



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & HEALTH

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REPEAL THREATENS THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF 7.8 MILLION WOMEN WHO RECENTLY GAINED INSURANCE COVERAGE

Health care is key to women's well-being and economic stability. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also known as "Obamacare"), insurance is easier to get and afford, and plans can no longer refuse to cover women. Each year, millions of women enroll in insurance plans under the ACA, but the law is under constant threat. Any repeal of the ACA or changes to the Medicaid program threaten the important gains women have made in obtaining quality, affordable health coverage that allows them to stay healthy and economically secure. Recent Census data show that if the ACA is repealed or changes are made to the Medicaid program, women have a lot to lose.

LOSING GAINS IN HEALTH COVERAGE NATIONWIDE:

- More than 88.5 million women ages 18–64 across the United States now have health insurance through an employer, the ACA marketplaces, state Medicaid programs, or another source. This means almost 9 in 10 women ages 18–64 now have health coverage.
- Between 2013–2015, more than 7.8 million women ages 18–64 gained health insurance coverage, a growth rate of 10 percent nationally.¹

Repealing the ACA or changing the Medicaid program puts these millions of women in jeopardy of losing their health coverage.

REVERSING GAINS IN EVERY STATE:

- Five states and D.C. have achieved nearly universal health coverage (95 percent or greater) of women ages 18–64, and in the majority of states, more than 90 percent of non-elderly women now have health insurance coverage. Before the ACA, only one state (Massachusetts) had nearly universal coverage of women ages 18–64.
- The ten states with the greatest increase in health coverage between 2013–2015 for women ages 18–64 are Nevada, California, Kentucky, Florida, Oregon, Arkansas, West Virginia, Washington, Arizona, and Texas, where more than half of the 7.8 million women ages 18–64 who gained health coverage reside.

ACA repeal or changes to the Medicaid program could mean women lose the health coverage they have gained in every state across the country.

SPECIFICALLY THREATENING GAINS IN STATES THAT HAVE EXPANDED MEDICAID:

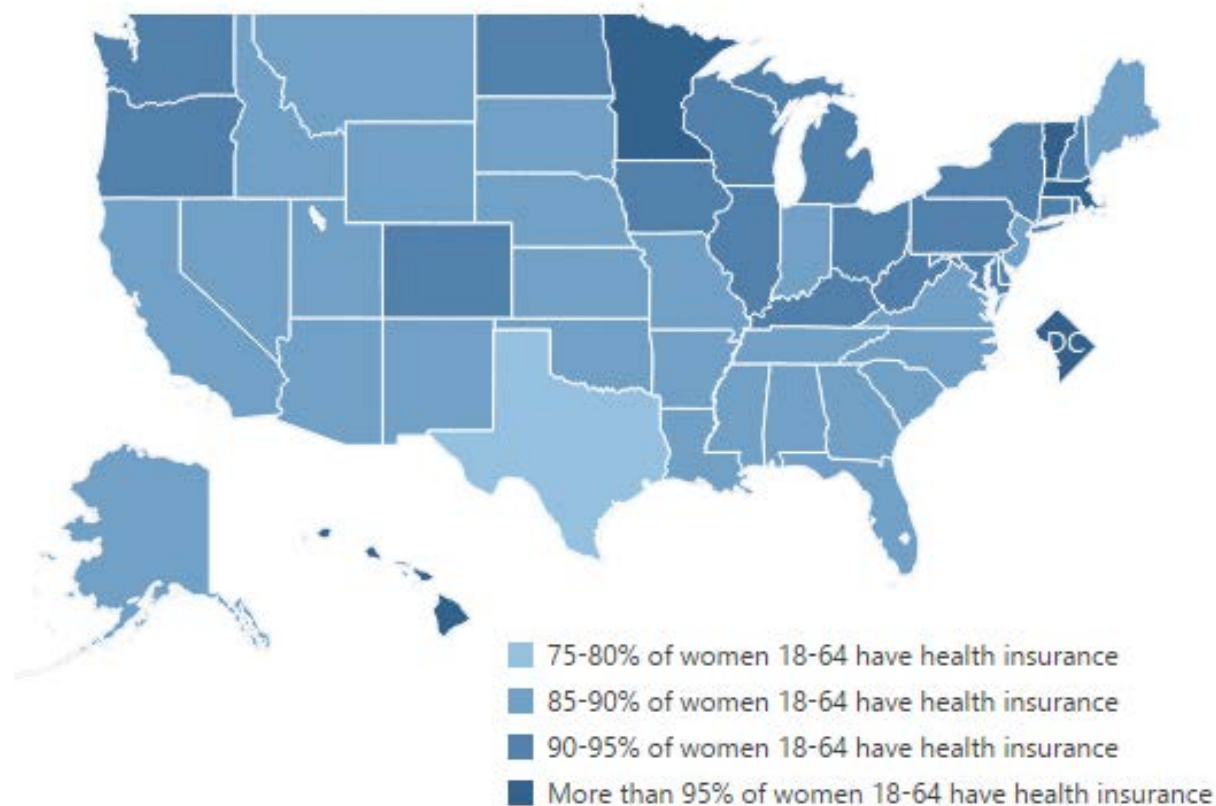
- States expanding Medicaid have seen the largest increases in insurance coverage of women ages 18–64 between 2013–2015. The vast majority—about 5 million—of women ages 18–64 who have gained health coverage live in a state that expanded Medicaid.
- Non-expansion states have the lowest proportions of women ages 18–64 with health coverage. The states with the lowest are Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Texas. In Texas, more than 1 in 5 women ages 18–64 remains uninsured.

