
USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy

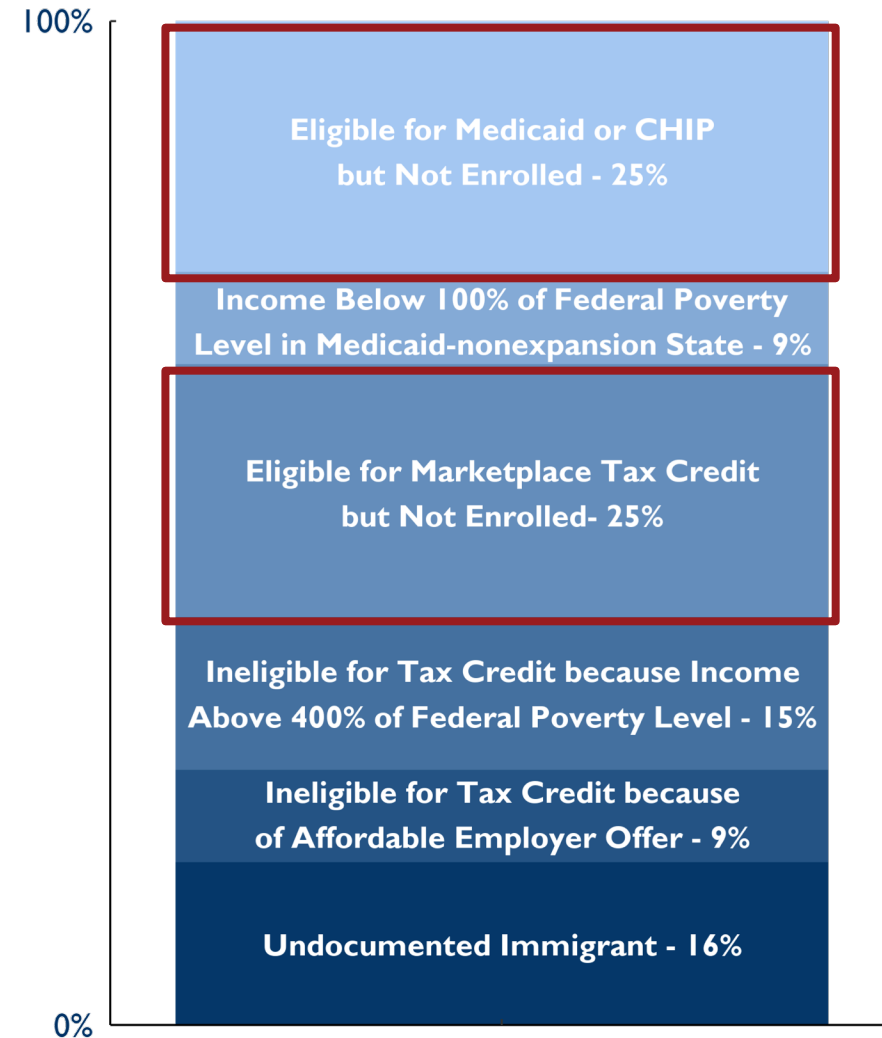
Making Auto-Enrollment Work

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Who remains uninsured?

- 30 million people are uninsured:
 - 57% below 200% FPL
 - 55% people of color
 - 81% in working families
- Eligibility for coverage program:
 - 25% eligible for Medicaid
 - 25% eligible for Marketplace financial assistance



Source: Blumberg et al., 2018

What do we mean by “auto-enrollment”

- **True “push the button” auto-enrollment**
 - Individuals become enrolled in coverage with no affirmative steps
- **Starting people on an enrollment pathway**
 - Asking enrollment-related questions as part of other processes
 - Using available information to pre-fill or otherwise facilitate applications

Challenges of Auto-Enrollment

1. Obtaining information sufficient to *determine* eligibility
 - Generally requires changes to eligibility rules
2. Collecting a premium from those who owe it
 - Under current law/policy, 50% of the uninsured are assistance-eligible and 30-40% eligible for \$0 premium option
3. Managing plan selection in complicated choice environment
4. Being realistic about the existence of “errors,” e.g. duplicating employer coverage, wrong estimate of income

Paths Forward

- **Retroactive enrollment to achieve population wide auto-enrollment**
- **Strategies that target specific groups at specific moments**

