



Nothing To See Here

As Obama Prepares To Talk About ObamaCare's Troubles, Enrollment Numbers Remain A Mystery

Today, Obama Will Address The Problems Facing ObamaCare's Exchanges. "President Barack Obama will 'directly address the technical problems with HealthCare.gov' at a Monday event in the Rose Garden where he also plans to underscore the benefits his health law will provide Americans, a White House official said Sunday. ... The official said the president finds the website's technical problems — which have obstructed people from signing up — unacceptable and will announce steps he's pushed for to address them." ("Obama To Speak About Obamacare Website Woes," [Politico](#), 10/20/13)

THE WHITE HOUSE CONTINUES TO WITHHOLD THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS THAT HAVE ENROLLED IN THE OBAMACARE EXCHANGE

The Obama Administration Has Provided ObamaCare Application Numbers But Has Refused "To Say How Many People Have Actually Enrolled In The Insurance Markets." "Administration officials say more than 476,000 health insurance applications have been filed through federal and state exchanges. The figures mark the most detailed measure yet of the problem-plagued rollout of the insurance market place. However, the officials continue to refuse to say how many people have actually enrolled in the insurance markets." (Julie Pace, "For Obama, A Frustrating Health Care Rollout," [The Associated Press](#), 10/20/13)

- ***The Associated Press' Julie Pace: "This Number Doesn't Tell Us How Many People Are Going To Enroll. ... We Don't Know If All These People Who Have Applied Will Eventually Enroll."*** JULIE PACE: "You have to fill out an application first when you get on to this website before you can actually enroll. This is where you enter your personal data and you also enter income information that helps the government figure out what kind of subsidy you could apply for — you could be qualified for. So it's important to know this number, but this number doesn't tell us how many people are going to enroll. ... So we don't know if all these people who have applied will eventually enroll. That's going to be the big number." (Fox's "[Fox News Sunday](#)," 10/20/13)

HHS Has "Repeatedly Declined To Answer Specific Questions" About ObamaCare's Enrollment Figures. "HHS, which is running all or part of the marketplaces in 36 states, has repeatedly declined to answer specific questions about its handling of the rollout, including specific glitches, enrollment figures, or its plans to fix the problems." (Christopher Weaver and Louise Radnofsky, "Health Website Woes Widen As Insurers Get Wrong Data," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/18/13)

Obama Officials Have Been Unable To Provide A Firm Date Of When They Will Release ObamaCare's Enrollment Numbers

White House Press Secretary Jay Carney: “We’ve Said Repeatedly, Jon, That We Will Release Enrollment Figures Monthly. So I Would Expect The First Figures To Come Out In Mid-November.”

Q: “And do you have even an estimate for me now -- we’re two weeks into this -- of how many people have enrolled?” MR. CARNEY: “We’ve said repeatedly, Jon, that we will release enrollment figures monthly. So I would expect the first figures to come out in mid-November.” (White House Press Secretary Jay Carney, [Press Briefing](#), Washington, DC, 10/17/13)

Sec. Kathleen Sebelius: “At The End Of The Month We’ll Be Putting Out Our First Enrollment Numbers.” ANCHOR: “Tell us how Ohio is doing in terms of enrollment numbers in the healthcare exchanges.” SEBELIUS: “Well, we are going to be collecting nationwide enrollment numbers and putting them out once a month and they’re coming from the call center, from Healthcare.gov and from paper applications so at the end of the month we’ll be putting out our first enrollment numbers.” ANCHOR: “But you don’t have hard numbers just yet?” SEBELIUS: “No. We’ll be doing that at the end of the month.” ([WBNS-OH](#), 10/17/13)

In Many States, Enrollment Numbers Are Low Or Nonexistent

OREGON: Oregon Has Yet To Have Anyone Enroll For A Private Health Plan Offered On The ObamaCare Exchange. “When it comes to private insurance, spokeswoman Amy Fauver said that it has not yet had any sign-ups. ... However, Fauver said that no Oregon health plan has received an enrollment through the marketplace.” (Sarah Kliff, “The Other Sided Of ObamaCare’s Oregon Success: No One Has Bought Private Insurance,” [The Washington Post’s WonkBlog](#), 10/18/13)

