

The Future of the Affordable Care Act and Medicare

The Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare)

Medicaid Expansion

- The ACA expanded Medicaid to citizens and some documented immigrants with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. The Supreme Court's 2012 decision made this expansion optional. (Prior to the ACA, Medicaid covered only certain categories of low-income people, in many states at incomes much lower than 138% of FPL¹).
- As of 2017, 31 states, including Washington State, have expanded Medicaid.
- The Federal Match for the expansion population started out at 100% and, under the ACA, would ultimately reduce to 90%. (Washington State's regular (that is, pre-expansion categories) Medicaid match rate is 50%.)
- Nationwide, about 11 million people are covered by expanded Medicaid; 74 million people are covered by Medicaid, overall.
- In Washington State, 618,000 people are covered by expanded Medicaid; nearly 2 million Washingtonians are covered by Medicaid, overall.

Individual Insurance

- Nationwide, in 2016, about 13 million people bought insurance through the ACA's marketplaces, of whom about 11 million received premium subsidies.
- In Washington State, in 2016, about 175,000 people bought insurance through our state's marketplace (WAHealthPlanFinder.org), of whom 115,000 received premium subsidies.
- Millions of others have bought unsubsidized plans outside the marketplaces (under the ACA, most of those plans are subject to the same coverage rules as marketplace plans).
- In 2016, significantly fewer insurance companies sold marketplace plans than did in 2014 or 2015; in many areas, only one company offered plans.
- For 2017, the average premium of a "benchmark" plan increased about 25% nationally, but the average premium increase in Washington State for that plan was 8%. (There is quite a range: up 145% in Phoenix; down 4% in Indianapolis.)
- For 2017, the yearly premium for that plan ranged from the lowest of \$2,748 (Louisville) to \$2,856 (Seattle), to \$4,932 (national average) to the highest of \$10,848 (Anchorage).

Uninsured Rate

- Nationwide, the uninsured percentage dropped from 16% in 2010 to 8.6% in 2016
- In Washington, the uninsured percentage dropped from 14% in 2013 to 5.8% in 2016

¹ Federal Poverty Level in the Continental United States, 2017

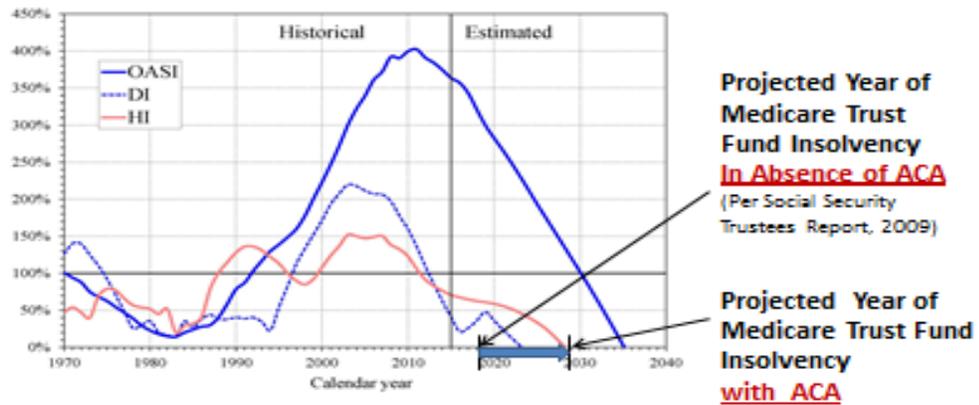
• Individual:	\$12,060 (100%FPL)	\$16,642 (138%)	\$48,240 (400%)
• Family of 4:	\$24,600 (100%FPL)	\$33,948 (138%)	\$98,400 (400%)

Concerns about Medicare's Future

Trust Fund Solvency

"If something cannot go on forever, it will stop..." -Herbert Stein)

OASI, DI, and HI Trust Fund Ratios, Projections Assuming Enactment of ACA Medicare Cost Reductions



Source: A SUMMARY OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORTS Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees

Reform Options

Medicare vouchers

