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| **North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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 very limited success in increasing the number insured and likewise limited success in lowering the number uninsured. The uninsured rate did decline, from 28% to 25%, but a decline that places North Carolina near the bottom when compared to other states with large Indian populations.

# 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 North Carolina

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 170,652 | 191,109 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 32,598 | 28,504 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 19% | 15% |

## Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in North Carolina. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 138,000 in 2012 to 162,600 in 2016. This nearly 24,500 increase from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 18% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males increased by 15% less than the increase for females, who saw an 20% increase. Females represented 53% of all insured in 2016 compared to 52% in 2012.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 66,771 | 76,751 | 9,980 | 15% |
| Female | 71,283 | 85,854 | 14,571 | 20% |
| Total | 138,054 | 162,605 | 24,551 | 18% |
| % Male | 48% | 47% | 41% |  |
| % Female | 52% | 53% | 59% |  |

## 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 about 6,000 in 2012 to 7,000 in 2016. This represents a 20% change in insured patients at IHS funded health programs. Male insurance coverage increased by 27% while females increased by 14%. In 2016 females make up 50% of all insured compared to 53% in 2012 as males gained more coverage--- fully 63% of added insured in 2016 were males.

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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 | 2,792 | 3,545 | 753 | 27% |
| Female | 3,168 | 3,611 | 443 | 14% |
| Total | 5,960 | 7,156 | 1,196 | 20% |
| % Male | 47% | 50% | 63% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 50% | 37% |  |

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

The ACS estimates that there were 132,000 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012, 98% of the total population (with just 2% having access to IHS). By 2016 this increased to 155,500 an 18% increase. Males represent a 47% share of the total insured population as females gained 60% of the increase in coverage since 2012.

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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 | 63,979 | 73,206 | 9,227 | 14% |
| Female | 68,115 | 82,243 | 14,128 | 21% |
| Total | 132,094 | 155,449 | 23,355 | 18% |
| % Male | 48% | 47% | 40% |  |
| % Female | 52% | 53% | 60% |  |

# 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 | % decrease |
| Male | 18,954 | 17,057 | (1,897) | -10% |
| Female | 13,644 | 11,447 | (2,197) | -16% |
| Total | 32,598 | 28,504 | (4,094) | -13% |
| % Male | 58% | 60% | 46% |  |
| % Female | 42% | 40% | 54% |  |

North Carolina had 32,600 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped to 28,500 uninsured, a 13% decrease in the number uninsured. Males represented 60% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2016. Females made up 54% of the decline in uninsured since 2012. This success in increasing coverage is surprising in a state that did not expand Medicaid, although some of the increase was due to the 4,000 increase in the state’s Indian population, other factors such as simplified web-based enrollment may have helped increase Medicaid coverage.

## 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 | 1,586 | 2,691 | 1,105 | 70% |
| Female | 1,292 | 1,660 | 368 | 28% |
| Total | 2,878 | 4,351 | 1,473 | 51% |
| % Male | 55% | 62% | 75% |  |
| % Female | 45% | 38% | 25% |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs increased from 2,800 in 2012 to 4,300 in 2016 an increase of 51% as increased insurance coverage failed to keep pace with population growth. This decline puts North Carolina near the bottom of states in addressing the problem of health care access with increased health insurance; particularly for those with access to IHS funded health care programs.

## 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 | 17,368 | 14,366 | (3,002) | -17% |
| Female | 12,352 | 9,787 | (2,565) | -21% |
| Total | 29,720 | 24,153 | (5,567) | -19% |
| % Male | 58% | 59% | 54% |  |
| % Female | 42% | 41% | 46% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 5,500 or 19% from 2012 to 2016. Males, without access to IHS, are more likely to be uninsured than females and they make up 59% of the total number uninsured in 2016, although males saw a larger decline in uninsured since 2012.

# Conclusion

In North Carolina, American Indians and Alaska Natives saw increased in enrollment in health insurance coverage. The gains were modest and the number of uninsured remained at 15%, a modest improvement from 19% in 2012. This is, in part, because the state did not adopt Medicaid Expansion. The 28,000 uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in North Carolina is a stark reminder of the impact of the state decision to forego the expansion of its Medicaid program.

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: North Carolina

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