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| **New York 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 York 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. It also depicts variation for American Indians and Alaska Natives with or without access to IHS-funded health programs. The increase in insurance coverage was 14%, the overall decline in uninsured was 28% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives as the uninsured rate declined from 11% in 2012 to 7% in 2016, the lowest of any state with a large American Indian and Alaska Native population.

# 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 York

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 147,913 | **161,679** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 16,313 | **11,680** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 11% | **7%** |

# 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 York. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 131,600 in 2012 to 150,000 in 2016. This 18,400 increase from 2012 to 2016 of *insured* American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 14% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males increased by 9%, less than females, who saw a 18% increase. In 2016 females made up 68% of the increase over 2012 and were 55% of the total American Indian and Alaska Native *insured* population.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 62,022 | 67,830 | 5,808 | 9% |
| Female | 69,578 | 82,169 | 12,591 | 18% |
| Total | 131,600 | 149,999 | 18,399 | 14% |
| % Male | 47% | 45% | 32% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 55% | 68% |  |

## 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 decreased by 4% from 10,200 in 2012 to 9,800 in 2016. Male insurance coverage decreased by 13% while females increased by 5%. In 2016 females make up 52% of all insured, up 5 percentage points from 2012, with males representing 48% of all insured. This finding of decreased insurance coverage is a contrary to the pattern in most states with Indian populations. Further research is needed to explain this variation from other states.

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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 | 5,462 | 4,758 | | (704) | | -13% |
| Female | 4,801 | 5,061 | | 260 | | 5% |
| Total | 10,263 | 9,819 | | (444) | | -4% |
| % Male | 53% | 48% | | 159% | |  |
| % Female | 47% | 52% | | -59% | |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 121,300 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 140,100 an increase of 18,800 or 16%. It seems that the expansion to 139% of the federal poverty level and the outreach and education efforts was more successful for off-reservation efforts than at Indian health programs. Males make up 45% of all insured American Indians and Alaska Natives in New York and women 55%. Females made up 65% of the increase from 2012 to 2016.

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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 | 56,560 | 63,072 | 6,512 | 12% |
| Female | 64,777 | 77,108 | 12,331 | 19% |
| Total | 121,337 | 140,180 | 18,843 | 16% |
| % Male | 47% | 45% | 35% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 55% | 65% |  |

# Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 8,800 | 6,097 | (2,703) | -31% |
| Female | 7,513 | 5,583 | (1,930) | -26% |
| Total | 16,313 | 11,680 | (4,633) | -28% |
| % Male | 54% | 52% | 58% |  |
| % Female | 46% | 48% | 42% |  |

New York had nearly 16,300 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped to 11,600 uninsured, a 28% decrease in the number uninsured. In 2016 Males represented 52% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives or 6,000 compared to 48% or 5,500 females remaining uninsured.

## 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 | 1,827 | 1,106 | (721) | -39% |
| Female | 2,917 | 1,835 | (1,082) | -37% |
| Total | 4,744 | 2,941 | (1,803) | -38% |
| % Male | 39% | 38% | 40% |  |
| % Female | 61% | 62% | 60% |  |

The number of uninsured with access to IHS-funded health programs declined by nearly 1,800 or 38% from 2012 to 2016. In 2016, males made up 38% of the 1,800 uninsured at IHS-funded programs, compared to 39% 2012. This uninsured estimate, 1,800, is a very small number and subject to a high error rate. Nonetheless, it is clear that the number of uninsured who have access to IHS services is small in New York.

## 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 12-15 | % increase/ decrease |
| Male | 6,973 | 8,140 | 1,167 | 17% |
| Female | 4,596 | 4,237 | (359) | -8% |
| Total | 11,569 | 12,377 | 808 | 7% |
| % Male | 60% | 66% | 100% |  |
| % Female | 40% | 34% | n/a |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs increased 7% from 2012 to 2016. This compares with the large decrease of 38% 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 66% of the total number uninsured in 2016.

# Conclusion

In New York, the ACA had modest success in increasing the enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Native in health insurance coverage. One important finding of this analysis is that those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs saw much larger decreases (38%) in uninsured, than those without access to IHS, who saw an actual increase in the number of uninsured. The main reason for only modest change with the ACA in New York is likely the already generous Medicaid program that had expanded eligibility for childless adults prior to the ACA.

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 aces.

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