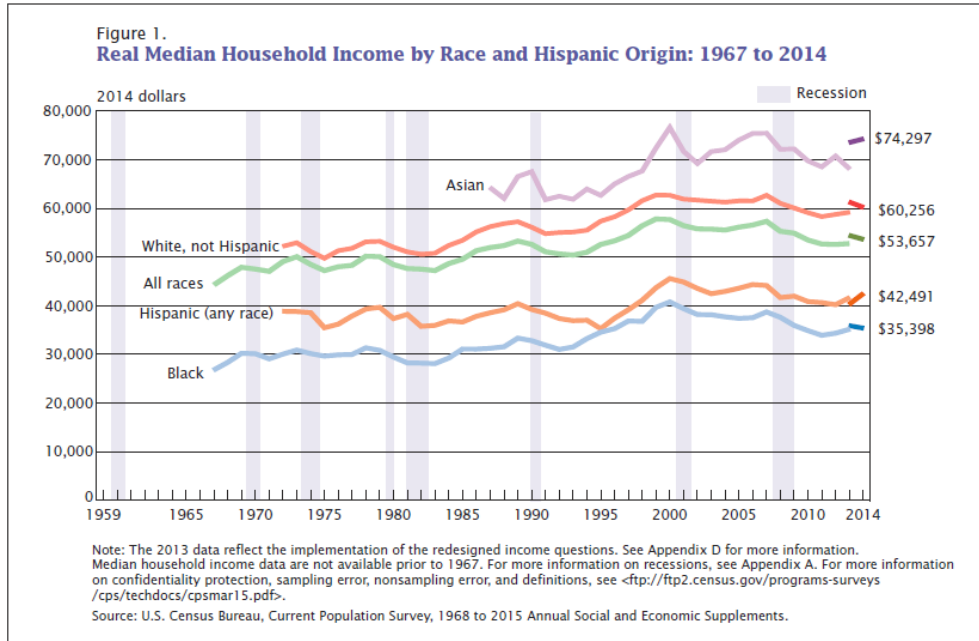


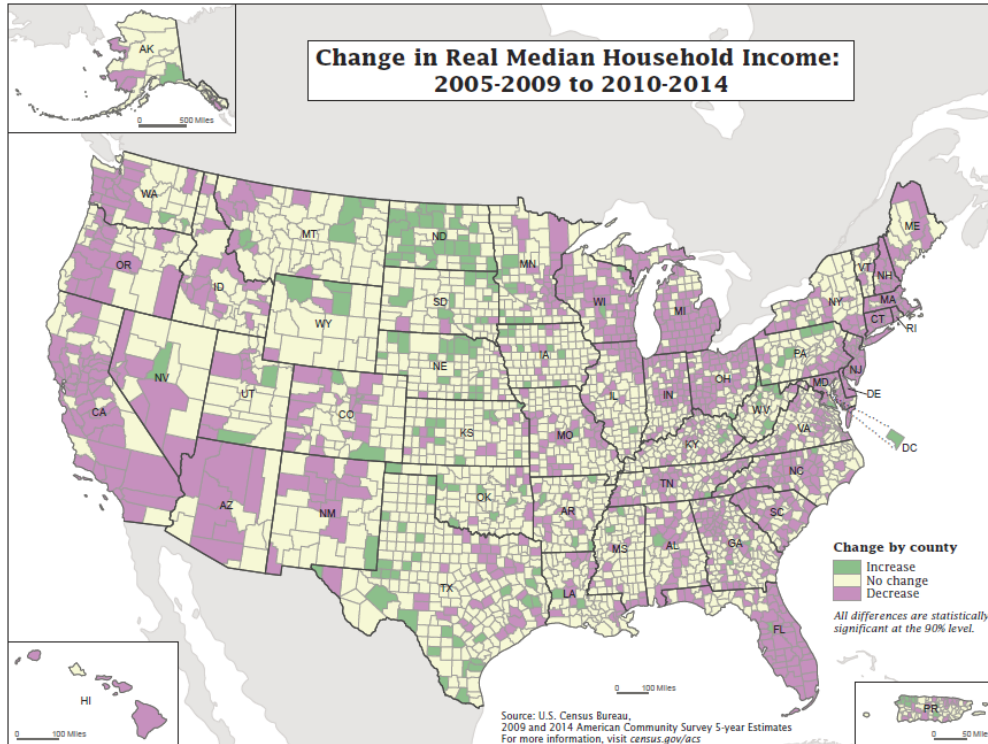
## Community and Healthcare Trends

Real median household income has stagnated for the last twenty years in the United States as shown in the following figure (while the wealthiest have prospered as we saw in our last newsletter):



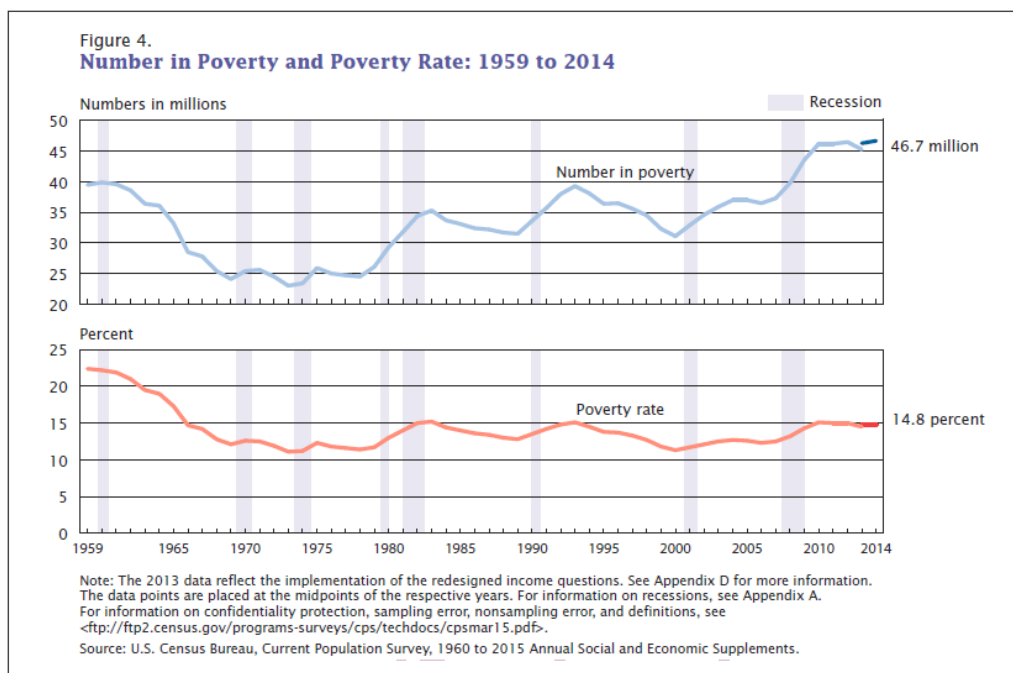
Source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014, United States Census Bureau, September 2015.

The pervasive affects of the recession continue for many people. Between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 median household income declined in 32% of counties, and increased in only 6% of counties as shown in the following figure:



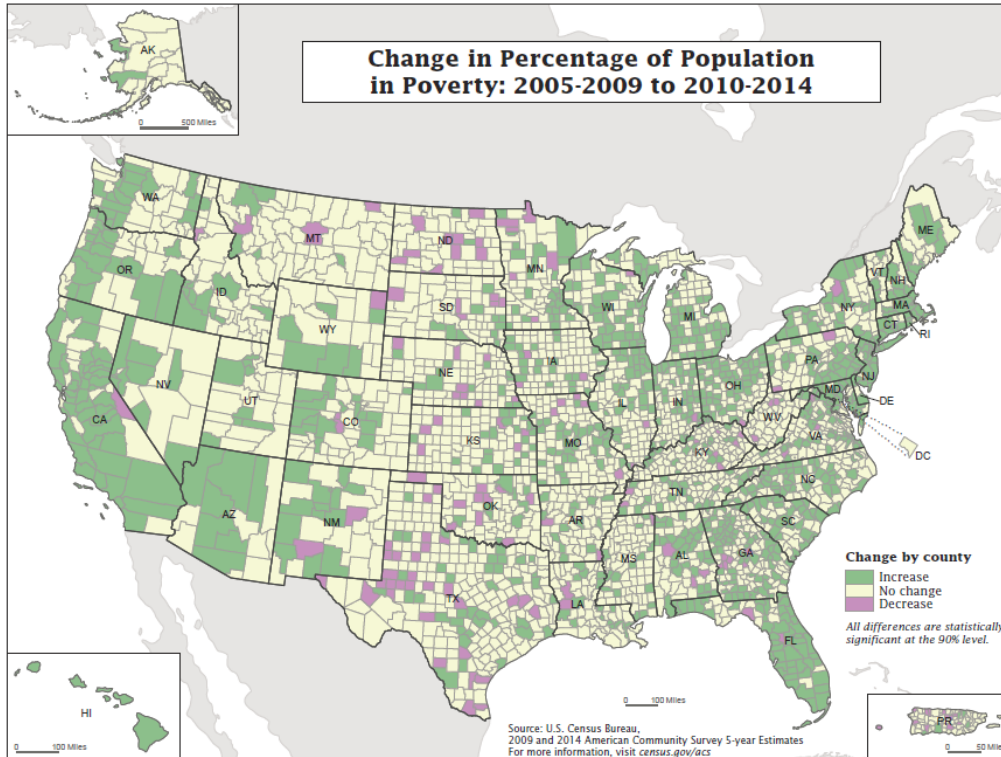
Source: American Community Survey: 2010-2014, United States Census Bureau, December 2015.

