

# Tax penalty to hit nearly 6M uninsured people

September 20 2012, by Ricardo Alonso-zaldivar

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(AP)—Congressional budget analysts are now estimating that nearly 6 million Americans—most of them in the middle class—will have to pay a tax penalty for not getting health insurance once President Barack Obama's health care law is fully in place.

That's 2 million more than a previous estimate found, or a 50 percent increase. The average penalty will be nearly \$1,200.

Starting in 2014, the new health care law requires virtually every legal resident of the U.S. to carry health insurance, or face a tax penalty. The Supreme Court upheld Obama's law as constitutional after finding that the penalty fell within the power of Congress to impose taxes.

The nonpartisan [Congressional Budget Office](#) said Wednesday the penalty will raise \$6.9 billion when fully in effect in 2016.

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Citation: Tax penalty to hit nearly 6M uninsured people (2012, September 20) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-09-tax-penalty-6m-uninsured-people.html>

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