

# The Medicaid Undercount in the Current Population Survey

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# Overview of Presentation Topics

- Background
- Estimating the undercount in the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC)
- Response error in the CPS ASEC
- Conclusions

# Background

- Health insurance data collected by the CPS ASEC is used to estimate the number, percentage and characteristics of the uninsured population.
- CPS ASEC estimates of Medicaid enrollment are consistently lower than the enrollment rates reported in the Medicaid Statistical Information System (MSIS) database.

# Background

- The SNACC project and the Medicaid undercount
- The SNACC project collaborators included:
  - The University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
  - The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
  - The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
  - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
  - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - The U.S. Census Bureau
- Our research expands analysis of the undercount to CY 2006-2008.

# Data and Methods

- CPS ASEC 2007-2009
- MSIS 2006-2008
- Medicaid undercount
  - Enrollment totals in CPS ASEC universe compared to MSIS universe
- Response error
  - Linked MSIS-CPS ASEC data

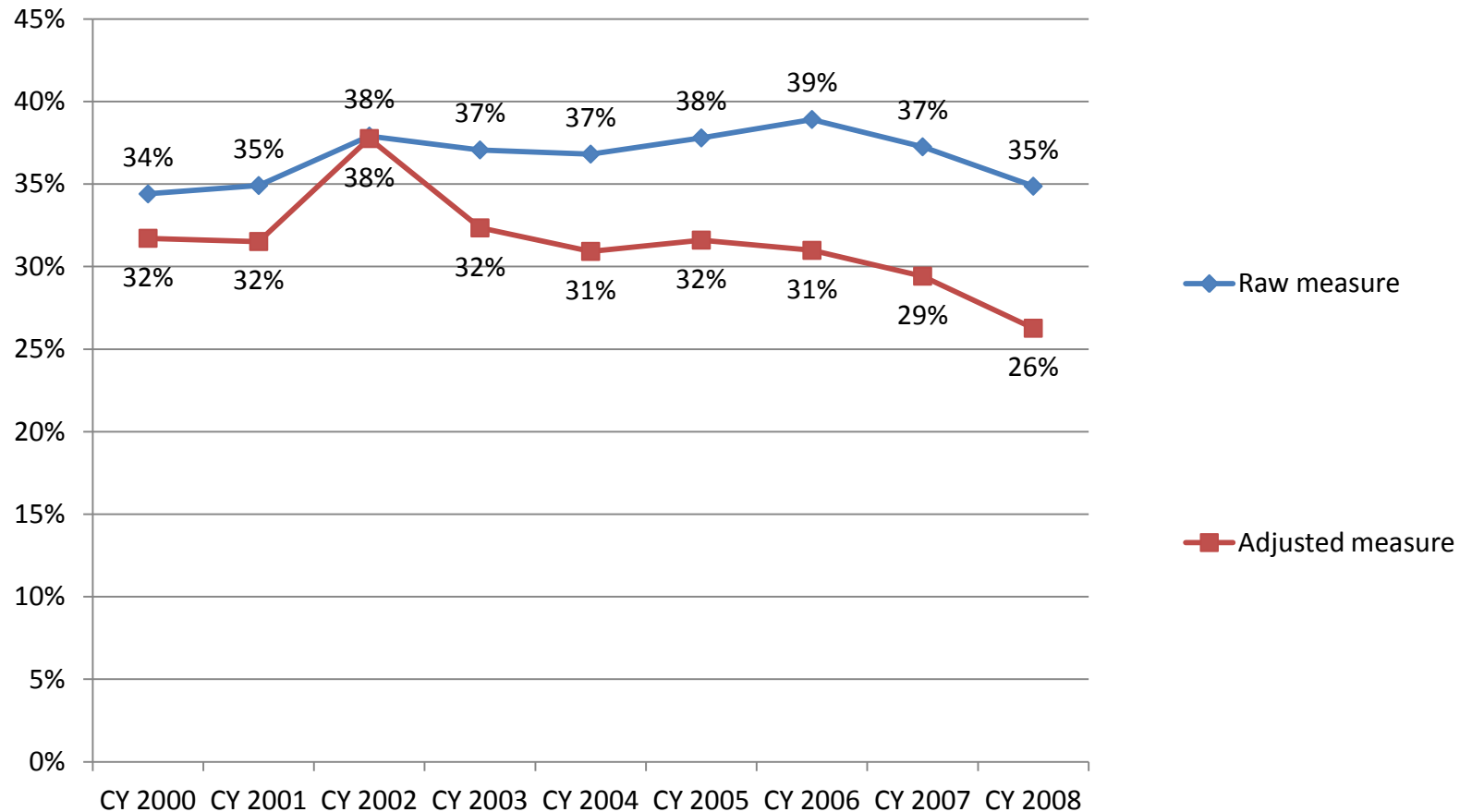
# Differences in MSIS and CPS ASEC Universes

