

## How will new health care laws affect you?

If you're young and can't afford to pay health insurance premiums, you may be relieved to know that you can now stay on your parents' insurance plan until your 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. That's one of the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), which was signed into law last year.

In fact, this year 3.4 million people under age 26 became eligible to sign up on their parents' insurance policies. In Washington State alone almost 26,000 young adults have gained coverage in 2011.

That's not all. Because of the ACA, 372,000 children in Washington State can no longer be excluded from insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions such as asthma or cancer. Adults with private insurance no longer have to worry about lifetime limits on their insurance coverage.

If you'd like to learn more about how health care changes will affect you and your family, call Clark County Public Health at 397-8020. We'd be happy to attend your neighborhood meeting and answer your questions about the Affordable Care Act.

More information:

- <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/wa.html>
- <http://www.insurance.wa.gov>
- [http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/insurance/health\\_reform.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/insurance/health_reform.html)