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| **ARIZONA HEALTH INsurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Impact of the affordable care act 2012-2016.** |

Table of Contents

[Abstract 3](#_Toc499961880)

[Methodology 3](#_Toc499961881)

[Findings 3](#_Toc499961882)

[Summary Tables: Arizona 3](#_Toc499961883)

[Health Insurance Coverage 4](#_Toc499961884)

[Health Insurance Coverage of all American Indians and Alaska Natives 4](#_Toc499961885)

[Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS 5](#_Toc499961886)

[Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives Without Access to IHS 6](#_Toc499961887)

[Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives 7](#_Toc499961888)

[Uninsured: All American Indians and Alaska Natives 7](#_Toc499961889)

[Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS 8](#_Toc499961890)

[Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without Access to IHS 8](#_Toc499961891)

[Conclusion 9](#_Toc499961892)

[Change in Access to IHS from 2012 to 2016: Arizona 11](#_Toc499961893)

[Change in the Uninsured Rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives 2012 to 2016 in 20 States 12](#_Toc499961894)

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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 in Arizona 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 25% from 2012 to 2016, thus lowering the number uninsured for both males and females. It also depicts variation for American Indians and Alaska Natives with or without access to IHS-funded health programs. The overall decline in uninsured was 38% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives. However, the decline for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded programs was 30% compared the 69% decline 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 (and some state) 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: Arizona

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  344,541  |  384,662  |

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  97,609  |  74,866  |

|  |
| --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 28% | 19% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

## Health Insurance Coverage of all American Indians and Alaska Natives

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in Arizona. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 247,000 in 2012 to 309,000 in 2016. The increase of 62,800 American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance represents 25% increase from 2012 to 2016. The number of insured males increased by 23%, less than females, who saw an 27% increase. Females continue to make up a larger share of the insured at 56% of the total insured.

In Arizona, the, ACS estimates that 54% of American Indians and Alaska Natives have access to IHS and 46% do not have access to IHS.

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| --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives  |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  117,904  |  145,387  |  27,483  | 23% |
| Female |  129,028  |  164,409  |  35,381  | 27% |
| Total |  246,932  |  309,796  |  62,864  | 25% |
|  % Male  | 48% | 47% | 44% |  |
|  % Female  | 52% | 53% | 56% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage 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 108,600 in 2012 to 126,700 in 2016. This represents a 17% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs. Male insurance coverage increased by 11% while females increased by 21%. In 2016, females make up 55% and males represent just 45% of all insured. Females made up 68% of the increased in insured American Indians and Alaska Natives at IHS-funded programs.

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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 |  50,761  |  56,472  |  5,711  | 11% |
| Female |  57,892  |  70,289  |  12,397  | 21% |
| Total |  108,653  |  126,761  |  18,108  | 17% |
|  % Male  | 47% | 45% | 32% |  |
|  % Female  | 53% | 55% | 68% |  |

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

The ACS estimates that there were 138,200 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 183,000 an increase of 32% or 44,700. The rate of increase was the same for males and females. These solid gains in insurance were about double the rate of those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS funded health programs, a finding that deserves further examination.

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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 |  67,143  |  88,915  |  21,772  | 32% |
| Female |  71,136  |  94,120  |  22,984  | 32% |
| Total |  138,279  |  183,035  |  44,756  | 32% |
|  % Male  | 49% | 49% | 49% |  |
|  % Female  | 51% | 51% | 51% |  |

# Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Uninsured: All American Indians and Alaska Natives

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  54,108  |  43,077  |  (11,031) | -20% |
| Female |  43,501  |  31,789  |  (11,712) | -27% |
| Total |  97,609  |  74,866  |  (22,743) | -23% |
|  % Male  | 55% | 58% | 49% |  |
|  % Female  | 45% | 42% | 51% |  |

97,600 American Indians and Alaska Natives were uninsured in 2012. By 2015 this number had dropped below 75,000 uninsured, a 23% decrease in the number uninsured. Males represented 58% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives or 43,000 compared to 31,700 females in 2016.

## 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 |  33,375  |  28,669  |  (4,706) | -14% |
| Female |  29,773  |  21,505  |  (8,268) | -28% |
| Total |  63,148  |  50,174  |  (12,974) | -21% |
|  % Male  | 53% | 57% | 36% |  |
|  % Female  | 47% | 43% | 64% |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs declined by nearly 13,000 or 21% from 2012 to 2016. In 2016, males made up 57% of all uninsured at IHS-funded programs, compared to just 53% 2012. The number of uninsured females declined by 28% compared to a decline of 14% for males.

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

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| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives With No Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % decrease |
| Male |  20,733  |  14,408  |  (6,325) | -31% |
| Female |  13,728  |  10,284  |  (3,444) | -25% |
| Total |  34,461  |  24,692  |  (9,769) | -28% |
|  % Male  | 60% | 58% | 65% |  |
|  % Female  | 40% | 42% | 35% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 10,000 or 28% from 2012 to 2015. This compares with the smaller decrease of 21% 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 65% of the total decline since 2012.

# Conclusion

In Arizona, the ACA was successful in increasing the enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Native with health insurance coverage. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance increased by 25% and the number uninsured decreased by 23%. In a state with the third largest number of American Indians and Alaska Natives, this means 62,000 gained insurance. The result for Indian health programs is increased viability thanks to increased revenues. The result for American Indians and Alaska Natives is more access to health care services.

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

Years: 2012 and 2016. 2016 ACS 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.

### Change in Access to IHS from 2012 to 2016: Arizona

### Change in the Uninsured Rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives 2012 to 2016 in 20 States