MSIS	CPS ASEC
Data reported in fiscal quarters	Data reported for previous calendar year
Data reported by case	Data reported by person
Data includes institutionalized population	Data does not include institutionalized population
Benefits may be full or restricted to particular types of services	Data on level of benefits (full or restricted) not collected
MSIS data is point-in-time	CPS ASEC data retrospective but may be reported as point-in-time

# Undercount Methodologies

- Raw measures:
  - Cases with full or partial benefits
  - Medicaid participants residing in institutional group quarters
  - Duplicates arising from individuals having multiple accounts
- Adjusted measures:
  - Limited to unduplicated
  - Non-institutionalized participants
  - Receiving full Medicaid benefits

# Medicaid Undercount in CPS ASEC, 2000-2008



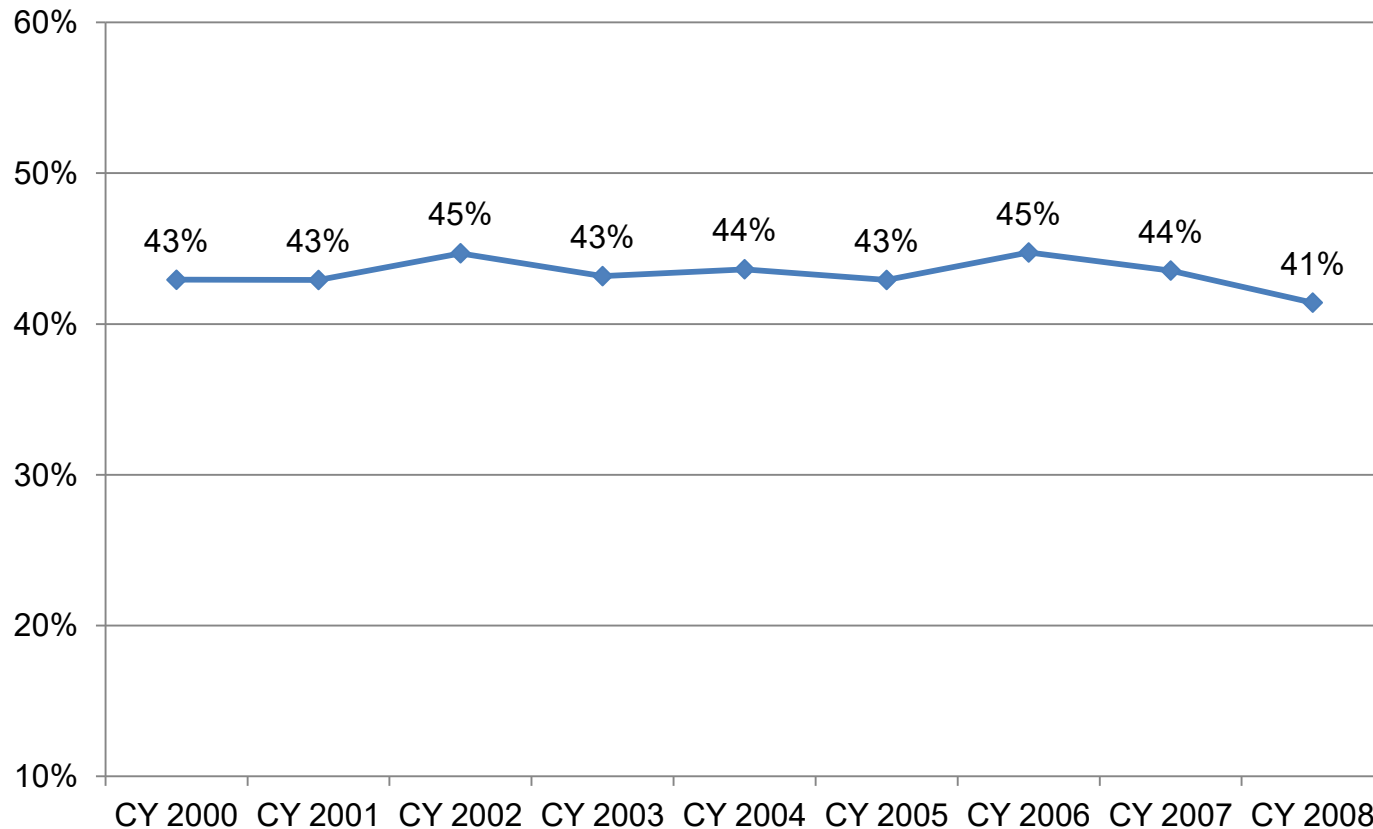
Sources: SNACC (2010) for years 2000-2005; authors' computations for years 2006-2008; CPS ASEC and MSIS.



