

SAMPLE FACT SHEET

Health Care

- 45 million Americans have no health insurance.
- Health care costs have jumped by double digits every year since 2001.
- In 2004, the average cost of health care premiums jumped by 11 percent—five times the growth rate of wages or inflation.
- Workers' contributions toward premiums for job-based family health care rose 64 percent between 2001 and 2004.
- States are restricting eligibility and services for health care programs for low-income working families such as Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Profitable corporations such as Wal-Mart continue to shift health care costs onto workers and taxpayers.
- Prescription drug prices have jumped more than 40 percent since 2000 and continue to increase.
- The flawed Medicare prescription drug program forces 32.5 million seniors and people with disabilities to pay higher premiums and other costs, leaves a huge gap in coverage, prevents the federal government from negotiating for lower drug costs and threatens employer-provided prescription drug benefits for millions of retirees.
- Working families are mobilizing at the state and federal levels to improve health care access and quality for all. We are urging elected officials to:
 - Strengthen employer-based health plans and secure reforms to relieve cost pressure on those plans.
 - Allow the reimportation of safe prescription drugs from Canada.
 - Pass the federal and state Health Care Disclosure Acts to hold accountable employers that shift health care costs onto taxpayers.
 - Expand and improve Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
 - Require the federal government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare.
 - Modernize Medicare to provide more preventive care and allow voluntary buy-in for early retirees and laid-off workers older than 55.

For more information, visit www.aflcio.org.

ACTION IDEAS: HEALTH CARE

MORE THAN 45 MILLION PEOPLE in America have no health insurance coverage. Most of them are in working families. It's a national disgrace.

While we work for change in a hostile political environment nationally, activists are convincing their state legislators to act. Thirty-seven states have introduced or plan to introduce legislation to expose the wealthy corporations—such as Wal-Mart—that pay so little their workers qualify for taxpayer-funded health coverage for the poor and near-poor. That means taxpayers subsidize rich companies that underpay employees.

This Labor Day:

- Talk about **America's health care crisis** and its local dimensions at your Labor Day events. Introduce workers who have no health coverage because their employers don't provide it or

because their employers pay so little workers can't afford it.

- **Send the flow-through Working Families Network e-mail message about health care** to your e-activist list on Thursday, Aug. 25. The message will enable activists to contact their state legislators and tell them rich employers should not dump employee health care responsibilities onto state taxpayers.

- **Hold a rally** outside a workplace that fails to insure workers or where workers are in a bargaining fight for decent health care coverage.

- Host a **health care roundtable for media** at a local coffee shop or diner to draw attention to compelling stories of workers who are struggling with unaffordable health care costs.