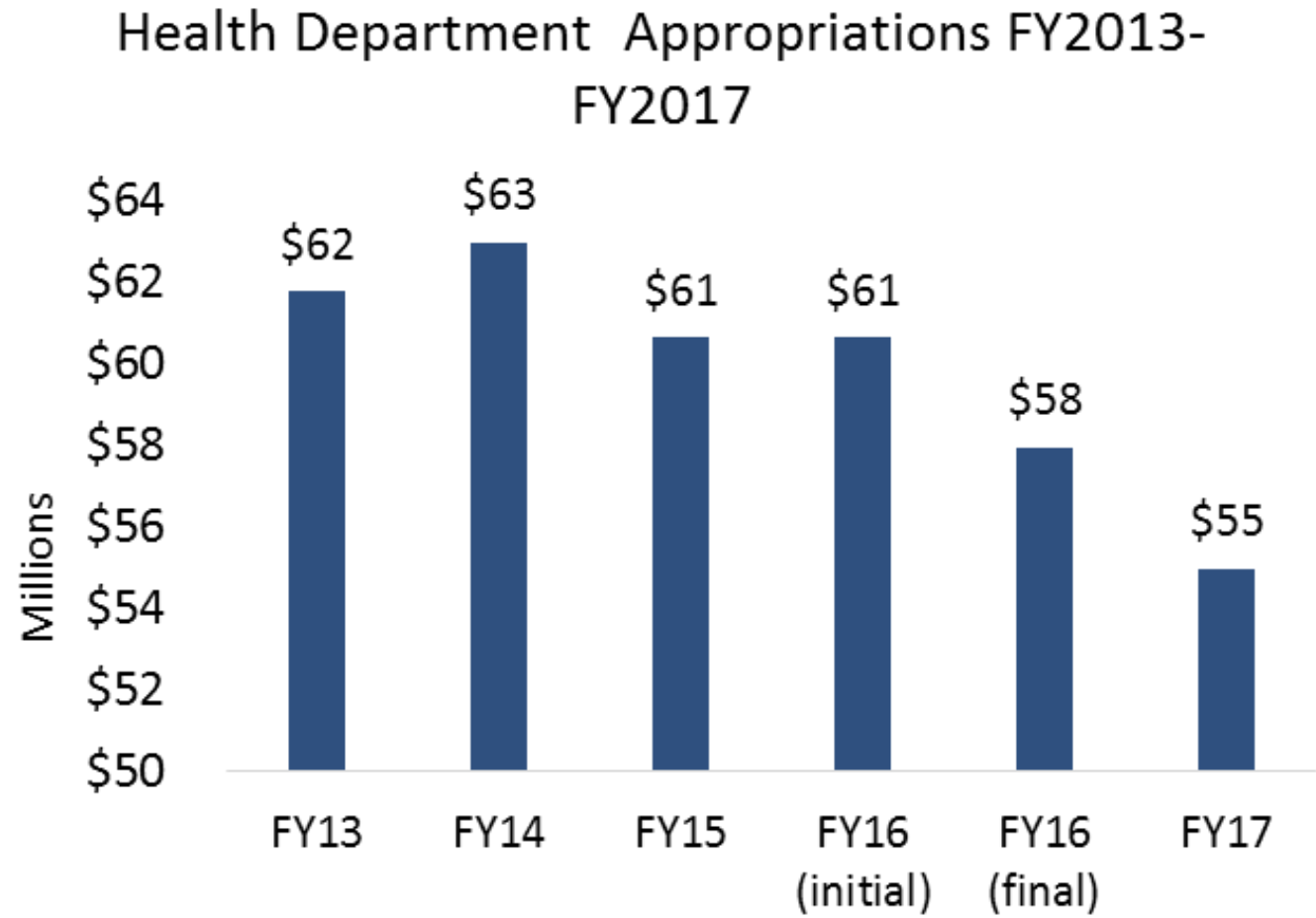




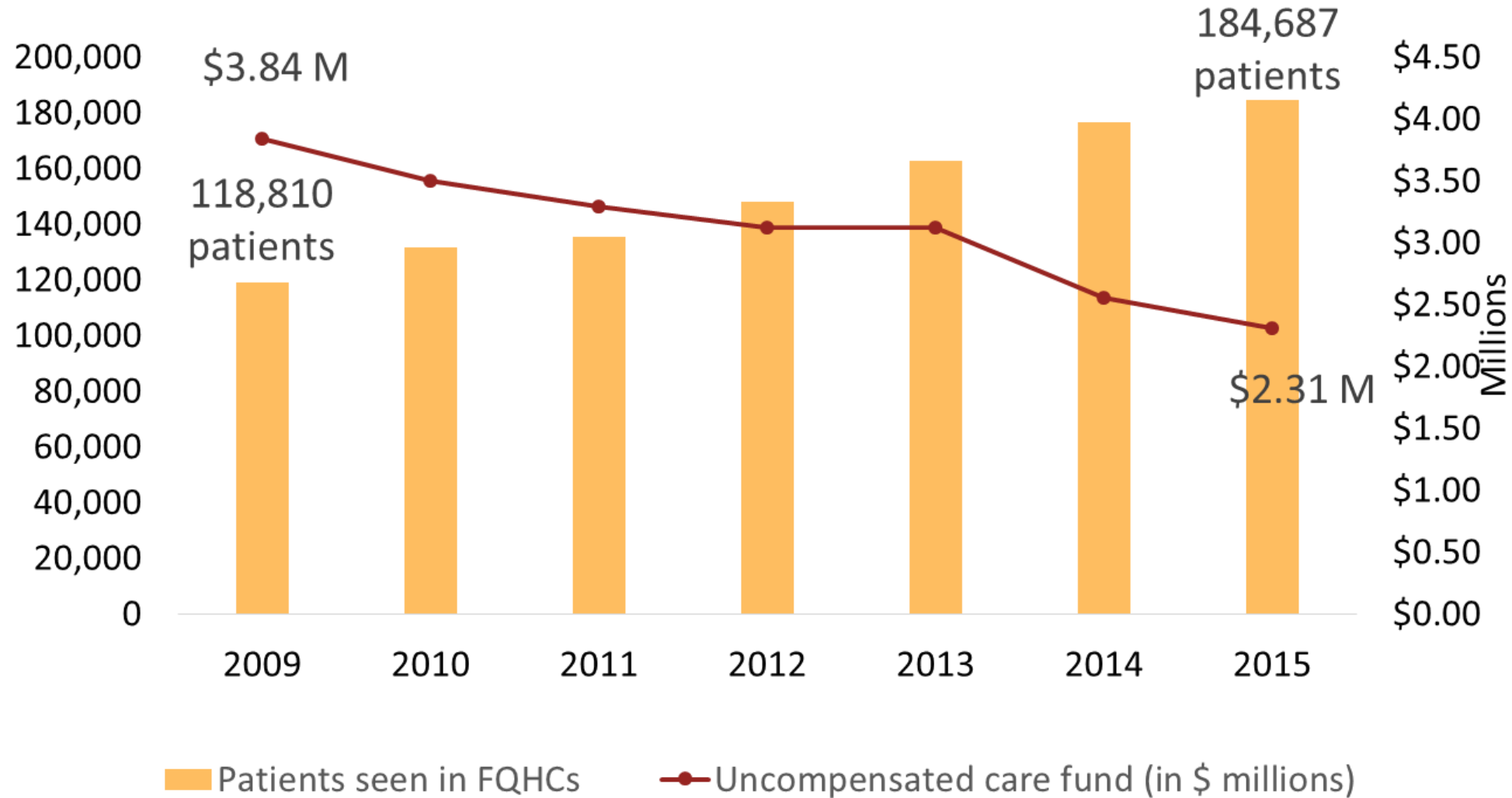
- Court-ordered child welfare reform have eaten up DHS funding increases
- Those reforms and legislation have limited DHS's ability to make budget cuts



The state  
Department of  
Health has been cut  
by more than 25  
percent since 2008

