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Study: Almost 20% lack health insurance in Florida

By Donna Gehrke-White, Sun Sentinel

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Nearly one out of five Floridians still don't have health insurance, despite people being able to sign advertisement up this year for coverage under the Affordable Care Act, according to a new study released Wednesday.

However, Obamacare reduced the state's uninsured rate by 5 percentage points in one year as those lacking health insurance had been at 24.7 percent in 2013, WalletHub.com found. The personal finance website used its own analysis and a study from the Kaiser Family Foundation to produce its 2014 Health Insurance Coverage Report.

The report found nearly a million Floridians signed up for private health insurance plans under Obamacare. In fact, Florida had the most net new enrollees to private insurance per capita in the nation, WalletHub.com reported.

"Florida was one of the big winners," with so many getting policies from the Health Insurance Marketplace, said WalletHub.com CEO Odysseas Papadimitriou.

The state would have seen about another 5 percent drop in the number of the uninsured had it expanded Medicaid to include more adults, Papadimitriou estimated. Some 240,232 enrolled in Medicaid between last summer and April, with 21 percent of Floridians under 64 now on Medicaid.

Despite the improving numbers, Florida still ranked near the bottom for the percentage of people who still lack health insurance. Only Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas had a higher uninsured rate. Texas, at the bottom, had nearly 25 percent without insurance.

To read more, see the [report](#) at WalletHub.com.

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