These data indicate that expanding Medicaid produces large gains in health insurance for women across the board. Repealing the ACA, and in particular repealing Medicaid expansion, would put these gains at risk.



Find information on the gains made in coverage for women ages 18–64 in your state, and how many women stand to lose coverage, below.

Health Insurance Coverage of Women 18-64



Source: NWLC calculations based on American Community Survey (IPUMS-USA), 2013 and 2015 ACS 1-year estimates available at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/index.shtml>.

1 NWLC calculations based on American Community Survey (IPUMS-USA), 2013 and 2015 ACS 1-year estimates available at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/index.shtml>. Gains made in health insurance coverage of women 18–64, from 2013–2015 is calculated as the difference between the number of women with health insurance in 2013 and number of women with health insurance in 2015. Our analysis compares 2013 and 2015 health insurance coverage of women 18-64 as a representation of pre- and post-Affordable Care Act (ACA) trends. While some reforms of the ACA went into effect in 2010, the marketplaces did not become operational until 2014, and many of the major reforms aimed at expanding health coverage to more Americans—such as prohibitions on denying coverage for prior medical conditions, requirements that individuals have health insurance coverage, expansion of Medicaid to all adults making up to 133% of Federal Poverty Level, and availability of tax credits to purchase health plans on the newly opened health insurance marketplace—were not implemented until 2014.



Health Insurance Coverage of Women 18-64

State	Number of women with health coverage in 2015	Percent of women with health coverage in 2013	Percent of women with health coverage in 2015	Number of women who gained coverage 2013-2015	Health coverage growth rate between 2013-2015
United States	88,577,659	82%	89%	7,811,746	10%
Alabama	1,312,274	81%	86%	71,330	6%
Alaska	181,930	78%	83%	8,084	5%
Arizona	1,773,048	79%	87%	211,377	14%
Arkansas	796,481	77%	88%	102,941	15%
California	11,047,750	78%	90%	1,585,303	17%
Colorado	1,544,064	83%	91%	171,913	13%
Connecticut	1,064,893	89%	93%	49,474	5%
Delaware	277,487	89%	93%	15,558	6%
District of Columbia	239,337	94%	97%	14,179	6%
Florida	5,103,936	74%	83%	682,871	15%
Georgia	2,676,675	76%	82%	260,547	11%
Hawaii	398,702	91%	95%	18,176	5%
Idaho	414,102	78%	85%	42,961	12%
Illinois	3,701,084	84%	91%	284,854	8%
Indiana	1,802,784	82%	88%	132,759	8%
Iowa	880,667	90%	94%	40,692	5%
Kansas	764,993	83%	88%	40,457	6%
Kentucky	1,281,302	80%	93%	178,146	16%
Louisiana	1,231,918	77%	84%	102,561	9%
Maine	375,239	87%	90%	11,059	3%
Maryland	1,804,887	88%	93%	104,850	6%
Massachusetts	2,155,014	96%	97%	43,322	2%
Michigan	2,866,643	86%	93%	199,022	7%
Minnesota	1,605,992	91%	95%	83,889	6%
Mississippi	768,389	76%	83%	54,332	8%
Missouri	1,638,671	83%	88%	83,113	5%
Montana	261,003	78%	85%	20,164	8%
Nebraska	506,156	85%	90%	28,129	6%
Nevada	755,705	74%	85%	119,228	19%
New Hampshire	392,951	86%	92%	27,446	8%
New Jersey	2,534,482	83%	90%	189,511	8%
New Mexico	538,569	75%	86%	63,388	13%
New York	5,894,615	88%	92%	285,979	5%
North Carolina	2,707,830	79%	86%	232,787	9%
North Dakota	206,441	88%	91%	15,149	8%
Ohio	3,325,193	86%	93%	225,701	7%
Oklahoma	958,957	76%	81%	67,123	8%
Oregon	1,148,533	81%	92%	151,118	15%
Pennsylvania	3,692,270	88%	93%	176,170	5%
Rhode Island	322,547	86%	95%	27,769	9%
South Carolina	1,312,545	79%	86%	118,381	10%
South Dakota	219,247	84%	86%	10,359	5%
Tennessee	1,810,243	83%	87%	111,317	7%
Texas	6,596,604	72%	78%	755,316	13%
Utah	764,109	83%	87%	60,427	9%
Vermont	190,746	93%	95%	4,383	2%
Virginia	2,351,200	84%	88%	122,532	5%
Washington	2,048,696	82%	93%	256,765	14%
West Virginia	520,358	79%	94%	66,551	15%
Wisconsin	1,658,449	89%	94%	74,618	5%
Wyoming	151,950	82%	88%	7,670	5%

Source: NWLC calculations based on American Community Survey, 2013 and 2015 ACS 1-year estimates