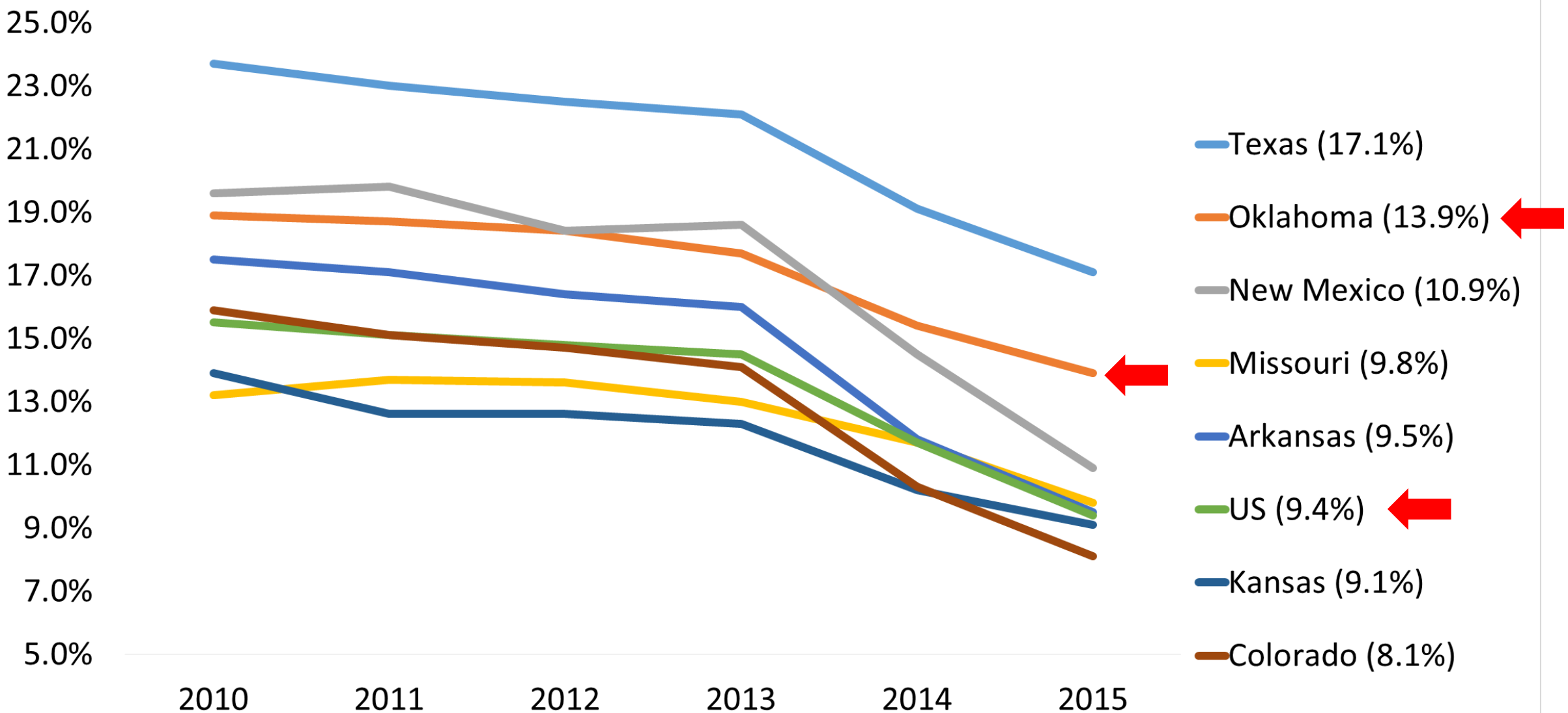


## Need for Community Health Centers has grown as state support for them has declined.

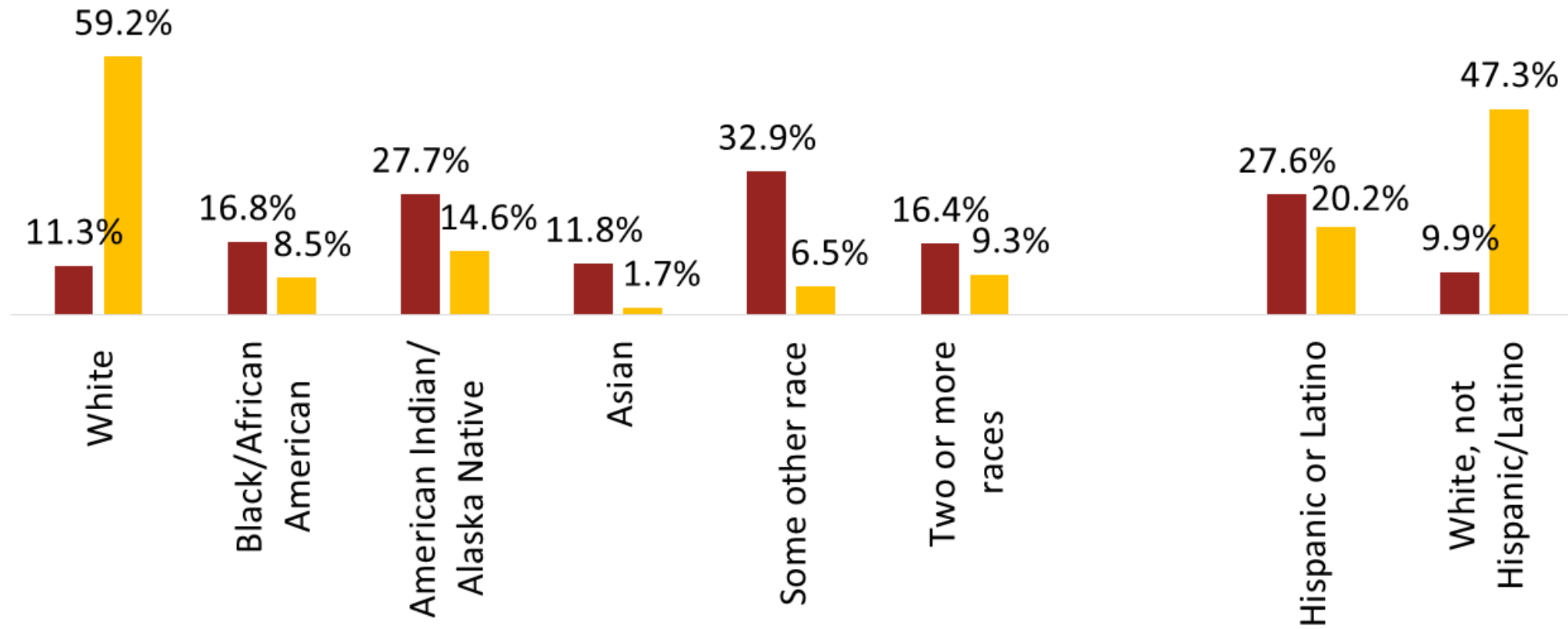


- Health data
- State health agencies and their funding
- **Insurance coverage stats**
- Possible futures for health care in Oklahoma

