

16-02-ACA Enrollment 175k

[Campaign Preview](#)

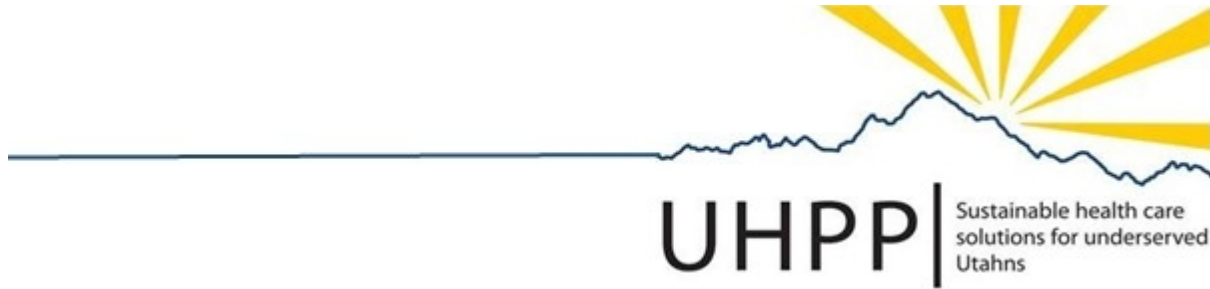
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ACA health insurance sign-ups in Utah exceeded 175,000

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175,637 Utahns Sign Up for Health Insurance as Open Enrollment Ends

Fastest enrollment growth occurs in Utah County (+17%) as Lehi moves ahead of South Jordan as the state's most active local area.

As Utah's third open enrollment period for health insurance closed at midnight on January 31st, a total of 175,637 Utahns had selected an insurance plan to be covered in 2016—a 25% increase over last year's numbers.

For the complete **ACA Enrollment Update for Utah**, download the PDF at this link ([download PDF](#))

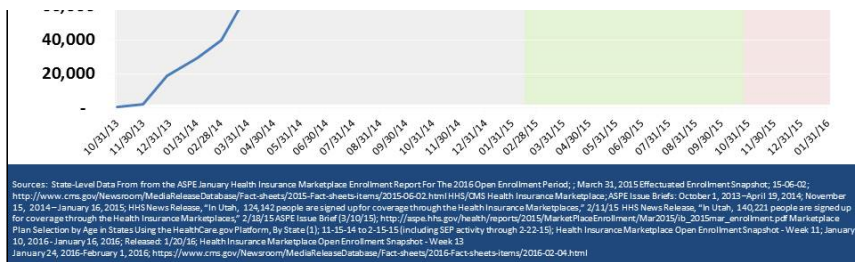


The **Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP)** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advancing sustainable healthcare solutions for underserved Utahns through better access, education, and public policy. Learn more at our [website](#)

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Nationwide, about 12.7 million Americans selected health plans or were automatically re-enrolled, including about 9.6 million people in the states that use the healthcare.gov website like Utah. These are all private insurance plans made available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also called “Obamacare,” which established consumer protections such as banning insurers from discriminating based on people’s pre-existing health conditions, offering free preventive care, and providing sliding-scale subsidies to make monthly insurance premiums more affordable.

“We were open all weekend and scheduled events to handle the surge in last-minute sign-us,” said Randal Serr, director of Take Care Utah, the state’s official enrollment assistance network. “We helped a lot of families and young people, learn about their options, understand the subsidies they could receive, and make their plan selections.” Over 16,000 Utahns selected a plan during the final two weeks of the open enrollment which began three months ago on November 1st, 2015.

“Utah’s continued enrollment growth shows us that affordable health insurance is still in demand across the state,” explains Matt Slonaker, executive director of the Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP), a nonpartisan, nonprofit that administers the Take Care Utah network. “Utah families know that access to affordable health insurance gives them the personal and financial security to focus on things like working, raising healthy kids, and planning for their future.”

Still, this year’s open enrollment season was more difficult than the first two after the withdrawal of Arches Health Plans and two smaller insurers left fewer insurers and plans on Utah’s marketplace, especially in rural counties. “The fact

that Utah increased enrollment by 25% in a challenging year highlights the effectiveness and transparency of the marketplace to provide clear details on plans, pricing, benefits, co-pays, and provider networks,” said Jason Stevenson, education and communications director at UHPP. “Plus, we already know that new insurers are looking to join Utah’s marketplace next year to provide more competition and choices for consumers in rural areas.”

Here are some facts from Utah’s 2015-16 enrollment season:

- As of 2/1/16, 175,637 Utahns have enrolled in new coverage on healthcare.gov. In addition, 85% of these receive premium subsidies to make their coverage more affordable.
- Children age 0-18 account for 24% of all ACA insurance enrollment in Utah—the highest percentage of all states and 2.67 times the national average.
- New customers on healthcare.gov accounted for 30% of all enrollment. Plus, 51% of re-enrolling customers switched insurance plans for 2016.
- ACA enrollment is growing fastest in cities like Lehi, South Jordan, Spanish Fork, and St. George, as well as Pleasant Grove, American Fork and Bountiful.

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As of February 1st Utah entered a special enrollment period that requires a “qualifying life event” to trigger a 60-day window to purchase health insurance. The most common events include having or adopting a child, getting married, losing job-based insurance, moving, turning 26 and aging off parents’ insurance, becoming a U.S. citizen, or losing health insurance due to a divorce or separation. The next open enrollment period in Utah will begin November 1, 2016.

Throughout the year the enrollment experts at **Take Care Utah** are standing by to help Utahns with their health

insurance questions.

All services are confidential and free of charge.

Over the last three years Take Care Utah has helped tens of thousands of Utahns learn about their insurance options.

Take Care Utah isn't an insurance company or a brokerage.

Take Care Utah is a network of nonprofits trying to help people understand their health insurance options.

Find local, free assistance at www.takecareutah.org or by calling 2-1-1 from anywhere in the state.

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