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

This brief examines the evidence of the impact of the Affordable Care Act on American Indians and Alaska Natives in Connecticut 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 modest success in increasing the number insured, thus lowering the number uninsured for both males and females.

# 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 Connecticut

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 26,737 | **34,955** |

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 3,186  | **1,205** |

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| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 12% | 3% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts significant health insurance enrollment increases in Connecticut. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance was 23,500 2012 and increased to 10,100 in 2016, a 43% increase. Females increased at a greater rate (51%) and are now equally represented with 50% female and 50% males having health insurance coverage.

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| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  12,280  |  16,776  |  4,496  | 37% |
| Female |  11,271  |  16,974  |  5,703  | 51% |
| Total |  23,551  |  33,750  |  10,199  | 43% |
|  % Male  | 52% | 50% | 44% |  |
|  % Female  | 48% | 50% | 56% |  |

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

Health insurance coverage declined by 32% from 2012 to 2016 for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Connecticut who feel they have access to IHS services. The small population and small survey sample size suggest caution in the interpretation of these estimates.

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| 2012-2016 Health Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % Decrease |
| Male |  393  |  259  |  (134) | -34% |
| Female |  534  |  375  |  (159) | -30% |
| Total |  927  |  634  |  (293) | -32% |
|  % Male  | 42% | 41% | 46% |  |
|  % Female  | 58% | 59% | 54% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 22,600 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016, the number insured increased to 33,100. The success in Connecticut is apparent as the 2012 to 2016 increase in coverage was 46%. Females make up 50% of the insured American Indian and Alaska Native population in Connecticut who do not have access to IHS-funded health programs after gaining 56% of the increase from 2012 to 2016 to achieve parity with males.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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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 |  11,887  |  16,517  |  4,630  | 39% |
| Female |  10,737  |  16,599  |  5,862  | 55% |
| Total |  22,624  |  33,116  |  10,492  | 46% |
|  % Male  | 53% | 50% | 44% |  |
|  % Female  | 47% | 50% | 56% |  |

# 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 | % increase |
| Male |  1,801  |  761  |  (1,040) | -58% |
| Female |  1,385  |  444  |  (941) | -68% |
| Total |  3,186  |  1,205  |  (1,981) | -62% |
|  % Male  | 57% | 63% | 52% |  |
|  % Female  | 43% | 37% | 48% |  |

Connecticut had just 3,100 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 1,205 uninsured, a 62% decrease in the number uninsured. The 3% uninsured rate in Connecticut is likely the lowest in the nation. Males made up 63% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives and females make up 37% of the uninsured.

## 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 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  479  |  28  |  (451) | -94% |
| Female |  172  |  49  |  (123) | -72% |
| Total |  651  |  77  |  (574) | -88% |
|  % Male  | 74% | 36% | 79% |  |
|  % Female  | 26% | 64% | 21% |  |

American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs did see an 88% decline, but caution is advised as the estimates are based on a very small survey sample size for this small population.

## 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 |  1,322  |  733  |  (589) | -45% |
| Female |  1,213  |  395  |  (818) | -67% |
| Total |  2,535  |  1,128  |  (1,407) | -56% |
|  % Male  | 52% | 65% | 42% |  |
|  % Female  | 48% | 35% | 58% |  |

The number of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by nearly 1,400 or 56% from 2012 to 2016. Males make up 65% of the remaining uninsured in a state were virtually everyone is covered by health insurance.

# Conclusion

In Connecticut, the ACA was successful in reducing the number of uninsured. Connecticut did adopt Medicaid expansion, early and with generous provisions that give it a 3% uninsured rate that is the lowest in the nation for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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.

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

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