A large field of sunflowers under a clear blue sky. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with some in sharp focus in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The overall tone is bright and natural.

Rural Health: The ACA, KanCare Expansion, and Other Issues

Sheldon Weisgrau

KRC Sustainable Farm and Food Conference

November 19, 2016

Takeaways

- The ACA has enhanced access to care in rural areas, but problems persist
- KanCare expansion remains critical
- The path forward is uncertain

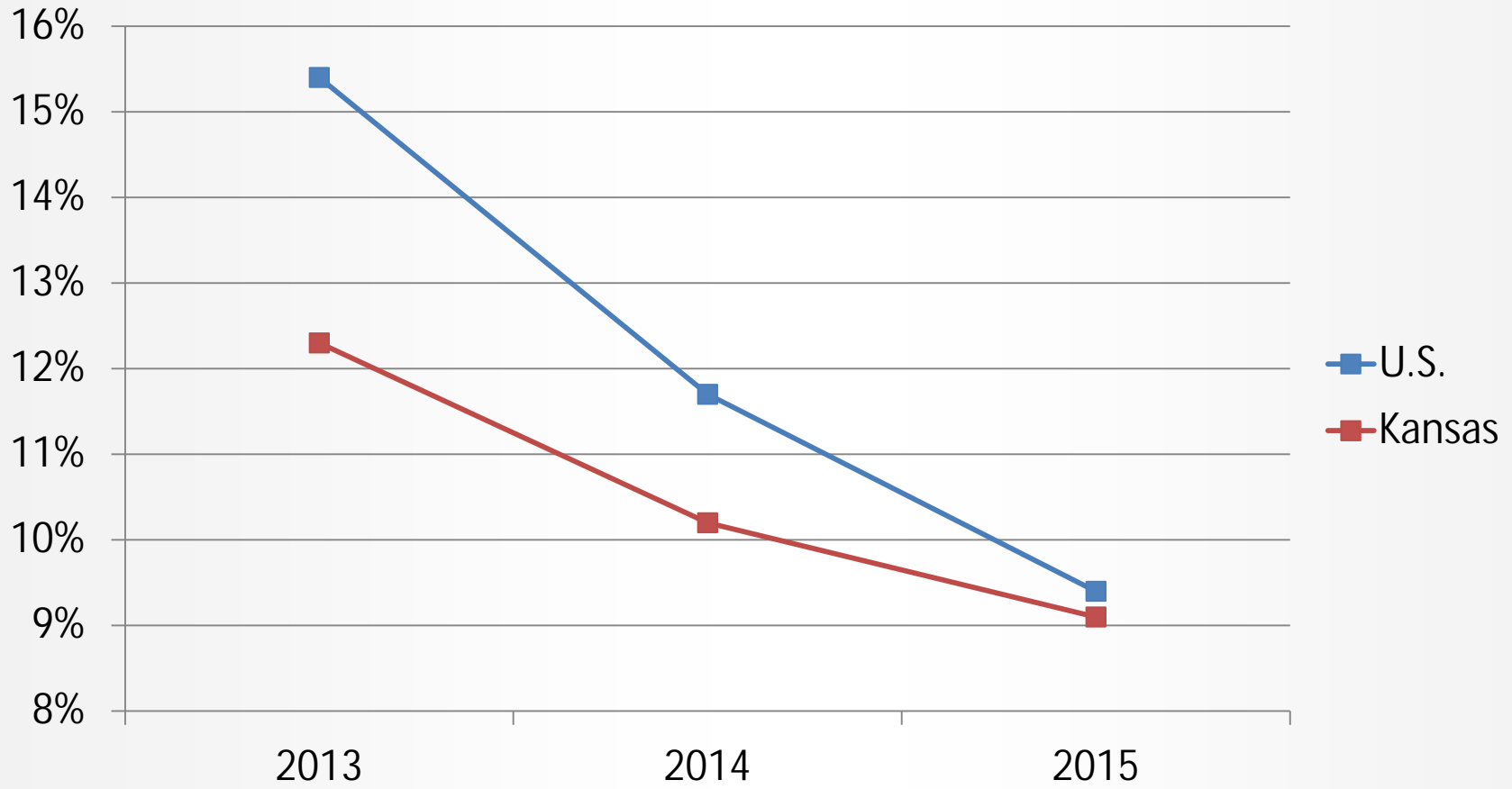
Kansas Grantmakers in Health



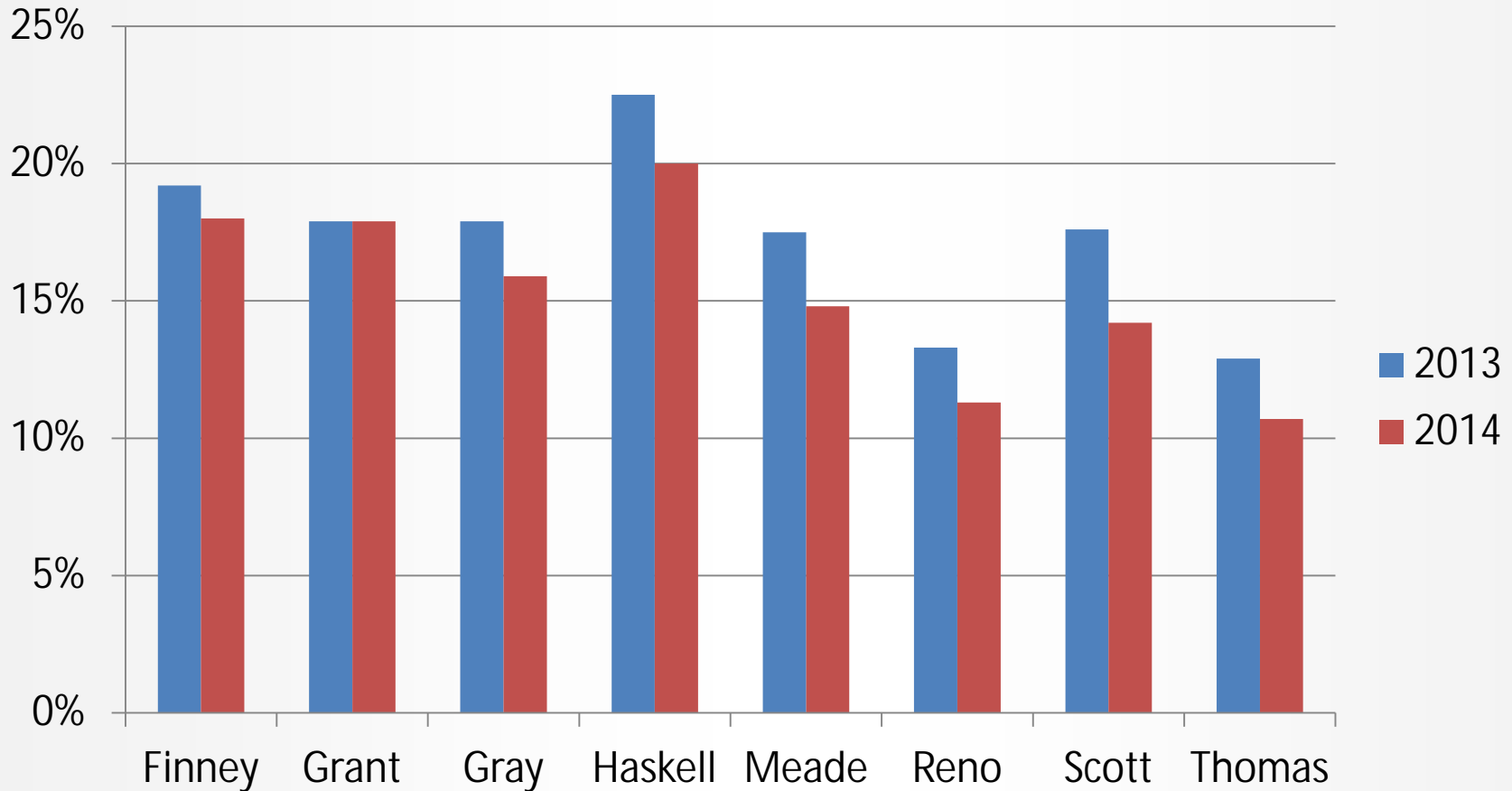
The ACA and Rural Health



Percentage of Uninsured is Lower than Ever (and Dropping)



