

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO
Form 10-K
March 16, 2015

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K
ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 0-10306

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE
(State of Incorporation)

58-1407235
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

96 CUMMINGS POINT ROAD, STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

06902
(Zip Code)

(203) 358-8000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:
NONE

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:
COMMON STOCK, \$1.00 PAR VALUE PER SHARE
(Title of Class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes ___

No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes ___ No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes
No ___

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No ___

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. []

Indicate by check mark whether registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ___

Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer ___ Smaller reporting company ___

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes ___ No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, as of June 30, 2014 was \$107,255,000.

17,352,918 shares of common stock were outstanding as of March 6, 2015.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Portions of the Registrant's definitive proxy statement to be delivered (or made available, pursuant to applicable regulations) to stockholders in connection with the 2014 annual meeting of stockholders to be held in May 2015 are incorporated by reference in response to Part III of this Report.

FORM 10-K CROSS REFERENCE INDEX

PART I		PAGE
Item 1.	Business	4
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	14
Item 1B.	Unresolved Staff Comments	22
Item 2.	Properties	22
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	23
Item 4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	23
 PART II		
Item 5.	Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	23
Item 6.	Selected Financial Data	26
Item 7.	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	26
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	51
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	52
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	52
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	52
Item 9B.	Other Information	53
 PART III		
Item 10.	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	53
Item 11.	Executive Compensation	53
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	54
Item 13.	Certain Relationships, Related Transactions and Director Independence	54
Item 14.	Principal Accounting Fees and Services	54
 PART IV		
Item 15.	Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules	54

Forward-Looking Statements

This report on Form 10–K contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which are intended to be covered by the safe harbors created by those laws. We have based our forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. Our forward-looking statements include information about possible or assumed future results of our operations. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated by reference in this report that address activities, events or developments that we expect or anticipate may occur in the future, including such things as the growth of our business and operations, our business strategy, competitive strengths, goals, plans, future capital expenditures and references to future successes may be considered forward-looking statements. Also, when we use words such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, intend, probably or similar expressions, we are making forward-looking statements.

Numerous risks and uncertainties may impact the matters addressed by our forward-looking statements, any of which could negatively and materially affect our future financial results and performance. We describe some of these risks and uncertainties in greater detail in Item 1A-Risk Factors of this report.

Although we believe that the assumptions underlying our forward-looking statements are reasonable, any of these assumptions, and, therefore, the forward-looking statements based on these assumptions, could themselves prove to be inaccurate. In light of the significant uncertainties inherent in the forward-looking statements that are included in this report, our inclusion of this information is not a representation by us or any other person that our objectives and plans will be achieved. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, any forward-looking event discussed in this report may not occur. Our forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made, and we undertake no obligation to update or review any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or other developments, unless the securities laws require us to do so.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Business Overview

Independence Holding Company is a Delaware corporation (NYSE: IHC) that was formed in 1980. We are a holding company principally engaged in the life and health insurance business with principal executive offices located at 96 Cummings Point Road, Stamford, Connecticut 06902. At December 31, 2014, we owned a 90% controlling interest in American Independence Corp. (NASDAQ:AMIC), which owns Independence American Insurance Company ("Independence American"), IHC Risk Solutions LLC (Risk Solutions), IHC Specialty Benefits, Inc. (Specialty Benefits) and controlling interests in certain agencies and call centers.

Our website is located at www.ihcgroup.com. Detailed information about IHC, its corporate affiliates and insurance products and services can be found on our website. In addition, we make our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and all amendments to such reports available, free of charge, through our website, as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed with or furnished to the SEC. The information on our website, however, is not incorporated by reference in, and does not form part of, this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

IHC provides specialized life and health coverage and related services to commercial customers and individuals. We focus on niche products and/or narrowly defined distribution channels primarily in the United States. Our wholly owned insurance company subsidiaries, Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York ("Standard Security Life") and Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. ("Madison National Life") market their products through independent and affiliated brokers, producers and agents. Independence American also distributes through these sources as well as to consumers through dedicated controlled distribution companies and through company-owned websites.

Madison National Life, Standard Security Life and Independence American are sometimes collectively referred to as the "Insurance Group." IHC and its subsidiaries (including the Insurance Group) are sometimes collectively referred to as the "Company", or "IHC", or are implicit in the terms "we", "us" and "our".

In 2015 IHC will retain the vast majority of the risk that it underwrites, and will focus on the following lines of business:

Medical excess (or "stop-loss")

.

Multiple fully insured health lines

.

Group disability and life

.

Individual life

Standard Security Life, Madison National Life and Independence American are each rated A- (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company, Inc. ("Best"). Standard Security Life is domiciled in New York and licensed as an insurance company in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Madison National Life is domiciled in Wisconsin, licensed to sell insurance products in 49 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa, and is an accredited reinsurer in New York. Independence American is domiciled in Delaware and licensed to sell insurance products in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We have been informed by Best that a Best rating is assigned after an extensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of a company's financial condition and operating performance and is also based upon factors relevant to policyholders, agents, and intermediaries, and is not directed toward protection of investors. Best ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold any of our securities.

Our administrative companies underwrite, market, administer and/or price life and health insurance business for our owned and affiliated carriers, and, to a lesser extent, for non-affiliated insurance companies. They receive fees for these services and do not bear any of the insurance risk of the companies to which they provide services, other than through profit commissions or profit slides. During 2014, our principal administrative companies were: (i) IHC Health Solutions, Inc. (Health Solutions), an administrative services company that administers various lines of health insurance for IHC and non-affiliated carriers; (ii) Risk Solutions, a full-service direct writer of medical stop-loss insurance for self-insured employer groups in the middle to larger employer markets; (iii) Specialty Benefits, a full-service marketing, and distribution company that focuses on small employer, individual and consumer products; and (iv) IHC Carrier Solutions LLC (Carrier Solutions), a program management, actuarial and regulatory compliance firm providing product development and valuation services for IHC's fully insured health segment.

In addition, AMIC owns controlling interests in IPA Family, LLC ("IPA"), IPA Direct LLC (IPAD), and Healthinsurance.org LLC (HIO). IPA is a consumer direct sales agency that sells IHC's ancillary health and life products and major medical products of national insurance companies. IPAD is a consumer direct sales call center that sells IHC's ancillary health and life products and major medical products of national insurance companies. HIO is an online marketing company that owns www.healthinsurance.org, a lead generation site for individual health insurance. Our general agencies earn commissions for selling life and health insurance products underwritten by IHC's owned and affiliated insurance companies and also by unaffiliated carriers.

For information pertaining to the Company's business segments, reference is made to Note 16 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this report.

Our Philosophy

Our business strategy consists of maximizing underwriting profits through a variety of niche life and health insurance products and through distribution channels that enable us to access specialized or underserved markets in which we believe we have a competitive advantage. Historically, our carriers have focused on establishing preferred relationships with producers who seek an alternative to larger, more bureaucratic health insurers, and on providing these producers with personalized service, competitive compensation and a broad array of products. A growing portion of our business comes from direct-to-consumer initiatives. While our management considers a wide range of factors in its strategic planning and decision-making, underwriting profit is consistently emphasized as the primary goal in all decisions. We seek relationships that will generate fee income and profit commissions for our administrative companies as well as risk income for our insurance carriers thereby permitting us to leverage IHC's vertically integrated organizational structure.

As a result of our increased control of distribution through corporate acquisitions, we have strengthened our ability to respond to market cycles in the health insurance sector by deploying our insurance underwriting activity across a larger number of business lines. In recent years, we have emphasized writing stop-loss business through Risk Solutions and two managing general underwriters (MGUs) with whom we have done business for many years, including TRU Services, LLC (TRU), in which we have a significant equity interest. This has allowed us to be more selective in order to achieve better stop-loss underwriting results by terminating all under-performing non-owned

programs. While a substantial portion of our book of business is with smaller self-funded groups, we have recently focused on developing stop-loss solutions for plans with 100 or fewer employees. These plans are increasingly looking for affordable health-financing alternatives as a result of federal health care reform.

As a result of the growth of Risk Solutions (including its captive and self-funded concept programs) and an expansion in the overall demand for stop-loss insurance, we have seen a significant increase in both our gross written and net earned stop-loss premiums. Our gross written and retained fully insured health premiums have decreased as a result of exiting the individual major medical line of

business and significantly reducing our small group major medical block. We have experienced decreases in administrative costs as a percentage of premiums in our Stop-Loss segments resulting from the efficiency initiatives implemented in the last several years. As we adjust our mix of business in the Fully Insured Health Segment from major medical to that of a specialty health insurance company, we have experienced a somewhat higher expense ratio concomitant with these types of products.

DISTRIBUTION

Medical Stop-Loss

Standard Security Life is the primary carrier for our employer medical stop-loss products although, in 2014, we also wrote business for Madison National Life, Independence American and unaffiliated carriers. IHC's carriers wrote approximately 91% of their medical stop-loss business through Risk Solutions and TRU with the balance written through two independent MGUs. During 2014, IHC owned two managing general underwriters, Majestic Underwriters, LLC ("Majestic") and Alliance Underwriters, LLC, which transferred their stop-loss blocks and employees to Risk Solutions as of January 1, 2012 in exchange for fee income based on the business transferred. Risk Solutions is responsible for underwriting accounts in accordance with guidelines formulated and approved by its carriers, billing and collecting premiums, paying commissions to agents, third party administrators and/or brokers, and processing claims. With respect to the two MGUs with which we do business, we establish underwriting guidelines, maintain approved policy forms and oversee claims for reimbursement, as well as appropriate accounting procedures and reserves. In order to accomplish this, we audit their underwriting, claims and policy issuance practices to assure compliance with our guidelines, provide them with access to our medical management and cost containment expertise, and review cases that require referral based on our underwriting guidelines. MGUs are non-salaried contractors that receive fee income, generally a percentage of gross premiums produced by them on behalf of the insurance carriers they represent, and typically are entitled to additional income based on underwriting results.

The agents and brokers that produce this business are non-salaried contractors that receive commissions.

Fully Insured Health

The Fully Insured Health Segment is comprised of the following categories: (i) major medical coverage (comprised of small-group major medical (SGMM), major medical health plans for individuals and families in run-off and large-group major medical); (ii) ancillary benefits including dental, vision, short-term medical (STM), supplemental products (including fixed indemnity limited benefit, critical illness, and hospital indemnity) and small group stop-loss; (iii) pet insurance; and (iv) non-subscriber occupational accident. Health Solutions, Carrier Solutions and Specialty Benefits collectively perform marketing, sales, underwriting and administrative functions on the majority of our Fully Insured Health business. In addition, our carriers write a significant amount of Fully Insured Health business, which is distributed and/or administered by independent third party administrators. We have also established a relationship with a leading provider of international health, life and disability plans for specialized niche markets, and invested in a joint venture which has acquired two third party administrators of non-subscriber occupational accident coverage in

Texas and other accident-related coverages in states outside of Texas.

The Fully Insured Health Segment performs all aspects of underwriting, risk selection and pricing, policy administration and management of fully insured group and individual health insurance on behalf of IHC and other carriers, and management of approximately \$241 million of gross individual and group health premiums for multiple insurers.

The agents and brokers who produce the Fully Insured Health business are non-salaried contractors who receive commissions.

Other Products

Our other products are primarily distributed by general agents, agents and brokers. The short-term statutory disability benefit product in New York State ("DBL") is marketed primarily through independent general agents who are paid commissions based upon the amount of premiums produced. Madison National Life's disability and group life products are primarily sold in the Midwest to school districts, municipalities and hospital employer groups through a managing general agent that specializes in these target markets. Independence American also reinsures and will begin writing health products serving the needs of expatriates, third-party nationals and high net-worth local nationals.

Madison National Life sells a whole-life product with an annuity rider to military personnel and civil service employees. They also sell a final expense whole life product to the senior market. They had \$17.7 million of premiums from the whole-life and annuity products in 2014 and expect to write about \$18.0 million of premium in 2015. They had \$2.7 million of final expense whole life premium in 2014 and expect to write about \$4.9 million in 2015. Madison National Life's subsidiary, IHC Financial Group, Inc. (IHC Financial Group), recruits agents to sell life and annuity products to state and federal employees. Since these products are currently not available through IHC's carriers, IHC Financial Group has contracted with highly rated insurance companies to sell their life and annuity products to these individuals. The income for IHC Financial Group is derived completely from commissions on the sale of the products of these other companies. The agents and brokers who produce this business are non-salaried contractors who receive commissions. IHC Financial Group earned approximately \$0.8 million of revenue in 2014 and we anticipate increased growth as we continue to recruit new agents.

PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS

Medical Stop-Loss

The Company is a leading writer nationally of excess or stop-loss insurance for self-insured employer groups that desire to manage the risk of large medical claims ("Medical Stop-Loss"). Standard Security Life was one of the first carriers to market Medical Stop-Loss insurance, starting in 1987, and the Insurance Group is now one of the largest writers of this product in the United States. Medical Stop-Loss insurance provides coverage to public and private entities that elect to self-insure their employees' medical coverage for losses within specified ranges, which permits such groups to manage the risk of excessive health insurance costs by limiting specific and aggregate losses to predetermined amounts. This coverage is available on either a specific or a specific and aggregate basis, although the majority of the Insurance Group's policies cover both specific and aggregate claims. Plans are designed to fit the identified needs of the self-insured employer by offering a variety of deductibles (i.e., the level of claims after which the medical stop-loss benefits become payable).

IHC experienced an increase in premiums in the Medical Stop-Loss line of business in 2014 primarily from the marketing efforts of Risk Solutions. We expect this trend to continue throughout 2015.

Fully Insured Health Products

This line of business has the following categories: (i) major medical coverage (comprised of SGMM, major medical health plans for individuals and families and large-group major medical); (ii) ancillary benefits, including dental, vision, STM, supplemental products (including fixed indemnity limited benefit, critical illness, and hospital indemnity) and small group stop-loss; (iii) pet insurance; and (iv) non-subscriber occupational accident. The major medical category shrank in 2014 as the major medical health plans for individuals and families (IMM) business was in run-off. Our major medical business was adversely affected in 2014 by healthcare reform, and, as a result, we have since exited IMM in all states and significantly reduced our SGMM premiums. We increased ancillary benefit sales by 30%,

which somewhat offset the reduction in major medical premiums. We expect continued significant growth in the ancillary lines of business, but an overall reduction in premiums for the segment in 2015.

Major Medical Health Benefit Coverages

This category is primarily comprised of group major medical insurance and IMM policies. Both products are primarily consumer driven health plans (CDHP). IMM is in run-off; we have now exited that market entirely. It is our belief that we would not have been able to earn an acceptable profit margin in this line in the future as a result of direct and indirect changes brought about by healthcare reform. The group products were sold in many states in 2013, and the majority of the existing block was eligible for renewal in the fourth quarter of 2014. As the policies became eligible for renewal, under CMS guidance, in some states we offered small group pre-EHB plans the option to renew on their existing plan. The remaining policies were offered the option to renew onto an essential health benefits (EHB) or an Affordable Care Act (ACA) compliant large group policy. IHC has filed EHB and ACA compliant policies in the majority of states, although has not yet received approvals in all of these states. The Company has not yet determined whether these policies will be widely sold.

In addition to small group, the Company offers a unique group medical plan to employers (primarily large) who are contractors working on government-funded projects under the Davis-Bacon and Service Contract Acts (the "Acts"), much of which is associated with current and future U.S. infrastructure improvements. This plan helps contractors meet the provisions of a "bona fide" fringe benefit for their hourly workers as required in the Acts. This category also includes reinsured international health plans and may include some domestic policies sold to expatriates in 2014.

Ancillary Products

This category is primarily comprised of dental, vision, STM, supplemental products (including fixed indemnity limited benefit, critical illness, and hospital indemnity) and small group stop-loss. These are sold through multiple distribution strategies.

IHC sells group and individual dental products in all 50 states. We administer the majority of IHC's dental business and are also the primary distribution source of this line of business. The dental portfolio includes indemnity and PPO plans for employer groups of two or more lives and for individuals within affinity groups. Employer plans are offered on both employer paid and voluntary bases. As part of the distribution of our dental products, we also offer vision benefits. Vision plans will offer a flat reimbursement amount for exams and materials. Gross dental/vision premiums increased slightly in 2014 despite the run-off of our New York block of business. We expect the dental/vision business to grow modestly in 2015.

IHC sells STM products in the majority of states. STM is designed specifically for people with temporary needs for health coverage. Typically, STM products are written for a defined duration of at least 30 days and less than twelve months. Among the typical purchasers of STM products are people who are in between open enrollment periods or need coverage for a limited duration until their ACA plan becomes effective, and others who need insurance for a specified period of time less than 365 days. IHC's gross premium increased significantly in this line of business in 2014. We anticipate continued growth in this line of business in 2015 in part due to increased demand for coverage and new distribution relationships.

The Company markets supplemental products to individuals and families. These lines of business are generally used as either a supplement to a major medical plan or in lieu of major medical coverage for persons that choose not to purchase such coverage. The main driver for growth in this line is that consumers are moving to higher-cost sharing on their individual major medical plans, and are looking for products to help them offset the additional risk of higher deductibles and out of pocket limits. The product lines included in this supplemental grouping are hospital indemnity plans (HIP), fixed indemnity

limited benefit plans, critical illness and bundled packages of accident medical coverage, critical illness and life insurance. These products, which are available in most states, are not directly impacted by the ACA and are available through multiple distribution sources including Company owned direct-to-consumer websites, call center and career agents, general agents and on-line agencies.

IHC has medical benefit plans for employers that choose to offer non-EHB coverage to their employees. We offer a fixed indemnity limited benefit policy that offers affordable health coverage to hourly, part-time and/or seasonal employees, which is approved in a majority of states. Fixed indemnity limited benefit plans are a low cost alternative to major medical insurance that permit employees who do not otherwise have health insurance to begin to participate in the healthcare system. In 2014, the Company recorded an increase in gross premiums and projects continued growth in 2015 as employers use these products to create a benefit package to attract and retain part-time employees.

In 2013, the Company began marketing self-funded medical plans for employers between 10 and 50 employees. These plans, which are currently marketed in a limited number of states, appeal to employers that wish to participate in cost savings and wellness initiatives that will lower their claims costs. Sales of the small group self-funded plans grew significantly in 2014 as we increased distribution and made the product available in additional states. We anticipate continued growth in this line of business in 2015.

IHC entered into a reinsurance relationship with a leading producer of expatriate business, effective January 1, 2012, which provides employee benefit insurance, including medical, life, and disability, to expatriate employees of companies based in the United States. IHC, through its insurance subsidiaries, reinsured 15% of the health, life and disability risk on a quota share basis in 2014. In addition, IHC's carriers have filed these policies in the United States for employers that wish to purchase a domestic policy to cover their employees. In 2015, IHC reduced its quota share to 10% of health insurance and will not reinsure life and disability. Due to this change, IHC expects a reduction in reinsurance premiums in this line of business in 2015. The health premium is reported with the fully insured medical products and the life and disability is reported below.

Pet Insurance

The Company writes pet insurance through a marketing and administrative company that manages one of the largest blocks of this business in the United States. During 2012, the Company, through Independence American, began to renew premium that had been underwritten by another insurance company. These plans are marketed to dog and cat owners through veterinary offices, independent marketing organizations, its nationwide call center, and increasingly, direct-to-consumer through www.petsbest.com. In 2014, Independence American had \$28.8 million of earned premium from pet insurance. We expect premiums levels to remain flat in 2015.

Occupational Accident

Independence American writes occupational accident insurance through marketing and administrative companies owned by Global Accident Facilities, LLC (GAF), a joint venture in which the AMIC currently has a 40% interest. The Company's interest in GAF increases to 60% upon the occurrence of certain events. This occupational accident product provides accidental death, accident disability and accident medical benefits for occupational injuries to employees of companies that have elected to not participate in the Texas workers compensation system (non-subscribers). The product also gives the employer the option to purchase coverage for employer's liability. Employer's liability arises when an injured employee brings an action against the employer for occupational injuries and chooses not to accept the benefits provided for by the employer's occupational accident benefit plan. The employer is covered for damages and costs arising from the settlement of such action, subject to the terms and limits of the policy. On December 31, 2013, GAF acquired an entity that provides administrative services for occupational accident insurance as well as Injured on Duty coverage, a form of occupational accident

coverage. It is expected that synergies can be achieved through coordination of administrative services with other entities owned by GAF. It is also expected that GAF may be a production source of other products such as medical stop-loss insurance. In 2014, Independence American recorded approximately \$12 million of occupational accident business and expects premiums to grow to approximately \$16 million in 2015.

Group Disability; Life, Annuities and DBL

Group Long-Term and Short-Term Disability

In addition to its international business, the Company sells group long-term disability ("LTD") products to employers that wish to provide this benefit to their employees. Depending on an employer's requirements, LTD policies (i) cover between 40% and 90% of insurable salary; (ii) have elimination periods (i.e., the period between the commencement of the disability and the start of benefit payments) of between 30 and 730 days; and (iii) terminate after two, five or ten years, or extend to age 65 or the employee's Social Security normal retirement date. Benefit payments are reduced by social security, workers compensation, pension benefits and other income replacement payments. Optional benefits are available to employees, including coverage for partial or residual disabilities, survivor benefits and cost of living adjustments. The Company also markets short-term disability ("STD") policies that provide a weekly benefit to disabled employees until the earlier of: recovery from disability, eligibility for long-term disability benefits or the end of the STD benefit period. The Company increased revenue for these products 5%, driven in large part to a new distribution partnership which began midyear. In 2015, we expect a more significant increase driven by higher retention amounts and a full year of premiums generated by this new distribution partnership.

New York Short-Term Disability (DBL)

Standard Security Life markets DBL. All companies with more than one employee in New York State are required to provide DBL insurance for their employees. DBL coverage provides temporary cash payments to replace wages lost as a result of disability due to non-occupational injury or illness. The DBL policy provides for (i) payment of 50% of salary to a maximum of \$170 per week; (ii) a maximum of 26 weeks in a consecutive 52 week period; and (iii) benefit commencement on the eighth consecutive day of disability. Policies covering fewer than 50 employees have fixed rates approved by the New York State Insurance Department. Policies covering 50 or more employees are individually underwritten. Standard Security Life's DBL premiums increased significantly in 2013 due to increased marketing and a major competitor exiting the market. The Company anticipates moderate growth in 2015 due to its continued marketing efforts.

Group Term Life and Annuities

The Company sells group term life products, including group term life, accidental death and dismemberment ("AD&D"), supplemental life and supplemental AD&D and dependent life. As with its group disability business, IHC anticipates modest growth in this line of business through expansion of its sales of these group term life products through existing distribution sources.

Individual Life, Annuities and Other

This category includes: (i) insurance products that are in runoff as a result of the Insurance Group's decision to discontinue writing such products; (ii) blocks of business that were acquired from other insurance companies; (iii) individual life and annuities written through Madison National Life's military and civilian government employee division and through its final expense distribution agency; (iv) blanket accident insurance sold through a specialized general agent; and (v) certain miscellaneous insurance products.

The Company markets a whole life product commonly referred to as a final expense life policy. This whole life product is sold to people in the 50 to 85 years old range. The face amounts can range from \$2,500 to \$40,000. We are currently averaging about \$10,400 per policy.

The following lines of Standard Security Life's in-force business are in runoff: individual accident and health, individual life, single premium immediate annuities, disability income, accidental medical, accidental death and AD&D insurance for athletes, executives and entertainers, and miscellaneous insurance business. Madison National Life's runoff in this category consists of existing blocks of individual life, including pre-need (i.e., funeral expense) coverage, traditional and interest-sensitive life blocks which were acquired in prior years, individual accident and health products, annual and single premium deferred annuity contracts and individual annuity contracts.

ACQUISITIONS OF POLICY BLOCKS

In addition to its core life and health lines of business distributed as described above, IHC's acquisition group has acquired blocks of existing life insurance, annuity and disability policies from other insurance companies, guaranty associations and liquidators. Most of the acquired blocks have been primarily life, annuities or disability policies. Not only have these transactions yielded a healthy rate of return on the investment, but the overall long-term nature of the policies acquired serves as a counterbalance to the bulk of the policies currently being written which are short-term in nature.

Madison National Life acquired a closed block of disability policies from a Receivership in 2013. The transferred reserves totaled approximately \$15.4 million. The Company does not anticipate acquiring any significant blocks in 2015.

REINSURANCE AND POLICY RETENTIONS

The Company's average retention of gross and assumed Medical Stop-Loss exposure was 74% in 2014, 84% in 2013, and 83% in 2012.

In 2014, IHC retained approximately 91% of gross and assumed Fully Insured Health exposure, up from approximately 86% in 2013. Retentions on other lines of business remained relatively constant in 2012. The Company purchases quota share reinsurance and excess reinsurance in amounts deemed appropriate by its risk committee. The Company monitors its retention amounts by product line, and has the ability to adjust its retention as appropriate.

Reinsurance is used to reduce the potentially adverse financial impact of large individual or group risks, and to reduce the strain on statutory income and surplus related to new business. By using reinsurance, the Insurance Group is able to write policies in amounts larger than it could otherwise accept. The amount reinsured is the portion of each policy in excess of the retention limit on a particular policy.

Standard Security Life entered into a coinsurance agreement with an unaffiliated reinsurer effective January 26, 2012 and transferred approximately \$143 million of group annuity reserves in the first quarter of 2012. During the third quarter of 2012, a significant portion of the reserves were assumed by the reinsurer.

Effective May 31, 2013, Madison National Life entered into a coinsurance agreement with an unaffiliated reinsurer, to cede approximately \$218 million of life and annuity reserves. During 2014, a large portion of the reserves were transferred to the reinsurer in accordance with the terms of an assumption agreement.

The following reinsurers represent approximately 74% of the total ceded premium for the year ended December 31, 2014:

RGA Reinsurance Company	25%
Contrarian Re, LLC	17%
International Casualty Company	12%
Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company	8%
American Fidelity Assurance Company	6%
National Insurance Company of Wisconsin, Inc.	6%
	74%

The Insurance Group remains liable with respect to the insurance in-force, which has been reinsured in the unlikely event that the assuming reinsurers are unable to satisfy their obligations. The Insurance Group cedes business (i) to individual reinsurance companies that are rated "A-" or better by Best or (ii) upon provision of adequate security. The ceding of reinsurance does not discharge the primary liability of the original insurer to the insured. Since the risks under the Insurance Group's business are primarily short-term, there would be limited exposure as a result of a change in a reinsurer's creditworthiness during the term of the reinsurance. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Insurance Group's ceded reinsurance in-force was \$6.1 billion and \$6.5 billion, respectively.

For further information pertaining to reinsurance, reference is made to Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8.

INVESTMENTS AND RESERVES

The Company's cash, cash equivalents and securities portfolio are managed by employees of IHC and its affiliates, and ultimate investment authority rests with IHC's in-house investment group. As a result of the nature of IHC's insurance liabilities, IHC endeavors to maintain a significant percentage of its assets in investment grade securities, cash and cash equivalents. At December 31, 2014, approximately 99.8% of the fixed maturities were investment grade and continue to be rated on average AA. The internal investment group provides a summary of the investment portfolio and the performance thereof at the meetings of the Company's board of directors.

As required by insurance laws and regulations, the Insurance Group establishes reserves to meet obligations on policies in-force. These reserves are amounts which, with additions from premiums expected to be received and with interest on such reserves at certain assumed rates, are calculated to be sufficient to meet anticipated future policy obligations. Premiums and reserves are based upon certain assumptions with respect to mortality, morbidity on health insurance, lapses and interest rates effective at the time the policies are issued. The Insurance Group also establishes appropriate reserves for substandard business, annuities and additional policy benefits, such as waiver of premium and accidental death. Standard Security Life and Madison National Life are also required by law to have an annual asset adequacy analysis, which, in general, projects the amount and timing of cash flows to the estimated maturity date of liabilities, prepared by the certifying actuary for each insurance company. The Insurance Group invests their respective assets, which support the reserves and other funds in accordance with applicable insurance law, under the supervision of their respective board of directors. The Company manages interest rate risk seeking to maintain a portfolio with a duration and average life that falls within

the band of the duration and average life of the applicable liabilities. The Company occasionally utilizes options to modify the duration and average life of the assets.

Under Wisconsin insurance law, there are restrictions relating to the percentage of an insurer's admitted assets that may be invested in a specific issuer or in the aggregate in a particular type of investment. With respect to the portion of an insurer's assets equal to its liabilities plus a statutorily-determined security surplus amount, a Wisconsin insurer cannot, for example, invest more than a certain percentage of its assets in non-amortizable evidences of indebtedness, securities of any one person (other than a subsidiary and the United States government), or common stock of any corporation and its affiliates (other than a subsidiary).

Under New York insurance law, there are restrictions relating to the percentage of an insurer's admitted assets that may be invested in a specific issuer or in the aggregate in a particular type of investment. For example, a New York life insurer cannot invest more than a certain percentage of its admitted assets in common or preferred shares of any one institution, obligations secured by any one property (other than those issued, guaranteed or insured by the United States or any state government or agency thereof), or medium and lower grade obligations. In addition, there are certain qualitative investment restrictions.

Under Delaware insurance law, there are restrictions relating to the percentage of an insurer's admitted assets that may be invested in a specific issuer or in the aggregate in a particular type of investment. In addition, there are qualitative investment restrictions.

The Company's total pre-tax investment performance for each of the last three years is summarized below, including amounts recognized in net income and unrealized gains and losses recognized in other comprehensive income or loss:

	2014	2013 (In thousands)	2012
Consolidated Statements of Income:			
Net investment income	\$ 21,692	\$ 27,471	\$ 33,356
Net realized investment gains	7,688	19,750	5,099
Other-than-temporary impairments	-	-	(704)
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss):			
Net unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities	15,389	(38,439)	11,115
Other-than-temporary impairments	-	-	(288)
Total pre-tax investment performance	\$ 44,769	\$ 8,782	\$ 48,578

Net unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities recognized through other comprehensive income (loss) represents the pre-tax change in unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities arising during the year net

of reclassification adjustments and includes the portion attributable to noncontrolling interests. The Company does not have any non-performing fixed maturity investments at December 31, 2014.

COMPETITION AND REGULATION

We compete with many large insurance companies, small regional health insurers and managed care organizations. Although most life insurance companies are stock companies, mutual companies also write life insurance in the United States. Mutual companies may have certain competitive advantages since profits inure directly to the benefit of the policyholders.

The health insurance industry tends to be cyclical, and excess products, such as medical stop-loss, tend to be more volatile than fully insured health products. During a soft market cycle, a larger number of companies offer insurance on a certain line of business, which causes premiums in that line to trend downward. In a hard market cycle, insurance companies limit their writings in certain lines of business following periods of excessive losses and insurance and reinsurance companies redeploy their capital to lines that they believe will achieve higher margins.

IHC is an insurance holding company; and as such, IHC and its subsidiary carriers and administrative companies are subject to regulation and supervision by multiple state insurance regulators, including the New York State Insurance Department (Standard Security Life's domestic regulator), the Wisconsin Department of Insurance (Madison National Life's domestic regulator) and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Delaware (Independence American's domestic regulator). Each of Standard Security Life, Madison National Life and Independence American is subject to regulation and supervision in every state in which it is licensed to transact business. These supervisory agencies have broad administrative powers with respect to the granting and revocation of licenses to transact business, the licensing of agents, the approval of policy forms, the approval of commission rates, the form and content of mandatory financial statements, reserve requirements and the types and maximum amounts of investments which may be made. Such regulation is primarily designed for the benefit of policyholders rather than the stockholders of an insurance company or insurance holding company.

Certain transactions within the IHC holding company system are also subject to regulation and supervision by such regulatory agencies. All such transactions must be fair and equitable. Notice to or prior approval by the applicable insurance department is required with respect to transactions affecting the ownership or control of an insurer and of certain material transactions, including dividend declarations, between an insurer and any person in its holding company system. Under New York, Wisconsin and Delaware insurance laws, "control" is defined as the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person. Under New York law, control is presumed to exist if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls or holds, with the power to vote ten percent or more of the voting securities of any other person. In Wisconsin, control is presumed if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls or holds with the power to vote more than ten percent of the voting securities of another person. In Delaware, control is presumed if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls or holds with the power to vote ten percent or more of the voting securities of any other person. In all three states, the acquisition of control of a domestic insurer needs to be approved in advance by the Commissioner of Insurance. See Note 15 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 for information as to restrictions on the ability of the Company's insurance subsidiaries to pay dividends.

Risk-based capital requirements are imposed on life and property and casualty insurance companies. The risk-based capital ratio is determined by dividing an insurance company's total adjusted capital, as defined, by its authorized control level risk-based capital. Companies that do not meet certain minimum standards require specified corrective action. The risk-based capital ratios for each of Standard Security Life, Madison National Life and Independence American exceed such minimum ratios.

EMPLOYEES

At December 31, 2014, the Company, including its direct and indirect majority or wholly owned subsidiaries, collectively had approximately 600 employees.

ITEM 1A.

RISK FACTORS

Many of the factors that affect our business and operations involve risk and uncertainty. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones that we face, but are those that we have identified as being the most significant factors. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not know about, or

that we deem less significant than those identified below, may also materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations and the trading price of our common stock.

Risks related to our Business

Our investment portfolio is subject to various risks that may result in realized investment losses. In particular, decreases in the fair value of fixed maturities may greatly reduce the value of our investments, and as a result, our financial condition may suffer.

We are subject to credit risk in our investment portfolio. Defaults by third parties in the payment or performance of their obligations under these securities could reduce our investment income and realized investment gains or result in the continued recognition of investment losses. The value of our investments may be materially adversely affected by increases in interest rates, downgrades in the preferred stocks and bonds included in our portfolio and by other factors that may result in the continued recognition of other-than-temporary impairments. Each of these events may cause us to reduce the carrying value of our investment portfolio.

In particular, at December 31, 2014, fixed maturities represented \$583.9 million or 89.7% of our total investments of \$651.0 million. The fair value of fixed maturities and the related investment income fluctuates depending on general economic and market conditions. The fair value of these investments generally increases or decreases in an inverse relationship with fluctuations in interest rates, while net investment income realized by us will generally increase or decrease in line with changes in market interest rates. In addition, actual net investment income and/or cash flows from investments that carry prepayment risk, such as mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, may differ from those anticipated at the time of investment as a result of interest rate fluctuations. An investment has prepayment risk when there is a risk that the timing of cash flows that result from the repayment of principal might occur earlier than anticipated because of declining interest rates or later than anticipated because of rising interest rates. The impact of value fluctuations affects our Consolidated Financial Statements. Because all of our fixed maturities are classified as available for sale, changes in the fair value of our securities are reflected in our stockholders' equity (accumulated other comprehensive income or loss). No similar adjustment is made for liabilities to reflect a change in interest rates. Therefore, interest rate fluctuations and economic conditions could adversely affect our stockholders' equity, total comprehensive income (loss) and/or cash flows. For mortgage-backed securities, credit risk exists if mortgagees default on the underlying mortgages. Although, at December 31, 2014, approximately 99.8% of the fixed maturities were investment grade and continue to be rated on average AA, all of our fixed maturities are subject to credit risk. If any of the issuers of our fixed maturities suffer financial setbacks, the ratings on the fixed maturities could fall (with a concurrent fall in fair value) and, in a worst case scenario, the issuer could default on its financial obligations. If the issuer defaults, we could have realized losses associated with the impairment of the securities.

We regularly monitor our investment portfolio to ensure that investments that are other-than-temporarily impaired are identified in a timely fashion, properly valued and any impairment is charged against earnings in the proper period. Assessment factors include, but are not limited to, the length of time and the extent to which the market value has been less than cost, the financial condition and rating of the issuer, whether any collateral is held and the Company's intent to sell, or be required to sell, debt securities before the anticipated recovery of its remaining amortized cost

basis. However, the determination that a security has incurred an other-than-temporary decline in value requires the judgment of management. Inherently, there are risks and uncertainties involved in making these judgments. Therefore, changes in facts and circumstances and critical assumptions could result in management's decision that further impairments have occurred. This could lead to additional losses on investments, particularly those that management has the intent and ability to hold until recovery in value occurs.

Our earnings could be materially affected by an impairment of goodwill.

Goodwill represented \$50.3 million of our \$1.2 billion in total assets as of December 31, 2014. We review our goodwill annually for impairment or more frequently if indicators of impairment exist. We regularly assess whether any indicators of impairment exist, which requires a significant amount of judgment. Such indicators may include: a sustained significant decline in our share price and market capitalization; a decline in our expected future cash flows; a significant adverse change in the business climate; and/or slower growth rates, among others. Any adverse change in one of these factors could have a significant impact on the recoverability of these assets and could have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements. If we experience a sustained decline in our results of operations and cash flows, or other indicators of impairment exist, we may incur a material non-cash charge to earnings relating to impairment of our goodwill, which could have a material adverse effect on our results.

If rating agencies downgrade our insurance companies, our results of operations and competitive position in the industry may suffer.

Ratings have become an increasingly important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies. Standard Security Life, Madison National Life and Independence American are all rated "A-" (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company, Inc. Best's ratings reflect its opinions of an insurance company's financial strength, operating performance, strategic position, and ability to meet its obligations to policyholders and are not evaluations directed to investors. The ratings of our carriers are subject to periodic review by Best. If Best reduces the ratings of any of our carriers from current levels, our business would be adversely affected.

Our loss reserves are based on an estimate of our future liability, and if actual claims prove to be greater than our reserves, our results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

We maintain loss reserves to cover our estimated liability for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses, where material, including legal and other fees, and costs not associated with specific claims but related to the claims payment functions for reported and unreported claims incurred as of the end of each accounting period. Because setting reserves is inherently uncertain, we cannot be sure that current reserves will prove adequate. If our reserves are insufficient to cover our actual losses and loss adjustment expenses, we would have to augment our reserves and incur a charge to our earnings, and these charges could be material. Reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability. Rather, reserves represent an estimate of what we expect the ultimate settlement and administration of claims will cost. These estimates, which generally involve actuarial projections, are based on our assessment of known facts and circumstances. Many factors could affect these reserves, including economic and social conditions, frequency and severity of claims, medical trend resulting from the influences of underlying cost inflation, changes in utilization and demand for medical services, and changes in doctrines of legal liability and damage awards in litigation. Many of these items are not directly quantifiable in advance. Additionally, there may be a significant reporting lag between the occurrence of the insured event and the time it is reported to us. The inherent uncertainties of estimating reserves are greater for certain types of liabilities, particularly those in which the various considerations affecting the type of claim are subject to change and in which long periods of time may elapse before a definitive determination of liability is made. Reserve estimates are continually refined in a regular and ongoing process as experience develops and further claims are reported and settled and are reflected in the results of the periods in which such estimates are changed.

Our inability to assess underwriting risk accurately could reduce our net income.

Our success is dependent on our ability to assess accurately the risks associated with the businesses on which we retain risk. If we fail to assess accurately the risks we retain, we may fail to establish the appropriate premium rates and our reserves may be inadequate to cover our losses, requiring augmentation of the reserves, which in turn would reduce our net income.

Our agreements with our producers that underwrite on our behalf require that each such producer follow underwriting guidelines published by us and amended from time to time. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in termination or modification of the agreement. We perform periodic audits to confirm adherence to the guidelines, but it is possible that we would not detect a breach in the guidelines for some time after the infraction, which could result in a material impact on the Net Loss Ratio (defined as insurance benefits, claims and reserves divided by the difference between premiums earned and underwriting expenses) for that producer and could have an adverse impact on our operating results.

We may be unsuccessful in competing against larger or better-established business rivals.

We compete with a large number of other companies in our selected lines of business. We face competition from specialty insurance companies and HMOs, and from diversified financial services companies and insurance companies that are much larger than we are and that have far greater financial, marketing and other resources. Some of these competitors also have longer experience and more market recognition than we do in certain lines of business. In addition to competition in the operation of our business, we face competition from a variety of sources in attracting and retaining qualified employees. We cannot assure you that we will maintain our current competitive position in the markets in which we operate, or that we will be able to expand operations into new markets. If we fail to do so, our results of operations and cash flows could be materially adversely affected.

We rely on reinsurance arrangements to help manage our business risks, and failure to perform by the counterparties to our reinsurance arrangements may expose us to risks we had sought to mitigate.

We utilize reinsurance to mitigate our risks in various circumstances. Reinsurance does not relieve us of our direct liability to our policyholders, even when the reinsurer is liable to us. Accordingly, we bear credit risk with respect to our reinsurers. Our reinsurers may be unable or unwilling to pay the reinsurance recoverable owed to us now or in the future or on a timely basis. A reinsurer's insolvency, inability or unwillingness to make payments under the terms of its reinsurance agreement with us could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We may be required to accelerate the amortization of deferred acquisition costs, which would increase our expenses and reduce profitability.

Deferred acquisition costs, or DAC, represent certain costs which vary with and are primarily related to the successful sale and issuance of our insurance policies and investment contracts and are deferred and amortized over the estimated life of the related insurance policies and contracts. These costs include commissions in excess of ultimate renewal commissions and certain other sales incentives, solicitation and printing costs, sales material and other costs, such as underwriting and contract and policy issuance expenses. Under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), DAC is amortized through operations over the lives of the underlying contracts in relation to the anticipated recognition of premiums or gross profits.

Our amortization of DAC generally depends upon anticipated profits from investments, surrender and other policy and contract charges, mortality, morbidity and maintenance and expense margins. Unfavorable experience with regard to expected expenses, investment returns, mortality, morbidity, withdrawals or lapses may cause us to increase the amortization of DAC, resulting in higher expenses and lower profitability.

We regularly review our DAC asset balance to determine if it is recoverable from future income. The portion of the DAC balance deemed to be unrecoverable, if any, is charged to expense in the period in which we make this determination. For example, if we determine that we are unable to recover DAC from profits over the life of a book of business of insurance policies or annuity contracts, or if withdrawals or surrender charges associated with early withdrawals do not fully offset the unamortized

acquisition costs related to those policies or annuities, we would be required to recognize the additional DAC amortization as a current-period expense. In general, we limit our deferral of acquisition costs to costs assumed in our pricing assumptions.

The failure to maintain effective and efficient information systems and to safeguard the security of our data could adversely affect our business.

Our business depends significantly on effective information systems, and we have different information systems for our various businesses. We have committed and will continue to commit significant resources to develop, maintain and enhance our existing information systems, transition existing systems to upgraded systems, and develop new information systems in order to keep pace with continuing changes in information processing technology, evolving industry and regulatory standards, and changing customer preferences.

Moreover, our computer systems have been, and will continue to be, subject to computer viruses or other malicious codes, unauthorized access, cyber-attacks, hackers or other computer-related penetrations. To date, we are not aware of a material breach of cybersecurity. We commit significant resources to administrative and technical controls to prevent cyber incidents and protect our information technology, but our preventative actions to reduce the risk of cyber threats may be insufficient to prevent physical and electronic break-ins, denial of service and other cyber-attacks or security breaches. Such an event could compromise our confidential information as well as that of our clients and third parties, with whom we interact, impede or interrupt business operations and may result in other negative consequences, including remediation costs, loss of revenue, additional regulatory scrutiny and litigation and reputational damage.

Our database and systems are also vulnerable to damage or interruption from system outages, disasters such as earthquakes, fires, floods, acts of terrorism, blackouts, power loss, telecommunications failures, and similar events, which would compromise our ability to conduct business. In the event of such failures, our systems may not be available to our customers or business partners for an extended period of time, which could hurt our relationships with our customers and business partners.

Our failure to maintain effective and efficient information systems and protect the security of such systems could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Failure to protect our policyholders' confidential information and privacy could adversely affect our business.

In the conduct of our business, we are subject to privacy regulations and to confidentiality obligations. For example, the collection and use of patient data in our health insurance operations is the subject of national and state legislation, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, and certain other activities we

conduct are subject to the privacy regulations of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. We also have contractual obligations to protect certain confidential information we obtain from our existing vendors, partners and policyholders. These obligations generally include protecting such confidential information in the same manner and to the same extent as we protect our own confidential information. If we do not properly comply with privacy regulations and protect confidential information, we could experience adverse consequences, including regulatory sanctions, such as penalties, fines and loss of license, as well as loss of reputation and possible litigation.

Risks Related to our Industry

Our industry is highly regulated and changes in regulations affecting our businesses may reduce our profitability and limit our growth.

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to state insurance laws and regulated by the insurance departments of the various states in which they are domiciled and licensed, which, among other things, conduct periodic examination of insurance companies. State laws grant insurance regulatory authorities broad administrative powers with respect to various aspects of our insurance businesses, including:

.
licensing companies and agents to transact business and regulating their respective conduct in the market;

.
approving policy forms and premium rates;

.
requiring certain methods of accounting and prescribing the form and content of records of financial condition required to be filed;

.
calculating the value of assets to determine compliance with statutory requirements;

.
establishing statutory capital and reserve requirements, such as for unearned premiums and losses;

.
regulating certain premium rates and requiring deposits for the benefit of policyholders;

.
establishing maximum interest rates on insurance policy loans and minimum rates for guaranteed crediting rates on life insurance policies;

.
establishing standards of solvency, including risk-based capital measurements, which are a measure developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and used by state insurance regulators to identify insurance companies that potentially are inadequately capitalized;

.
mandating certain insurance benefits and restricting the size of risks insurable under a single policy;

.
regulating unfair trade and claims practices, including the imposition of restrictions on marketing and sales practices, distribution arrangements and payment of inducements;

requiring the filing of annual and other reports relating to the financial condition of insurance companies, holding company issues and other matters;

approving changes in control of insurance companies;

restricting transactions between insurance companies and their affiliates, including the payment of dividends to affiliates; and

regulating the nature or types, concentration or amounts, quality and valuation of investments.

Currently, the U.S. federal government does not directly regulate the business of insurance. However, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act), which was signed into law in July 2010 by President Obama, created a Federal Insurance Office. While the office will not directly regulate domestic insurance business, it will monitor all aspects of the insurance industry, including identifying gaps in the regulation of insurers that could contribute to a crisis in the insurance industry and/or the U.S. economy. Further, the Dodd-Frank Act authorizes the office to make recommendations that certain insurers be subject to more stringent regulation, and conduct a study on how to modernize and improve the system of insurance regulation in the United States. The Dodd-Frank Act also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). While the CFPB does not have direct jurisdiction over insurance products, it is possible that regulations promulgated by the CFPB may extend its authority more broadly to cover certain insurance products and thereby may adversely affect our results of operations. Additionally, federal legislation and administrative policies in other areas can significantly and adversely affect insurance companies, including general financial services regulation, securities regulation, privacy regulation, tort reform legislation, and taxation.

We are uncertain as to the impact that this new legislation and regulatory guidance will have on the Company and cannot assure that it will not adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, compliance with applicable laws and regulations is time consuming and personnel-intensive, and changes in these laws and regulations may materially increase our direct and indirect compliance efforts and other expenses of doing business.

Healthcare reform may further adversely affect our business, cash flows, financial condition and results of operations.

Although health insurance is generally regulated at the state level, legislative actions have been taken at the federal level that impose added restrictions on our business. The ACA was signed into law in March 2010. Provisions of the ACA and related reforms are causing sweeping and fundamental changes to the U.S. health care system that are expected to significantly affect the health insurance industry. The effects on our Company's business include, in particular, a requirement that we pay rebates to customers if the loss ratios for some of our product lines are less than specified percentages; the need to reduce commissions and the consequent risk that insurance producers may sell less of our products than they have in the past; limits on lifetime and annual benefit maximums; a prohibition from imposing any pre-existing condition exclusion; limits on our ability to rescind coverage except for intentional fraud; increased costs to modify and/or sell our products; the need to provide a minimum standard for coverage, so that all plans must cover at least 60 percent of the typical person's medical bills and include a set of essential health benefits from hospitalization to mental health to rehabilitative services to maternity care; intensified competitive pressures that limit our ability to increase rates; significant risk of customer loss; new and higher taxes and fees to generate the revenues to implement the ACA; additional administrative costs to implement the requirements of healthcare reform; and the need to operate with a lower expense structure at both the business segment and enterprise level.

We are unable to predict what additional legislation or regulation, if any, relating to the health care industry or third-party coverage and reimbursement may be enacted in the future or what effect such legislation or regulation would have on our business.

We will continue to monitor the implementation of ACA and reassess our business strategies accordingly. We have made, and are continuing to make, significant changes to our operations, products and strategy to adapt to the new environment. However, if our plans for operating in the new environment are unsuccessful or if there is less demand than we expect for our products in the new environment, our results could be adversely affected.

Changes in state regulations, or the application thereof, may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Some states have imposed time limits for the payment of uncontested covered claims and require health care and dental service plans to pay interest on uncontested claims not paid promptly within the required time period. Some states have also granted their insurance regulatory agencies additional authority to impose monetary penalties and other sanctions on health and dental plans engaging in certain unfair payment practices. If we were unable, for any reason, to comply with these requirements, it could result in substantial costs to us and could materially adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

State insurance regulators and the NAIC regularly re-examine existing laws and regulations applicable to insurance companies and their products. Changes in these laws and regulations or in interpretations thereof, are often made for

the benefit of the consumer at the expense of the insurer and thus could have an adverse effect on our business. We cannot predict what impact, if any, the results of these studies or other such proposals, if enacted, may have on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

If we fail to comply with extensive state and federal regulations, we will be subject to penalties, which may include fines and suspension and which may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

A large portion of our business depends on our compliance with applicable laws and regulations and our ability to maintain valid licenses and approvals for our operations. Regulatory authorities have

broad discretion to grant, renew, revoke or deny licenses and approvals. In some instances, we follow practices based on our interpretations of regulations, or interpretations that we believe to be generally followed by the industry, which may be different from the requirements or interpretations of regulatory authorities. If we do not have the requisite licenses and approvals and do not comply with applicable regulatory requirements, the insurance regulatory authorities could preclude or temporarily suspend us from carrying on some or all of our insurance-related activities or otherwise penalize us. That type of action could have a material adverse effect on our business. Also, changes in the level of regulation of the insurance industry (whether federal, state or foreign), or changes in laws or regulations themselves or interpretations by regulatory authorities, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Legal and regulatory investigations and actions are increasingly common in the insurance business and may result in financial losses and harm our reputation.

We face a significant risk of litigation and regulatory investigations and actions in the ordinary course of operating our businesses, including the risk of class action lawsuits and individual lawsuits relating, among other things, to sales or underwriting practices, payment of contingent or other sales commissions, claims payments and procedures, product design, disclosure, administration, additional premium charges for premiums paid on a periodic basis, interest crediting practices, denial or delay of benefits and breaches of fiduciary or other duties to customers. Plaintiffs in class action and other lawsuits against us may seek very large or indeterminate amounts, including punitive and treble damages, which may remain unknown for substantial periods of time. We are also subject to various regulatory inquiries, such as information requests, subpoenas, market conduct exams and books and record examinations, from state and federal regulators and other authorities, which may result in fines, recommendations for corrective action or other regulatory actions. Even if we ultimately prevail in the litigation, regulatory action or investigation, we could suffer significant reputational harm, which could have an adverse effect on our business.

The effects of emerging claim and coverage issues on our business are uncertain.

As industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other environmental conditions change, unexpected and unintended liability for claims and coverage may emerge. These changing conditions may adversely affect our business by either extending coverage beyond our underwriting intent or by increasing the number or size of claims. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until sometime after we have issued insurance or reinsurance contracts that are affected by the changes. As a result, the full extent of liability under our insurance or reinsurance contracts may not be known for a significant period after a contract is issued, and our financial position and results of operations may be materially adversely affected.

Our results may fluctuate as a result of factors generally affecting the insurance and reinsurance industry.

The results of companies in the insurance and reinsurance industry historically have been subject to significant fluctuations and uncertainties. The industry and our financial condition and results of operations may be affected significantly by:

.

Fluctuations in interest rates, inflationary pressures and other changes in the investment environment, which affect returns on invested capital;

.

Rising levels of actual costs that are not known by companies at the time they price their products;

.

Losses related to epidemics, terrorist activities, random acts of violence or declared or undeclared war;

.

Development of judicial interpretations relating to the scope of insurers' liability;

.

The overall level of economic activity and the competitive environment in the industry;

.

Greater than expected use of health care services by members;

New mandated benefits or other regulatory changes that change the scope of business or increase our costs; and

Failure of MGUs, agents, third-party administrators and producers to adhere to the underwriting guidelines, market-conduct practices and other requirements (as applicable) under their agreements with us.

The occurrence of any or a combination of these factors, which is beyond our control, could have a material adverse effect on our results.

We may experience periods with excess underwriting capacity and unfavorable premium rates because the insurance and reinsurance business is historically cyclical, which could cause our results to fluctuate.

The insurance and reinsurance business historically has been a cyclical industry characterized by periods of intense price competition due to excessive underwriting capacity, as well as periods when shortages of capacity permitted an increase in pricing and, thus, more favorable premium levels. An increase in premium levels is often, over time, offset by an increasing supply of insurance and reinsurance capacity, either by capital provided by new entrants or by the commitment of additional capital by existing insurers or reinsurers, which may cause prices to decrease. Any of these factors could lead to a significant reduction in premium rates, less favorable policy terms and fewer opportunities to underwrite insurance risks, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and cash flows.

Failures elsewhere in the insurance industry could obligate us to pay assessments through guaranty associations.

Virtually all states require insurers licensed to do business in that state to bear a portion of the loss suffered by some insureds as the result of impaired or insolvent insurance companies. When an insurance company becomes insolvent, state insurance guaranty associations have the right to assess other insurance companies doing business in their state for funds to pay obligations to policyholders of the insolvent company, up to the state-specific limit of coverage. The total amount of the assessment is based on the number of insured residents in each state, and each company's portion is based on its proportionate share of premium volume in the relevant lines of business. The future failure of a large life, health or annuity insurer could trigger assessments which we would be obligated to pay. Further, amounts for historical insolvencies may be assessed over many years, and there can be significant uncertainty around the total obligation for a given insolvency. Existing liabilities may not be sufficient to fund the ultimate obligations of a historical insolvency, and we may be required to increase our liability, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

ITEM 1B.

UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2.

PROPERTIES

IHC

IHC has entered into a renewable short-term arrangement with Geneve Corporation, an affiliate, for the use of 6,750 square feet of office space as its corporate headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut.

Standard Security Life

Standard Security Life leases 13,000 square feet of office space in New York, New York as its corporate headquarters.

Madison National Life

Madison National Life leases 28,060 square feet of space in Madison, Wisconsin as its corporate headquarters.

IHC Administrative Services

IHC Administrative Services leases 49,117 square feet of office space in Phoenix, Arizona as its corporate headquarters.

ITEM 3.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved in legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of our businesses. We have established reserves that we believe are sufficient given information presently available relating to our outstanding legal proceedings and claims. We do not anticipate that the result of any pending legal proceeding or claim will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or cash flows, although there could be such an effect on our results of operations for any particular period.

ITEM 4.

MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

ITEM 5.

MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED**STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES****Market Information**

The Company's common stock trades under the symbol IHC on the New York Stock Exchange. The following table shows for the periods indicated the high and low sales prices for IHC's common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange.

		HIGH		LOW
QUARTER ENDED:				
December 31, 2014	\$	14.47	\$	12.71
September 30, 2014		14.88		12.41
June 30, 2014		14.48		12.50
March 31, 2014		14.50		11.36
QUARTER ENDED:				
December 31, 2013	\$	14.39	\$	12.34
September 30, 2013		14.95		11.67
June 30, 2013		11.90		9.78
March 31, 2013		10.36		9.00

IHC's stock price closed at \$13.95 on December 31, 2014.

Holders of Record

At March 6, 2015, the number of record holders of IHC's common stock was 2,067. The number of record owners was determined from the Company's stockholder records maintained by the Company's transfer agent.

Dividends

IHC declared a cash dividend of \$.035 per share on its common stock on each of June 26, 2014 and December 22, 2014 for a total annual dividend of \$.07 per share.

IHC declared a cash dividend of \$.035 per share on its common stock on each of June 6, 2013 and December 27, 2013 for a total annual dividend of \$.07 per share.

IHC declared a cash dividend of \$.035 per share on its common stock on each of May 22, 2012 and November 19, 2012 for a total annual dividend of \$.07 per share.

Share Repurchase Program

IHC has a program, initiated in 1991, under which it repurchases shares of its common stock. In August 2014, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 500,000 shares of IHC's common stock, in addition to prior authorizations, under the 1991 plan. At December 31, 2014, there were 468,218 shares still authorized to be repurchased under the plan. There were no share repurchases during the fourth quarter of 2014.

Performance Graph

Set forth below is a line graph comparing the five year cumulative total return of IHC's common stock with that of the Russell 2000 Index and the S & P 500 Life & Health Insurance index. The graph assumes that dividends were reinvested and is based on a \$100 investment on December 31, 2009. Indices data was obtained from Research Data Group, Inc. The performance graph represents past performance and should not be considered to be an indication of future performance.

