

Polling News & Notes

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ObamaCare's Per-Enrollee Startup Costs: A May 1 report from the Department of Health and Human Services provided data on the number of ObamaCare exchange enrollees per state, as well as the cost for setting up both state-run and the federally-run ObamaCare exchanges. Eight million people signed up through the exchanges, but at a high cost. The government granted \$3,869,151,351 to states that set up their own exchanges and \$828,663,704 to those that relied on the federal exchange system. The average cost-per-enrollee for all 50 states and the District of Columbia was \$922. In the fourteen states and District of Columbia running their own exchanges, the average cost was \$1,503 per enrollee, while the average cost for the 36 states in the federal exchanges was \$647 per enrollee.

Investor's Business Daily [broke](#) down the data to find the most expensive states by cost per enrollee. Two of the less populous – Hawaii and the District of Columbia - topped the list. Hawaii received \$205,342,270 from HHS to set up its exchange, or \$24,080 per enrollee. The District of Columbia received \$133,573,927, or \$12,526 per enrollee. Oregon and Maryland had major problems with their exchanges, but not for lack of funds. Oregon received \$303,011,587 to set up its exchange, or \$4,488 per enrollee, and HHS gave Maryland \$171,063,110, or \$2,554 per enrollee.

These cost per enrollee estimates assume everyone pays their premiums, but insurance companies estimate the number is closer to 80% or 90%. The situation is complicated by the apparent presence of a significant number of duplicate enrollments because of problems with the ObamaCare website and some state exchanges. Both of these conditions will drive up ObamaCare's actual cost-per-enrollee.

