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| **Nebraska 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 Nebraska 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 with an 18% increase from 2012 to 2016. The state did not expand Medicaid is this is the main reason the state stands out as having one of the highest 2016 rates of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in the nation at 23%.

# 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 Nebraska

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| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 25,606  | 28,531  |

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  6,906  | 6,446  |

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| --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 27% | 23% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts no health insurance enrollment increases in Nebraska. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance was 18,700 in 2012 and increased by 18% to 22,000 in 2016. Males and females increased coverage at nearly the same 18% rate and females are still more likely to have coverage (53%) than males.

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| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  8,765  |  10,392  |  1,627  | 19% |
| Female |  9,935  |  11,693  |  1,758  | 18% |
| Total |  18,700  |  22,085  |  3,385  | 18% |
|  % Male  | 47% | 47% | 48% |  |
|  % Female  | 53% | 53% | 52% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS

Health insurance coverage increased by over 100% from 2012 to 2016 for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Nebraska who feel they have access to IHS services. American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS reporting that they have health insurance increased from 3,300 in 2012 to over 7,200 in 2016, more than doubling. Females are more likely to have coverage (54%) than males, but both males and females increased coverage at nearly the same rate since 2012.

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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 |  1,477  |  3,358  |  1,881  | 127% |
| Female |  1,834  |  3,894  |  2,060  | 112% |
| Total |  3,311  |  7,252  |  3,941  | 119% |
|  % Male  | 45% | 46% | 48% |  |
|  % Female  | 55% | 54% | 52% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 15,300 *insured* American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016, the number insured remained at nearly 15,000. There is no evidence of even modest success in Nebraska as the 2012 to 2016 period saw an actual decrease of 4%. Females make up 53% of the insured American Indian and Alaska Native population in Nebraska for those who do not have access to IHS-funded health programs.

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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 |  7,288  |  7,034  |  (254) | -3% |
| Female |  8,101  |  7,799  |  (302) | -4% |
| Total |  15,389  |  14,833  |  (556) | -4% |
|  % Male  | 47% | 47% | 46% |  |
|  % Female  | 53% | 53% | 54% |  |

# 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 |  3,810  |  3,224  |  (586) | -15% |
| Female |  3,096  |  3,222  |  126  | 4% |
| Total |  6,906  |  6,446  |  (460) | -7% |
|  % Male  | 55% | 50% | 127% |  |
|  % Female  | 45% | 50% | -27% |  |

Nebraska had 6,900 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 6,400 uninsured, a modest 7% decrease in the number uninsured. Males made up all of the decrease and now males represent 50% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives. The failure to adopt Medicaid expansion is the likely reason for these dismal results.

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

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| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  1,848  |  1,763  |  (85) | -5% |
| Female |  1,892  |  1,716  |  (176) | -9% |
| Total |  3,740  |  3,479  |  (261) | -7% |
|  % Male  | 49% | 51% | 33% |  |
|  % Female  | 51% | 49% | 67% |  |

American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs did see a modest 7% decline in the number uninsured from 2012 to 2016. Males uninsured declined by 5% and female by 9% resulting in 260 fewer uninsured in 2016. Caution is advised in interpreting these estimates from such a small number of respondents. Females and males are equally likely to be uninsured for those with access to IHS-funded health programs

## 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 |  1,962  |  1,461  |  (501) | -26% |
| Female |  1,204  |  1,506  |  302  | 25% |
| Total |  3,166  |  2,967  |  (199) | -6% |
|  % Male  | 62% | 49% |  |  |
|  % Female  | 38% | 51% |  |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by nearly 200 or 6% from 2012 to 2016. Males now make up 49% of the uninsured and females 51%. Again, one sees comparatively disappointing results in reducing the number of uninsured due to the failure to expand Medicaid in Nebraska.

# Conclusion

In Nebraska, the state was not successful in reducing the number of uninsured. It does have some modest success increasing the number with insurance, significantly, among those with access to IHS. Nebraska did not adopt Medicaid expansion, so the reason for the decline is clear. Without Medicaid expansion, it is difficult to make a dent in the state’s very high 2016 uninsured rate of 23%, down only slightly from 27% in 2012.

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.

### Nebraska: 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