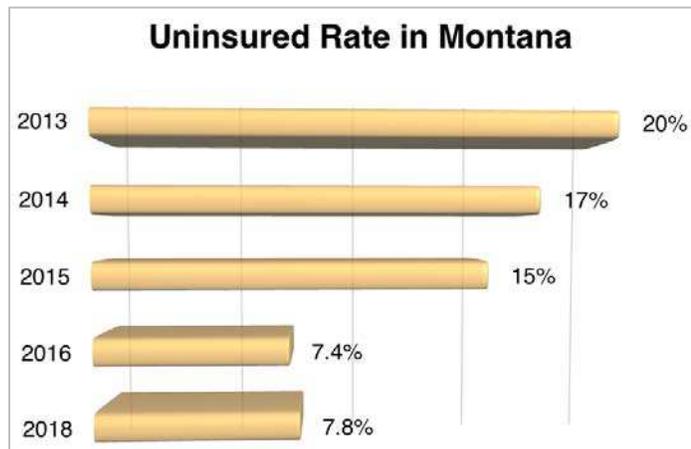


2018 REPORT ON HEALTH COVERAGE AND MONTANA'S UNINSURED

Montana's Uninsured Rate

It appears that Montana's uninsured rate has remained relatively constant since the state expanded Medicaid in 2016. In January 2018, approximately 979,257 Montanans had health coverage, out of a total population of 1,062,330, resulting in an estimated uninsured rate of 7.8 percent. Since 2012, when the uninsured rate in Montana was at least 20 percent and approximately 195,000 people were uncovered, the number of uncovered individuals has decreased to about 83,000 in 2018. In 2016, the uninsured rate was approximately 7.4 percent. The .4 percent difference between 2016 and 2018 is probably not significant because of variability in the survey instruments and the different time frames of the various sources of information. The sources and surveys used for this study mirror what was used by the Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance in 2014, 2015, and 2016.



Individual Health Insurance Market

Between April 2016 and January 2018, enrollment in the individual health insurance market declined by approximately 22.5 percent, or 18,167 covered lives. There are several probable reasons for this decline. First of all, a significant number of individuals transitioned from the individual market to Medicaid and Medicare. Medicaid was not expanded until 2016, so there were many people who transitioned to Medicaid in 2016 and 2017. The largest decrease in enrollment occurred in the off-exchange individual market, where there are no premium tax credits available. It decreased by 52.7 percent, from 28,261 in 2016 to 13,372 in 2018. Premiums in the individual market increased significantly in 2017, in part because the federal reinsurance program ended that year. In 2018, the cost of silver plans in particular increased significantly because the Trump administration stopped reimbursing health insurers for the cost-sharing reduction (CSR) benefit that individuals below 250 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) may receive. There are several probable reasons why the off-exchange market decreased: individuals could no longer afford the premiums, some individuals shifted to on-exchange plans where they could receive premium tax credits, and some individuals transitioned to Medicare or employer coverage. In April 2016, there were 80,619 covered lives in the individual market, 66,831 in January 2017, and 62,452 in January 2018. As noted above, most of those losses occurred outside the exchange market.

Medicare

Montana has an aging population and ranks in the top 10 states with the oldest population. Medicare enrollment expanded from 201,000 in 2016 to almost 218,000 in 2018. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 86 percent of Medicare enrollees have both Part A and Part B (out-patient coverage) and some form of supplemental coverage, such as Medicare Advantage, Medicare supplement insurance, employer retiree coverage, or Medicaid. Seventy-one percent of Medicare enrollees have purchased Part D or Medicaid Advantage prescription drug coverage.

Medicaid

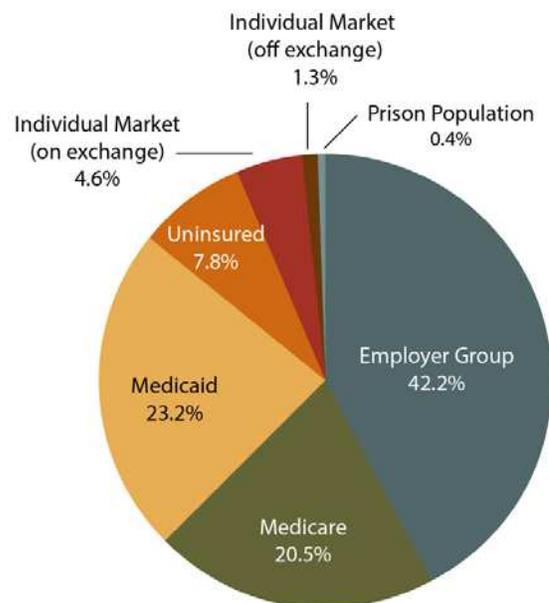
The largest age group covered by Medicaid/CHIP is children between 0 and 18 years of age. As of November 2017, of the 246,039 individuals enrolled with access to full coverage, 128,195 (51.8 percent) are children. The next largest age category is those ages 19 to 34, with 60,941 enrolled. The highest Medicaid/CHIP enrollment occurs in the rural areas of the state.

Employer Group Insurance Market

According to the statistics provided by the Kaiser Health Foundation, employer group coverage declined in Montana between 2014 and 2016, from 478,200 to 448,700. Forty-nine percent of the total population in the United States gets coverage through their employer, and that number is 43 percent in Montana. In 2012, the small employer group health insurance market had approximately 54,500 covered lives. In April 2016, there were 48,333 covered lives. And in December 2017, there were 45,762 covered lives in the small group market. Some small employers have transitioned to the individual market, where premium tax credits are available, and some have transitioned to a self-funded health plan.

Summary of Health Coverage in Montana 2018

2018 Health Insurance Coverage	
Employer Group	448,700
Medicare	217,983
Medicaid	246,039
Uninsured	83,073
Individual market (on exchange)	49,080
Individual market (off exchange)	13,372
Prison Population	4083



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