

# Feds: 4,300 Utahns must verify immigration status or lose coverage

Affordable Care Act » Documents on citizenship, immigration conflict with federal data.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58292773-78/health-coverage-utah-immigration.html.csp>

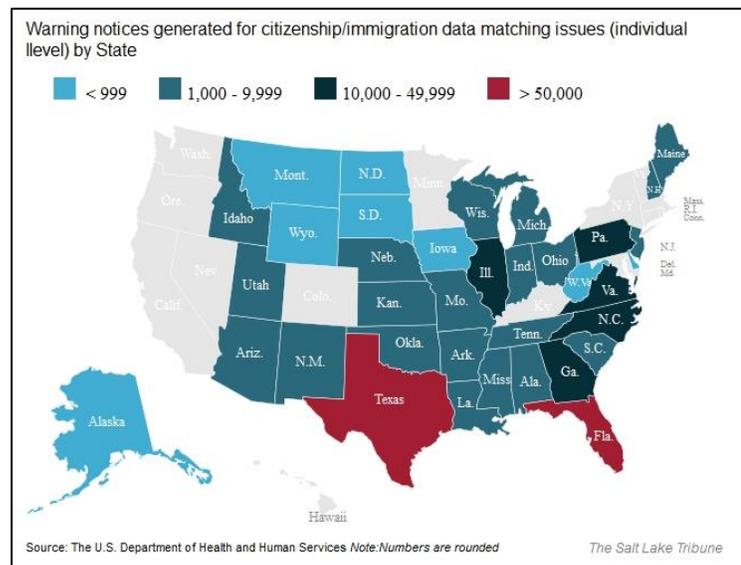
By Kristen Moulton

The Salt Lake Tribune

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The Obama administration said Wednesday that 4,300 Utahns are among the 310,000 people it is asking by phone, email or letter to provide citizenship or immigration details — or face losing their health insurance.

Those being notified bought coverage at the [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) website, but their information didn't match records the government has on file.



They can upload the necessary documents at the site. If they don't do so by Sept. 5, their health coverage will end Sept. 30, the Department of Health and Human Services said in a [news release](#).

[Take Care Utah](#), a network of organizations that connects people to health insurance, can help, said director Randal Serr.

"We don't expect them to have the solutions. But we do," Serr said. "It involves a lot of calling, faxing and Internet usage ... to get through these cases."

Those needing help can call 2-1-1 or go to the organization's website, [takecareutah.org](http://takecareutah.org).

Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for health coverage, and probably do not account for many of the 4,300, said Jason Stevenson, communications director for the Utah Health Policy Project, which operates [Take Care Utah](#).

Most of them are likely eligible but have not yet successfully conveyed their student, work or other visa information to the government — or they've run into the glitches with the government website, he said.

Some citizens also have been told there are problems with their documentation, Stevenson and Serr said.

HHS said it has tried multiple times to reach each consumer who has documentation issues, using email, phone and mail in English and Spanish. Since May, it has closed 450,000 similar cases.

The new policy setting the Sept. 5 deadline affects the 36 states where the federal government runs the online insurance market created by the law. Utah ranked 16th among those states.

Hispanics, who historically have lagged in health insurance coverage, may account for a big share of the group.

Indeed, two states with large Latino populations top the list of unresolved cases. Florida has 93,800 cases, while Texas has 52,700. Georgia, Virginia and Pennsylvania round out the top five.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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