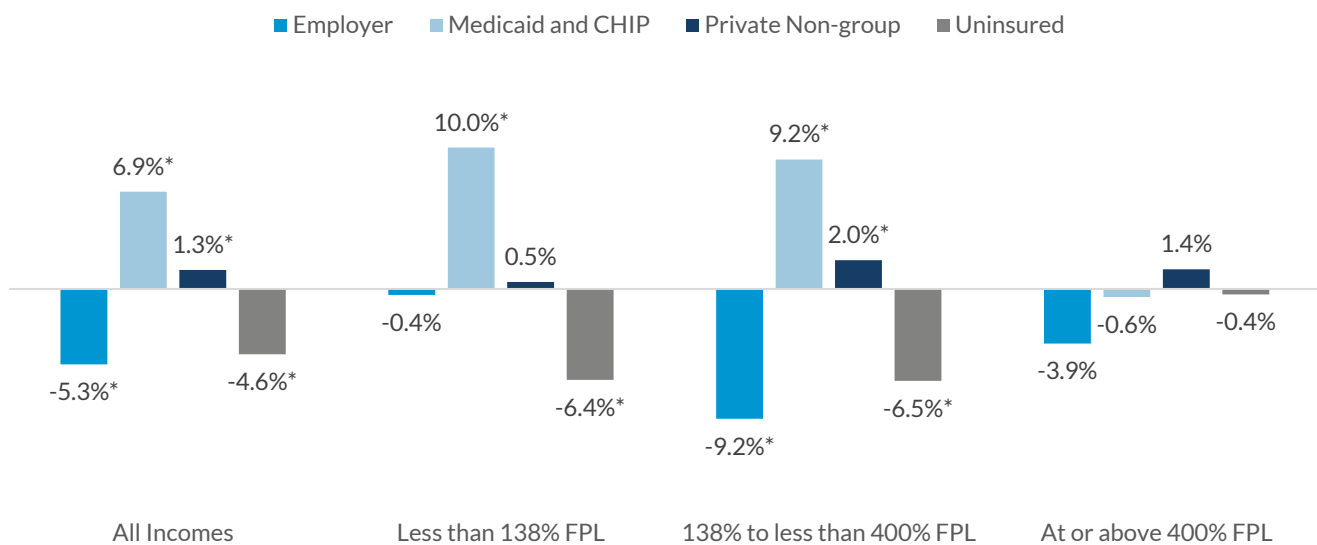


Changes in Health Insurance Coverage in Alaska, 2013-2016

Between 2013 and 2016, as the Affordable Care Act was implemented, the uninsured rate for the nonelderly (ages 0 to 64) in Alaska fell from 20.1 percent to 15.5 percent, meaning 29,000 more people with health insurance coverage (Table 1). Increases in health insurance coverage were driven by increases in Medicaid coverage (6.9 percentage points) due to Alaska’s Medicaid expansion, with smaller increases in private non-group coverage (1.3 percentage points) (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1
Percentage-Point Changes in Insurance Coverage by Income in Alaska, 2013 to 2016



Source: Urban Institute analysis of American Community Survey data from 2013 and 2016 using the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series

Notes: CHIP = Children’s Health Insurance Program. FPL = federal poverty level. Estimates reflect income for the health insurance unit developed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center and include adjustments for misreporting of health insurance coverage on the American Community Survey developed by Victoria Lynch et al. Coverage through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services and Medicare is not shown because such coverage changes little year to year among the civilian, non-institutionalized nonelderly.

* Change is statistically significant at the 5 percent level.

Among nonelderly with incomes below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), who were targeted by the Medicaid expansion, the uninsured rate fell from 30.0 percent to 23.6 percent, meaning 10,000 fewer low-income Alaska residents uninsured. This coverage increase was driven by increases in Medicaid coverage (10.0 percentage points).

In 2016, the West region had an uninsured rate for the nonelderly of 8.9 percent, compared to 15.5 percent in Alaska. Nationally, the 2016 uninsured rate was 10.0 percent. Among the nonelderly with incomes below 138 percent of the FPL in 2016, the uninsured rate in West region was 13.7 and the national uninsured rate was 16.5 percent, compared to 23.6 percent in Alaska.

TABLE 1

Percentage-Point Changes in Insurance Coverage by Income in Alaska, 2013 to 2016

	2013		2016		Difference			
	(people)	(percent)	(people)	(percent)	(people)	(percent)		
All Incomes								
Employer	357,000	56.6%	324,000	51.2%	-34,000	*	-5.3%	*
Medicaid and State	91,000	14.4%	134,000	21.3%	44,000	*	6.9%	*
CHAMPUS/Medicare	39,000	6.1%	50,000	7.8%	11,000	*	1.7%	*
Private Nongroup	18,000	2.8%	26,000	4.2%	9,000	*	1.3%	*
Uninsured	127,000	20.1%	98,000	15.5%	-29,000	*	-4.6%	*
HIU less than 138% FPL								
Employer	41,000	21.8%	42,000	21.3%	1,000		-0.4%	
Medicaid and State	66,000	35.0%	88,000	45.0%	22,000	*	10.0%	*
CHAMPUS/Medicare	22,000	11.8%	16,000	8.1%	-6,000	*	-3.6%	*
Private Nongroup	3,000	1.4%	4,000	1.9%	1,000		0.5%	
Uninsured	57,000	30.0%	46,000	23.6%	-10,000		-6.4%	*
HIU 138 to less than 400% FPL								
Employer	161,000	62.0%	133,000	52.8%	-28,000	*	-9.2%	*
Medicaid and State	19,000	7.5%	42,000	16.6%	22,000	*	9.2%	*
CHAMPUS/Medicare	13,000	4.8%	23,000	9.3%	11,000	*	4.5%	*
Private Nongroup	9,000	3.6%	14,000	5.7%	5,000		2.0%	*
Uninsured	57,000	22.1%	39,000	15.6%	-18,000	*	-6.5%	*
HIU at or above 400% FPL								
Employer	156,000	84.7%	149,000	80.8%	-6,000		-3.9%	
Medicaid and State	5,000	2.9%	4,000	2.3%	-1,000		-0.6%	
CHAMPUS/Medicare	4,000	2.1%	10,000	5.5%	6,000	*	3.4%	*
Private Nongroup	6,000	3.2%	8,000	4.6%	3,000		1.4%	
Uninsured	13,000	7.2%	13,000	6.8%	-1,000		-0.4%	

Source: Urban Institute analysis of American Community Survey data from 2013 and 2016 using the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series

Notes: CHIP = Children's Health Insurance Program. FPL = federal poverty level. Estimates reflect income for the health insurance unit developed by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center and include adjustments for misreporting of health insurance coverage on the American Community Survey developed by Victoria Lynch et al.

* Change is statistically significant at the 5 percent level.

ADDITIONAL READING

Changes in Health Insurance Coverage 2013-2016: Medicaid Expansion States Lead the Way

Laura Skopec, John Holahan, and Caroline Elmendorf

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2018/09/changes-in-health-insurance-coverage-2013-2016.html>