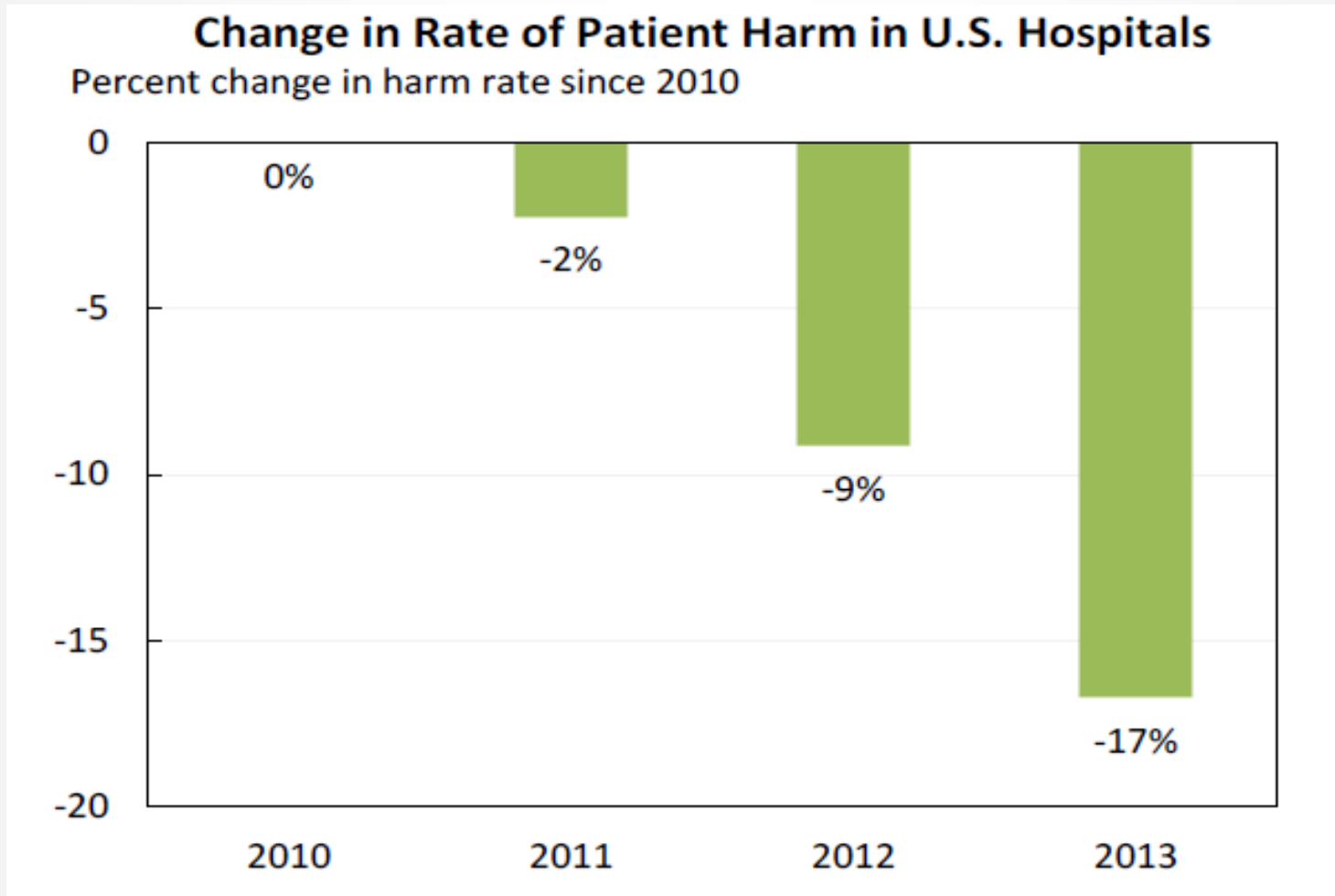
Uninsurance in Key Kansas Agricultural Counties is Declining



Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

Health Reform Resource Project

Quality: Errors & Harm Declining



Source: HHS Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, Oct 2015

Kansas hospital network reduces rate of acquired infections

But information about quality of care at individual hospitals still hard to find

By [Meg Wingerter](#) | October 10, 2016

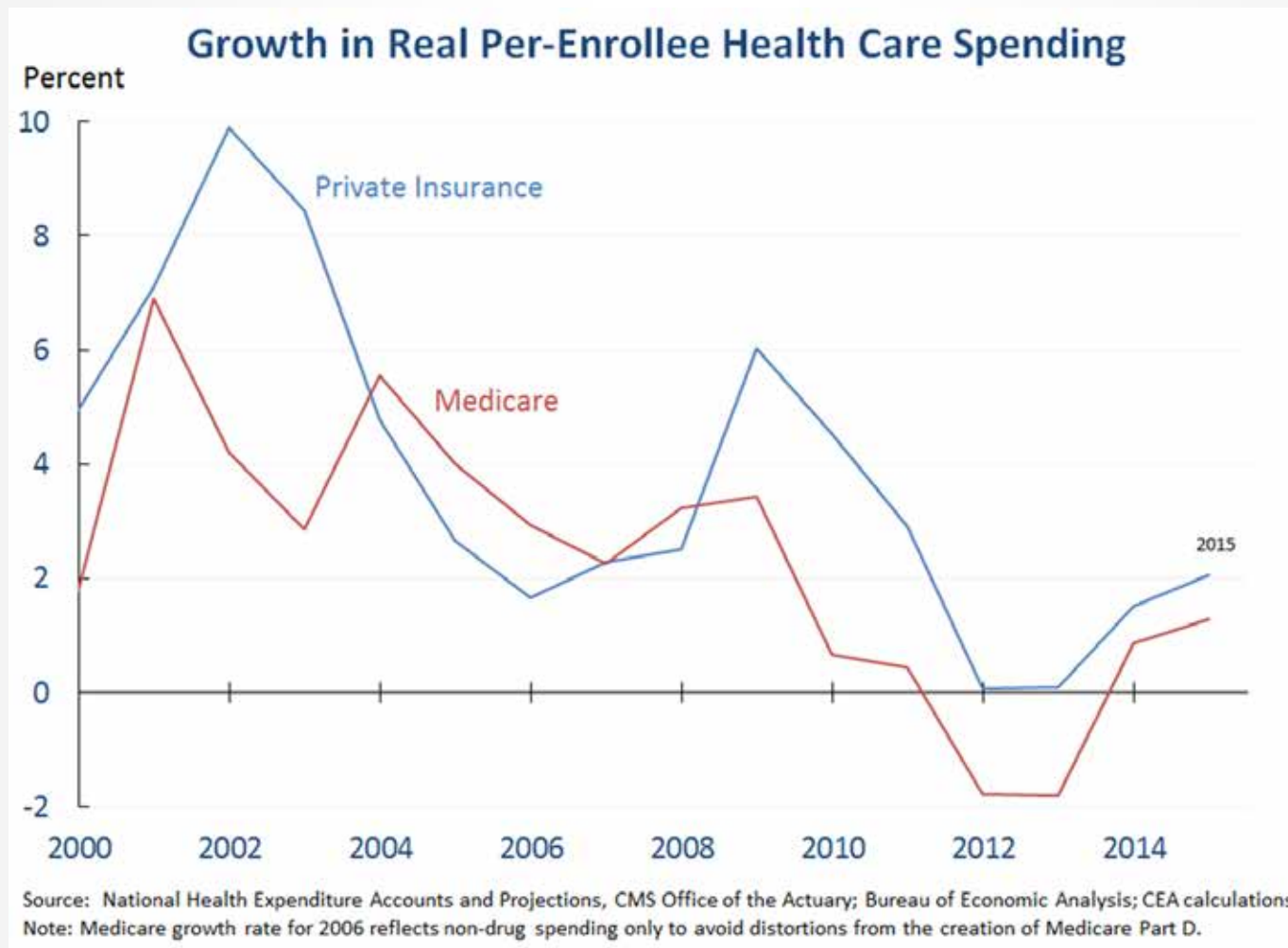
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As part of a federal quality improvement effort, Kansas hospitals are reducing the odds that patients will get certain types of infections.

And while that effort provides information on hospital quality throughout the state, finding information about the quality of care at individual hospitals remains a challenge.

The Kansas Healthcare Collaborative runs a [hospital engagement network that includes 106](#) of the state's 133 hospitals. Through a [federally funded program](#), hospitals in the network are working to reduce patient harm and hospital readmissions by sharing their best practices.

