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| **Virginia 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 Virginia 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. The number of uninsured decrease by 27% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives. The state lowered its rate of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives from 13% in 2012 to 7% in 2016.

# 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: Virginia

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 83,406 | 81,365 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 11,139 | 5,877 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 | |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 13% | 7% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts small health insurance enrollment increases in Virginia. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 72,200 in 2012 to 75,400 in 2016. This 3,200 increase from 2012 to 2016 of insured American Indians and Alaska Natives represents a 4% increase in the number insured. The number of insured males increased by 7%, more than females, who saw a 2% increase. Males made up 73% of the increase. Females now make up 52% of all insured and men now make up 48% relatively unchanged from 2012.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 34,195 | 36,532 | 2,337 | 7% |
| Female | 38,072 | 38,956 | 884 | 2% |
| Total | 72,267 | 75,488 | 3,221 | 4% |
| % Male | 47% | 48% | 73% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 52% | 27% |  |

## 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 was so small that extreme caution should be exercised in interpreting the estimates. The small sample size reflects the very small number of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Virginia who feel they have access to IHS services. There is now one federally recognized tribe, the Pamunkey

Tribe, in Virginia. The small sample size means we can only say with confidence that the direction of change is positive, but the actual level of change is uncertain (and more likely unreliable).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 261 | 601 | 340 | 130% |
| Female | 330 | 394 | 64 | 19% |
| Total | 591 | 995 | 404 | 68% |
| % Male | 44% | 60% | 84% |  |
| % Female | 56% | 40% | 16% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 71,600 insured American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 74,400 an increase of 4%. Males represented 71% of the total increase of 2,800 newly insured and females an increase of just 2%. Males now represent 48% of all insured up from 47% in 2012.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives with No Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 33,934 | 35,931 | 1,997 | 6% |
| Female | 37,742 | 38,562 | 820 | 2% |
| Total | 71,676 | 74,493 | 2,817 | 4% |
| % Male | 47% | 48% | 71% |  |
| % Female | 53% | 52% | 29% |  |

# Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 5,873 | 4,023 | (1,850) | -32% |
| Female | 5,266 | 1,854 | (3,412) | -65% |
| Total | 11,139 | 5,877 | (5,262) | -47% |
| % Male | 53% | 68% | 35% |  |
| % Female | 47% | 32% | 65% |  |

Virginia had 11,100 American Indians and Alaska Natives who were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had decreased to 5,800 uninsured, a 47% decrease in the number uninsured. Males made up 35% of the decrease and now males represent 68% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives up from 53% in 2012.

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives with Access to IHS

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives  with Access to IHS | | | | | |
|  | 2012 | | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male | 142 | 131 | | (11) | -8% |
| Female | - | - | | #VALUE! | #VALUE! |
| Total | 142 | 131 | | (11) | -8% |
| % Male | 100% | 100% | | 100% |  |
| % Female | 0% | | 0% | #VALUE! |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs is very small in Virginia and extreme caution is advised with the estimate for this population. No conclusions can be drawn from such a small sample size.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012-2016 American Indians and Alaska Natives Without Health Insurance Coverage with No Access to IHS | | | | |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % decrease |
| Male | 5,731 | 3,892 | (1,839) | -32% |
| Female | 5,266 | 1,854 | (3,412) | -65% |
| Total | 10,997 | 5,746 | (5,251) | -48% |
| % Male | 52% | 68% | 35% |  |
| % Female | 48% | 32% | 65% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs decreased by nearly 5,200 or 48% from 2012 to 2016. Female uninsured declined by 65%, males by 32%. Males and females were equally represented among the uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2012, but in 2016 Males were more likely (68%) than females (32%) to be uninsured.

# Conclusion

In Virginia, the population of American Indians and Alaska Natives declined by 2,000 from 2012 to 2016. This explains, in part, why health insurance coverage increased by just 2% since 2012. However, the number of uninsured declined by 27% as a higher percentage of the population gained insurance coverage. Virginia did not adopt Medicaid expansion and this is the likely reason for the small increase in the number insured. The state’s 2016 rate of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives was a very low 7%, down from 13% in 2012, putting it among the leaders in the nation for access to health insurance coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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: Virginia

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