

Obamacare Fraud, by the Numbers

Paragon research has exposed two major problems in the Obamacare exchanges: improper enrollment and zero-claim enrollees.

Improper enrollees are enrollees signed up for fully subsidized plans at the conclusion of open enrollment claiming incomes between 100 and 150 percent of the federal poverty level, even though they do not actually earn that amount.

Zero-claim enrollees are people enrolled at any point during the year who did not use their health plan at all — no doctor visit, no lab test, and no prescription filled.

Improper enrollees	
2025	2024
6.4 million	5.0 million
Source: The Greater Obamacare Enrollment Fraud, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/the-greater-obamacare-enrollment-fraud/	Source: The Great Obamacare Enrollment Fraud, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/the-great-obamacare-enrollment-fraud/

Improper enrollees as a percentage of all enrollees	
2025	2024
26%	23%
Source: 2025 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period Public Use Files, https://www.cms.gov/data-research/statistics-trends-reports/marketplace-products/2025-marketplace-open-enrollment-period-public-use-files	Source: Health Insurance Marketplaces 2024 Open Enrollment Report, https://www.cms.gov/files/document/health-insurance-exchanges-2024-open-enrollment-report-final.pdf

Federal spending on improper enrollees	
2025	2024
\$27 billion	\$20 billion
Source: The Greater Obamacare Enrollment Fraud, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/the-greater-obamacare-enrollment-fraud/	Source: The Great Obamacare Enrollment Fraud, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/the-great-obamacare-enrollment-fraud/

Percentage of enrollees who were automatically re-enrolled	
2025	2020
45%	29%
Source: The Greater Obamacare Enrollment Fraud, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/the-greater-obamacare-enrollment-fraud/	Source: The Great Obamacare Enrollment Fraud, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/the-great-obamacare-enrollment-fraud/
Note: A large part of the fraud in 2025 was the automatic renewal of coverage for people who were improperly enrolled in previous years.	

Enrollees with unknown race or ethnicity on their application

2025	2020
50%	28%
Source: The Greater Obamacare Enrollment Fraud, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/the-greater-obamacare-enrollment-fraud/	

Number of zero-claim enrollees

2024	2021
11.7 million	3.5 million
Source: The Rise of Phantom Obamacare Enrollees: Biden COVID Credits Drive Massive Increase in Individual Market Enrollees With No Medical Claims, https://paragoninstitute.org/paragon-prognosis/the-rise-of-phantom-obamacare-enrollees-biden-covid-credits-drive-massive-increase-in-individual-market-enrollees-with-no-medical-claims/	

Percentage of all enrollees with zero claims

2024	2021
35%	19%
Source: The Rise of Phantom Obamacare Enrollees: Biden COVID Credits Drive Massive Increase in Individual Market Enrollees With No Medical Claims, https://paragoninstitute.org/paragon-prognosis/the-rise-of-phantom-obamacare-enrollees-biden-covid-credits-drive-massive-increase-in-individual-market-enrollees-with-no-medical-claims/	

Percentage of fully-subsidized enrollees in 94% actuarial value plans with zero claims

2024	2021
40%	20%
Source: The Rise of Phantom Obamacare Enrollees: Biden COVID Credits Drive Massive Increase in Individual Market Enrollees With No Medical Claims, https://paragoninstitute.org/paragon-prognosis/the-rise-of-phantom-obamacare-enrollees-biden-covid-credits-drive-massive-increase-in-individual-market-enrollees-with-no-medical-claims/	

Federal spending on zero-claim enrollees

2024
>\$35 billion
Source: Biden's COVID Credits Are an ObamaCare Expansion That Congress Should Allow To Expire, https://paragoninstitute.org/private-health/bidens-covid-credits-are-an-obamacare-expansion-that-congress-should-allow-to-expire/

Three notes:

- 1) The improper enrollment numbers reflect sign-ups after open enrollment.
- 2) The [Congressional Budget Office](#) estimated 2.3 million improper enrollees in 2025, but this only included data from the 10 states that have not adopted Medicaid expansion.
- 3) Zero-claim enrollees include anyone enrolled at any point during the year. It could include people twice if they were enrolled in two different plans during the year.