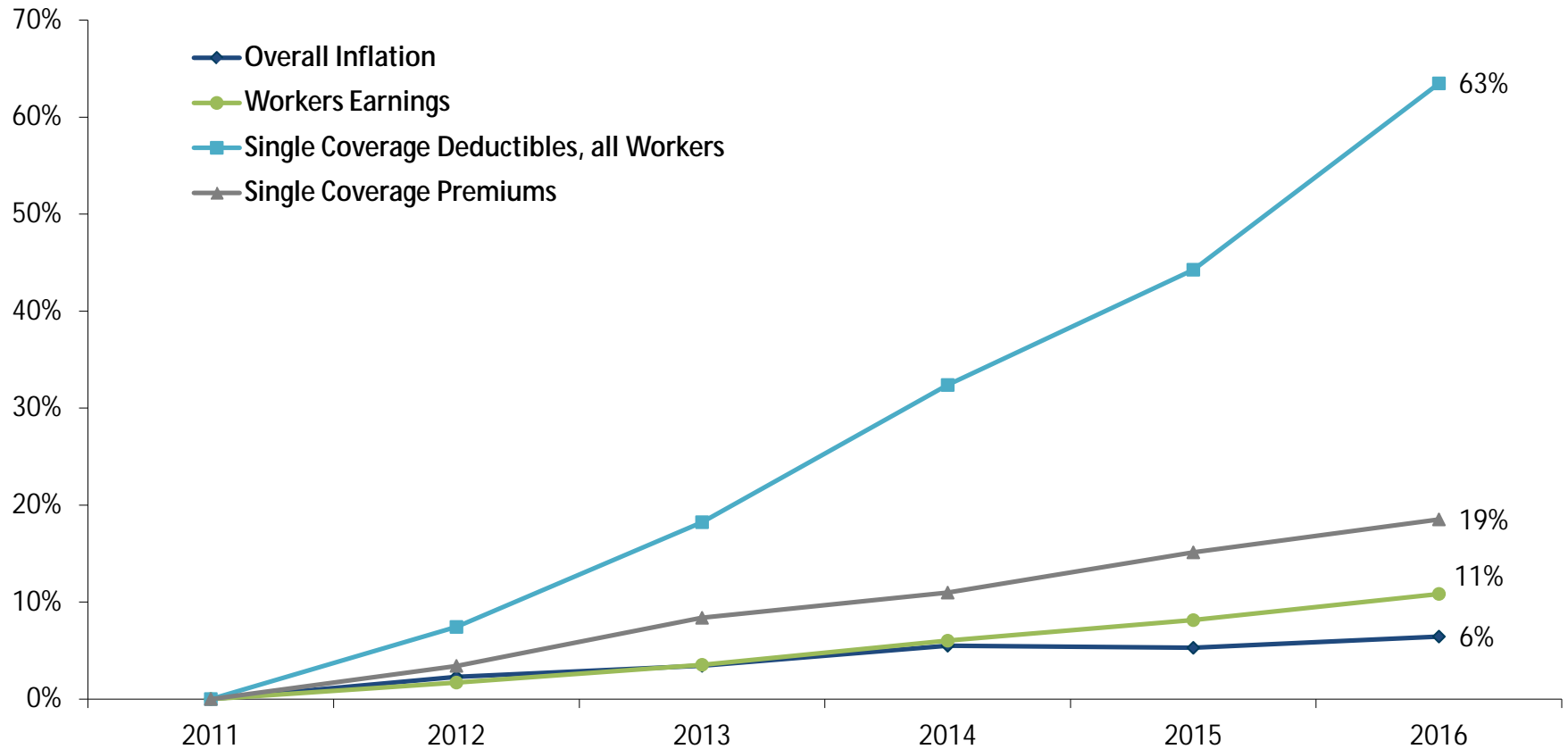
Cost: Health Inflation is Moderating



Cost: Financial Outlook Improving

- Long-term health care spending down
- Solvency of Medicare program extended
- Health care share of federal deficit down

Cumulative Increases in Health Insurance Premiums, General Annual Deductibles, Inflation, and Workers' Earnings, 2011-2016



NOTE: Average general annual deductible is among all covered workers. Workers in plans without a general annual deductible for in-network services are assigned a value of zero.

SOURCE: Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 2011-2016. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, U.S. City Average of Annual Inflation (April to April), 2011-2016; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Current Employment Statistics Survey, 2011-2016 (April to April).

