



KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

## More Young Adults Now Have Health Insurance

Likely a Result of the 2010 Provision of the Affordable Care Act

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*TOPEKA, Kan.* — Recent survey findings from the U.S. Census Bureau revealed a significant increase in health insurance coverage for young adults (age 19-25) in Kansas. Starting in 2010, the Affordable Care Act allowed young adults to stay on their parent’s insurance until age 26. Young adults in Kansas are now less likely to be uninsured – 22.9 percent in 2012 compared to 26.8 percent in 2009. This nearly 4 percent decrease in uninsured 19-25 year olds is accompanied by a simultaneous 4.2 percent increase in private coverage. The Kansas Health Institute (KHI) has produced a [Fact Sheet](#) summarizing the Kansas-specific results from the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS).

In 2012, an estimated 356,000 Kansans were uninsured—or 12.6 percent—which is significantly lower than the national rate of 14.8 percent. There has been no change in the number or rate of uninsured Kansans since 2011. This fact sheet also identifies the primary types of health insurance for Kansans (i.e. Medicaid, Medicare, employment-based insurance). One noteworthy finding is that the percentage of children with public coverage has increased from 26.4 percent in 2009 to 31.6 percent in 2012.

“The rate of uninsured Kansans is lower now than in 2009 and 2010,” said Scott Brunner, M.A., KHI senior analyst and strategy team leader. “Part of the reason for this finding is an increase in public coverage of Kansas children. This increase suggests factors such as the weakness in the economy and the state’s active outreach efforts to enroll children who need coverage may be responsible.”

*The Kansas Health Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan and independent health policy and research organization based in Topeka, Kansas. Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Health Institute conducts research and policy analysis on issues that affect the health of Kansans.*