DELAWARE: Delaware Officials Are “Celebrating” Their First Obamacare Enrollee A Full Two Weeks After The Exchanges Opened. “Delaware officials are celebrating the state’s first health insurance exchange enrollee. Department of Health and Social Service officials have declared 59-year-old Janice Baker of Selbyville the first confirmed resident to enroll in the marketplace. It opened Oct. 1 as part of the roll-out of the Affordable Care Act.” (“Delaware Health Officials Celebrate First Health Exchange Enrollee,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/16/13)

ALASKA: In The 18 Days Since ObamaCare Launched, Only Seven People Have Successfully Signed Up For ObamaCare In Alaska. “Outreach to sign up Alaska’s nearly 140,000 uninsured has been extensive, including efforts by trained healthcare navigators working with the United Way, application counselors stationed at more than a hundred community health centers and partnerships with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Despite those efforts, by Thursday, outreach officials could only confirm seven Alaskans had signed up for coverage.” (Matthew Smith, “Few Alaskans Signing Up For ObamaCare Through Online Health Marketplaces,” [KTVA 11](#), 10/18/13)

IOWA: According To Early Estimates, Just Five Iowans Were Able To Sign Up For Obamacare. “At least five unusually persistent Iowans have managed to sign up for health insurance on the government’s balky new online marketplace. Let’s call them the Hardy Handful. They apparently were willing to wait through interminable delays and to try, try again after repeatedly being booted off the system. By Wednesday morning, they had enrolled in insurance plans sold on the public marketplace by CoOpportunity Health. ‘They threaded the needle and got in,’ said Cliff Gold, the insurance carrier’s chief operating officer. ‘It’s like when a radio station says, ‘If you’re the 20th caller, you’ll win something.’ These people were the 20th caller.’” (Tony Leys, “A Few Iowans Able To Get Through Health Exchange,” [Des Moines Register](#), 10/10/13)

NORTH DAKOTA: In North Dakota, “Only A Couple Of Enrollments” Have Been Received By The Three Insurance Companies Providing Health Insurance On The ObamaCare Exchange. “There are three companies providing health insurance plans for North Dakota residents — Blue Cross Blue Shield,

Medica and Sanford Health Plan. As of now, Blue Cross Blue Shield has only received a couple of enrollments from the marketplace, said J.D. Nichol, the manager of consumer sales. Greg Bury, a spokesman for Medica, said his company hasn't received any. They are not worried, however, Bury said. It's only been a short time and the delays are not yet concerning. There is still enough time for people to be enrolled, he said. This sentiment was echoed by Emily Bormann, a spokeswoman for Sanford Health. The Sanford Health Plan has not yet received any enrollments from North Dakota, she said, but it's still early." (Hannah Johnson, "Two Weeks Into Health Insurance Marketplace, Companies In Holding Pattern," [The Bismarck Tribune](#), 10/15/13)

SOUTH DAKOTA: As Few As 23 People Have Signed Up For ObamaCare In South Dakota. "At least 23 people in South Dakota have signed up for health insurance in the first two weeks policies have been offered through an Internet exchange that's part of President Barack Obama's health care law." ("At Least 23 People In South Dakota Sign Up For Obamacare In First 2 Weeks," [The Associated Press](#), 10/18/13)

WISCONSIN: In Wisconsin, Fewer Than 50 People Have Enrolled In The Obamacare Exchanges. REPORTER: "Less than 50 people have enrolled in Wisconsin since the exchange open October 1st. That's according to the Wisconsin office of the commissioner of insurance but some health clinics say it's less than that." CLINIC WORKER: "A few, less than a handful." REPORTER: "At Partnership Community Health Center they communicate frequently with other county health clinics to see if anyone has signed up." CLINIC WORKER: "Every day there are emails that go out 'do you know anybody that enrolled?' I mean it's at that level it's such a countdown for us." ("Local 5 News" [WFRV-CBS \[Green Bay, WI\]](#), 10/16/13)

OBAMACARE'S CATASTROPHIC ROLLOUT WILL FAIL TO MEET THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S EXPECTATIONS

Before ObamaCare's Disastrous Rollout, "The Obama Administration Projected That Nearly A Half Million People Would Sign Up" 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 Memo For HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Listed "Monthly Enrollment Targets For Each State And Washington D.C., Through March 31."** "The Sept. 5 memo, for Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, lists monthly enrollment targets for each state and Washington, D.C., through March 31, the last day of the initial open enrollment period under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Obama Health Target: 500,000 Signups By Oct. 31," [The Associated Press](#), 10/16/13)

