

INDIVIDUAL ENROLLMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AS OF JUNE 1, 2014

Between April and June 2014, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) undertook a survey of the insurance carriers offering comprehensive health insurance inside and outside of the Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE or Exchange). The purpose of the survey was to gain an understanding of the choices consumers exercised with regard to the purchase of health insurance within Washington state's individual health insurance market. The survey asked insurance carriers to provide total individual enrollment figures broken out by the following variables:

1. Insurance purchased inside or outside the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.
2. Age group
3. Metal level (bronze, silver or gold)¹²
4. County

Gold Plans cover 80 percent of the actuarial cost of essential health benefits (EHB).

Silver Plans cover 70 percent of the actuarial cost of EHB.

Bronze Plans cover 60 percent of the actuarial cost of EHB.

Some general observations can be made about the enrollment data:

- More plans were purchased outside of the HBE than inside (171,286 vs. 156,155).
- The 35 to 54 age group comprised the largest segment of enrollees, both inside and outside the HBE.
- Inside of the HBE the Silver plan was the most popular.
- Outside of the HBE the Bronze plan was the most popular.

The following charts illustrate the most notable enrollment trends observed from the survey data.

Figure 1 shows the trend in individual enrollment in Washington between 2010 and 2014. After peaking in 2010 at nearly 294,000, enrollment in the individual insurance market declined for the following three

¹ As of May 1, 2014, there were 255 enrollees in catastrophic health insurance plans. Catastrophic health plans do not offer comprehensive coverage and are not considered as a Qualified Health Plan (QHP).

² Platinum plans are not available for 2014 in Washington state.

years. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) taking full effect in January 2014 and the opening of the HBE in late 2013, enrollment in the individual insurance market showed a dramatic increase with more than 79,000 more enrollees in 2014 than in 2013.

Figures 2 through 4 display the age distribution of enrollees. Overall, the 18 to 34 age group comprises 23.2 percent of enrollment with only slight variations inside and outside of the HBE (Figure 4). The Under 18 age group shows the widest variation between place of enrollment comprising only 3.5 percent of the enrollment inside the HBE and 21.2 percent outside of the HBE (Figures 5 and 6). This difference is attributable primarily to the eligibility requirement for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) which allows children residing in households up to 317 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) which removes their requirement from the individual insurance market. The Over 55 age group is the only group to have a higher total number of enrollees within the HBE (48,328 inside vs. 39,413 outside) as this age group benefits substantially from tax credits.

FIGURE 1. INDIVIDUAL ENROLLMENT, 2010-2014³

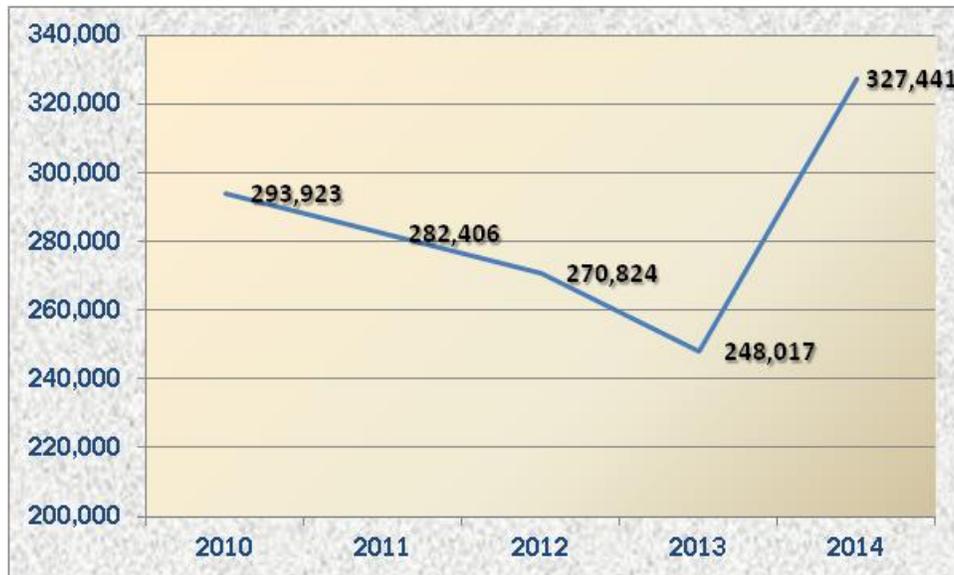


FIGURE 2. OVERALL ENROLLMENT BY AGE GROUP⁴

³ As of June 1, 2014. Does not include Association Health Plans (AHP).