ITEM 6.**SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following is a summary of selected consolidated financial data of the Company for each of the last five years.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Income Data:					
Total revenues	\$ 533,933	\$ 575,044	\$ 428,061	\$ 417,996	\$ 435,368
Income from continuing operations	16,921	15,256	22,611	14,766	23,669
Balance Sheet Data:					
Total investments	650,961	608,982	811,356	932,945	919,727
Total assets	1,187,717	1,269,035	1,262,308	1,358,859	1,361,792
Insurance liabilities	728,883	837,581	793,628	927,746	920,581
Debt and junior subordinated debt securities	42,146	44,146	46,146	48,146	45,646
IHC stockholders' equity	291,177	268,791	285,684	261,077	230,628
Per Share Data:					
Cash dividends declared per common share	.07	.07	.07	.045	.045
Basic income (loss) per common share					
from continuing operations	.93	.78	1.09	.74	1.31
Diluted income (loss) per common share					
share from continuing operations	.92	.77	1.09	.74	1.31
Book value per common share	16.76	15.22	15.93	14.46	13.76

The Selected Financial Data should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto included in Item 8 of this report.

ITEM 7.**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

OVERVIEW

Independence Holding Company, a Delaware corporation (NYSE: IHC), is a holding company principally engaged in the life and health insurance business through: (i) its insurance companies, Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York ("Standard Security Life"), Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. ("Madison National Life"), Independence American Insurance Company (Independence American); and (ii) its marketing and administrative companies, including IHC Risk Solutions, LLC (Risk Solutions), IHC Health Solutions, Inc., IHC Specialty Benefits, Inc. and IHC Carrier Solutions, Inc. IHC also owns a significant equity interest in a managing general underwriter (MGU) that writes Medical Stop-Loss. Standard Security Life, Madison National Life and Independence American are sometimes collectively referred to as the Insurance Group . IHC and its subsidiaries (including the Insurance Group) are sometimes collectively referred to as the "Company", or IHC , or are implicit in the terms we , us and our

IHC's health insurance products serve niche sectors of the commercial market through multiple classes of business and varied distribution channels. Medical Stop-Loss is marketed to employer groups that self-insure their medical risks; in 2014 the Company's average case size was 228 covered employee lives. This niche is expected to grow as result of federal health care reform. The SGMM product is purchased by employers with between two and 50 covered lives. With regard to those persons in the growing individual market, IHC's products offer coverage for individuals and families with STM needs,

and fixed indemnity limited benefit and scheduled benefit plans through select distribution partners. We offer pet insurance for dogs and cats in all 50 states through a national distributor. Our fixed indemnity limited benefit product is primarily purchased by hourly workers and others who are generally not eligible for coverage under their employer's group medical plan. The dental and vision products are marketed to large and small groups as well as individuals. With respect to IHC's life and disability business, Madison National Life has historically sold almost all of this business through one distribution source specializing in serving school districts and municipalities.

While management considers a wide range of factors in its strategic planning and decision-making, underwriting profit is consistently emphasized as the primary goal in all decisions as to whether or not to increase our retention in a core line, expand into new products, acquire an entity or a block of business, or otherwise change our business model. Management's assessment of trends in healthcare and morbidity, with respect to medical stop-loss, fully insured medical, disability and DBL; mortality rates with respect to life insurance; and changes in market conditions in general play a significant role in determining the rates charged, deductibles and attachment points quoted, and the percentage of business retained. IHC also seeks transactions that permit it to leverage its vertically integrated organizational structure by generating fee income from production and administrative operating companies as well as risk income for its carriers and profit commissions. Management has always focused on managing the costs of its operations and providing its insureds with the best cost-containment tools available.

The following is a summary of key performance information and events:

The results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, are summarized as follows (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Revenues	\$ 533,933	\$ 575,044	\$ 428,061
Expenses	510,621	551,390	403,447
Income before income taxes	23,312	23,654	24,614
Income taxes	6,391	8,398	2,003
Net income	16,921	15,256	22,611
Less: Income from noncontrolling interest in subsidiaries	(628)	(1,477)	(2,950)
Net income attributable to IHC	\$ 16,293	\$ 13,779	\$ 19,661

Net income of \$.92 per share, diluted, for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to \$.77 per share, diluted, for the year ended December 31, 2013. The results for 2014 and 2012 include credits to federal income taxes of \$2.5

million and \$5.9 million, respectively, as a result of the reduction in AMIC's valuation allowance related to its net deferred tax asset at December 31, 2014 and 2012, respectively;

Consolidated investment yield (on an annualized basis) of 3.3% in 2014 compared to 3.8% in 2013; and

Book value of \$16.76 per common share at December 31, 2014 compared to \$15.22 at December 31, 2013.

The following is a summary of key performance information by segment:

The Medical Stop-Loss segment reported income before taxes of \$21.9 million and \$12.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The increase is largely a result of lower combined loss and expense ratios in 2014;

o

Premiums earned increased \$10.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 when compared to 2013. The increase in premiums earned is primarily due to increased volume of business produced by IHC Risk Solutions.

o

Underwriting experience for the Medical Stop-Loss segment, as indicated by its U.S. GAAP Combined Ratios, is as follows for the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Premiums Earned	\$ 176,941	\$ 166,302	\$ 139,724
Insurance Benefits, Claims & Reserves Expenses	122,469	115,599	90,406
	37,710	42,164	38,350
Loss Ratio ^(A)	69.2%	69.5%	64.7%
Expense Ratio ^(B)	21.3%	25.4%	27.4%
Combined Ratio ^(C)	90.5%	94.9%	92.1%

(A)

Loss ratio represents insurance benefits claims and reserves divided by premiums earned.

(B)

Expense ratio represents net commissions, administrative fees, premium taxes and other underwriting expenses divided by premiums earned.

(C)

The combined ratio is equal to the sum of the loss ratio and the expenses ratio.

o

The lower expense ratios in 2014 are primarily the result of lower commission expenses due to the mix of business.

.

The Fully Insured Health segment reported a loss of \$2.0 million before taxes for the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to \$0.8 million of income before taxes for the year ended December 31, 2013. The decrease is primarily due to lower fee income in 2014 as a result of the planned run-off of major medical health plans for individuals and families (IMM), which we exited in 2013, and higher expense ratios as we adjust our mix of business from major medical to specialty health insurance;

o

Premiums earned decreased \$29.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 over the comparable period in 2013. Largely as a result of the strategic decision to focus on ancillary products instead of major medical, premiums decreased by \$76.1 million. This decrease was partially offset by increases in the ancillary business largely as a result of new product launches and broader marketing of our STM, individual dental, gap plans, and fixed indemnity limited benefit plans, and by growth in pet insurance and occupational accident lines of business, which are relatively new products to IHC;

o

Underwriting experience, as indicated by its U.S. GAAP Combined Ratios, for the Fully Insured segment are as follows for the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Premiums Earned	\$ 218,949	\$ 248,870	\$ 141,546
Insurance Benefits, Claims & Reserves Expenses	146,431	177,290	94,700
	75,929	76,236	43,639
Loss Ratio	66.9%	71.2%	66.9%
Expense Ratio	34.7%	30.6%	30.8%
Combined Ratio	101.6%	101.8%	97.7%

o

The loss ratios are largely dependent on the mix of business in each year. In 2013 and 2014, loss ratios were generally favorable in the specialty health lines of business, which have an increasing premium base, but were unacceptably high in both years on the decreasing major medical premium base, which we are exiting. In 2013 and 2014, the Company recorded an increase in claims experience on major medical, which we attribute, in large part, to changes brought on by health care reform, and 2014 includes the new health insurance tax. The 2013 year was also adversely impacted by a reserve adjustment related to business written through an MGU that was previously terminated. As we adjust our mix of business from major medical to that of a specialty health insurance company, we anticipate loss ratios lower than 2014 (since we will have less major medical) and an expense ratio similar to that of 2014.

Income before taxes from the Group disability, life, annuities and DBL segment in 2014 increased \$3.6 million compared to prior year results. The increase is primarily the result of better loss ratios in the DBL and group term life lines;

Losses before taxes from the Individual life, annuities and other segment decreased \$3.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2014. While the results for 2014 reflect lower investment income and higher general expenses due to \$3.5 million of amortization of deferred costs in correlation with the assumptions of certain ceded life and annuity policies, the results for 2013 include a \$9.3 million write-off of deferred acquisition costs in connection with a coinsurance agreement;

Losses before tax from the Corporate segment increased \$2.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the prior year primarily due to employee compensation expenses that vary with changes in IHC's stock price and book value;

Net realized investment gains were \$7.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$19.8 million in 2013. A significant portion of the net realized investment gains in 2013 resulted from sales of invested assets in connection with the transfer of assets in accordance with the terms of a coinsurance agreement; and

Premiums by principal product for the years indicated are as follows (in thousands):

**Gross Direct and Assumed
Earned Premiums:**

	2014	2013	2012
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 240,865	\$ 199,064	\$ 168,596
Fully Insured Health	241,486	288,809	224,377
Group disability; life, annuities and DBL	107,049	102,663	90,935
Individual life, annuities and other	26,186	28,342	31,728
	\$ 615,586	\$ 618,878	\$ 515,636

Net Premiums Earned:

	2014	2013	2012
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 176,941	\$ 166,302	\$ 139,724
Fully Insured Health	218,949	248,870	141,546
Group disability; life, annuities and DBL	64,260	60,004	49,315
Individual life, annuities and other	18,898	20,815	25,482
	\$ 479,048	\$ 495,991	\$ 356,067

Information pertaining to the Company's business segments is provided in Note 16 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting and reporting policies of the Company conform to U.S. GAAP. The preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires the Company's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. A summary of the Company's significant accounting policies and practices is provided in Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this report. Management has identified the accounting policies described below as those that, due to the judgments, estimates and assumptions inherent in those policies, are critical to an understanding of the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements and this Management's Discussion and Analysis.

Insurance Premium Revenue Recognition and Policy Charges

Premiums for short-duration medical insurance contracts are intended to cover expected claim costs resulting from insured events that occur during a fixed period of short duration. The Company has the ability to not renew the contract or to revise the premium rates at the end of each annual contract period to cover future insured events. Insurance premiums from annual health contracts are collected monthly and are recognized as revenue evenly as insurance protection is provided.

Premiums related to long-term and short-term disability contracts are recognized on a pro rata basis over the applicable contract term.

Traditional life insurance products consist principally of products with fixed and guaranteed premiums and benefits, primarily term and whole life insurance products. Premiums from these products are recognized as revenue when due.

Annuities and interest-sensitive life contracts, such as universal life and interest-sensitive whole life, are contracts whose terms are not fixed and guaranteed. Premiums from these policies are reported as funds on deposit. Policy charges consist of fees assessed against the policyholder for cost of insurance (mortality risk), policy administration and early surrender. These revenues are recognized when assessed against the policyholder account balance.

Policies that do not subject the Company to significant risk arising from mortality or morbidity are considered investment contracts. Deposits received from such contracts are reported as other policyholder funds. Policy charges for investment contracts consist of fees assessed against the policyholder account for maintenance, administration and surrender of the policy prior to contractually specified dates, and are recognized when assessed against the policyholder account balance.

Insurance Liabilities

The Company maintains loss reserves to cover its estimated liability for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses, where material, (including legal, other fees, and costs not associated with specific claims but related to the claims payment function) for reported and unreported claims incurred as of the end of each accounting period. These loss reserves are based on actuarial assumptions and are maintained at levels that are in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Many factors could affect these reserves, including economic and social conditions, frequency and severity of claims, medical trend resulting from the influences of underlying cost inflation, changes in utilization and demand for medical services, and changes in doctrines of legal liability and damage awards in litigation. Therefore, the Company's reserves are necessarily based on estimates, assumptions and analysis of historical experience. The Company's results depend upon the variation between actual claims experience and the assumptions used in determining reserves and pricing products. Reserve assumptions and estimates require significant judgment and, therefore, are inherently uncertain. The Company cannot determine with precision the ultimate amounts that will be paid for actual claims or the timing of those payments. The Company's estimate of loss represents management's best estimate of the Company's liability at the balance sheet date.

Loss reserves differ for short-duration and long-duration insurance policies, including annuities. Reserves are based on approved actuarial methods, but necessarily include assumptions about expenses, mortality, morbidity, lapse rates and future yield on related investments.

Policy Benefits and Claims

All of the Company's short-duration contracts are generated from its accident, health, disability and pet insurance business, and are accounted for based on actuarial estimates of the amount of loss inherent in that period's claims, including losses incurred for which claims have not been reported. Short-duration contract loss estimates rely on actuarial observations of ultimate loss experience for similar historical events.

The Company believes that its liability for policy benefits and claims is reasonable and adequate to satisfy its ultimate liability. The Company primarily uses its own loss development experience, but will also supplement that with data from its outside actuaries, reinsurers and industry loss experience as warranted. To illustrate the impact that Loss Ratios have on the Company's loss reserves and related expenses, each hypothetical 1% change in the Loss Ratio for the health business (i.e., the ratio of insurance benefits, claims and settlement expenses to earned health premiums) for the year ended December 31, 2014, would increase reserves (in the case of a higher ratio) or decrease reserves (in the case of a lower ratio) by approximately \$4.5 million with a corresponding increase or decrease in the pre-

tax expense for insurance benefits, claims and reserves in the Consolidated Statement of Income. Depending on the circumstances surrounding a change in the Loss Ratio, other pre-tax amounts reported in the Consolidated Statement of Income could also be affected, such as amortization of deferred acquisition costs and commission expense.

The liability for policy benefits and claims by segment is as follows (in thousands):

		December 31, 2014		
	Policy Benefits	Policy Claims		Policy Benefits and Claims
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 80,128	\$ -		\$ 80,128
Fully Insured Health	50,285	-		50,285
Group Disability	88,360	10,950		99,310
Individual Accident and Health and Other	6,881	199		7,080
	\$ 225,654	\$ 11,149		\$ 236,803

		December 31, 2013		
	Policy Benefits	Policy Claims		Policy Benefits and Claims
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 72,307	\$ -		\$ 72,307
Fully Insured Health	56,848	-		56,848
Group Disability	90,606	10,976		101,582
Individual Accident and Health and Other	6,811	206		7,017
	\$ 226,572	\$ 11,182		\$ 237,754

Medical Stop-Loss

All of the Company's Medical Stop-Loss policies are short-duration and are accounted for based on actuarial estimates of the amount of loss inherent in that period's claims or open claims from prior periods, including losses incurred for claims that have not been reported (IBNR). Short-duration contract loss estimates rely on actuarial observations of ultimate loss experience for similar historical events.

The two primary assumptions underlying the calculation of policy benefits and claims for Medical Stop-Loss business are (i) projected Net Loss Ratio, and (ii) claim development patterns. The projected Net Loss Ratio is set at expected levels consistent with the underlying assumptions (Projected Net Loss Ratio). Claim development patterns are set quarterly as reserve estimates are developed and are based on recent claim development history (Claim Development

Patterns). The Company uses the Projected Net Loss Ratio to establish reserves until developing losses provide a better indication of ultimate results and it is feasible to set reserves based on Claim Development Patterns. The Company has concluded that a reasonably likely change in the Projected Net Loss Ratio assumption could have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity (Material Effect) but a reasonably likely change in the Claim Development Pattern would not have a Material Effect.

Projected Net Loss Ratio

Generally, during the first twelve months of an underwriting year, policy benefits and claims for Medical Stop-Loss are first set at the Projected Net Loss Ratio, which is set using assumptions developed using completed prior experience trended forward. The Projected Net Loss Ratio is the Company's best estimate of future performance until such time as developing losses provide a better indication of ultimate results.

While the Company establishes a best estimate of the Projected Net Loss Ratio, actual experience may deviate from this estimate. This was the case with the 2011, 2012 and 2013 underwriting years which deviated by 4.6, 0.3 and 1.7 Net Loss Ratio points, respectively. After the recorded reserve estimate, it is reasonably likely that the actual experience will fall within a range up to five Net Loss Ratio points above or below the expected Projected Net Loss Ratio for the 2014 underwriting year at December 31, 2014. The impact of these reasonably likely changes at December 31, 2014, would be an increase in net reserves (in the case of a higher ratio) or a decrease in net reserves (in the case of a lower ratio) of up to approximately \$4.4 million with a corresponding increase or decrease in the pre-tax expense for insurance benefits, claims and reserves in the Consolidated Statement of Income.

Major factors that affect the Projected Net Loss Ratio assumption in reserving for Medical Stop-Loss relate to: (i) frequency and severity of claims; (ii) changes in medical trend resulting from the influences of underlying cost inflation, changes in utilization and demand for medical services, the impact of new medical technology and changes in medical treatment protocols; and (iii) the adherence to the Company's underwriting guidelines. Changes in these underlying factors are what determine the reasonably likely changes in the Projected Net Loss Ratio as discussed above.

Claim Development Patterns

Subsequent to the first twelve months of an underwriting year, the Company's developing losses provide a better indication of ultimate losses. At this point, claims have developed to a level where Claim Development Patterns can be applied to generate reasonably reliable estimates of ultimate claim levels. Development factors based on historical patterns are applied to paid and reported claims to estimate fully developed claims. Claim Development Patterns are reviewed quarterly as reserve estimates are developed and are based on recent claim development history. The Company must determine whether changes in development represent true indications of emerging experience or are simply due to random claim fluctuations.

The Company also establishes its best estimates of claim development factors to be applied to more developed treaty year experience. While these factors are based on historical Claim Development Patterns, actual claim development may vary from these estimates. The Company does not believe that reasonably likely changes in its actual claim development patterns would have a Material Effect.

Predicting ultimate claims and estimating reserves in Medical Stop-Loss is more complex than fully insured medical and disability business due to the excess of loss nature of these products with very high deductibles applying to specific claims on any individual claimant and in the aggregate for a given group. The level of these deductibles makes it more difficult to predict the amount and payment pattern of such claims. Fluctuations in results for specific coverage are primarily due to the severity and frequency of individual claims, whereas fluctuations in aggregate coverage are largely attributable to frequency of underlying claims rather than severity. Liabilities for first dollar medical reserves and disability coverages are computed using completion factors and expected Net Loss Ratios derived from actual historical premium and claim data.

Due to the short-term nature of Medical Stop-Loss, redundancies or deficiencies will typically emerge during the course of the following year rather than over a number of years. For Employer Stop-Loss, as noted above, the Company maintains its reserves based on underlying assumptions until it

determines that an adjustment is appropriate based on emerging experience from all of its MGUs for prior underwriting years.

Fully Insured Health

The liability for policy benefits and claims for fully insured medical and dental business is established using historical claim development patterns. Claim development by number of months elapsed from the incurred month is studied each month and development factors are calculated. These claim development factors are then applied to the amount of claims paid to date for each incurred month to estimate fully complete claims. The difference between fully complete claims and the claims paid to date is the estimated reserve. Total reserves are the sum of the reserves for all incurred months.

The primary assumption in the determination of fully insured policy benefits and claims is that historical claim development patterns tend to be representative of future claim development patterns. Factors which may affect this assumption include changes in claim payment processing times and procedures, changes in product design, changes in time delay in submission of claims, and the incidence of unusually large claims. The reserving analysis includes a review of claim processing statistical measures and large claim early notifications; the potential impacts of any changes in these factors are minimal. The time delay in submission of claims tends to be stable over time and not subject to significant volatility. Since our analysis considered a variety of outcomes related to these factors, the Company does not believe that any reasonably likely change in these factors will have a Material Effect.

Group Disability

The Company's Group Disability segment is comprised of Long Term Disability (LTD) and Disability Benefits Law (DBL). The two primary assumptions on which Group Disability policy benefits and claims are based are: (i) morbidity levels; and (ii) recovery rates. If morbidity levels increase, for example due to an epidemic or a recessionary environment, the Company would increase reserves because there would be more new claims than expected. In regard to the assumed recovery rate, if disabled lives recover more quickly than anticipated then the existing claims reserves would be reduced; if less quickly, the existing claims reserves would be increased. Advancements in medical treatments could affect future recovery, termination, and mortality rates. With respect to LTD only, other assumptions are: (i) changes in market interest rates; (ii) changes in offsets; (iii) advancements in medical treatments; and (iv) cost of living. Changes in market interest rates could change reserve assumptions since the payout period could be as long as 40 years. Changes in offsets such as Social Security benefits, retirement plans and state disability plans also impact reserving. As a result of the foregoing assumptions, it is possible that the historical trend may not be an accurate predictor of the future development of the block. As with most long term insurance reserves that require judgment, the reserving process is subject to uncertainty and volatility and fluctuations may not be indicative of the claim development overall.

While the Company believes that larger variations are possible, the Company does not believe that reasonably likely changes in its primary assumptions would have a Material Effect.

Individual Accident and Health and Other

This segment is a combination of closed lines of business as well as certain small existing lines. While the assumptions used in setting reserves vary between these different lines of business, the assumptions would generally relate to the following: (i) the rate of disability; (ii) the morbidity rates on specific diseases; and (iii) accident rates. The reported reserves are based on management's best estimate for each line within this segment. General uncertainties that surround all insurance reserving methodologies would apply. However, since the Company has so few policies of this type, volatility may occur due to the small number of claims.

Management believes that the Company's methods of estimating the liabilities for policy benefits and claims provided appropriate levels of reserves at December 31, 2014. Changes in the Company's policy benefits and claims estimates are recorded through a charge or credit to its earnings.

Future Policy Benefits

The liability for future policy benefits consists of the liabilities associated with the Company's long-duration contracts, primarily its life and annuity products. For traditional life insurance products, the Company computes the liability for future policy benefits primarily using the net premium method based on anticipated investment yield, mortality, and withdrawals. These methods are widely used in the life insurance industry to estimate the liabilities for insurance reserves. Inherent in these calculations are management and actuarial judgments and estimates that could significantly impact the ending reserve liabilities and, consequently, operating results. Actual results may differ, and these estimates are subject to interpretation and change.

Management believes that the Company's methods of estimating the liabilities for future policy benefits provided appropriate levels of reserves at December 31, 2014. Changes in the Company's future policy benefits estimates are recorded through a charge or credit to its earnings.

Other Policyholders' Funds

Other policyholders' funds represent interest-bearing liabilities arising from the sales of products, such as universal life, interest-sensitive life and annuities. Policyholder funds are comprised primarily of deposits received and interest credited to the benefit of the policyholder less surrenders and withdrawals, mortality charges and administrative expenses.

Interest credited to policyholder funds represents interest accrued or paid on interest-sensitive life policies and investment policies. Amounts charged to operations (including interest credited and benefit claims incurred in excess of related policyholder account balances) are reported as insurance benefits, claims and reserves-life and annuity. Credit rates for certain annuities and interest-sensitive life policies are adjusted periodically by the Company to reflect current market conditions, subject to contractually guaranteed minimum rates.

Deferred Acquisition Costs

Costs that vary with and are primarily related to the successful acquisition of insurance policies and investment type contracts are deferred and recorded as deferred policy acquisition costs ("DAC"). These costs are principally broker

fees, agent commissions, and the purchase prices of the acquired blocks of insurance policies and investment type policies. DAC is amortized to expense and reported separately in the Consolidated Statements of Income. All DAC within a particular product type is amortized on the same basis using the following methods:

For traditional life insurance and other premium paying policies, amortization of DAC is charged to expense over the related premium revenue recognition period. Assumptions used in the amortization of DAC are determined based upon the conditions as of the date of policy issue or assumption and are not generally revised during the life of the policy.

For long duration type contracts, such as annuities and universal life business, amortization of DAC is charged to expense over the life of the underlying contracts based on the present value of the estimated gross profits ("EGPs") expected to be realized over the life of the book of contracts. EGPs consist of margins based on expected mortality rates, persistency rates, interest rate spreads, and other revenues and expenses. The Company regularly evaluates its EGPs to determine if actual experience or other evidence suggests that earlier estimates should be revised. If the Company determines that the current assumptions underlying the EGPs are no longer the best estimate for the future due to changes in

actual versus expected mortality rates, persistency rates, interest rate spreads, or other revenues and expenses, the future EGPs are updated using the new assumptions and prospective unlocking occurs. These updated EGPs are utilized for future amortization calculations. The total amortization recorded to date is adjusted through a current charge or credit to the Consolidated Statements of Income.

Internal replacements of insurance and investment contracts determined to result in a replacement contract that is substantially changed from the original contract will be accounted for as an extinguishment of the original contract, resulting in a release of the unamortized deferred acquisition costs, unearned revenue, and deferral of sales inducements associated with the replaced contract.

Investments

The Company has classified all of its investments as either available-for-sale or trading securities. These investments are carried at fair value with unrealized gains and losses reported through other comprehensive income (loss) for available-for-sale securities or as unrealized gains or losses in the Consolidated Statements of Income for trading securities. Available-for-sale securities totaled \$597.8 million and \$554.1 million at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Premiums and discounts on debt securities purchased at other than par value are amortized and accreted, respectively, to interest income in the Consolidated Statements of Income, using the constant yield method over the period to maturity. Net realized gains and losses on investments are computed using the specific identification method and are reported in the Consolidated Statements of Income on the trade date.

Fair value is determined using quoted market prices when available. In some cases, we use quoted market prices for similar instruments in active markets and/or model-derived valuations where inputs are observable in active markets. When there are limited or inactive trading markets, we use industry-standard pricing methodologies, including discounted cash flow models, whose inputs are based on management assumptions and available current market information. Further, we retain independent pricing vendors to assist in valuing certain instruments. Most of the securities in our portfolio are classified in either Level 1 or Level 2 of the Fair Value Hierarchy.

The Company periodically reviews and assesses the vendor's qualifications and the design and appropriateness of its pricing methodologies. Management will on occasion challenge pricing information on certain individual securities and, through communications with the vendor, obtain information about the assumptions, inputs and methodologies used in pricing those securities, and corroborate it against documented pricing methodologies. Validation procedures are in place to determine completeness and accuracy of pricing information, including, but not limited to: (i) review of exception reports that (a) identify any zero or un-priced securities; (b) identify securities with no price change; and (c) identify securities with significant price changes; (ii) performance of trend analyses; (iii) periodic comparison of pricing to alternative pricing sources; and (iv) comparison of pricing changes to expectations based on rating changes, benchmarks or control groups. In certain circumstances, pricing is unavailable from the vendor and broker pricing information is used to determine fair value. In these instances, management will assess the quality of the data sources, the underlying assumptions and the reasonableness of the broker quotes based on the current market information available. To determine if an exception represents an error, management will often have to exercise judgment. Procedures to resolve an exception vary depending on the significance of the security and its related class, the

frequency of the exception, the risk of material misstatement, and the availability of information for the security. These procedures include, but are not limited to: (i) a price challenge process with the vendor; (ii) pricing from a different vendor; (iii) a reasonableness review; and (iv) a change in price based on better information, such as an actual market trade, among other things. Management considers all facts and relevant information obtained during the above procedures to determine the proper classification of each security in the Fair Value Hierarchy.

Declines in value of securities available-for-sale that are judged to be other-than-temporary are determined based on the specific identification method. The Company reviews its investment securities

regularly and determines whether other-than-temporary impairments have occurred. The factors considered by management in its regular review to identify and recognize other-than-temporary impairment losses on fixed maturities include, but are not limited to: the length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than cost; the Company's intent to sell, or be required to sell, the debt security before the anticipated recovery of its remaining amortized cost basis; the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer; adverse changes in ratings announced by one or more rating agencies; subordinated credit support; whether the issuer of a debt security has remained current on principal and interest payments; current expected cash flows; whether the decline in fair value appears to be issuer specific or, alternatively, a reflection of general market or industry conditions including the effect of changes in market interest rates. If the Company intends to sell a debt security, or it is more likely than not that it would be required to sell a debt security before the recovery of its amortized cost basis, the entire difference between the security's amortized cost basis and its fair value at the balance sheet date would be recognized by a charge to total other-than-temporary impairment losses in the Consolidated Statement of Income. If a decline in fair value of a debt security is judged by management to be other-than-temporary and; (i) the Company does not intend to sell the security; and (ii) it is not more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security prior to recovery of the security's amortized cost, the Company assesses whether the present value of the cash flows to be collected from the security is less than its amortized cost basis. To the extent that the present value of the cash flows generated by a debt security is less than the amortized cost basis, a credit loss exists. For any such security, the impairment is bifurcated into (a) the amount of the total impairment related to the credit loss, and (b) the amount of the total impairment related to all other factors. The amount of the other-than-temporary impairment related to the credit loss is recognized by a charge to total other-than-temporary impairment losses in the Consolidated Statement of Income, establishing a new cost basis for the security. The amount of the other-than-temporary impairment related to all other factors is recognized in other comprehensive income (loss). It is reasonably possible that further declines in estimated fair values of such investments, or changes in assumptions or estimates of anticipated recoveries and/or cash flows, may cause further other-than-temporary impairments in the near term, which could be significant.

