



# SOTU Fact Check: ObamaCare

*With Just 15 Words, Obama Obscured The Facts On Health Care Spending*

## OBAMA DECLARED THAT OBAMACARE WAS SLOWING HEALTH CARE COSTS

**Obama: "Already, The Affordable Care Act Is Helping To Slow The Growth Of Health Care Costs."**

(President Barack Obama, Address Before A Joint Session Of Congress On The State Of The Union, Washington, D.C., 2/12/13)

### *Federal Health Care Spending Continues To Increase Under Obama*

**Congressional Budget Office (CBO): "New Outlays For Medicare Grew By 3 Percent In 2012."** ("Budget And Economic Outlook," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 2/5/13)

- **"Medicare's Outlays Will Increase By 4 Percent In 2013, CBO Estimates."** ("Budget And Economic Outlook," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 2/5/13)

**CBO Projects That Health Care Spending Will "Grow Rapidly" Once ObamaCare Is Fully Implemented, Reaching 6.2 Percent Of GDP In 2023.** "Spending for major health care programs will be nearly 5 percent of GDP in 2013, and such spending is projected to grow rapidly when provisions of the Affordable Care Act are fully implemented by middecade, reaching 6.2 percent of GDP in 2023." ("Budget And Economic Outlook," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 2/5/13)

### *American Families Continue To Spend More On Healthcare*

**Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Family Health Care Premiums Has Increased By \$3,065 From \$12,680 To \$15,745, A 24.2 Percent Increase.** ("Employer Health Benefits, 2012 Annual Survey, Exhibit 6.4," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2012)

- **Under Obama, Families Pay An Average Of \$255 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** ("Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; "Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/24/08)
- **Under Obama, Americans Pay An Average Of \$76 More On Monthly Health Care Premiums.** ("Employer Health Benefits; 2012 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/11/12; "Employer Health Benefits; 2008 Annual Survey," [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 9/24/08)

**Under ObamaCare, Family Health Care Premiums Will Increase \$2,404 Annually.** (Douglas W. Elmendorf, CBO Director, [Letter To Senator Evan Bayh](#), 11/30/09; "Updated Estimates For The Insurance Coverage Provisions Of The Affordable Care Act Updated For The Recent Supreme Court Decision," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 7/24/12)

**Premiums Have Climbed At A Faster Rate Under Obama Than “The Previous Four Years Under President George Bush.”** “During Obama’s term, between 2009 to 2012, premiums have climbed \$2,370 for the average family with an employer-provided plan – a rate faster than the during the previous four years under President George W. Bush, according to Kaiser.” (Jake Tapper, “Rising Health Costs Undermine Obama Pledge To Curb Trend,” [ABC News](#), 9/25/12)

**“The Rise In Premiums Easily Outpaced Workers’ Raises And Inflation.”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Premiums For Family Health Plans Hit \$15,745,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/11/12)

**FactCheck.org: ObamaCare “Falls Short Of Making Health Care ‘Affordable And Available To Every Single American,’ As Promised.”** “Furthermore, the law falls short of making health care ‘affordable and available to every single American,’ as promised. The law provides subsidies to help some Americans buy insurance, expands Medicaid and doesn’t allow insurance companies to exclude persons with preexisting conditions. But still, the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected 23 million persons will remain uninsured — some because they can’t afford coverage.” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](#), 1/4/12)

- **FactCheck.org: ObamaCare Is Actually Making Health Care “Less Affordable.”** “At the moment, the new law is making health care slightly less affordable. Independent health care experts say the law has caused some insurance premiums to rise. As we wrote in October, the new law has caused about a 1 percent to 3 percent increase in health insurance premiums for employer-sponsored family plans because of requirements for increased benefits. Last year’s premium increases cast even more doubt on another promise the president has made — that the health care law would ‘lower premiums by up to \$2,500 for a typical family per year.’” (D’Angelo Gore, “Promises, Promises,” [FactCheck.org](#), 1/4/12)
- ***The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker: “Bad News ... Premiums Almost Certainly Will Go Up.”*** “But the bad news is that, on average, premiums almost certainly will go up — with some people really getting hit with increases.” (Glenn Kessler, “President Obama’s Claim That Insurance Premiums ‘Will Go Down,’” *The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker*, 8/10/12)

## FACT CHECKERS STILL AREN’T CONVINCED THAT OBAMACARE IS LOWERING COSTS

**“The Jury Is Still Out On Whether Obama’s Health Care Overhaul Will Reduce The Growth Of Health Care Costs.”** (Calvin Woodward, “Fact Check: Overreaching In State Of The Union Speech,” [The Associated Press](#), 2/13/13)

- **“This Is Still, At Best, An Open Question.”** (Josh Gerstein and Darren Samuelsohn, “State Of The Union Fact Check: A Look At President Obama’s Claims,” [Politico](#), 2/12/13)

**“Too Soon To Know” If ObamaCare Is Lowering Health Care Costs.** “But will they slow down Medicare spending enough to make a dent in the tidal wave of spending as baby boomers retire? Too soon to know — and the doubters aren’t all in the far right wing of the Republican party.” (Josh Gerstein and Darren Samuelsohn, “State Of The Union Fact Check: A Look At President Obama’s Claims,” [Politico](#), 2/12/13)