

The BadgerCare Plus Plan: Who Would Be Affected?

The following matrix compares current and proposed categories of health care coverage. Much of it is taken from two documents prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). Most of the figures in the last column are DHFS Family Health Survey estimates of the number of people eligible (rather than the number who would participate), and those estimates are discussed on the next page.

Groups	Current Coverage	Coverage Expansions	People Potentially Affected ¹
Initial BadgerCare Plus Expansion – Effective January 2008			
Children, ages 0 to 18	Medicaid (MA), Healthy Start & BadgerCare cover children in families below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL).	Addition of all children (except unqualified immigrants), above 185% of FPL. (Also removes obstacles to enrollment for currently eligible children.)	38,000 children
Pregnant women	MA & Healthy Start cover pregnant women below 185% of FPL.	Pregnant women with income between 185 and 300% of FPL.	4,000 pregnant women
Parents	MA & BadgerCare cover parents of children under age 19 in families below 185% of FPL.	Parents with income between 185 and 200% of FPL. (Also removes obstacles to enrollment for currently eligible parents.)	54,500 parents (primarily those who already meet eligibility standard)
Farmers & other self-employed parents	For farmers and the self-employed, eligibility is determined without subtracting depreciation of assets from their income, which excludes many families from BadgerCare.	Depreciation would no longer be a barrier to meeting the income eligibility standard, but would be counted for some purposes – such as determining premiums.	13,000 farmers and self-employed parents
Other caretaker relatives	MA covers caretaker relatives (aunts, grandmothers, etc.) who are caring for a child under age 19 up to about 44% of FPL.	Caretaker relatives with incomes between about 44% and 200% of the FPL.	5,000 caretaker relatives, including parents with kids in foster care (below).
Parents with children in foster care	Parents whose children have been removed from the home are not generally eligible for MA or BadgerCare (unless the child's care is being reimbursed with state foster care funds).	Parents with children in foster care with incomes up to 200% of FPL, if the child will be out of the home not more than 6 months, or the parent is working toward reunification by complying with a permanency plan.	See above.
Youths aging out of foster care	A child turning age 18 generally loses eligibility for foster care and the automatic MA coverage for all children in foster care.	Youths (ages 18 through 20) aging out of foster care, (phased in over 3 years).	About 300 youths age out of foster care per year, though not all would be affected.
Childless Adults – Effective January 2009			
Childless adults	Not currently eligible (except for people with disabilities).	Eligible to 200% of FPL, phased in over 3 years (2009 through 2011)	An estimated 71,000 childless adults are eligible. ²

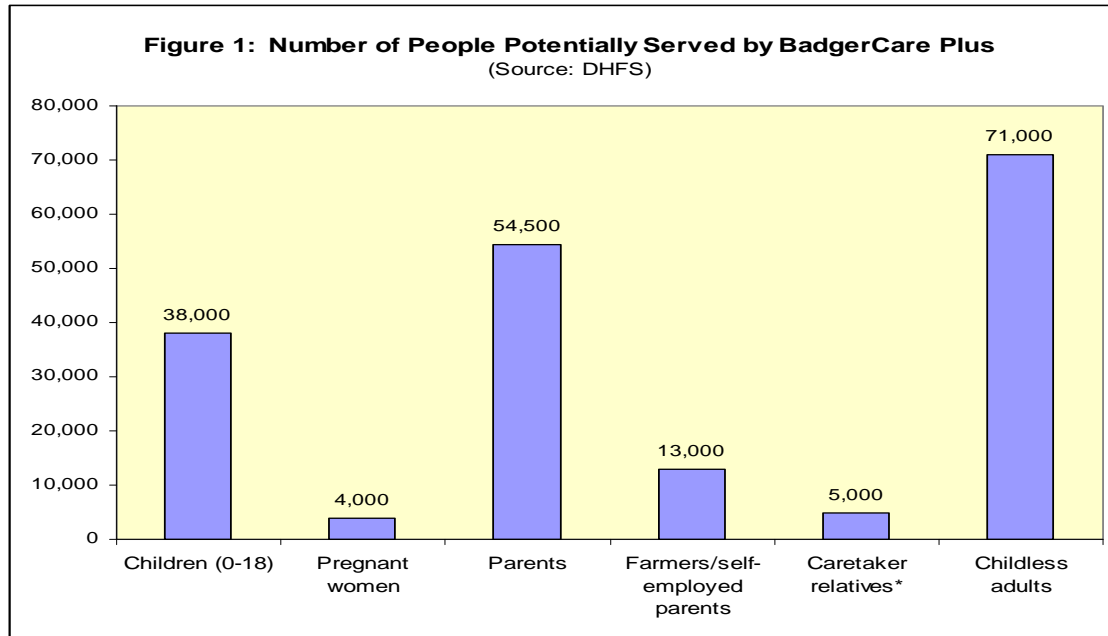
¹ As discussed on the next page, the figures are based on the estimated number of people uninsured all year.

² “Childless adult” is defined in the Family Health Survey data set as an adult who lives in a household with no children.

Number of People Uninsured and Potentially Eligible for BadgerCare Plus

The DHFS figures on the number of people in each category of BadgerCare Plus coverage (as shown in the matrix on the previous page and in Figure 1 below) are estimates of the effect of the expanded coverage in reducing the number of people who are uninsured all year, assuming all people meeting the income eligibility standards enroll. In addition to the fact that there is some overlap in the counts for a few of the categories, there are several reasons why not all of those people could or would participate, including:

- Immigrants who are undocumented or who have been in Wisconsin less than 5 years are ineligible.
- Some people will be excluded by policies to avoid crowd-out if they have access to a qualified employer-sponsored plan.
- Some families between 150 percent and 200 percent of poverty are unable to afford the premium.¹



On the other hand, the DHFS figures might understate the number of people who are potentially affected, because the department's starting point is the number of people who are uninsured all year. As Table 2 shows, there were only 276,000 people in Wisconsin uninsured all year in 2005, compared to 562,000 uninsured for all or part of the year, and roughly 404,000 uninsured at any point in the year. Which of those numbers should be the starting point for estimating the number of people who might enroll in BadgerCare Plus is debatable. DHFS chose to use the number for those who are uninsured all year because those uninsured for just part of year are much more likely to be excluded by policies to avoid crowd-out.

Table 1: Number of Uninsured People in Wisconsin in 2005

	Uninsured All Year		Uninsured - Point in Time		Uninsured All or Part Yr.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Children (0-17)	38,000	3%	63,000	5%	110,000	8.5%
Adults (18-64)	236,000	7%	338,000	10%	448,000	13%
Seniors (65+)	2,000	0.3%	2,000	0.3%	5,000	0.7%
Total	276,000	5%	404,000	7.5%	562,000	10%
Adults under 200% of poverty	125,500		180,000		236,000	

¹ When the state increased BadgerCare premiums from 3% to 5% of income in Jan. 2004, enrollment in the premium-paying category decreased by 12.5% over the next four months. Other changes in May 2004 sent participation down much further.