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| **New Mexico: 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 New Mexico 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, thus lowering the number uninsured for both males and females. The uninsured rate fell from 34% in 2012 to 20% in 2016. 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 41% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives. The decline in uninsured for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded programs was 35% compared to a 62% 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 Tables: New Mexico

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  217,755  |  221,075  |

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  74,010  |  43,798  |

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| --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 34% | 20% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in New Mexico. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 143,700 in 2012 to 177,200 in 2016. The increase of 33,500 American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance represents a 23% increase from 2012 to 2016. The number of insured males increased by 30%, more than females, who saw an increase of 18%. Females and males are now equally likely to have health insurance in New Mexico.

In New Mexico, the ACS estimates that 68% of American Indians and Alaska Natives have access to IHS and 32% do not have access to IHS-funded health care services.

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| --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives  |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  66,784  |  86,832  |  20,048  | 30% |
| Female |  76,961  |  90,445  |  13,484  | 18% |
| Total |  143,745  |  177,277  |  33,532  | 23% |
|  % Male  | 46% | 49% | 60% |  |
|  % Female  | 54% | 51% | 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 86,200 in 2012 to 108,200 in 2016. This represents a 26% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs. Male insurance coverage increased by 29% while females increased by 23%. In 2016, females made up 52% and males represent 48% of all insured. Males made up 53% of the increase in insured American Indians and Alaska Natives at IHS-funded programs and females 47% of the increase 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 |  40,637  |  52,285  |  11,648  | 29% |
| Female |  45,581  |  55,928  |  10,347  | 23% |
| Total |  86,218  |  108,213  |  21,995  | 26% |
|  % Male  | 47% | 48% | 53% |  |
|  % Female  | 53% | 52% | 47% |  |

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

The ACS estimates that there were 57,500 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 69,000 an increase of 20%. The rate of increase was 32% for males and 10% for females. In 2016, females make up 50% and males represent 50% of all insured. Females made up 27% of the increase since 2012 and males 73% of the increase.

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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 |  26,147  |  34,547  |  8,400  | 32% |
| Female |  31,380  |  34,517  |  3,137  | 10% |
| Total |  57,527  |  69,064  |  11,537  | 20% |
|  % Male  | 45% | 50% | 73% |  |
|  % Female  | 55% | 50% | 27% |  |

# 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 |  39,148  |  22,508  |  (16,640) | -43% |
| Female |  34,862  |  21,290  |  (13,572) | -39% |
| Total |  74,010  |  43,798  |  (30,212) | -41% |
|  % Male  | 53% | 51% | 55% |  |
|  % Female  | 47% | 49% | 45% |  |

74,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped to 43,800 uninsured, a 30,200 or 41% decrease in the number uninsured. Female uninsured declined by 39% and males 43%. Males now represent 51% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives down from 53% in 2012 as the male share of the decrease since 2012 totaled 55%.

## 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 | Decrease 12-16 | % Decrease |
| Male |  30,629  |  18,667  |  (11,962) | -39% |
| Female |  27,630  |  19,158  |  (8,472) | -31% |
| Total |  58,259  |  37,825  |  (20,434) | -35% |
|  % Male  | 53% | 49% | 59% |  |
|  % Female  | 47% | 51% | 41% |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs declined from 58,200 in 2012 to 37,800 in 2016, a decline of 35% or about 20,400 uninsured. Since 2016, females made up 41% of this decrease. Females and Males now make up about 50% of the uninsured as male gains in insurance brought parity to health insurance coverage for both sexes.

## 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 |  8,519  |  3,841  |  (4,678) | -55% |
| Female |  7,232  |  2,132  |  (5,100) | -71% |
| Total |  15,751  |  5,973  |  (9,778) | -62% |
|  % Male  | 54% | 64% | 48% |  |
|  % Female  | 46% | 36% | 52% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs declined by nearly 10,000 or 62% from 2012 to 2016. Female uninsured declined by 71% and males by 55%. Males, without access to IHS, are more likely to be uninsured than females and they make up 64% of the total number uninsured.

# Conclusion

In New Mexico, Tribes, IHS and Urban Programs’ were 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 23% and the number uninsured decreased by 41%. In a state with a large number of American Indians and Alaska Natives New Mexico was able take a large bite out of its uninsured population, but many more remain to enroll in health insurance coverage as the state’s uninsured rate remains at 20%.

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: New Mexico

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