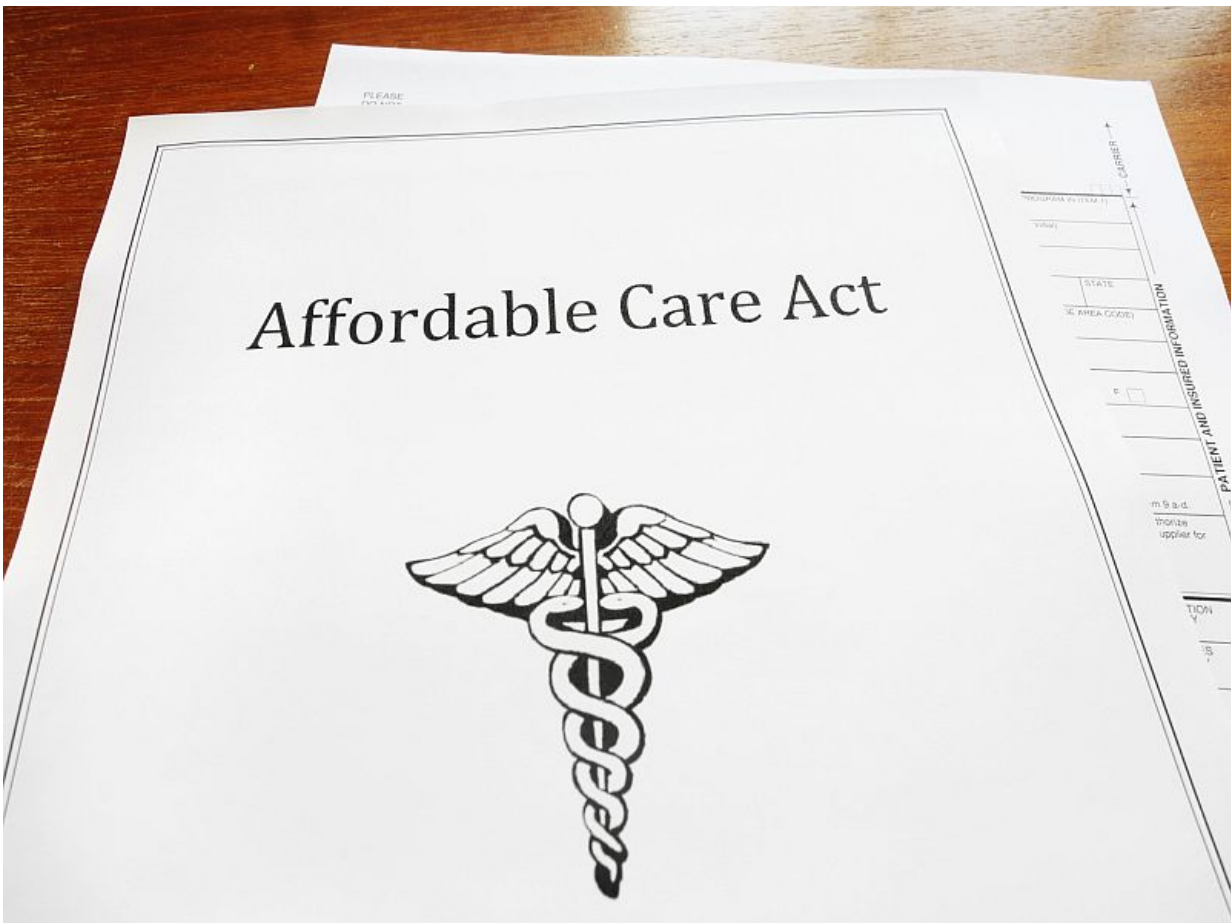


Health coverage improved as result of Affordable Care Act

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(HealthDay)—The Affordable Care Act is working as intended,

extending health care coverage and ensuring that hospital care is financially compensated, according to two research letters published in the Jan. 14 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

One letter reports that uncompensated emergency department care has decreased 15.5 percent more, on average, in states that chose to expand Medicaid, compared with states that rejected the federally funded Medicaid expansion. "It seems like Medicaid expansion is having a really big impact on uncompensated care," lead author Katherine Hempstead, Ph.D., director of health insurance research for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, told *HealthDay*.

The authors of the second letter found that childbirth among young women (aged 19 to 26) is covered more often now by private insurance than Medicaid—an indication that many are remaining on their parents' insurance as provided for under the Affordable Care Act.

"The young adult provision appears to be associated with a significant decrease in public coverage and a significant increase in private coverage, which is contrary to what many people might think about the Affordable Care Act," senior author Aaron Carroll, M.D., associate director of Children's Health Services Research at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, told *HealthDay*.

More information: [Full Text 1](#)
[Full Text 2](#)

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