

Contact: Hannah Wickey
Wyoming Primary Care Association
1720 Carey Avenue Suite 601
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307)632-5743
www.wypca.org

Wyoming Boasts High Enrollment Numbers for 2015 Health Coverage
9,020 Wyomingites have signed up within the first month of Open Enrollment

The Department of Health and Human Resources (HHS) recently released a report finding a high enrollment rate for Wyoming in the first month of Open Enrollment. Already 9,020 people have signed up for health care plans in the Marketplace and will start their coverage on January 1, 2015.

This is the first year that people can re-enroll in the Marketplace health plans. Last year, everyone was a first-time enrollee. So far, 51% of those who enrolled in the last month have been those who enrolled for coverage last year. Surprisingly 49% of this year's enrollees are new and signing up for the first time.

Consumers can sign up online at healthcare.gov by themselves, or they can use in-person assistance in the form of certified application counselors (CACs) and navigators. These individuals can be found around the state at health centers, libraries, hospitals as well as many other community venues. They work to provide information, answer questions and enroll consumers in a Marketplace health plan. Navigators travel state-wide to provide assistance while CACs usually work within one county.

"There is not as much opposition from consumers and organizations this year," noted navigator George O'Hare from Enroll Wyoming. "I think the public is gaining an understanding of the need and the importance of affordable health insurance."

Subsidies are available to make Marketplace health plans more affordable. In Wyoming, 91% of those who selected a plan were able to take advantage of the available financial assistance program to lower their monthly premiums.

This trend of rising enrollment numbers is not exclusive to Wyoming. Nationally, the enrollment numbers are up as well. On December 28, 2013, reports showed a calculated total of 1,196,430 Americans enrolled in a Marketplace health plan. As of December 15, 2014, the enrollment number has been tallied at 3,416,023.

Open Enrollment closes February 15, 2015. It is recommended that consumers sign up by January 15, 2015 in order to have coverage starting February 1. For more information on the Health and Human Services report, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/>. For more information on where to find in-person assistance in Wyoming, call 211 or visit <http://wypca.org>.

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