# Measuring Response Error in the CPS ASEC

		CPS ASEC	
		Yes	No
MSIS	Yes	Medicaid Coverage in MSIS and CPS ASEC	False Negative Error
	No	False Positive Error	No Medicaid Coverage

# Percentage Reporting False Negative Errors, CY 2000-2008

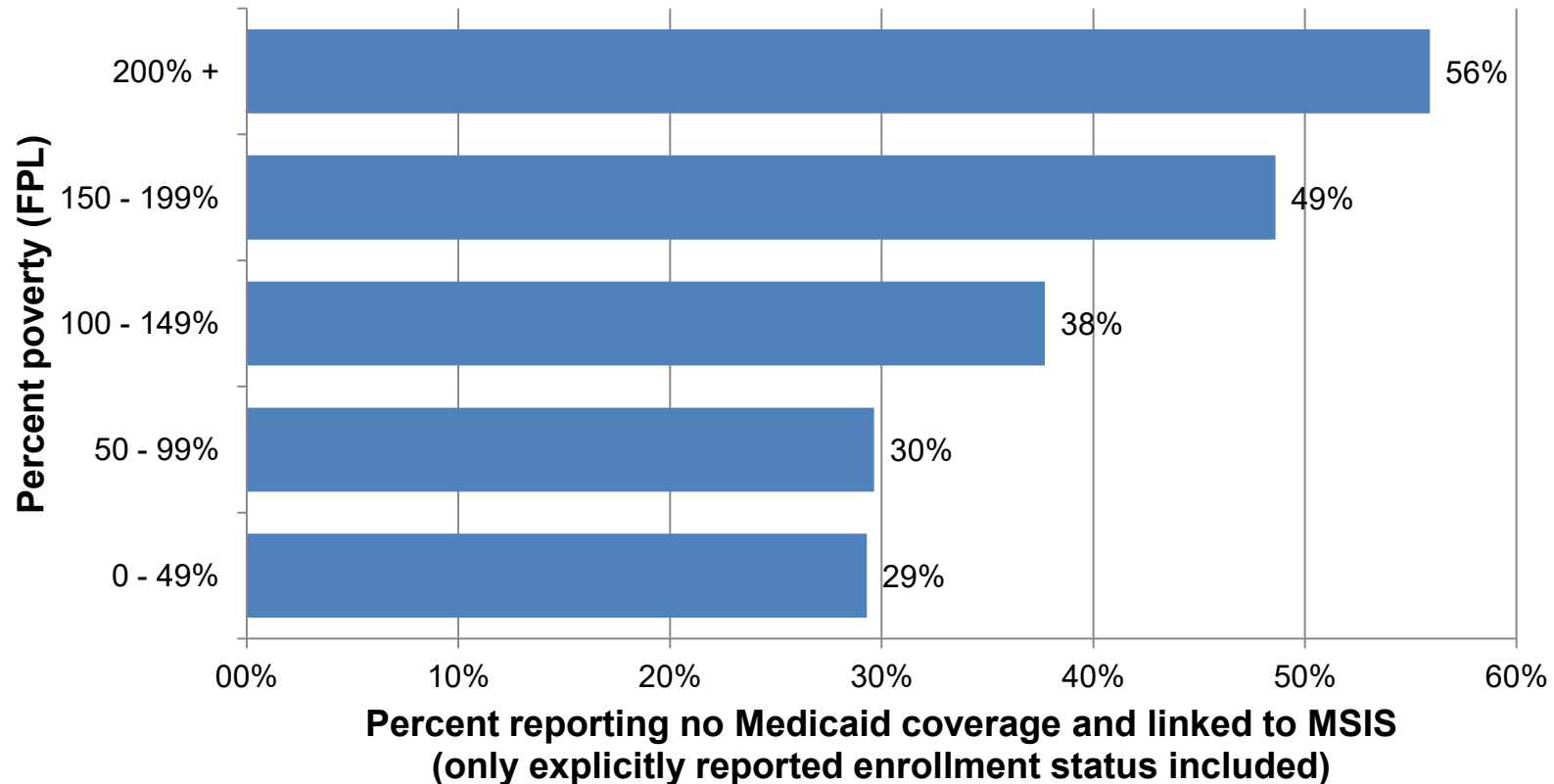


Sources: SNACC (2010) for years 2000-2005; authors' computations for years 2006-2008; CPS ASEC and MSIS.

