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| **Colorado 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 in Colorado 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, 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 46% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives.

# 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: Colorado

### Summary Tables: Colorado

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 95,706 | 104,159 |

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| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 18,140 | 9,721 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 19% | 9% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in Colorado. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 77,566 in 2012 to 94,400 in 2016. This 16,800 increase from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 22% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males increased by 10,800, a 30% increase, more than females, who saw an 15% increase (5,900). Females and males each made up 50% of the insured as males’ rate of insured increased.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 36,602 | 47,495 | 10,893 | 30% |
| Female | 40,964 | 46,943 | 5,979 | 15% |
| Total | 77,566 | 94,438 | 16,872 | 22% |
| % Male | 47% | 50% | 65% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 50% | 35% |  |

## 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 2,800 in 2012 to 5,500 in 2016. This represents an 97% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs, a slightly higher increase for American Indians and Alaska Natives who did not have access to IHS. Male insurance coverage increased by 138% while females increased by 65%. Males accounted for 62% of the 2012 to 2016 increase of 2,700 newly insured. In 2016 females make up 47% of all insured and males 53%.

It is important to note that these are very small numbers (5,000) and the estimates are subject to a high error rate. While one can be confident that there were increases, the actual numbers vary from those reported here, and could vary by a large percentage. In Colorado only 5% of all American Indians and Alaska Natives have access to IHS funded Indian health 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 | 1,220 | 2,909 | 1,689 | 138% |
| Female | 1,578 | 2,602 | 1,024 | 65% |
| Total | 2,798 | 5,511 | 2,713 | 97% |
| % Male | 44% | 53% | 62% |  |
| % Female | 56% | 47% | 38% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were nearly 75,000 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 86,500 an increase of 16%. This compares to the 84% increase for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS. Males represented 43% of the total increase of 11,700 newly insured. Females, however, continued to represent 57% of all insured. The large number of American Indians and Alaska Natives who do not have access makes comparisons with those who do difficult, particularly since the number who do have access is so small.

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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 | 35,382 | 44,586 | 9,204 | 26% |
| Female | 39,386 | 44,341 | 4,955 | 13% |
| Total | 74,768 | 88,927 | 14,159 | 19% |
| % Male | 47% | 50% | 65% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 50% | 35% |  |

# Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % decrease |
| Male | 12,253 | 5,673 | (6,580) | -54% |
| Female | 5,887 | 4,048 | (1,839) | -31% |
| Total | 18,140 | 9,721 | (8,419) | -46% |
| % Male | 68% | 58% | 78% |  |
| % Female | 32% | 42% | 22% |  |

Colorado had 18,100 American Indians and Alaska Natives were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped to 9,700 uninsured, a 46% decrease in the number uninsured. Male uninsured declined by 54% and females by 31%. In 2016 Males represented 58% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives. Males represented 78% of the decrease in uninsured since 2012.

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

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| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives  with Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease/increase 12-16 | % decrease/increase |
| Male | 1,950 | 1,263 | (687) | -35% |
| Female | 2,622 | 1,555 | (1,067) | -41% |
| Total | 4,572 | 2,818 | (1,754) | -38% |
| % Male | 43% | 45% | 39% |  |
| % Female | 57% | 55% | 61% |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 700 or 35% from 2012 to 2016. Females made up 61% of the total decline as the number of females uninsured dropped by 1,000 from 2012 to 2016 a reduction of 41%. Male uninsured decreased, by 687, a 35% decrease from 2012. In 2016, males made up 45% of all uninsured at IHS-funded programs up from 43% in 2012.

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

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|  | | |  |  |
| 2012-2016 American Indians and Alaska Natives Without Health Insurance Coverage with No Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % decrease |
| Male | 10,303 | 4,410 | (5,893) | -57% |
| Female | 3,265 | 2,493 | (772) | -24% |
| Total | 13,568 | 6,903 | (6,665) | -49% |
| % Male | 76% | 64% | 88% |  |
| % Female | 24% | 36% | 12% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 6,600 or 49% from 2012 to 2016. This compares with the smaller decrease of 38% 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 and males make up 64% of the total number uninsured. Males, however, made up 88% of the total decline since 2012 as the number of males uninsured dropped by from 10,300 in 2012 to just 4,400 in 2016, a reduction of 57%. Female uninsured decreased by 24%.

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# Conclusion

In Colorado, a state where 95% of American Indians and Alaska Natives do not have access to IHS-funded health programs, the ACA was very successful in increasing the enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Natives in health insurance coverage. An 22% increase in the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance meant 16,800 more individuals now had a ‘payer’ for their health care services. This increased their access to care and the viability of the programs that served them. Colorado lowered its uninsured rate from 19% to just 9% from 2012 to 2016.

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

Years: 2012 and 2016

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: Colorado

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