Despite The Sebelius Memo, An HHS Spokeswoman Claimed That "The Administration Has Not Set Monthly Enrollment Targets." "Health and Human Services spokeswoman Joanne Peters emails: 'The Administration has not set monthly enrollment targets. We are analyzing data about the uninsured, state plans for enrollment, and the experience of the state of Massachusetts which implemented a similar system. We continue to focus on reaching as many uninsured Americans as possible, based on experience on the ground. As it did in Massachusetts and Medicare Part D, enrollment takes time.'" (Sarah Kliff, "The Obama Administration Projected 500,000 ObamaCare Sign-Ups This Month. Can That Still Happen," [The Washington Post's WonkBlog](#), 10/17/13)

Accomplishing The Obama Administration's Target Goal Would Be Nothing Short Of A Miracle Due To Glitches

"Achieving That Milestone Looks, At This Point, Unlikely." (Sarah Kliff, "The Obama Administration Projected 500,000 ObamaCare Sign-Ups This Month. Can That Still Happen," [The Washington Post's WonkBlog](#), 10/17/13)

In Its Third Week, The ObamaCare Exchange "Continues To Experience Problems." "In its third week of operations, the website continues to experience problems, which government officials say they are working day and night to repair. Even allies of the Obama administration have been highly critical, with former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs calling it 'excruciatingly embarrassing' and calling for 'some people' to be fired." (Sharon Begley, "Insight: As ObamaCare Tech Woes Mounted, Contractor Payments Soared," [Reuters](#), 10/17/13)

- **Insurers Continue To Get Flawed Data, "In A Sign That Technological Problems Extend Further Than Website Traffic And Software Issues Already Identified."** "Insurers say the federal health-care marketplace is generating flawed data that is straining their ability to handle even the trickle of enrollees who have gotten through so far, in a sign that technological problems extend further than the website traffic and software issues already identified." (Christopher Weaver and Louise Radnofsky, "Health Website Woes Widen As Insurers Get Wrong Data," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 10/18/13)
- **Technology Experts Are Claiming That The ObamaCare Exchange Was Constructed "Using 10-Year-Old Technology That May Require Constant Fixes And Updates For The Next Six Months."** "The federal health care exchange was built using 10-year-old technology that may require constant fixes and updates for the next six months and the eventual overhaul of the entire system, technology experts told USA TODAY." (Kelly Kennedy, "Tech Experts: Health Exchange Site Needs Total Overhaul," [USA Today](#), 10/17/13)

Interest In The ObamaCare Exchange Has Significantly Ratcheted Down

"If The Glitches Persist And Frustrated Consumers Give Up Trying, That Initial Goal, Described As Modest In The Memo, Could Slip Out Of Reach." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Obama Health Target: 500,000 Signups By Oct. 31," [The Associated Press](#), 10/16/13)

Visitors To ObamaCare's Exchange Website Dropped 88 Percent Between Oct. 1 And Oct. 13. "The number of visitors to the federal government's HealthCare.gov Website dropped 88 percent between Oct. 1 and Oct. 13, according to a new analysis of America's online use, while less than half of 1 percent of the site's visitors successfully enrolled for health insurance the first week. The new numbers on the health-care law — released by Kantar US Insights and based on an assessment conducted by the nonpartisan research firm Millward Brown Digital — provide a partial snapshot of how the federal health-care exchange has fared since it launched at the start of the month." (Juliet Eilperin, "Visits To Federal Health Care Website Off 88%," [The Washington Post](#), 10/15/13)

- **Millward Brown Digital V.P. Matthew Pace Estimated That Last Week, The Website "Attracted 4.1 Million Visitors, Or Less Than Half Of What It Garnered Its First Week."** "In a blog post, Millward Brown Digital Vice President Matthew Pace, who called the first week's performance 'atrocious,' said the numbers could change dramatically once the federal government improves how the Web site functions. He compared the initial number of HealthCare.gov users with the kind of traffic Target.com experiences, noting that about 0.9 percent of all online users logged onto the site during the first week. As of Oct. 13, that had fallen to 0.1 percent, he said. Last week, he estimated, the site attracted 4.1 million visitors, or less than half of what it garnered its first week." (Juliet Eilperin, "Visits To Federal Health Care Website Off 88%," [The Washington Post](#), 10/15/13)