The percentage of Californians who lack health care coverage has continued to decline. The share of uninsured residents dropped from nearly 19% in 2010 to about 7% in the first nine months of 2016.

This substantial gain in coverage reflects California’s full implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). California opted to expand eligibility for Medi-Cal – our state’s Medicaid program – to more adults with low incomes. State policymakers also streamlined Medi-Cal’s enrollment rules to make it easier for eligible residents to sign up and launched subsidized coverage through Covered California, the state’s health insurance marketplace.

Republican proposals to repeal the ACA and substantially cut federal funding for Medicaid would jeopardize California’s recent coverage gains. Millions of low- and middle-income Californians would be at risk of losing access to affordable coverage. Those who managed to retain coverage would face higher costs and fewer benefits.

* January to September.
Note: Estimates are based on survey respondents’ health care coverage status at the time of the interview.
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey