

140,221 Utahns now signed up for ACA health insurance

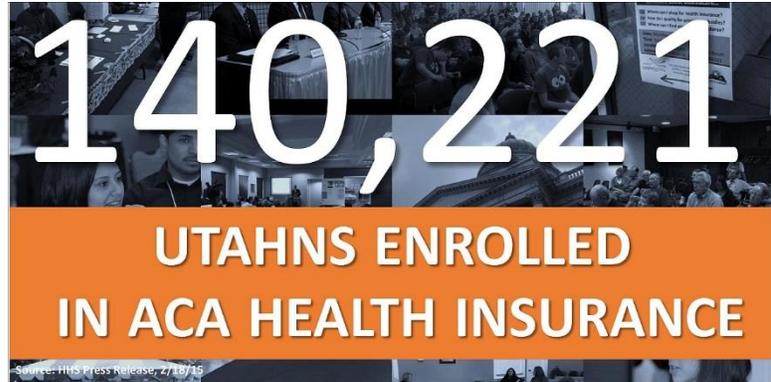
By [KRISTEN MOULTON](#)

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Two-thirds more Utahns signed up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act this year than last year.

The number of people who signed up on the federal website, healthcare.gov, increased by 65 percent in 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



[In Utah, 140,221 people](#) now are signed up for Obamacare, up from 84,601 last year. Nationally, 11.4 million are signed up for medical coverage.

The three-month enrollment period for signing up this year ended Sunday night, and that was the busiest day ever for people signing up for coverage — this year or last.

The vast majority are getting government subsidies, according to federal data. HHS said last month that 88 percent of Utahns choosing plans on healthcare.gov were deemed eligible for tax credits. The average tax credit was \$159 per person per month.

More than two-thirds of Utahns were able to get insurance for \$100 or less per month.

Those who started but didn't finish applications for health insurance have until Feb. 22 to do so.

The Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) analyzed data and found zip codes in South Jordan and Lehi had the highest enrollment, continuing a trend from 2014. However, UHPP said, there was a surge of enrollment in Utah, Washington and Davis counties.

Based on mid-January data, 22 percent of the Utahns enrolled in Obamacare are children up to age 18, compared to 9 percent nationally.

Dodd Greer, a Take Care Utah navigator at Community Health Connect in Provo, said, "People are realizing that they need health insurance because of the high cost of medical care," according to a UHPP press release. "As a result, people are really grateful they can get this affordable insurance."

The only people allowed to enroll now for 2015 are those who lose prior coverage, get married, have or adopt babies or move to the state.

The 2016 open enrollment period begins Oct. 1. More information is available at TakeCareUtah.org.

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