



# Health Insurance: The Story Behind the New Numbers

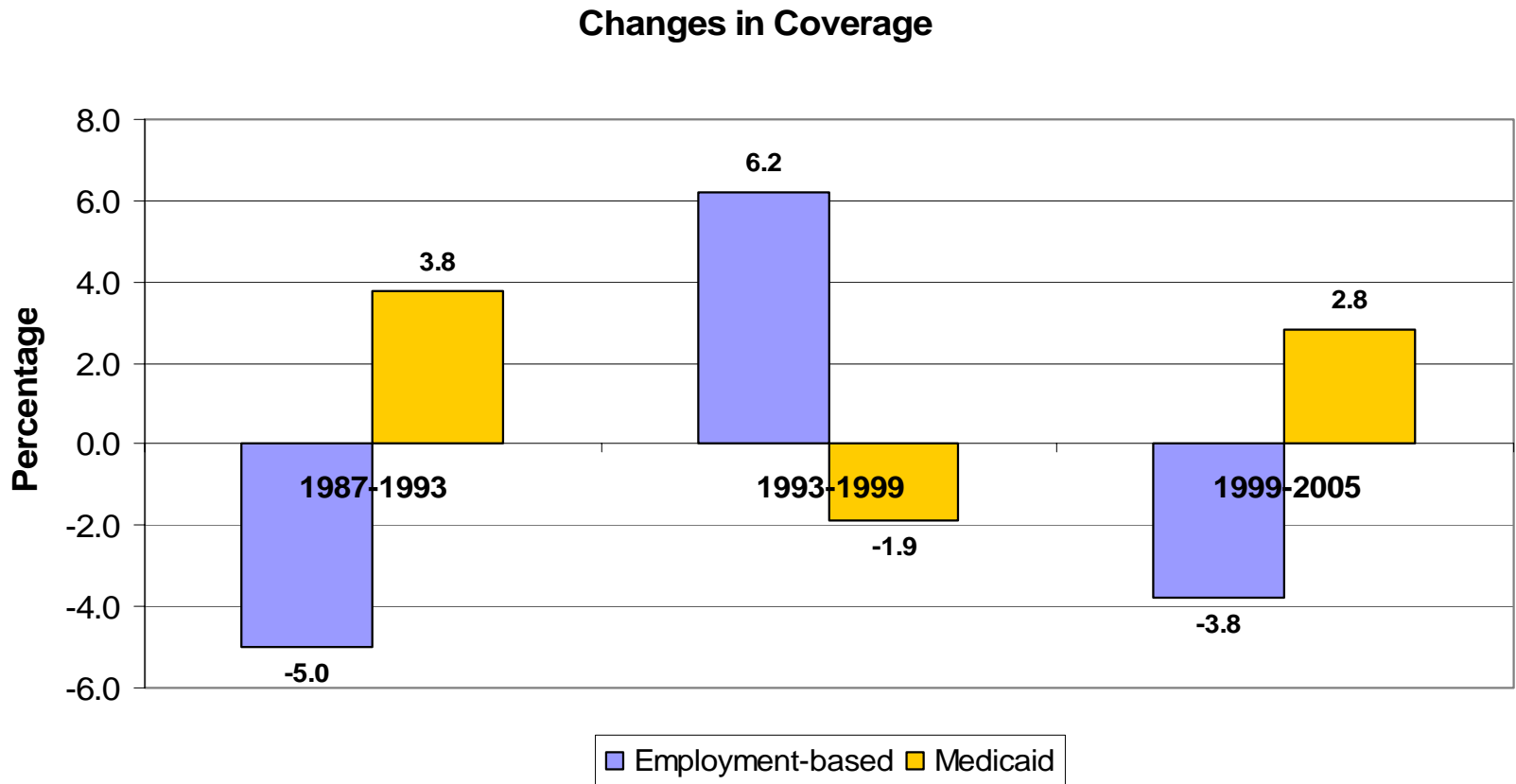
AEI  
August 27, 2007

**Joseph Antos, Ph.D.**

**Wilson H. Taylor Scholar in Health Care  
and Retirement Policy**

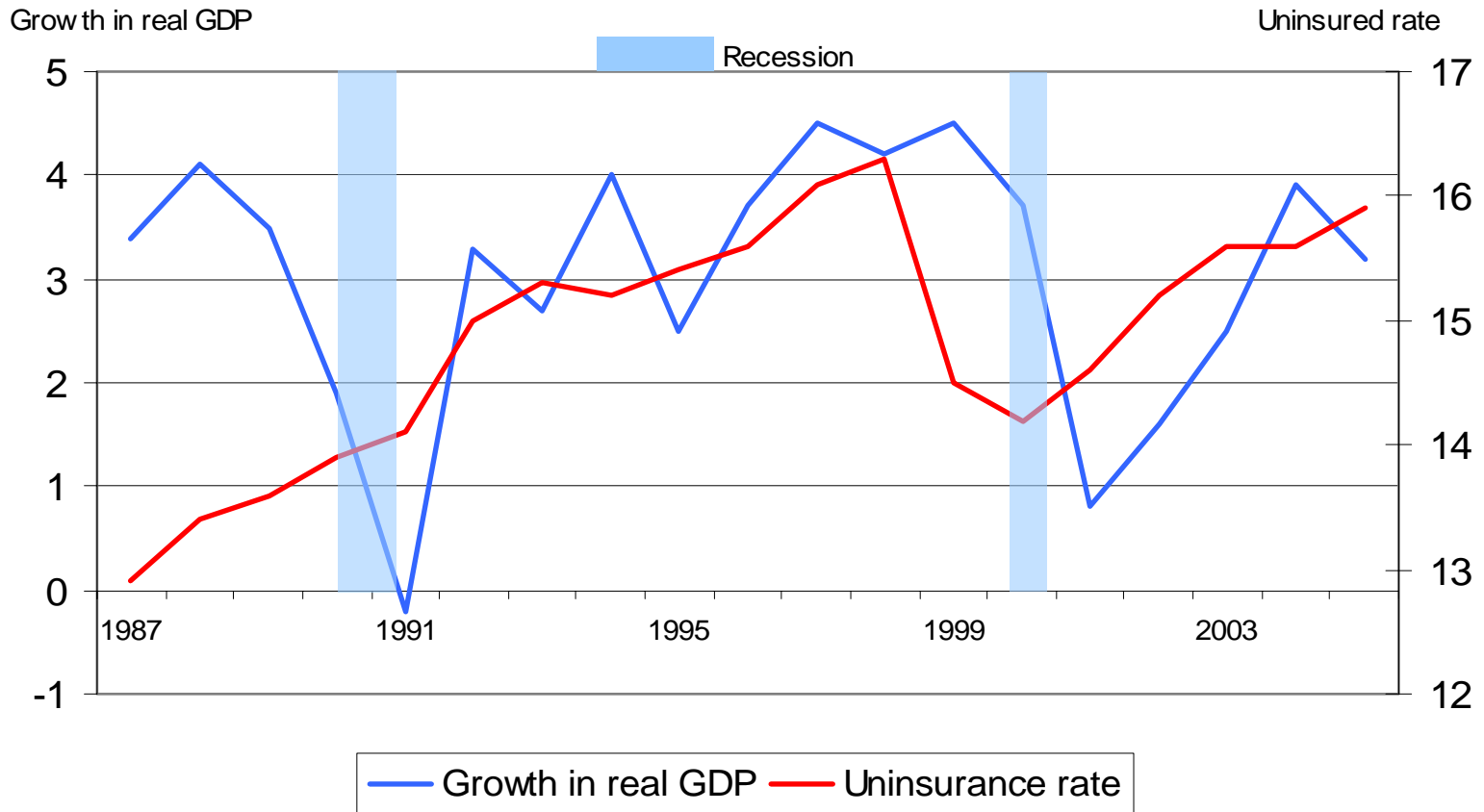
