



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR SCOTT WALKER  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

**2018 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS: HEALTHCARE FACT SHEET**

*Last year, Tonette joined me at this podium to talk about her groundbreaking work called [Fostering Futures](#). (Governor Walker, [2017 State of the State Address](#), Walker.Gov, 1/20.17)*

*She and her team continue their work with tribal councils, county governments, nonprofits, colleges and universities and employers from across the state on trauma-informed care.*

*Our state agencies have been trained on how to incorporate trauma-informed care into their work. She brought a group of First Spouses and staff to Wisconsin to talk about this important work and she went to Washington to get the federal government more involved in this area. (H.Res.443 - Recognizing the importance and effectiveness of trauma-informed-care. [Congress.gov](#), accessed 1/19/18)*

*Healthcare systems in our state rank number one in the country for quality - according to [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#). (“Wisconsin State Snapshot”, National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report, [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#))*

*Plus, everyone living in poverty is now covered under BadgerCare for the first time in the history of the state.*

- “Under changes made by Walker, everyone in Wisconsin with an annual income at the federal poverty level (\$11,770 for a single person) is now eligible for Medicaid. That is the first time in Wisconsin that everyone at or below the federal poverty level is eligible for Medicaid.” (Tom Kertscher, “Scott Walker Says His Actions Covered Everyone Living In Poverty With Medicaid For The First Time Ever,” [Politifact Wisconsin](#), 9/2/15)

*And, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of people with access to health care in Wisconsin is one of the best in the nation.*

- The US Census Bureau Found that just 6.2 percent of Wisconsin citizens did not have health insurance. (Wisconsin Quick Facts, [U.S. Census Bureau](#))

*Eight years ago, there were people living in poverty on a waiting list for access to health coverage under BadgerCare. (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)*

*Today, for the first time in the history of the state, everyone living in poverty is covered under BadgerCare.*

- “Under changes made by Walker, everyone in Wisconsin with an annual income at the federal poverty level (\$11,770 for a single person) is now eligible for Medicaid. That is the first time in Wisconsin that everyone at or below the federal poverty level is eligible for Medicaid.” (Tom

Kertscher, “Scott Walker Says His Actions Covered Everyone Living In Poverty With Medicaid For The First Time Ever,” [Politifact Wisconsin](#), 9/2/15)

*Because of our unique Wisconsin-based solution, we had, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation - no gap in coverage.*

- “There are no uninsured adults in the coverage gap in Wisconsin because the state is providing Medicaid eligibility to adults up to the poverty level under a Medicaid waiver.”

**Table 1: Number and Characteristics of Poor Uninsured Nonelderly Adults in the ACA Coverage Gap by State, 2016**

State	Number in Coverage Gap	Share in Coverage Gap who Are:			
		People of Color	Adults without Dependent Children	Female	In a Working Family
<b>All states not expanding Medicaid</b>	<b>2,371,000</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>60%</b>
Alabama	75,000	49%	79%	57%	50%
Florida	384,000	47%	87%	49%	48%
Georgia	240,000	60%	78%	54%	62%
Idaho	22,000	N/A	80%	51%	69%
Kansas	48,000	42%	84%	36%	46%
Maine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mississippi	99,000	54%	79%	44%	59%
Missouri	87,000	N/A	63%	44%	82%
Nebraska	16,000	N/A	77%	40%	52%
North Carolina	208,000	36%	79%	43%	60%
Oklahoma	84,000	51%	76%	42%	53%
South Carolina	92,000	47%	91%	51%	54%
South Dakota	15,000	51%	67%	N/A	76%
Tennessee	163,000	31%	100%	39%	41%
Texas	638,000	74%	63%	53%	74%
Utah	46,000	N/A	77%	39%	77%
Virginia	138,000	50%	85%	45%	55%
Wisconsin*	0	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	6,000	N/A	93%	59%	48%

NOTES: \* Wisconsin provides Medicaid eligibility to adults up to the poverty level under a Medicaid waiver. As a result, there is no one in the coverage gap in Wisconsin.

(Rachel Garfield, Anthony Damico, [The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid](#), The Kaiser Family Foundation, 11/1/17)

*Eight years ago, there were about four thousand people with disabilities, including children and adults, who were on waiting lists for long-term care services. Plus, many counties were not included in the long-term care programs. (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)*

*This year, we are expanding Family Care and IRIS to every part of the state to provide long-term care options for senior citizens and for people with disabilities - to allow them to live as independently as possible. Today, I am happy to report to you that, by the end of this year, we*

*will eliminate wait lists for children who need long-term care services in every county in the state.* (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

*Most people receive their health care coverage from their employer.*

- “The majority of nonelderly people get their health coverage through an employer-based plan.” (Michelle Long, Matthew Rae, Gary Claxton, and Anthony Damico, Trends in Employer-Sponsored Insurance Offer and Coverage Rates, 1999-2014, [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 3/21/16)

*Premium increases for the majority of employer-based plans were fairly modest this year at about 5 percent.* (Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance)

*I propose that we enact a law in Wisconsin that will guarantee coverage of pre-existing conditions. That way someone who has cancer or another serious disease or ailment will not have to worry about obtaining or keeping coverage.*

*The members of the state Assembly have already moved forward, now I ask the members of the Senate to do the same.* (Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 Assembly Bill 365, [Wisconsin State Legislature](#))

*For our senior citizens, most receive their health care through Medicare.* (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

*Since it was first approved in 2002, the state has asked for an extension of SeniorCare four times.* (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

*Under Obamacare, the so-called Affordable Care Act, premiums for people in this individual market are going up an average of 36% this year.* (“2018 Open Enrollment: November 1 – December 15, 2017”, [Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance](#), 10/12/17; Dan Wahlberg, “Obamacare insurance rates to rise 36 percent in Wisconsin next year”, [Wisconsin State Journal](#), 10/12/17)

*For example, Kristine from brown county saw her monthly premiums go up by almost \$2,000 a month. This is a 120% increase!* (Wisconsin Office of the Commission of Insurance)

*As Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton said in the past, “the Affordable Care Act is no longer affordable.”* (Bob Bryan, “MINNESOTA GOVERNOR: “The Affordable Care Act is no longer affordable””, [Business Insider](#), 10/13/16)

*Since I’ve been Governor, I signed 28 pieces of legislation into law dealing with this challenge.* (Legislation, [HOPE Agenda](#), accessed 1/12/18)

*Thanks to Representative Nygren for putting together a bipartisan coalition to fight this epidemic and for joining our outstanding Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch as the co-chair of our commission.* (Task Force on Opioid Abuse, State of Wisconsin, accessed 1/12/18)