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Alabama Has Some of the Lowest Premiums in the Nation

BIRMINGHAM, AL — Alabama has the 3rd lowest family and single annual premiums among employers nationwide, according to the federal government's own 2016 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services. In 2015, MEPS reported Alabama having the 4th lowest average family premium among employers. Previous reports also confirm that Alabama has experienced some of the lowest premiums in the country for the five years of 2011-2015.

The 2016 MEPS report below shows how Alabama compares to other states for family and single coverage among employers:

| | Annual Total Family Premium | | Annual Total Single Premium | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Arkansas | \$14,929 | Arkansas | \$5,341 |
| 2 | Mississippi | \$15,765 | Nevada | \$5,490 |
| 3 | Alabama | \$16,098 | Alabama | \$5,536 |
| 4 | Iowa | \$16,123 | Tennessee | \$5,543 |
| 5 | Nevada | \$16,133 | Idaho | \$5,594 |
| 6 | Hawaii | \$16,362 | Mississippi | \$5,642 |
| 7 | Nebraska | \$16,617 | North Carolina | \$5,717 |
| 8 | Missouri | \$16,638 | Louisiana | \$5,735 |
| 9 | Oklahoma | \$16,646 | Kentucky | \$5,758 |
| 10 | Kentucky | \$16,678 | Oklahoma | \$5,784 |

States reporting the highest family premiums for 2016 are Alaska at \$22,490, Wyoming at \$19,617 and New York at \$19,375. States reporting the highest single premiums for 2016 are Alaska at \$7,886, Rhode Island at \$6,665 and New Hampshire at \$6,637.

The 2011-2016 MEPS reports show Alabama's ranking compared to the national average:

| Annual Total Family Premium among Employers | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|--|--|
| State | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | | |
| United | | | | | | | | |
| States | \$15,022 | \$15,473 | \$16,029 | \$16,655 | \$17,322 | \$17,710 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Alabama | \$12,940 | \$12,764 | \$13,477 | \$14 <i>,</i> 352 | \$15 <i>,</i> 953 | \$16,098 | | |
| Ranking | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Source - MEPS Table II.D.1 (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)

| 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| \$5,222 | \$5 <i>,</i> 384 | \$5 <i>,</i> 571 | \$5 <i>,</i> 832 | \$5 <i>,</i> 963 | \$6,101 |
| | | | | | |
| \$4,828 | \$4,961 | \$5 <i>,</i> 204 | \$5,526 | \$5,733 | \$5 <i>,</i> 536 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 3 |
| | | | | | |
| | \$5,222 \$4,828 | \$5,222 \$5,384 \$4,828 \$4,961 | \$5,222 \$5,384 \$5,571 \$4,828 \$4,961 \$5,204 | \$5,222 \$5,384 \$5,571 \$5,832 \$4,828 \$4,961 \$5,204 \$5,526 | \$5,222 \$5,384 \$5,571 \$5,832 \$5,963 \$4,828 \$4,961 \$5,204 \$5,526 \$5,733 |

Annual Total Single Premium among Employers

Source - MEPS Table II.C.1 (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)

"Our company has been serving Alabamians for 81 years, and we are proud to offer our members some of the lowest premiums in the nation. We have experienced success in the marketplace because every decision we make begins with the question: 'How does this benefit our customer?', said Terry Kellogg, President and CEO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. "We have worked hard to earn the trust and confidence of the 2.1 million Alabamians we cover in our state by providing the highest quality coverage at competitive prices. We never lose sight of our customers and are grateful they continue to choose us to provide their healthcare coverage."

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has insured Alabamians for 81 years. Blue Cross offers coverage plans to corporations, individuals and the senior market. For more information about Blue Cross, visit <u>AlabamaBlue.com</u>. Connect with us on <u>Facebook</u>, check out our videos on <u>YouTube</u> and follow us on <u>Twitter</u> for more up-to-date information.

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