

ACA enrollment numbers up in Utah, but repeal efforts continue

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Video: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/play/5615052>

Link: http://www.good4utah.com/story/d/story/aca-enrollment-numbers-up-in-utah-but-repeal-effor/63875/eezr4Pk0rUuGePI_6Mul6w



SALT LAKE CITY (ABC 4 Utah) Going into the final weekend of open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act, numbers were up 50% in Utah over last year.

More than 124,000 Utahns had signed up for an insurance plan on healthcare.gov and that doesn't include the last few weeks.

"I think we are going to be between 130 and 140,000 Utahns signed up for ACA insurance," said Jason Stevenson, with Utah Health Policy Project.

That's up from about 84,000 in 2014.

Stevenson says the average Utahn is getting a \$159 monthly subsidy to help pay for it.

He's also noticing a spike in Davis, Utah and Washington counties.

"We're enrolling kids in Utah at 2 1/2 times the national average, which shows me there are a lot of families who are looking at this insurance and finding not only that it fits into their budget, but it is the insurance that they want," said Stevenson.

But it's not working out for everyone.

Representative Chris Stewart says it's the worst piece of legislation ever.

"It sounds so over the top, but I really mean that. It has hurt so many people and I get letters and phone calls from hundreds of constituents who tell us the story of how Obamacare has hurt them," said Stewart, (R-Utah).

Stewart and his colleagues in the House have passed a bill to repeal and replace the ACA.

They say it was pushed through on partisan lines and it just isn't sustainable.

The president has promised to pull out the veto pen, but Stewart insists the vote isn't just a statement.

"It kind of sets the stage for us to say OK, this is what we would do differently and to lay out a Republican proposal," said Stewart.

Fines go up significantly this year for those who don't have insurance.

From \$95 to \$325 for adults and from \$47 to \$162 for children.

The family max also goes up to \$975 or 2% of your household income, whichever is higher.