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# Burwell Visits Miami Amid Enrollment Push

By [SAMMY MACK \(/PEOPLE/SAMMY-MACK\)](/PEOPLE/SAMMY-MACK) • 1 HOUR AGO

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The head of Health and Human Services paid a visit to Miami Dade College Wednesday.

Secretary Sylvia Burwell oversees much of the Affordable Care Act.

She wants to draw attention to open enrollment for health insurance plans, but she was not keen on addressing some of the problems that have come out of Obamacare.

In a computer lab on the second floor of Miami Dade College downtown, there's a bank of computers dedicated just to helping students enroll in Obamacare.

That's where HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell started her campus tour and where she chatted with 19-year-old Guerline Dorema.

BURWELL: So that's important to figuring out what plan is right for you and the total affordability.

DOREMA: Ok

BURWELL: Thank you!

Burwell spoke at the college about the importance of getting health insurance to more Floridians in this open enrollment season.

South Florida has some of the highest uninsured rates in the country.

But when asked about people who don't buy insurance because they're in the family glitch—these are people who aren't allowed to get tax breaks because someone's employer offers family health benefits, regardless of how expensive they are -- Burwell punted it to the Treasury Department.

"That's an IRS issue," Burwell said.

She was similarly evasive when it came to the trouble with what's called "balance billing"—also known as surprise billing. Say a patient goes for a surgery at an in-network hospital sees an in-network surgeon, they can still wake up to a surprisingly big bill because they didn't know the anesthesiologist was out of network.

Burwell pointed to a consumer price estimate tool on [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) and suggested it's up to patients to figure it out.

BURWELL: We've added a feature to search and see what providers are in their network as part of what they're doing.

MACK: So if I'm going in for surgery, do I need to look up not just my surgeon but the anesthesiologist and anybody who're going to be doing follow-up care on me?

BURWELL: Uh, that is an issue in the employer-based market as well as the marketplace.

One of the people who won't be enrolling through the marketplace this year? Guerline Dorema, the student in the computer lab.

She said that when she heard the secretary was visiting, she just really wanted to meet Burwell.

"Yeah, I'm excited to see her," Dorema said.

Dorema already has insurance.

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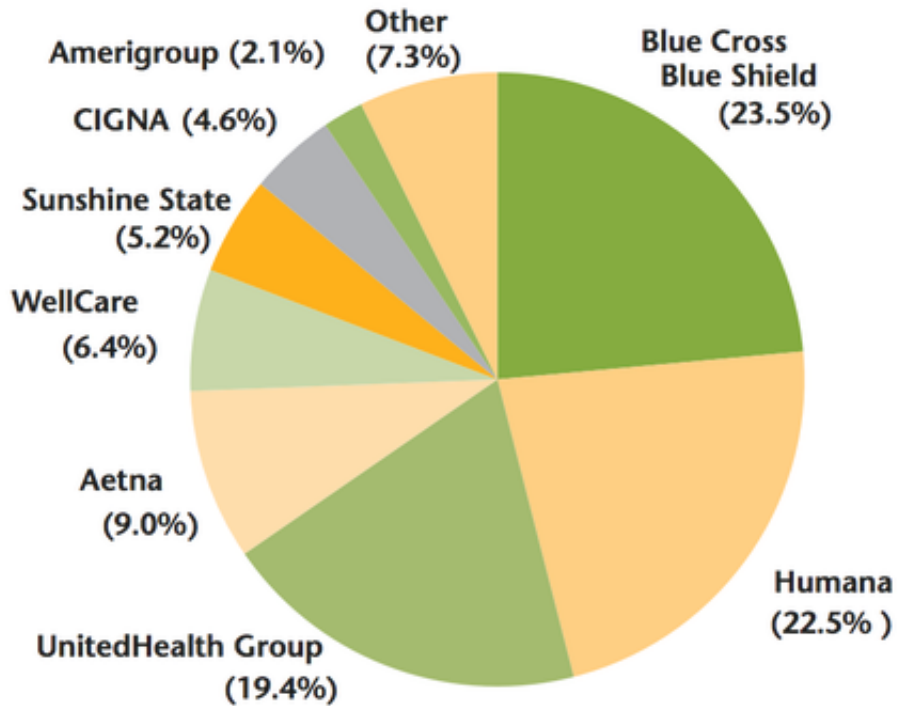
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Source: Author's analysis of Florida insurer NAIC statements, Exhibit of Revenues and Expenses; Schedule T for national carriers based on \$43.946 billion in health insurance premiums in 2014

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