



AVALERE ANALYSIS: 2015 EXCHANGE PREMIUM FILE

New analysis from Avalere Health examines the 2015 Federal Exchange Premium File. Tables below examine:

- Average lowest-cost Bronze premium by state: 2014 vs. 2015 and percent change
- Average lowest-cost Silver premium by state: 2014 vs. 2015 and percent change
- Average second-lowest Silver (SLS) premium by state: 2014 vs. 2015 and percent change
- Percent of regions by state where the SLS benchmark plan has changed for 2015

Avalere Insights

2015 Exchange Premiums

Changes in 2015 premiums vary widely by geography and regional market dynamics. When considering premium impact, note that approximately two-thirds of federal exchange consumers picked Silver plans in 2014. Of those, 43 percent picked the lowest-cost option, while only 22 percent chose the SLS or benchmark plan.

“The bottom line is that exchange enrollees’ 2015 premiums will vary widely based on geography,” said Elizabeth Carpenter, director at Avalere Health. “Consumers should be wary of reports detailing national or state-wide premium changes and should instead focus on the details of their particular plan.”

Changes in Benchmark Plan

Changes in the SLS or benchmark plan will impact the value of subsidies in 2015. Specifically, consumers have to pay the difference if they enroll in a plan more expensive than the benchmark. Therefore, consumers who do not switch plans in 2015 may have to pay more than the limits established by the Affordable Care Act. Moreover, plans participating in the federal exchange have broad latitude to renew customers automatically in the same exchange plan in 2015, decreasing the likelihood that 2014 exchange enrollees will shop and compare again in 2015.

“While automatic renewal could increase continuity of care for many consumers, many enrollees will be better off shopping and comparing again in 2015,” said Caroline Pearson, vice president at Avalere Health. “In particular, people who do not undergo a redetermination during the open enrollment period could end up paying more than they need to for insurance.”

**TABLE 1: AVERAGE LOWEST BRONZE AND SILVER PREMIUMS
2014 VS. 2015**

State	Average Lowest Bronze Premium 50-year old, non-smoker			Average Lowest Silver Premium 50-year old, non-smoker		
	2014	2015	% Change	2014	2015	% Change
FFM	\$ 298	\$ 307	3%	\$ 365	\$ 381	4%
AK	\$ 433	\$ 553	28%	\$ 532	\$ 683	28%
AL	\$ 276	\$ 291	6%	\$ 340	\$ 357	5%
AR	\$ 307	\$ 310	1%	\$ 391	\$ 387	-1%
AZ	\$ 261	\$ 236	-9%	\$ 311	\$ 280	-10%
DE	\$ 346	\$ 334	-3%	\$ 399	\$ 415	4%
FL	\$ 326	\$ 343	5%	\$ 370	\$ 410	11%
GA	\$ 332	\$ 314	-5%	\$ 394	\$ 384	-2%
IA	\$ 247	\$ 257	4%	\$ 317	\$ 329	4%
IL	\$ 246	\$ 264	8%	\$ 323	\$ 335	4%
IN	\$ 347	\$ 342	-2%	\$ 434	\$ 425	-2%
KS	\$ 236	\$ 254	8%	\$ 304	\$ 285	-6%
LA	\$ 306	\$ 319	4%	\$ 414	\$ 419	1%
ME	\$ 384	\$ 371	-3%	\$ 451	\$ 446	-1%
MI	\$ 266	\$ 284	7%	\$ 337	\$ 362	7%
MO	\$ 301	\$ 329	9%	\$ 386	\$ 407	5%
MS	\$ 389	\$ 314	-19%	\$ 456	\$ 403	-12%
MT	\$ 282	\$ 286	1%	\$ 348	\$ 331	-5%
NC	\$ 324	\$ 345	6%	\$ 407	\$ 438	8%
ND	\$ 315	\$ 323	2%	\$ 392	\$ 408	4%
NE	\$ 268	\$ 287	7%	\$ 324	\$ 354	9%
NH	\$ 317	\$ 263	-17%	\$ 403	\$ 332	-18%
NJ	\$ 391	\$ 390	0%	\$ 430	\$ 440	2%
OH	\$ 304	\$ 297	-2%	\$ 357	\$ 371	4%
OK	\$ 193	\$ 213	11%	\$ 285	\$ 289	1%
PA	\$ 233	\$ 252	8%	\$ 270	\$ 295	9%
SC	\$ 308	\$ 293	-5%	\$ 380	\$ 376	-1%
SD	\$ 334	\$ 310	-7%	\$ 386	\$ 359	-7%
TN	\$ 209	\$ 219	5%	\$ 272	\$ 287	5%
TX	\$ 228	\$ 264	16%	\$ 316	\$ 339	7%
UT	\$ 247	\$ 263	7%	\$ 309	\$ 320	4%
VA	\$ 282	\$ 291	3%	\$ 370	\$ 391	6%
WI	\$ 333	\$ 335	1%	\$ 399	\$ 403	1%
WV	\$ 314	\$ 342	9%	\$ 370	\$ 404	9%
WY	\$ 474	\$ 507	7%	\$ 538	\$ 583	9%

