



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Juan Espinoza, Communications Associate
jespinoza@economicprogressri.org
401-456-2752 (office) 813-526-3043 (cell)

RHODE ISLAND IS TIED FOR SECOND LOWEST RATE OF UNINSURED IN NEW ENGLAND AND FOURTH LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY THANKS TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Rate of uninsured Rhode Islanders was 4.6% in 2017

Providence, RI [September 12, 2018]—New data released by the Census Bureau today show that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is

Table with 6 columns: Rhode Island, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017. Rows: Percent Uninsured, Number Uninsured.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table HIC-4_ACS. Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State All People: 2008 to 2017

working in Rhode Island and the country. The percentage of uninsured Rhode Islanders in 2017 was 4.6 percent, compared with 4.3 percent in the previous year and still less than half the 2013 rate before the ACA went into effect.

"Thanks to the ACA more Rhode Islanders are able to get the comprehensive health care they need to become or stay healthy," said Linda Katz, Policy Director for the Economic Progress Institute.

Table with 4 columns: State, Percent Uninsured, Total Uninsured, US Ranking (1= state with lowest share uninsured). Rows include United States, MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT, CONNECTICUT, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MAINE.

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey, Table H105. "Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State and Age for All People: 2017"

In 2017, Medicaid expansion allowed 75,000 single adults with income marginally above the poverty line to have health insurance coverage, representing 23% of the Medicaid-insured population.

about the Medicaid program, see Medicaid Matters in Rhode Island:

www.economicprogressri.org/MedicaidMatters2018.

Close to 31,000 Rhode Islanders purchased health insurance coverage through HealthSource RI for 2018, including people renewing their coverage and 8,000 new enrollees, an increase of 45% in new customers over 2017. The vast majority (82%) of HealthSource RI customers, received financial assistance to help reduce their monthly premiums totaling \$7.5 million in federal funds.

“The current federal administration’s consistent efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act through eliminating cost-sharing reductions and the individual mandate as well as recent proposals to lift the prohibition on denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions are truly alarming”, said Karen Malcolm, facilitator of the Protect Our Healthcare Coalition. “We are proud that Rhode Island is committed to maintaining and expanding upon the promise of the Affordable Care Act—working to keep insurance affordable and comprehensive—so we can achieve the ultimate goal of access to quality health care for all.”

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About The Economic Progress Institute

The Economic Progress Institute is a nonpartisan research and policy organization dedicated to improving the economic well-being of low- and modest-income Rhode Islanders. For more information visit www.economicprogressri.org.