Our poverty rate remains close to 15%, with more than forty-six million people in poverty as shown in the following figure:



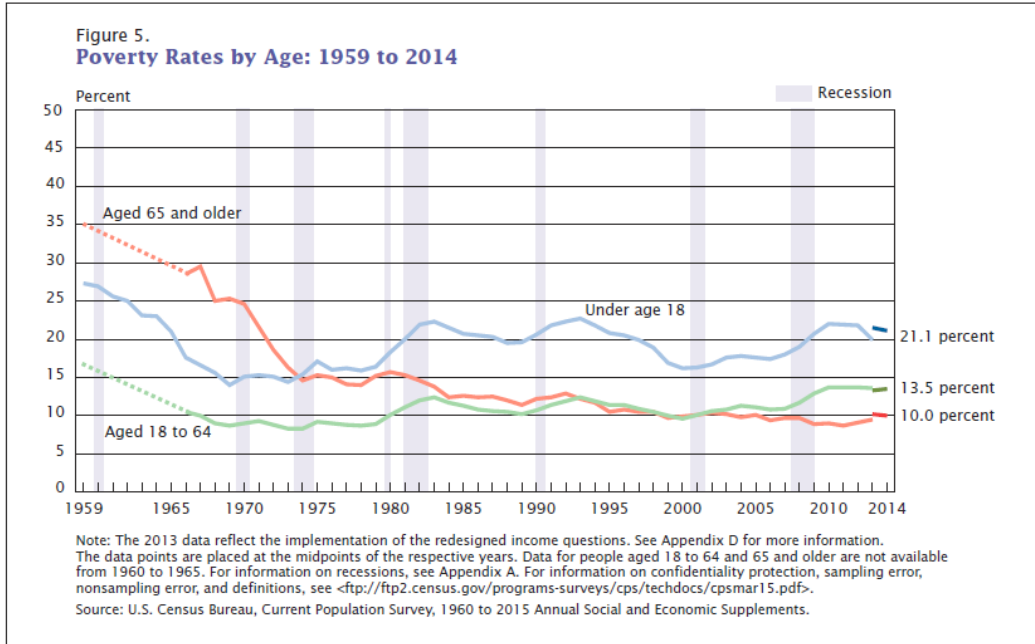
Source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014, United States Census Bureau, September 2015.

Poverty rates increased in 33% of counties between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014, and decreased in only 4% of counties as shown in the following figure:



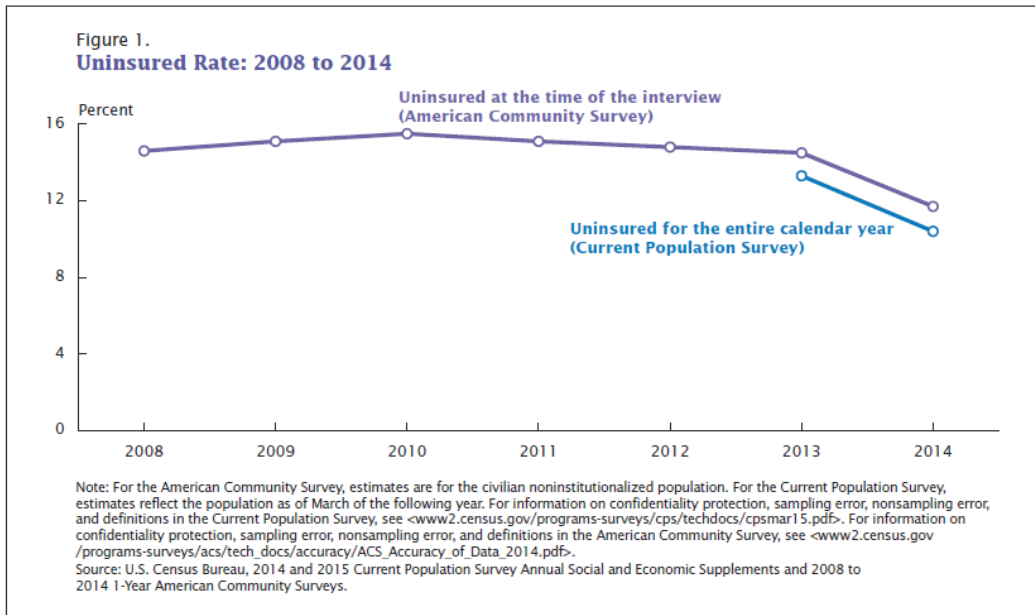
Source: American Community Survey: 2010-2014, United States Census Bureau, December 2015.

