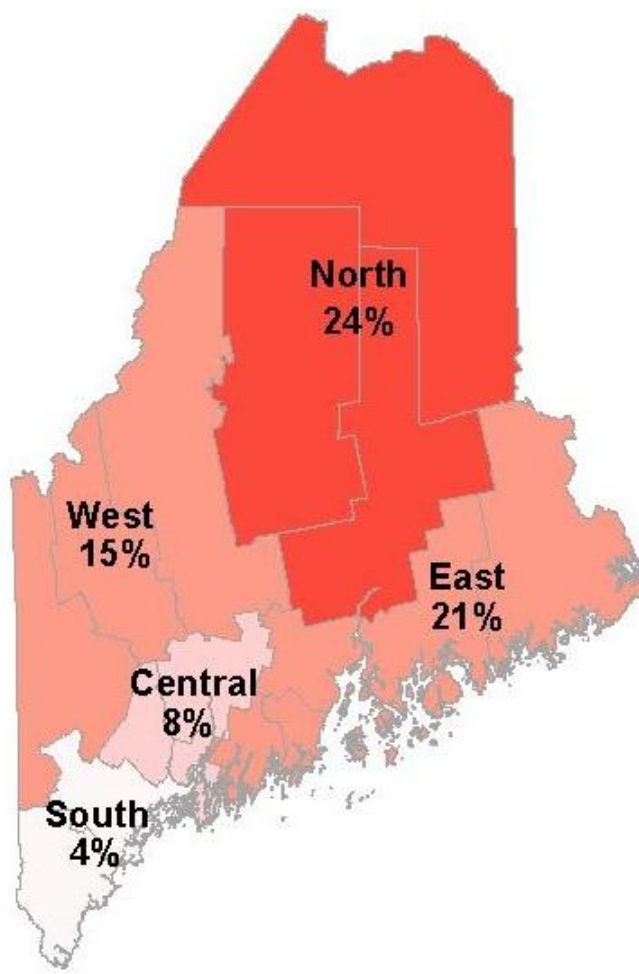


Maine's New Health Insurance Law: Rates Soar for Rural Small Businesses

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



Source: Map prepared by the Maine Center for Economic Policy with data from Consumers for Affordable Health Care analysis of Maine Bureau of Insurance data and contained in the report "Few Winners, Many Losers: Evaluating the Impact of Key Provisions of Maine's New Health Insurance Law to Date" available at www.maineceph.org.