**American Enterprise Institute**

# Declining rates of private coverage



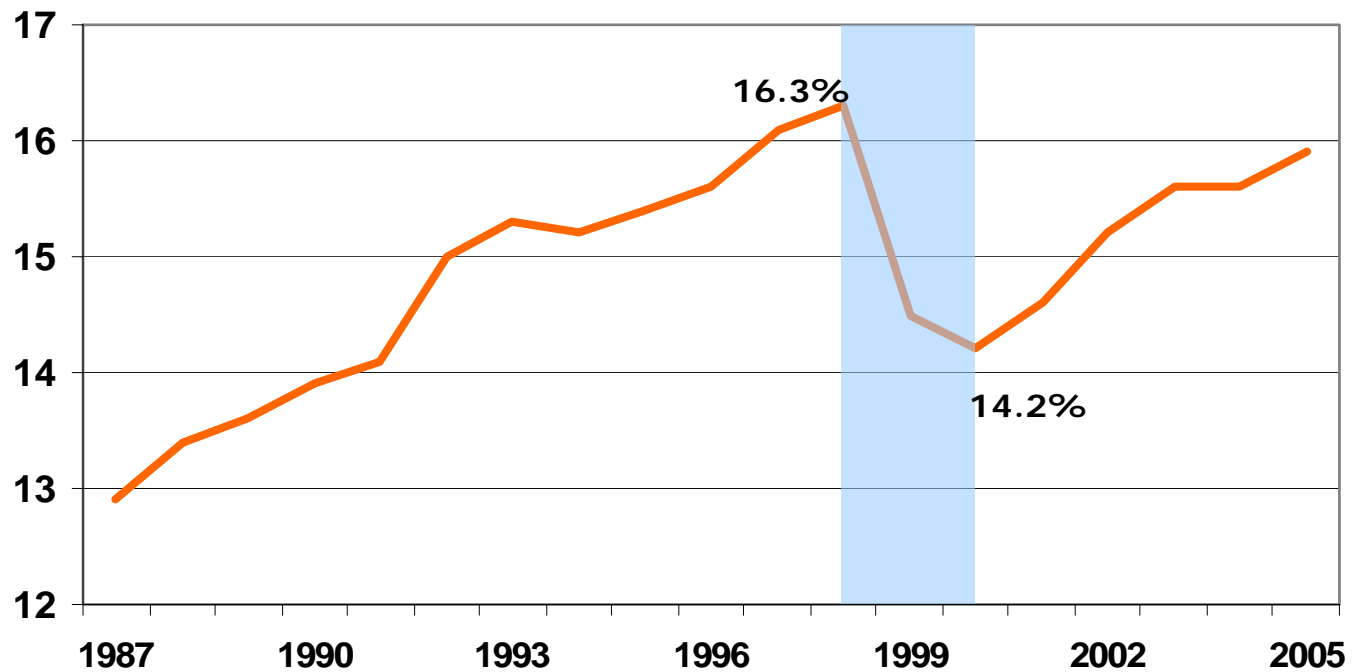
# Insurance status and the economy

## Uninsured Rate and Growth in GDP



# A real drop in 1999?

Uninsured Rate

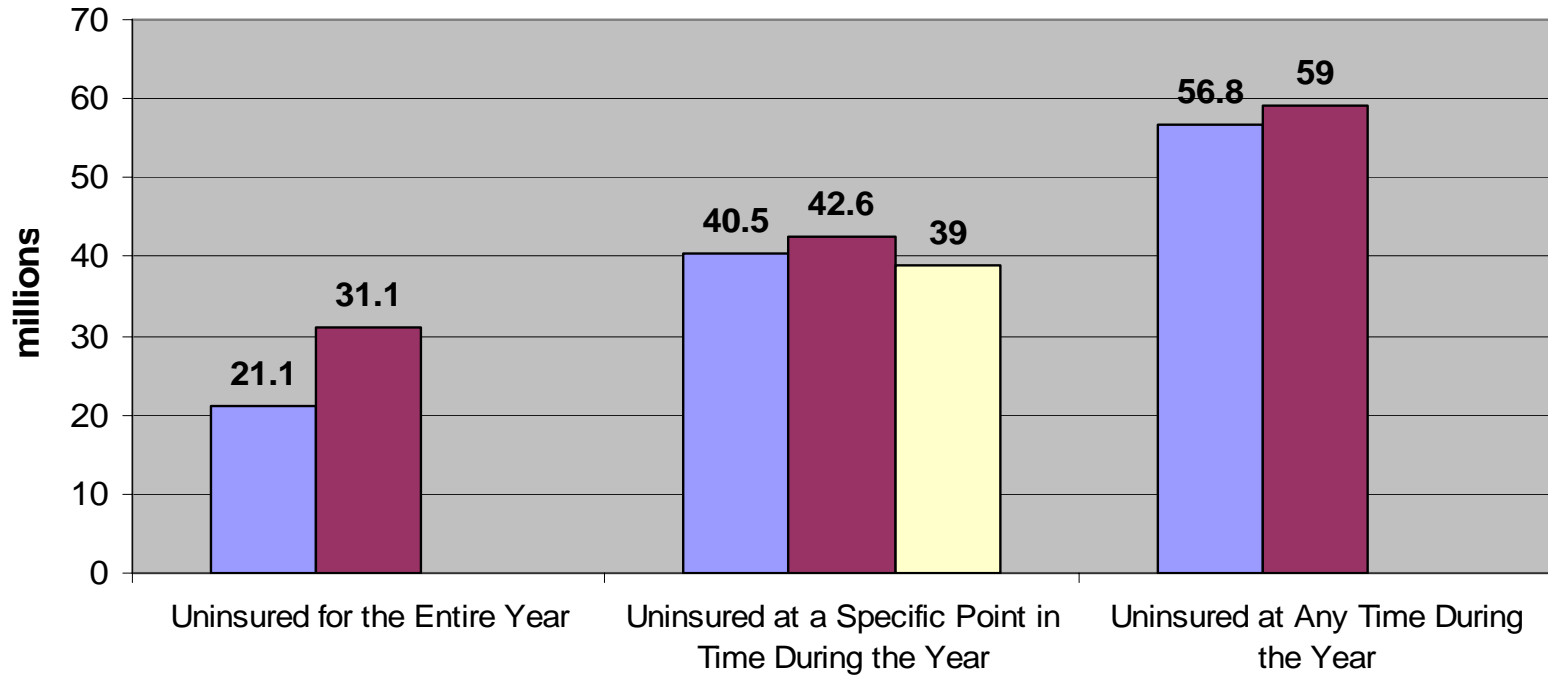


1987-1998 uninsured growth rate: 2.15%

