California saw large increases in health coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). 3.7 million adults enrolled in the Medi-Cal expansion. 1.2 million Californians enrolled in subsidized insurance through Covered California, with average annual premium subsidies of $3,700. Statewide, the uninsurance rate fell from 17.2% in 2013 to 8.6% in 2015. Repealing the ACA threatens not only to leave millions without health insurance, but also to eliminate 209,000 jobs and cost the state economy $20.3 billion in GDP. Further negative impacts could occur if Congress decides to restructure federal payments for the entire state Medi-Cal program.

This fact sheet summarizes our recent research on the impact of ACA repeal on Kern County.

Health insurance at risk
- 95,679 low-income adults who are enrolled in the ACA Medi-Cal expansion would lose their health insurance, equivalent to 10.9% of the county population.
- 16,170 low- and middle-income residents would lose federal subsidies to help make private insurance purchased through Covered California more affordable.
- The county’s uninsurance rate fell by 56% under the ACA, from 18.2% in 2013 to 7.9% in 2015. 88,000 residents who gained coverage since 2013 may return to being uninsured.

Economic losses (projections)
- Approximately 5,000 jobs in healthcare and other industries would be lost under ACA repeal due to the reduction in federal healthcare spending and the ripple effect throughout the local economy associated with the loss of that economic stimulus.
- $359 million in GDP would be eliminated from the county economy under ACA repeal.

Sources

Lucia L and Jacobs K, California’s Projected Economic Losses Under ACA Repeal, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, December 2016.

The analyses, interpretations, conclusions, and views expressed in this fact sheet are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the Regents of the University of California, or collaborating organizations or funders.