In assessing corporate debt securities for other-than-temporary impairment, the Company evaluates the ability of the issuer to meet its debt obligations and the value of the company or specific collateral securing the debt position. For mortgage-backed securities where loan level data is not available, the Company uses a cash flow model based on the collateral characteristics. Assumptions about loss severity and defaults used in the model are primarily based on actual losses experienced and defaults in the collateral pool. Prepayment speeds, both actual and estimated, are also considered. The cash flows generated by the collateral securing these securities are then determined with these default, loss severity and prepayment assumptions. These collateral cash flows are then utilized, along with consideration for the issuer's position in the overall structure, to determine the cash flows associated with the mortgage-backed security held by the Company. In addition, the Company evaluates other asset-backed securities for other-than-temporary impairment by examining similar characteristics referenced above for mortgage-backed securities. The Company evaluates U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government corporations, U.S. Government agencies, and obligations of states and political subdivisions for other-than-temporary impairment by examining the terms and collateral of the security.

Equity securities may experience other-than-temporary impairment in the future based on the prospects for full recovery in value in a reasonable period of time and the Company's ability and intent to hold the security to recovery. If a decline in fair value is judged by management to be other-than-temporary or management does not have the intent or ability to hold a security, a loss is recognized by a charge to total other-than-temporary impairment losses in the Consolidated Statement of Income. For the purpose of other-than-temporary impairment evaluations, redeemable preferred stocks are evaluated in a manner similar to debt securities. Declines in the creditworthiness of the issuer of debt securities with both debt and equity-like features are evaluated using the equity model in consideration of other-than-temporary impairment.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill carrying amounts are evaluated for impairment, at least annually, at the reporting unit level which is equivalent to an operating segment. If the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, further evaluation is required to determine if a write-down of goodwill is required. In determining the fair value of each reporting unit, we used an income approach, applying a discounted cash flow method which included a residual value.

Based on historical experience, we make assumptions as to: (i) expected future performance and future economic conditions, (ii) projected operating earnings, (iii) projected new and renewal business as well as profit margins on such business, and (iv) a discount rate that incorporated an appropriate risk level for the reporting unit. Any impairment of goodwill would be charged to expense. No impairment charge for goodwill was required in 2014, 2013 or 2012.

Other intangible assets are amortized to expense over their estimated useful lives and are subject to impairment testing. Any impairment of other intangible assets would be charged to expense. No impairment charges for intangible assets were required in 2014, 2013 or 2012.

At December 31, 2014, the Company's market capitalization was less than its book value indicating a potential impairment of goodwill. As a result, the Company assessed the factors contributing to the performance of IHC stock in 2014. The Company does not believe that an impairment of goodwill exists at this time.

If we experience a sustained decline in our results of operations and cash flows, or other indicators of impairment exist, we may incur a material non-cash charge to earnings relating to impairment of our goodwill, which could have a material adverse effect on our results.

Deferred Income Taxes

The provision for deferred income taxes is based on the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. Under this method, deferred income taxes are recognized by applying enacted statutory tax rates to temporary differences between amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and the tax bases of existing assets and liabilities. A valuation allowance is recognized for the portion of deferred tax assets that, in management's judgment, is not likely to be realized. A liability for uncertain tax positions is recorded when it is more likely than not that a tax position will not be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities. The effect on deferred income taxes of a change in tax rates or laws is recognized in income tax expense in the period that includes the enactment date. The Company has certain tax-planning strategies that were used in determining that a valuation allowance was not necessary on its deferred taxes.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**Results of Operations for the Year Ended December 31, 2014 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2013**

Information by business segment for the year ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 is as follows:

<u>December 31,</u> <u>2014</u>	Premiums	Net	Fee and	Benefits,	Amortization	Selling,	
(In thousands)	<u>Earned</u>	Investment	Other	Claims	of Deferred	General	
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>	and	Acquisition	and	<u>Total</u>
				<u>Reserves</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 176,941	4,327	3,507	122,469	-	40,373	\$ 21,933
Fully Insured Health	218,949	2,202	17,950	146,431	482	94,175	(1,987)
Group disability, life, annuities and DBL	64,260	3,156	225	37,537	-	17,936	12,168
Individual life, annuities and other	18,898	11,830	3,823	19,598	4,459	17,112	(6,618)
Corporate	-	177	-	-	-	8,252	(8,075)
Sub total	\$ 479,048	\$ 21,692	\$ 25,505	\$ 326,035	\$ 4,941	\$ 177,848	17,421
Net realized investment gains							7,688
Interest expense on debt							(1,797)
Income before income taxes							23,312
Income taxes							6,391
Net income							\$ 16,921

<u>December 31,</u> <u>2013</u>	Premiums	Net	Fee and	Benefits,	Amortization	Selling,	
(In thousands)	<u>Earned</u>	Investment	Other	Claims	of Deferred	General	
		<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>	and	Acquisition	and	<u>Total</u>
				<u>Reserves</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 166,302	5,055	606	115,599	-	43,687	\$ 12,677
Fully Insured Health	248,870	2,711	26,524	177,290	22	99,961	832
Group disability,							

Individual life, annuities and DBL	60,004	2,763	388	37,463	-	17,045	8,647
Individual life, annuities and other	20,815	16,837	4,314	24,438	15,110	12,814	(10,396)
Corporate	-	105	-	-	-	6,046	(5,941)
Sub total	\$ 495,991	\$ 27,471	\$ 31,832	\$ 354,790	\$ 15,132	\$ 179,553	5,819
Net realized investment gains							19,750
Interest expense on debt							(1,915)
Income before income taxes							23,654
Income taxes							8,398
Net income							\$ 15,256

Premiums Earned

In 2014, premiums earned decreased \$16.9 million over the comparable period of 2013. The decrease is primarily due to: (i) a decrease of \$29.9 million from the Fully Insured Health segment primarily as a result of a \$76.1 million decrease in premiums from exiting the IMM line and the New York vision block and from a decrease in the small group major medical line, partially offset by increases in the ancillary lines (primarily short-term medical (\$7.0 million) and fixed indemnity limited benefit (\$4.6 million)), pet insurance (\$10.2 million), international (\$4.9 million) and occupational accident (\$11.7 million) lines of business as a result of higher volume; and (ii) a decrease of \$1.9 million of earned premiums in the Individual life, annuities and other segment, primarily as a result of business ceded in connection with a coinsurance agreement during the second quarter of 2013; partially offset by (iii) a \$10.6 million increase in earned premiums from the Medical Stop-Loss segment as a result of higher volume; and (iv) a \$4.3 million increase in the Group disability, life, annuities and DBL segment primarily due to increased premiums from the DBL and LTD lines.

Net Investment Income

Total net investment income decreased \$5.8 million. The overall annualized investment yields were 3.3% and 3.8% in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The overall decrease was primarily a result of a decrease in investment income on bonds, equities and short-term investments due to the transfer of \$215.1 million of invested assets in the second quarter of 2013 related to a coinsurance treaty and lower income from partnerships. The annualized investment yields on bonds, equities and short-term investments were 3.2% and 3.5% in 2014 and 2013, respectively. IHC has approximately \$149.4 million in highly rated shorter duration securities earning on average 1.4%. A portfolio that is shorter in duration enables us, if we deem prudent, the flexibility to reinvest in much higher yielding longer-term securities, which would significantly increase investment income.

Net Realized Investment Gains

The Company had net realized investment gains of \$7.7 million in 2014 compared to \$19.8 million in 2013. These amounts include gains and losses from sales of fixed maturities and equity securities available-for-sale and other investments. Decisions to sell securities are based on management's ongoing evaluation of investment opportunities and economic and market conditions, thus creating fluctuations in gains and losses from period to period. A significant portion of the net realized investment gains in 2013 resulted from sales of invested assets in connection with the transfer of assets related to a coinsurance agreement.

Fee Income and Other Income

Fee income decreased \$6.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 primarily as a result of decreased volume in certain lines of the Fully Insured Health segment partially offset by increased volume in the Medical Stop-Loss segment.

There was no significant change in other income.

Insurance Benefits, Claims and Reserves

In 2014, insurance, benefits, claims and reserves decreased \$28.8 million over the comparable period in 2013. The decrease is primarily attributable to: (i) a decrease of \$30.9 million in the Fully Insured Health segment, primarily due to a decrease of \$61.5 million in benefits, claims and reserves related to the run-off of the IMM and the New York vision block and from lower loss ratios in 2014; partially offset by increases in the volume of ancillary products (\$6.9 million), pet insurance (\$6.6 million), international (\$3.5 million) and occupational accident business (\$7.9 million);

and (ii) a decrease of \$4.8 million in the Individual life, annuity and other segment, primarily as a result of business ceded in connection with a coinsurance agreement during the second quarter of 2013; partially offset by (iii) an increase of \$6.9 million in benefits, claims and reserves in the Medical Stop-Loss segment as a result of an increase in premium volume; and (iv) no overall change in the group disability, life, annuities and DBL segment primarily due to increased volume in the LTD line and DBL lines which were offset by lower loss ratios in the group term life line in 2014.

Amortization of Deferred Acquisition Costs

In 2013, the Company wrote-off \$9.3 million of deferred acquisition costs in connection with a coinsurance agreement. Excluding this write-off, amortization of deferred acquisition costs decreased \$0.9 million.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$1.7 million. The decrease is primarily due to: (i) a decrease of \$3.3 million in the Medical Stop-Loss segment, primarily lower commission expenses due to the mix of business; (ii) a decrease of \$5.8 million in the Fully Insured Health segment largely due to exiting the IMM line and from a decrease in the small group major medical line offset by general expenses as a result of the higher volume of ancillary, pet, international and occupational accident business in 2014, which tends to have a higher expense structure than major medical and includes the new health insurance tax in 2014; partially offset by (iii) an increase of \$0.9 million in the group disability, life, annuities and DBL segment due to increased volume in the DBL line and higher commission rates in the LTD line; (iv) an increase of \$4.3 million in Individual life, annuity and other segment primarily due to the amortization of deferred costs in correlation with the assumptions of certain ceded life and annuity policies; and (v) an increase of \$2.2 million in Corporate primarily due to employee compensation expense, which varies with changes in IHC's stock price and book value.

Income Taxes

In 2014, the Company recorded a \$2.5 million credit to federal income taxes as a result of the reduction in AMIC's valuation allowance related to its deferred tax asset at December 31, 2014. Excluding this transaction, the effective tax rate for 2014 was 38.1%. The effective tax rate for 2013 was 35.5%. The higher effective tax rate in 2014 was primarily due to an increase in non-deductible expenses in 2014 as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Results of Operations for the Year Ended December 31, 2013 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2012

Information by business segment for the year ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 is as follows:

<u>December 31, 2013</u>	Premiums	Net Investment	Fee and Other	Benefits, Claims and Reserves	Amortization of Deferred Acquisition	Selling, General and Administrative	Total
(In thousands)	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Reserves</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 166,302	5,055	606	115,599	-	43,687	\$ 12,677
Fully Insured Health	248,870	2,711	26,524	177,290	22	99,961	832
Group disability, life, annuities and DBL	60,004	2,763	388	37,463	-	17,045	8,647
Individual life, annuities and other	20,815	16,837	4,314	24,438	15,110	12,814	(10,396)
Corporate	-	105	-	-	-	6,046	(5,941)
Sub total	\$ 495,991	\$ 27,471	\$ 31,832	\$ 354,790	\$ 15,132	\$ 179,553	5,819
Net realized investment gains							19,750
Interest expense on debt							(1,915)
Income before income taxes							23,654
Income taxes							8,398
Net income							\$ 15,256

<u>December 31, 2012</u>	Premiums	Net Investment	Fee and Other	Benefits, Claims and Reserves	Amortization of Deferred Acquisition	Selling, General and Administrative	Total
(In thousands)	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Reserves</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Medical stop-loss	\$ 139,724	4,990	1,664	90,406	-	40,154	\$ 15,818
Fully Insured	141,546	1,733	28,213	94,700	17	72,415	4,360
Group disability, life, annuities and DBL	49,315	2,618	116	27,663	-	15,779	8,607
Individual life, annuities and other	25,482	23,475	4,250	32,022	6,549	13,731	905
Corporate	-	540	-	-	-	7,920	(7,380)

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Sub total	\$ 356,067	\$ 33,356	\$ 34,243	\$ 244,791	\$ 6,566	\$ 149,999	22,310
Net realized investment gains							5,099
Other-than-temporary impairment losses							(704)
Interest expense on debt							(2,091)
Income before income taxes							24,614
Income taxes							2,003
Net income							\$ 22,611

Premiums Earned

In 2013, premiums earned increased \$139.9 million over the comparable period of 2012. The increase is primarily due to: (i) the Fully Insured Health segment which had a \$107.3 million increase in premiums primarily as a result of increased retentions on most lines of business and increased volume in the short term medical business and major medical business for groups and individuals in addition to premiums from the new pet and international lines of business; (ii) a \$26.6 million increase in the Medical Stop-Loss segment due to increased volume of business in 2013; and (iii) a \$10.7 million increase in the Group disability, life, annuities and DBL segment primarily due to increased premiums from the DBL line; partially offset by (iv) a decrease of \$4.7 million of earned premiums in the Individual life, annuities and other segment primarily as a result of decreased premium volume from the coinsurance agreement and from lines in run-off.

Net Investment Income

Total net investment income decreased \$5.9 million. The overall annualized investment yields were 3.8% and 4.1% (approximately 3.8% and 4.2%, on a tax advantaged basis) for 2013 and 2012, respectively. The overall decrease was primarily a result of a decrease in investment income on bonds, equities and short-term investments due to the transfer of \$215.1 million of invested assets in the second quarter of 2013 related to a coinsurance treaty. The annualized investment yields on bonds, equities and short-term investments were 3.5% and 3.8% in 2013 and 2012, respectively. IHC has approximately \$144.0 million in highly rated shorter duration securities earning on average 1.4%. A portfolio that is shorter in duration enables us, if we deem prudent, the flexibility to reinvest in much higher yielding longer-term securities, which would significantly increase investment income.

Net Realized Investment Gains and Other-Than-Temporary Impairment Losses, Net

The Company had net realized investment gains of \$19.8 million in 2013 compared to \$5.1 million in 2012. These amounts include gains and losses from sales of fixed maturities and equity securities available-for-sale and other investments. Decisions to sell securities are based on management's ongoing evaluation of investment opportunities and economic and market conditions, thus creating fluctuations in gains and losses from period to period. A significant portion of the net realized investment gains in 2013 resulted from sales of invested assets in connection with the transfer of assets, during the second quarter, in accordance with the terms of a coinsurance agreement.

The Company did not record any other-than-temporary impairment losses in 2013 but recorded \$0.7 million in 2012 consisting of credit losses resulting from expected cash flows of debt securities that are less than their amortized cost basis.

Fee Income and Other Income

Fee income decreased \$2.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to the year ended December 31, 2012 primarily as a result of increased retentions in certain lines of the Fully Insured Health segment partially offset by a \$4.8 million increase in fees at our online marketing company, Healthinsurance.org LLC (HIO). As a result of the implementation of healthcare reforms, HIO experienced a high number of submitted applications through its site in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Insurance Benefits, Claims and Reserves

In 2013, insurance, benefits, claims and reserves increased \$110.0 million over the comparable period in 2012. The increase is primarily attributable to: (i) an increase of \$82.6 million in the Fully Insured Health segment, principally due to the increase in premiums on the major medical business for groups and individuals and short term medical lines of business in addition to the new pet and international lines of business and higher loss ratios; (ii) an increase of \$25.2 million in the Medical Stop-Loss segment as a result of an increase in premium volume and higher loss ratios; (iii) an increase of \$9.8 million in the group disability, life, annuities and DBL segment primarily due to an increase in the DBL line as a result of increased volume; offset by (iv) a \$7.6 million decrease in the Individual life, annuity and other segment primarily a result of decreased volume from the coinsurance agreement and from lines in run-off.

Amortization of Deferred Acquisition Costs

In the second quarter of 2013, the Company wrote-off \$9.3 million of deferred acquisition costs in connection with a coinsurance agreement. Excluding this write-off, amortization of deferred acquisition costs decreased \$0.8 million.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$29.6 million. The increase is primarily due to: (i) a \$27.6 million increase in the Fully Insured Health segment largely a result of an increase in commission and other general expenses in the major medical business due to the increase in volume for groups and individuals and short term medical lines of business in addition to commission and other general expenses related to the new pet and international lines in 2013; (ii) a \$3.5 million increase in commissions and other general expenses in the Medical Stop-Loss segment due to the increase in volume; (iii) an increase of \$1.3 million in the group disability, life, annuities and DBL segment due to the increase in DBL volume; partially offset by (iv) a \$0.9 million decrease in the Individual life, annuity and other segment primarily as a result of decreased volume from the coinsurance agreement; and (v) \$1.9 million decrease in corporate overhead expenses due to a reduction in employment related expenses.

Income Taxes

The effective tax rate for 2013 was 35.5%. In 2012, the Company recorded a \$5.9 million credit to federal income taxes as a result of the reduction in AMIC's valuation allowance related to its deferred tax asset at December 31, 2012. Excluding this transaction, the effective tax rate for 2012 was 32.1%. The lower effective tax rate in 2012 was due to a higher benefit from tax-advantaged securities as a percentage of income in 2012.

LIQUIDITY

Insurance Group

The Insurance Group normally provides cash flow from: (i) operations; (ii) the receipt of scheduled principal payments on its portfolio of fixed maturities; and (iii) earnings on investments. Such cash flow is partially used to fund liabilities for insurance policy benefits. These liabilities represent long-term and short-term obligations.

Corporate

Corporate derives its funds principally from: (i) dividends from the Insurance Group; (ii) management fees from its subsidiaries; and (iii) investment income from Corporate liquidity. Regulatory constraints historically have not affected the Company's consolidated liquidity, although state insurance laws have provisions relating to the ability of the parent company to use cash generated by the Insurance Group. The Insurance Group declared and paid \$10.0 million, \$12.0 million and \$11.4 million of cash dividends to Corporate in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

In accordance with the terms of its amortizing term loan, the Company made a \$2.0 million principal debt repayment in each of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Corporate utilizes cash primarily for the payment of general overhead expenses, common stock dividends, common stock repurchases and debt repayment.

Cash Flows

The Company had \$25.1 million and \$24.2 million of cash and cash equivalents as of December 30, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively.

For year ended December 31, 2014, operating activities of the Company provided \$27.3 million of cash, investment activities utilized \$15.9 million of cash and financing activities utilized \$10.6 million

of cash. Financing activities include \$4.0 million used for the settlement of treasury share purchases, \$2.0 million for the repayment of debt principal and \$1.2 million for the payment of dividends.

The Company has \$513.8 million of liabilities for future policy benefits and policy benefits and claims that it expects to ultimately pay out of current assets and cash flows from future business. If necessary, the Company could utilize the cash received from maturities and repayments of its fixed maturity investments if the timing of claim payments associated with the Company's insurance resources does not coincide with future cash flows. For the year ended December 31, 2014, cash received from the maturities and other repayments of fixed maturities was \$45.1 million.

The Company believes it has sufficient cash to meet its currently anticipated business requirements over the next twelve months including working capital requirements and capital investments.

BALANCE SHEET

The Company had net receivables from reinsurers of \$230.3 million at December 31, 2014 compared to \$343.1 million at December 31, 2013. The decrease in the net reinsurance balance is primarily due to the assumption of ceded life and annuity reserves by an unaffiliated reinsurer. No allowance for doubtful accounts was necessary at December 31, 2014.

The liabilities for future policy benefits and funds on deposit have decreased since December 31, 2013 primarily as a result of an assumption agreement with an unaffiliated reinsurer to assume previously ceded life and annuity reserves.

Debt decreased as a result of a \$2.0 million principal repayment in the third quarter of 2014.

The \$22.4 million increase in IHC's stockholders' equity for the year ended December 31, 2014 is primarily due to \$16.3 million of net income attributable to IHC and \$10.5 million of other comprehensive income attributable to IHC, partially offset by \$4.0 million of treasury stock purchases and \$1.2 million of common stock dividends declared in 2014.

Asset Quality and Investment Impairments

The nature and quality of insurance company investments must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations, which have been promulgated primarily for the protection of policyholders. Although the Company's gross unrealized losses on available-for-sale securities totaled \$6.3 million at December 31, 2014, approximately 99.8% of the Company's fixed maturities were investment grade and continue to be rated on average AA. The Company marks all of

its available-for-sale securities to fair value through accumulated other comprehensive income or loss. These investments tend to carry less default risk and, therefore, lower interest rates than other types of fixed maturity investments. At December 31, 2014, approximately 0.2% (or \$1.0 million) of the carrying value of fixed maturities was invested in non-investment grade fixed maturities (a commercial mortgage obligation). Investments in such securities have different risks than investment grade securities, including greater risk of loss upon default, and thinner trading markets. The Company does not have any non-performing fixed maturity investments at December 31, 2014.

Approximately 0.3% of fixed maturities, primarily municipal obligations, in our investment portfolio are insured by financial guaranty insurance companies. The purpose of this insurance is to increase the credit quality of the fixed maturities and their credit ratings. If the obligations of these financial guarantors ceased to be valuable, either through a credit rating downgrade or default, these debt securities would likely receive lower credit ratings by the rating agencies that would reflect the creditworthiness of the various obligors as if the fixed maturities were uninsured. The following table

summarizes the credit quality of our fixed maturity portfolio as rated, and as rated if the fixed maturities were uninsured, at December 31, 2014:

<u>Bond Ratings</u>	<u>As Rated</u>	<u>As Rated If Uninsured</u>
AAA	20.4%	20.5%
AA	50.0%	49.8%
A	28.1%	28.1%
BBB	1.3%	1.4%
Total Investment Grade	99.8%	99.8%
BB or lower	0.2%	0.2%
Total Fixed Maturities	100.0%	100.0%

Changes in interest rates, credit spreads, and investment quality ratings may cause the market value of the Company's investments to fluctuate. The Company does not have the intent to sell nor is it more likely than not that the Company will have to sell debt securities in unrealized loss positions that are not other-than-temporarily impaired before recovery. In the event that the Company's liquidity needs require the sale of fixed maturity securities in unfavorable interest rate, liquidity or credit spread environments, the Company may realize investment losses.

The Company reviews its investments regularly and monitors its investments continually for impairments, as discussed in Note 1(G) (iv) of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report. For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Company did not record any other-than-temporary impairment losses and, at December 31, 2014, there were no securities with fair values less than 80% of their amortized cost.

The unrealized losses on all available-for-sale securities have been evaluated in accordance with the Company's impairment policy and were determined to be temporary in nature at December 31, 2014. In 2014, the Company recorded \$23.3 million of net unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities, pre-tax, in other comprehensive income (loss) prior to DAC and reclassification adjustments. From time to time, as warranted, the Company may employ investment strategies to mitigate interest rate and other market exposures. Further deterioration in credit quality of the companies backing the securities, further deterioration in the condition of the financial services industry, a continuation of the current imbalances in liquidity that exist in the marketplace, a continuation or worsening of the current economic recession, or additional declines in real estate values may further affect the fair value of these securities and increase the potential that certain unrealized losses be designated as other-than-temporary in future periods and the Company may incur additional write-downs.

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the amount we paid to acquire subsidiaries and other businesses over the fair value of their net assets at the date of acquisition. The Company tests goodwill for impairment at least annually and between annual tests if an event or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. Goodwill is considered impaired when the carrying amount of goodwill exceeds its implied fair value.

All goodwill carrying amounts are evaluated for impairment at the reporting unit level which is equivalent to an operating segment. Goodwill was allocated to each reporting unit or operating segment at the time of acquisition. At December 31, 2014, total goodwill was \$50.3 million, of which \$44.6 million was attributable to the Fully Insured Health segment and \$5.7 million to the Medical Stop Loss segment.

Based upon the goodwill impairment testing performed at December 31, 2014, the fair value of each reporting unit exceeded its carrying value and no impairment charge was required. Fair value exceeded carrying value by 10% or more in both the Fully Insured Health and the Medical Stop Loss segments.

In determining the fair value of each reporting unit, we used an income approach, applying a discounted cash flow method which included a residual value. Based on historical experience, we made assumptions as to: (i) expected future performance and future economic conditions, (ii) projected operating earnings, (iii) projected new and renewal business as well as profit margins on such business, and (iv) a discount rate that incorporated an appropriate risk level for the reporting unit.

Management uses a significant amount of judgment in estimating the fair value of the Company's reporting units. The key assumptions underlying the fair value process are subject to uncertainty and change. The following represent some of the potential risks that could impact these assumptions and the related expected future cash flows: (i) increased competition; (ii) an adverse change in the insurance industry and overall business climate; (iii) changes in state and federal regulations; (iv) rating agency downgrades of our insurance companies; and (v) a sustained and significant decrease in our share price and market capitalization. Our market capitalization as of December 31, 2014 was below the sum of our reporting units' fair values. As a result, the Company assessed the factors contributing to the performance of IHC stock in 2014, and concluded that the market capitalization does not represent the fair value of the Company. The Company noted several factors that have led to a difference between the market capitalization and the fair value of the Company, including (i) the Company's stock is thinly traded and a sale of even a small number of shares can have a large percentage impact on the price of the stock, (ii) Geneve Corporation and insiders own approximately 57% of the outstanding shares, which has had a significant adverse impact on the number of shares available for sale and therefore the trading potential of IHC stock, and (iii) lack of analyst coverage of the Company. If we experience a sustained decline in our results of operations and cash flows, or other indicators of impairment exist, we may incur a material non-cash charge to earnings relating to impairment of our goodwill, which could have a material adverse effect on our results.

Liability for Policy Benefits and Claims

The following table summarizes the prior year net favorable amount of policy benefits and claims incurred in 2014 according to the year in which it relates, together with the opening balances of the corresponding liability for policy benefits and claims (net of reinsurance recoverable) (in thousands):

	Policy Benefits and Claims at January 1, 2014		Prior Year Amount Incurred in 2014	
2013	\$	132,249	\$	(4,211)
2012		10,464		(388)
2011		5,199		(784)
2010 and Prior		17,070		831
Total	\$	164,982	\$	(4,552)

The following sections describe, for each segment, the unfavorable (favorable) development in the liability for policy benefits and claims experienced in 2014, together with the key assumptions and changes therein affecting the reserve estimates.

Medical Stop-Loss

The Company experienced a net unfavorable development of \$0.1 million in the Medical Stop-Loss segment.

Fully Insured Health

The Fully Insured Health segment had a favorable development of \$0.4 million primarily related to benefits and claims experience associated with business written in 2013.

Group Disability

The Group Disability segment had a favorable development of \$3.8 million primarily related to benefits and claims experience related to the 2013 LTD and DBL businesses.

Due to the long-term nature of LTD, in establishing the liability for policy benefits and claims, the Company must make estimates for case reserves, IBNR, and reserves for Loss Adjustment Expenses (LAE). Case reserves generally equal the actuarial present value of the liability for future benefits to be paid on claims incurred as of the balance sheet date. The IBNR reserve is established based upon historical trends of existing incurred claims that were reported after the balance sheet date. The LAE reserve is calculated based on an actuarial expense study. Since the LTD block of policies is relatively small, with the potential for very large claims on individual policies, results can vary from year to year. If a small number of claimants with large claim reserves were to recover or several very large claims were incurred, the results could distort the Company's policy benefits and claims estimates from year to year. High termination rates and offsets caused favorable development in LTD prior year reserves. With respect to DBL, the liability for policy benefits and claims for the most recent quarter of earned premium is established using a Net Loss Ratio methodology. The Net Loss Ratio is determined by applying the completed prior four quarters of historical Net Loss Ratios to the last quarter of earned premium. Policy benefits and claims associated with the premium earned prior to the last quarter are established using a completion factor methodology. The completion factors are developed using the historical payment patterns for DBL. The favorable development in the DBL line is due to lower than expected claims.

There were normal fluctuations to the Company's experience factor. The IBNR factors were updated to reflect the current experience. The reserving process used by management was consistent from 2013 to 2014.

Individual Life, Annuities and Other

All other lines, primarily blanket and other individual health products, experienced favorable development of \$0.4 million.