2000-2005 uninsured growth rate: 2.29%

# Estimates of the Uninsured, 1998

## Non-elderly Population



**CPS = 44.2 million**

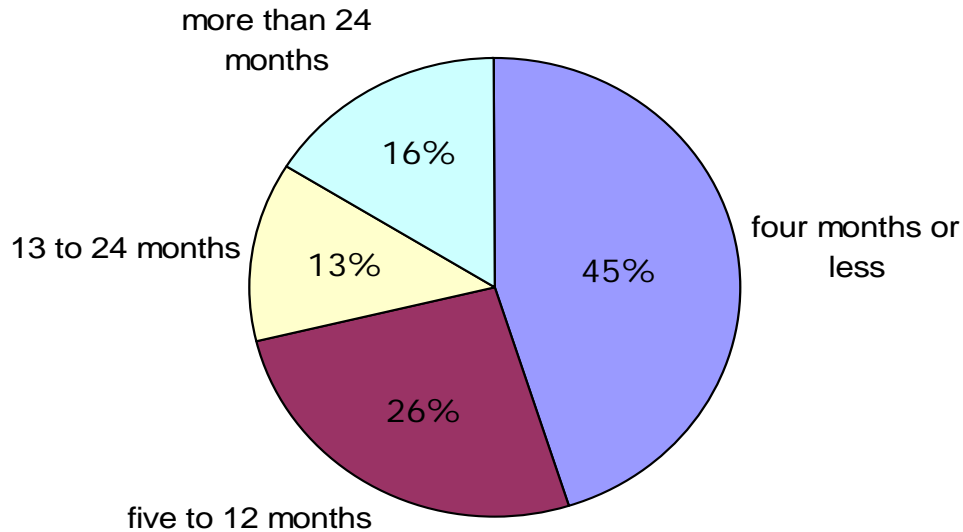
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Source: "How Many People Lack Health Insurance and For How Long?" CBO Report, May 2003

