



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Affordable Care Act Significantly Impacting Uninsured in Michigan

District Health Department #10 Uninsured Residents Cut More Than Half

April 10, 2017 – In 2012, the number of uninsured residents living in the ten-county area of District Health Department #10 totaled a staggering 31,631*. Fast forward to 2015, and that number decreased to 16,858* uninsured. Since the Affordable Care Act's first open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace in October 2013, thousands of Michigan's uninsured residents signed up and could finally get medical coverage. Prior to that, many just went untreated or went to emergency rooms, racking up enormous medical bills they couldn't afford

Currently, more than 28,000** residents within the DHD #10 service area are enrolled in either the Health Insurance Marketplace or Healthy Michigan Plan, all made possible through the Affordable Care Act.

"These programs have had life-changing impact on so many of our residents who had no medical coverage prior to this," states DHD #10 Health Officer Kevin Hughes. "The question now is, what will happen to them if it all goes away? We don't know what the future holds with the changing political climate, but the Affordable Care Act finally offered a solution to the uninsured, and the numbers tell us it is working."

As soon as the Affordable Care Act came into effect, DHD #10 sprang into action, getting staff certified as navigators and working with other agencies to help get people enrolled. Thanks to funding from various resources, including Tencon Health Plan, DHD #10's Outreach Team put boots on the ground to educate the public on their options and how to apply. They met with community organizations, employers, and worked closely with hospitals and health care providers to increase referrals for enrollment. As the numbers show, their efforts have paid off.

Now, as the entire program is up in the air, DHD #10 will continue to reach out to all residents to assist them with navigating the insurance marketplace. For more information on the services provided by DHD #10 or to speak to someone about your insurance coverage options, visit www.dhd10.org or call the [DHD #10 office](#) in your county. We service Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford Counties.

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*Numbers published by Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Bureau

**Numbers provided by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and State of Michigan