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| **50 States Health INsurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Impact of the affordable care act 2012-2016.** |
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# Abstract

This data brief examines the evidence of the impact of the Affordable Care Act on American Indians and Alaska Natives to determine if the ACA resulted in expected enrollment gains in Health Insurance coverage and the related reduction in uninsured. A review of findings from the American Community Survey depicts success in increasing the number insured by 17%, thus lowering the number uninsured for both males and females. The uninsured rate declined from 22% in 2012 to 14% in 2016 a 31% decline. Those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to Indian Health Service (IHS) funded health services saw a smaller reduction in their uninsured population than those without access (16% to 43%), but a larger increase (21%) in insurance coverage than the 16% increase for those without access to IHS.

# Methodology

The American Community Survey provides estimates of the number of insured, uninsured for American Indians and Alaska Natives (alone and in combination). The one-year survey provides estimates with low error rates at the national level of analysis. This analysis provides cross tabulations by sex and by access to IHS-funded health programs for the years 2012 and 2016. The analysis is built on the comparison between the two years to the two variables of sex and access to IHS.

# Findings

### Summary Tables: 50 States

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| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 4,935,998 |  **5,234,600**  |

|  |
| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  1,091,461  |  **750,971**  |

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| --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 22% | **14%** |

|  |
| --- |
| Medicaid Enrollment 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 1,458,746 |  **1,775,819**  |

## Health Insurance Coverage

## Health Insurance Coverage of all American Indians and Alaska Natives with and without access to IHS

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases nationally. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 3.8 million in 2012 to 4.48 million in 2016. The increase of 639,000 from 2012 to 2016 of American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 17% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males increased by 18%, slightly more than insured females, who saw an 15% increase. Slightly more males than females (52% to 48%) made up the increase in insurance coverage from 2012 to 2016 as additional insured included 332,000 males and 306,000 females.

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| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  1,834,700  |  2,167,211  |  332,511  | 18% |
| Female |  2,009,837  |  2,316,418  |  306,581  | 15% |
| Total |  3,844,537  |  4,483,629  |  639,092  | 17% |
|  % Male  | 48% | 48% | 52% |  |
|  % Female  | 52% | 52% | 48% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

## Increased Health Insurance for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS

The number of *insured* American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS increased from 825,000 in 2012 to 996,000 in 2016. This represents a 21% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs, a slightly higher increase than American Indians and Alaska Natives who did not have access to IHS. Male insurance coverage increased by 24% while females increased by 18%. Males accounted for 53% of the 2012 to 2016 increase of 170,000 additionally insured. In 2016, however, females continued to make up 52% of all insured unchanged statistically from 2012 rate of 51%. The newly Medicaid- eligible childless adults are the likely reason for this shift toward more insured males.

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| 2012-2016 Health Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  385,376  |  476,297  |  90,921  | 24% |
| Female |  440,540  |  519,753  |  79,213  | 18% |
| Total |  825,916  |  996,050  |  170,134  | 21% |
|  % Male  | 47% | 48% | 53% |  |
|  % Female  | 53% | 52% | 47% |  |

## Health Insurance for American Indians and Alaska Natives Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 3 million insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 3,487,000, an increase of 16%. This compares to the 21% increase for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS. Males represented 52% of the total increase of 468,900 additional insured. Females, however continued to represent 52% of all insured.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives with No Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  1,449,324  |  1,690,914  |  241,590  | 17% |
| Female |  1,569,297  |  1,796,665  |  227,368  | 14% |
| Total |  3,018,621  |  3,487,579  |  468,958  | 16% |
|  % Male  | 48% | 48% | 52% |  |
|  % Female  | 52% | 52% | 48% |  |

# American Indians and Alaska Natives without Health Insurance

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % Decrease |
| Male |  602,869  |  413,886  |  (188,983) | -31% |
| Female |  488,592  |  337,085  |  (151,507) | -31% |
| Total |  1,091,461  |  750,971  |  (340,490) | -31% |
|  % Male  | 55% | 55% | 56% |  |
|  % Female  | 45% | 45% | 44% |  |

Nearly 1.1 million American Indians and Alaska Natives were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped to 750,900 uninsured, a 31% decrease in the number uninsured. Males represented 55% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives or 413,800 compared to 337,000 females. Males represented 56% of the decrease since 2012.

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS

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| --- | --- | --- |
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| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % Decrease |
| Male |  242,542  |  206,684  |  (35,858) | -15% |
| Female |  231,208  |  189,377  |  (41,831) | -18% |
| Total |  473,750  |  396,061  |  (77,689) | -16% |
|  % Male  | 51% | 52% | 46% |  |
|  % Female  | 49% | 48% | 54% |  |



The number of uninsured with access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 77,600 or 16% from 2012 to 2016. Females made up 54% of the total decline as the number of females uninsured dropped by 41,800 from 231,000 in 2012 to 189,000 in 2016 a reduction of 18%. Male uninsured also declined, by 35,800, a 15% decline from 2012. In 2016, males made up 52% of all uninsured at IHS-funded programs, a statistically unchanged percentage since 2012.