CAPITAL RESOURCES

Due to its strong capital ratios, broad licensing and excellent asset quality and credit-worthiness, the Insurance Group remains well positioned to increase or diversify its current activities. It is anticipated that future acquisitions or other expansion of operations will be funded internally from existing capital and surplus and parent company liquidity. In the event additional funds are required, it is expected that they would be borrowed or raised in the public or private capital markets to the extent determined to be necessary or desirable. In November 2004, December 2003 and March 2003, the Company borrowed \$15.0 million, \$12.0 million and \$10.0 million, respectively, through pooled trust preferred issuances by unconsolidated subsidiary trusts. In 2011, the amortizing term loan was amended and increased from \$7.5 million to \$10.0 million. See Note 9 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

IHC enters into a variety of contractual obligations with third parties in the ordinary course of its operations, including liabilities for insurance reserves, funds on deposit, debt and operating lease obligations. However, IHC does not believe that its cash flow requirements can be fully assessed based solely upon an analysis of these obligations. Future cash outflows, whether they are contractual obligations or not, also will vary based upon IHC's future needs. Although some outflows are fixed, others depend on future events.

The chart below reflects the maturity distribution of IHC's contractual obligations at December 31, 2014 (in thousands):

	Debt	Junior Subordinated Debt	Interest On Debt	Leases	Insurance Policy Benefits	Funds on Deposit	Total
2015	\$ 2,000	-	\$ 1,682	\$ 3,291	\$ 183,482	\$ 18,178	\$ 208,633
2016	2,000	-	1,583	2,723	44,950	17,626	68,882
2017	-	-	1,534	1,206	35,659	17,154	55,553
2018	-	-	1,534	790	31,424	16,806	50,554
2019	-	-	1,534	118	29,501	16,260	47,413
2020 and Thereafter	-	38,146	23,256	29	166,455	100,758	328,644

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Totals	\$	4,000	\$	38,146	\$	31,123	\$	8,157	\$	491,471	\$	186,782	\$	759,679
--------	----	-------	----	--------	----	--------	----	-------	----	---------	----	---------	----	---------

OUTLOOK

For 2015, we anticipate:

.

Continued growth in our medical stop-loss segment as the demand for this product continues to grow and Risk Solutions continues to build its reputation as a direct writer and provider of captive solutions;

.

Continued significant decrease in major medical premiums in 2015 as we have exited individual major medical and significantly reduced our block of small group major medical, however, we had negative underwriting results on this line of business in 2014 so less premium may improve our underwriting margins although generate decreases in administrative revenues;

.

Further adaption to health care reform by continuing to proactively adjust our distribution strategies and mix of Fully Insured Health products to take advantage of changing market demands;

.

Increasing emphasis on direct-to-consumer distribution initiatives as we believe this will be a growing means for selling health insurance in the coming years, and accompanying start-up costs of expanding our sales through our call center and transactional websites;

.

Increasing sales of short-term and supplemental health products, such as dental, accidental medical, gap and critical illness products partially offset by a decrease in fixed indemnity limited benefit plans due to a change in the law;

.

Increasing sales in our DBL line of business;

.

Increasing sales of individual major medical products and increased administrative revenue from non-affiliated nationally recognized insurance companies; and

.

Continued focus on administrative efficiencies.

The Company will remain highly liquid in 2015 as a result of the continuing shorter duration of the portfolio. As a result, the yields on our investment portfolio were, and continue to remain, lower than in prior years and investment income may continue to be depressed for 2015. IHC has approximately \$149.4 million in highly rated shorter maturity securities earning on average 1.4%; our portfolio as a whole is rated, on average, AA. The low duration of our portfolio enables us, if we deem prudent, the flexibility to reinvest in much higher yielding longer-term securities, which would significantly increase investment income in the future. A low duration portfolio such as ours also mitigates the adverse impact of potential inflation. IHC will continue to monitor the financial markets and invest accordingly.

In 2014, we continued to achieve significant growth in our controlled direct written stop-loss business through Risk Solutions. This growth was achieved while maintaining underwriting profitability consistent with the prior year. Our overall results in 2013 were adversely impacted by business written through two non-owned MGUs, both of which have been terminated, although run-off continued in 2014. This result reemphasizes the importance of our decision to focus our stop-loss business through our direct writing model. The favorable results of Risk Solutions are a direct result of their positioning to take advantage of market trends, including consolidation of relationships by producers and increased interest in stop-loss as a result of health care reform. We see these trends continuing and strengthening as we move into 2014 and beyond. Risk Solutions has established a reputation in the market for delivering innovative solutions for small to medium sized employer groups looking for self-funded alternatives. Risk Solutions has also established a reputation in the market for fair and responsible pricing and superior service levels. We foresee continued growth and favorable underwriting results as more of our stop-loss business comes through the Risk Solutions platform.

We will continue to focus on our strategic objectives, including expanding our distribution network. However, the success of a portion of our Fully Insured Health business has been affected by the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, as amended, and its subsequent interpretations by state and federal regulators. While the law has influenced our decision, and that of many other insurers, to exit or reduce their presence in major medical essential health benefit (EHB)

plans in the small employer and individual markets, non-EHB lines of business and medical stop-loss have been impacted by health care reform minimally or not at all.

Our results depend on the adequacy of our product pricing, our underwriting, the accuracy of our reserving methodology, returns on our invested assets, and our ability to manage expenses. We will also need to be diligent with the increased rate review scrutiny to effect timely rate changes and will need to stay focused on the management of medical cost drivers as medical trend levels cause margin pressures. Therefore, factors affecting these items, as well as unemployment and global financial markets, may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

ITEM 7A.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT

MARKET RISK

The Company manages interest rate risk by seeking to maintain an investment portfolio with a duration and average life that falls within the band of the duration and average life of the applicable liabilities. Options may be utilized to modify the duration and average life of such assets.

The following summarizes the estimated pre-tax change in fair value (based upon hypothetical parallel shifts in the U.S. Treasury yield curve) of the fixed income portfolio (excluding redeemable preferred stocks) assuming immediate changes in interest rates at specified levels at December 31, 2014:

	Change in Interest Rates				
	200 basis point rise	100 basis point rise	Base scenario	100 basis point decline	200 basis point decline
Corporate securities	\$ 237,356	\$ 249,195	\$ 261,924	\$ 275,859	\$ 287,671
CMO s	5,494	5,762	6,059	6,305	6,345
U.S. Government obligations	21,498	22,180	22,892	23,604	23,863
Agency MBSs	66	68	69	70	70
GSEs	12,706	13,632	14,656	15,785	16,900
State & Political Subdivisions	202,827	220,589	239,381	255,874	268,417
Foreign governments	31,237	32,885	34,700	36,692	38,364

Total estimated fair value	\$ 511,184	\$ 544,311	\$ 579,681	\$ 614,189	\$ 641,630
Estimated change in value	\$ (68,497)	\$ (35,370)		\$ 34,508	\$ 61,949

The Company monitors its investment portfolio on a continuous basis and believes that the liquidity of the Insurance Group will not be adversely affected by its current investments. This monitoring includes the maintenance of an asset-liability model that matches current insurance liability cash flows with current investment cash flows. This is accomplished by first creating an insurance model of the Company's in-force policies using current assumptions on mortality, lapses and expenses. Then, current investments are assigned to specific insurance blocks in the model using appropriate prepayment schedules and future reinvestment patterns.

The results of the model specify whether the investments and their related cash flows can support the related current insurance cash flows. Additionally, various scenarios are developed changing interest rates and other related assumptions. These scenarios help evaluate the market risk due to changing interest rates in relation to the business of the Insurance Group.

In the Company's analysis of the asset-liability model, a 100 to 200 basis point change in interest rates on the Insurance Group's liabilities would not be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company. With respect to its liabilities, if interest rates were to increase, the risk to the Company is that policies would be surrendered and assets would need to be sold. This is not a material exposure to the Company since a large portion of the Insurance Group's interest sensitive policies are burial policies that

are not subject to the typical surrender patterns of other interest sensitive policies, and many of the Insurance Group's universal life and annuity policies were acquired from liquidated companies which tend to exhibit lower surrender rates than such policies of continuing companies. Additionally, there are charges to help offset the benefits being surrendered. If interest rates were to decrease substantially, the risk to the Company is that some of its investment assets would be subject to early redemption. This is not a material exposure because the Company would have additional unrealized gains in its investment portfolio to help offset the future reduction of investment income. With respect to its investments, the Company employs (from time to time as warranted) investment strategies to mitigate interest rate and other market exposures.

ITEM 8.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

See Index to Consolidated Financial Statements and Schedules on page 56.

ITEM 9.

CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A.

CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

IHC's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer supervised and participated in IHC's evaluation of its disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Disclosure controls and procedures are controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in IHC's periodic reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Securities Exchange Act), is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Based upon that evaluation, IHC's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that IHC's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Management Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(b) and 15d-15(f) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act as a process designed by, or under the supervision of IHC's principal executive and principal financial officers and effected by IHC's board, management and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. GAAP and includes those policies and procedures that:

.
pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company;

.
provide reasonable assurance that the transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorization of management and directors of the Company; and

.
provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of controls, material misstatements may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risks that controls may become inadequate because of changes and conditions or that the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may deteriorate. Accordingly, even internal controls determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in and reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and represented within the time periods required.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There has been no change in IHC's internal control over financial reporting during the year ended December 31, 2014 that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, IHC's internal control over financial reporting.

The Report of Management on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting is included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

ITEM 9B.

OTHER INFORMATION

None.

PART III

ITEM 10.

DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE

GOVERNANCE

The information required by this Item is hereby incorporated by reference from our definitive proxy statement relating to the annual meeting of IHC's stockholders to be held in May 2015, which definitive proxy statement will be filed

with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Our written Code of Business Ethics and Corporate Code of Conduct may be found on our website, www.ihcgroup.com, under the Corporate Information / Corporate Governance tabs. Both Codes apply to all of our directors, officers and employees, including our principal executive officer and our senior financial officers. Any amendment to or waiver from either of the Codes will be posted to the same location on our website, to the extent such disclosure is legally required.

ITEM 11.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by this Item is hereby incorporated by reference from our definitive proxy statement relating to the annual meeting of IHC's stockholders to be held in May 2015, which definitive proxy statement will be filed with the SEC.

ITEM 12.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by this Item is hereby incorporated by reference from our definitive proxy statement relating to the annual meeting of IHC's stockholders to be held in May 2015, which definitive proxy statement will be filed with the SEC.

ITEM 13.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS, RELATED TRANSACTIONS AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by this Item is hereby incorporated by reference from our definitive proxy statement relating to the annual meeting of IHC's stockholders to be held in May 2015, which definitive proxy statement will be filed with the SEC.

ITEM 14.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by this Item is hereby incorporated by reference from our definitive proxy statement relating to the annual meeting of IHC's stockholders to be held in May 2015, which definitive proxy statement will be filed with the SEC.

PART IV

ITEM 15.

EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) (1) and (2)

See Index to Consolidated Financial Statements and Schedules on page 56.

(a) (3) EXHIBITS

See Exhibit Index on page 110.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on March 16, 2015.

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY

REGISTRANT

By:

/s/ Roy T. K. Thung

Roy T.K. Thung

President and

Chief Executive Officer

(Principal Executive Officer)

By:

/s/ Teresa A. Herbert

Teresa A. Herbert

Senior Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities indicated as of the 16th day of March, 2015.

/s/ Larry R. Graber

Larry R. Graber
Director and Senior Vice President

/s/ Steven B. Lapin

Steven B. Lapin
Director and Vice Chairman

/s/ Allan C. Kirkman

Allan C. Kirkman
Director

/s/ James G. Tatum

James G. Tatum
Director

/s/ David T. Kettig

David T. Kettig
Director, Chief Operating Officer and
Senior Vice President

/s/ Roy T.K. Thung

Roy T.K. Thung
Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ John L. Lahey

John L. Lahey
Director

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SCHEDULES

	PAGE
Report of Management on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting	57
Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	58
<u>CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:</u>	
Consolidated Balance Sheets	61
Consolidated Statements of Income	62
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)	63
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity	64
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	65
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	66
<u>SCHEDULES:*</u>	
Summary of Investments - Other Than Investments in Related Parties (Schedule I)	104
Condensed Financial Information of Parent Company (Schedule II)	105
Supplementary Insurance Information (Schedule III)	108
Supplemental Schedule of Reinsurance (Schedule IV)	109

*All other schedules have been omitted as they are not applicable or not required, or the information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or Notes thereto.

Report of Management on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

The Board of Directors and Stockholders

Independence Holding Company:

The management of Independence Holding Company ("IHC") is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. IHC's internal control system is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company's management and board of directors regarding the reliability of financial reporting and fair presentation of published financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management assessed the effectiveness of IHC's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO") in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (1992)*. Based on our assessment we concluded that, as of December 31, 2014, IHC's internal control over financial reporting is effective.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Independence Holding Company:

We have audited Independence Holding Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Independence Holding Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying *Management Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Independence Holding Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Independence Holding Company and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income (loss), changes in stockholders equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and our report dated March 16, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s/ KPMG LLP

New York, New York
March 16, 2015

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Independence Holding Company:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Independence Holding Company and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income (loss), changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014. In connection with our audits of the consolidated financial statements, we also have audited financial statement schedules I to IV. These consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedules based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Independence Holding Company and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also in our opinion, the related financial statement schedules, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, present fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Independence Holding Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated March 16, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ KPMG LLP

New York, New York
March 16, 2015

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (In thousands, except share data)
DECEMBER 31,

	2014	2013
ASSETS:		
Investments:		
Short-term investments	\$ 50	\$ 50
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	16,790	22,594
Trading Securities	11,095	7,125
Fixed maturities, available-for-sale	583,880	542,287
Equity securities, available-for-sale	13,895	11,803
Other investments	25,251	25,123
Total investments	650,961	608,982
Cash and cash equivalents	25,083	24,229
Deferred acquisition costs	30,806	29,777
Due and unpaid premiums	62,628	59,435
Due from reinsurers	278,242	380,229
Premium and claim funds	32,553	37,353
Goodwill	50,318	50,318
Other assets	57,126	78,712
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,187,717	\$ 1,269,035
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
LIABILITIES:		
Policy benefits and claims	\$ 236,803	\$ 237,754
Future policy benefits	277,041	287,449
Funds on deposit	186,782	274,826
Unearned premiums	9,455	12,423
Other policyholders' funds	18,802	25,129
Due to reinsurers	47,945	37,113
Accounts payable, accruals and other liabilities	67,641	71,889
Debt	4,000	6,000
Junior subordinated debt securities	38,146	38,146
TOTAL LIABILITIES	886,615	990,729
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Preferred stock (none issued)	-	-
Common stock \$1.00 par value: 23,000,000 shares		

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

	authorized: 18,531,158 and 18,523,733 shares issued, 17,371,040 and 17,660,390 shares outstanding	18,531	18,524
Paid-in capital		127,098	126,239
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)		22	(10,472)
Treasury stock, at cost: 1,160,118 and 863,343 shares		(12,141)	(8,169)
Retained earnings		157,667	142,669
TOTAL IHC STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY		291,177	268,791
NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS IN SUBSIDIARIES		9,925	9,515
TOTAL EQUITY		301,102	278,306
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		\$ 1,187,717	\$ 1,269,035

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (In thousands, except per share data)
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2014	2013	2012
REVENUES:			
Premiums earned	\$ 479,048	\$ 495,991	\$ 356,067
Net investment income	21,692	27,471	33,356
Fee income	20,646	26,954	29,290
Other income	4,859	4,878	4,953
Net realized investment gains	7,688	19,750	5,099
Other-than-temporary impairment losses:			
Total other-than-temporary impairment losses	-	-	(992)
Portion of losses recognized in other comprehensive income (loss)	-	-	288
Net impairment losses recognized in earnings	-	-	(704)
	533,933	575,044	428,061
EXPENSES:			
Insurance benefits, claims and reserves	326,035	354,790	244,791
Selling, general and administrative expenses	177,848	179,553	149,999
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs	4,941	15,132	6,566
Interest expense on debt	1,797	1,915	2,091
	510,621	551,390	403,447
Income before income taxes	23,312	23,654	24,614
Income taxes	6,391	8,398	2,003
Net income	16,921	15,256	22,611
Less: Income from noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	(628)	(1,477)	(2,950)
NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO IHC	\$ 16,293	\$ 13,779	\$ 19,661
Basic income per common share	\$.93	\$.78	\$ 1.09
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING	17,471	17,758	17,979
Diluted income per common share	\$.92	\$.77	\$ 1.09
WEIGHTED AVERAGE DILUTED SHARES OUTSTANDING	17,636	17,871	18,088

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) (In thousands)
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2014	2013	2012
Net income	\$ 16,921	\$ 15,256	\$ 22,611
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Available-for-sale securities:			
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities, pre-tax	15,389	(38,439)	11,115
Tax expense (benefit) on unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities	4,768	(12,252)	3,672
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities, net of taxes	10,621	(26,187)	7,443
Other-than-temporary impairment losses, pre-tax	-	-	(288)
Tax benefit on other-than-temporary impairment losses	-	-	(41)
Other-than-temporary impairment losses, net of taxes	-	-	(247)
Cash flow hedge:			
Unrealized gains (losses) on cash flow hedge, pre-tax	120	159	131
Tax expense (benefit) on unrealized gains (losses) on cash flow hedge	48	63	52
Unrealized gains (losses) on cash flow hedge, net of taxes	72	96	79
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	10,693	(26,091)	7,275
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), NET OF TAX	27,614	(10,835)	29,886
Comprehensive income, net of tax, attributable to noncontrolling interests:			
Income from noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	(628)	(1,477)	(2,950)
Other comprehensive (income) loss, net of tax, attributable to noncontrolling interests:			
Unrealized (gains) losses on available-for-sale securities, net of tax	(199)	665	(118)
Other comprehensive (income) loss, net of tax, attributable to noncontrolling interests	(199)	665	(118)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME, NET OF TAX, ATTRIBUTABLE TO NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS	(827)	(812)	(3,068)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), NET OF TAX,			

ATTRIBUTABLE TO IHC	\$ 26,787	\$ (11,647)	\$ 26,818
----------------------------	-----------	-------------	-----------

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY** (In thousands, except share data)

	COMMON STOCK		PAID-IN CAPITAL	ACCUMULATED OTHER	TREASURY STOCK, AT COST		RETAINED EARNINGS	TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
	SHARES	AMOUNT		INCOME (LOSS)	SHARES	AMOUNT		
BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2011	18,450,917	\$ 18,451	\$ 126,298	7,853	(398,257)	\$ (3,277)	111,752	\$
Net income							19,661	
Other comprehensive income, net of tax				7,157				
Repurchase of common stock					(130,781)	(1,256)		
Purchases of noncontrolling interests			29	3				
Common stock dividend (\$.07 per share)							(1,271)	
Share-based compensation expense and related tax benefits	11,075	11	233					
Distributions to noncontrolling interests								
Other capital transactions			29				11	
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2012	18,461,992	\$ 18,462	\$ 126,589	15,013	(529,038)	(4,533)	130,153	\$
Net income							13,779	
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax				(25,426)				
Repurchase of common stock					(334,305)	(3,636)		
Purchases of noncontrolling interests			(1,168)	(59)				

Common stock dividend (\$.07 per share)							(1,241)
Share-based compensation expense and related tax benefits	61,741	62	792				
Distributions to noncontrolling interests							
Other capital transactions			26				(22)
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2013	18,523,733	18,524	126,239	(10,472)	(863,343)	(8,169)	142,669
Net income							16,293
Other comprehensive income, net of tax				10,494			
Repurchase of common stock					(296,775)	(3,972)	
Common stock dividend (\$.07 per share)							(1,223)
Share-based compensation expense and related tax benefits	7,425	7	756				
Distributions to noncontrolling interests							
Other capital transactions			103				(72)
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2014	18,531,158\$	18,531\$	127,098\$	22	(1,160,118)\$	(12,141)\$	157,667 \$

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (In thousands)
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2014	2013	2012
Cash Flows Provided By (Used By) Operating Activities:			
Net income	\$ 16,921	\$ 15,256	\$ 22,611
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net change in cash from operating activities:			
Amortization of deferred acquisition costs	4,941	15,132	6,566
Net realized investment gains	(7,688)	(19,750)	(5,099)
Other-than-temporary impairment losses	-	-	704
Equity income from equity method investments	(1,106)	(2,506)	(1,435)
Depreciation and amortization	3,932	4,577	4,228
Share-based compensation expenses	820	1,001	832
Deferred tax expense (benefits)	5,628	8,692	(1,200)
Other	8,629	4,573	7,010
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Net (sales) purchases of trading securities	(4,719)	1,603	(1,289)
Change in insurance liabilities	(94,876)	36,136	(137,440)
Additions to deferred acquisition costs	(6,223)	(5,827)	(5,795)
Change in amounts due from reinsurers	101,987	(213,349)	1,011
Change in premium and claim funds	4,800	3,243	3,008
Change in current income tax liability	2,241	(951)	1,673
Change in due and unpaid premiums	(3,193)	(10,005)	(12,089)
Change in other assets	2,580	(219)	(1,807)
Change in other liabilities	(7,343)	78	3,117
Net change in cash from operating activities	27,331	(162,316)	(115,394)
Cash Flows Provided By (Used By) Investing Activities:			
Net (purchases) sales of securities under resale and repurchase agreements	5,804	11,362	(16,698)
Sales of equity securities	288	11,529	14,689
Purchases of equity securities	(1,228)	(7,517)	(7,354)
Sales of fixed maturities	353,143	551,756	483,092
Maturities and other repayments of fixed maturities	45,091	57,090	74,416
Purchases of fixed maturities	(421,285)	(462,823)	(412,753)
Change in other investments	-	-	1,080
Cash paid in acquisitions of companies, net of cash acquired	-	-	(243)
Other investing activities	2,334	20,292	(13,362)
Net change in cash from investing activities	(15,853)	181,689	122,867
Cash Flows Provided By (Used By) Financing Activities:			
Repurchases of common stock	(3,972)	(3,636)	(1,244)
Cash paid in acquisitions of noncontrolling interests	-	(8,825)	(58)

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Proceeds (withdrawals) of investment-type insurance contracts	(2,988)	(3,262)	3,320
Repayment of debt	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Dividends paid	(1,233)	(620)	(1,681)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	-	430	-
Other financing activities	(431)	(1,176)	(92)
Net change in cash from financing activities	(10,624)	(19,089)	(1,755)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	854	284	5,718
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	24,229	23,945	18,227
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 25,083	\$ 24,229	\$ 23,945

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1.

Organization, Consolidation, Basis of Presentation and Accounting Policies

(A)

Business and Organization

Independence Holding Company, a Delaware corporation (IHC), is a holding company principally engaged in the life and health insurance business through: (i) its insurance companies, Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York ("Standard Security Life"), Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. ("Madison National Life"), Independence American Insurance Company (Independence American); and (ii) its marketing and administrative companies, including IHC Risk Solutions, LLC, IHC Health Solutions, Inc., IHC Specialty Benefits Inc. and IHC Carrier Solutions, Inc. IHC also owns a significant equity interest in a managing general underwriter (MGU) that writes medical stop-loss. Standard Security Life, Madison National Life and Independence American are sometimes collectively referred to as the Insurance Group . IHC and its subsidiaries (including the Insurance Group) are sometimes collectively referred to as the "Company", or IHC , or are implicit in the terms we , us and our .

Geneve Corporation, a diversified financial holding company, and its affiliated entities, held 52.7% of IHC's outstanding common stock at December 31, 2014.

(B)

Consolidation

American Independence Corp

At December 31, 2014, the Company owned approximately 90% of the outstanding common stock of American Independence Corp. ("AMIC"). AMIC is an insurance holding company engaged in the insurance and reinsurance business. The Company has increased its ownership in AMIC through various transactions described below. Because

IHC had a controlling interest in AMIC prior to these transactions, these purchases and acquisitions were accounted for as equity transactions. Accordingly, any differences between the fair value of the consideration paid and the carrying value of the noncontrolling interests acquired were recognized as changes in IHC's equity.

In 2013, IHC's ownership in AMIC increased to 90% as a result of: (i) share repurchases by AMIC; and (ii) a tender offer whereby IHC purchased tendered shares of AMIC common stock for cash.

In 2012, IHC purchased shares of AMIC common stock increasing its ownership interest in AMIC to 78.6% as of December 31, 2012.

Effects of Ownership Changes in Subsidiaries

The following table summarizes the effects of any changes in the Company's ownership interests in its subsidiaries on the equity attributable to IHC for the years indicated (in thousands).

	2014	2013	2012
Changes in IHC's paid-in capital:			
Purchases of AMIC shares	\$ -	\$ (1,571)	\$ 29
Repurchases of shares by AMIC	-	403	-
Net transfers from noncontrolling interests	\$ -	\$ (1,168)	\$ 29

(C)

Basis of Presentation

The Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and include the accounts of IHC and its consolidated subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect: (i) the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements; and (ii) the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(D)

Reclassifications

Certain amounts in prior years Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto have been reclassified to conform to the 2014 presentation.

(E)

Cash Equivalents and Short-Term Investments

Cash equivalents are carried at cost which approximates fair value and include principally interest-bearing deposits at brokers, money market instruments and U.S. Treasury securities with original maturities of less than 91 days. Investments with original maturities of 91 days to one year are considered short-term investments and are carried at cost which approximates fair value.

(F)

Securities Purchased Under Agreements to Resell

Securities purchased under agreements to resell ("resale agreements") are carried at the amounts at which the securities will be subsequently resold as specified in the agreements. Resale agreements are utilized to invest excess funds on a short-term basis. At December 31, 2014, the Company had \$16,790,000 invested in resale agreements, all of which settled on January 2, 2015 and were subsequently reinvested. The Company maintains control of securities purchased under resale agreements, values the collateral on a daily basis and obtains additional collateral, if necessary, to protect the Company in the event of default by the counterparties.

(G)

Investment Securities

(i) Investments in fixed maturities, redeemable preferred securities and equity securities are accounted for as follows:

(a) Securities which are held for trading purposes are carried at estimated fair value ("fair value"). Changes in fair value are credited or charged, as appropriate, to net realized investment gains (losses) in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

(b) Securities not held for trading purposes which may or may not be held to maturity ("available-for-sale securities") are carried at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses deemed temporary, net of deferred income taxes and adjustments to deferred policy acquisition costs, are credited or charged, as appropriate, to other comprehensive income or loss. Premiums and discounts on debt securities purchased at other than par value are amortized and accreted, respectively, to interest income in the Consolidated Statements of Income, using the constant yield method over the period to maturity.

(ii) Gains or losses on sales of securities are determined on the basis of specific identification and are recorded in net realized investment gains (losses) in the Consolidated Statements of Income on the trade date.

(iii) Fair value is determined using quoted market prices when available. In some cases, we use quoted market prices for similar instruments in active markets and/or model-derived valuations where inputs are observable in active markets. When there are limited or inactive trading markets, we use industry-standard pricing methodologies, including discounted cash flow models, whose inputs are based on management assumptions and available current market information. Further, we retain independent pricing vendors to assist in valuing certain instruments. Most of the securities in our portfolio are classified in either Level 1 or Level 2 of the Fair Value Hierarchy.

The Company periodically reviews and assesses the vendor's qualifications and the design and appropriateness of its pricing methodologies. Management will on occasion challenge pricing information on certain individual securities and, through communications with the vendor, obtain information about the assumptions, inputs and methodologies used in pricing those securities, and corroborate it against documented pricing methodologies. Validation procedures are in place to determine completeness and accuracy of pricing information, including, but not limited to: (i) review of exception reports that (a) identify any zero or un-priced securities; (b) identify securities with no price change; and (c) identify securities with significant price changes; (ii) performance of trend analyses; (iii) periodic comparison of pricing to alternative pricing sources; and (iv) comparison of pricing changes to expectations based on rating changes, benchmarks or control groups. In certain circumstances, pricing is unavailable from the vendor and broker pricing information is used to determine fair value. In these instances, management will assess the quality of the data sources, the underlying assumptions and the reasonableness of the broker quotes based on the current market information available. To determine if an exception represents an error, management will often have to exercise judgment. Procedures to resolve an exception vary depending on the significance of the security and its related class, the frequency of the exception, the risk of material misstatement, and the availability of information for the security. These procedures include, but are not limited to; (i) a price challenge process with the vendor; (ii) pricing from a different vendor; (iii) a reasonableness review; and (iv) a change in price based on better information, such as an actual market trade, among other things. Management considers all facts and relevant information obtained during the above procedures to determine the proper classification of each security in the Fair Value Hierarchy.