# False Negative Errors

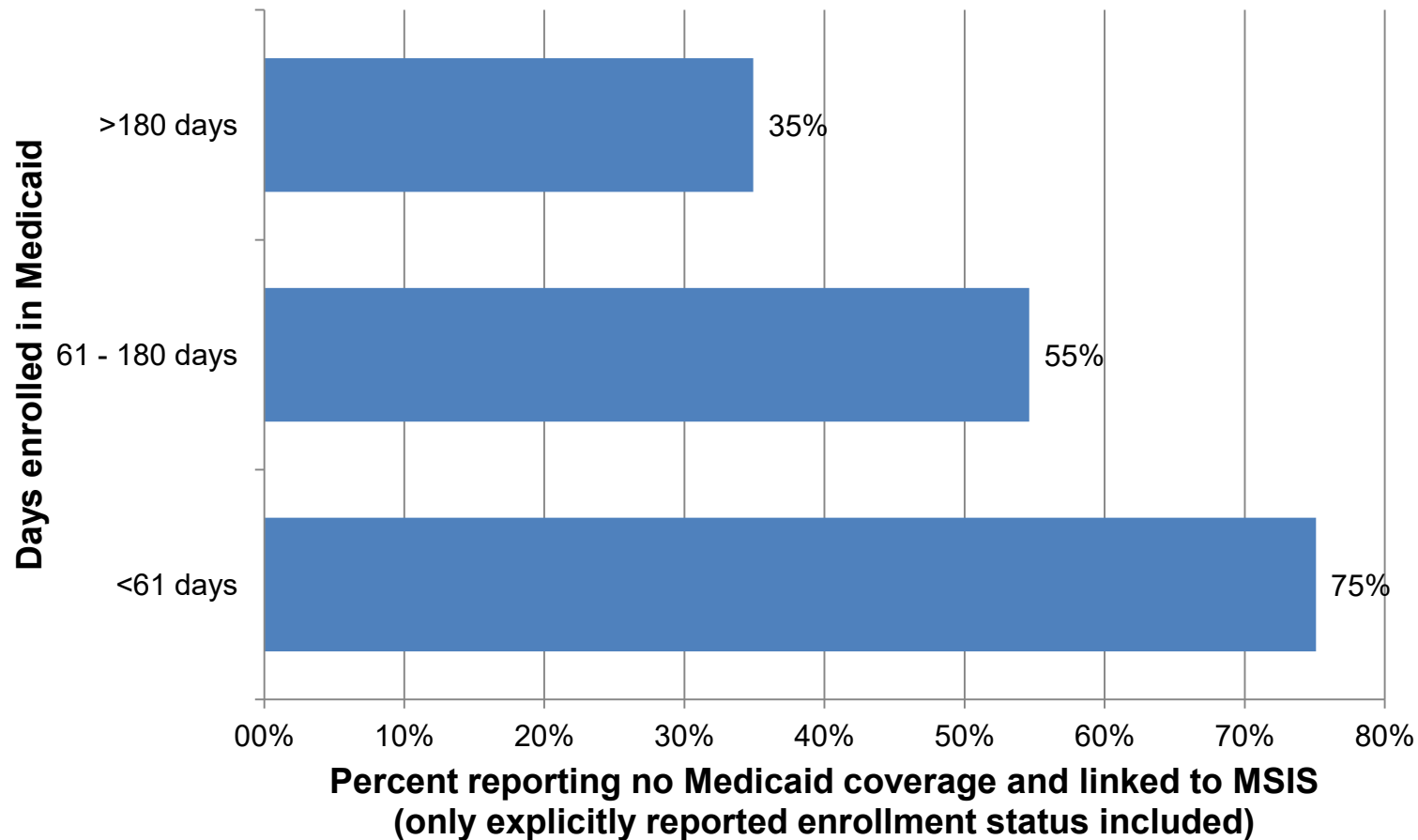
- False negative errors are the largest contributor to the undercount in CPS ASEC.
- About 80 percent of these false negative errors come from explicitly reported insurance status in the CPS ASEC, while the rest result from data imputation procedures.
- In the false negative population, about 60 percent report having some other form of insurance.

