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Today's ObamaCare Enrollment Numbers For October Are Far Below Expectations

OCTOBER'S OBAMACARE ENROLLMENT NUMBERS ARE EMBARRASSINGLY LOW

CNN: ObamaCare Enrollment Numbers Are "Embarrassing" For Obama. JAKE TAPPER: "Welcome back to The Lead. we're back with Gloria Bolger, and Newt Gingrich. Gloria, we are talking about these numbers, 106,000 people enrolled in health care plans through Obama's federal - ObamaCare's rather, federal and state marketplaces. You can fit every one of them into the Michigan Wolverine Stadium and it still wouldn't be a sellout. In terms of breaking down these numbers, 106,185; 26,794 are through healthcare.gov. 26,794, very small. 79,391 through the state exchanges in 14 states. What are your ---" CNN's GLORIA BORGER: "It's embarrassing for the administration. They clearly need more, wanted more. They were low-balling this. But let me take you back. The Congressional Budget Office, which is the nonpartisan budget office, early on, estimated that 7 million people would need to be enrolled by March 31 to make this work." (CNN's ["The Lead."](#) 11/13/13)

- **"In Political Terms ... The Numbers Are Yet Another Problem For The White House.** "In political terms, though, the numbers are yet another problem for the White House, which is one reason Ms. Sebelius — and not the president — was to announce them on Wednesday." (Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Susanne Craig, "Health Law Enrollment Figures Far Lower Than Initial Estimates," [The New York Times](#), 11/13/13)

National Journal Headline: "It's Official: ObamaCare Enrollment Is Super Low" (Sam Baker, "It's Official: ObamaCare Enrollment Is Super Low," [National Journal](#), 11/13/13)

As Of November 2, Only 106,000 People Signed Up For Health Care Through The ObamaCare Exchange. "Only 106,000 people signed up for coverage in the new Obamacare exchanges as of Nov. 2, administration officials announced in the first official update of enrollment since the law's troubled Oct. 1 launch." (Kyle Cheney and Jason Millman, "October ObamaCare Enrollment Low," [Politico](#), 11/13/13)

Only "26,794 People Bought Health Insurance On The Federal Website." "The federal government has been playing down expectations for how many people will have signed up so far, but the numbers released on Wednesday. The long-awaited figures show that 26,794 people bought health insurance on the federal website, covering 36 states." (Maggie Fox, "26,000 Signed Up Through Federal ObamaCare Website In First Month, Administration Says," [NBC News](#), 11/13/13)

- **CNBC's Bertha Coombs: ObamaCare Enrollment Numbers Are "Dismal" In States On Federal Exchange.** BERTHA COOMBS: "On the federal exchange in some of the big states that are not participating, did not build their own marketplaces, the numbers are dismal. Florida, just 3600

plans selected; in Texas, about 3,000; Pennsylvania, about 2200. So, bill, they certainly prepared people for these numbers to be low. And they will certainly say, that look, it's only the first month; a lot of this volume comes in just before the deadline and will come in just before December 15th. But they obviously are facing a technological issue for people in the states that are not part of a state-built exchange with healthcare.gov continuing to be problematic for a lot of people." (CNBC's ["Closing Bell,"](#) 11/13/13)

The October Numbers Are Way Short Of The Administration's Enrollment Goals

Before ObamaCare's Disastrous Rollout, "The Obama Administration Projected That Nearly A Half Million People Would Sign Up For The New Health Insurance Markets" In October. "For the first month alone, the Obama administration projected that nearly a half million people would sign up for the new health insurance markets, according to an internal memo obtained by The Associated Press. But that was before the markets opened to a cascade of computer problems." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Obama Health Target: 500,000 Signups By Oct. 31," [The Associated Press,](#) 10/16/13)

- **Obama "Officials Estimated That 494,620 People Would Sign Up."** "In the memo, officials estimated that 494,620 people would sign up for health insurance under the program by Oct. 31. And that was portrayed as a slow start." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Obama Health Target: 500,000 Signups By Oct. 31," [The Associated Press,](#) 10/16/13)

The Numbers "Fall Well Short Of The Administration's Early Goals." "The figures, which fall well short of the administration's early goals, include people who have selected a health plan, whether or not they have actually paid for it. The White House has been tamping down expectations for weeks, warning that they have always expected the first month of enrollment to be low, even before the problems with the website became clear." (Kyle Cheney and Jason Millman, "October ObamaCare Enrollment Low," [Politico,](#) 11/13/13)

"Healthcare.gov Has Performed Even Worse Than Expected." (Sam Baker, "It's Official: ObamaCare Enrollment Is Super Low," [National Journal,](#) 11/13/13)

The Numbers Released Are "One-Fifth Of The 500,000 Enrollees Who Were Predicted To Sign Up In The First Month." "And it is one-fifth of the 500,000 enrollees who were predicted to sign up in the first month, according to an administration memo earlier this year obtained by *The Associated Press* and confirmed by ABC News." (Abby Phillip, "Only 106,185 Enroll In Health Insurance Nationwide Using Marketplaces," [ABC News,](#) 11/13/13)

It's "Less Than Two Percent Of The Seven Million Americans Federal Officials Expect To Sign Up For New Health Insurance Under ObamaCare Were Able To Do So In October." "Less than two percent of the seven million Americans federal officials expect to sign up for new health insurance under ObamaCare were able to do so in October, the Obama administration said Wednesday." (Kate Pickert, "Only 106,000 Americans Signed Up For ObamaCare In October," [Time,](#) 11/13/13)

