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### **Wisconsin's Uninsured Declines 19-38%, with large geographic variation, reports UW Population Health Institute**

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin's uninsured rate has declined by an estimated 19-38% overall, with large variations geographically and a few counties showing flat or small increases in uninsured, reports the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. This compares to an estimated 35% decline in the rate of uninsured nationally. A new chartpack, released today by the Institute, reports data on Wisconsin's experience with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and its reform of the Medicaid and BadgerCare program.

The report's estimated range is based on varying assumptions – from conservative to generous -- about the prior insurance status of persons who became newly insured over the past two years. The chartpack culls through the different reports from the state and federal governments and elsewhere to provide an accessible format that a general reader can digest. "The format is intended to allow Wisconsin residents to track the progress and impact of both the federal health reform law and Governor Walker's entitlement reforms," said Donna Friedsam, Health Policy Programs Director at the Institute. "It provides an early estimate, while we await the more concrete data and the outcomes of more rigorous research."

"The information and estimates provided in this report demonstrate the need for continuing education and enrollment support to the tens of thousands of Wisconsinites who are eligible for insurance coverage yet remain uninsured," said Joy Tapper, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership, a consortium of the area's major health care provider organizations. "This report will help us focus our outreach during the next ACA Open Enrollment period, as we work toward securing coverage and ensuring access to health care for the residents of our community."



The data-rich PDF is available for download online at

<http://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/programs/health-policy/ebhpp/health-reform/chartpack-summer-2015.pdf>

The chartpack offers facts and figures, without bias or opinion, and is intended to help consumers of information understand and assess the program and policy changes currently underway.

Major points of note include:

- 183,155 Wisconsin residents effectuated coverage in a Qualified Health Plan through the ACA Marketplace, 90.7% of them with a federal financial subsidy.
- 91% of WI residents who selected an ACA plan effectuated their coverage, meaning they paid their first month's premium, compared to an 85% effectuation rate nationally.
- Wisconsin's average federal premium subsidy is \$317/month, which results in a 72% reduction in the premium paid by individuals.
- 82% of Wisconsin residents who enrolled in ACA plans in 2014 re-enrolled in coverage in 2015.
- Some counties saw ACA coverage gains offset by BadgerCare coverage losses, such that their overall uninsured levels remain unchanged or increased. This occurred uniquely in rural counties, with nearly flat or declining overall coverage noted particularly in Juneau, Lincoln, Forest, Sawyer, and Dodge Counties.
- Enrollment of Childless Adults has increased more than eight-fold (836%), while BadgerCare's overall enrollment of Parents and Caretaker has declined 27%.
- Coverage for "near poor" children, who remain eligible for BadgerCare but whose parents are no longer eligible, has declined 5%.
- The insurance status remains unknown for 62% (38,116 people) of the parents and caretaker adults who were removed from BadgerCare coverage on April 1, 2014.
- Wisconsin has not yet reached Governor Walker's entitlement reform goal of reducing the uninsured by 224,850 by 2015.

The UW Population Health Institute advances health and well-being for all by developing and promoting evidence-based approaches to policy and practice at the local, state, and national levels.

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