



REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & HEALTH

## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REPEAL THREATENS THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF 5.1 MILLION WOMEN OF COLOR 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 of color are able to get quality, affordable coverage because of 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 of color have made, gains that allow 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 Recent Census data show that if the ACA is repealed or changes are made to the Medicaid program, women of color have a lot to lose.

### LOSING GAINS IN HEALTH COVERAGE NATIONWIDE:

- More than 32.5 million women of color ages 18-64 across the United States now have health insurance through an employer, the ACA marketplaces, state Medicaid plans, or another source.
- Between 2013-2015, 5.1 million women of color ages 18-64 gained health insurance coverage, a growth rate of about 18 percent. Between 2013-2015 coverage for women of color ages 18-64 grew at nearly twice the rate than for women overall.<sup>1</sup>

**ACA repeal puts these millions of women of color in jeopardy of losing their health coverage.**

### REVERSING GAINS IN EVERY STATE:

- Three states and D.C. have achieved nearly universal health coverage (95 percent or greater) of women of color ages 18-64, and in the majority of states more than 80 percent of women of color ages 18-64 now have health insurance coverage. Before the ACA, no states had nearly universal coverage of women of color ages 18-64.
- The ten states with the greatest increase of health coverage between 2013-2015 for women of color 18-64 are Oregon, Washington, Vermont, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Nevada, New Mexico, Kentucky, Idaho, and Florida.

**Repealing the ACA or changing the Medicaid program could mean women of color lose the health coverage they have gained in every state across the country.**

### SPECIFICALLY THREATENING GAINS IN STATES THAT HAVE EXPANDED MEDICAID:

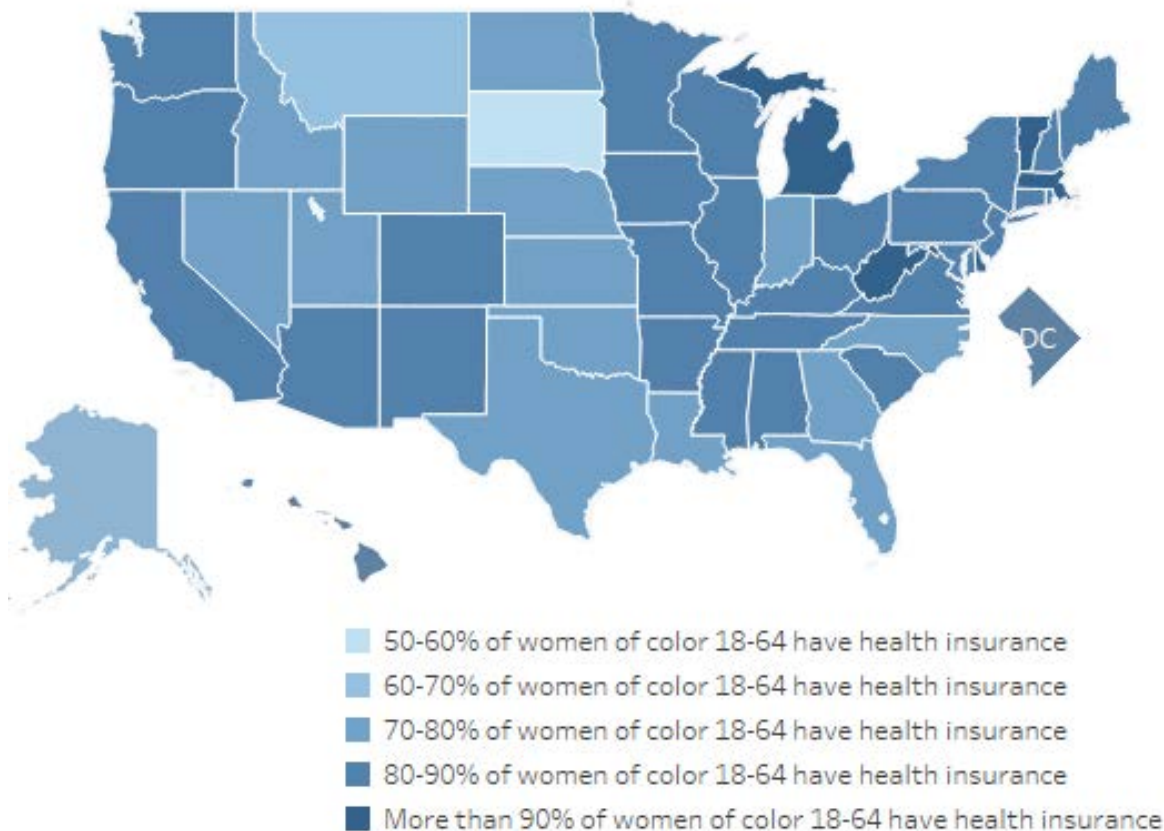
- States expanding Medicaid have seen the largest increases in insurance coverage of women of color ages 18-64. The vast majority—3.3 million—of women of color ages 18-64 who gained coverage live in a state that expanded Medicaid.
- Non-expansion states have the lowest proportions of women of color ages 18-64 with health coverage. The five states with the lowest are Oklahoma, Utah, Texas, Montana, and South Dakota. In South Dakota, more than 2 in 5 women of color ages 18-64 remains uninsured.

