



The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Wyoming: The Cost of Inaction

Wyoming Families Suffer

Wyoming insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1998, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$5,999. [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, accessed [6/15/2009](#)]
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$12,087. [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, accessed [6/15/2009](#)]
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$26,327, a 118 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 47 percent of projected Wyoming median family income. [New America Foundation, [11/2008](#); New America Foundation, accessed [6/15/2009](#)]

More uninsured Wyomingites

- ✓ Every day, 10 Wyomingites lose their health insurance. [Center for American Progress, [3/23/2009](#)]
- ✓ During the last two years, 138,000 Wyomingites under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 30.3 percent of the under 65 population. [Families USA, [4/2009](#)]
- ✓ In 2007, 72,811 Wyomingites under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 16.2 percent of the under 65 population. [Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed [8/5/2009](#)]

Wyomingites pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ Wyoming families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,300 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured. [Center for American Progress, [3/23/2009](#)]

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Wyoming have a combined market share of 85 percent. [Health Care for America Now, [7/15/2009](#)]

Wyoming Businesses Suffer

Fewer Wyomingites have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 65.3 percent of Wyomingites under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance. [Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed [6/15/2009](#)]
- ✓ In 2007, 62.7 percent of Wyomingites had coverage through their employer. [Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed [6/15/2009](#)]

Wyoming Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, Wyoming spent \$2.7 billion on health care. [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), [9/2007](#); CMS [2/2007](#)]
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,265 per capita, and is 9.4 percent of the Gross State Product. [CMS, [9/2007](#); CMS [2/2007](#)]

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the Wyoming economy will lose \$220 million - \$430 million due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured. [Center for American Progress, [5/29/2009](#)]