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## 'Junk science' expert sounds alarm on ir study

By [Amanda Carpenter](#) on Sept. 17, 2009 into [The Back Story](#)

Steve Milloy's "junk science" detector started running high when he got hold of a new study in the American Journal of Public Health claiming nearly 45,000 Americans die from a lack of health insurance.

According to the study, titled "Health Insurance and Mortality in U.S. Adults," working-age Americans without insurance have a 40 percent higher risk of death than their privately insured counterparts. It also includes a chart showing how many people have died state by state, supposedly because of lack of insurance. For example, researchers say 4,675 Texas have died because they didn't have insurance during their study period.

Mr. Milloy, founder and publisher of [Junkscience.com](#) and co-founder and portfolio manger for the Free Enterprise Fund, said the study was created to boost President Obama's health care agenda. Mr. Milloy reminded that Mr. Obama recently told Congress people would die if they didn't have insurance.

"Everyone in this room knows what will happen if we do nothing," Mr. Obama said in his Sept. 9 address. "Our deficit will go bankrupt. More businesses will close. More Americans will lose their coverage when they are sick and need it most. And result. We know these things to be true."

Mr. Milloy believes the study will give Mr. Obama more specific numbers to use in order to ramp up public support for his pl

"They are trying to create these factoids that they can beat opponents over the head with," Mr. Milloy said. "They interviewe between 1988 and 1994 and asked, 'Do you have health insurance?' and if you die at some point in the future, they assume caused by the fact you didn't have insurance during that time you were interviewed."

"That kind of stuff is classic junk science," Mr. Milloy added.

John C. Goodman, president of the National Center for Policy Analysis, agreed that the study was flawed. "The subjects we once and the study tries to link their insurance status at that time to mortality a decade later. Yet over the period, the author subjects were insured or uninsured, what kind of medical care they received, or even cause of death," he said in a statemer

NPCA noted that a "more careful study" completed by the Congressional Budget Office found that low-income people witho percent higher chance of death, but found no difference among higher income earners.

One of the study's co-authors, Dr. David Himmelstein, is a strong proponent of a single-payer system. In addition to working of medicine at Harvard University, Dr. Himmelstein is also founder and spokesman for Physicians for a National Health Pro

He testified before Congress earlier this year in favor of a single-payer system, saying, "Our 16,000 physician members sup payer national health insurance because of overwhelming evidence that lesser reforms will fail." His health care advocacy v in a press release for this study.

Rather, remarks attributed to Dr. Himmelstein contained another shocking statistic. "The Institute of Medicine, using older s one American dies every 30 minutes from lack of health insurance," Dr. Himmelstein said. "Even this grim figure is an unde dies every 12 minutes."



### Comment

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keepdad

I'll wager you can comb the official death records of every jurisdiction in America and you won't find "Cause of Death: No Health Insurance."

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OsamasPajamas

There is something to be said in favor of incivility. It conveys to the target that he can no longer count on hoodwinking and bamboozling his critic into guilty submission. I like Ayn Rand's references to dictators and how they rule by force and by fraud. Barak Hushpuppy OhBummer clearly falls into this category, but he fits well into other niches... He is a pampered and pretentious pseudo-intellectual fop. He is a glorified and smooth-lying dandy. And he is a lowdown skunk. He hides behind his race as America's first and last Arab-American President, and he supposes that having dark skin will suffice to immunize him from criticism as he tries to inflict his ideas on the rest of us. May his plane crash.

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