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without Access to IHS

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % Decrease |
| Male |  360,327  |  207,202  |  (153,125) | -42% |
| Female |  257,384  |  147,708  |  (109,676) | -43% |
| Total |  617,711  |  354,910  |  (262,801) | -43% |
|  % Male  | 58% | 58% | 58% |  |
|  % Female  | 42% | 42% | 42% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 262,800 or 43% from 2012 to 2016. This compares with the smaller decrease of 16% for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs. Males, without access to IHS, are more likely to be uninsured than females and they make up 58% of the total number uninsured. Males, however, made up 58% of the total decline since 2012 as the number of males uninsured dropped by 153,000 from 360,000 in 2012 to just 207,200 in 2016, a reduction of 42%. Female uninsured also declined, by 109,000, representing a 43% decline from 2012.

# Conclusion

The ACA was successful in increasing the enrollment of American Indians and Alaska Natives in health insurance coverage by 17%. Insurance coverage for males increased at a greater rate than for females from 2012 to 2016, however, females (52%) continue to be more likely to have health insurance than males (48%). Thanks to increased insurance coverage the number uninsured dropped by 340,000 or 31% since 2012. The majority of states with Indian Tribes exceeded this percentage decrease, unfortunately Oklahoma, Texas and South Dakota, states with very large American Indian and Alaska Native populations, are among those whose percentage increase was far below that national average of 37% (see Table 1).

One important finding of this analysis is that those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs saw much smaller decreases (16%) in uninsured, than those without access to IHS (43% decrease). The reason for this variation is likely that the very fact of having access to health care services at an IHS funded health program diminishes the likelihood that a patient would purchase health insurance or seek out Medicaid coverage. One could say the outreach effort is both harder for Indian Health Service-funded programs and more necessary.

The findings suggest future directions for research: How much of the variation between states insurance coverage changes is explained by Medicaid expansion? What explains the success of those states that did increase insurance coverage but did not expand Medicaid? What is explains the variation between insurance coverage for those with and without access to IHS-funded health care services? What are the lessons from those states that can be adopted by similar states with less success in increasing insurance coverage for their American Indian and Alaska Native population?

Source of Data: 1-year American Community Survey, US Census

Years: 2012 and 2016, 2016 data release of October 19, 2017.

No Foreign Born, that is nativity is the United States.

American Indian and Alaska Natives Alone and In-combination with other races.

## 30 States ranked by Lowest Uninsured Rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives 2012 to 2016 in 20 States

