

HealthSource RI Issues Final Enrollment Report for Open Enrollment 2021

RI Uninsured Rate remained low in 2020; Rhode Islanders may still enroll through August 15th

- In 2020, Rhode Island maintained one of the highest insured rates in the country, with 96% of our residents being covered during a time when the national uninsured rate skyrocketed to 12.5%.
- In the month of January 2021 alone, HealthSource RI customers qualified for more than \$8 million in financial assistance to make their premiums more affordable.
- HealthSource RI's competitive marketplace offers the 4th lowest-cost benchmark plan in the nation.
- HealthSource RI's annual health coverage Open Enrollment period for individuals and families ran from November 1, 2020 – January 23, 2021.
- HealthSource RI is the only place to apply for financial help which may lower your monthly bill. In fact, 8 out of 10 HealthSource RI customers receive financial assistance.
- HealthSource RI's Individual and Family enrollments decreased this Open Enrollment, with 30,071 customers enrolled and paid compared to 32,704 last year.
- HealthSource RI is currently offering a [New Enrollment Period](#) to all Rhode Islanders, available from Feb 15th through August 15th, 2021.

According to the state's latest Health Information Survey (HIS), 4.0% of Rhode Islanders were uninsured in 2020, similar to the 3.7% figure when last measured in 2018. Rhode Island's uninsured rate has decreased by nearly two-thirds since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was implemented and today it is among the lowest in the nation. The HIS was conducted by phone and completed during April through September of 2020. The margin of error is approximately +/- 0.8%. Full details about the survey, including an interactive web tool and downloadable data compendium are available [on HealthSource RI's website](#).

Enrollments during this period were slightly lower compared to enrollments during the 2020 Open Enrollment. Customers enrolled in coverage decreased, from 32,704 in 2020 to 30,071 in 2021. This can be attributed to a variety of factors, including an economic downturn during the Coronavirus pandemic, an increase in unemployment and loss of income for Rhode Islanders. Additionally, the federal government's Public Health Emergency declaration paused Medicaid terminations and recertifications, which allowed individuals to remain enrolled in Medicaid programs regardless of any change in eligibility that might otherwise have terminated that coverage.

Starting February 15, HealthSource RI began offering Rhode Island residents additional time to enroll in 2021 coverage through our New Enrollment Period, following the federal administration’s decision to do the same. This New Enrollment Period is open now through August 15th to all eligible Rhode Islanders to enroll in 2021 coverage. Lawfully present immigrants (asylees, green card holders, refugees) can apply for coverage.

Presently, over 30,000 residents are enrolled in coverage through HealthSource RI, where they are able to take advantage of prices that are among the best in the nation. Rhode Island currently has the 4th lowest cost “benchmark plan” in the country.

The “benchmark plan” is the second-lowest cost Silver plan available and determines the amount of financial help or Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTC) customers receive.

Eight out of ten HealthSource RI customers receive financial help to lower their monthly bill. This year, the average monthly cost of health coverage for a person who receives tax credits went down by \$2.52, compared to the 2020 plan year, for an average price of \$120.91 per month.

In the month of January 2021, HealthSource RI customers qualified for more than \$8 million in financial assistance to make their premiums more affordable. These premium tax credits continue to protect a majority of HealthSource RI’s customers from rising health insurance rates. Since HealthSource RI’s inception, Rhode Islanders have received more than \$600 million in financial help to lower their monthly coverage costs.

HealthSource RI continues to innovate and offer Rhode Islanders additional and easier ways to connect with enrollment support. In 2020, we launched new tools, including an enhanced live chat function on our website, which is available in Spanish and English during normal business hours, and we began offering virtual enrollment events during which attendees can learn about affordable coverage and can reserve 1-on-1 phone or Zoom appointments with Navigators.