# Oklahoma's uninsured rate is second-highest in the US.



# The uninsured rate shows significant variation by race.



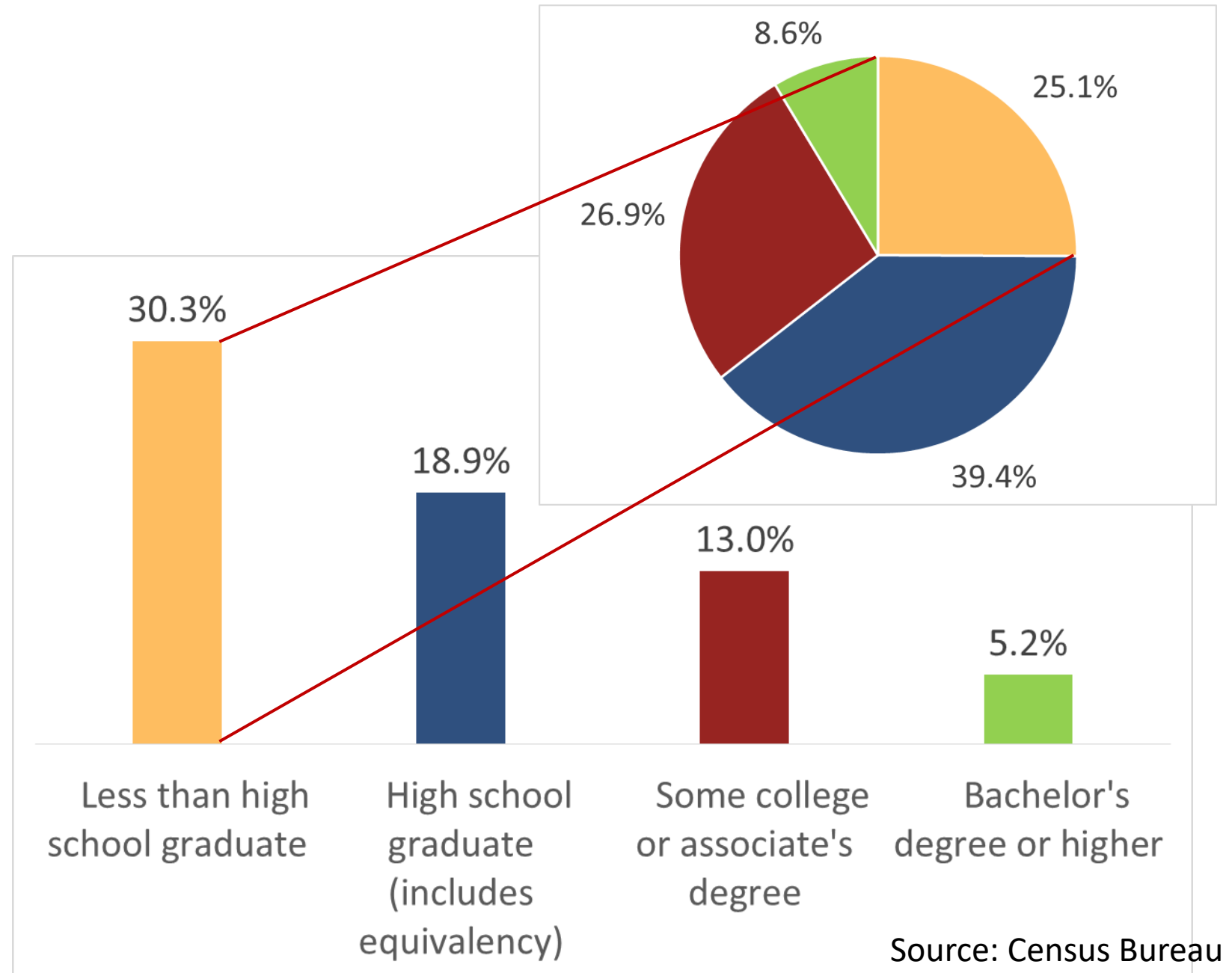
Note: Native Americans with IHS-only count as uninsured for Census

■ Uninsured rate ■ Percent of the uninsured

Working-age adults  
are more likely to be  
uninsured than any  
other group

	Percent uninsured	Percent of the uninsured
<b>&lt;18 years</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
<6 years	5.2%	3.1%
6-17 years	8.5%	10.2%
<b>18-64 years</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>86.1%</b>
18-24 years	22.6%	16.1%
25-34 years	25.5%	24.7%
35-44 years	20.6%	18.1%
45-54 years	17.6%	15.7%
55-64 years	12.8%	11.5%
<b>&gt;65 years</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
65-74 years	0.6%	0.4%
>75 years	0.4%	0.2%

- Being insured is correlated with educational attainment
- High school graduates make up the largest group of the uninsured

