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| **North Dakota 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 Dakota 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 significantly. The state’s American Indian and Alaska Native population increased by 14,500 between 2012 and 2016 the greatest percentage increase of any state in this time period. The number with health insurance also increased, by 55% since 2012 and its uninsured rate fell from a very high 35% in 2012 to 25% in 2016, still one of the highest in the nation.

# 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 Dakota

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| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  42,347  |  **56,971**  |

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  14,716  |  **14,240**  |

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| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 35% | **25%** |

# 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 Dakota. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 27,631 in 2012 to 42,700 in 2016. This 15,100 increase from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 55% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males increased by 71%, higher than females, who saw an 40% increase. Males now make up 52% of the insured, up from 47% in 2012.

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| --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  12,931  |  22,143  |  9,212  | 71% |
| Female |  14,700  |  20,588  |  5,888  | 40% |
| Total |  27,631  |  42,731  |  15,100  | 55% |
|  % Male  | 47% | 52% | 61% |  |
|  % Female  | 53% | 48% | 39% |  |

## 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 17,100 in 2012 to 23,000 in 2016. This represents a 34% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs. Male insurance coverage increased by 57% while females increased by 17%. Males accounted for 72% of the 2012 to 2016 increase of 5,800 insured. In 2016 females make up 49% of all insured reversing the pattern of 2012 where females were more likely insured than males at 56% of the 2012 total. Clearly the Medicaid expansion of eligibility to childless adults influenced this increase in male insurance coverage.

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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 |  7,450  |  11,663  |  4,213  | 57% |
| Female |  9,672  |  11,320  |  1,648  | 17% |
| Total |  17,122  |  22,983  |  5,861  | 34% |
|  % Male  | 44% | 51% | 72% |  |
|  % Female  | 56% | 49% | 28% |  |

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

The ACS estimates that there were 10,500 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 19,700 an increase of 88%. This compares to the 34% increase for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS. Males represented 54% of the total increase of 9,200 newly insured. Males continued to represent 53% of all insured. It seems likely that the general population increase of American Indians and Alaska Natives in the state is in the category of those without access to IHS, i.e., they are not automatically enjoying 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 |  5,481  |  10,480  |  4,999  | 91% |
| Female |  5,028  |  9,268  |  4,240  | 84% |
| Total |  10,509  |  19,748  |  9,239  | 88% |
|  % Male  | 52% | 53% | 54% |  |
|  % Female  | 48% | 47% | 46% |  |

# 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/ increase |
| Male |  8,871  |  6,997  |  (1,874) | -21% |
| Female |  5,845  |  7,243  |  1,398  | 24% |
| Total |  14,716  |  14,240  |  (476) | -3% |
|  % Male  | 60% | 49% |  |  |
|  % Female  | 40% | 51% |  |  |

North Dakota had 14,716 uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped to 14,200 uninsured, a 3% decrease in the number uninsured. Males represented 49% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives or 7,000 compared to 7,200 females. Males, however, represented all of the decrease since 2012. It is worth keeping in mind that the state’s American Indian and Alaska Native population grew 35% during these time period and that is the main reason the number of uninsured did not decline while the rate of uninsured did for both those with and without access to IHS.

## 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 |  7,451  |  6,125  |  (1,326) | -18% |
| Female |  5,254  |  6,922  |  1,668  | 32% |
| Total |  12,705  |  13,047  |  342  | 3% |
|  % Male  | 59% | 47% |  |  |
|  % Female  | 41% | 53% |  |  |

The number of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs declined by 300 or 3% from 2012 to 2016. Males made up all of the total decline as the number of males uninsured dropped by 1,300 from 7,400 in 2012 to 6,100 in 2016 a reduction of 18%. Female uninsured increased, by 1,600, a 32% increase from 2012. In 2016, males made up 47% of all uninsured at IHS-funded programs, down from 59% in 2012.

## 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 |  1,420  |  872  |  (548) | -39% |
| Female |  591  |  321  |  (270) | -46% |
| Total |  2,011  |  1,193  |  (818) | -41% |
|  % Male  | 71% | 73% | 67% |  |
|  % Female  | 29% | 27% | 33% |  |

The number of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased from 2012 to 2016. Males, without access to IHS, are more likely to be uninsured, than females and they make up 73% of the total number uninsured. Males, however, made up 67% of the total decline since 2012 as the number of males uninsured decreased from 2,000 in 2012 to 1,200 in 2016.

# Conclusion

In North Dakota, the ACA was successful in increasing the enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Native in health insurance coverage. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 27,631 in 2012 to 42,700 in 2016. This 15,100 increase from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 55% increase in the number insured. The uninsured rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives declined by 10% from a rate of 35% to 25%. North Dakota did adopt Medicaid expansion and this is the likely reason for increased insurance coverage. The current uninsured rate means there is still gains to be made in this state with a rapidly growing Indian population.

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.

### Comparision of 2012 and 2016 Population with and without Access to IHS-funded Health Care Services

## Comparison of 20 States with Large American Indian and Alaska Native Population.