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| **Maine 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 Maine 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 decreasing the number uninsured, but an overall decrease in the number insured. The census estimate for Maine’s American Indians and Alaska Natives depicts a decline in population, an uncommon decline during this time period where a large majority of states saw increases. Maine had 3,700 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 2,300 uninsured, a 36% decrease in the number uninsured. The uninsured rate declined from 16% in 2012 to 12% 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: Maine

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | 2016 |
| 23,441 | 19,699 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | 2016 |
| 3,716 | 2,367 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | 2016 |
| 16% | 12% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts no health insurance enrollment increases in Maine. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance was nearly 20,000 in 2012 and decreased by over 2,000 to 17,300 in 2016. This represents a 12% decline in insurance coverage at a time when most states were increasing coverage for their American Indian and Alaska Native population.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % Decrease |
| Male | 10,568 | 8,936 | (1,632) | -15% |
| Female | 9,157 | 8,396 | (761) | -8% |
| Total | 19,725 | 17,332 | (2,393) | -12% |
| % Male | 54% | 52% | 68% |  |
| % Female | 46% | 48% | 32% |  |

## 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 Maine 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 is unknown.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 1,627 | 1,795 | 168 | 10% |
| Female | 2,238 | 1,395 | (843) | -38% |
| Total | 3,865 | 3,190 | (675) | -17% |
| % Male | 42% | 56% | -25% |  |
| % Female | 58% | 44% | 125% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 15,860 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016, the number insured declined to 14,142. There is no evidence of success in Maine as the number insured declined by 11%.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives with No Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 8,941 | 7,141 | (1,800) | -20% |
| Female | 6,919 | 7,001 | 82 | 1% |
| Total | 15,860 | 14,142 | (1,718) | -11% |
| % Male | 56% | 50% | 105% |  |
| % Female | 44% | 50% | -5% |  |

# 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 | 1,861 | 1,630 | (231) | -12% |
| Female | 1,855 | 737 | (1,118) | -60% |
| Total | 3,716 | 2,367 | (1,349) | -36% |
| % Male | 50% | 69% | 17% |  |
| % Female | 50% | 31% | 83% |  |

Maine had 3,700 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 2,300 uninsured, a 36% decrease in the number uninsured. The small population and thus small sample size mean the error rates for male and female enrollment too high to have confidence in the level of change from 2012 to 2016 other than to say it is in the direction of fewer 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 | 409 | 710 | | 301 | 74% |
| Female | 212 | 356 | | 144 | 68% |
| Total | 621 | 1,066 | | 445 | 72% |
| % Male | 66% | 67% | | 68% |  |
| % Female | 34% | | 33% | 32% |  |

Very few American Indians and Alaska Natives in Maine have access to IHS-funded health care services. No conclusions can be drawn from such a small population.

## 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 | 1,452 | 920 | (532) | -37% |
| Female | 1,643 | 381 | (1,262) | -77% |
| Total | 3,095 | 1,301 | (1,794) | -58% |
| % Male | 47% | 71% | 30% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 29% | 70% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by nearly 1,700 or 58% from 2012 to 2016. Caution is advised in interpreting these estimates due to the small sample size.

# Conclusion

The number of uninsured in Maine declined with the rate of uninsured falling from 16% to 12%, but the overall number insured in the state also declined. Maine did not adopt Medicaid expansion and this is the likely reason for the small reduction in uninsured and lack of increase for insurance coverage. Caution is advised for states with small American Indian and Alaska Native populations, particularly when access to IHS-funded services is very low.

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: Maine

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