



## **CURB Fact Sheet:**

### **Health Care**

**January 2008**

California Ranks #1 in the nation in prison spending, but 47<sup>th</sup> in per patient healthcare spending. Only Mississippi, Tennessee and New Mexico rank lower than California on spending per patient.

Governor Schwarzenegger has just proposed cutting \$4.5 billion from the 2008-09 health and human services budget. Under the Governor's budget, Medi-Cal, alone, would face a loss of nearly \$2 billion in funding, impacting over 6 million low income Californians.

6.5 million Californians do not have health insurance.

Health insurance premiums have increased 87% since 2000, with the average employee contributing 143% more to their company-sponsored health insurance. Meanwhile wages have only increased 20% over this time period. Health care costs have outpaced increases in wages by a ratio of 4:1 since 2000.

The Department of Finance projects a state budget deficit of \$14 billion over the next 18 months. Unless we cut prison spending by reducing the number of people in prison, this likely means even deeper cuts to health and human services programs.