⁴ As of May 1, 2014

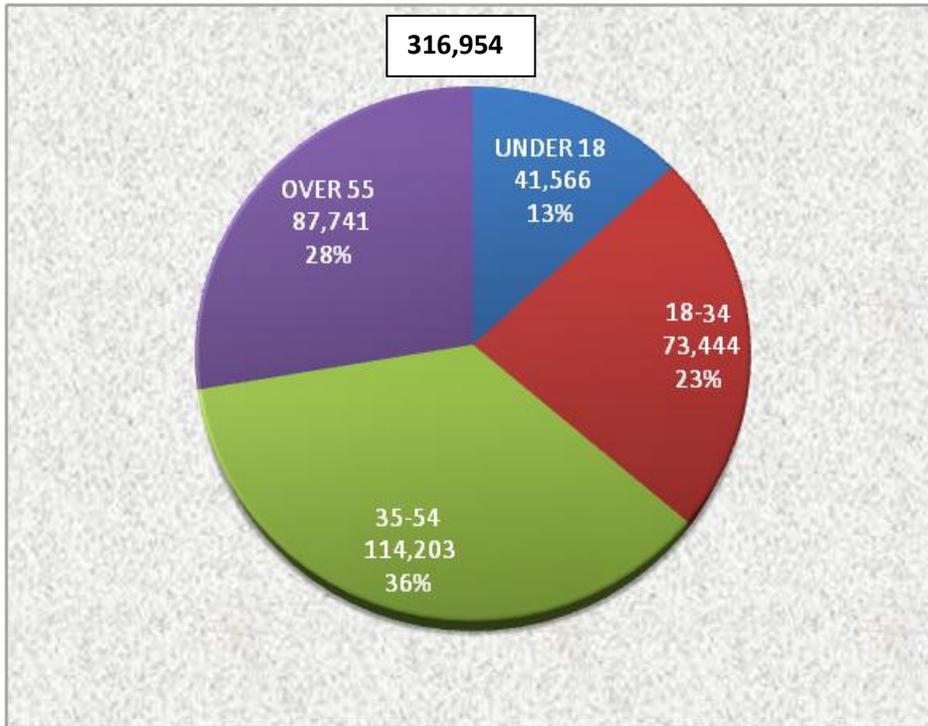


FIGURE 3. ENROLLMENT BY AGE GROUP: INSIDE HBE⁵

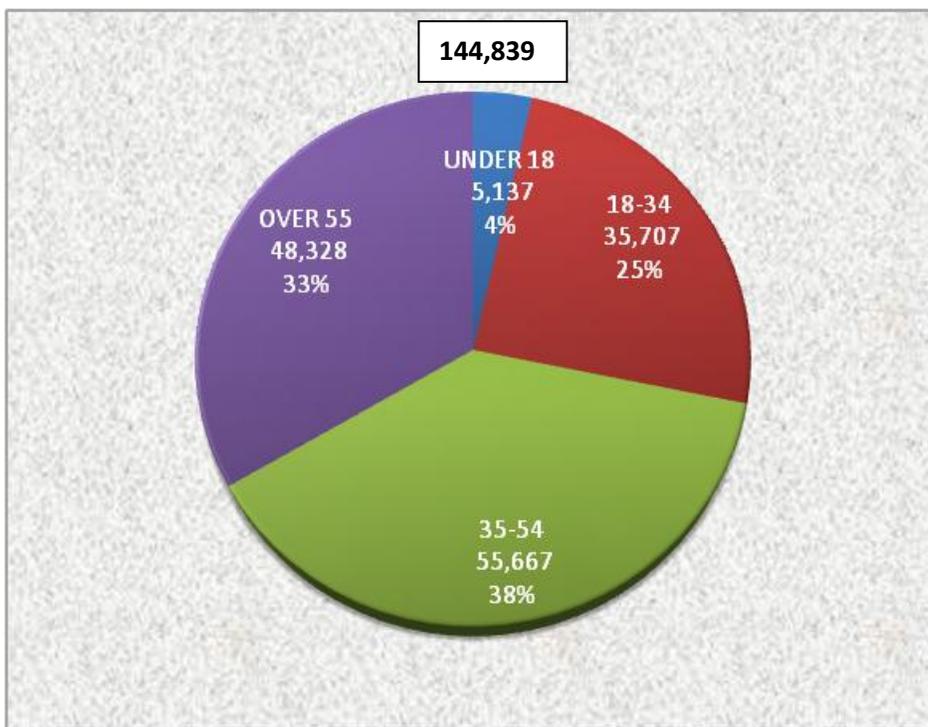
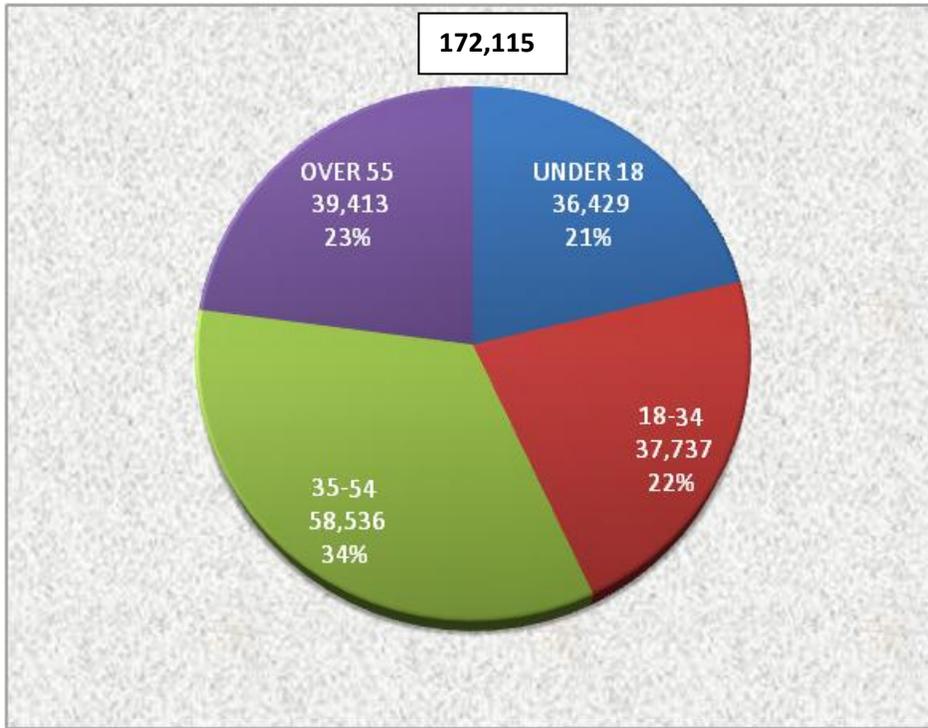


