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| **Oklahoma Medicaid Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives: The Impact of the affordable care act 2012-2016.** |
| Tracking the Impact of Medicaid Coverage for American Indian and Alaska Natives |

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# Abstract

This data brief examines the evidence of the success of the Affordable Care Act to increase Medicaid Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Oklahoma. A review of findings from the American Community Survey depicts little evidence of success in increasing the number enrolled in Medicaid. The overall decrease in enrollment in Medicaid was or 1% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives. Enrollment increases were larger for American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS as those with access increased by 9% compared to the 14% decrease for those without access to IHS. The decision not to expand Medicaid is the most likely reason the rate of uninsured remained at 25% in 2016, 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 Table: Oklahoma

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **American Indian and Alaska Native Population 2012 and 2016** | |
| **2012** | **2016** |
| **510,587** | **522,442** |
|  |  |
| **American Indian and Alaska Native Uninsured 2012 and 2016** | |
| **2012** | **2016** |
| **144,713** | **129,643** |
|  |  |
| **Uninsured Rate 2012 and 2016** | |
| **2012** | **2016** |
| **28%** | **25%** |
|  |  |
| **Medicaid Enrollment 2012 and 2016** | |
| **2012** | **2016** |
| **125,126** | **124,331** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2012 to 2016 Medicaid Enrollment  Total American Indian and Alaska Native, With IHS and No IHS Access | | | | |
| Total Pop | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | % increase |
| Total Pop | 125,126 | 124,331 | (795) | -1% |
| Male | 59,550 | 56,917 | (2,633) | -4% |
| Female | 65,576 | 67,414 | 1,838 | 3% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| IHS | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | |
| Total Pop | 70,399 | 77,078 | 6,679 | 9% |
| Male | 32,297 | 34,721 | 2,424 | 8% |
| Female | 38,102 | 42,357 | 4,255 | 11% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| No IHS | 2012 | 2016 | Increase 12-16 | |
| Total Pop | 54,727 | 47,253 | (7,474) | -14% |
| Male | 27,253 | 22,196 | (5,057) | -19% |
| Female | 27,474 | 25,057 | (2,417) | -9% |

# Medicaid Coverage

## Medicaid Coverage of all American Indians and Alaska Natives

The number of Oklahoma American Indians and Alaska Natives with Medicaid declined from 125,100 in 2012 to 124,300 in 2016. This 1% decrease (statistically no change) is evidence of the decision not to expand Medicaid in Oklahoma. 24% of the total American Indian and Alaska Native population is covered by Medicaid in 2016 essentially unchanged from 25% in 2012. 26% of females and 22% of males were enrolled in Medicaid Coverage; the lowest enrollment rates in the nation for any state with a significant Indian population.

## Medicaid Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## With Access to IHS

The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives enrolled in Medicaid in Oklahoma with access to IHS increased by 6,600 or 9% from 70,400 in 2012 to 77,000 in 2016. Female enrollment was up by 11% and males 8% over 2012. Overall 23% of those with access to IHS were now covered by Medicaid health insurance in 2016 unchanged from 2012. In 2016, 21% of males with access to IHS had Medicaid coverage compared to 22% in 2012 while female coverage was essentially unchanged from 24% to 25% in 2016.

## Medicaid Coverage for American Indians and Alaska Natives

## Without Access to IHS

The ACS estimates that there were 54,700 Medicaid-enrolled American Indians and Alaska Natives without access to IHS-funded health programs in 2012. By 2016 this decreased by 7,400 to 47,200 a decrease of 14%. In 2012, 28% of females had Medicaid coverage and that decreased to 27% in 2016. Male coverage decreased from 27% to 23%. Overall, 25% of those without access to IHS were now covered by Medicaid health insurance in 2016, down slightly from 2012.

## Comparing Increases in Medicaid Coverage: By Access to IHS

American Indians and Alaska Natives with IHS access enrollment was unchanged from 2012 to 2016. Those who indicate they do not have access to IHS decreased by 2 percentage points from 27% to 25%.

# Conclusion

Oklahoma’s decision not to expand Medicaid resulted in an overall decrease in enrollment in Medicaid of 1% for all American Indians and Alaska Natives despite a 12,000 person increase in population from 2012 to 2016. Enrollment increases were larger for American Indians and Alaska Natives with access to IHS as those with access increased by 9% compared to the 14% decrease for those without access to IHS. The uninsured rate in the state did decline from 28% in 2012 to 25% in 2012 despite the limited contribution of Medicaid to increasing coverage in the state. The 25% rate is one of the highest in the nation and many would likely be eligible for Medicaid should the state decide to expand Medicaid in the future.

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.

## 2017 Report: Percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native Population with Medicaid Coverage, 30 States with Large American Indian and Alaska Native Pop. Ranked by 2016

## 2017 Report: Percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native Population Uninsured 2012 and 2016 in 30 States with Large Indian Populations, ranked by 2016 Percentage

## The Percentage of Medicaid Enrollees with and without Access to IHS: Oklahoma