- **The Numbers Fall Way Short Of 39,000 Enrollees A Day To Meet The Administration's Goal Of Seven Million Enrollees.** "The health care exchanges need to average 39,000 enrollees a day to meet the goal of seven million by March 1." (Sharyl Attkisson, "ObamaCare Enrollment Numbers Very Small, Documents Show," [CBS News,](#) 10/31/13)

CNN's Gloria Borger: "HealthCare.gov Has Been A Complete Disaster For The Administration." GLORIA BORGER: "Healthcare.gov has been a complete disaster for the Administration. It's clear that they have been low-balling what to expect and I'm not quite sure they low-balled it enough." (CNN's ["The Lead,"](#) 11/13/13)

And While The Enrollment Numbers Are Bad, We Still Don't Have An Age Breakdown Of

Enrollees

HHS Has Yet To Release Important Information Regarding The Age Breakdown Of Signups. PETER ALEXANDER: "Some of the important things we don't know more specifically right now about these numbers is the exact age breakdown. Almost as important as the number itself is the breakdown between Young Invincibles as they are described the young and healthy people paying into the system to help cover the cost for the more expensive individuals, the older individuals and individuals that may have the preexisting conditions and the ones this White House has been very focused on making sure can get coverage as a result." ([MSNBC](#), 11/13/13)

If The ObamaCare Exchange Is Unable To Draw An Influx Of Young And Healthy Adults, "An Older, More Expensive Set Of Customers Could Drive Up Prices For Everyone." "Insurers say the early buyers of health coverage on the nation's troubled new websites are older than expected so far, raising early concerns about the economics of the insurance marketplaces. If the trend continues, an older, more expensive set of customers could drive up prices for everyone, the insurers say, by forcing them to spread their costs around." (Christopher Weaver and Timothy W. Martin, "Young Avoid New Health Plans," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 11/4/13)

Insurers Are Relying On The Signups Of Young, Healthy Adults To Offset Higher The Higher Health Care Costs Accrued By Older Americans. "The law bars insurers from charging sicker customers higher rates, and limits the amount they can charge older people compared with younger ones. It offers new subsidies to help cover premiums available to many lower-income applicants. Insurers are relying on a steady stream of younger, healthier enrollees to offset medical bills of older, sicker customers." (Christopher Weaver and Timothy W. Martin, "Young Avoid New Health Plans," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 11/4/13)

- **"So Far, The Young Have Remained Elusive."** "So far, the young have remained elusive. At a health-law education event in North Carolina last week, more than 100 people, mostly in their 40s and 50s, came. 'I actually didn't see a single young person,' said Liz Gallops, an insurance agent from Raleigh, N.C., who attended." (Christopher Weaver and Timothy W. Martin, "Young Avoid New Health Plans," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 11/4/13)

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PADDED ENROLLMENT NUMBERS BY EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF ENROLLEE

Health And Human Services (HHS): "To Date, 106,185 Persons Have Enrolled And Selected A Marketplace Plan—This Includes Those Who Have Paid A Premium And Those Who Have Not Yet Paid A Premium." ("Health Insurance Marketplace: November Enrollment Report," [HHS](#), 11/13/13)

The Obama Administration Expanded The Definition Of ObamaCare Enrollee Numbers To Count Those "Who Have A Plan Sitting In Their Online Shopping Cart." "When the Obama administration releases health law enrollment figures later this week, though, it will use a more expansive definition. It will count people who have purchased a plan as well as those who have a plan sitting in their online shopping cart but have not yet paid. 'In the data that will be released this week, 'enrollment' will measure people who have filled out an application and selected a qualified health plan in the marketplace,' said an administration official, who requested anonymity to frankly describe the methodology.'" (Sarah Kliff, "Who Counts As An ObamaCare Enrollee? The Obama Administration Settles On A Definition," [The Washington Post's Wonk Blog](#), 11/11/13)

NBC's Peter Alexander: The Administration's "Definition Of Enrollment Is Fairly Loose The Way This Is Being Communicated." PETER ALEXANDER: "The definition of enrollment is fairly loose the way this is being communicated. The definition is only for those who have selected a plan, not necessarily those who have paid for a plan. But again, the headline right now is 106,000 Americans for the first 33

days of ObamaCare either through the states or federal exchanges have now signed up.” ([MSNBC](#), 11/13/13)

- **Insurers Only Count Enrollees That Have Already Submitted A Payment.** “Health insurance plans only count subscribers as enrolled in a health plan once they’ve submitted a payment. That is when the carrier sends out a member card and begins paying doctor bills.” (Sarah Kliff, “Who Counts As An ObamaCare Enrollee? The Obama Administration Settles On A Definition,” [The Washington Post’s Wonk Blog](#), 11/11/13)

The White House’s Chief Technology Officer Todd Park Said Items In An Online Shopping Cart Don’t Equate To A Sale. JASON CHAFFETZ (R-UT): “Mr. Chairman, this is something we obviously have to follow up on. Mr. Park, you are a very bright and talented person. The federal government is lucky to have somebody of your caliber engaged in this process. It actually gives me comfort you’re looking at this and spending some time with it. I have a fundamental question that I want to ask you. Have you ever shopped on Amazon.com?” TODD PARK: “Yes, sir.” CHAFFETZ: “Have you ever shopped on Ebay.com?” PARK: “Actually no.” CHAFFETZ: “We’re gonna have to change and work with you on that one.” PARK: “I’m from California.” CHAFFETZ: “The Amazon experience, when you put something in your shopping cart. Is that considered a sale?” PARK: “No.” CHAFFETZ: “Thank you, I yield back.” (Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, U.S. House Of Representatives, [Hearing](#), 11/13/13)