The community contribution of social security and Medicare is clear in the following figure where we see a substantial decline in poverty rates for those aged 65 and older. We still have much to do though, as the poverty rate for children stands at more than 21%, and it is increasing for those aged 18 to 64.



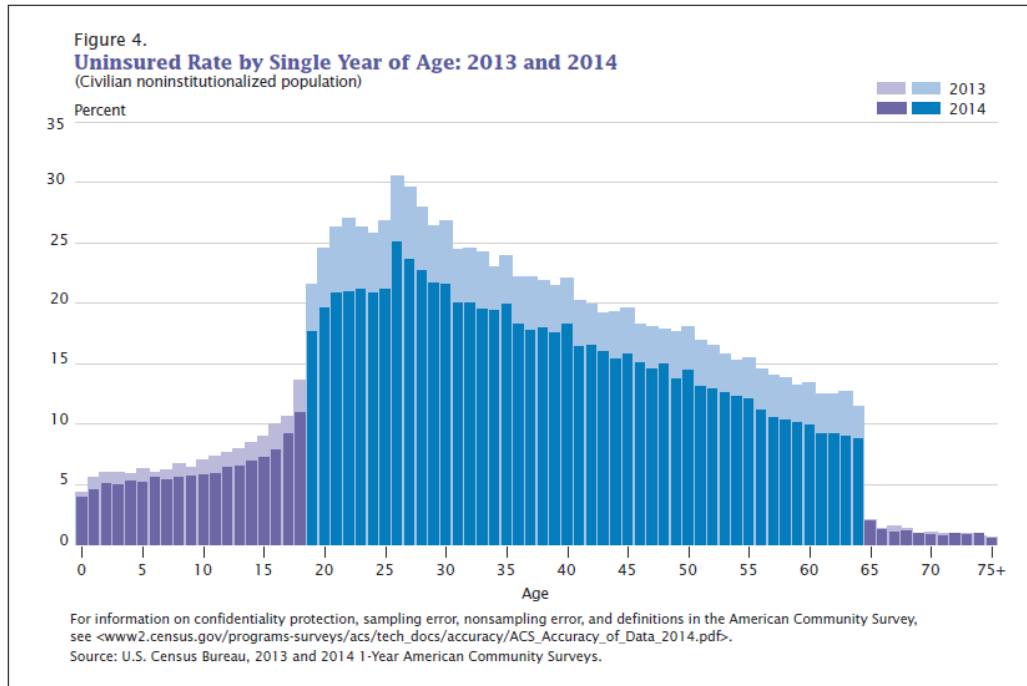
Source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014, United States Census Bureau, September 2015.

While the Affordable Care Act leaves much to be desired in terms of universal coverage and effective cost controls it has shown major societal benefits by substantially reducing the percentage of those without healthcare insurance as shown in the following figure:



Source: Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2014, United States Census Bureau, September 2015.

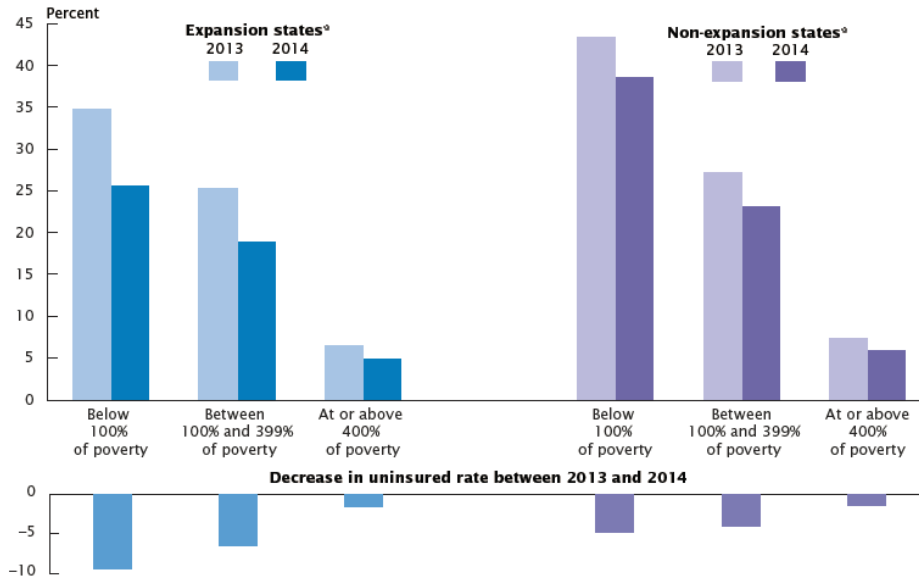
Improved insurance coverage for those at various ages is clear from the following figure:



Source: Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2014, United States Census Bureau, September 2015.