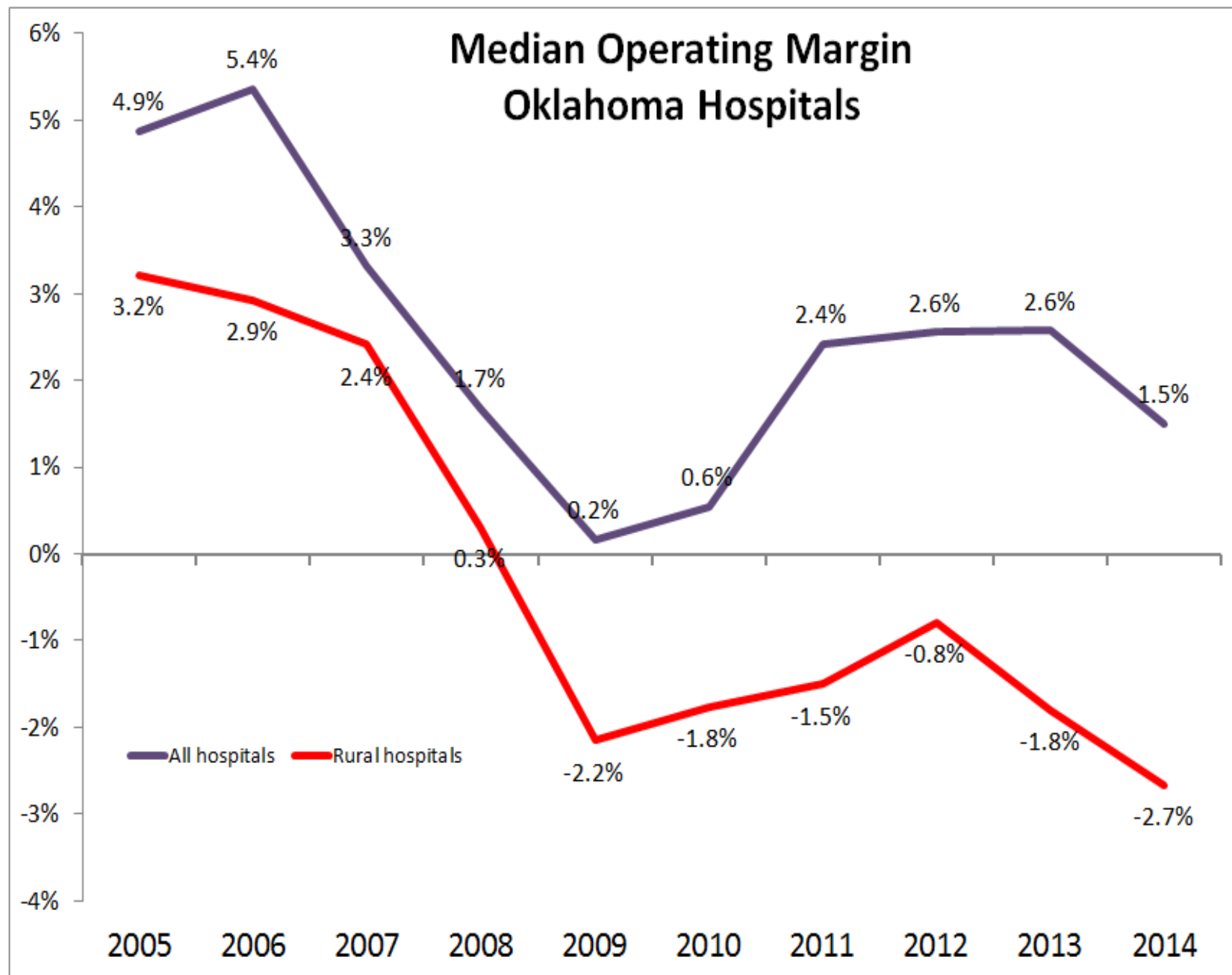




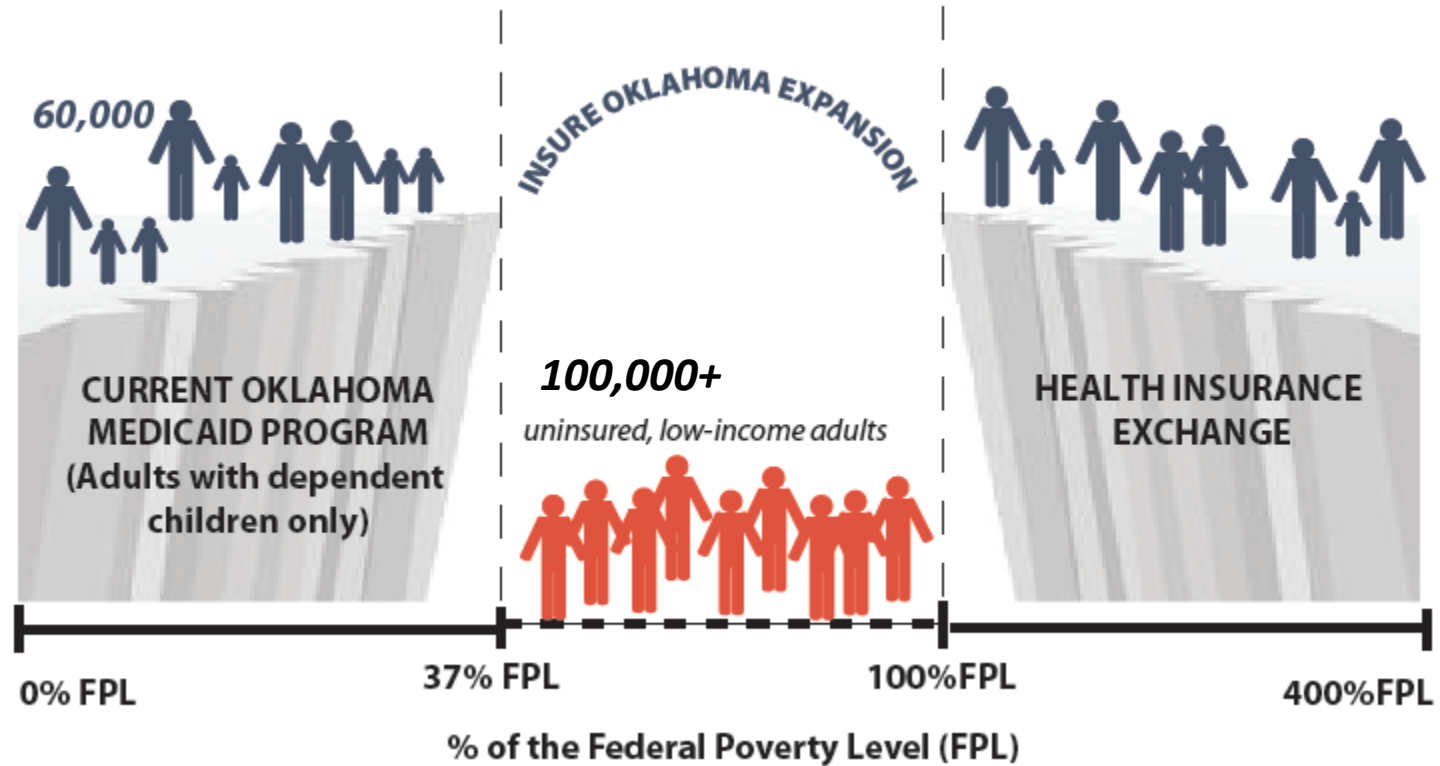
- Most insured Oklahomans carry private coverage through their employer
- SoonerCare is the second-largest source of health coverage

<b>Private health insurance</b>	<b>2,315,865</b>	<b>62.00%</b>
Employment-based health insurance	1,873,106	50.10%
Direct-purchase health insurance	461,315	12.30%
TRICARE/military health coverage	144,961	3.90%
<b>Public coverage</b>	<b>1,204,848</b>	<b>32.20%</b>
Medicare coverage	614,749	16.40%
Medicaid/means-tested public coverage	639,509	17.10%
VA Health Care	118,184	3.20%
<b>Uninsured</b>	<b>661,609</b>	<b>17.70%</b>