# False Negative Errors by Percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL), CY 2008



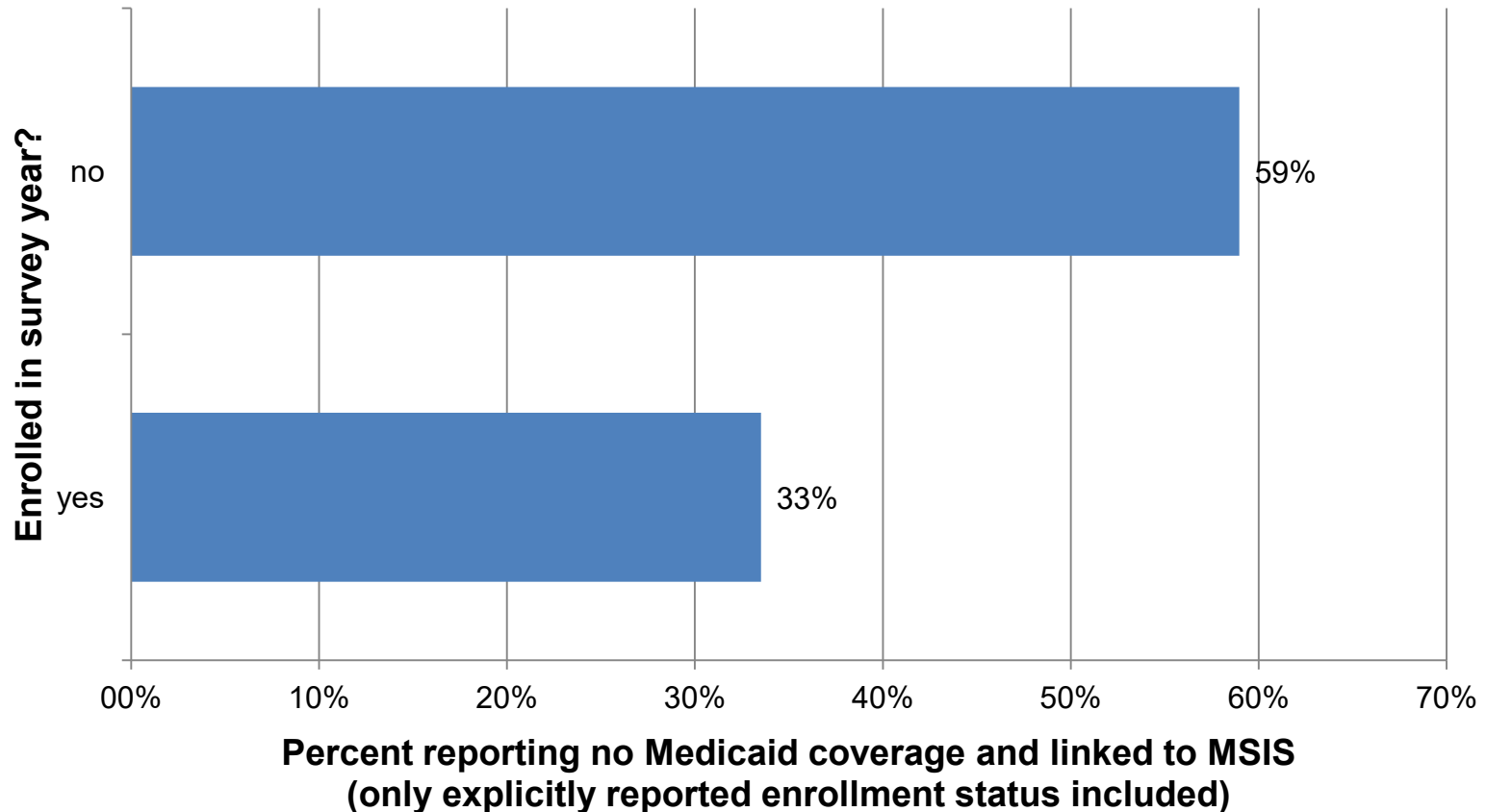
Sources: Authors' computations, CPS ASEC and MSIS 2008.