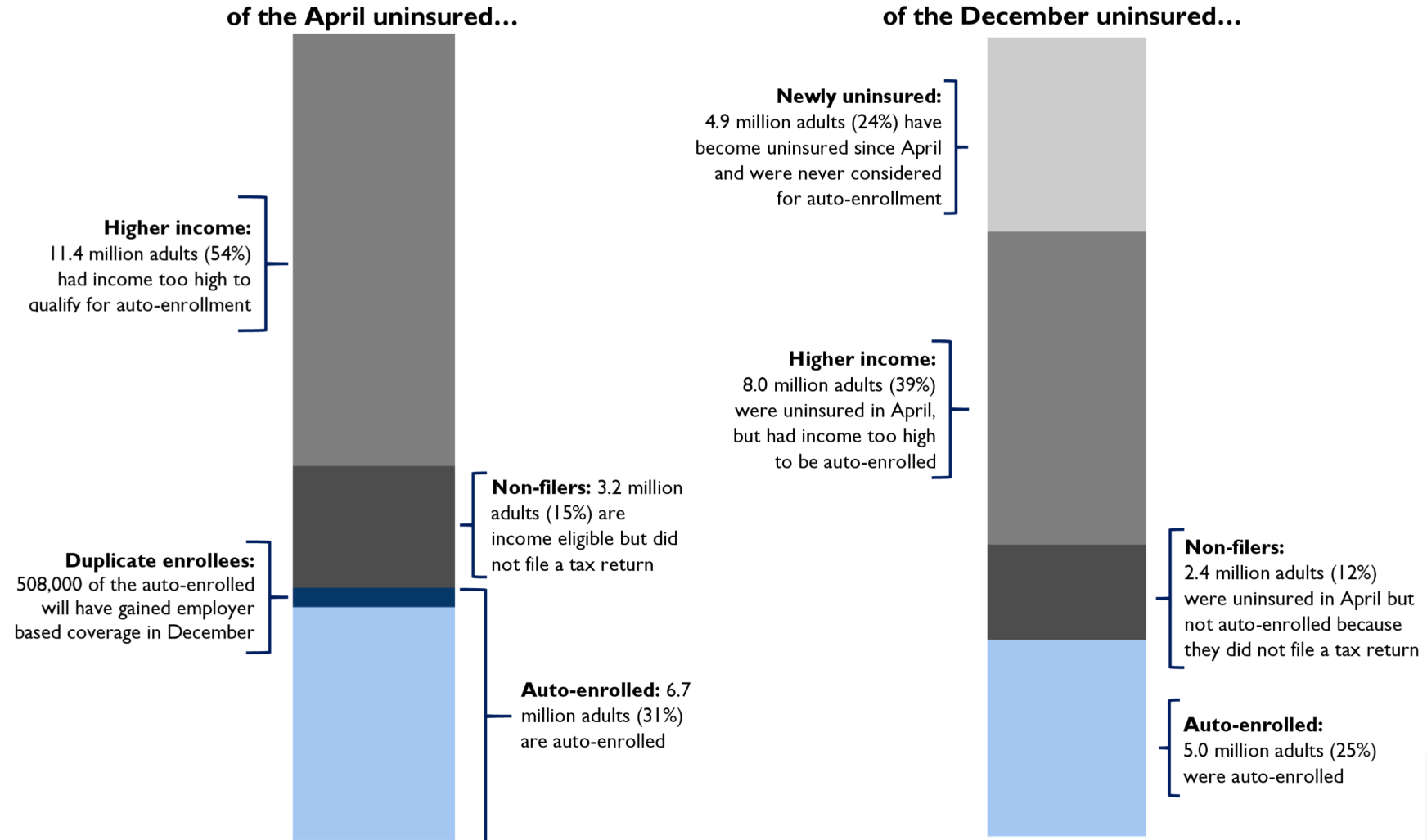
Retroactive enrollment

- **How retroactive enrollment works:**
 - All consumers not enrolled in another form of coverage are considered covered by a “backstop” plan
 - Otherwise uninsured individuals accessing care have claims paid by backstop in real time
 - Premiums (adjusted by income) collected at tax filing - from everyone who is otherwise uninsured, regardless of use of backstop
- **Achieves truly universal coverage**
- **Less disruptive than it may seem**

Target specific populations, e.g., tax filers

Auto-enrollment is based on April information.

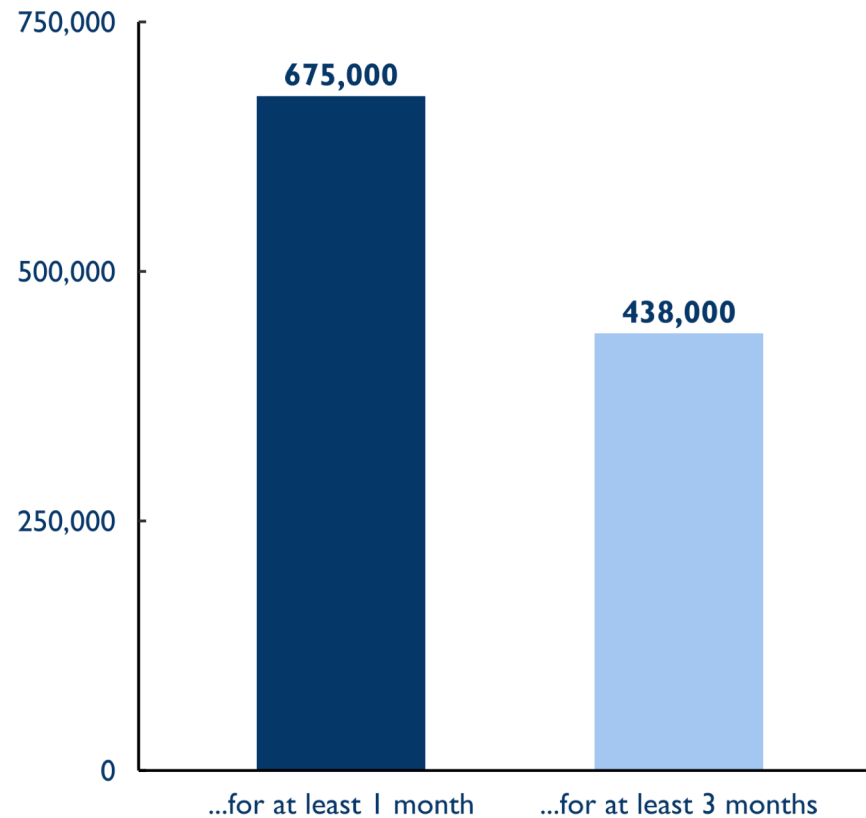
What happens in December?



Source: MEPS 2016-2017, Authors' calculations

Target specific populations, e.g., UI recipients

Monthly Number of People who Leave Employer Coverage and Become Uninsured



MEPS January 2016-June 2017, authors' calculations

Unemployment Insurance (UI) agencies can:

- Add health coverage information within application and recertification workflow
- Develop partially or fully integrated applications

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