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Governor Wolf Announces Decrease in State's Uninsured Rate

Downward Trend Continues to Lowest on Record, Attributed to ACA and Medicaid Expansion

Governor Wolf today announced a decline in the commonwealth's uninsured rate from 6.4 percent in 2015 to 5.6 percent in 2016, the lowest on record. Before the Affordable Care Act was implemented and Governor Wolf expanded Medicaid, Pennsylvania's uninsured rate was more than 10 percent.

"This reduction shows that our steps to expand Medicaid and stabilize our individual market are working in Pennsylvania," said Governor Wolf. "Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Insurance Department and Department of Human Services to advocate on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, and despite the conversation around health reform at the federal level, we remain committed to furthering the progress made by the Affordable Care Act. We will continue to work to ensure that Pennsylvanians have access to quality coverage at an affordable price and advocate in a bipartisan way to fix Obamacare at the federal level."

Pennsylvania's 5.6 percent uninsured rate was released as part of a national study on health insurance coverage for 2016 based on current population reports issued by the United States Census Bureau earlier this week. The decrease continues the downward trend Pennsylvania's uninsured rate has been on since 2013, making 2016's 5.6 percent the commonwealth's lowest ever uninsured rate, down from more than 10 percent when the Affordable Care Act was passed. The national uninsured rate fell 0.3 percent to 8.8 percent in 2016.

"The Affordable Care Act has helped more than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians access health coverage," Acting Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman said. "Governor Wolf's adoption of Medicaid expansion has helped more than 711,000 people receive coverage since January 2015, and 426,000 have purchased coverage on the individual market at Healthcare.gov."

"When Governor Wolf expanded Medicaid in Pennsylvania, hundreds of thousands of uninsured were then able to obtain access to health care coverage," said Acting Secretary for Human Services Teresa Miller. "Before expansion, most of these individuals either couldn't afford coverage or didn't have access to it. Additionally, the ACA provided the commonwealth's former foster kids with health care coverage until age 26. This decline in the uninsured rate is truly one to celebrate."

For more information about health insurance options in Pennsylvania, visit www.insurance.pa.gov or www.healthchoices.pa.gov.

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