# False Negative Errors by Length of Enrollment in Medicaid, CY 2008



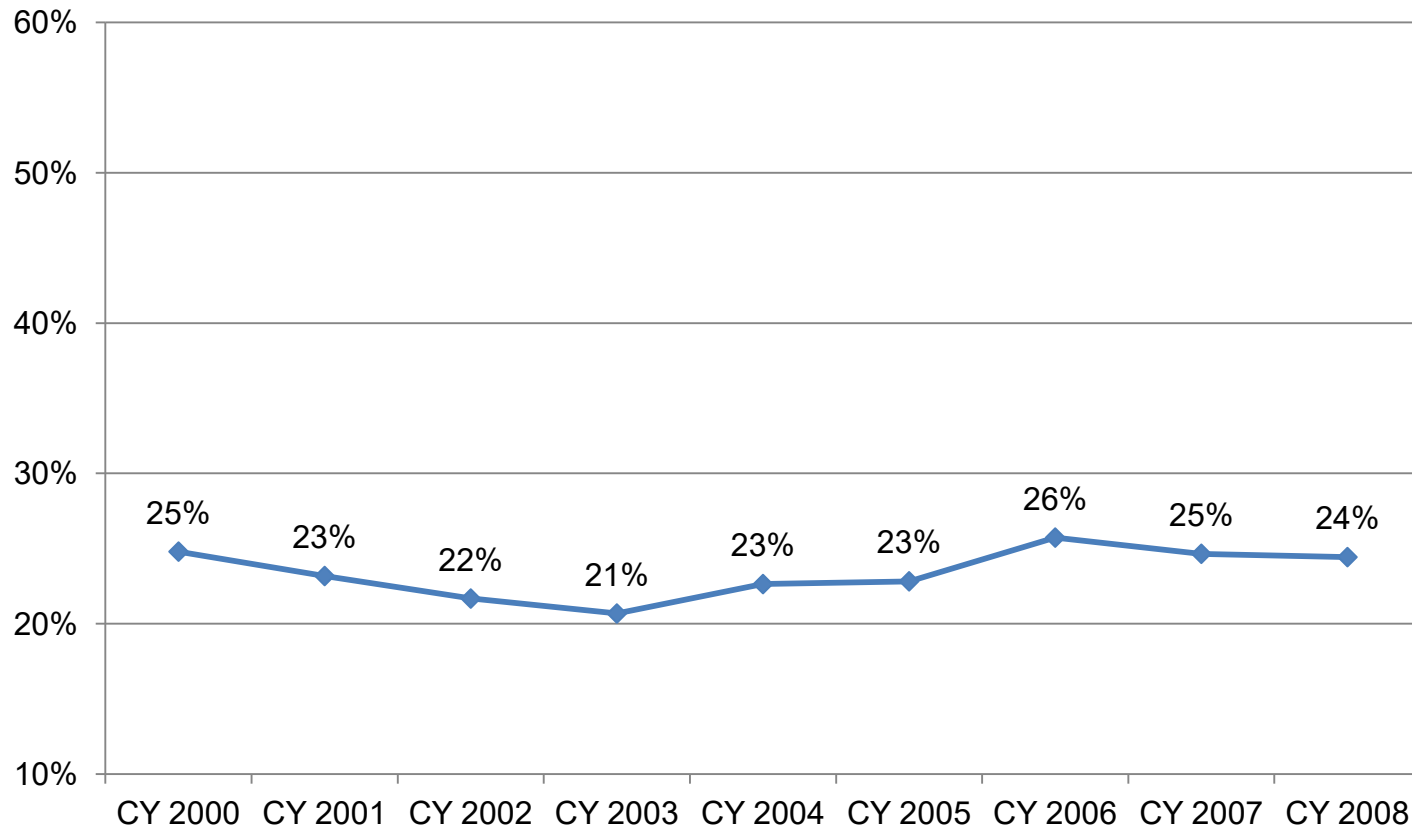
Sources: Authors' computations, CPS ASEC and MSIS 2008.

