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| **Texas Health INsurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Impact of the affordable care act 2012-2015.** |
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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 Texas 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 number of insured increased by 16% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives. The number of uninsured also declined by 12% or 6,600, compared to national decline of 27%.

# 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: Texas

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 281,742 | **312,102** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 55,456 | **48,837** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 20% | **16%** |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in Texas. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 226,200 in 2012 to 263,200 in 2016. This 37,000 increase from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 16% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males and females increased 15%. Males made up just 48% of the increase, females 52%. Females make up 52% of all insured; unchanged from 2012.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 109,047 | 126,979 | 17,932 | 16% |
| Female | 117,239 | 136,286 | 19,047 | 16% |
| Total | 226,286 | 263,265 | 36,979 | 16% |
| % Male | 48% | 48% | 48% |  |
| % Female | 52% | 52% | 52% |  |

## 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 9,700 in 2012 to 14,600 in 2016. This represents a 51% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs. Male insurance coverage increased by 44% while females increased by 51%. In 2016 females make up 54% of all insured.

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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 | 4,697 | 6,750 | 2,053 | 44% |
| Female | 5,015 | 7,937 | 2,922 | 58% |
| Total | 9,712 | 14,687 | 4,975 | 51% |
| % Male | 48% | 46% | 41% |  |
| % Female | 52% | 54% | 59% |  |

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

The ACS estimates that there were 216,500 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 248,500 an increase of 15%. Males and females equally represented 50% of the total increase of 32,000 newly insured and both males and females had increases of essentially the same percentage, 15% and 14% respectively. Females represent 52% of all insured in 2016 unchanged from 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 | 104,350 | 120,229 | 15,879 | 15% |
| Female | 112,224 | 128,349 | 16,125 | 14% |
| Total | 216,574 | 248,578 | 32,004 | 15% |
| % Male | 48% | 48% | 50% |  |
| % Female | 52% | 52% | 50% |  |

# 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 | 29,426 | 26,829 | (2,597) | -9% |
| Female | 26,030 | 22,008 | (4,022) | -15% |
| Total | 55,456 | 48,837 | (6,619) | -12% |
| % Male | 53% | 55% | 39% |  |
| % Female | 47% | 45% | 61% |  |

Texas had a total of 55,400 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012 (all were Native born American Indians and Alaska Natives in a state with many foreign-born who self-report Indian in the ACS). By 2016 this number had decreased to 48,800 uninsured, a 12% decrease in the number uninsured. Males represented 55% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives or 26,800 compared to 22,000 females.

## 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 | 1,587 | 3,123 | 1,536 | 97% |
| Female | 1,884 | 2,995 | 1,111 | 59% |
| Total | 3,471 | 6,118 | 2,647 | 76% |
| % Male | 46% | 51% | 58% |  |
| % Female | 54% | 49% | 42% |  |



The number of uninsured with access to IHS-funded health programs, albeit very small number in Texas, decreased by 2,600 or 76% from 2012 to 2016. Males decreased by 97% and made up 58% of the total decrease. Female uninsured also decreased by 59% since 2012.

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without Access to IHS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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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 | 27,839 | 23,706 | (4,133) | -15% |
| Female | 24,146 | 19,013 | (5,133) | -21% |
| Total | 51,985 | 42,719 | (9,266) | -18% |
| % Male | 54% | 55% | 45% |  |
| % Female | 46% | 45% | 55% |  |

The number of uninsured without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by 9,200 or over 18% from 2012 to 2016. Of the 42,700 uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS, males are more likely to be uninsured than females and they make up 55% of the total number uninsured. Females made up 55% of the total decline since 2012. Female uninsured declined by 21% between 2012 and 2016.

# Conclusion

In Texas, a large population increase resulted in increased enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Natives with health insurance coverage. Coverage increased by nearly 37,000 additional insured from 226,200 in 2012 to 263,200 in 2016. The number of uninsured also declined by 12% or 6,600, compared to national decline of 27%. Texas did not adopt Medicaid expansion and this is the likely reason for the smaller decrease in the number uninsured. Due to the large size of the American Indian and Alaska Native population in Texas it is contributes significantly to the number of newly insured American Indians and Alaska Natives with its 37,000 increase over 2012. It likewise contributes to the number of uninsured with 48,800 remaining uninsured in 2016, fully 16% of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, in a state with the fourth largest Indian population in the nation.

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.