

Penalties for uninsured residents in Massachusetts may increase in 2009.

In the [Boston Globe](#) (12/22) White Coat Notes blog, Kay Lazar wrote that Massachusetts "penalties for not having health insurance will be even more costly in 2009, compared to this year." The state's Department of Revenue has "released proposed penalty amounts that will be levied against adults who fail to get health insurance that meets minimum standards set by state regulators." The proposed 2009 rates increased by \$156 "for an uninsured adult who is 27 or older and makes at least \$31,212 annually." The increase "is tied to the" increasing "cost of insurance." These penalties only "apply...to adults, aged 18 and over, who can afford health insurances, as defined under guidelines set by the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority."