



# Justus-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force

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## About Us

Care4Carolina is a statewide coalition that seeks to strengthen the economic and social wellbeing of our state by closing the health insurance gap and increasing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all North Carolinians.

The American Heart Association is a member of the coalition and has representation on the coalition's steering committee.



## Supporters

Care4Carolina brings together leaders from across North Carolina including:

- Voluntary Health Associations: American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, March of Dimes, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, NC Dietetic Association
- Doctors and Hospitals: North Carolina Healthcare Association, NC Medical Society, NC Academy of Family Physicians, OIC Family Medical Center, NC Pediatric Society, Novant Health, Inc., NC Community Health Center Association, NC Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, NC Association of Local Health Directors
- Advocacy Groups: NC Child, Disability Rights NC, MomsRising, Public Health Association, Insight Human Services, NC Coalition on Aging, NC Justice Center, League of Women Voters North Carolina, NC Citizens for Public Health, NC Rural Center, National Alliance on Mental Illness North Carolina, NC Psychological Association, NC Rural Center, and National Association of Social Workers
- Institutions: Cone Health Foundation



## The Uninsured

- There are 1,390,000+ people in the state that do not have health insurance coverage. Of those that are uninsured the majority are working full time or part time jobs.
- In NC the uninsured work primarily in construction, food service, sales, and cleaning and maintenance jobs. They are also our veterans (12,000 in NC), farmers, volunteer fire fighters, fishermen, pastors, and small business owners.



## Insurance Gaps

- In North Carolina currently a coverage gap exists for more than 400,000 low-income individuals that have no affordable health insurance options available to them.
- Medicaid currently covers fewer than half of people in poverty.
- In NC there are nearly 12,000 low-income veterans without access to comprehensive health insurance coverage.



## The Current Gap

Who is in the current coverage gap?

- 82% Adults with dependent children
- 48% People of Color
- 53% Females
- 66% In a working family



## Gap Impact

Extending coverage is a sound investment for North Carolina by creating a healthier workforce and strengthening the state's economy. The Center for Health Policy Research estimates that bridging the coverage gap in NC would result in the following:

- Creation of more jobs
- Increase in state revenue
- Promotes business in the state



## The Value

- Covering the uninsured means better premium value for North Carolinians with private health insurance by lowering costs for everyone.
- Providing health insurance coverage will help people gain access to the care they need, which improves health outcomes.
- A healthier North Carolina workforce strengthens the economic and social well-being of the state.



## The Issue of Access

- The problem is even greater for those with health conditions who don't receive regular treatment and care.
- Without the stability of health insurance, many access needed care through emergency rooms.
- They face potential greater complications from their conditions and higher mortality rates.



## Access and CVD

- The uninsured with CVD experience poorer blood pressure control than their insured counterparts.
- Those who suffer a stroke experience greater neurological impairments, longer hospital stays and a 24-56% higher risk of death than the insured.
- A 12-year study of more than 7,000 Americans showed that individuals without health insurance, especially those with heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure or diabetes, experienced a dramatic improvement in health when they become eligible for Medicare coverage at age 65.



## Our Goal

- Care4Carolina seeks to strengthen the economic and social wellbeing of our state by closing the health insurance gap.
- Care4Carolina supports the development of a North Carolina strategy /solution to close the gap that includes accessibility, affordability, accountability and economic development.



## Key Principles

A North Carolina Strategy should include:

- **Accessibility:** Improve access to meaningful health care coverage.
- **Affordability:** Advance opportunities for affordable, quality health care.
- **Accountability:** Empower consumers to manage their health care and ensure that the care provided is efficient and cost effective.
- **Economic Development:** Promote a growing and robust work force to fuel North Carolina's competitiveness.



## How to Help

- Endorse meaningful legislation that will close the coverage gap in North Carolina.
- Legislation must address the four key principles Accessibility, Affordability, Accountability and Economic Development.
- Support efforts of the Care4Carolina coalition.



## Questions?

- For more information:
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  - Care4Carolina: [www.care4carolina.com](http://www.care4carolina.com)
- Thank You!