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| **Idaho 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 Idaho to determine if the ACA resulted in expected enrollment gains in Health Insurance coverage and the related reduction in uninsured. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 25,800 to in 2012 to 36,000 in 2016. This increase of 10,300 insured from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 40% increase in the number insured. The number uninsured, however, decreased by just 20%. Idaho did not adopt Medicaid expansion and this is the likely reason for small decrease (when compared to other states) in the number uninsured. The uninsured rate did decline from 26% to 16% uninsured from 2012 to 2016, a somewhat surprising success in a state that did not expand Medicaid.

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: Idaho

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 34,772 | 43,277 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 8,935 | 7,138 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 26% | 16% |

## Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in Idaho. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 25,800 in 2012 to 36,100 in 2016. This 10,300 increase from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 40% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males increased by 14%, far less than females, who saw a 74% increase. Males made up just 19% of the increase. Females now make up 54% of all insured up from 44% in 2012 thanks to this significant increase in female enrollment in health insurance coverage.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 14,589 | 16,580 | 1,991 | 14% |
| Female | 11,248 | 19,559 | 8,311 | 74% |
| Total | 25,837 | 36,139 | 10,302 | 40% |
| % Male | 56% | 46% | 19% |  |
| % Female | 44% | 54% | 81% |  |

## 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 8,600 in 2012 to 12,300 in 2016. This represents a 43% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs, a slightly higher increase than for American Indians and Alaska Natives who did not have access to IHS. Male insurance coverage increased by 25% while females increased by 64%. Females accounted for 67% of the 2012 to 2016 increase of 3,600 newly insured. In 2016 females make up 52% of all insured up 7 percentage points from 2012.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 4,750 | 5,955 | 1,205 | 25% |
| Female | 3,886 | 6,363 | 2,477 | 64% |
| Total | 8,636 | 12,318 | 3,682 | 43% |
| % Male | 55% | 48% | 33% |  |
| % Female | 45% | 52% | 67% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 17,200 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 23,800 an increase of 38%. This compares to the 43% increase for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS. Males represented 12% of the total increase of 6,600 newly insured and females 88% of the increase. Males now only represent 45% of all insured, down from 57% in 2012. This a significant difference between female and male rates of insured that deserves a close look to see if there is a missed opportunity to enroll males.

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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 | 9,839 | 10,625 | 786 | 8% |
| Female | 7,362 | 13,196 | 5,834 | 79% |
| Total | 17,201 | 23,821 | 6,620 | 38% |
| % Male | 57% | 45% | 12% |  |
| % Female | 43% | 55% | 88% |  |

# Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % decrease |
| Male | 4,805 | 3,508 | (1,297) | -27% |
| Female | 4,130 | 3,630 | (500) | -12% |
| Total | 8,935 | 7,138 | (1,797) | -20% |
| % Male | 54% | 49% | 72% |  |
| % Female | 46% | 51% | 28% |  |

Idaho had 8,900 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 7,100 uninsured, a 20% decrease in the number uninsured. Males represented 49% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives  with Access to IHS | | | | | |
|  | 2012 | | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 2,122 | 2,636 | | 514 | 24% |
| Female | 2,266 | 2,746 | | 480 | 21% |
| Total | 4,388 | 5,382 | | 994 | 23% |
| % Male | 48% | 49% | | 52% |  |
| % Female | 52% | | 51% | 48% |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs increased by 500 or 24% from 2012 to 2016. Males made up 52% of the total increase. Female uninsured also increased by 21%. In 2016, males made up 52% of all uninsured at IHS-funded programs, up 4% since 2012. Caution is advised in using these estimates since they are drawn from a very small population and subject to large error rates. The fact that the estimates indicates increases in uninsured is likely valid (and a point of difference with other states), but the size of those increases is uncertain.

## 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 | 2,683 | 872 | (1,811) | -67% |
| Female | 1,864 | 884 | (980) | -53% |
| Total | 4,547 | 1,756 | (2,791) | -61% |
| % Male | 59% | 50% | 65% |  |
| % Female | 41% | 50% | 35% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by 2,700 or over 61% from 2012 to 2016. Female uninsured declined by 53%, males by 67%. Males and females were equally represented among the uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives. Caution is advised in relying on these estimates from a very small population, the direction of change is likely accurate, but the level of that change less so.

# Conclusion

In Idaho, the ACA was successful in increasing the enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Native in health insurance coverage and reducing the number of uninsured by 20%. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 25,800 to in 2012 to 36,000 in 2016. This increase of 10,300 insured from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 40% increase in the number insured. The number uninsured, however, decreased by just 20%. Idaho did not adopt Medicaid expansion and this is the likely reason for small decrease (when compared to other states) in the number uninsured. The uninsured rate did decline from 26% to 16% uninsured from 2012 to 2016, a somewhat surprising success in a state that did not expand Medicaid.

Idaho operates its own health exchange and it has enjoyed higher than average enrollment gains compared to other states and that success is shared by the states 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.

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

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