Fact Sheet: What does San Diego County Stand to Lose under ACA Repeal?

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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 San Diego County.

Health insurance at risk

- 259,236 low-income adults who are enrolled in the ACA Medi-Cal expansion would lose their health insurance, equivalent to 7.9% of the county population.
- 106,340 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 43% under the ACA, from 15.6% in 2013 to 8.7% in 2015. 215,000 residents who gained coverage since 2013 may return to being uninsured.

Economic losses (projections)

- Approximately 15,000 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.
- $1.3 billion in GDP would be eliminated from the county economy under ACA repeal.

Sources

Dietz M, Lucia L, Kominski GF, and Jacobs K, ACA Repeal in California: Who Stands to Lose?, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education and UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, December 2016.

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