(iv) The Company reviews its investment securities regularly and determines whether other-than-temporary impairments have occurred. The factors considered by management in its regular review to identify and recognize other-than-temporary impairment losses on fixed maturities include, but are not limited to: the length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than cost; the Company's intent to sell, or be required to sell, the debt security before the anticipated recovery of its remaining amortized cost basis; the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer; adverse changes in ratings announced by one or more rating agencies; subordinated credit support; whether the issuer of a debt security has remained current on principal and interest payments; current expected cash flows;

whether the decline in fair value appears to be issuer specific or, alternatively, a reflection of general market or industry conditions including the effect of changes in market interest rates. If the Company intends to sell a debt security, or it is more likely than not that it would be required to sell a debt security before the recovery of its amortized cost basis, the entire difference between the security's amortized cost basis and its fair value at the balance sheet date would be recognized by a charge to total other-than-temporary impairment losses in the Consolidated Statement of Income. If a decline in fair value of a debt security is judged by management to be other-than-temporary and; (i) the Company does not intend to sell the security; and (ii) it is not more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security prior to recovery of the security's amortized cost, the Company assesses whether the present value of the cash flows to be collected from the security is less than its amortized cost basis. To the extent that the present value of the cash flows generated by a debt security is less than the amortized cost basis, a credit loss exists. For any such security, the impairment is bifurcated into (a) the amount of the total impairment related to the credit loss, and (b) the amount of the total impairment related to all other factors. The amount of the other-than-temporary impairment related to the credit loss is recognized by a charge to total other-than-temporary impairment losses in the Consolidated Statement of Income, establishing a new cost basis for the security. The amount of the other-than-temporary impairment related to all other factors is recognized in other comprehensive income (loss). It is reasonably possible that further declines in estimated fair values of such investments, or changes in assumptions or estimates of anticipated recoveries and/or cash flows, may cause further other-than-temporary impairments in the near term, which could be significant.

In assessing corporate debt securities for other-than-temporary impairment, the Company evaluates the ability of the issuer to meet its debt obligations and the value of the company or specific collateral securing the debt position. For mortgage-backed securities where loan level data is not available, the Company uses a cash flow model based on the collateral characteristics. Assumptions about loss severity and defaults used in the model are primarily based on actual losses experienced and defaults in the collateral pool. Prepayment speeds, both actual and estimated, are also considered. The cash flows generated by the collateral securing these securities are then determined with these default, loss severity and prepayment assumptions. These collateral cash flows are then utilized, along with consideration for the issuer's position in the overall structure, to determine the cash flows associated with the mortgage-backed security held by the Company. In addition, the Company evaluates other asset-backed securities for other-than-temporary impairment by examining similar characteristics referenced above for mortgage-backed securities. The Company evaluates U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. Government corporations, U.S. Government agencies, and obligations of states and political subdivisions for other-than-temporary impairment by examining the terms and collateral of the security.

Equity securities may experience other-than-temporary impairment in the future based on the prospects for full recovery in value in a reasonable period of time and the Company's ability and intent to hold the security to recovery. If a decline in fair value is judged by management to be other-than-temporary or management does not have the intent or ability to hold a security, a loss is recognized by a charge to total other-than-temporary impairment losses in the Consolidated Statement of Income. For the purpose of other-than-temporary impairment evaluations, redeemable preferred stocks are evaluated in a manner similar to debt securities. Declines in the creditworthiness of the issuer of debt securities with both debt and equity-like features are evaluated using the equity model in consideration of other-than-temporary impairment.

Subsequent increases and decreases, if not an other-than-temporary impairment, in the fair value of available-for-sale securities that were previously impaired, are recorded in other comprehensive income (loss).

(H)

Other Investments

Investment partnership interests relate to limited investment partnerships that are relatively insensitive to interest rates. All securities held by these partnerships are carried at fair value with changes in fair value credited or charged, as appropriate, to the Consolidated Statements of Income. The

Company's investment partnership interests are carried at a value which approximates the Company's equity in the underlying net assets of the partnerships or the equivalent of the net asset value per share. Operating partnership interests relate to insurance related limited operating partnerships. The Company's operating partnership interests are carried on the equity method which approximates the Company's equity in the underlying net assets of the partnership. Equity income or loss on partnership interests are credited or charged, as appropriate, to the Consolidated Statements of Income.

Policy loans are stated at their aggregate unpaid balances.

(I)

Deferred Acquisition Costs ("DAC")

Costs that vary with and are primarily related to the successful acquisition of insurance policies and investment type contracts are deferred and recorded as deferred policy acquisition costs ("DAC"). These costs are principally broker fees, agent commissions, and the purchase prices of the acquired blocks of insurance policies and investment type policies. DAC is amortized to expense and reported separately in the Consolidated Statements of Income. All DAC within a particular product type is amortized on the same basis using the following methods:

For traditional life insurance and other premium paying policies, amortization of DAC is charged to expense over the related premium revenue recognition period. Assumptions used in the amortization of DAC are determined based upon the conditions as of the date of policy issue or assumption and are not generally revised during the life of the policy.

For long duration type contracts, such as annuities and universal life business, amortization of DAC is charged to expense over the life of the underlying contracts based on the present value of the estimated gross profits ("EGPs") expected to be realized over the life of the book of contracts. EGPs consist of margins based on expected mortality rates, persistency rates, interest rate spreads, and other revenues and expenses. The Company regularly evaluates its EGPs to determine if actual experience or other evidence suggests that earlier estimates should be revised. If the Company determines that the current assumptions underlying the EGPs are no longer the best estimate for the future due to changes in actual versus expected mortality rates, persistency rates, interest rate spreads, or other revenues and expenses, the future EGPs are updated using the new assumptions and prospective unlocking occurs. These updated EGPs are utilized for future amortization calculations. The total amortization recorded to date is adjusted through a current charge or credit to the Consolidated Statements of Income.

Internal replacements of insurance and investment contracts determined to result in a replacement contract that is substantially changed from the original contract will be accounted for as an extinguishment of the original contract, resulting in a release of the unamortized deferred acquisition costs, unearned revenue, and deferral of sales inducements associated with the replaced contract.

Deferred acquisition costs have been increased (decreased) by \$(323,000), \$5,681,000 and \$(2,930,000) in 2014, 2013 and 2012 respectively, representing the amortization of DAC due to unrealized gains and losses on investment securities available-for-sale. A corresponding increase or decrease was recorded in other comprehensive income or loss.

(J)

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment of \$3,086,000 and \$3,815,000 are included in other assets at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$14,030,000 and \$13,090,000, respectively.

Improvements are capitalized while repair and maintenance costs are charged to operations as incurred. Depreciation of property and equipment has been provided on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets. Amortization of leasehold improvements has been provided on the straight-line method over the shorter of the lease term or the estimated useful life of the asset.

(K)

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill carrying amounts are evaluated for impairment at the reporting unit level, which is equivalent to an operating segment, at least annually. If the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, further evaluation is required to determine if a write-down of goodwill is required. In determining the fair value of each reporting unit, we used an income approach, applying a discounted cash flow method which included a residual value.

Based on historical experience, we make assumptions as to: (i) expected future performance and future economic conditions, (ii) projected operating earnings, (iii) projected new and renewal business as well as profit margins on such business, and (iv) a discount rate that incorporated an appropriate risk level for the reporting unit. Any impairment of goodwill would be charged to expense.

Other intangible assets are amortized to expense over their estimated useful lives and are subject to impairment testing. Any impairment of other intangible assets would be charged to expense.

(L)

Insurance Liabilities

The Company maintains loss reserves to cover its estimated liability for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses, where material, including legal, other fees, and costs not associated with specific claims but related to the claims payment function), for reported and unreported claims incurred as of the end of each accounting period. These loss reserves are based on actuarial assumptions and are maintained at levels that are in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Many factors could affect these reserves, including economic and social conditions, frequency and severity of claims, medical trend resulting from the influences of underlying cost inflation, changes in utilization and demand for medical services, and changes in doctrines of legal liability and damage awards in litigation. Therefore, the Company's reserves are necessarily based on estimates, assumptions and analysis of historical experience. The Company's results depend upon the variation between actual claims experience and the assumptions used in determining reserves and pricing products. Reserve assumptions and estimates require significant judgment and, therefore, are inherently uncertain. The Company cannot determine with precision the ultimate amounts that will be paid for actual claims or the timing of those payments. The Company's estimate of loss represents management's best estimate of the Company's liability at the balance sheet date.

Loss reserves differ for short-duration and long-duration insurance policies, including annuities. Reserves are based on approved actuarial methods, but necessarily include assumptions about expenses, mortality, morbidity, lapse rates and future yield on related investments.

Policy Benefits and Claims

All of the Company's short-duration contracts are generated from its accident, health, disability and pet insurance business, and are accounted for based on actuarial estimates of the amount of loss inherent in that period's claims, including losses incurred for which claims have not been reported. Short-

duration contract loss estimates rely on actuarial observations of ultimate loss experience for similar historical events.

Medical Stop-Loss

Liabilities for policy benefits and claims on medical stop-loss coverage are computed using completion factors and expected Net Loss Ratios derived from actual historical premium and claim data. Policy benefits and claims for medical stop-loss insurance are more volatile in nature than those for fully insured medical insurance. This is primarily due to the excess nature of medical stop-loss, with very high deductibles applying to specific claims on any individual claimant and in the aggregate for a given group. The level of these deductibles makes it more difficult to predict the amount and payment pattern of such claims. Furthermore, these excess claims are highly sensitive to changes in factors such as medical trend, provider contracts and medical treatment protocols, adding to the difficulty in predicting claim values and estimating reserves. Also, because medical stop-loss is in excess of an underlying benefit plan, there is an additional layer of claim reporting and processing that can affect claim payment patterns. Finally, changes in the distribution of business by effective month can affect reserve estimates due to the timing of claim occurrences and the time required to accumulate claims against the stop-loss deductible.

The two primary or key assumptions underlying the calculation of policy benefits and claims for Medical Stop-Loss business are (i) projected Net Loss Ratio, and (ii) claim development patterns. The projected Net Loss Ratio is set at expected levels consistent with the underlying assumptions (Projected Net Loss Ratio). Claim development patterns are set quarterly as reserve estimates are developed and are based on recent claim development history (Claim Development Patterns). The Company uses the Projected Net Loss Ratio to establish reserves until developing losses provide a better indication of ultimate results and it is feasible to set reserves based on Claim Development Patterns. The Company has concluded that a reasonably likely change in the Projected Net Loss Ratio assumption could have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity (Material Effect) but a reasonably likely change in the Claim Development Pattern would not have a Material Effect.

Projected Net Loss Ratio

Generally, during the first twelve months of an underwriting year, policy benefits for Medical Stop-Loss are first set at the Projected Net Loss Ratio, which is set using assumptions developed using completed prior experience trended forward. The Projected Net Loss Ratio is the Company's best estimate of future performance until such time as developing losses provide a better indication of ultimate results.

Major factors that affect the Projected Net Loss Ratio assumption in reserving for Medical Stop-Loss relate to: (i) frequency and severity of claims; (ii) changes in medical trend resulting from the influences of underlying cost inflation, changes in utilization and demand for medical services, the impact of new medical technology and changes in medical treatment protocols; and (iii) the adherence to the Company's underwriting guidelines.

Claim Development Patterns

Subsequent to the first twelve months of an underwriting year, the Company's developing losses provide a better indication of ultimate losses. At this point, claims have developed to a level where Claim Development Patterns can be applied to generate reasonably reliable estimates of ultimate claim levels. Development factors based on historical patterns are applied to paid and reported claims to estimate fully developed claims. Claim Development Patterns are reviewed quarterly as reserve estimates are developed and are based on recent claim development history. The Company must determine whether changes in

development represent true indications of emerging experience or are simply due to random claim fluctuations.

The Company also establishes its best estimates of claim development factors to be applied to more developed treaty year experience. While these factors are based on historical Claim Development Patterns, actual claim development may vary from these estimates.

Predicting ultimate claims and estimating reserves in Medical Stop-Loss is more complex than fully insured medical and disability business due to the excess of loss nature of these products with very high deductibles applying to specific claims on any individual claimant and in the aggregate for a given group. The level of these deductibles makes it more difficult to predict the amount and payment pattern of such claims. Fluctuations in results for specific coverage are primarily due to the severity and frequency of individual claims, whereas fluctuations in aggregate coverage are largely attributable to frequency of underlying claims rather than severity. Liabilities for first dollar medical reserves and disability coverages are computed using completion factors and expected Net Loss Ratios derived from actual historical premium and claim data.

Due to the short-term nature of Medical Stop-Loss, redundancies or deficiencies will typically emerge during the course of the following year rather than over a number of years. For Employer Stop-Loss, as noted above, the Company maintains its reserves based on underlying assumptions until it determines that an adjustment is appropriate based on emerging experience from all of its MGUs for prior underwriting years.

Fully Insured Health

Policy benefits and claims for Fully Insured Health business are established to provide for the liability for incurred but not paid claims. Policy benefits and claims are calculated using standard actuarial methods and practices. The primary assumption in the determination of Fully Insured Health reserves is that historical Claim Development Patterns are representative of future Claim Development Patterns. Factors which may affect this assumption include changes in claim payment processing times and procedures, changes in time delay in submission of claims, and the incidence of unusually large claims. Liabilities for policy benefits and claims for fully insured medical and disability coverage are computed using completion factors and expected Net Loss Ratios derived from actual historical premium and claim data. The reserving analysis includes a review of claim processing statistical measures and large claim early notifications; the potential impacts of any changes in these factors are not material. The delay in submission of claims tends to be stable over time and not subject to significant volatility.

While these calculations are based on standard methodologies, they are estimates based on historical patterns. To the extent that actual claim payment patterns differ from historical patterns, such estimated reserves may be redundant or inadequate. The effects of such deviations are evaluated by considering claim backlog statistics and reviewing the reasonableness of projected claim ratios. Other factors which may affect the accuracy of policy benefits and claim estimates include the proportion of large claims which may take longer to adjudicate, changes in billing patterns by providers and changes in claim management practices such as hospital bill audits.

Long Term Disability

Policy benefits and claims for the Company's long term disability products are developed using actuarial principles and assumptions that consider, among other things, future offsets and recoveries, elimination periods, interest rates, probability of rehabilitation or mortality, incidence and termination rates based on the Company's experience. The liability for policy benefits and claims is made up of case reserves, incurred but not reported reserves, reopen reserves, and loss adjustment expense. Incurred but

not reported and reopen reserves are calculated by a hind-sight study, which takes historical experience and develops the reserve as a percentage of premiums from prior years.

The two primary assumptions on which long term disability reserves are based are: (i) morbidity levels; and (ii) recovery rates. If morbidity levels increase, for example due to an epidemic or a recessionary environment, the Company would increase reserves because there would be more new claims than expected. In regard to the assumed recovery rate, if disabled lives recover more quickly than anticipated then the existing claims reserves would be reduced; if less quickly, the existing claims reserves would be increased.

Management believes that the Company's methods of estimating the liabilities for policy benefits and claims provided appropriate levels of reserves at December 31, 2014 and 2013. Changes in the Company's policy benefits and claims estimates are generally recorded through a charge or credit to its earnings.

Future Policy Benefits

The liability for future policy benefits consists of the liabilities associated with the Company's long-duration contracts, primarily its life and annuity products. For traditional life insurance products, the Company computes the liability for future policy benefits primarily using the net premium method based on anticipated investment yield, mortality, and withdrawals. These methods are widely used in the life insurance industry to estimate the liabilities for future policy benefits. Inherent in these calculations are management and actuarial judgments and estimates that could significantly impact the ending reserve liabilities and, consequently, operating results. Actual results may differ, and these estimates are subject to interpretation and change.

Management believes that the Company's methods of estimating the liabilities for future policy benefits provided appropriate levels of reserves at December 31, 2014 and 2013. Changes in the Company's future policy benefits estimates are recorded through a charge or credit to its earnings.

Funds on Deposit

Funds received (net of mortality and expense charges) for certain long-duration contracts (principally deferred annuities and universal life policies) are credited directly to a policyholder liability account, funds on deposit. Withdrawals are recorded directly as a reduction of respective policyholders' funds on deposit. Amounts on deposit were credited at annual rates ranging from 3.0% to 8.0% in 2014, 2.5% to 8.0% in 2013, and 2.7% to 8.0% in 2012.

Other Policyholders Funds

Other policyholders funds represent interest-bearing liabilities arising from the sale of products, such as universal life, interest-sensitive life and annuities. Policyholder funds are primarily comprised of deposits received and interest credited to the benefit of the policyholder less surrenders and withdrawals, mortality charges and administrative expenses.

Interest credited to policyholder funds represents interest accrued or paid on interest-sensitive life policies and investment policies. These amounts are reported in insurance benefits, claims and reserves on the Consolidated Statements of Income. Credit rates for certain annuities and interest-sensitive life policies are adjusted periodically by the Company to reflect current market conditions, subject to contractually guaranteed minimum rates.

(M)

Derivative Instruments

All derivatives, whether designated in hedging relationships or not, are required to be recorded in the balance sheet as assets or liabilities at fair value. Hedge accounting is permitted only if certain criteria are met, including a requirement that a highly effective relationship exist between the derivative instrument and the hedged item, both at inception of the hedge and on an ongoing basis. Results of effective hedges are recognized in other comprehensive income or loss for cash flow hedges. The ineffective portions of hedge results are recognized in current earnings.

At December 31, 2014, the Company had an interest rate swap agreement that converts an outstanding term loan from a variable rate to a fixed rate. This agreement was designated and effective as a cash flow hedge. The objective of the swap is to reduce the variability in cash flows associated with the re-pricing of interest rates on certain variable rate debt. Changes in fair value of the swap were recorded through other comprehensive income or loss.

(N)

Deferred Income Taxes

The provision for deferred income taxes is based on the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. Under this method, deferred income taxes are recognized by applying enacted statutory tax rates to temporary differences between amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and the tax bases of existing assets and liabilities in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. A valuation allowance is recognized for the portion of deferred tax assets that, in management's judgment, is not likely to be realized. A liability for uncertain tax positions is recorded when it is more likely than not that a tax position will not be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities. The effect on deferred income taxes of a change in tax rates or laws is recognized in income tax expense in the period that includes the enactment date.

Interest and penalties are classified as other interest expense and are included in selling, general and administrative expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

(O)

Reinsurance

Amounts paid for or recoverable under reinsurance contracts are included in total assets or total liabilities as due from reinsurers or due to reinsurers. The cost of reinsurance related to long-duration contracts is accounted for over the life of the underlying reinsured policies using assumptions consistent with those used to account for the underlying policies.

(P)

Insurance Premium Revenue Recognition and Policy Charges

Premiums from short-duration medical insurance contracts are intended to cover expected claim costs resulting from insured events that occur during a fixed period of short duration. The Company has the ability to not renew the contract or to revise the premium rates at the end of each annual contract period to cover future insured events. Insurance premiums from annual health contracts are collected monthly and are recognized as revenue evenly as insurance protection is provided.

Premiums related to long-term and short-term disability contracts are recognized on a pro rata basis over the applicable contract term.

Traditional life insurance products consist principally of products with fixed and guaranteed premiums and benefits, primarily term and whole life insurance products. Revenue from these products are recognized as premium when due.

Annuities and interest-sensitive life contracts, such as universal life and interest sensitive whole life, are contracts whose terms are not fixed and guaranteed. Premiums from these policies are reported as funds on deposit. Policy charges consist of fees assessed against the policyholder for cost of insurance (mortality risk), policy administration and early surrender. These revenues are recognized when assessed against the policyholder account balance.

Policies that do not subject the Company to significant risk arising from mortality or morbidity are considered investment contracts. Deposits received for such contracts are reported as other policyholder funds. Policy charges for investment contracts consist of fees assessed against the policyholder account for maintenance, administration and surrender of the policy prior to contractually specified dates, and are recognized when assessed against the policyholder account balance.

(Q)

Participating Policies

Participating policies represented 13.7%, 11.7% and 11.4% of the individual life insurance in-force and provide for the payment of dividends.

Dividends to policyholders are determined annually and are payable only upon declaration by the Board of Directors of the insurance companies.

(R)

Income Per Common Share

Included in the diluted earnings per share calculation for 2014, 2013 and 2012 are 165,000, 113,000 and 109,000 incremental common shares, respectively, primarily from the dilutive effect of share-based payment awards, computed using the treasury stock method.

(S)

Share-Based Compensation

Compensation costs for equity awards, such as stock options and non-vested stock, are measured based on grant-date fair value and are recognized in the Consolidated Statements of Income over the requisite service period (which is usually the vesting period). For such awards with only service conditions, the Company recognizes the compensation cost on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for the entire award.

Compensation costs for liability-classified awards, such as share appreciation rights (SARs) and share-based performance awards, are measured and accrued each reporting period in the Consolidated Statements of Income as the requisite service or performance conditions are met.

(T)

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Recently Adopted Accounting Standards

In July 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued guidance for the presentation of unrecognized tax benefits to better reflect the manner in which an entity would settle, at the reporting date, any additional income taxes that would result from the disallowance of a tax position when net operating loss carryforwards, similar tax losses, or tax credit carryforwards exist. The adoption of this guidance, effective January 1, 2014, did not have an effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In July 2011, the FASB issued guidance specifying that the liability for the fees paid to the Federal Government by health insurers as a result of recent healthcare reform legislation should be estimated and recorded in full once the entity provides qualifying health insurance in the applicable

calendar year in which the fee is payable with a corresponding deferred cost that is amortized to expense using a straight-line method of allocation unless another method better allocates the fee over the calendar year that it is payable. The amendments in this Update became effective January 1, 2014 and in accordance with the provisions, IHC recorded the estimated gross liability for the mandated fees payable to the Federal Government of \$1,500,000 and the corresponding deferred cost in the first quarter of 2014. The amounts were recorded in accounts payable, accruals and other liabilities and in other assets, respectively, on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Upon final assessment in June 2014, the Company increased its gross liability for the mandated fees payable to the Federal Government to \$1,816,000. The deferred asset was amortized ratably over the calendar year to selling, general and administrative expense in the Consolidated Statement of Income.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards Not Yet Adopted

In February 2015, the FASB issued guidance that modifies the evaluation of whether limited partnerships and similar legal entities are variable interest entities or voting interest entities for the purpose of consolidation. For public entities, this guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, including interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted. Management has not yet determined the impact that the adoption of this guidance will have on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In June 2014, the FASB issued explicit guidance for entities that grant their employees share-based payments in which the terms of the award include a performance target that affects vesting and could be achieved after the requisite service period. This guidance is effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2015. Earlier adoption is permitted. The guidance may be applied either prospectively to all awards granted or modified after the effective date or retrospectively to all awards with performance targets that are outstanding as of the beginning of the earliest annual period presented in the financial statements and to all new or modified awards thereafter. The adoption of this guidance is not expected to have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued revenue recognition guidance for entities that either enter into contracts with customers to transfer goods or services or enter into contracts for the transfer of nonfinancial assets unless those contracts are within the scope of other standards such as insurance contracts or lease contracts. The amendment provides specific steps that an entity should apply in order to achieve its main objective which is recognizing revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. For public entities, this guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within that reporting period, and requires one of two specified retrospective methods of application. Early application is prohibited. Management has not yet determined the impact that the adoption of this guidance will have on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In April 2014, the FASB issued guidance: (i) improving the definition of discontinued operations by limiting the reporting of discontinued operations to disposals of components that represent strategic shifts that have (or will have) a major effect on an entity's operations and financial results; and (ii) requiring expanded disclosures for discontinued operations. Public entities are required to apply this guidance to: (i) all disposals (or classifications as held for sale) of components of the entity that occur within annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those years; and (ii) to all businesses that, on acquisition, are classified as held for sale that occur within annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those years. Early adoption is permitted, but only for disposals (or classifications as held for sale) that have not been reported in previously issued financial statements. The adoption of this guidance is not expected to have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Note 2.

Investment Securities

The cost (amortized cost with respect to certain fixed maturities), gross unrealized gains, gross unrealized losses and fair value of investment securities are as follows for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014			
	AMORTIZED COST	GROSS UNREALIZED GAINS	GROSS UNREALIZED LOSSES	FAIR VALUE
FIXED MATURITIES				
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE:				
Corporate securities	\$ 264,162	\$ 1,076	\$ (3,314)	\$ 261,924
CMOs - residential ⁽¹⁾	5,073	55	(22)	5,106
CMOs - commercial	975	-	(22)	953
U.S. Government obligations	22,766	126	-	22,892
Agency MBS - residential ⁽²⁾	65	4	-	69
GSEs ⁽³⁾	14,706	36	(86)	14,656
States and political subdivisions	238,514	3,253	(2,386)	239,381
Foreign governments	34,863	136	(299)	34,700
Redeemable preferred stocks	4,036	163	-	4,199

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Total fixed maturities	\$	585,160	\$	4,849	\$	(6,129)	\$	583,880
------------------------	----	---------	----	-------	----	---------	----	---------

EQUITY SECURITIES

AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE:

Common stocks	\$	8,452	\$	1,452	\$	(147)	\$	9,757
Nonredeemable preferred stocks		4,004		134		-		4,138
Total equity securities	\$	12,456	\$	1,586	\$	(147)	\$	13,895

	December 31, 2013			
	AMORTIZED COST	GROSS UNREALIZED GAINS	GROSS UNREALIZED LOSSES	FAIR VALUE
FIXED MATURITIES				
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE:				
Corporate securities	\$ 215,412	\$ 1,315	\$ (7,467)	\$ 209,260
CMOs - residential ⁽¹⁾	2,457	8	(8)	2,457
CMOs - commercial	975	-	(382)	593
U.S. Government obligations	15,596	271	(6)	15,861
Agency MBS - residential ⁽²⁾	79	4	-	83
GSEs ⁽³⁾	28,484	4	(340)	28,148
States and political subdivisions	256,645	2,435	(9,377)	249,703
Foreign governments	34,437	20	(2,107)	32,350
Redeemable preferred stocks	4,036	74	(278)	3,832
Total fixed maturities	\$ 558,121	\$ 4,131	\$ (19,965)	\$ 542,287
EQUITY SECURITIES				
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE:				
Common stocks	\$ 7,517	\$ 328	\$ (70)	\$ 7,775
Nonredeemable preferred stocks	4,004	58	(34)	4,028
Total equity securities	\$ 11,521	\$ 386	\$ (104)	\$ 11,803

(1)

Collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs).

(2)

Mortgage-backed securities (MBS).

(3)

Government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) are private enterprises established and chartered by the Federal Government or its various insurance and lease programs which carry the full faith and credit obligation of the U.S. Government.

The amortized cost and fair value of fixed maturities available-for-sale at December 31, 2014, by contractual maturity, are shown below (in thousands). Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. CMOs and MBSs are shown

separately, as they are not due at a single maturity.

	AMORTIZED COST		FAIR VALUE
Due in one year or less	\$ 14,551	\$	14,440
Due after one year through five years	98,027		97,605
Due after five years through ten years	216,203		215,401
Due after ten years	236,568		236,678
CMOs and MBSs	19,811		19,756
	\$ 585,160	\$	583,880

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

The following tables summarize, for all available-for-sale securities in an unrealized loss position, the aggregate fair value and gross unrealized loss by length of time those securities that have continuously been in an unrealized loss position for the periods indicated (in thousands):

December 31, 2014

	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Corporate securities	\$ 77,868	\$ 1,473	\$ 69,498	\$ 1,841	\$ 147,366	\$ 3,314
CMOs - residential	2,062	16	1,562	6	3,624	22
CMOs - commercial	-	-	953	22	953	22
GSEs	-	-	9,581	86	9,581	86
States and political subdivisions	58,819	744	67,318	1,642	126,137	2,386
Foreign governments	21,148	171	12,229	128	33,377	299
Total fixed maturities	159,897	2,404	161,141	3,725	321,038	6,129
Common stocks	2,007	136	348	11	2,355	147
Total equity securities	2,007	136	348	11	2,355	147
Total temporarily impaired securities	\$ 161,904	\$ 2,540	\$ 161,489	\$ 3,736	\$ 323,393	\$ 6,276
Number of securities in an unrealized loss position	70		46		116	

December 31, 2013

	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Corporate securities	\$ 124,531	\$ 5,340	\$ 21,070	\$ 2,127	\$ 145,601	\$ 7,467

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

CMOs - residential	2,047	8	-	-	2,047	8
CMOs - commercial	-	-	593	382	593	382
U.S. Government obligations	493	6	-	-	493	6
GSEs	22,731	123	5,360	217	28,091	340
States and political subdivisions	149,704	7,312	32,983	2,065	182,687	9,377
Foreign governments	27,587	1,766	3,523	341	31,110	2,107
Redeemable preferred stocks	3,485	278	-	-	3,485	278
Total fixed maturities	330,578	14,833	63,529	5,132	394,107	19,965
Common stocks	2,589	70	-	-	2,589	70
Nonredeemable preferred stocks	2,625	34	-	-	2,625	34
Total equity securities	5,214	104	-	-	5,214	104
Total temporarily impaired securities	\$ 335,792	\$ 14,937	\$ 63,529	\$ 5,132	\$ 399,321	\$ 20,069
Number of securities in an unrealized loss position	126		27		153	

Substantially all of the unrealized losses on fixed maturities available-for-sale at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 relate to investment grade securities and are attributable to changes in market interest rates. Because the Company does not intend to sell, nor is it more likely than not that the Company will have to sell such investments before recovery of their amortized cost bases, which may be maturity, the Company does not consider these investments to be other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2014.

