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| **Utah Health INsurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Impact of the affordable care act 2012-2016.** |
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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 Utah 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 some success in increasing the number insured, thus lowering the number uninsured for both males and females by 35%. Likewise, the number insured increased by 21% in Utah from 2012 to 2016. These are surprising gains in a state that did not expand Medicaid.

# 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 Utah

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| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  48,545  |  51,202  |

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| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  13,497  |  8,727  |

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| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 28% | 17% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts no health insurance enrollment increases in Utah. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance was 35,000 2012 and increased by 21% to 42,400 insured in 2016. Females increased 31% and now make up 55% of total uninsured.

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| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  17,171  |  19,098  |  1,927  | 11% |
| Female |  17,877  |  23,377  |  5,500  | 31% |
| Total |  35,048  |  42,475  |  7,427  | 21% |
|  % Male  | 49% | 45% | 26% |  |
|  % Female  | 51% | 55% | 74% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS

Health insurance coverage increased by 79% from 2012 to 2016 for American Indians and Alaska Natives who feel they have access to IHS services. The number insured increased from 3,500 to 6,400. Male made up 61% of the total increase and now constitute 56% 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 |  1,845  |  3,584  |  1,739  | 94% |
| Female |  1,744  |  2,835  |  1,091  | 63% |
| Total |  3,589  |  6,419  |  2,830  | 79% |
|  % Male  | 51% | 56% | 61% |  |
|  % Female  | 49% | 44% | 39% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 31,400 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016, the number insured increased to 36,000. There is evidence of modest success in Utah as the 2012 to 2016 increase was 15%. Females make up 53% of the insured American Indian and Alaska Native population in Utah who do not have 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 |  15,326  |  15,514  |  188  | 1% |
| Female |  16,133  |  20,542  |  4,409  | 27% |
| Total |  31,459  |  36,056  |  4,597  | 15% |
|  % Male  | 49% | 43% | 4% |  |
|  % Female  | 53% | 53% | 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 | % increase |
| Male |  7,876  |  5,191  |  (2,685) | -34% |
| Female |  5,621  |  3,536  |  (2,085) | -37% |
| Total |  13,497  |  8,727  |  (4,770) | -35% |
|  % Male  | 58% | 59% | 56% |  |
|  % Female  | 42% | 41% | 44% |  |

Utah had 13,500 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 8,700 uninsured, a 35% decrease in the number uninsured. Males made up 56% of the decrease and now males represent 59% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives and females make up 41% of the 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 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  1,434  |  2,452  |  1,018  | 71% |
| Female |  1,783  |  2,328  |  545  | 31% |
| Total |  3,217  |  4,780  |  1,563  | 49% |
|  % Male  | 45% | 51% | 65% |  |
|  % Female  | 55% | 49% | 35% |  |

American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded health programs did see a 49% decline in the number uninsured from 2012 to 2016. Males uninsured declined by 71% and female by 29% resulting in 1,500 fewer uninsured in 2016. Females now make up just 49% of the uninsured of those with access to IHS-funded health programs, down from 55% 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 |  6,442  |  2,739  |  (3,703) | -57% |
| Female |  3,838  |  1,208  |  (2,630) | -69% |
| Total |  10,280  |  3,947  |  (6,333) | -62% |
|  % Male  | 63% | 69% | 58% |  |
|  % Female  | 37% | 31% | 42% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by nearly 6,300 or 62% from 2012 to 2016 as the number uninsured fell from 10,200 to just under 4,000. Males now make up 69% of the uninsured and females 31%.

# Conclusion

In Utah, the ACA was successful in reducing the number of uninsured. Utah did not adopt Medicaid expansion, so the reason for the decline is not clear and deserves closer review.

The Tribes and state’s efforts to increase enrollment appear to have reap benefits despite the failure to expand Medicaid.

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: Utah

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