FIGURE 4. ENROLLMENT BY AGE GROUP: OUTSIDE HBE⁵

⁵ As of May 1, 2014



Figures 5 and 6 display the age distribution for urban and rural counties⁶ within the State of Washington both inside and outside of the HBE. In all counties with enrollment over 3,000 either inside or outside the HBE, the 35 to 54 age group was the most prominent. The enrollees in urban areas are generally younger than enrollees in rural areas. This holds true both inside and outside of the HBE, but is more prominent for enrollees within the HBE. Rural enrollees tend to be older, with the Over 55 age group comprising a larger share of enrollment both inside and outside of the HBE.

FIGURE 5. ENROLLMENT BY AGE AND REGION: INSIDE HBE⁷

⁶ For the purposes of this analysis, urban counties consist of Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima. Rural counties consist of Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Clallam, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whitman. Enrollees residing out of state are not shown.

⁷ As of May 1, 2014



FIGURE 6. ENROLLMENT BY AGE AND REGION: OUTSIDE HBE⁷

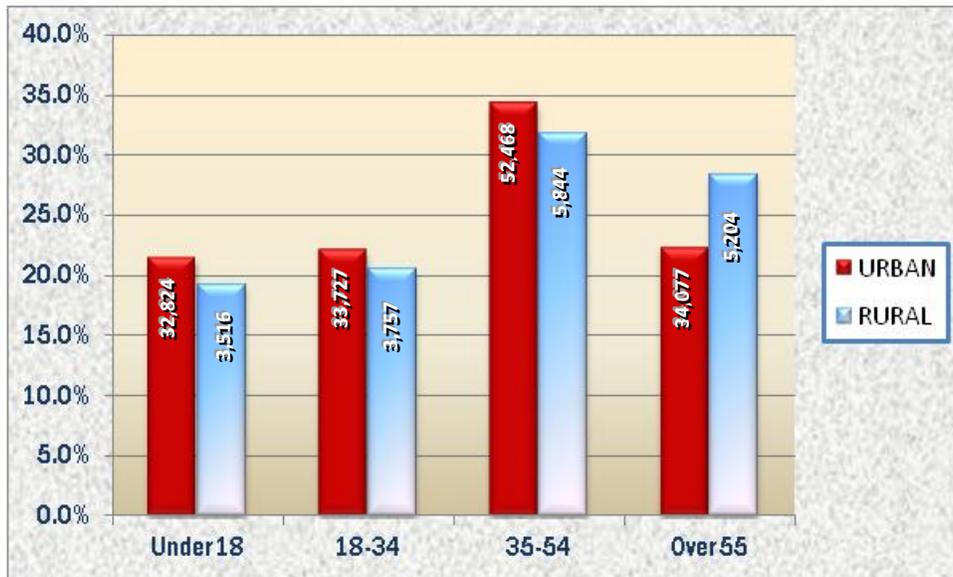


Figure 7 highlights the difference in metal choice inside and outside of the HBE with 53.8 percent of enrollees choosing Silver within the HBE and 62.4 percent choosing Bronze outside of the HBE.

FIGURE 7. ENROLLMENT BY METAL: ALL AGE GROUPS^{8,9}

⁸ Does not include catastrophic plans.

⁹ As of May 1, 2014



Figure 8 reveals that the Silver plan was the most popular choice inside the HBE for all age groups except Under 18.

FIGURE 8. AGE GROUP BY METAL: INSIDE HBE^{8,9}



Outside of the HBE, the Bronze plan was the most popular choice among all age groups (Figure 9).

FIGURE 9. AGE GROUP BY METAL: OUTSIDE HBE^{10,11}



¹⁰ Does not include catastrophic plans.

¹¹ As of May 1, 2014