What ACA Provides to Rural Kansas

- Guaranteed Issue and Community Rating
 - Farmers and ranchers cannot be excluded or charged more due to occupation, pre-existing conditions
- Essential Benefits
- Options for Coverage

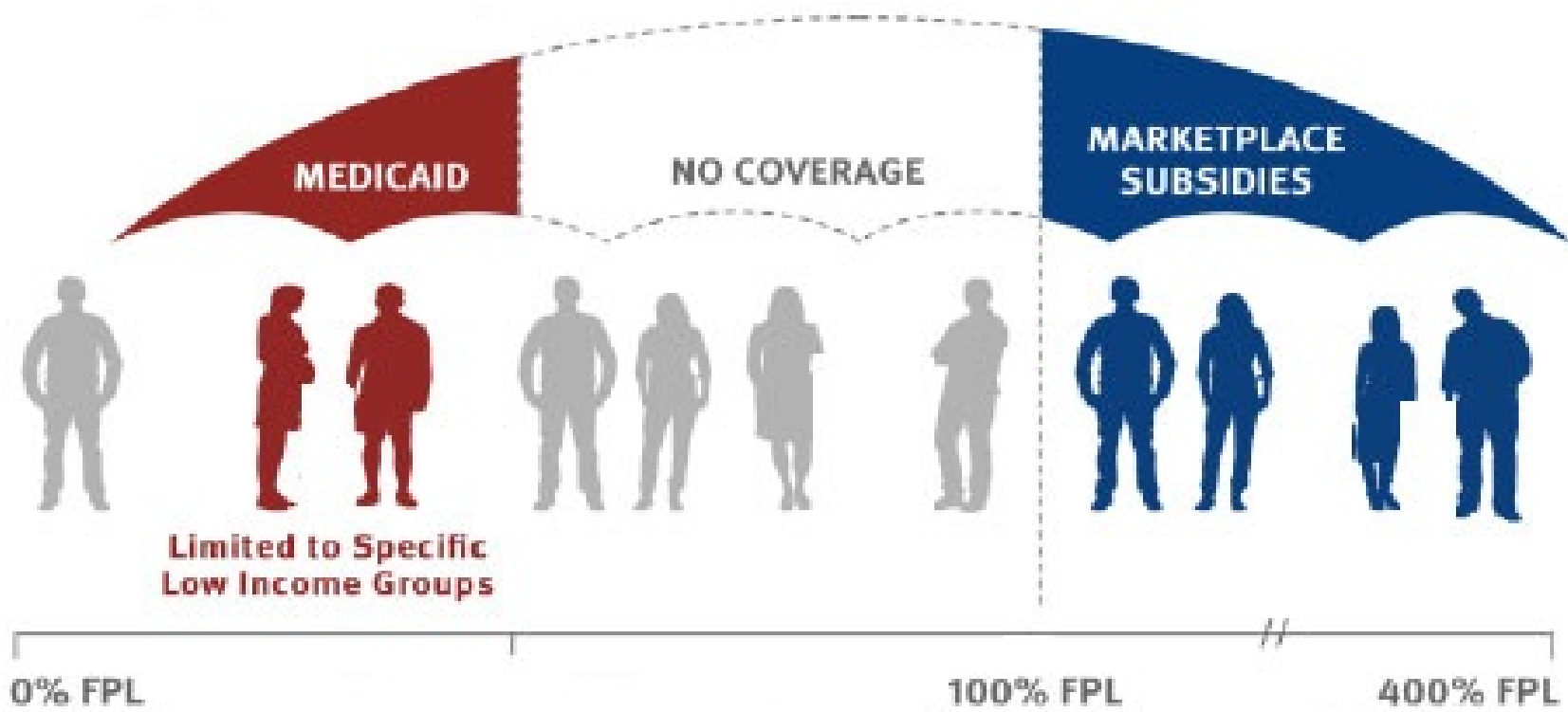
Problems Persist in Rural Kansas

- Demographics
 - Declining population
 - Aging population
- Shortages of physicians and other providers
 - Mental health & dental “crisis”
- Shaky finances for hospitals
 - Increasing local tax burden
- Lagging economy

