

# POLITICO *Pro*

## Report: ACA enrollees were sicker than anticipated

*By Brent Griffiths*  
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**Pent-up demand for care and higher- than- expected coverage costs roiled five state marketplaces for the Affordable Care Act, according to a new [report](#) from Center for Health Policy at the Brookings Institution and the Rockefeller Institute for State University of New York.**

Though Obamacare compensated health plans for covering people with pre-existing conditions, some major insurers still withdrew from the exchanges. Researchers question if the

unforeseen high demand was due to enrollees receiving coverage for the first time or if the problem would be an ongoing concern.

They found that the easiest way to keep costs down is competition — although that is particularly difficult in rural areas where plans have a limited number of doctors and hospitals to negotiate with.

Findings for the report are based on telephone or face-to-face interviews with people involved with health law exchanges in California, Michigan, Florida, North Carolina and Texas. Some results and findings from those interactions were then applied nationwide.