The following table summarizes the Company's net investment income for the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Fixed maturities	\$ 18,504	\$ 22,667	\$ 27,785
Equity securities	943	1,065	1,967
Short-term investments	74	118	194
Policy loans	813	1,020	1,542

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Partnership interests	1,101	2,506	2,027
Other	336	291	5
Investment income, gross	21,771	27,667	33,520
Investment expenses	(79)	(196)	(164)
Net investment income	\$ 21,692	\$ 27,471	\$ 33,356

The following table summarizes the Company's net realized investment gains (losses) for the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Available-for-sale securities:			
Fixed maturities	\$ 7,642	\$ 17,664	\$ 5,428
Common stocks	(5)	-	419
Preferred stocks	-	177	(495)
Total available-for-sale securities	7,637	17,841	5,352
Trading securities	506	1,619	79
Total realized gains	8,143	19,460	5,431
Unrealized gains (losses) on trading securities:			
Available-for-sale securities transferred to trading category	-	-	138
Change in unrealized gains (losses) on trading securities	(451)	94	(26)
Total unrealized gains (losses) on trading securities	(451)	94	112
Gains (losses) on other investments	(4)	196	(444)
Net realized investment gains	\$ 7,688	\$ 19,750	\$ 5,099

For the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, proceeds from sales of available-for-sale securities were \$355,470,000, \$563,285,000 and \$497,782,000, respectively, and the company realized

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

gross gains of \$9,289,000, \$21,889,000 and \$10,629,000, respectively, and gross losses of \$741,000, \$2,902,000 and \$3,868,000, respectively, on those sales.

On January 1, 2012, the Company transferred equity securities previously classified as available-for-sale into the trading category and, as a result, recognized \$287,000 of gross gains and \$149,000 of gross losses in net realized investment gains on the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Income. These gains and losses were previously included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss).

We recognize other-than-temporary impairment losses in earnings in the period that we determine: 1) we intend to sell the security; 2) it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis; or 3) the security has a credit loss. Any non-credit portion of the other-than-temporary impairment loss is recognized in other comprehensive income (loss).

Credit losses were recognized on certain fixed maturities for which each security also had an impairment loss recognized in other comprehensive income (loss). The rollforward of these credit losses were as follows for the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 473	\$ 1,976	\$ 2,555
Credit losses during the period for which an other-than-temporary loss was not previously recognized	-	-	473
Additional credit losses for which an other-than-temporary loss was previously recognized	-	-	148
Securities sold	-	(1,503)	(1,200)
Balance at end of period	\$ 473	\$ 473	\$ 1,976

The after-tax portion of other-than-temporary impairments included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) at both December 31, 2014 and 2013 consists of \$335,000 related to CMO securities.

Note 3.

Cash Flow Hedge

In connection with its outstanding amortizing term loan, a subsidiary of IHC entered into an interest rate swap on July 1, 2011 with the commercial bank lender, for a notional amount equal to the debt principal amount (\$4,000,000 and \$6,000,000 December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively), under which the Company receives a variable rate equal to the rate on the debt and pays a fixed rate (1.60%) in order to manage the risk in overall changes in cash flows attributable to forecasted interest payments. As a result of the interest rate swap, interest payments on this debt are fixed at 4.95%. There was no hedge ineffectiveness on this interest rate swap which was accounted for as a cash flow hedge. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the fair value of interest rate swap was \$83,000 and \$204,000, respectively, which is included in other liabilities on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. See Note 4 for further discussion on the valuation techniques utilized to determine the fair value of the interest rate swap.

Note 4.

Fair Value Disclosures

For all financial and non-financial assets and liabilities accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis, the Company utilizes valuation techniques based upon observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our market expectations. These two types of inputs create the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 - Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 - Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.

Level 3 - Instruments where significant value drivers are unobservable.

The following section describes the valuation methodologies we use to measure different assets and liabilities at fair value.

Investments in fixed maturities and equity securities:

Available-for-sale securities included in Level 1 are equities with quoted market prices. Level 2 is primarily comprised of our portfolio of government securities, agency mortgage-backed securities, corporate fixed income securities, collateralized mortgage obligations, municipals and GSEs that were priced with observable market inputs. Level 3 securities consist primarily of CMO securities backed by commercial mortgages and municipal tax credit strips. For these securities, we use industry-standard pricing methodologies, including discounted cash flow models, whose inputs are based on management's assumptions and available market information. Significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of CMOs are prepayment rates, probability of default, and loss severity in the event of default. Significant increases (decreases) in any of those inputs in isolation would result in a significantly lower (higher) fair value measurement. Generally, a change in the assumption used for the probability of default is accompanied by a directionally similar change in the assumption used for loss severity and a directionally opposite change in the assumption used for prepayment rates. Further we retain independent pricing vendors to assist in valuing certain instruments.

Trading securities:

Trading securities included in Level 1 are equity securities with quoted market prices.

Interest rate swap:

The financial liability included in Level 2 consists of an interest rate swap on IHC debt. It is valued using market observable inputs including market price, interest rate, and volatility within a Black-Scholes model.

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

The following tables present our financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014			Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
FINANCIAL ASSETS:				
Fixed maturities available-for-sale:				
Corporate securities	\$ -	\$ 261,924	\$ -	\$ 261,924
CMOs residential	-	5,106	-	5,106
CMOs commercial	-	-	953	953
US Government obligations	-	22,892	-	22,892
Agency MBS - residential	-	69	-	69
GSEs	-	14,656	-	14,656
States and political subdivisions	-	237,067	2,314	239,381
Foreign government	-	34,700	-	34,700
Redeemable preferred stocks	4,199	-	-	4,199
Total fixed maturities	4,199	576,414	3,267	583,880
Equity securities available-for-sale:				
Common stocks	9,757	-	-	9,757
Nonredeemable preferred stocks	4,138	-	-	4,138
Total equity securities	13,895	-	-	13,895
Trading securities - equities	11,095	-	-	11,095
Total trading securities	11,095	-	-	11,095
Total Financial Assets	\$ 29,189	\$ 576,414	\$ 3,267	\$ 608,870
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES:				
Interest rate swap	\$ -	\$ 83	\$ -	\$ 83

	December 31, 2013			Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
FINANCIAL ASSETS:				
Fixed maturities available-for-sale:				
Corporate securities	\$ -	\$ 209,260	\$ -	\$ 209,260
CMOs residential	-	2,457	-	2,457
CMOs commercial	-	-	593	593
US Government obligations	-	15,861	-	15,861
Agency MBS - residential	-	83	-	83
GSEs	-	28,148	-	28,148
States and political subdivisions	-	247,262	2,441	249,703
Foreign government	-	32,350	-	32,350
Redeemable preferred stocks	3,832	-	-	3,832

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Total fixed maturities	3,832	535,421	3,034	542,287
Equity securities available-for-sale:				
Common stocks	7,775	-	-	7,775
Nonredeemable preferred stocks	4,028	-	-	4,028
Total equity securities	11,803	-	-	11,803
Trading securities - equities	7,125	-	-	7,125
Total trading securities	7,125	-	-	7,125
Total Financial Assets	\$ 22,760	\$ 535,421	\$ 3,034	\$ 561,215
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES:				
Interest rate swap	\$ -	\$ 204	\$ -	\$ 204

It is the Company's policy to recognize transfers of assets and liabilities between levels of the fair value hierarchy at the end of a reporting period. The Company does not transfer out of Level 3 and into Level 2 until such time as observable inputs become available and reliable or the range of available independent prices narrow. There were no securities transferred between Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 in 2014 or 2013. The following table presents the changes in fair value of our Level 3 financial instruments for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	CMOs		States and Political	
	Residential	Commercial	Subdivisions	Total
Balance at December 31, 2012	\$ 14,053	\$ 570	\$ 2,558	\$ 17,181
Gains (losses) included in earnings:				
Net realized investment gains	7,133	-	-	7,133
Gains (losses) included in other comprehensive income (loss):				
Net unrealized gains (losses)	(7,064)	23	(78)	(7,119)
Sales of securities	(13,108)	-	-	(13,108)
Repayments and amortization of fixed maturities	(1,014)	-	(39)	(1,053)
Balance at December 31, 2013	-	593	2,441	3,034
Gains (losses) included in earnings:				
Net realized investment gains	-	-	-	-

Gains (losses) included in other comprehensive income (loss):

Net unrealized gains (losses)	-	360	(58)	302
Sales of securities	-	-	-	-
Repayments and amortization of fixed maturities	-	-	(69)	(69)
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$ -	\$ 953	\$ 2,314	\$ 3,267

The following table provides carrying values, fair values and classification in the fair value hierarchy of the Company's financial instruments, for the periods indicated, that are not carried at fair value but are subject to fair value disclosure requirements, for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Level 2 Fair Value	Carrying Value	Level 2 Fair Value	Carrying Value
FINANCIAL ASSETS:				
Policy loans	\$ 13,356	\$ 10,667	\$ 14,177	\$ 11,328
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES:				
Funds on deposit	\$ 187,213	\$ 186,782	\$ 274,773	\$ 274,826
Debt and junior subordinated debt securities	\$ 42,146	\$ 42,146	\$ 44,146	\$ 44,146

The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of the financial instruments that are not carried at fair value in the Consolidated Financial Statements:

(A)

Policy Loans

The fair value of policy loans included in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy is estimated by projecting aggregate loan cash flows to the end of the expected lifetime period of the life insurance business at the average policy loan rates, and discounting them at a current market interest rate.

(B)

Funds on Deposit

The Company has two types of funds on deposit. The first type is credited with a current market interest rate, resulting in a fair value which approximates the carrying amount. The second type carries fixed interest rates which are higher than current market interest rates. The fair value of these deposits was estimated by discounting the payments using current market interest rates. The Company's universal life policies are also credited with current market interest rates, resulting in a fair value which approximates the carrying amount. Both types of funds on deposit are included in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

(C)

Debt

The fair value of debt with variable interest rates approximates its carrying amount and is included in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Note 5.

Other Investments

Other investments consist of the following for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Policy loans	\$ 10,667	\$ 11,328
Partnership interests	12,033	12,149
Investment in trust subsidiaries	1,146	1,146
Other	1,405	500
	\$ 25,251	\$ 25,123

Note 6.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The carrying amount of goodwill was \$50,318,000 at December 31, 2014 and 2013. See Note 16 for goodwill carrying amounts by segment.

At December 31, 2014, the Company's market capitalization was less than its book value indicating a potential impairment of goodwill. As a result, the Company assessed the factors contributing to the performance of IHC stock in 2014, and concluded that the market capitalization does not represent the fair value of the Company. The Company noted several factors that have led to a difference between the market capitalization and the fair value of the Company, including (i) the Company's stock is thinly traded and a sale of even a small number of shares can have a large percentage impact on the price of the stock, (ii) Geneve Corporation and insiders own approximately 57% of the outstanding shares, which has had a significant adverse impact on the number of shares available for sale and therefore the trading potential of IHC stock, and (iii) lack of analyst coverage of the Company. If we experience a sustained decline in our results of operations and cash flows, or other indicators of impairment exist, we may incur

a material non-cash charge to earnings relating to impairment of our goodwill, which could have a material adverse effect on our results.

The Company has net other intangible assets of \$12,135,000 and \$14,767,000 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, which are included in other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. These intangible assets consist of: (i) finite-lived intangible assets, principally the fair value of acquired agent and broker relationships, which are subject to amortization; and (ii) indefinite-lived intangible assets which consist of the estimated fair value of insurance licenses that are not subject to amortization. The gross carrying amounts of these other intangible assets are as follows for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013	
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization
Finite-lived Intangible Assets:				
Agent and broker relationships	\$ 22,725	\$ 18,567	\$ 22,725	\$ 15,935
Total finite-lived	\$ 22,725	\$ 18,567	\$ 22,725	\$ 15,935

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Indefinite-lived Intangible Assets:		
Insurance licenses	\$ 7,977	\$ 7,977
Total indefinite-lived	\$ 7,977	\$ 7,977

Amortization expense was \$2,632,000, \$3,220,000 and \$2,840,000 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Estimated amortization expense for each of the next five years is as follows (in thousands):

Year	Amortization Expense
2015	\$ 1,560

2016	1,119
2017	749
2018	494
2019	204

Note 7.

Reinsurance

The Insurance Group reinsures portions of certain business in order to limit the assumption of disproportionate risks. Amounts not retained are ceded to other companies on an automatic or facultative basis. In addition, the Insurance Group participates in various coinsurance treaties on a quota share or excess basis. The Company is contingently liable with respect to reinsurance in the unlikely event that the assuming reinsurers are unable to meet their obligations. The ceding of reinsurance does not discharge the primary liability of the original insurer to the insured.

The effects of reinsurance on premiums earned and insurance benefits, claims and reserves are shown below for the periods indicated (in thousands). Accident and health products and property and liability products (primarily the new pet insurance line) consist of short-duration contracts. Life and annuity products consist of long-duration contracts.

	GROSS AMOUNT		ASSUMED FROM OTHER COMPANIES		CEDED TO OTHER COMPANIES		NET AMOUNT
Premiums Earned:							
December 31, 2014							
Accident and health	\$ 482,511	\$	52,063	\$	116,163	\$	418,411
Life and annuity	44,407		6,128		20,214		30,321
Property and liability	30,477		-		161		30,316
	\$ 557,395	\$	58,191	\$	136,538	\$	479,048
December 31, 2013							
Accident and health	\$ 461,336	\$	85,627	\$	102,053	\$	444,910
Life and annuity	46,416		6,654		20,820		32,250
Property and liability	18,845		-		14		18,831
	\$ 526,597	\$	92,281	\$	122,887	\$	495,991
December 31, 2012							
Accident and health	\$ 396,805	\$	60,232	\$	140,653	\$	316,384
Life and annuity	47,790		7,538		18,916		36,412
Property and liability	3,271		-		-		3,271
	\$ 447,866	\$	67,770	\$	159,569	\$	356,067
Insurance benefits, claims and reserves:							
December 31, 2014	\$ 276,634	\$	50,441	\$	1,040	\$	326,035
December 31, 2013	\$ 374,865	\$	82,337	\$	102,412	\$	354,790
December 31, 2012	\$ 301,734	\$	56,405	\$	113,348	\$	244,791

Effective May 31, 2013, Madison National Life entered into a coinsurance agreement with an unaffiliated reinsurer, Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company, to cede approximately \$218,633,000 of life and annuity reserves and, in accordance with its terms, transferred net cash and other assets, with an aggregate value of \$215,137,000, to the reinsurer during the second quarter of 2013. As a result of this transaction, the Company: (i) recorded estimated amounts due from reinsurers of \$218,296,000; (ii) recorded \$6,643,000 of estimated deferred expenses (included in other assets) which will be amortized over the life of the underlying reinsured contracts; and (iii) wrote-off \$9,307,000 of deferred acquisition costs associated with this block of policies. The write-off was more than offset by gains realized by the Company in the transaction, most of which resulted from the required sale and transfer of invested assets. During 2014, a large portion of the reserves were transferred to the reinsurer in accordance with the terms of an assumption agreement.

Effective January 26, 2012, Standard Security Life entered into a coinsurance agreement with an unaffiliated reinsurer, First Security Benefit Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York, to cede group annuity reserves. In accordance with the agreement, Standard Security Life transferred \$143,537,000 of cash in the first quarter of 2012 and recorded a corresponding amount as due from reinsurers. The Company received final approval from the New York State Insurance Department to convert the transfer from a coinsurance to an assumption agreement which contractually relieves Standard Security Life of liability with regards to the policies. During the third quarter of 2012, a significant portion of the reserves were assumed by the reinsurer.

Note 8.**Policy Benefits and Claims**

Summarized below are the changes in the liability for policy benefits and claims for the periods indicated (in thousands).

	2014	2013	2012
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 237,754	\$ 194,480	\$ 192,987
Less: reinsurance recoverable	72,772	78,629	83,137
Net balance at beginning of year	164,982	115,851	109,850
Amount assumed	-	15,384	-
Amount incurred, related to:			
Current year	303,973	324,040	213,818
Prior years	(4,552)	(3,230)	(8,908)
Total incurred	299,421	320,810	204,910
Amount paid, related to:			
Current year	192,001	207,315	130,386
Prior years	114,130	79,748	68,523
Total paid	306,131	287,063	198,909
Net balance at end of year	158,272	164,982	115,851
Plus: reinsurance recoverable	78,531	72,772	78,629
Balance at end of year	\$ 236,803	\$ 237,754	\$ 194,480

The preceding schedule reflects: (i) the due and unpaid; (ii) claims in the course of settlement; (iii) estimated incurred but not reported reserves; and (iv) the present value of amounts not yet due on claims. The incurred and paid data above reflects all activity for the year. The overall net favorable development of \$4,552,000 in 2014 related to prior years consists of favorable developments of \$3,830,000 in the group disability reserves, \$448,000 in other individual accident and health reserves and \$378,000 in the Fully Insured Health reserves partially offset by an unfavorable development of \$104,000 in Medical Stop-Loss reserves. The overall net favorable development of \$3,230,000 in 2013 related to prior years consists of favorable developments of \$4,269,000 in the group disability reserves and \$1,069,000 in other individual accident and health reserves partially offset by an unfavorable developments of \$2,000,000 in Medical Stop-Loss reserves and \$108,000 in the Fully Insured Health reserves. The net favorable

development in 2012 for prior years of \$8,908,000 is primarily the result of \$2,968,000 of net favorable developments in Medical Stop-Loss reserves, \$375,000 in the Fully Insured Health reserves, \$4,508,000 in the group disability reserves and \$1,057,000 in all other reserves.

These changes in reserve estimates are generally the result of on-going analysis of recent loss development trends. Medical stop-loss business is excess coverage with a short duration. Predicting ultimate claims and estimating reserves in medical stop-loss is especially complicated due to the excess of loss nature of these products with very high deductibles applying to specific claims on any individual claimant and in the aggregate for a given group. Fluctuations in results for specific coverage are primarily due to the severity and frequency of individual claims. Due to the short-term nature of medical stop-loss, redundancies and deficiencies will typically emerge during the following year rather than over a number of years.

Note 9.**Debt and Junior Subordinated Debt Securities****(A)****Debt**

In July 2011, a subsidiary of IHC amended its amortizing term loan with a commercial bank and increased its outstanding debt to \$10,000,000. The amortizing term loan, as amended: (i) matures on July 1, 2016; (ii) bears a variable interest rate of Libor plus 3.35%; and (iii) requires principal payments in the amount of \$2,000,000 annually, commencing on July 1, 2012 through maturity. The Company simultaneously entered into an interest rate swap with the commercial bank lender effectively fixing the rate at 4.95%. See Note 3 for further discussion pertaining to the interest rate swap. As to such subsidiary, the line of credit (i) contains restrictions with respect to, among other things, the creation of additional indebtedness, the consolidation or merger with or into certain corporations, the payment of dividends and the retirement of capital stock; (ii) requires the maintenance of minimum amounts of net worth, as defined, certain financial ratios, and certain investment restrictions; and (iii) is secured by the stock of Madison National Life, Standard Security Life and the assets of such subsidiary of IHC. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, there was \$4,000,000 and \$6,000,000, respectively, of outstanding debt under this amortizing term loan.

(B)**Junior Subordinated Debt Issued to Trust Preferred Subsidiaries**

Junior subordinated debt consisted of the following at both December 31, 2014 and 2013 (in thousands):

Independence Preferred Trust I - Trust Preferred	\$	10,000
Independence Preferred Trust I - Common Stock		310
Junior subordinated debt security -Trust I		10,310
Independence Preferred Trust II -Trust Preferred		12,000
Independence Preferred Trust II - Common Stock		372
Junior subordinated debt security - Trust II		12,372
Independence Preferred Trust III Trust Preferred		15,000
Independence Preferred Trust III Common Stock		464

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Junior subordinated debt security Trust III		15,464
Total junior subordinated debt securities	\$	38,146

The Company has three statutory business trusts that were formed for the purpose of issuing trust preferred securities, totaling \$37,000,000, to institutional investors in pooled issuances. Although the Company owns all of the trusts' common securities, it is not the primary beneficiary and, therefore, the trusts are unconsolidated subsidiaries for financial reporting purposes. As a result, the Company recorded liabilities of \$38,146,000 for junior subordinated debt and assets of \$1,146,000 for the investments in trust subsidiaries (included in other investments on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets) at both December 31, 2014 and 2013. The Company's subordinated debt securities, which are the sole assets of the subsidiary trusts, are unsecured obligations of the Company and are subordinate and junior in right of payment to all present and future senior indebtedness of the Company. The Company has provided a full and unconditional guarantee of amounts due on the trust preferred securities. The terms of the junior subordinated debt securities, including interest rates and maturities, are the same as the related trust preferred securities.

The distributions payable on the capital securities are cumulative and payable quarterly in arrears. The Company has the right, subject to events of default, to defer payments of interest for a period not to exceed 20 consecutive quarters, provided that no extension period may extend beyond the maturity dates which range from April 2033 to December 2034. The Company has no current intention to exercise its right to defer interest payments. The rates on the capital securities are as follows: Independence Preferred Trust I, 400 basis points over the three-month LIBOR, (4.23% at December 31, 2014); Independence Preferred Trust II, 390 basis points over the three-month LIBOR, (4.13% at December 31, 2014); and Independence Preferred Trust III, 350 basis points over the three-month LIBOR (3.74% at December 31, 2014).

The capital securities are mandatorily redeemable upon maturity. The Company has the right to redeem the capital securities, in whole or in part without penalties with respect to Independence Preferred Trust I, Independence Preferred Trust II and Independence Preferred Trust III. The redemption price would be 100% (without penalty) of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest.

Cash payments for interest on debt and junior subordinated debt securities were \$1,804,000 \$1,923,000 and \$2,107,000 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Note 10.

Income Taxes

IHC and its subsidiaries file a consolidated Federal income tax return on a June 30 fiscal year. Prior to January 15, 2013, AMIC and its subsidiaries filed a separate consolidated Federal income tax return on a September 30 fiscal year. The provision for income tax expense (benefit) attributable to income from operations, as shown in the Consolidated Statements of Income, is as follows for the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
CURRENT:			
U.S. Federal	\$ 20	\$ (1,500)	\$ 2,555
State and Local	743	1,206	648
	763	(294)	3,203
DEFERRED:			
U.S. Federal	5,317	8,805	(1,188)

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

State and Local	311	(113)	(12)
	5,628	8,692	(1,200)
	\$ 6,391	\$ 8,398	\$ 2,003

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Taxes computed at the Federal statutory rate of 35% in 2014, 2013 and 2012, attributable to pretax income, are reconciled to the Company's actual income tax expense as follows for the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Tax computed at the statutory rate	\$ 8,159	\$ 8,279	\$ 8,615
Dividends received deduction and tax exempt interest	(1,384)	(849)	(1,336)
State and local income taxes, net of Federal effect	685	710	414
Health insurance excise tax	696	-	-
Health insurer compensation limit	661	-	-
AMIC valuation allowance adjustment	(2,500)	-	(5,900)
Other, net	74	258	210
Income tax expense	\$ 6,391	\$ 8,398	\$ 2,003

Temporary differences between the Consolidated Financial Statement carrying amounts and tax bases of assets and liabilities that give rise to the deferred tax assets and liabilities at December 31, 2014 and 2013 are summarized below (in thousands). The net deferred tax asset or liability is included in Other Assets or Other Liabilities, as appropriate, in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. IHC and its subsidiaries, excluding AMIC, have certain tax-planning strategies that were used in determining that a valuation allowance was not necessary on its deferred tax assets at December 31, 2014 or 2013. The net deferred tax asset relative to AMIC included in other assets on IHC's Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$11,517,000 and \$10,689,000, respectively.

	2014	2013
DEFERRED TAX ASSETS:		
Deferred insurance policy acquisition costs	\$ 754	\$ 484
Unrealized losses on investment securities	54	5,398
Investment write-downs	222	222
Loss carryforwards	102,478	109,463
Insurance reserves	366	392
Other	5,790	7,222
Total gross deferred tax assets	109,664	123,181
Less AMIC valuation allowance	(73,849)	(76,911)
Net deferred tax assets	35,815	46,270
DEFERRED TAX LIABILITIES:		
Deferred insurance policy acquisition costs	(10,712)	(10,376)
Insurance reserves	(6,856)	(6,183)

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Unrealized gains on investment securities	(78)	-
Other	(12,702)	(13,805)
Total gross deferred tax liabilities	(30,348)	(30,364)
Net deferred tax asset	\$ 5,467	\$ 15,906

As of December 31, 2014, IHC and its non-life subsidiaries, excluding AMIC, had NOL carryforwards arising from limitations on offsetting non-life insurance company losses against life insurance company income. The non-life insurance company Federal NOL carryforwards amount to

approximately \$24,418,000 at December 31, 2014, which expire in varying amounts between 2029 and 2032. Madison National Life had Federal NOL carryforwards of approximately \$4,392,000 at December 31, 2014 expiring in 2033 and 2034.

At December 31, 2014, AMIC had Federal NOL carryforwards of approximately \$263,985,000 which expire in varying amounts through the year 2028 with a significant portion expiring in 2020.

AMIC's valuation allowance at December 31, 2014 and 2013 was primarily related to net operating loss carryforwards that, in the judgment of management, were not considered realizable. During the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, AMIC decreased its valuation allowance by \$3,062,000 and \$1,661,000, respectively. The valuation allowance decrease in the year ended December 31, 2014 included \$2,500,000 for the projected utilization of Federal net operating losses allocated to operations.

In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the period in which those temporary differences become deductible. Management considers the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. Management believes that it is more likely than not that IHC and its subsidiaries, and AMIC, will realize the benefits of these net deferred tax assets recorded at December 31, 2014. As of December 31, 2014, IHC and its subsidiaries, and AMIC, believe there were no material uncertain tax positions that would require disclosure under U.S. GAAP.

Interest expense and penalties for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 are insignificant.

Net cash payments (receipts) for income taxes were \$(2,448,000), \$(387,000) and \$550,000 in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Note 11.

Stockholders' Equity

Preferred Stock

IHC has 100,000 authorized shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, none of which was issued as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Common Stock

In 2012, IHC issued 1,638,849 shares of common stock, net of treasury shares, in connection with a special stock dividend payable to shareholders of record on February 17, 2012 with a distribution date of March 5, 2012. Accordingly, IHC charged retained earnings \$15,799,000, representing the fair value of such shares on the distribution date, and recorded a credit to common stock for the par value of such shares and a credit to paid-in capital for the remaining difference. Fractional shares were paid in cash in-lieu of stock. All references to number of common shares and earnings per share amounts have been adjusted retroactively for all periods presented to reflect the change in capital structure.

In June 2012, the stockholders of the Company approved an amendment to the Company's restated certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of common stock from 20,000,000 shares to 23,000,000 shares.

Treasury Stock

In 1991, IHC initiated a program of repurchasing shares of its common stock. In August 2014, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 500,000 shares of IHC's common stock, in addition to prior authorizations, under the 1991 plan. The Company has repurchased 296,775, 334,305 and 100,246 shares in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. All of the shares repurchased have been either retired, reissued, or have become treasury shares. At December 31, 2014, there were 468,218 shares still authorized to be repurchased under the plan authorized by the Board of Directors.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The components of other comprehensive income (loss) include (i) the after-tax net unrealized gains and losses on investment securities available-for-sale, including the subsequent increases and decreases in fair value of available-for-sale securities previously impaired and the non-credit related component of other-than-temporary impairments of fixed maturities and (ii) the after-tax unrealized gains and losses on a cash flow hedge.