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



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

## Health Insurance Coverage of Women of Color 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>. Women of color include all women who identify as any race other than white, non-Hispanic in the ACS.

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>. Women of color include all women who identify as any race other than white, non-Hispanic in the ACS. Gains made in health insurance coverage of women of color 18-64, from 2013-2015 is calculated as the difference between the number of women of color 18-64 with health insurance in 2013 and the number of women of color 18-64 with health insurance in 2015. Our analysis compares 2013 and 2015 health insurance coverage of women of color 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 of Color 18-64

State	Number of women of color with health coverage in 2015	Percent of women of color with health coverage in 2013	Percent of women of color with health coverage in 2015	Women of color who gained coverage 2013-2015	Health coverage growth rate between 2013-2015
<b>United States</b>	<b>32,567,047</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>5,072,780</b>	<b>18%</b>
Alabama	446,526	75%	82%	43,994	11%
Alaska	66,835	71%	78%	9,834	17%
Arizona	748,004	70%	81%	148,096	25%
Arkansas	205,292	70%	82%	38,427	23%
California	6,752,433	73%	87%	1,335,451	25%
Colorado	426,454	73%	83%	75,631	22%
Connecticut	325,233	82%	87%	29,986	10%
Delaware	104,052	85%	91%	11,306	12%
District of Columbia	147,834	93%	96%	9,726	7%
Florida	2,299,938	66%	78%	460,719	25%
Georgia	1,213,137	69%	78%	185,514	18%
Hawaii	316,424	91%	96%	17,546	6%
Idaho	62,784	65%	76%	12,999	26%
Illinois	1,333,133	75%	85%	194,306	17%
Indiana	323,036	72%	80%	45,780	17%
Iowa	99,383	80%	84%	9,474	11%
Kansas	145,317	71%	74%	13,228	10%
Kentucky	168,911	71%	88%	34,995	26%
Louisiana	487,507	70%	79%	63,422	15%
Maine	21,304	81%	84%	1,560	8%
Maryland	866,974	83%	89%	87,420	11%
Massachusetts	585,331	94%	95%	49,900	9%
Michigan	694,247	80%	90%	86,754	14%
Minnesota	272,827	79%	88%	39,061	17%
Mississippi	333,956	73%	80%	30,794	10%
Missouri	327,171	76%	84%	44,217	16%
Montana	24,225	53%	64%	2,466	11%
Nebraska	84,683	72%	79%	12,685	18%
Nevada	356,859	68%	79%	76,770	27%
New Hampshire	31,880	75%	87%	5,850	22%
New Jersey	1,079,726	75%	84%	155,043	17%
New Mexico	322,798	66%	83%	67,994	27%
New York	2,601,059	82%	88%	242,196	10%
North Carolina	921,501	69%	79%	134,048	17%
North Dakota	21,561	75%	72%	597	3%
Ohio	661,312	80%	90%	97,727	17%
Oklahoma	272,822	66%	71%	28,706	12%
Oregon	247,103	70%	85%	59,558	32%
Pennsylvania	811,891	81%	88%	102,279	14%
Rhode Island	82,561	76%	90%	18,637	29%
South Carolina	473,413	73%	82%	63,808	16%
South Dakota	23,917	58%	57%	1,911	9%
Tennessee	443,937	78%	81%	39,945	10%
Texas	3,423,921	62%	71%	586,288	21%
Utah	128,099	67%	71%	16,988	15%
Vermont	13,211	94%	95%	2,998	29%
Virginia	860,650	77%	84%	99,680	13%
Washington	576,272	72%	87%	131,922	30%
West Virginia	36,379	75%	92%	8,111	29%
Wisconsin	269,599	79%	85%	32,686	14%
Wyoming	23,625	77%	80%	3,747	19%

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