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| **Massachusetts Health INsurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Impact of the affordable care act 2012-2016.** |
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Table of Contents

[Abstract 3](#_Toc498591433)

[Methodology 3](#_Toc498591434)

[Findings 3](#_Toc498591435)

[Summary Tables: Massachusetts 3](#_Toc498591436)

[Health Insurance Coverage 4](#_Toc498591437)

[Health Insurance Coverage of all American Indians and Alaska Natives 4](#_Toc498591438)

[Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS 5](#_Toc498591439)

[Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives 6](#_Toc498591440)

[Without Access to IHS 6](#_Toc498591441)

[Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives 6](#_Toc498591442)

[Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives 7](#_Toc498591443)

[Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS 8](#_Toc498591444)

[Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without Access to IHS 9](#_Toc498591445)

[Conclusion 9](#_Toc498591446)

[Change in Access to IHS from 2012 to 2016: Massachusetts 11](#_Toc498591447)

[Change in the Uninsured Rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives 2012 to 2016 in 20 States 12](#_Toc498591448)

***This project was supported by a Cooperative Agreement, Grant No. CMS-1MOCMS331623, from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.******The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.***

# Abstract

This data brief examines the evidence of the impact of the Affordable Care Act on American Indians and Alaska Natives in Massachusetts 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: Massachusetts

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| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  40,721  |  40,045  |

|  |
| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  2,152  |  1,587  |

|  |
| --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 5% | 4% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts no health insurance enrollment increases in Massachusetts. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance was 38,000 in 2012 and unchanged in 2016. The estimates are essentially the same for both years.

|  |
| --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  18,666  |  19,267  |  601  | 3% |
| Female |  19,903  |  19,191  |  (712) | -4% |
| Total |  38,569  |  38,458  |  (111) | 0% |
|  % Male  | 48% | 50% | -541% |  |
|  % Female  | 52% | 50% | 641% |  |

## 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 Massachusetts 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 |  274  |  1,138  |  864  | 315% |
| Female |  938  |  400  |  (538) | -57% |
| Total |  1,212  |  1,538  |  326  | 27% |
|  % Male  | 23% | 74% | 265% |  |
|  % Female  | 77% | 26% | -165% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 37,300 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016, the number insured dipped to 37,000, within the margin of error of the estimate.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives With No Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  18,392  |  18,129  |  (263) | -1% |
| Female |  18,965  |  18,791  |  (174) | -1% |
| Total |  37,357  |  36,920  |  (437) | -1% |
|  % Male  | 49% | 49% | 60% |  |
|  % Female  | 51% | 51% | 40% |  |

# 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 |  1,758  |  903  |  (855) | -49% |
| Female |  394  |  684  |  290  | 74% |
| Total |  2,152  |  1,587  |  (565) | -26% |
|  % Male  | 82% | 57% | 151% |  |
|  % Female  | 18% | 43% | -51% |  |

Massachusetts had 4,400 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 2,600 uninsured, a 42% decrease in the number uninsured. Males made up 100% of the decrease and now males represent 21% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives and females make up 79% 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 |  -  |  -  |  -  | #DIV/0! |
| Female |  -  |  42  |  42  | #DIV/0! |
| Total |  -  |  42  |  42  | #DIV/0! |
|  % Male  | #DIV/0! | 0% | 0% |  |
|  % Female  | #DIV/0! | 100% | 100% |  |

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 |  1,758  |  903  |  (855) | -49% |
| Female |  394  |  642  |  248  | 63% |
| Total |  2,152  |  1,545  |  (607) | -28% |
|  % Male  | 82% | 58% | 141% |  |
|  % Female  | 18% | 42% | -41% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by nearly 300 or 12% from 2012 to 2016. Caution is advised in interpreting these estimates due to the small sample size.

# Conclusion

In Massachusetts, the ACA was successful in reducing the number of uninsured. Previous success in lowering the rate of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives to 5% in 2012 meant there was a few uninsured in 2014 when most states began to reduce their rate of uninsured. The rate of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in Massachusetts was the lowest in the nation at 4%. It would be fair to describe this as success in achieving the goal of access to health care services.

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: Massachusetts

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

Massachusetts uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives was a very low 5% in 2012 and was 4% in 2016. The previous gains in the state meant there was little room for large improvements.