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

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# Abstract

This data brief examines the evidence of the impact of the Affordable Care Act on American Indians and Alaska Natives in Minnesota 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 success in increasing the number insured by 10% and lowering the rate of uninsured from 20% to 13%. It also depicts variation for American Indians and Alaska Natives with or without access to IHS-funded health programs. The overall decline in uninsured was 35% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives. However, the decline for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded programs was negligible compared the 65% decline for those without access to IHS.

# 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 Table: Minnesota

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | 2016 |
| 103,083 | 103,821 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | 2016 |
| 20,726 | 13,395 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | 2016 |
| 20% | 13% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in Minnesota. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 82,300 in 2012 to 90,400 in 2016. The increase of 8,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance represents 10% increase from 2012 to 2016. The number of insured males increased by 13%, more than females, who saw an 7% increase. Females continue to make up a larger share of the insured at 53% of the total insured.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 37,488 | 42,362 | 4,874 | 13% |
| Female | 44,869 | 48,064 | 3,195 | 7% |
| Total | 82,357 | 90,426 | 8,069 | 10% |
| % Male | 46% | 47% | 60% |  |
| % Female | 54% | 53% | 40% |  |

## 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 26,300 in 2012 to 29,400 in 2016. This represents a 12% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs. Male insurance coverage increased by 17% while females increased by 7%. In 2016, females make up 53% and males represent just 47% of all insured. Males made up 65% of the increase in insured American Indians and Alaska Natives at IHS-funded programs.

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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 | 11,862 | 13,891 | 2,029 | 17% |
| Female | 14,451 | 15,522 | 1,071 | 7% |
| Total | 26,313 | 29,413 | 3,100 | 12% |
| % Male | 45% | 47% | 65% |  |
| % Female | 55% | 53% | 35% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 56,000 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 61,000 an increase of 9%. The rate of increase was 11% for males and 7% for females. Female make up 53% of those insured who are without access to IHS.

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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 | 25,626 | 28,471 | 2,845 | 11% |
| Female | 30,418 | 32,542 | 2,124 | 7% |
| Total | 56,044 | 61,013 | 4,969 | 9% |
| % Male | 46% | 47% | 57% |  |
| % Female | 54% | 53% | 43% |  |

# 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 | 10,874 | 8,273 | (2,601) | -24% |
| Female | 9,852 | 5,122 | (4,730) | -48% |
| Total | 20,726 | 13,395 | (7,331) | -35% |
| % Male | 52% | 62% | 35% |  |
| % Female | 48% | 38% | 65% |  |

In Minnesota 20,700 American Indians and Alaska Natives were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped below 14,000 uninsured, a 35% decrease in the number uninsured. Males represented 62% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives or 8,200 compared to 5,100 females. Females made up 65% of the reduction in uninsured since 2012.

## 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 / Decrease 12-16 | % Increase / Decrease |
| Male | 4,223 | 5,132 | 909 | 22% |
| Female | 5,400 | 4,387 | (1,013) | -19% |
| Total | 9,623 | 9,519 | (104) | -1% |
| % Male | 44% | 54% |  |  |
| % Female | 56% | 46% |  |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs was unchanged from 2012 to 2016. In 2016, males made up 54% of all uninsured at IHS-funded programs, compared to just 44% in 2012. The number of uninsured females declined by 19% compared to an increase of 22% for males. This difference is worth a closer examination to determine its validity and the reasons for it.

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives  With No Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % decrease |
| Male | 6,651 | 3,141 | (3,510) | -53% |
| Female | 4,452 | 735 | (3,717) | -83% |
| Total | 11,103 | 3,876 | (7,227) | -65% |
| % Male | 60% | 81% | 49% |  |
| % Female | 40% | 19% | 51% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 7,200 or 65% from 2012 to 2016. This compares with the small decrease of 1% for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs. Males, without access to IHS, are more likely to be uninsured, than females and they make up 81% of the total number uninsured. Males, however, made up 49% of the total decline since 2012.

# Conclusion

In Minnesota, the ACA was successful in increasing the enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Native with health insurance coverage. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance increased by 10% and the number uninsured decreased by 35%. Minnesota reduced its rate of uninsured from 20% in 2012 to 13% in 2016, one of the lowest rates in the nation. Despite these gains and achievements, it does appear that IHS-funded programs should examine whether or not there are improvements to be made in their outreach and enrollment activities to achieve the same success achieved for those without access to IHS.

Source of Data: 1-year American Community Survey, US Census

Years: 2012 and 2016. 2016 ACS Data Release of October 19, 2017.

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

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