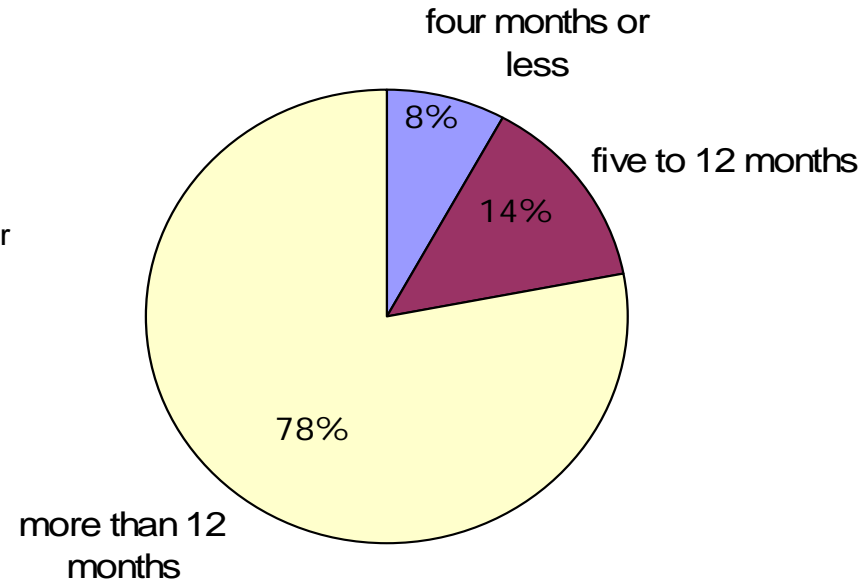
# Distribution of Uninsured Spells

## Non-Elderly Population

Spells that began between June 1996 and June 1997



Spells in progress in March 1998



Source: "How Many People Lack Health Insurance and For How Long?" CBO Report, May 2003