KanCare Expansion



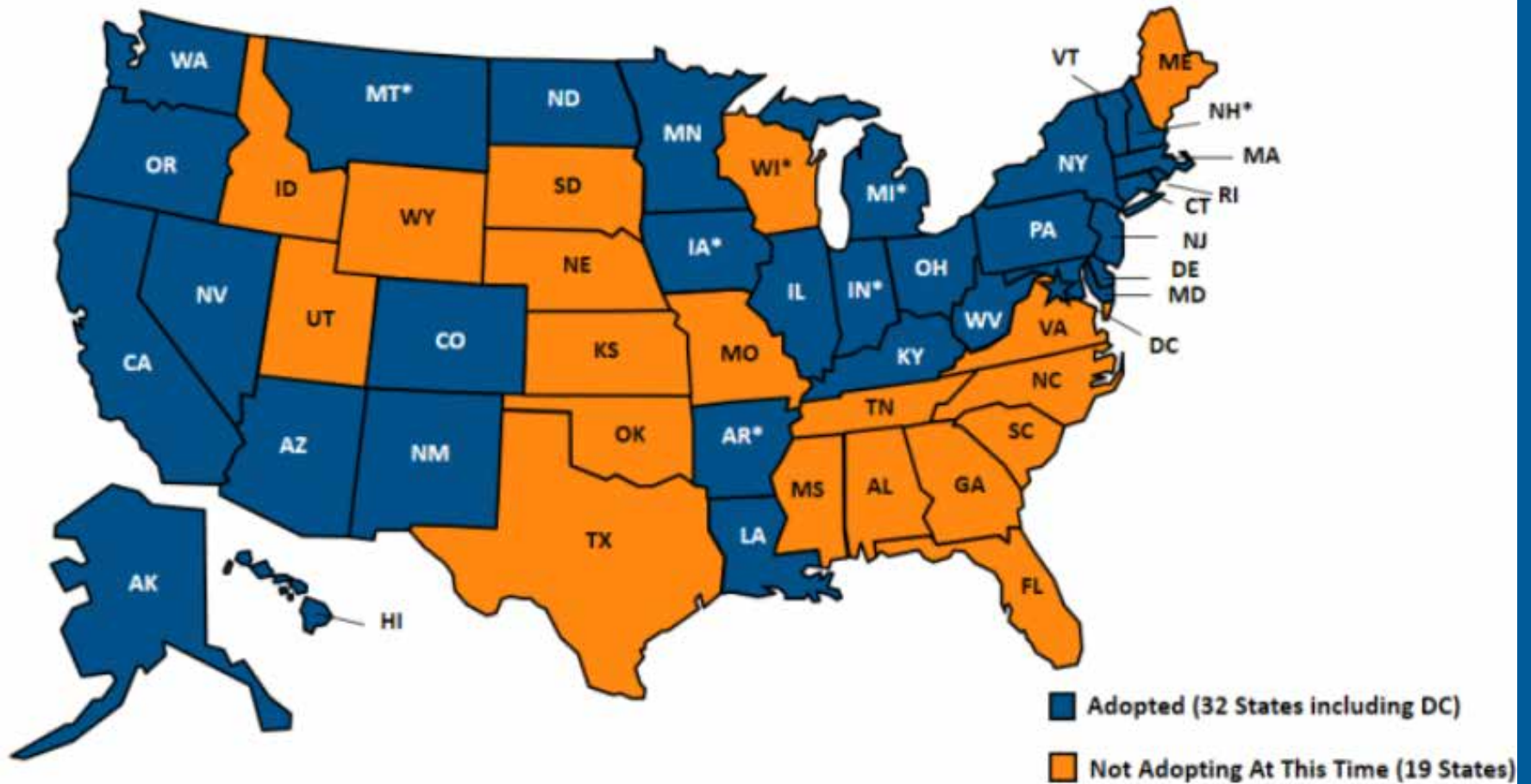
In states that do not expand Medicaid, there is a gap in coverage available for adults.



NOTE: Applies to states that do not expand Medicaid. In most states not moving forward with the expansion, adults without children are ineligible for Medicaid.



Current Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2016

Benefits of KanCare Expansion



Budget Neutral



Brings Tax Dollars Back to Kansas



Federal funds forfeited
since January 1, 2014:

\$1,535,017,788

A new Kansas
solution will keep
our Federal funds
here at home.

Keep Kansas Healthy

Economic Stimulus



New Jobs



Support for Hospitals



Kansas-Specific Plan



Financial Security for Families



Healthy Kansans



Advocacy



ALLIANCE FOR A
HEALTHY KANSAS

www.ExpandKanCare.com
@ExpandKanCare

The Path Forward: Where Do We Go From Here?



What to Watch For...

- ACA Repeal and . . . ?
- Future of Medicare and Medicaid
- Federal funding for rural Kansas
- Specific rural issues will persist

For more information, contact:

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