The benefit of expanded Medicaid coverage in those states that have chosen expansion as part of the Affordable Care Act is clear in the following figure as is the oppression of their poorest citizens by those states that have refused such Medicaid expansion:

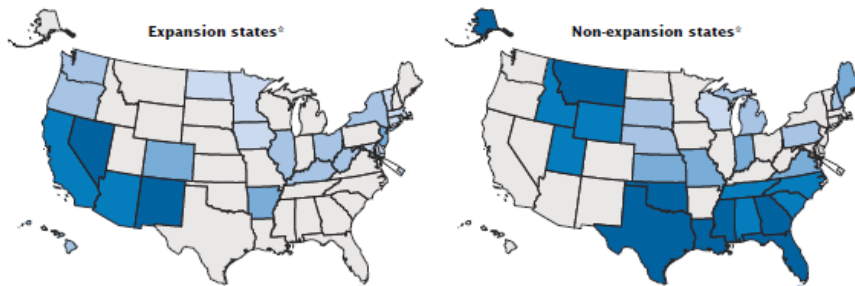
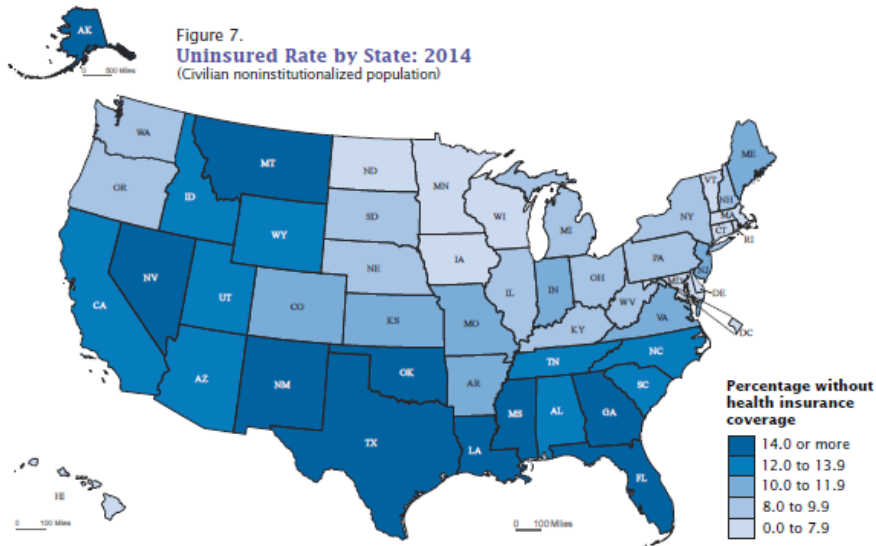
**Figure 5.**  
**Uninsured Rate by Poverty Status and Medicaid Expansion of State for Adults**  
**Aged 19 to 64 Years: 2013 and 2014**  
 (Civilian noninstitutionalized population)



<sup>a</sup> Medicaid expansion status as of January 1, 2014. For a list of expansion and non-expansion states, see Table A-1: Population Without Health Insurance Coverage by State: 2013 and 2014. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions in the American Community Survey, see <[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2014.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2014.pdf)>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 and 2014 1-Year American Community Surveys.

Source: Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2014, United States Census Bureau, September 2015.

Not surprisingly uninsured rates trend higher in those states that have turned away from Medicaid expansion, as shown in the following figure:



\*Medicaid expansion status as of January 1, 2014. For a list of expansion and non-expansion states, see Table A-1: Population Without Health Insurance Coverage by State: 2013 and 2014.  
 For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions in the American Community Survey, see <[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2014.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2014.pdf)>.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 1-Year American Community Survey.

Source: Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2014, United States Census Bureau, September 2015.

We still have much to do to move to a Medicare-for-all system that will provide needed coverage and cost effectiveness. As our national elections draw nearer the trends we are seeing are a timely reminder of the importance of voting for those who represent all in our society, not those who are, or who represent, the interests of just the wealthy and powerful.