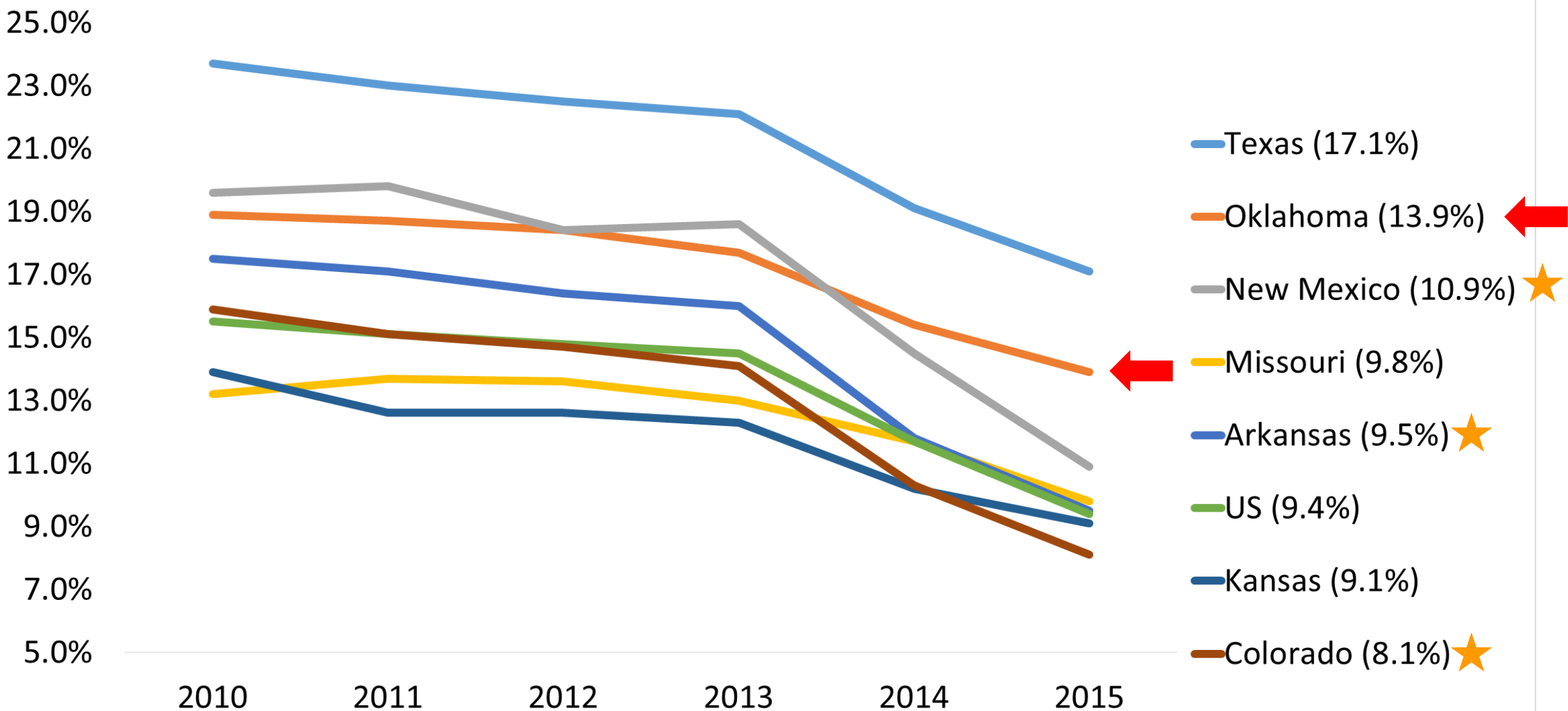
High uninsured rates and a weakened safety net hit the entire health care system



# The Coverage Crater



# Oklahoma's uninsured rate is second-highest in the US.



- Health data
- State health agencies and their funding
- Insurance coverage stats
- **Possible futures for health care in Oklahoma**

# Medicaid Rebalancing Act of 2020

- Expand Insure Oklahoma for coverage crater population
- Shift higher-income children and pregnant women to private coverage in 2019
- Raise cigarette tax to stabilize provider rates



- Unless we are able to muster the political will to adequately fund health care and social services in our state, none of this is going to improve
- Access to care for low-income, minority, elderly, disabled, and uninsured Oklahomans will continue to move further out of reach









We can do better

Life expectancy: Closing the gap




# Life expectancy gap between ZIP codes in Tulsa County narrows

■ Programs narrowing ZIP code disparity

Story

Comments (7)

Image (4)

Print  Font Size:  



[Previous](#)

[Next](#)



Posted: Thursday, September 3, 2015 12:00 am | Updated: 11:53 am, Mon Apr 11, 2016.

By **MIKE AVERILL** World Staff Writer |  7 comments

A new report from the Tulsa Health Department highlights efforts made to close the life expectancy disparity between ZIP codes in Tulsa County.

# We have options

- We should accept federal funds to expand Medicaid or Insure Oklahoma for the low-income uninsured
- We need more sensible budget and tax policies



# Questions?

Carly Putnam

[cputnam@okpolicy.org](mailto:cputnam@okpolicy.org)

918 794 3944



**OKPOLICY.ORG**

---

Oklahoma Policy Institute