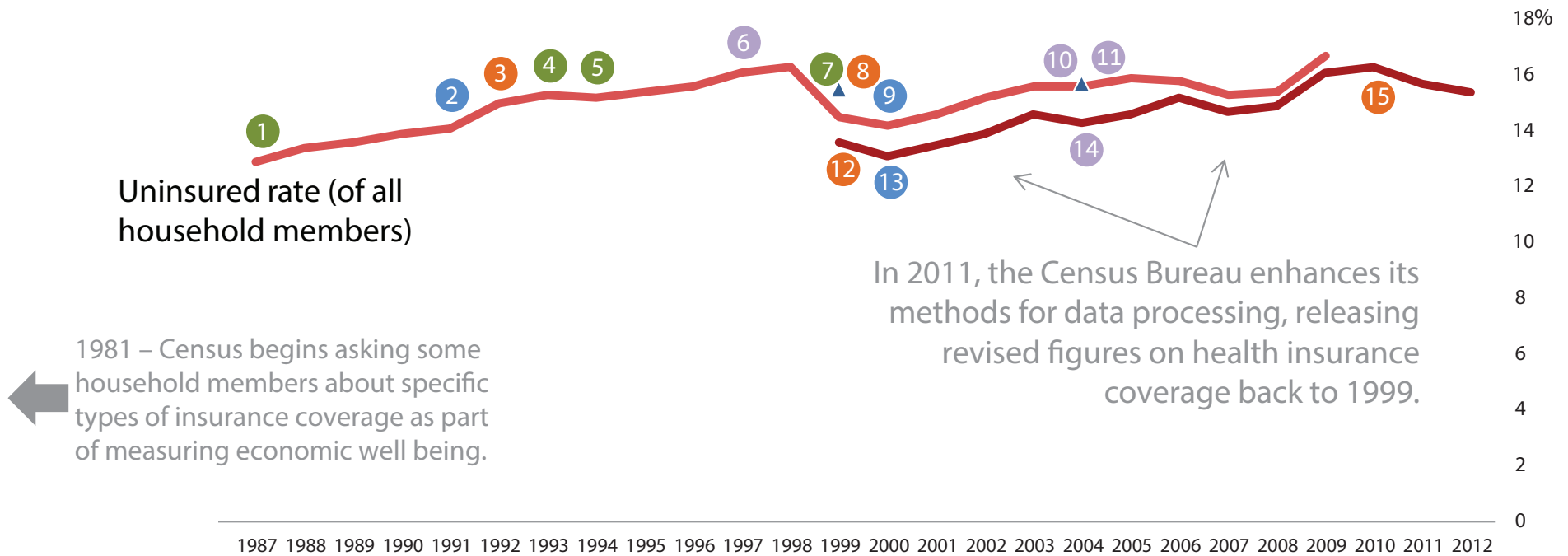


Measuring Health Insurance Coverage with the Current Population Survey: A history of improvement



← 1981 – Census begins asking some household members about specific types of insurance coverage as part of measuring economic well being.

Note: CPS measures prior-year coverage, so, for example, 1987 statistics come from the 1988 CPS.

Change to survey instrument

- 1** Question redesigned in 1988 to include all household members.
- 4** Data collection method changed from paper and pencil to computer-assisted interviewing.
- 5** Health insurance questions were redesigned. Increases in estimates of employment-based and military health care coverage may be partially due to questionnaire changes. Overall coverage estimates were not affected.
- 7** Follow-up verification question added.

Change in number of cases

- 2** Figures are revised to correct for nine omitted weights from the original March 1992 CPS file.
- 9,13** CHIP Implementation of a 28,000 household sample expansion.

Change in census population basis

- 3** Implementation of Census 1990 based population controls.
- 8,12** Census 2000 based population controls. Triangle reflects 1990 population controls.
- 15** Implementation of Census 2010-based population controls.

Changes in processing steps

- 6** People with no coverage other than access to Indian Health Service now considered uninsured. Overall estimates of health insurance coverage change only negligibly; however, the decrease in the number of people covered by Medicaid may be partially due to this change.
- 10,11,14** These estimates from the 2005 ASEC were revised based on improvements to the algorithm that assigned coverage to dependents, and there was an adjustment to the weights. Triangle represents original estimate.