

Obamacare Created or Hiked 13 Taxes, Networks Ignore Them in 87 Percent of Stories

By [Joseph Rossell](#) | February 18, 2015 | 11:54 AM EST

Obamacare has increased the tax burden on taxpayers and companies, a fact ignored in recent broadcast news reports.

Obamacare created or hiked at least [13 taxes](#), Forbes reported February 17. Forbes contributor and tax lawyer Robert Wood said that for the average American, "it's easy to be overwhelmed" by all the new taxes and forms that come with Obamacare.

In addition to three new IRS forms, Wood wrote that Obamacare taxes included a 40 percent excise tax on high-end "Cadillac" plans, a \$63 fee on all plans to help insurance companies cover "the costs of high-risk pools," and a "tax penalty" of \$95 or 1 percent of income per adult without health insurance up to \$285 per family for 2014.

But the morning and evening news shows of ABC, CBS and NBC failed to mention Obamacare would raise taxes at all in 87 percent of stories and news briefs (3 out of 23) that mentioned both healthcare and taxes between November 17, 2014 and February 17, 2015.

[Washington Post](#) reporter Jason Millman wrote on February 17, that the tax penalty for not having insurance will increase to \$325 or 2 percent of income per person for the 2015 tax year, and that "it's likely that a lot of people who will have to pay don't know it yet." Millman said that most people will not find out they owe this money until they file their taxes, after it is too late to do anything to avoid the penalty.

The networks' failure to properly inform viewers about the many taxes in Obamacare may be part of the reason so many taxpayers will be left in the dark.

During a story about President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, co-host Natalie Morales highlighted President Barack Obama's plans were "designed to help the middle class" during NBC's "Today" January 21. Morales described how Obama proposed "paid sick leave, free community college and tax hikes on the wealthy" during his State of the Union address.

In that same report, Morales said that Congressional Republicans would oppose Obama and "fight to repeal and replace President Obama's healthcare law." But Morales failed to note that Obamacare would cost middle-class taxpayers billions of dollars, the very Americans Obama said he wanted to help, and that Republicans' plan would eliminate significant taxes for this group.

The total burden on Americans because of all the taxes associated with Obamacare could be massive. In a Fact Checker column March 12, 2013, Washington Post reporter Glenn Kessler wrote that "within the 2013 to 2022 budget period, there seems little debate that the health-care law has about \$1 trillion in taxes."

According to Kessler's column said Obamacare contained "about \$130 billion in taxes with direct impact on the middle class, and another \$247 billion in taxes with possible indirect effects" between 2013 and 2022, a total of \$377 billion in taxes.

Similarly to Morales, CBS News Chief White House Correspondent Major Garrett said that the president had called for "\$277 billion in tax cuts aimed at the middle-class and the poor" in his budget proposal during "This Morning" February 3.

Moments later, Garrett cited liberal criticism of Congressional Republicans opposing Obama budget. Garrett quoted Director of the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy at the Brookings Institute David Wessel who said Republicans were "preoccupied with some sideshows like Keystone or another repeal of Obamacare." Garrett failed to quote any Republicans regarding their reasons for supporting the Keystone XL pipeline or their opposition to Obamacare.

Even when the networks pointed out tax increases resulting from Obamacare, they failed to describe the problem in detail. The networks only mentioned a specific tax in two out of 23 stories and news briefs. Those two mentions were news briefs on CBS "This Morning" February 15 and NBC's "Today" November 19, 2014, said that Americans without health insurance would have to pay a tax penalty. No other specific tax connected to Obamacare was mentioned by any of the networks during that time.

CBS News National Correspondent Wyatt Andrews said that healthcare advisor and Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber had commented in a video that "Obamacare was written to hide taxes from voters" during "Evening News" December 9, 2014. Andrews did not seize the opportunity to expose any of these hidden taxes. Instead, Andrews later said that "Democrats and Gruber deny that they ever hid any details about Obamacare" and repeated Democrats' claim that "Republicans knew exactly how it [Obamacare] was financed."

Methodology: MRC Business examined the stories during morning and evening news shows on ABC, CBS, and NBC from November 10, 2014, through February 17, 2015 that mentioned "tax" or "taxes" and "Obamacare," "healthcare," or "health care." Of the 23 resulting stories, only three mentioned taxes associated with Obamacare.