# False Negative Errors by Enrollment in Survey Year (2009), CY 2008



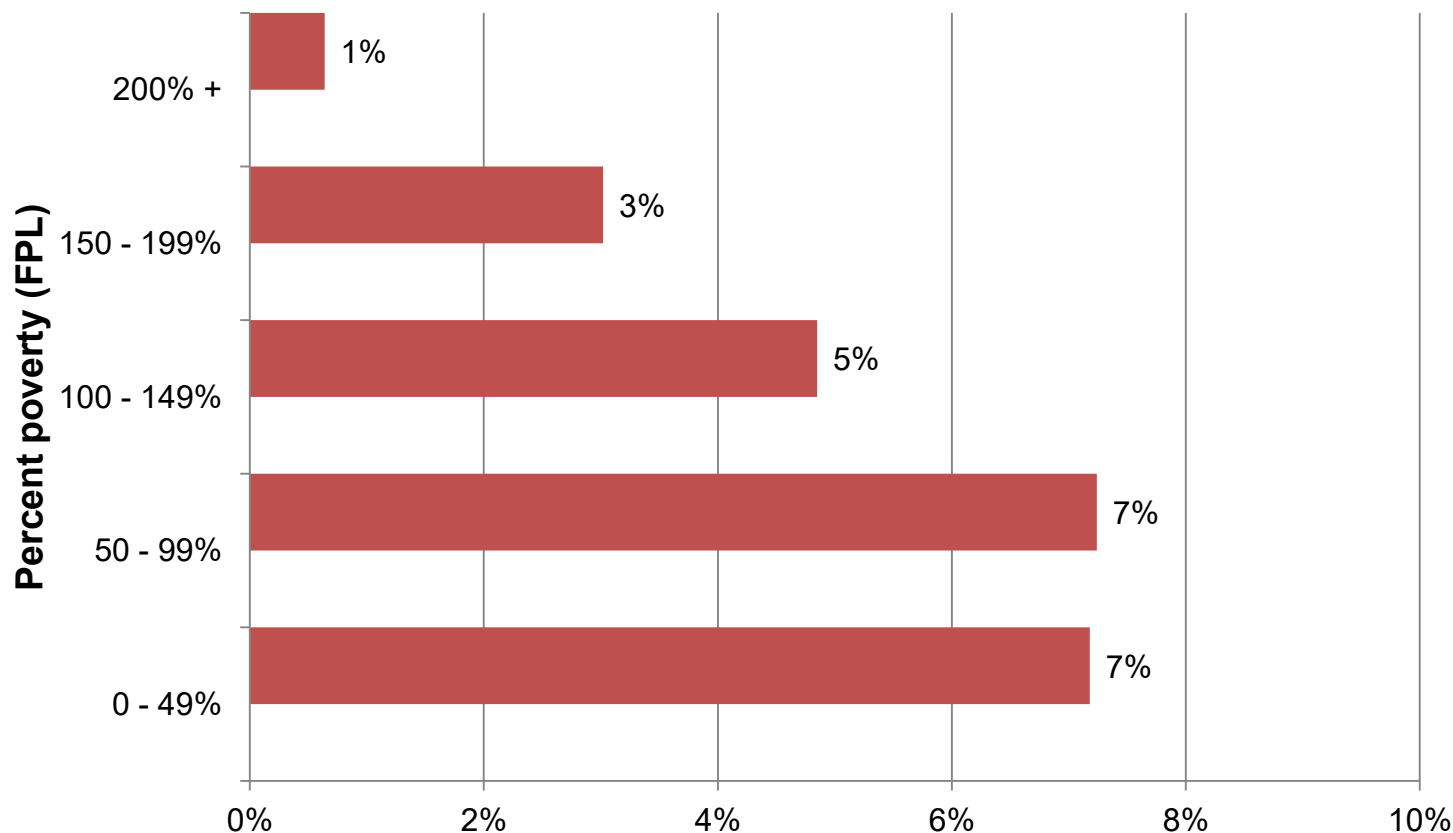
Sources: Authors' computations, CPS ASEC and MSIS 2008.

# Percentage Reporting False Positive Errors, CY 2000-2008



Sources: SNACC (2010) for years 2000-2005; authors' computations for years 2006-2008; CPS ASEC and MSIS.

# False Positive Errors by Percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL), CY 2008



**Percent reporting Medicaid coverage and not linked to MSIS  
(only explicitly reported status included)**

Sources: Authors' computations, CPS ASEC and MSIS 2008.



# Conclusions

- The CPS ASEC undercount has declined slightly for CY 2006-2008.
- False negative and false positive errors have remained stable in CY 2000-2008.
- Poverty is associated with both types of errors in reporting of Medicaid coverage.
- Response error in the CPS ASEC impacts estimates of the uninsured population.
- As Medicaid enrollment expands with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, understanding the Medicaid undercount in surveys is increasingly important for better assessing estimates of the uninsured population.

# Thank You!

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