## Change in Access to IHS from 2012 to 2016: 50 States

## Table 1: 37 States Ranked by Percentage Reduction in Number of Uninsured from 2012 to 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total Population 2016 | Medicaid Expansion | Total Population 2012 | Change Total Population  | % change Total Population | Uninsured 2012 | Uninsured 2016 | Decrease/ increase | % Change | Rate of Uninsured 2012 | Rate of Uninsured 2016 |
| Connecticut |  34,955  | Yes |  26,737  |  8,218  | 31% |  3,186  |  1,205  |  1,981  | **62%** | 12% | 3% |
| California |  652,010  | Yes |  654,333  |  (2,323) | 0% |  121,617  |  46,326  |  75,291  | **62%** | 19% | 7% |
| Oregon |  132,183  | Yes |  118,034  |  14,149  | 12% |  26,175  |  11,989  |  14,186  | **54%** | 22% | 9% |
| Michigan |  154,493  | Yes |  131,828  |  22,665  | 17% |  22,477  |  10,964  |  11,513  | **51%** | 17% | 7% |
| Nevada |  57,442  | Yes |  51,120  |  6,322  | 12% |  15,174  |  7,553  |  7,621  | **50%** | 30% | 13% |
| Virginia |  81,365  |  |  83,406  |  (2,041) | -2% |  11,139  |  5,877  |  5,262  | **47%** | 13% | 7% |
| Indiana |  50,260  | Yes |  49,278  |  982  | 2% |  10,783  |  5,705  |  5,078  | **47%** | 22% | 11% |
| Washington |  211,950  | Yes |  194,178  |  17,772  | 9% |  42,017  |  22,484  |  19,533  | **46%** | 22% | 11% |
| Colorado |  104,159  | Yes |  95,706  |  8,453  | 9% |  18,140  |  9,721  |  8,419  | **46%** | 19% | 9% |
|  Iowa |  25,065  | Yes |  26,887  |  (1,822) | -7% |  4,486  |  2,619  |  1,867  | **42%** | 17% | 10% |
| New Mexico |  221,075  | Yes |  217,755  |  3,320  | 2% |  74,010  |  43,798  |  30,212  | **41%** | 34% | 20% |
|  Alabama |  52,132  |  |  54,455  |  (2,323) | -4% |  10,402  |  6,196  |  4,206  | **40%** | 19% | 12% |
| Montana |  89,645  | Yes |  85,517  |  4,128  | 5% |  31,019  |  18,908  |  12,111  | **39%** | 36% | 21% |
| Maine |  19,699  |  |  23,441  |  (3,742) | 13% |  3,716  |  2,367  |  1,349  | **36%** | 16% | 12% |
| Kansas |  56,595  |  |  59,514  |  (2,919) | -5% |  11,538  |  7,436  |  4,102  | **36%** | 19% | 13% |
| Minnesota |  103,821  | Yes |  103,083  |  738  | 1% |  20,726  |  13,395  |  7,331  | **35%** | 20% | 13% |
| Utah |  51,202  |  |  48,545  |  2,657  | 5% |  13,497  |  8,727  |  4,770  | **35%** | 28% | 17% |
| Mississippi |  22,627  |  |  22,705  |  (78) | 0% |  7,104  |  5,052  |  2,052  | **29%** | 31% | 22% |
| New York |  161,679  | Yes |  147,913  |  13,766  | 9% |  16,313  |  11,680  |  4,633  | **28%** | 11% | 7% |
|  Illinois |  87,878  | Yes |  81,417  |  6,461  | 8% |  10,845  |  7,867  |  2,978  | **27%** | 13% | 9% |
|  Massachusetts |  40,045  | Yes |  40,721  |  (676) | 13% |  2,152  |  1,587  |  565  | **26%** | 5% | 4% |
| Wisconsin |  88,687  |  |  93,553  |  (4,866) | -5% |  16,763  |  12,391  |  4,372  | **26%** | 18% | 14% |
| South Carolina |  44,079  |  |  37,408  |  6,671  | 18% | 8507 | 6321 |  2,186  | **26%** | 23% | 14% |
| Arizona |  384,662  | Yes |  344,541  |  40,121  | 12% |  97,609  |  74,866  |  22,743  | **23%** | 28% | 19% |
|  Louisiana |  58,923  | Yes |  52,216  |  6,707  | 13% |  11,072  |  8,573  |  2,499  | **23%** | 21% | 15% |
| Alaska |  145,729  | Yes |  145,202  |  527  | 0% |  51,668  |  40,594  |  11,074  | **21%** | 36% | 28% |
| Idaho |  43,277  |  |  34,772  |  8,505  | 24% |  8,935  |  7,138  |  1,797  | **20%** | 26% | 16% |
|  Florida |  147,537  |  |  130,714  |  16,823  | 13% |  30,800  |  26,674  |  4,126  | **13%** | 24% | 18% |
| North Carolina |  191,109  |  |  170,652  |  20,457  | 12% |  32,598  |  28,504  |  4,094  | **13%** | 19% | 15% |
| Texas |  312,102  |  |  281,742  |  30,360  | 11% |  55,456  |  48,837  |  6,619  | **12%** | 20% | 16% |
| Oklahoma |  522,442  |  |  510,587  |  11,855  | 2% |  144,713  |  129,643  |  15,070  | **10%** | 28% | 25% |
| Nebraska |  28,531  |  |  25,606  |  2,925  | 11% |  6,906  |  6,446  |  460  | **7%** | 27% | 23% |
| North Dakota |  56,971  | Yes |  42,347  |  14,624  | 35% |  14,716  |  14,240  |  476  | **3%** | 35% | 25% |
|  Maryland |  50,765  | Yes |  53,399  |  (2,634) | 13% |  3,016  |  3,167  |  (151) | **-5%** | 6% | 6% |
| Rhode Island |  14,879  | Yes |  10,394  |  4,485  | 43% | 900 | 951 |  (51) | **-6%** | 9% | 6% |
| Wyoming |  21,572  |  |  23,518  |  (1,946) | -8% |  6,346  |  6,779  |  (433) | **-7%** | 27% | 31% |
| South Dakota |  90,812  |  |  84,281  |  6,531  | 8% |  24,396  |  26,407  |  (2,011) | **-8%** | 29% | 29% |
| 37 States |  4,538,653  |  |  4,279,532  |  259,121  | 6% |  974,169  |  680,012  |  294,157  | **30%** | 23% | 15% |
| 50 States |  5,234,600  |  |  4,935,998  |  298,602  | 6% |  1,091,461  |  750,971  |  340,490  | **31%** | 22% | 14% |

Visualizations:

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[Medicaid 2010 to 2016 Visualization](https://public.tableau.com/profile/edward.fox%22%20%5Cl%20%22%21/vizhome/AIANMedicMedicaidEnrollment2010to2016withandwithoutIHSAccess/MedicaidEnrollmentwithandwithoutAccesstoIHS2010to2016)

[Uninsured 2010 to 2016 Visualization](https://public.tableau.com/profile/edward.fox#!/vizhome/BothwithandwithoutAccesstoIHS2010to2016/ChangeinUninsured2012and2016withandwithoutIHSaccess)