



NEWS RELEASE

Insurance Division, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 200, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

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Cheryl Martinis, Insurance Division
503-947-7213

State issues 2009 report on health insurance

Salem, Oregon – The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) today released its annual report with key information about commercial health insurance in Oregon and the eight largest insurers that provide 91 percent of coverage in this health care market.

“As the cost of health care continues to rise, many efforts are under way to significantly reform the health care system – both in Oregon and nationwide,” said Cory Streisinger, DCBS director. “This report provides an overview of commercial insurance that we hope will assist policymakers as they develop solutions to cover more Oregonians and control costs.”

The report, titled “*Health Insurance in Oregon*,” includes a summary of Oregon’s health insurance regulation system, data on where people get insurance, and financial profiles of the eight largest insurers. The report also suggests ways to strengthen the department’s process for overseeing health insurance rates.

The report presents information collected as a result of a 2005 law that requires health insurers to provide more data about their finances to the public. It shows companies’ share of different insurance markets in Oregon and provides historical data on profitability as well as annual average rate increases.

In light of the volatility in financial markets, the department requested financial data through the third quarter of 2008 to include in this report.

About 42 percent of Oregonians are covered by commercial health insurance. The rest receive coverage through self-insured plans provided by large employers, or through government assistance programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, or are uninsured.

The report is available to view on the DCBS Web site: http://insurance.oregon.gov/health_report/health-report_intro.html

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The Insurance Division, part of the Department of Consumer & Business Services, helps ensure the financial soundness of insurers, the fair treatment of consumers, and the affordability and availability of insurance products. For more information, visit www.insurance.oregon.gov.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dCBS.oregon.gov.