Changes in the balances for each component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), shown net of taxes, for the years indicated were as follows (in thousands):

	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Available-for Sale Securities	Cash Flow Hedge	Total
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 8,150	\$ (297)	\$ 7,853
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	10,480	79	10,559
Amounts reclassified from accumulated OCI	(3,284)	-	(3,284)
Net other comprehensive income (loss)	7,196	79	7,275
Less: Other comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(118)	-	(118)
Acquired from noncontrolling interests	3	-	3
Balance at December 31, 2012	15,231	(218)	15,013

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	(14,361)	96	(14,265)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated OCI	(11,826)	-	(11,826)
Net other comprehensive income (loss)	(26,187)	96	(26,091)
Less: Other comprehensive loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	665	-	665
Acquired from noncontrolling interests	(59)	-	(59)
Balance at December 31, 2013	(10,350)	(122)	(10,472)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	15,872	72	15,944
Amounts reclassified from accumulated OCI	(5,251)	-	(5,251)
Net other comprehensive income (loss)	10,621	72	10,693
Less: Other comprehensive loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	(199)	-	(199)
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$ 72	\$ (50)	\$ 22

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Presented below are the amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) and recognized in earnings for each of the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities reclassified during the period to the following income statement line items:			
Net realized investment gains	\$ 7,637	\$ 17,841	\$ 5,490
Net impairment losses recognized in earnings	-	-	(704)
Income before income tax	7,637	17,841	4,786
Tax effect	2,386	6,015	1,502
Net income	\$ 5,251	\$ 11,826	\$ 3,284

Note 12.

Share-Based Compensation

IHC and AMIC each have a share-based compensation plan. The following is a summary of the activity pertaining to each of these plans.

A)

IHC Share-Based Compensation Plan

In June 2006, the stockholders approved the Independence Holding Company 2006 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2006 Plan"). Under the terms of the 2006 Plan, option exercise prices are more than or equal to the quoted market price of the shares at the date of grant; option terms are generally five years; and vesting periods are generally three years. The fair value of an option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. In

In addition to stock options, the Company has also granted restricted stock units, share appreciation rights (SARs) and share-based performance awards under the 2006 Plan. Restricted share units are valued at the quoted market price of the shares at the date of grant and have a three year vesting period. Compensation costs for options and restricted share units are recognized over the stated vesting periods on a straight-line basis. Exercise prices of SARs are more than or equal to the quoted market price of IHC shares at the date of the grant and have three year vesting periods. The fair value of SARs is calculated using the Black-Scholes valuation model at the grant date and each subsequent reporting period until settlement. Compensation cost is based on the proportionate amount of the requisite service that has been rendered to date. Once fully vested, changes in fair value of the SARs continue to be recognized as compensation expense in the period of the change until settlement. Compensation costs for share-based performance awards are recognized and accrued as performance conditions are met, based on the current share price. IHC discontinued these award programs in 2013.

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

At December 31, 2014, there were 377,286 shares available for future stock-based compensation grants under IHC's stock incentive plans. The following table summarizes share-based compensation expense, which is included in selling, general and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Income, applicable to the IHC plans by award type for each of the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
IHC's Share-based Compensation Plan:			
Stock options	\$ 669	\$ 210	\$ 237
Restricted stock units	85	66	45
SARs	14	698	428
Performance awards	-	(15)	89
Share-based compensation expense, pre-tax	768	959	799
Tax benefits	306	382	319
Share-based compensation expense, net	\$ 462	\$ 577	\$ 480

Stock Options

The Company's stock option activity during 2014 was as follows:

	Shares Under Option	Weighted- Average Exercise Price
December 31, 2013	616,858	\$ 9.35
Expired	(2,178)	14.75
December 31, 2014	614,680	\$ 9.33

No options were granted in 2014, 2013 or 2012. In May 2014, option agreements affecting 15 employees were modified to extend the expirations of their terms from 2015 to 2017 and as a result, the Company recorded incremental compensation costs of \$405,000. In 2013, the Company received \$430,000 in cash from the exercise of stock options with an aggregate intrinsic value of \$243,000 and realized \$85,000 of tax benefits. In March 2013, option agreements affecting 5 employees were modified to extend the expiration term 5 years. The incremental cost of the modified awards was \$618,000, which is being recognized over the new 2-year vesting period starting from the date of the modification.

The following table summarizes information regarding outstanding and exercisable options:

	December 31, 2014	
	Outstanding	Exercisable
Number of options	614,680	532,180
Weighted average exercise price per share	\$ 9.33	\$ 9.23
Aggregate intrinsic value for all options (in thousands)	\$ 2,838	\$ 2,512
Weighted average contractual term remaining	2.3 years	2.2 years

As of December 31, 2014, the total unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested stock options was \$55,000, which is expected to be recognized over the remaining requisite weighted average service period of 0.21 years.

Restricted Stock

The following table summarizes IHC's restricted stock activity for the year ended December 31, 2014:

	No. of Non-vested Shares	Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value
December 31, 2013	14,850	\$ 10.60
Granted	7,425	13.27
Vested	(7,425)	10.30
December 31, 2014	14,850	\$ 12.09

IHC granted 7,425 restricted stock units during each of the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, with weighted-average grant-date fair values of \$13.27, \$11.66 and \$9.39 per share, respectively. The total fair value of restricted stock that vested in 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$103,000, \$69,000 and \$40,000, respectively.

At December 31, 2014, the total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested restricted stock awards was \$131,000 which is expected to be recognized as compensation expense over a weighted average period of 1.8 years.

SARs and Share-Based Performance Awards

IHC had 136,850 and 251,800 SAR awards outstanding at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. During 2014, 112,200 SARs were exercised with an aggregate intrinsic value of \$529,000; and 2,750 SARs were forfeited. During 2013, 14,850 SARs were exercised with an aggregate intrinsic value of \$74,000; and 3,300 SARs were forfeited. During 2012, the Company granted 56,000 SAR awards; 13,750 SARs were exercised with an aggregate intrinsic value of \$33,000; and 2,750 SARs were forfeited. Included in Other Liabilities in the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 are liabilities of \$791,000 and \$1,307,000, respectively, pertaining to SARs.

In the past, other share-based compensation awards have included performance awards. These programs were discontinued in 2013. The intrinsic value of share-based performance awards paid during the years ended December

31, 2013 and 2012 was \$83,000 and \$57,000, respectively.

B)

AMIC Share-Based Compensation Plans

Effective July 1, 2009, AMIC implemented the 2009 Stock Incentive Plan (AMIC 2009 Plan), which the AMIC stockholders approved on June 19, 2009. The AMIC 2009 Plan was preceded by the 1988 Stock Incentive Plan which expired by its terms in 2008. The AMIC 2009 Plan provided for the grants of non-statutory and incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, performance shares, and other awards to officers, employee and other individuals. Under the terms of the AMIC 2009 Plan, stock options have a maximum term of ten years from the date of grant, and have various vesting criteria depending on the grant with most grants vesting ratably over four years. At December 31, 2014, stock options for 166,616 common stock shares were outstanding, stock options for 148,837 common stock shares were vested, and 6,490,553 common stock shares that had not been issued remained available for future stock options grants and other awards. Awards made under AMIC 's 1998 Plan prior to its expiration are still in effect.

The following table summarizes share-based compensation expense, which is included in selling, general and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Income, applicable to the AMIC share-based compensation plans, by award type for each of the years indicated (in thousands):

	2014	2013	2012
AMIC's Share-based Compensation Plans:			
Stock options	\$ 52	\$ 42	\$ 33
Share-based compensation expense, pre-tax	52	42	33
Tax benefits	18	15	11
Share-based compensation expense, net	\$ 34	\$ 27	\$ 22

Stock Options

AMIC's stock option activity during 2014 was as follows:

	Shares Under Option	Weighted- Average Exercise Price
December 31, 2013	222,285	\$ 11.46
Granted	13,334	10.80
Exercised	(6,667)	4.87
Expired	(62,336)	14.58
December 31, 2014	166,616	\$ 10.50

The following table summarizes information regarding AMIC's outstanding and exercisable options:

December 31, 2014

	Outstanding	Exercisable
Number of options	166,616	148,837
Weighted average exercise price per share	\$ 10.50	\$ 10.64
Aggregate intrinsic value for all options (in thousands)	\$ 217	\$ 196
Weighted average contractual term remaining	3.18 years	2.48 years

The fair value of an option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. The weighted average grant-date fair-value of options granted during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$5.70 and \$4.04. No options were granted in 2012. The assumptions set forth in the table below were used to value the stock options granted during the periods:

	2014	2013
Weighted-average risk-free interest rate	2.72%	2.30%
Annual dividend rate per share	-	-
Weighted-average volatility factor of the Company's common stock	38.27%	45.00%
Weighted-average expected term of options	5 years	5 years

During 2014, AMIC received \$33,000 in cash from the exercise of stock options with an aggregate intrinsic value of \$38,000. No options were exercised during the years ended December 31, 2013 or 2012.

As of December 31, 2014, the total unrecognized compensation expense related to AMIC's non-vested options was \$83,000 which will be recognized over the remaining requisite service periods.

Note 13.

Commitments and Contingencies

Certain subsidiaries of the Company are obligated under non-cancelable operating lease agreements for office space. Total rental expense for the years 2014, 2013 and 2012 for operating leases was \$3,403,000, \$3,470,000 and \$3,750,000, respectively.

The approximate minimum annual rental payments under operating leases that have remaining non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year at December 31, 2014 are as follows (in thousands):

2015	\$	3,291
2016		2,723
2017		1,206
2018		790
2019		118
2020 and thereafter		29
Total	\$	8,157

We are involved in legal proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of our businesses. We have established reserves that we believe are sufficient given information presently available relating to our outstanding legal proceedings and claims. We do not anticipate that the result of any pending legal proceeding or claim will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or cash flows, although there could be such an effect on our results of operations for any particular period.

On September 1, 2013, Madison National Life entered into an agreement with a former policyholder for a return of premium in connection with health insurance business written during 2007. The agreement was entered into in

response to a potential lawsuit. In April 2014, the Company fulfilled its obligation under the terms of the agreement with a payment of \$1,541,000 representing return of premium reserves (net of recoveries). The Company terminated the MGU that produced this business in 2008.

Note 14.

Concentration of Credit Risk

At December 31, 2014, the Company had no investment securities of any one issuer or in any one industry which exceeded 10% of stockholders' equity, except for investments in obligations of the U.S. Government and its agencies and mortgage-backed securities issued by GSEs, as summarized in Note 2.

Fixed maturities with a carrying value of \$12,523,000 and \$12,637,000 were on deposit with various state insurance departments at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

At December 31, 2014, the Company had net receivables of \$115,188,000, \$40,581,000 and \$42,534,000 from three different reinsurers, Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company, Markel Bermuda, Ltd. and RGA Reinsurance Company, respectively, which are rated B++, A and A+, respectively, by A.M. Best. These are the only reinsurers with net receivables that individually exceed 10% of the stockholders' equity of the Company. The Company believes that these receivables are fully collectible.

Note 15.**Dividend Payment Restrictions and Statutory Information**

Our insurance subsidiaries are restricted by state laws and regulations as to the amount of dividends they may pay to their parent without regulatory approval in any year. Any dividends in excess of limits are deemed extraordinary and require approval. Based on statutory results as of December 31, 2014, in accordance with applicable dividend restrictions, our insurance subsidiaries could pay dividends of approximately \$25,507,000 in 2015 without obtaining regulatory approval. There are no regulatory restrictions on the ability of our holding company, IHC, to pay dividends. Under Delaware law, IHC is permitted to pay dividends from surplus or net profits for the fiscal year in which the dividend is declared and/or the preceding fiscal year. Dividends to shareholders are paid from funds available at the corporate holding company level.

Non- extraordinary dividend payments were as follows: (i) Madison National Life declared and paid cash dividends of \$4,000,000, \$3,950,000 and \$3,450,000 to its parent in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively; (ii) Standard Security Life declared and paid dividends of \$6,000,000, \$8,000,000 and \$7,980,000 to its parent in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively; and (iii) Independence American declared and paid dividends of \$0, \$0 and \$2,000,000 to its parent in 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. In February 2012, IHC announced a special 10% stock dividend payable to shareholders. See Note 11 for more information regarding the stock dividend. IHC declared cash dividends of \$1,223,000 in 2014, \$1,241,000 in 2013 and \$1,271,000 in 2012.

The Company's insurance subsidiaries are required to prepare statutory financial statements in accordance with statutory accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the insurance department of their state of domicile. Statutory accounting practices differ from U.S. GAAP in several respects causing differences in reported net income and stockholder's equity. The Company's insurance subsidiaries have no permitted accounting practices, which encompass all accounting practices not so prescribed that have been specifically allowed by the state insurance authorities.

The statutory net income and statutory capital and surplus for each of the Company's insurance subsidiaries are as follows for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Statutory net income:			
Madison National Life	\$ 9,876	\$ 11,704	\$ 11,903
Standard Security Life	12,074	9,180	15,805
Independence American	3,127	3,176	3,271

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Statutory capital and surplus:		
Madison National Life	\$ 81,534	\$ 77,969
Standard Security Life	116,525	113,972
Independence American	60,168	57,875

The insurance subsidiaries are also required to maintain certain minimum amounts of statutory surplus to satisfy their various state insurance departments of domicile. Risk-based capital (RBC) requirements are designed to assess capital adequacy and to raise the level of protection that statutory surplus provides for policyholders. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the statutory capital of our insurance subsidiaries is significantly in excess of their regulatory RBC requirements.

Note 16.**Segment Reporting**

The Insurance Group principally engages in the life and health insurance business. Interest expense, taxes, and general expenses associated with parent company activities are included in Corporate. Identifiable assets by segment are those assets that are utilized in each segment and are allocated based upon the mean reserves and liabilities of each such segment. Corporate assets are composed principally of cash equivalents, resale agreements, fixed maturities, equity securities, partnership interests and certain other investments.

Information by business segment is presented below for the years indicated (in thousands).

	2014	2013	2012
Revenues:			
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 184,775	\$ 171,963	\$ 146,378
Fully Insured Health	239,101	278,105	171,492
Group disability; life, annuities and DBL	67,641	63,155	52,049
Individual life, annuities and other	34,551	41,966	53,207
Corporate	177	105	540
	526,245	555,294	423,666
Net realized investment gains	7,688	19,750	5,099
Other-than-temporary impairment losses	-	-	(704)
Total revenues	\$ 533,933	\$ 575,044	\$ 428,061
Income before income taxes:			
Medical Stop-Loss	\$ 21,933	\$ 12,677	\$ 15,818
Fully Insured Health ^(A)	(1,987)	832	4,360
Group disability; life, annuities and DBL	12,168	8,647	8,607
Individual life, annuities and other	(6,618)	(10,396)	905
Corporate	(8,075)	(5,941)	(7,380)
	17,421	(5,819)	22,310

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Interest expense	(1,797)	(1,915)	(2,091)
Net realized investment gains	7,688	19,750	5,099
Other-than-temporary impairment losses	-	-	(704)
Income before income taxes	\$ 23,312	\$ 23,654	\$ 24,614

(A)

The Fully Insured Health segment includes amortization of intangible assets recorded as a result of purchase accounting for previous acquisitions. Total amortization expense was \$1,948,000, \$2,393,000 and \$2,453,000 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Amortization expense for the other segments is not material.

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
IDENTIFIABLE ASSETS AT YEAR END		
Medical Stop-Loss ^(A)	\$ 235,429	\$ 200,991
Fully Insured Health ^(B)	170,522	198,000
Group disability; life, annuities and DBL	231,109	213,952
Individual life, annuities and other	525,519	620,891
Corporate	25,138	35,201
	\$ 1,187,717	\$ 1,269,035

(A)

The Medical Stop-Loss segment includes allocated goodwill of \$5,664,000 at both December 31, 2014 and 2013.

(B)

The Fully Insured Health segment includes allocated goodwill of \$44,654,000 at both December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Note 17.**Quarterly Data (Unaudited)**

The quarterly results of operations for the years indicated are summarized below (in thousands, except per share data):

	FIRST QUARTER	SECOND QUARTER	THIRD QUARTER	FOURTH QUARTER
<u>2014</u>				
Total revenues	\$ 141,072	\$ 136,019	\$ 129,752	\$ 127,090
Net income	\$ 4,005	\$ 3,880	\$ 4,824	\$ 4,212

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

Less income from noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries		(304)		(32)		(114)		(178)
Net income attributable to IHC	\$	3,701	\$	3,848	\$	4,710	\$	4,034
Basic income per common share	\$.21	\$.22	\$.27	\$.23
Diluted income per share	\$.21	\$.22	\$.27	\$.23

	FIRST QUARTER	SECOND QUARTER	THIRD QUARTER	FOURTH QUARTER
<u>2013</u>				
Total revenues	\$ 137,882	\$ 151,900	\$ 141,644	\$ 143,618
Net income	\$ 5,040	\$ 4,158	\$ 3,916	\$ 2,142
Less income from noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	(339)	(467)	(277)	(394)
Net income attributable to IHC	\$ 4,701	\$ 3,691	\$ 3,639	\$ 1,748
Basic income per common share	\$.26	\$.21	\$.21	\$.10
Diluted income per share	\$.26	\$.21	\$.21	\$.10

SCHEDULE I

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES
SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS OTHER THAN INVESTMENTS IN RELATED PARTIES
DECEMBER 31, 2014
(In thousands)

TYPE OF INVESTMENT	COST	VALUE	AMOUNT SHOWN IN BALANCE SHEET
FIXED MATURITIES -			
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE:			
Bonds:			
United States Government and Government agencies and authorities	\$ 37,537	\$ 37,617	\$ 37,617
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	238,514	239,381	239,381
Foreign governments	34,863	34,700	34,700
Public utilities	42,977	42,380	42,380
All other corporate bonds	227,233	225,603	225,603
Redeemable preferred stock	4,036	4,199	4,199
TOTAL FIXED MATURITIES	585,160	583,880	583,880
EQUITY SECURITIES -			
AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE			
AND TRADING:			
Common stocks:			
Public utilities	868	861	861
Banks, trust and insurance companies	752	764	764
Industrial, miscellaneous and all other	18,172	19,227	19,227
Non-redeemable preferred stocks	4,004	4,138	4,138
TOTAL EQUITY SECURITIES	23,796	24,990	24,990
Policy loans	10,667	10,667	10,667
Short-term investments and resale agreements	16,840	16,840	16,840
Other long-term investments	14,584	14,584	14,584
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 651,047	\$ 650,961	\$ 650,961

SCHEDULE II

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS (In thousands, except share data)
(PARENT COMPANY ONLY)

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2014	2013
ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 389	\$ 61
Fixed maturities, available-for-sale	9,647	2,406
Trading securities	1,916	944
Other investments	1,146	1,146
Investments in consolidated subsidiaries	387,270	356,378
Deferred tax assets, net	11,414	13,347
Goodwill	228	228
Other assets	97	69
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 412,107	\$ 374,579
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 7,140	\$ 6,403
Amounts due to consolidated subsidiaries, net	57,220	45,000
Income taxes payable	7,871	6,096
Junior subordinated debt securities	38,146	38,146
Dividends payable	628	628
TOTAL LIABILITIES	111,005	96,273
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Preferred stock (none issued)	-	-
Common stock ^(A)	18,531	18,524
Paid-in capital	127,098	126,239
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	22	(10,472)
Treasury stock, at cost ^(B)	(12,141)	(8,169)
Retained earnings	157,667	142,669
TOTAL IHC S STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	291,177	268,791
NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS IN SUBSIDIARIES	9,925	9,515
TOTAL EQUITY	301,102	278,306

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 412,107	\$ 374,579
-------------------------------------	------------	------------

(A)

Common stock \$1.00 par value, 23,000,000 shares authorized; 18,531,158 and 18,523,733 shares issued, respectively, 17,371,040 and 17,660,390 shares outstanding, respectively.

(B)

Treasury stock, at cost; 1,160,118 and 863,343 shares, respectively, outstanding.

The financial information of Independence Holding Company (Parent Company Only) should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes.

SCHEDULE II
(Continued)**INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY**
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (In thousands)
(PARENT COMPANY ONLY)

	2014	2013	2012
REVENUES:			
Net investment income	\$ 112	\$ 61	\$ 491
Net realized investment gains (losses)	(78)	349	2
Other income	2,129	2,327	2,251
	2,163	2,737	2,744
EXPENSES:			
Interest expense on debt	1,546	1,563	1,638
General and administrative expenses	5,606	4,301	5,125
	7,152	5,864	6,763
Loss before tax benefit and equity in net income of subsidiaries	(4,989)	(3,127)	(4,019)
Income taxes (benefits)	(2,389)	(1,228)	(1,528)
Equity in net income of subsidiaries	19,521	17,155	25,102
Net income	16,921	15,256	22,611
Less income from noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	(628)	(1,477)	(2,950)
Net income attributable to IHC	\$ 16,293	\$ 13,779	\$ 19,661

The financial information of Independence Holding Company (Parent Company Only) should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto.

SCHEDULE II
(Continued)

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (In thousands)
(PARENT COMPANY ONLY)

	2014	2013	2012
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY (USED BY)			
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net income	\$ 16,921	\$ 15,256	\$ 22,611
Adjustments to net income:			
Equity in net income of subsidiaries	(19,521)	(17,155)	(25,102)
Other	3,748	4,398	604
Changes in other assets and liabilities	440	(1,609)	(439)
Net change in cash from operating activities	1,588	890	(2,326)
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY (USED BY)			
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Change in investments in and advances to subsidiaries	11,138	6,708	5,109
Purchases of fixed maturities	(9,953)	-	(11,781)
Sales of fixed maturities	2,751	3,260	6,109
Change in other investments	-	-	3,152
Net change in cash from investing activities	3,936	9,968	2,589
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY (USED BY)			
FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Repurchases of common stock	(3,972)	(3,636)	(941)
Cash paid in acquisitions of noncontrolling interests	-	(7,626)	(58)
Dividends paid	(1,233)	(620)	(1,681)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	-	430	-
Other financing activities	9	66	(92)
Net change in cash from financing activities	(5,196)	(11,386)	(2,772)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	328	(528)	(2,509)
	61	589	3,098

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year

Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	389	\$	61	\$	589
--	----	-----	----	----	----	-----

The financial information of Independence Holding Company (Parent Company Only) should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto.

INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
SUPPLEMENTARY INSURANCE INFORMATION
(in thousands)

	DEFERRED ACQUISITION COSTS	FUTURE POLICY BENEFITS, LOSSES & CLAIMS	UNEARNED PREMIUMS	NET PREMIUMS EARNED	NET INVESTMENT INCOME (1)	INSURANCE BENEFITS, CLAIMS & RESERVES	AMORTIZATION OF DEFERRED ACQUISITION COSTS	AT
December 31, 2014								
Medical Stop-Loss Fully Insured Health Group disability; life, annuities and DBL Individual life, annuities and other Corporate	-	80,128	-	176,941	4,327	122,469	-	
	624	50,767	6,568	218,949	2,202	146,431	482	
	-	147,823	2,700	64,260	3,156	37,537	-	
	30,182	421,908	187	18,898	11,830	19,598	4,459	
	-	-	-	-	177	-	-	
\$	30,806	700,626	9,455	479,048	21,692	326,035	4,941	
December 31, 2013								
Medical Stop-Loss Fully Insured Health Group disability; life, annuities and DBL Individual life, annuities	-	72,307	-	166,302	5,055	115,599	-	
	361	57,323	9,828	248,870	2,711	177,290	22	
	-	147,426	2,398	60,004	2,763	37,463	-	

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

and other Corporate	29,416	522,973	197	20,815	16,837	24,438	15,110	
	-	-	-	-	105	-	-	
\$	29,777	800,029	12,423	495,991	27,471	354,790	15,132	
December 31, 2012								
Medical Stop-Loss Fully Insured Health Group disability; life, annuities and DBL Individual life, annuities and other Corporate	\$	-	59,029	-	139,724	4,990	90,406	-
		48	41,034	6,897	141,546	1,733	94,700	17
		-	126,840	1,347	49,315	2,618	27,663	-
		33,353	535,899	209	25,482	23,475	32,022	6,549
		-	-	-	-	540	-	-
\$	33,401	762,802	8,453	356,067	33,356	244,791	6,566	

(1)

Net investment income is allocated between product lines based on the mean reserve method.

(2)

Where possible, direct operating expenses are specifically identified and charged to product lines. Indirect expenses are allocated based on time studies; however, other acceptable methods of allocation might produce different results.

SCHEDULE IV

**INDEPENDENCE HOLDING COMPANY
REINSURANCE
(In thousands)**

	GROSS AMOUNT	ASSUMED FROM OTHER COMPANIES	CEDED TO OTHER COMPANIES	NET AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE OF AMOUNT ASSUMED TO NET
Life Insurance In-Force:					
December 31, 2014	\$ 11,054,484	\$ 418,775	\$ 6,128,608	\$ 5,344,651	7.8%
December 31, 2013	\$ 11,415,328	\$ 333,200	\$ 6,493,122	\$ 5,255,406	6.3%
December 31, 2012	\$ 11,293,128	\$ 213,041	\$ 6,004,459	\$ 5,501,710	3.9%
P r e m i u m s Earned:					
December 31, 2014					
Accident and health	\$ 482,511	\$ 52,063	\$ 116,163	\$ 418,411	12.4%
Life and annuity	44,407	6,128	20,214	30,321	20.2%
Property and liability (1)	30,477	-	161	30,316	0.0%
	\$ 557,395	\$ 58,191	\$ 136,538	\$ 479,048	12.1%
December 31, 2013					
Accident and health	\$ 461,336	\$ 85,627	\$ 102,053	\$ 444,910	19.2%
Life and annuity	46,416	6,654	20,820	32,250	20.6%
Property and liability (1)	18,845	-	14	18,831	0.0%
	\$ 526,597	\$ 92,281	\$ 122,887	\$ 495,991	18.6%

Edgar Filing: INDEPENDENCE HOLDING CO - Form 10-K

December 31, 2012								
Accident and health	\$	396,805	\$	60,232	\$	140,653	\$ 316,384	19.0%
Life and annuity		47,790		7,538		18,916	36,412	20.7%
Property and liability (1)		3,271		-		-	3,271	0.0%
	\$	447,866	\$	67,770	\$	159,569	\$ 356,067	19.0%

(1)

Property and liability products consist primarily of our new pet insurance line.

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number

3.1

Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Independence Holding Company (Filed as Exhibit 3(i) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1996 and incorporated herein by reference).

3.2

Certificate of Amendment of Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Independence Holding Company (Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 29, 2004 and incorporated herein by reference).

3.3

By-Laws of Independence Holding Company (Filed as Exhibit 3.3 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference), as amended by Amendment to By-Laws of Independence Holding Company (Filed as Exhibit 3.2 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013 and incorporated herein by reference).

10.3

Officer Employment Agreement, made as of April 18, 2011, by and among Independence Holding Company, Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York and Mr. David T. Kettig (Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 22, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference).

10.4

Officer Employment Agreement, made as of April 18, 2011, by and among Independence Holding Company, Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. and Mr. Larry R. Graber (Filed as Exhibit 10.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 22, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference).

10.5

Officer Employment Agreement, made as of April 18, 2011, by and among Independence Holding Company, IHC Health Solutions, Inc. and Mr. Jeffrey C. Smedsrud made as of April 18, 2011 (Filed as Exhibit 10.3 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 22, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference).

10.7

Officer Employment Agreement, made as of April 18, 2011, by and between Independence Holding Company and Ms. Teresa A. Herbert (Filed as Exhibit 10.5 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 22, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference).

10.8

Officer Employment Agreement, made as of May 11, 2011, by and between Independence Holding Company and Mr. Roy T.K. Thung (Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2011 that was filed with the SEC on May 12, 2011, and incorporated herein by reference).

10.9

Amended and Restated Officer Employment Agreement, by and among Independence Holding Company, IHC Specialty Benefits, Inc. and Mr. Jeffrey C. Smedsrud, dated as of May 22, 2012 (Filed as Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2012, and incorporated herein by reference).

10.11 Officer Employment Agreement, by and among Independence Holding Company, IHC Risk Solutions, LLC and Mr. Michael A. Kemp, dated as of May 22, 2012 (Filed as Exhibit 10.3 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on May 29, 2012, and incorporated herein by reference).

21

Subsidiaries of Independence Holding Company, as of December 31, 2014.*

23

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.*

31.1

Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*

31.2

Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*

32.1

Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*

32.2

Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes - Oxley Act of 2002.*

101.INS

XBRL Instance Document.

101.SCH

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.

101.CAL

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.

101.LAB

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.

101.PRE

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.

101.DEF

XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.

*Filed herewith.