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| **WASHINGTON 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 Washington 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. It also depicts variation for American Indians and Alaska Natives with or without access to IHS-funded health programs. The overall decline in uninsured was 38% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives. However, the decline for those American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS-funded programs was 30% compared the 69% decline for those without access to IHS. Washington has one of the lowest levels of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in any state with a significant American Indian and Alaska Native population with just 11% uninsured in 2016, a 50% decline from its 2012 rate of 22% uninsured.

# 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: Washington

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| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  194,178  |  211,950  |

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| --- |
| American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
|  42,017  |  22,484  |

|  |
| --- |
| Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016 |
| 2012 | **2016** |
| 22% | 11% |

# Health Insurance Coverage

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

The table that follows depicts large health insurance enrollment increases in Washington. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with health insurance rose from 152,100 in 2012 to 189,400 in 2016. The increase of 37,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance represents a 25% increase from 2012 to 2016. The number of insured males increased by 21%, less than females, who saw an increase of 28%. Females and males are equally likely to have health insurance in Washington.

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| --- |
| 2012-2016 Health Coverage American Indians and Alaska Natives  |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  76,146  |  92,030  |  15,884  | 21% |
| Female |  76,015  |  97,436  |  21,421  | 28% |
| Total |  152,161  |  189,466  |  37,305  | 25% |
|  % Male  | 50% | 49% | 43% |  |
|  % Female  | 50% | 51% | 57% |  |

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

In Washington, the ACS estimates that 29% of American Indians and Alaska Natives have access to IHS and 71% do not have access to IHS-funded health care services. The number of *insured* American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS increased from 38,400 in 2012 to 48,300 in 2016. This represents a 26% increase in insured patients at IHS funded health programs. Male insurance coverage increased by 16% while females increased by 35%. In 2016, females made up 54% and males represent 46% of all insured. Males made up 30% of the increase in insured American Indians and Alaska Natives at IHS-funded programs and females 70% of the increase since 2012.

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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 |  19,147  |  22,148  |  3,001  | 16% |
| Female |  19,346  |  26,190  |  6,844  | 35% |
| Total |  38,493  |  48,338  |  9,845  | 26% |
|  % Male  | 50% | 46% | 30% |  |
|  % Female  | 50% | 54% | 70% |  |

## Health Insurance Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 113,600 *insured* American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this increased to 141,100 an increase of 24%. The rate of increase was 23% for males and 26% females. In 2016, females make up 50% and males represent 50% of all insured. Females made up 53% of the increase 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 |  56,999  |  69,882  |  12,883  | 23% |
| Female |  56,669  |  71,246  |  14,577  | 26% |
| Total |  113,668  |  141,128  |  27,460  | 24% |
|  % Male  | 50% | 50% | 47% |  |
|  % Female  | 50% | 50% | 53% |  |

# Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives: Total Population

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2012-2016 Uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives |
|  | 2012 | 2016 | Decrease 12-16 | % increase |
| Male |  22,864  |  12,588  |  (10,276) | -45% |
| Female |  19,153  |  9,896  |  (9,257) | -48% |
| Total |  42,017  |  22,484  |  (19,533) | -46% |
|  % Male  | 54% | 56% | 53% |  |
|  % Female  | 46% | 44% | 47% |  |

42,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives were uninsured in 2012. By 2016 this number had dropped to 22,400 uninsured, a 46% decrease in the number uninsured. Female uninsured declined by 48% and males 45%. Males represented 56% of all uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2016. A slightly higher percentage of the additional insured American Indian and Alaska Native population was male (53%) than female (47%).

## 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 |  7,932  |  6,477  |  (1,455) | -18% |
| Female |  9,590  |  6,419  |  (3,171) | -33% |
| Total |  17,522  |  12,896  |  (4,626) | -26% |
|  % Male  | 45% | 50% | 31% |  |
|  % Female  | 55% | 50% | 69% |  |

The number of uninsured patients with access to IHS-funded health programs declined from 17,500 in 2012 to 12,900 in 2016, a decline of about 4,600 uninsured. Since 2016, females made up 69% of the decrease. Females and Males now make up 50% of the uninsured as female gains in insurance brought parity to health insurance coverage for both sexes.

## 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 |  14,932  |  6,111  |  (8,821) | -59% |
| Female |  9,563  |  3,477  |  (6,086) | -64% |
| Total |  24,495  |  9,588  |  (14,907) | -61% |
|  % Male  | 61% | 64% | 59% |  |
|  % Female  | 39% | 36% | 41% |  |

The number of uninsured patients without access to IHS-funded health programs declined by nearly 15,000 or 61% from 2012 to 2016. Males, without access to IHS, are more likely to be uninsured, than females and they make up 64% of the total number uninsured. Males, however, made up 59% of the total decline since 2012.

# Conclusion

In Washington, the ACA was very successful in increasing the enrollment of American Indian and Alaska Native with health insurance coverage. The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with insurance increased by 25% and the number uninsured decreased by 46%. Washington now has one of the lowest levels of uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives in any state with a significant American Indian and Alaska Native population with just 11% uninsured in 2016, a 50% decline from its 2012 rate of 22% uninsured.

Source of Data: 1-year American Community Survey, US Census

Years: 2012 and 2016. 2016 ACS Data Release of October 19, 2017.

No Foreign Born, that is, nativity is the United States.

American Indian and Alaska Natives Alone and In-combination with other races.

### No Change in Access to IHS from 2012 to 2016: Washington

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