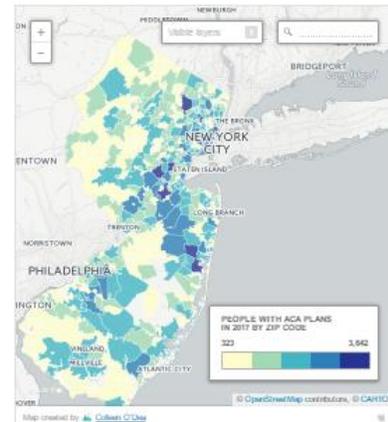


Key Concerns About the American Health Care Act (AHCA)

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey (MHANJ) has been closely tracking the American Health Care Act (AHCA), and the impact it will have on our most vulnerable citizens. The AHCA, promoted to “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act (ACA), does neither, but instead strips the ACA of some of its most valuable components. See below for just a few of the more damaging changes in the AHCA.

1. Individuals living with pre-existing conditions might be unable to afford insurance under the AHCA¹

- The version of the AHCA that passed the House on May 4, 2017, could make insurance coverage unaffordable for people with pre-existing health conditions
- Under the AHCA bill, states could get a waiver that would allow insurers to set prices based on how healthy a person is – basically allowing them to deny coverage to the sickest members of society
- Republicans have argued that they wouldn't be completely eliminating protections for people with pre-existing conditions because states don't have to ask for a waiver
- Subsidies that exist under the ACA, which help people buy insurance, will be reduced under the AHCA
- The AHCA claims that it will combat those increased costs through a fund for “high-risk pools”, however the reality is that the money set aside in the bill isn't nearly enough to cover the costs



ACA Coverage Across New Jersey

2. Medicaid would lose valuable funding; People will lose coverage²

- Cuts in Federal assistance will shift the financial burden to make up the rest to the states
- The cap on federal funding, which would take effect in 2020, would be set based on states per enrollee spending in 2016.

¹ FiveThirtyEight; The 4 Big Changes To Health Care In The Latest GOP Bill: <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-4-big-changes-to-health-care-in-the-latest-gop-bill/>

² Brookings; REPORT Effects of the Medicaid per capita cap included in the House-passed American Health Care Act: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/effects-of-the-medicaid-per-capita-cap-included-in-the-house-passed-american-health-care-act/>

Key Concerns About the American Health Care Act (AHCA)

- Since the passage of the ACA -- which opened Medicaid eligibility to more of the population -- 11 million American's were able to gain insurance coverage
- By contrast, however, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that passage of the AHCA could cause approximately 14 million people to lose Medicaid
- Since December 2013, Medicaid enrollment in New Jersey rose over 39%, covering an additional 501,740 individuals – Nearly this entire population stands to lose their insurance under the AHCA
- Click [here](#) for an Interactive Map depicting the impact of the ACA on NJ and what we stand to lose if the AHCA is passed

3. Reductions in Essential Health Benefit coverage by insurance companies

- Currently the ACA requires non-grandfathered health plans in the individual and small group markets to cover essential health benefits (EHB)³, which include:
 - i. ambulatory patient services
 - ii. emergency services
 - iii. hospitalization
 - iv. maternity and newborn care
 - v. mental health and substance use disorder services including behavioral health treatment
 - vi. prescription drugs
 - vii. rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices
 - viii. laboratory services
 - ix. preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management
 - x. pediatric services, including oral and vision care
- The AHCA bill would allow states to get a waiver on these EHB's – meaning that they can opt out of offering certain benefits as part of coverage, or offer those benefits at a higher cost⁴

³ HealthCare.Gov; What Marketplace health insurance plans cover: <https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/what-marketplace-plans-cover/>

⁴ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Summary of the American Health Care Act: <http://files.kff.org/attachment/Proposals-to-Replace-the-Affordable-Care-Act-Summary-of-the-American-Health-Care-Act>