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| **Louisiana 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 Louisiana 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. The number insured increased from 52,200 to 58, 900 and the number uninsured declined from 11,000 in 2012 to 8,500 in 2016 lowering the rate of uninsured from 21% in 2012 to just 15% in 2016.

# 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: Louisiana

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 52,216 | 58,923 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 11,072 | 8,573 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 21% | 15% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts no health insurance enrollment increases in Louisiana. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance was 41,100 in 2012 and 50,300 in 2016. This represented a 22% increase. Females increased by 33% and males just 11%. The female percentage of overall insured is now 55% up from 50% in 2012 as 75% of newly insured were female.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 20,453 | 22,739 | 2,286 | 11% |
| Female | 20,691 | 27,611 | 6,920 | 33% |
| Total | 41,144 | 50,350 | 9,206 | 22% |
| % Male | 50% | 45% | 25% |  |
| % Female | 50% | 55% | 75% |  |

## 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 was so small that extreme caution should be exercised in interpreting the estimates. The small sample size reflects the very small number of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Louisiana who feel they have access to IHS services. The small sample size means we can only say with confidence that the direction of change is positive, but the actual level of change while seemingly very large is subject a high error rate.

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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 | 627 | 834 | 207 | 33% |
| Female | 324 | 1,372 | 1,048 | 323% |
| Total | 951 | 2,206 | 1,255 | 132% |
| % Male | 66% | 38% | 16% |  |
| % Female | 34% | 62% | 84% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 40,200 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016, the number insured increased to 48,100. There is evidence of success in Louisiana with a 20% overall increase, largely consisting of newly covered females (a 29% increase in coverage) who made up 74% of the 2012 to 2016 increase. Females now make up 55% of the 48,100 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives in Louisiana.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives with No Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 19,826 | 21,905 | 2,079 | 10% |
| Female | 20,367 | 26,239 | 5,872 | 29% |
| Total | 40,193 | 48,144 | 7,951 | 20% |
| % Male | 49% | 45% | 26% |  |
| % Female | 51% | 55% | 74% |  |

# 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 | 6,337 | 5,369 | (968) | -15% |
| Female | 4,735 | 3,204 | (1,531) | -32% |
| Total | 11,072 | 8,573 | (2,499) | -23% |
| % Male | 57% | 63% | 39% |  |
| % Female | 43% | 37% | 61% |  |

Louisiana had 11,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 8,500 uninsured, a 23% decrease in the number uninsured. Female uninsured declined by 32% and males 15%. Males made up 39% of the decrease and now males represent 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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives  with Access to IHS | | | | | |
|  | 2012 | | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 234 | 318 | | 84 | 36% |
| Female | 89 | 294 | | 205 | 230% |
| Total | 323 | 612 | | 289 | 89% |
| % Male | 72% | 52% | | 29% |  |
| % Female | 28% | | 48% | 71% |  |

No conclusions can be drawn from such a small population. The direction of change seems to be toward increased uninsured, the opposite direction of the state as a whole. Caution is advised in interpreting these results for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS-funded services in Louisiana.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 American Indians and Alaska Natives Without Health Insurance Coverage with No Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % decrease |
| Male | 6,103 | 5,051 | (1,052) | -17% |
| Female | 4,646 | 2,910 | (1,736) | -37% |
| Total | 10,749 | 7,961 | (2,788) | -26% |
| % Male | 57% | 63% | 38% |  |
| % Female | 43% | 37% | 62% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by nearly 2,700 or 26% from 2012 to 2016. Female uninsured declined by 37% and males by 17%. Males now make up 63% of all uninsured in the state as females made up 37% in 2016. This was the result of females making up 62% of the 2012 to 2016 increase.

# Conclusion

In Louisiana, the ACA was successful in reducing the number of uninsured. Louisiana implemented Medicaid expansion in 2016 and this is the likely reason for the reduction in the rate of uninsured and the increase of insurance coverage. These gains are likely to continue as the recent expansion and enrollment effort for Medicaid in the state continues.

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: Louisiana

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