

Final 2019 Health Insurance Rate Changes

Individual Market

Final 2019 individual market health insurance rates have been approved by the Minnesota Commerce Department. Final rates are available to the public on the [Commerce website](http://mn.gov/commerce) (mn.gov/commerce).

The individual market is available for Minnesotans who do not have access to employer-based coverage and are not eligible for coverage through public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and MinnesotaCare.

Consumer protections required in all individual market plans include coverage for preexisting conditions and free preventive care, as well as coverage for prescription drugs and substance abuse and mental health treatment.

As of April 2018, about three percent (approximately 155,000) Minnesotans purchased their health insurance coverage in the individual market. These plans are available through MNsure, an insurance broker or agent, or directly from the insurer.

Five companies are approved to sell health plans to Minnesotans in 2019 in the individual market.

The summary table shows the final average rate change from 2018 to 2019. For each insurer, the average reflects a range:

- Blue Plus: -33.30% to -25.50%
- Group Health: -14.02% to +0.52%
- Medica: -26.10% to -5.30%
- PreferredOne: -13.00% to -10.00%
- UCare: -15.02% to -6.18%

The actual rate change that a consumer will experience in 2019 can vary depending on factors

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Insurer	Final Average Rate Change 2018-2019 <i>(as calculated by insurers)</i>
Blue Plus	-27.70%
Group Health (HealthPartners)	-7.40%
Medica Insurance Company	-12.40%
PreferredOne Insurance Company	-11.00%
UCare	-9.98%

such as specific plan, geographic rating area and age. The actual premium will also depend on whether a consumer is eligible for a federal premium tax credit. Currently, over 65,000 Minnesotans receive this credit.

Eligibility for the tax credits is determined when applying to purchase a plan through MNsure. Four companies – Blue Plus, Group Health, Medica Insurance Company and UCare – offer their plans through MNsure.

The final 2019 individual market rates reflect the expected impact of changes in federal regulations and the Minnesota Premium Security Plan, a state-based reinsurance program in effect for 2019. The reinsurance program offsets the costs of high-cost claims, resulting in lower individual market rates.