**TABLE 2: SECOND LOWEST SILVER BENCHMARK PREMIUMS
2014 VS. 2015**

State	Average SLS Premium 50 year-old, non-smoker			% of Regions with Same SLS Plan for 2015
	2014	2015	% Change	
FFM	\$ 383	\$ 395	3%	13%
AK	\$ 532	\$ 683	28%	0%
AL	\$ 359	\$ 373	4%	38%
AR	\$ 408	\$ 393	-4%	0%
AZ	\$ 319	\$ 336	5%	29%
DE	\$ 404	\$ 420	4%	100%
FL	\$ 388	\$ 429	11%	3%
GA	\$ 458	\$ 396	-14%	6%
IA	\$ 353	\$ 344	-3%	0%
IL	\$ 343	\$ 352	3%	8%
IN	\$ 450	\$ 438	-3%	0%
KS	\$ 304	\$ 323	6%	29%
LA	\$ 431	\$ 444	3%	0%
ME	\$ 470	\$ 467	0%	50%
MI	\$ 371	\$ 373	1%	0%
MO	\$ 397	\$ 425	7%	30%
MS	\$ 509	\$ 413	-19%	67%
MT	\$ 355	\$ 335	-6%	25%
NC	\$ 418	\$ 456	9%	19%
ND	\$ 396	\$ 417	5%	0%
NE	\$ 339	\$ 364	8%	75%
NH	\$ 404	\$ 345	-15%	0%
NJ	\$ 444	\$ 441	-1%	0%
OH	\$ 381	\$ 387	2%	24%
OK	\$ 295	\$ 314	6%	20%
PA	\$ 292	\$ 305	4%	22%
SC	\$ 385	\$ 386	0%	4%
SD	\$ 404	\$ 370	-9%	0%
TN	\$ 283	\$ 300	6%	13%
TX	\$ 331	\$ 350	6%	0%
UT	\$ 326	\$ 334	2%	0%
VA	\$ 382	\$ 397	4%	0%
WI	\$ 418	\$ 418	0%	0%
WV	\$ 370	\$ 404	9%	100%
WY	\$ 566	\$ 595	5%	0%

Methodology

Premium data based on the 2014 HHS Individual Market Landscape file, updated as of August 2014, and the 2015 HHS Individual Market Landscape file, updated as of November 14, 2014. Analysis includes 34 FFM states. Analysis excludes state-based exchanges, including those states that use healthcare.gov for their exchange portal (NM, ID, OR, NV). All premiums are based on a 50-yr old non-smoker. Analysis of regions with new second lowest silver plan relies on plan ID to determine change from year to year.

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