Maine’s New Health Insurance Law: Rates Soar for Rural Small Businesses

Nearly 1 in 4 small businesses in Northern Maine see rates go up by 40% or more

According to recent analysis by Consumers for Affordable Health Care, in 2012, the first year under Maine’s new health insurance law, premiums increased by 40% or more for 24% of small businesses in northern Maine (Aroostook, Piscataquis and Penobscot counties), 21% in eastern Maine (Hancock, Lincoln, Knox, Waldo and Washington counties) and 15% in western Maine (Franklin, Oxford and Somerset counties). In comparison, 4% of small businesses in southern Maine (Cumberland and York counties) and 8% in central Maine (Androscoggin, Kennebec and Sagadahoc counties) experienced rate increases of 40% or more. In 2011, before the new law took effect, premiums increased by 40% or more for 7-9% of small businesses in every region of the state.

% of Small Businesses with Health Insurance Rate Increases of 40% or More in 2012